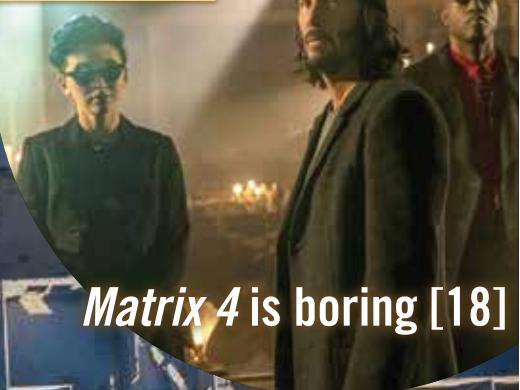


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AT THE MOVIES



*Matrix 4* is boring [18]

# New rules

*On Jan. 1, a slate of legislation passed in 2021 became law [6]*

BY PETER JOHNSON



## NEWS

Catalytic converter thefts increase [4]

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Turning Tide in Santa Ynez [19]

# Santa Barbara County is running out of water.

A square mile of cannabis crops requires **300 million gallons** of water a year, and the Board of Supervisors approve more acres of cannabis every month.

With limited water resources, Cachuma Lake is down to just 53% of its capacity, and no end in sight, it's time to hit the pause button on new cannabis cultivation and **save our water.**



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JANUARY 6 - JANUARY 13, 2022 VOL. 22 NO. 45

**N**ew you, new set of California laws! Housing, policing, pigs, cocktails, stealthing, and more were touched by legislation during the 2021 session. And some of those bills went into effect on Jan. 1, 2022. But not all of the state's new laws were passed in 2021. Either way, Peter Johnson from the Sun's sister paper, *New Times*, highlights a few of the new rules that will impact residents of Santa Barbara County [6].

You can also read about what's going on with catalytic converters in Santa Barbara County [4]; a winter show in Los Olivos highlighting at least three artists [16]; and a winery that believes too much alcohol is definitely a bad thing [19].

Camillia Lanham  
editor



**IN WITH THE NEW:** Jan. 1, 2022, marks the first day many new laws went into effect in California, including one allowing more density in single-family residential neighborhoods.

Cover photo from Adobe Stock > Cover design by Alex Zuniga

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## Political Watch

• President Joe Biden signed the National Defense Authorization Act for the 2022 fiscal year into law, which includes proposals from U.S. Rep. Salud Carbajal (D-Santa Barbara) to address Central Coast priorities and meet its national security needs. "Each year, Congress comes together to pass a bipartisan bill that enhances our national security and keeps Americans safe. The bill—which was negotiated across party lines and both chambers of Congress—reflects our nation's shared values, and I am proud to have secured several measures that will directly benefit Central Coast families," Carbajal said in a Dec. 28 statement. "The bill includes my amendment to extend the FireGuard program for five years, which will give long-term certainty to the emergency responders in our state who rely on the program to detect and monitor wildfires. It also gives our service members a well-deserved pay raise and institutes reforms to prevent and prosecute sexual assault in the military. This bill is a major win for our troops, our communities, and our country." The bill also includes a measure that provides a basic needs allowance for military families to fight food insecurity, secures \$4 million for local military-university partnerships, and advances Vandenberg Space Force Base's space capabilities.

• Gov. Gavin Newsom announced the launch of a new California program to compensate survivors of state-sponsored sterilization, according to a Dec. 31 statement. Administered by the California Victim Compensation Board, survivors of state-sponsored sterilization can apply for compensation through California's Forced or Involuntary Sterilization Compensation program starting Jan. 1. "California is committed to confronting this dark chapter in the state's past and addressing the impacts of this shameful history still being felt by Californians today," Newsom said in a statement. "While we can never fully make amends for what they've endured, the state will do all it can to ensure survivors of wrongful sterilization receive compensation." Between 1909 and 1979, about 20,000 women who were incarcerated or in state institutions for disabilities were forcibly sterilized under California eugenics laws in place at the time. Now, California is providing \$4.5 million to be split evenly among all eligible individuals who apply, plus \$2 million for the program's administration and outreach, and an additional \$1 million to establish markers or plaques at designated sites to acknowledge the wrongful sterilization of people. It is estimated that at least 600 survivors will be eligible for compensation.

• The Santa Barbara County Public Health Department extended the mask requirement in public settings, according to a Dec. 30 statement. Regardless of vaccination status, all county residents must wear face coverings when in public indoor settings. The order became effective on Jan. 2 and continues until Feb. 1 at 5 p.m.—or until it is extended, rescinded, superseded, or amended. The COVID-19 community transmission level is categorized as "high" in California—and in Santa Barbara County—by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). As of Dec. 25, the county had a case rate of 33.5 per 100,000 and a test positivity rate of 9.5 percent. To consider rescinding the mask mandate, the county case rate should be 7 per 100,000 people or lower for three consecutive weeks, and hospitalization rates should be low and stable for at least three days. "We are heading into the winter season facing a very different virus compared to last year. Already omicron makes up over 60 percent of new infections in Santa Barbara County," County Health Officer Dr. Henning Ansorg said in a statement. "We need a layered approach of protective measures to reduce transmission and severe illness. In addition to vaccination including the booster, wearing a well-fitted mask in public indoor spaces does give additional protection to the wearer and limits transmission of COVID to others. We are asking everyone to help reduce unnecessary illness and suffering by following this order." ☐



**SMOKE SHOW:** In December, the Lompoc City Council passed an ordinance that will allow cannabis smoking at permitted events in three of the city's public parks.

## Lompoc allows public cannabis smoking during permitted events

A debate over public safety and allowing cannabis at public events got heated between two Lompoc City Council members during their last meeting of 2021.

The ordinance, which would allow temporary cannabis smoking during large permitted events at three parks in Lompoc, was addressed during the City Council's Dec. 21 meeting.

Councilmember Gilda Cordova argued that the potential events allowed by the ordinance would be hazardous to public safety. She suggested that large gatherings of individuals consuming an "altering substance," like marijuana, would draw police officers away from their day-to-day duties, in a town she described as already having enough crime, drug, and gang problems to worry about.

"Is that reasonable to consider that we would be taking officers that could be on the streets of Lompoc, answering to those calls, and now they're going to be answering—or babysitting an event?" Cordova said during the meeting.

Councilmember Jeremy Ball said that those same public safety concerns already apply to events not under scrutiny, such as wine festivals and the Lompoc Christmas Parade. He also expressed his faith in city officials to handle every proposed cannabis event with public safety in mind before allowing it to occur, pointing to the city's evolving legislation on cannabis dispensaries as an example.

"There was a time when we had no dispensaries. Now we have a lot. There was a time when we didn't know how we were going to stand that up, what the regulations locally were going to be," Ball said. "But all these fine folks at City Hall, in their different departments, had input into crafting what would be a safe approach to having dispensaries in town."

Cordova reiterated her stance that large cannabis events would deplete public safety resources before Ball pointed out that during the event application process, City Council will have the power to require event holders to hire private security.

"To make it sound like we're going to have a cannabis event, and our whole police department is going to need to go babysit that event and take all the resources out of our town, I'm not quite sure that's transparent," Ball said. "If we'd like to get into the weeds on this, pun intended, let's talk about the difference between a 2,500 person wine event and a 2,500 person cannabis event. And then let's go from there."

Cordova said she would be more than happy to have that conversation "when it's appropriate, but that's not what we're talking about today."

After further discussion, which included Mayor Jenelle Osborne's amendment that cannabis events at Lompoc parks should be limited to two per year, the ordinance was passed in a 3-2 vote, with Cordova and Councilmember Victor Vega dissenting.

—Caleb Wiseblood

## Catalytic converter thefts more than tripled in 2021

Catalytic converter thefts are on the rise in Santa Barbara County with 276 reported thefts in 2021 within the Santa Barbara County Sheriff's Office jurisdiction, an increase from 76 thefts in 2020 and nine in 2019, according to the Sheriff's Office.

"It's an easy score; it's such an easy thing to steal. We've seen the Ring doorbell videos, and it's incredibly fast. ... I feel so bad for our community that suffers from this theft because it's a big one," Sheriff's Sgt. Mark Valencia said.

A catalytic converter is an exhaust emission control device that converts toxic gases from a car's emissions into less toxic pollutants. Converters are worth \$800 to \$1200, he said.

The most targeted vehicles are Honda Accords, Toyota Priuses, and Ford F250 and F350 series trucks. Suspects will get underneath the vehicle and cut the exhaust metal pipes to and from the catalytic converter with an electric saw. The entire process takes less than two minutes, and cars cannot start without converters in place, he said.

Across the state, more than 14,000 Californians had their catalytic converters stolen in 2021 alone, a major jump from 6,021 in 2020 and 1,254 in 2019, according to BeenVerified, a data analyzing website.

"Since it's a petty crime, and if it's an individual vehicle, the consequences aren't as severe. The risk is less because the crime isn't as severe because that's how the state constructs the law," Valencia said.

Petty crime is a misdemeanor—rather than a felony—in California, which is punishable by probation, fines, or six months in a county jail under Proposition 47. Valencia said the state passed the law in order to reduce jail populations due to COVID-19 and it's impacted crime rates.

"Property crimes are on the absolute rise, but this is what the state has done because we aren't holding them accountable. That's not a law enforcement issue; it's a state issue. We have to ask at what point are people going to be held accountable," Valencia pointed out.

In order to stop catalytic converter thefts, Valencia believes it's up to the state to put a regulation or restriction in place on salvage yards and recycling centers that purchase and resell stolen converters.

"It boils down to supply and demand. If you hold the salvage yards accountable for what they are purchasing, then thefts will drop because they won't have the ability to strip out precious metals," he said.

Other states are putting regulations in place to prevent catalytic converter theft. Washington state proposed a bill that would prohibit scrap dealers from purchasing catalytic converters except from commercial enterprises and vehicle owners. In Texas, Gov. Greg Abbott signed a bill into law that makes it a third-degree felony to buy or sell stolen catalytic converters, according to the *Statesman Journal*. Valencia hopes California will follow in other states' footsteps.

"We are just the arms of the state's will. I can't be selective of the laws I enforce. ... We as a state have created an opportunity for victimization. I love this community, and I hate to see victims of any kind. It's always unfortunate, and these petty crimes are the ones that lead to the bigger ones," Valencia said.

Valencia asks county residents to call the police or Sheriff's Office to report suspicious behavior or to report their stolen catalytic converter. People should park their cars in well lit areas and off of the streets to prevent thefts; they can also install anti-theft devices to keep the converter in place.

"The public needs to be made aware and notify us if there's something suspicious or out of place," he said.

—Taylor O'Connor

## Santa Barbara County receives climate change resilience grant

Santa Barbara County plans to create hubs in North County to serve as safe refuges in case of climate-related emergencies with the help of a Pacific Gas and Electric (PG&E) grant.

"Essentially they call it a feasibility grant, it's everything except for actually building [community resilience hubs]. It's the outreach,

NEWS continued page 5

NEWS from page 4

development of a tool kit, and then site assessment at the building to determine upgrades. It will assess the capability of adding solar and storage. It's like getting plans from the architect, and you have to find the contractor and someone to pay for it," Santa Barbara County Sustainability Division Chief Ashley Walkins said.

Through the feasibility process, the sustainability division and its partners will identify community needs the hub will provide like electricity, shelter, water and food, and charging stations. The team will also look for hub locations—which are typically trusted or familiar spots like community centers, she explained.

"The concept of resilience hubs surfaced when we were working with the Community Environmental Council to put on a series of climate resilience roundtables to get information from the community about what their needs were," Walkins said. "Hubs emerged as a key idea that came out of those roundtables, and [we began] looking for opportunities to get funding for resilience hubs when we came across the PG&E application. It was very timely."

The \$400,000, year-long grant project kicked off on Jan. 1, but Walkins said preparations began before the county received the grant. The county formed a partnership with MICOP (Mixteco Indigena Community Organizing Project) to submit the grant application, and will continue this collaboration and work with North County cities and the Santa Barbara County Regional Climate Collaborative to better understand community challenges, Walkins said.

This was MICOP's first time collaborating with Santa Barbara County for a project, said MICOP Associate Director Genevieve Flores-Haro.

"On behalf of MICOP, we are thrilled the grant was awarded, and to be a part of the planning work so we can support our Indigenous and Mixteco-speaking community members as it relates to the Santa Maria and Guadalupe residents. We're excited to bring our voice and perspective to this project," Flores-Haro said.

As different crises have hit the county like wildfires, debris flow, and the COVID-19 pandemic, it's important to prioritize front-line communities—like immigrants and Mixteco-speaking residents—in order to properly respond to any future events, Flores-Haro said.

"We're so excited to see what's to come from this collaboration. When it's time for implementation, we hope we are partners in the implementation as well," she added.

The sustainability division will host meetings, focus groups, and visioning sessions to create a list of potential hub locations. From there, the team would take the list and cross-check them with community needs and desired features, Walkins added.

"I think it's really important that rather than deciding what the community wants, we hear from them directly that it's the best product," she said. "Ultimately our hope would be hubs throughout the county. We are focused on PG&E territory, which is North County, and then networking to build it into South County."

No public meetings have been scheduled yet, but Walkins invites residents to email their input to awatkins@countyofsb.org.

—Taylor O'Connor

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# Laws of the land

Nine new state laws to pay attention to in 2022

BY PETER JOHNSON

New Year's Day brought a slew of new laws for Californians to follow. Gov. Gavin Newsom signed 770 bills in 2021, which officially became laws on Jan. 1, 2022.

This week, the *Sun* sorted through the pile to highlight nine key laws that locals should look out for in 2022. From attempts to relieve the housing crunch, rein in law enforcement, and counter voter suppression tactics, these laws are likely to show up in the lives of Central Coast residents and affect local communities this year.

## Universal vote-by-mail

Voting by mail is here to stay. After California tested out universal vote-by-mail during the COVID-19 pandemic—sending every registered voter a mail-in ballot—citizens responded by turning out in record numbers. While the practice quickly became divisive once former President Trump blamed mail-in voting for his election loss, many states, including California, leaned into the shift.

Assembly Bill 37 requires all county elections officials to deliver mail-in ballots to all registered voters ahead of future elections. The law overrides any local effort—like that of the San Luis Obispo County Board of Supervisors last year—to revert to a traditional election model built around polling places.

## Slicing and dicing single-family lots

Of the many new laws passed to try to bring down statewide housing costs and boost housing production, Senate Bill 9 stood out as most controversial. The law gives property owners the ability to split their single-family lots into two and build up to two primary homes on each—effectively allowing for more density in traditional single-family neighborhoods.

Critics have decried the law as the “death of single-family zoning” and worry about the impact on neighborhoods, while proponents believe it will add to California’s housing stock and make home ownership more attainable.

Communities across the Central Coast will have to wait and see how the law plays out in their neighborhoods in 2022.

## Police: think before you tear-gas

Assembly Bill 48 tries to rein in law enforcement’s ability to use nonlethal weapons, like tear gas, to control crowds—a tactic often resorted to during nationwide Black Lives Matter protests in 2020.

This new law prohibits the use of those weapons in situations where there’s “a violation of an imposed curfew, verbal threat, or noncompliance with a law enforcement directive.” Yet, tear gas is permitted in the face of “a threat to life or serious bodily injury” or “to bring an objectively dangerous and unlawful situation safely and effectively under control.”

“Objectively dangerous” was how SLO Police Chief Rick Scott described a June 2020 protest in the city that ended with protesters running away from tear gas, pepper balls, and flash bangs.

Scott claimed his department did not violate the letter or spirit of AB 48 when it used the weapons to end the protest, calling the gathering on Santa Rosa Street “no longer peaceful.” He said police used tear gas as “a last resort in defense of the safety of the officers and the protesters themselves.”

## Decertifying bad cops

In another law aimed at police accountability, Senate Bill 2 enacts the state’s first decertification process for police officers who commit acts of misconduct, like sexual assault or excessive force.

The law creates a new division within the state’s Commission on Peace Officer Standards and Training, which will be tasked with investigating allegations of police misconduct.

If misconduct allegations are sustained, an advisory board can recommend punishments for the officer, including the revocation of his or her certification—which would mean that that officer couldn’t simply move on to a different police department.

## To-go cocktails stick around

At first a desperate survival experiment during the early lockdowns of COVID-19, “to-go” alcoholic drinks are now a popular commodity at bars and restaurants—and will be permitted for at least another five years under a new state law.

Senate Bill 389 allows the food and drink industry to continue selling boozy beverages in a to-go fashion—as long as the customers pick up their drinks and also order a full meal. That last



**HOUSING LAW:** One new state law, Senate Bill 9, tries to boost housing supply by allowing property owners to split their single-family lots and build up to four homes on them.

condition has rankled some business owners who say it favors restaurants and discriminates against bars and other drink-focused establishments.

## Compost or else

Six years ago, Gov. Jerry Brown signed Senate Bill 1383—setting into motion an aggressive timetable for California to reduce its methane emissions caused by organic waste in landfills.

On Jan. 1, many of the regulations associated with the law kick in. Residents and businesses alike will grapple with new requirements for composting and food rescue.

The rules are all geared toward reducing how much organic waste winds up in landfills by 75 percent.

## ‘Stealthing’ is sexual battery

California is the first state in the U.S. to legally ban “stealthing”—the act of removing a condom without a partner’s consent during sex.

Assembly Bill 453 adds stealthing to the state’s civil definition of sexual battery—giving victims the opportunity to sue their violators if they wish.

The law was crafted in response to several recent studies showing stealthing’s increasing prevalence. The act puts victims at risk of STIs and unwanted pregnancies.

## Freer pigs, higher prices?

Bacon may get more expensive this year, as the U.S. meat industry grapples with the rollout of

## Proposition 12.

This 2018 ballot initiative set minimum space requirements for confining farm animals like pigs, calves, and chickens. While those animals will soon have a legal right to luxuries like “turning around” and “fully extending their limbs,” the meat industry will likely see its cost of doing business go up as a result.

SLO County Farm Bureau Executive Director Brent Burchett told the *Sun* that he “wouldn’t rule out” a 10 percent increase in pork prices in the coming months thanks to Proposition 12—a tough pill to swallow for consumers already feeling the crunch of inflation, he said.

## Minimum wage hits \$15

Workers earning minimum wage on the Central Coast will get another bump this year.

Those employed at businesses with 26 or more employees will now earn at least \$15 per hour. That’s the final minimum wage increase in a schedule of wages established by state law in 2017, which started at \$10.50 per hour.

For workers at smaller companies with 25 or fewer employees, they’ll have to wait another year to get \$15. Their wage increased from \$13 to \$14 on Jan. 1, with a final \$1 bump scheduled for 2023. ☐

Contact Peter Johnson, the assistant editor of the *Sun*’s sister paper, *New Times*, at [pjohnson@newtimesslo.com](mailto:pjohnson@newtimesslo.com).

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# Serving animals

*Santa Barbara County nonprofit C.A.R.E.4Paws invites pet owners to its mobile pet clinics in the new year*

PHOTO SCREENSHOTTED FROM C.A.R.E.4PAWS WEBSITE

BY TAYLOR O'CONNOR

C.A.R.E.4Paws has been a staple way for pets in low-income families to receive critical care, but the pandemic caused a service jump with a record 20,000 medical procedures in 2020, a significant uptick from 2019's 18,500, said Isabelle Gullo, executive director and co-founder of C.A.R.E.4Paws.

"We've seen an increase in the number of pet owners who may not necessarily be low-income, but they are desperate to have their pet seen, and we are able to accommodate those clients," Gullo said.

The main outreach comes through the Mobile Community Medicine and Spay/Neuter Outreach program where the organization drives in vans across Santa Barbara County meeting with pets and their owners, providing medical services ranging from mass removals to vaccinations and microchipping.

"When we started C.A.R.E.4PAWS, we looked at the whole county and pinpointed which areas have the highest need for low-cost services for pets. We analyzed poverty levels in different communities and went directly to these communities that not only were low-income, but lacked transportation or only spoke Spanish," she said. "We are the only nonprofit on the Central Coast that provides services directly to the pet owners that need a wide range of services the most."

C.A.R.E.4Paws will continue the mobile clinic in the new year, and will expand its services to San Luis Obispo County in February, Gullo said.

"We are serving an unprecedented number of families, and we don't see that slowing down any time soon. It's concerning because we are always worried families will have to decide between paying a bill or feeding their pet. ... The good news is that there are many resources available to ensure that pets stay in their home," she said.

Mobile clinics typically start at 9 a.m. with check-in for surgery and medical clients—who must make an appointment online prior to coming to the mobile units. By 10 a.m., the vaccine clinic is open on a first-come, first-serve basis along with flea treatments, and nail treatments. Owners can also sign up for other services at later dates like mass removal or spay neuter surgeries, Gullo said.

"During these clinics, we partner with Santa Barbara County Animal Services to sell dog licenses, and sponsor microchips for free. You need to license your pet; basically, it's like a registration for your animal. A lot of people are interested in licensing their dogs but may not be able to make it to the shelter. You may need to alter your pet and get vaccines, but [you] can do it all in one place," she said.

Everything—except surgeries, which can be sponsored—costs about \$10, meaning owners can get all their vaccines, microchipping, and licensing done for about \$60, which are discounted rates compared to private practices. All costs circle back into the nonprofit, allowing it to continue its service to the community, and expand its outreach, Gullo added.



**MOBILE UNITS:** As part of its expansion, C.A.R.E.4Paws put a down payment on a new, 37-foot van that will allow veterinarians and vet technicians to better serve larger animals and serve more animals during the day.

"We're always looking at what the needs are in the community, and seeing how we can fill any voids in terms of services that our community members may need. ... Right now, the most important thing is to continue to provide the clinics and assistance with vet care for those having a hard time financially so they can keep their pets, and their pets don't end up in shelters," she said.

Visit care4paws.org for clinic dates and locations. For those interested in helping, the nonprofit is always looking for volunteers to help veterinary staff with vaccines and keep pet owners company at the mobile clinics.

Volunteers can visit the nonprofit's website for an application. People can also donate pet food at the clinic's site, or contribute financially on the C.A.R.E.4Paws website.

## Highlight

- Spend an evening with the whole family at the Santa Maria Philharmonic's Fly Me to the Moon concert at the Pacific Christian Center—located at 3435 Santa Maria Way—for an introduction to the world of live orchestral music. This hour-long performance on Jan. 23 celebrates science, technology, imagination, and the arts through a free presentation from Maestro Michael Nowak. The concert features works by Tchaikovsky, Beethoven, and Williams, and tells a story about the history of flight—which is brought to life with selections from the orchestra's repertoire, and projected multimedia images. The show begins at 4 p.m., reservations must be made due to capacity restrictions, and masks are required inside the venue for all concertgoers.

Reserve spots at givebutter.com/flymetothemoon. ○

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

## The Santa Maria Joint Union High School District Special Education - Child Find

The Santa Maria Joint Union High School District (SMJUHSD) seeks to identify, locate, and evaluate high school age students suspected of having a disability who may be eligible for special education services designed to meet their educational needs at no cost to families. This includes students that are highly mobile, migrant, experiencing homelessness, students that are wards of the state, and students attending private schools located within SMJUHSD boundaries. If you suspect your child has a disability, contact the school special education department or district office Special Education Department.

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# DEATH NOTICES

**BORGES, MARGARIDA R.**, 81, of Santa Maria passed away 1/4/2022 arrangements with Magner Maloney Funeral Home

**BRUNO, JOHN JOSEPH**, 92, passed away 12/27/2021 arrangements with Reis Family Mortuary

**CHEDA, FAY ANN**, 91, passed away 12/24/2021 arrangements with Reis Family Mortuary

**DANIEL, MATILDA "TILLIE,"** 95, of Lompoc, passed away 12/22/2021 arrangements with Starbuck-Lind Mortuary

**ESTRADA, LUIS "ROBERTO" VILLANUEVA**, 58, of Santa Maria passed away 12/31/2021 arrangements with Magner Maloney Funeral Home

**FAZENBAKER, ISABEL**, 58, of Santa Maria passed away 12/27/2021 arrangements with Dudley-Hoffman Mortuary, Crematory & Memory Gardens

**FREITAS, RICHARD JOSEPH SR.**, 83, of Santa Maria passed away 12/20/2021 arrangements with Magner Maloney Funeral Home

**HARDTKE, GRETCHEN**, 61, of Santa Margarita passed away 12/17/2021 arrangements with Chapel of the Roses

**HOLLISTER, KATHRYN "TODD,"** 90, of Lompoc passed away 12/16/2021 arrangements with Starbuck-Lind Mortuary

**HOLT, LINDA ANN**, 73, of Santa Maria passed away 12/29/2021 arrangements with Magner Maloney Funeral Home

**HOOPER, STEVEN LEE**, 63, of Oceano passed away 12/3/2021 arrangements with Marshall Spoo Sunset Funeral Chapel

**HOWELL, ROBERT DAVID**, 73, passed away 12/29/2021 arrangements with Reis Family Mortuary

**JAEGER, JANE ELENE**, 75, of Los Osos passed away 12/23/2021 arrangements with Los Osos Valley Mortuary

**LEKSAN, JAMES ROY**, 72, of Los Osos passed away 12/26/2021 arrangements with Los Osos Valley Mortuary

**MATASCI, ELMER G.**, 91, of Nipomo passed away 12/16/2021 arrangements with Magner Maloney Funeral Home

**MILLER, KEITH E.**, 86, of Los Osos passed away 12/20/2021 arrangements with Los Osos Valley Mortuary

**MILOJKOVIC, DRAGAN VOJISLAV**, 83, of Paso Robles passed away 12/29/2021 arrangements with Chapel of the Roses

**MOORE, ROBERT JOHN**, 69, of Atascadero passed away 12/26/2021 arrangements with Chapel of the Roses

**NEWMAN, STEPHEN LEROY**, 74, of Los Osos passed away 12/29/2021 arrangements with Los Osos Valley Mortuary

**NOVOSEL, EDWARD JAMES**, 78, of Guadalupe passed away 12/25/2021 arrangements with Dudley-Hoffman Mortuary, Crematory & Memory Gardens

**PARKER, MICHAEL EARL**, 77, of Santa Maria passed away 12/24/2021 arrangements with Dudley-Hoffman Mortuary, Crematory & Memory Gardens

**PHAKLIDES, CORINNE JOAN**, 91, of Templeton passed away 12/14/2021 arrangements with Chapel of the Roses

**POOLE, EMERSON DONALD**, 91, passed away 12/22/2021 arrangements with Lady Family Mortuary

**RIVALDI, DOLLIE**, 90, of Lompoc passed away 12/23/2021 arrangements with Starbuck-Lind Mortuary

**SALINAS, ARMANDO SARANDA**, 64, of Santa Maria passed away 12/23/2021 arrangements with Dudley-Hoffman Mortuary, Crematory & Memory Gardens

**SCHMID-BRUM, SUSAN FLORENCE**, 77, of Santa Maria passed away 12/31/2021 arrangements with Dudley-Hoffman Mortuary, Crematory & Memory Gardens

**SMITH, ARTHUR "ART,"** 97, of Lompoc passed away 12/18/2021 arrangements with Starbuck-Lind Mortuary

**UJANO, DELAND KIRK**, 48, of Santa Maria passed away 12/26/2021 arrangements with Dudley-Hoffman Mortuary, Crematory & Memory Gardens

**VREEKEN, GARY LEON**, 86, of Santa Maria passed away 1/1/2022 arrangements with Dudley-Hoffman Mortuary, Crematory & Memory Gardens

**WADDELL, EUGENE JOHN**, 71, passed away 12/14/2021 arrangements with Reis Family Mortuary

**WINSLOW, DALE**, 89, of Atascadero passed away 12/22/2021 arrangements with Chapel of the Roses

**ZENICH, DARLA JEAN**, 86, of Santa Maria passed away 12/25/2021 arrangements with Dudley-Hoffman Mortuary, Crematory & Memory Gardens

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# Opinion

## COMMENTARY

### Online Poll

#### What does New Year's mean to you?

- 42% A good night to stay home—COVID cases are on the rise!
- 29% A chance to start fresh.
- 29% It's just another day, calendars are a social construct.
- 0% I'll make a resolution, but I may or may not stick to it.

17 Votes

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# Sun

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## Very necessary protection

*Marine sanctuaries are essential for preventing unwanted harmful activities off our coast*

BY ANDREW CHRISTIE

How will the Chumash Heritage National Marine Sanctuary provide economic benefits and environmental protections to the Central Coast? Let us count the ways.

A 2014 study of the potential economic impacts of a national marine sanctuary off the Central Coast (conducted by Jason Scorse, director of Center for the Blue Economy at the Monterey Institute of International Studies, and Judith Kildow, director of the center's National Ocean Economics Program), found that a national marine sanctuary off the Central Coast could add, "at minimum, \$23 million per year to the local economy and create almost 600 jobs." [Emphasis added.]

As recently summed up by Dr. Scorse:

"We found significant potential for the sanctuary to boost local employment and income, and we still believe this to be the case. Sanctuaries bring in money for research, from increased tourism, and increased property values. Given the indigenous heritage of the Chumash region, we believe that there will be significant interest from both a cultural and historical perspective in a new sanctuary of this kind. If anything, recent trends in the U.S. toward better appreciation of native rights and culture should make the proposed sanctuary even more valuable to the public than when we conducted our study."

The Office of National Marine Sanctuaries' Socioeconomics Research and Monitoring Program regularly reports on the economic impacts of existing marine sanctuaries. (Spoiler alert: The impacts are positive, especially for commercial and recreational fishing, which are particularly dependent on the health of marine resources and habitat.)

**Speak up!**  
Send us your views and opinion to  
[letters@santamariasun.com](mailto:letters@santamariasun.com)

Do we have plenty of local, state, and federal regulations that protect our coastal waters already, and therefore don't need a marine sanctuary? Let's take a tour through recent history.

Congress allowed the 1982 moratorium on oil and gas leasing off the Pacific and Atlantic coasts to expire in 2008. Since then, we have seen an array of stopgap measures and bills introduced at the state and federal level that have died at the hands of Big Oil and its allies. The latest fail came last December, when U.S. Sen. Joe Manchin (D-West Virginia) stripped a ban on Pacific and Atlantic coastal drilling out of the Build Back Better Act. There are about 20 known oil fields in federal waters off the San Luis Obispo County coast. The Chumash Heritage National Marine Sanctuary would immediately and permanently protect our coastal waters from drilling.

Then there were the times in 2002 and in 2005 when SLO County had to fend off efforts by the Bureau of Reclamation to dump toxic irrigation wastewater from the San Joaquin Valley into Estero Bay.

Then there was PG&E's proposed 2012 seismic survey offshore of Diablo Canyon, which ignored emerging benign technologies and opted for the cheapest and most environmentally destructive means of detecting underwater earthquake faults:

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Towing 250-decibel sound cannons through coastal waters all day, every day, for more than a month; 250 decibels is approximately what you would hear if you stood next to the engine of a 747 on takeoff.

Halting both the proposed seismic survey and wastewater dumping project required Herculean feats of local organizing over many months by dozens of local groups. In both cases, the outcome could easily have gone the other way.

**'... recent trends in the U.S. toward better appreciation of native rights and culture should make the proposed sanctuary even more valuable to the public than when we conducted our study.'**

—Jason Scorse, director of Center for the Blue Economy at the Monterey Institute of International Studies

At a July 2005 U.S. Bureau of Reclamation town hall in Cayucos, a resident asked if the potential expansion of the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary to encompass the waters off SLO County might hinder the plan to dump toxic wastewater here. The federal rep replied that at that moment there was no marine sanctuary off the SLO Coast, our waters therefore were not protected, therefore there would be no such impediment to the project.

PG&E's seismic survey had reached its final stage of approval, with all other required state and federal permits in hand, by the time it reached the California Coastal Commission and was turned back. Before it did, the utility eliminated one of the proposed survey vessel tracks—the one that would have taken it into the Monterey Bay sanctuary.

This history—and the benefit of having a national marine sanctuary in your corner when you really need one—is worth keeping in mind as the designation process goes forward.

Also worth keeping in mind are two federal studies that anticipated the claim that our oceans already have enough protection and don't need the protection a sanctuary brings. A 1981 report of the U.S. General Accounting Office put its findings in its title: "Marine Sanctuaries Program Offers Environmental Protection and Benefits Other Laws Do Not." In 2008, the intervening 27 years had not altered this reality when the inspector general of the Department of Commerce affirmed that the national marine sanctuary program "effectively complements other federal, state, and local resource protection efforts by offering benefits other laws or regulations do not."

From the mouth of Santa Rosa Creek in Cambria to the kelp forests off Point Conception, spanning 20,000-year-old Chumash ancestral sites now underwater, we are blessed with some of the most unique marine habitat and cultural heritage in the world, deserving of the protection that only a national marine sanctuary can provide. ○

Andrew Christie is the director of the Santa Lucia Chapter of the Sierra Club. Send comments through the editor at [clanham@santamariasun.com](mailto:clanham@santamariasun.com).

# Chin up!

Well, kids, I hate to be the bearer of bad news, but just in case you don't pay attention to anything vaguely internet-related: COVID-19 is back!

The omicron variant is sweeping the country (Thanks, globalization! Thanks, anti-vaxxers!), including Santa Barbara County, and it's more contagious than ever! Yahoo! So mask up, vax up, and keep your head up—as long as it's 6 feet away from other heads.

According to county Public Health's online dashboard, 57 residents were hospitalized due to the virus with 3,375 positive cases, as of Jan. 4. As of Dec. 30, almost 20 percent of the people getting tested were positive (That's higher than ever by at least 3 percentage points!) with almost 100 cases per 100,000 residents.

And those numbers don't even include the residents who are testing at home and not reporting their information to the county. So keep those saliva droplets to yourselves and plan to hunker down (Again! I know, it's rough) for a few weeks.

You know who else needs to hunker down? Lompoc police officers, who will be inundated with babysitting calls for pot smokers who can't hold their pot, according to **Lompoc City Councilmember Gilda Cordova**. Now that her fellow City Council members passed an ordinance allowing cannabis smoking at permitted events in three of the city's parks, public safety in that town is going to be even more of a nightmare, she said during a Dec. 21 meeting.

"Altering substances," like marijuana will take police away from day-to-day duties!

Cue unnecessarily dramatic music!

"Is that reasonable to consider that we would be taking officers that could be on the streets of Lompoc ... and now they're going to be answering—or babysitting—an event," she said during the meeting.

Well, I think "altering substances" could include myriad things. Like wine, spirits, beer, and even coffee and tea. Yeah, I said it. Coffee and tea!

What's next? An energy drinking event where folks will (gasp) get too jittery and take up our public safety resources? Where will we draw the line?

**Lompoc Councilmember Jeremy Ball** was feeling pretty similar, alluding to wine festivals and the Lompoc Christmas Parade as events that could drum up similar concerns. No. Not Christmas!

"If we'd like to get into the weeds on this, pun intended, let's talk about the difference between a 2,500 person wine event and a 2,500 person cannabis event. And let's go from there," Ball said, apparently feeling very punny! And I support him in that quest!

Cordova responded that she'd be willing to talk about that "when it's appropriate, but that's not what we're talking about today." OK. So, are you just saying "no" to weed? Pun intended.

I don't get it. When exactly would be a more "appropriate" time to have that discussion?

And when did Lompoc become the most liberal city on the Central Coast? That city's laws governing the sale and use of cannabis put places like Santa Barbara to shame.

At least that's something to look forward to. This summer, when the omicron variant has lost its shimmer and the fading green hills glimmer in the sun, if nothing else, you can light up a joint in a public park in Lompoc.

The canary applauds the right to be babysat. Send thoughts to [canary@santamariasun.com](mailto:canary@santamariasun.com).



# FIELDS OF GREEN \$250,000 CASH + PRIZES GIVEAWAY



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This week's online poll 1/6-1/13

What new law are you excited to see take effect in 2022?

- Universal vote-by-mail—elections need to stay accessible.
- The \$15 minimum wage.
- Decertification for bad cops—finally more accountability.
- Keeping to-go cocktails from restaurants!

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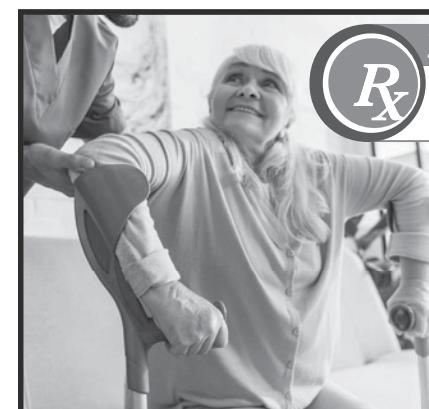
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# HOT STUFF

JAN. 6 – JAN. 13  
2022

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



FILE PHOTO COURTESY OF ROBERT HOUCHENS

## CLASSICAL PRODIGIES

The Santa Maria Philharmonic Society presents its annual Youth Showcase at Shepard Hall on Sunday, Jan. 16, at 4 p.m. This recital features performances from young classical musicians ranging from ages 8 to 18. To find out more about the program, visit smphilharmonic.org. Shepard Hall is located inside the Santa Maria Public Library, at 421 S. McClelland St., Santa Maria. Pictured: soprano Bridget Lee (right), a participant of the 2020 recital.

—C.W.

## ARTS

### SANTA YNEZ VALLEY

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

**THIRD ANNUAL WINTER SALON** Gallery Los Olivos presents its third annual Winter Salon group show. Gallery artists display their creative work hung "salon style" floor to ceiling. All fine art mediums represented. Mondays, Thursdays-Sundays, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. through Jan. 31 805-688-7517. GalleryLosOlivos.com. Gallery Los Olivos, 2920 Grand Ave., Los Olivos.

**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 elverhj.org. Elverhj Museum of History and Art, 1624 Elverhj Way, Solvang, 805-686-1211.

### SANTA MARIA VALLEY/LOS ALAMOS

**COMMUNITY TALK: LECTURE FROM PHOTOGRAPHER ANTONIO TUROK** Antonio Turok's lecture is based on his photographs taken in Nicaragua, Salvador, Guatemala, and the southern Mexican states. **Jan. 12**, 7-8 p.m. Free. 209-312-8653. tinyurl.com/Turok22. Corazon del Pueblo, 124 W. Main Street, Santa Maria.

**THE FULL MONTY: THE MUSICAL** This theatrical adaptation of the popular 1997 film follows a group of unemployed men that decide to become male strippers to make some quick cash. The show is described as an upbeat comedy full of honest affection and engaging melodies. **Jan. 14-30** 805-922-4442. my805tix.com. Santa Maria Civic Theatre, 1660 N. McClelland St., Santa Maria.

**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 Free. 805 925-0994 x 2832. Santa Maria Public Library, 421 S. McClelland St., Santa Maria.

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

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

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

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

**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.

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**OCCULT AND METAPHYSICAL ART SHOW** An exhibition of the occult and metaphysical paintings by Bay Area artist

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

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Leona Lee. Reception: Nov. 28, from 3 to 5 p.m. Through Jan. 15 Puffers of Pismo, 781 Price St., Pismo Beach, puffersofpismo.com.

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**PERCUSSIVE DANCE CLASSES** Come and dance with us. Clogging is a similar to tap dancing and it's fun and easy to learn. Have fun dancing to all sorts of music, meet people, and get great exercise! No partners required. Adults and kids ages 8 and over. Thursdays, 10-midnight through May 26 \$20/month. 805-975-6601. Heritage Square Park, 201 Nelson St., 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, 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. Oaklawn 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.

**ALLOY: IDEAS AND INFLUENCE** Group exhibition of contemporary cast metal featuring works by Margaret Korisheli, nicolale, Paula Zima, Randall Johnson, Elizabeth Dorbad, Ariane Leiter, Marcia Harvey, and Barry Frantz. Tuesdays-Fridays, 11 a.m.-4 p.m. and **Jan. 10**, 11 a.m.-4 p.m. through Jan. 28 Free. 805-546-3202. cuesta.edu/student/campuslife/artgallery/index.html. Harold J. Miessi Gallery, Highway 1, San Luis Obispo.

**ART AND ABOUT SLO** Join us for Art and About

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SLO, a self-guided art walk that gives the community an opportunity to experience visual, literary, and performing art in galleries and other venues. Visit site for an updated map of locations. Events will not occur on major holidays. First Friday of every month, 5-8 p.m. Free. 805-544-9251. artsobispo.org/art-and-about. San Luis Obispo.

**BOOK LAUNCH FOR CROSS BODY LEAD, BY ELIE AXELROTH** Short reading from the book and discussion with focus on social justice issues raised in this novel. This event is on Zoom. For link, contact Congregation Beth David. Books available from Volumes of Pleasure or your favorite retailer. **Jan. 10**, 12:30-2 p.m. Free. 805-544-0760. elieaxelroth.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 Free. 3cps.org/3cps-online-show/. Online, See website, San Luis Obispo.

**CERAMIC LESSONS AND MORE** Now offering private one-on-one and group lessons in the ceramic arts. Both hand building and wheel throwing options. Beginners welcomed. 805-835-5893. hmcruceceramics.com/. Online, See website, San Luis Obispo.

**EXPOSURE COMPOSITION** While photography has historically been valued for its ability to depict our world objectively, some photographers seek to reveal it to us by abstracting objects and moments they observe. This exhibition explores examples of abstract photography created by members of The Photo Society. Through Jan. 30, 11 a.m.-5 p.m. Free. 805-543-8562. sloma.org/exhibition/exposure-composition/. San Luis Obispo Museum of Art, 1010 Broad St., San Luis Obispo.

**FREE DOCENT TOURS AT SLOMA** Gain a deeper understanding of the artwork on view with SLOMA's new docent tours. Saturdays, 11 a.m. Free. 805-543-8562. sloma.org. San Luis Obispo Museum of Art, 1010 Broad St., San Luis Obispo.

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

**LITTLE TREASURE: HOLIDAY ART EXHIBIT** Features artwork of all mediums by local artists, and all priced at \$100 or less. Great for holiday shopping, collecting sweet and creative gifts that are one of a kind. Exhibit runs Dec. 3 through Jan. 31. Mondays-Saturdays,

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10 a.m.-5 p.m. through Jan. 31. Free. 805-747-4200. artcentralslo.com/gallery/. Art Central, 1329 Monterey 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/.

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

**PICKET PAINTING PARTY** Decorative picket purchasing opportunities are available to show your support and help fund maintenance and educational programs in the Children's Garden. Second Saturday of every month, 1-4 p.m. \$75 per picket or 2 for \$100. 805-541-1400. slobg.org. San Luis Obispo Botanical Garden, 3450 Dairy Creek Rd., San Luis Obispo.

**REPRESENTATION IN FILM FRIDAYS: FREAKS** SLO Library presents this topical film series highlighting issues of representation in film. Professor Paul Marchbanks of the Cal Poly English Department will introduce the featured film and facilitate discussion afterwards. **Jan. 14**, 6-8 p.m. Free. 805-781-5184. slolibrary.evanced.info/signup/calendar. San Luis Obispo Library Community Room, 995 Palm Street, San Luis Obispo.

**SECOND SATURDAYS FREE ART EVENT** SLOMA's Second Saturdays program features art-making activities that complement the Museum's current exhibitions. It's completely free and open to the public, on the lawn outside SLOMA's Mission Plaza double doors. Second Saturday of every month, 11 a.m.-1 p.m. Free. 805-543-8562. sloma.org/events/second-saturdays/. San Luis Obispo Museum of Art, 1010 Broad St., San Luis Obispo.

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

**SLO JEWISH FILM FESTIVAL** Twenty films, twenty days, to stream the SLO Jewish Film Festival. Includes feature films, documentaries, and shorts from around the planet celebrating the Jewish experience. Streaming starts Jan. 9. Through Jan. 30. \$50 All-Access Festival Pass; \$25 Three-Movies Pass; \$10 One-Movie Pass. 410-693-2949. slojff.com. Online, See website, San Luis Obispo.

**SPIRA: WITH THE MOVEMENT ARTS COLLECTIVE AT SLOMA** Maartje Herman's Spira is a dance shaped and inspired by Mark di Suvero's sculpture Mamma Mobius. The dance features 4 dancers from the Movement Arts Collective. On Saturday, Ryan Lawrence will provide guided movement workshops for people of all ages and abilities. **Jan. 7**, 5:30-6:30 p.m. and **Jan. 8**, 11:15 a.m.-12:15 p.m. Free. 805-543-8562. sloma.org/. San Luis Obispo Museum of Art, 1010 Broad St., San Luis Obispo.

**TOUCHY TOUCHY BY ARTIST MARRIN LEE MARTINEZ** Soft kinetic sculpture exploring motherhood. The objects on display in this exhibition are a collection of kinetic creatures that explore a mother's physical sensitivity to their child's constant touch. Visitors are invited to interact with the forms, as suggested by adjacent action words. Through Feb. 28, 11 a.m.-5 p.m. Free. 805-543-8562. sloma.org/exhibition/touchy-touchy/. San Luis Obispo Museum of Art, 1010 Broad St., San Luis Obispo.

**WALT WHITMAN GAY MEN'S BOOK CLUB** Walt Whitman Gay Men's Book Club meets virtually via zoom. This club reads, studies and discusses books chosen by the group which relate to their lives as gay men. All are welcome. Second Monday of every month, 7:30 p.m. Free. galacc.org/events/. Online, See website, San Luis Obispo.



## FLAME GAME

The city of Solvang and the Santa Barbara County Fire Department will co-host Solvang's 31st annual Christmas Tree Burn on Friday, Jan. 7, from 5 to 7 p.m., in the empty field adjacent to Old Mission Santa Ines. Attendees of the event can look forward to enjoying refreshments, live music, a fire safety demo, and more. For more info, visit solvangjulefest.org/treeburn. Old Mission Santa Ines is located at 1760 Mission Drive, Solvang.

—C.W.

## DISRUPTED REALISM: LECTURE BY JOHN SEED

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## NORTH SLO COUNTY

**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.

## NORTH COAST SLO COUNTY

**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. leftfieldsls.com. Left Field Gallery, 1036 Los Osos Valley Road, Los Osos.

**ART AND ABOUT LOS OSOS** Join us for Art and About Los Osos, a self-guided art walk that gives the community an opportunity to experience visual, literary, and performing art in galleries and other venues throughout Los Osos. Events will not occur on major holidays. Second Saturday of every month, 1-4 p.m. Free. 805-544-9251. artsobispo.org/art-and-about. Los Osos, Townwide, Los Osos.

**COSTA GALLERY: ART AND ABOUT LOS OSOS** Costa Gallery is now featuring a private collection of encaustic artwork by Los Osos artists Margaret Bertrand and Bob Dodge. Second Saturday of every month costagallery.com. Costa Gallery, 2087 10th Street, Los Osos, 559-799-9632.

**DESTINATION UNKNOWN: WATERCOLOR WORKSHOP** In this series of classes, we will use watercolors as a medium for exploration. We will explore what we can do with color, texture, line, and light. We will also explore the effects of watercolors when mixed with other media. Tuesdays, 10 a.m.-noon through Jan. 25. \$120-\$135. 805-772-2504. artcentermorrobay.org/index.php/shop/. Art Center Morro Bay, 835 Main St., Morro Bay.

PHOTO COURTESY OF THE CITY OF SOLVANG



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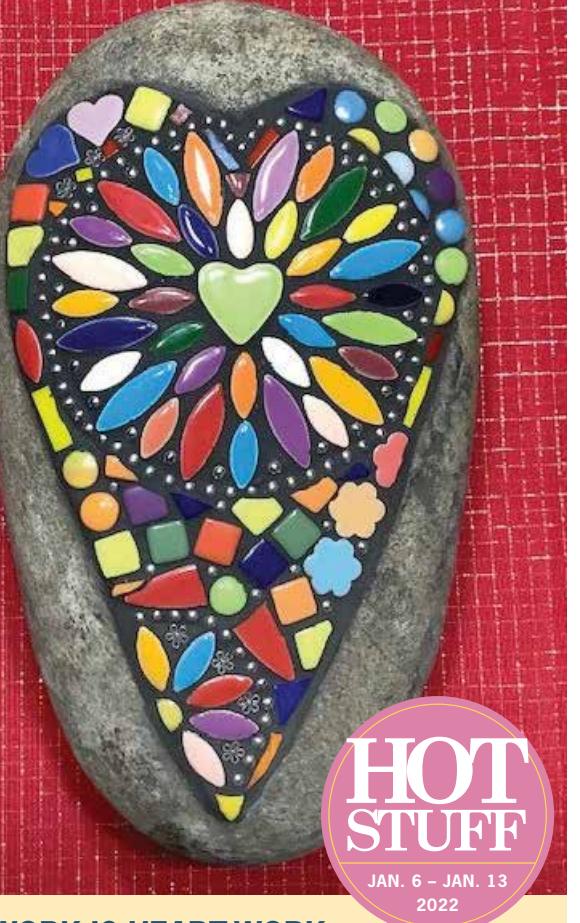
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## HOT STUFF

JAN. 6 – JAN. 13  
2022

### ARTWORK IS HEART-WORK

Creative Me Time hosts its next Mosaic Hearts workshop at Art Center Morro Bay on Sunday, Jan. 16, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Participants of this beginner-friendly class will use baubles, beads, and other materials to create their own mosaic projects from scratch. Admission is \$50. Call (805) 286-5993 or visit [creativetime.com](http://creativetime.com) for more info. Art Center Morro Bay is located at 835 Main St., Morro Bay.

—C.W.

### ARTS from page 13

**FOR THE BIRDS EXHIBIT** During this exhibit, you'll find bird related fine art paintings, photography and three dimensional art to include pottery, sculpture, jewelry, glass, and more. Don't miss this exciting exhibit and artist reception featuring live birds. This event is free and open to the public. **Jan. 6–Feb. 21**, 12-4 p.m. Free. 805-772-2504. [artcentermorrobay.org](http://artcentermorrobay.org). Art Center Morro Bay, 835 Main St., Morro Bay.

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

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

Preregistration required. **Jan. 16**, 10 a.m.-1 p.m. \$50. 805-286-5993. [creativetime.com](http://creativetime.com). Art Center Morro Bay, 835 Main St., Morro Bay.

**MOSAIC TRIVET WORKSHOP** During this workshop, you will learn how to design and create a mosaic trivet. You will learn how to select materials, lay out a pleasing pattern, and adhere the tiles to the trivet base. You will learn how to properly grout and seal your project. ongoing, 1-4 p.m. \$60. 805-772-2504. [artcentermorrobay.org/index.php/workshops/](http://artcentermorrobay.org/index.php/workshops/). Art Center Morro Bay, 835 Main St., Morro Bay.

**OPENING RECEPTION: FOR THE BIRDS EXHIBIT** This opening celebration will feature an awareness lecture with live birds from Pacific Wildlife Care. **Jan. 9**, 2-4 p.m. Free. 805-772-2504. [artcentermorrobay.org](http://artcentermorrobay.org). Art Center Morro Bay, 835 Main St., Morro Bay.

**SEA GLASS HAMMERED METAL JEWELRY** Create a gorgeous sea glass necklace and two pierced earrings. Everything is provided to complete the projects from local sea glass (choose brown, white, or green in class), to metal, jewelry findings and use of tools. Preregistration required. **Jan. 15**, 1-3 p.m. \$50. 805-286-5993. [creativetime.com](http://creativetime.com). Art Center Morro Bay, 835 Main St., Morro Bay.

### GALLERY AT MARINA SQUARE: FEATURED CRAFT ARTIST CAROLE McDONALD

As a native Californian, Carole McDonald started her art career working in the film industry. Her oil paintings reflect the vibrant colors and tranquil feelings of the Central Coast where painting is a daily joy. Mondays, Wednesdays-Sundays, 11 a.m.-5 p.m. through Jan. 29. Free. 805-772-1068. [galleryatmarinasquare.com](http://galleryatmarinasquare.com). Gallery at Marina Square, 601 Embarcadero suite 10, Morro Bay.

### LEARN BEGINNING FUSED GLASS WITH LARRY LE BRANE

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

### LIVE FIGURE DRAWING CLASS

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

### MOSAIC HEARTS

Learn mosaic basics to create a one-of-a-kind heart project. Choose a project to make your heart sing from rocks to wall art. You have many colors, baubles, and beads to choose from. Everything is provided.

Preregistration required. **Jan. 16**, 10 a.m.-1 p.m. \$50. 805-286-5993. [creativetime.com](http://creativetime.com). Art Center Morro Bay, 835 Main St., Morro Bay.

### REFLEXOLOGY AT OASIS

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

### VIRTUAL WORKSHOPS OVER ZOOM

Visit site or call to learn about various virtual workshop offerings. ongoing Varies. Unwind Studio, 130 N. Broadway, suite B, Santa Maria, 805-748-2539, [unwindsantamaria.com](http://unwindsantamaria.com).

### SEA GLASS HEART JEWELRY

Create a gorgeous sea glass necklace and two pierced earrings in this relaxing and fun class. Everything is provided to complete the projects including local sea glass. Learn how to drill holes in sea glass and basic jewelry making skills. Preregistration required. **Jan. 15**, 10 a.m.-noon \$50. 805-286-5993. [creativetime.com](http://creativetime.com). Art Center Morro Bay, 835 Main St., Morro Bay.

### SECOND SATURDAY: FEATURED ARTISTS OPENING RECEPTION

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

### WATERCOLORS AND PASTELS OF BOBBYE WEST THOMPSON

Bobbye West-Thompson's vibrant pastels and pure pigment watercolors are up at Cambria Library. Tuesdays-Saturdays. through Feb. 24. Free. 805-927-4336. [slolibrary.org](http://slolibrary.org). Cambria Library, 1043 Main St., Cambria.

## CULTURE & LIFESTYLE

SANTA MARIA VALLEY/LOS ALAMOS

### 30 VOLUNTEERS NEEDED IN SANTA MARIA/ ORCUTT

Community Partners in Caring is seeking volunteers to help support dependent older adults and seniors. [partnersincaring.org](http://partnersincaring.org). Citywide, Santa Maria.

**ANDROID PHONE CLASS** First Thursday of every month Oasis Center, 420 Soares Ave., Orcutt, 805-937-9750.

**CENTRAL COAST CORVETTE CLUB** Open to Corvette owners and enthusiasts. First Thursday of every month, 7 p.m. Free. 805-934-3948. Home Motors, 1313 E. Main St., Santa Maria.

**DIY BATH AND BODY SCRUB** Treat yourself in the New Year. Join us and learn how to make your very own body scrubs. All materials will be provided at the workshop. Registration is required. **Jan. 15**, 10:30-11:30 a.m. Free. 805-925-0994. [cityofsantamaria.org/city-government/departments/library](http://cityofsantamaria.org/city-government/departments/library). Santa Maria Public Library, 421 S. McClelland St., Santa Maria.

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

### 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](http://divining.weebly.com). Divine Inspiration, 947 E Orange St., Santa Maria.

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

**ORCUTT MINERAL SOCIETY** Second Tuesday of every month Oasis Center, 420 Soares Ave., Orcutt, 805-937-9750.

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

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

SOUTH COAST SLO COUNTY

### NEW LOCATION CELEBRATION: HALCYON STORE

Celebrating new location at 1275 W. Grand Ave Grover Beach. Scheduling Readers and Classes now store hours 10 a.m.-6 p.m. daily. Mondays-Sundays, 10 a.m.-6 p.m. through Jan. 9. Varied. 805-674-4277. Halcyon Store, 1275 W. Grand Ave, Grover Beach, [halcyonstore.com](http://halcyonstore.com).

**POINT SAN LUIS LIGHTHOUSE TOURS** Tours will give you a glimpse into the lives of Lighthouse Keepers and their families, while helping keep our jewel of the Central Coast preserved and protected. In-person and virtual tours offered. Check website for more details. Wednesdays, Saturdays [pointsanluislighthouse.org](http://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](http://ampsurf.org). Addie Street Surfer Parking Lot, Addie Street, Pismo Beach.

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

SAN LUIS OBISPO

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

### CAL POLY WOMEN'S BASKETBALL VS. CSUN

It's Youth Day, so all kids ages 13 and under get into the game for free and can participate in a pregame clinic from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. **Jan. 8**, 2-4 p.m. [gopoly.com](http://gopoly.com). Mott Athletics Center, 1 Grand Ave., San Luis Obispo, 805-756-7297.

### CAL POLY WOMEN'S BASKETBALL VS. UCSB

Don't miss the Blue-Green Rivalry game as the Mustangs take on UC Santa Barbara. **Jan. 6**, 7-9 p.m. [gopoly.com](http://gopoly.com). Mott Athletics Center, 1 Grand Ave., San Luis Obispo, 805-756-7297.

### CAL POLY WRESTLING VS NORTHERN COLORADO

Come watch the Mustangs battle Northern Colorado. **Jan. 7**, 7-9 p.m. [gopoly.com](http://gopoly.com). Mott Athletics Center, 1 Grand Ave., San Luis Obispo, 805-756-7297.

### CITY FARM SLO'S YOUTH EMPOWERMENT PROGRAM

Check site for more info on programming and summer camps. [cityfarmslo.org](http://cityfarmslo.org). 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.

**PET LOSS CLASS: 6 WEEKS ONLINE (INCLUDES BOOK)** Do you still miss a pet that died one, five, or over ten years ago? You are not alone. The Pet Loss Grief Group is a step-by-step process (with two class options to choose from: Tuesdays or Wednesdays). Tuesdays, 6-8 p.m. and Wednesdays, 9:30-11:30 a.m. through Feb. 9 \$59.99. 1-714-273-9014. [griefrecoverymethod.com/grms/rev-dianne-davison](http://griefrecoverymethod.com/grms/rev-dianne-davison). Online, See website, San Luis Obispo.

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

**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.

CULTURE & LIFESTYLE continued page 15

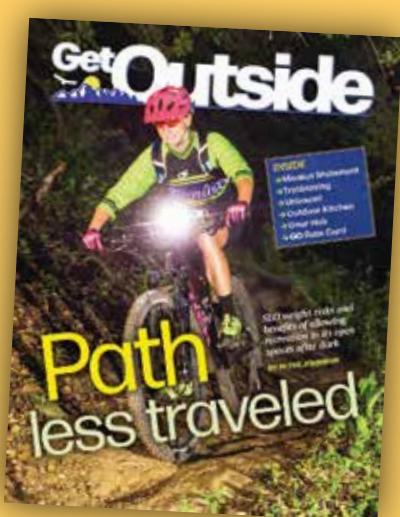
# Get Outside

The Central Coast Guide to Everything Outside

Coming Spring 2022

A New Times Media Group Special Publication · Contact us for more info: 805-347-1968

NewTimes Sun



**SLO NOONTIME TOASTMASTERS CLUB**

**MEETINGS** Want to improve speaking and leadership skills in a supportive and positive environment? During COVID, we are meeting virtually. Contact us to get a meeting link for info. Tuesdays, 12-1 p.m. Free. [sloontime.toastmastersclubs.org](http://sloontime.toastmastersclubs.org). Zoom, Online, Inquire for Zoom ID.

**SUNDAY EVENING RAP LGBTQ+ AA GROUP**

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

**SUPPORT GROUP FOR CAREGIVERS OF PERSONS WITH FTD (FRONTOTEMPORAL DEMENTIA)** A welcoming meeting providing information and support for caregivers of people with Frontotemporal Dementia (FTD). FTD is a dementia that affects younger people and is very difficult for families. This is an open group. Caregivers can drop in for information, supportive discussion, and caregiving tips. Second Saturday of every month, 2:30-4 p.m. through Jan. 14 805-471-8102. [calpoly.zoom.us/j/83141446835](https://calpoly.zoom.us/j/83141446835). 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 [tranzcenralcoast@gmail.com](mailto:tranzcenralcoast@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. Second Tuesday of the month, 6-8 p.m. Free. GALA Pride and Diversity Center, 1060 Palm Street, San Luis Obispo, 805-541-4252.

**NORTH SLO COUNTY**

**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 support group for those who are affected by someone else's addiction. Tuesdays, 6-7 p.m. [naranoncentralca.org/meetings/meeting-list/](http://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.

**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](http://tops.org). Santa Margarita Senior Center, 2210 H St., Santa Margarita.

**FOOD & DRINK****SANTA YNEZ VALLEY**

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

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

**SANTA MARIA VALLEY/LOS ALAMOS**

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

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

**SOUTH COAST SLO COUNTY**

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

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

**SAN LUIS OBISPO**

**SLO FARMERS MARKET** Hosts more than 60 vendors. Saturdays, 8:10-45 a.m. World Market Parking Lot, 325 Madonna Rd., San Luis Obispo.

**VIBRANT VIEWS**

The Cambria Library is hosting a new pastel and watercolor exhibition, which premiered on Tuesday, Jan. 4, and is scheduled to remain on display through Thursday, Feb. 24. This solo exhibit showcases a collection of vibrant paintings by Bobbye West-Thompson. Admission to view the show is free. Call (805) 927-4336 or email [cambria@slolibrary.org](mailto:cambria@slolibrary.org) for more info. The Cambria Library is located at 1043 Main St., Cambria.

—Caleb Wiseblood

**NORTH SLO COUNTY**

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

**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. Free. 805-239-1730. [casswines.com](http://casswines.com). Cass Winery And Vineyard, 7350 Linne Rd., Paso Robles.

**WEDNESDAYS AROUND THE WORLD:**

**ARGENTINA** Stamp your Cass passport as we travel the globe and taste the world's most scrumptious cuisines, all vertically paired with our award-winning wines. **Jan. 12**, 5:30-8:30 p.m. [my805tix.com](http://my805tix.com). Cass Winery And Vineyard, 7350 Linne Rd., Paso Robles, 805-239-1730.

**MUSIC****SANTA YNEZ VALLEY**

**BRIAN KINSELLA LIVE** **Jan. 9**, noon Maverick Saloon, 3687 Sagunto St., Santa Ynez, 805-686-4785, [mavericksaloon.org](http://mavericksaloon.org).

**DUSTY JUGZ LIVE** **Jan. 7**, 8:30 p.m. Maverick Saloon, 3687 Sagunto St., Santa Ynez, 805-686-4785, [mavericksaloon.org](http://mavericksaloon.org).

**JUSTIN HONSINGER LIVE** **Jan. 8**, 8:30 p.m. Maverick Saloon, 3687 Sagunto St., Santa Ynez, 805-686-4785, [mavericksaloon.org](http://mavericksaloon.org).

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

**THE RONDALES LIVE** **Jan. 8**, 1 p.m. Maverick Saloon, 3687 Sagunto St., Santa Ynez, 805-686-4785, [mavericksaloon.org](http://mavericksaloon.org).

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

**LOMPOC/VANDENBERG**

**SENIOR DANCE** The Lompoc Senior's Club presents a "Senior Dance" featuring Riptide Big Band with vocalist Bob Nations. Funded by the Community Foundation of San Luis Obispo County. RSVP by email or phone. **Jan. 16**, 2:30-4:30 p.m. Donation \$3. 661-333-7746. [riptidebb.com](http://riptidebb.com). Dick DeWees Community & Senior Center, 1120 W. Ocean Ave., Lompoc.

**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](http://centralcoastbeatsocial.com). Citywide, Santa Maria.

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



**CLARK CENTER**  
FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS

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**Dirty Cello**  
Sat, January 22 at 7:30pm  
Exclusively Sponsored by  
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Cello like you've never heard before!

Combine the virtuosic wail of Jimi Hendrix, the soul of BB King, and the fire of Bill Monroe, and add a whole lot of cello, and you get the Dirty Cello band.

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THIS FRIDAY, Jan 7 at 7:30pm

**The Peking Acrobats**

Sat, Feb 5 at 7:30pm

**America's Diamond**  
A Celebration of Neil Diamond

Sat, Feb 19 at 7:30pm

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[www.clarkcenter.org](http://www.clarkcenter.org)

### Arts Briefs

#### Wildling Museum of Art and Nature hosts photography workshop with Nic Stover

COURTESY PHOTO BY NIC STOVER


Central Coast-based photographer Nic Stover (whose photo, *Van Gogh Blue*, is pictured) will lead a photography workshop at the Wildling Museum of Art and Nature in Solvang on Sunday, Jan. 30, from 2 to 4:30 p.m. The class is described as being designed for photographers of all skill levels seeking to improve their editing skills.

"In this session, class participants will see how the most impactful and compelling images are those that have the proper balance of technique, vision, and processing," Stover said in a press release. "All of these skills need to be developed and continually refined through our own artistic and creative processes."

The first half of the workshop will cover concepts of photography composition and image design, while the second half will consist of a hands-on review and discussion session. Admission to the class is \$75. Attendees should plan on bringing two or three of their own photos (either printed or submitted digitally in advance) for the review segment of the course.

Stacey Otte-Demangate, executive director of the Wildling Museum, said she hopes the museum's current photography exhibit, *Sharing the Light*, is "inspiring visitors to dive into their own photography," and that attendees of the upcoming workshop should expect to hear "great pointers about how to take their work to the next level."

Early registration is encouraged, as the workshop is limited to 12 participants. Masks are required while inside the Wildling Museum. For more info, call (805) 686-8315 or visit [wildlingmuseum.org](http://wildlingmuseum.org). The museum is located at 1511 Mission Drive, unit B, Solvang.

#### Santa Maria Civic Theatre presents *The Full Monty: The Musical*

An upcoming production of *The Full Monty: The Musical* debuts on Friday, Jan. 14, at the Santa Maria Civic Theatre, where it is scheduled to run through Sunday, Jan. 30. This theatrical adaptation of the popular 1997 film follows a group of unemployed men who decide to become male strippers to make some quick cash. The show is described as an upbeat comedy full of honest affection and engaging melodies, in press materials.

The Santa Maria Civic Theatre's ensemble cast for the production includes 20 performers. Performances of the show will be held on Fridays and Saturdays at 7 p.m. and Sundays at 1:30 p.m. Admission ranges from \$15 to \$20, and tickets are available in advance at [my805tix.com](http://my805tix.com). Discounts are available for seniors (ages 65 and older), active military and their spouses, and veterans and their spouses.

For more details, call (805) 922-4442, email [smctheatre@gmail.com](mailto:smctheatre@gmail.com), or visit [smct.org](http://smct.org). The Santa Maria Civic Theatre is located at 1660 N. McClelland St., Santa Maria. ☀

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

## Serene salon

*Three featured painters in Gallery Los Olivos' annual Winter Salon discuss their eclectic artworks*

BY CALEB WISEBLOOD

Torn clothes. Withdrawn lovers. Bitter prayers. This is the imagery Kathi Scarminach lifted from a 13th century poem to create one of her latest paintings.

It's easy to tell from the piece's title, *Flying Too Close To The Sun*, that Scarminach's work probably has reverence for Greek mythology as well. She described her painting as a combination of the Icarus myth and the aforementioned poem, "I've Been Tricked By Flying Too Close," by Rumi.

"It is a poem about how exposing an open heart can have consequences," Scarminach said. "I combined it with the plight of the Greek mythological character, Icarus, whose wax wings melted from flying too close to the sun. His rebellious, albeit ambitious, nature did not serve him and he died by not heeding his father's advice."

Painting the piece prompted the artist to consider her own philosophical boundaries when it comes to guarding her heart versus embracing vulnerability, which Rumi's poem alludes to, while the Icarus tale led Scarminach to ask herself, "When am I dismissing the wisdom shared with me by my elders as comic relief?"

She surmised that the answers to her questions will vary from "one day to the next, one moment to the next," into the new year and beyond.

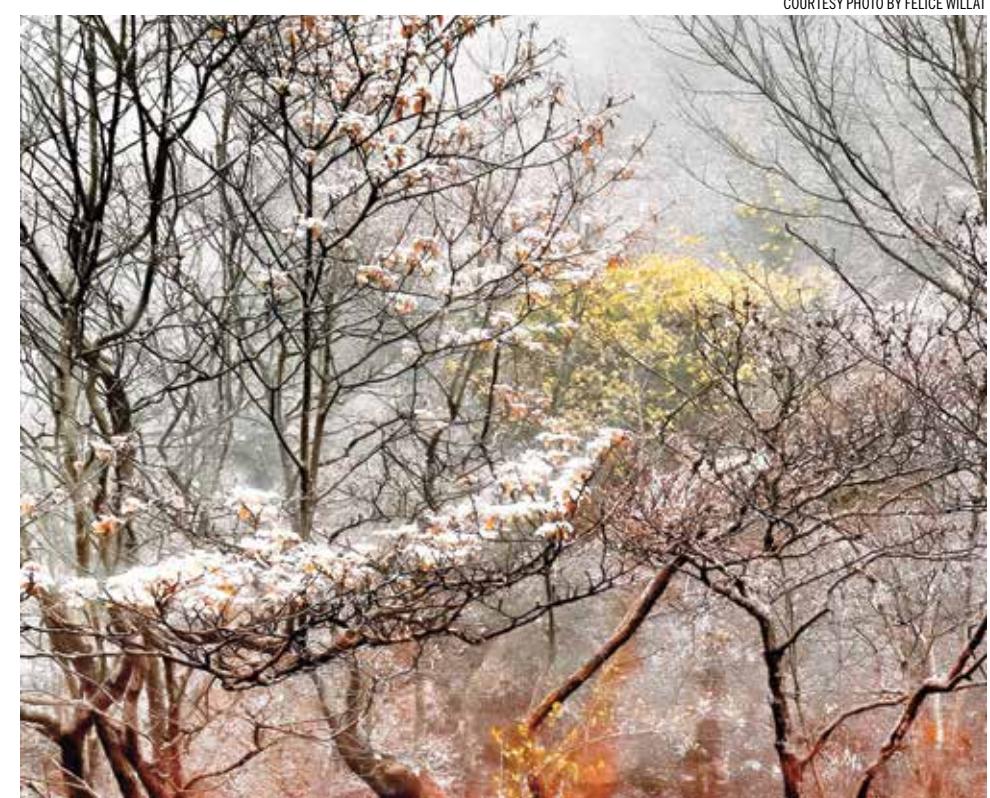
Last year marked Scarminach's first year as a member of Gallery Los Olivos, where *Flying Too Close To The Sun* is currently on display as part of the venue's annual Winter Salon exhibition. She joined the gallery last August and was one of the three artists who volunteered to hang the Winter Salon's diverse array of paintings in a salon-style format.

The show premiered in December and is scheduled to remain on display through the end of January.

"The definition of a salon-style hanging refers to large groupings of paintings that extend higher and lower than the traditional eye-level single lineup, most commonly seen on museum walls," explained Scarminach, who worked with fellow artists Karen McLean-McGaw and Rod Aszman to hang the paintings.

### Winter is here

Gallery Los Olivos presents Winter Salon, a salon-style group exhibition, through Jan. 31. The gallery is located at 2920 Grand Ave., Los Olivos. Call (805) 688-7517 or visit [gallerylosolivos.com](http://gallerylosolivos.com) for more info.



**BRANCH OUT:** Gallery Los Olivos' annual Winter Salon exhibition features a diverse collection of eclectic artworks by several local artists, including photographer Felice Willat, hung in a salon-style format. The show premiered in December and is scheduled to remain on display through the end of January. Pictured: *Dogwood and Fog*, taken in Huangshan Mountains in China.

"It takes many hands to create the vision for the exhibition—curate it, set it up, manage it, and break it down," said Scarminach, who described the exhibit as a group effort between several high-caliber artists with a common goal and shared sense of purpose.

McLean-McGaw, a longtime gallery member and participant in previous years' Winter Salon exhibitions, has two watercolor landscapes featured in this year's iteration of the show. She described both pieces, *Refugio Charm* and *November Light*, as winter coastal scenes.

"I would have to say that *November Light* would be my favorite, as it captures the light that only occurs at a certain time of day on our coast in November," McLean-McGaw said.

The artist added that she believes this year's Winter Salon is particularly exceptional thanks to its singular curator, Pamela Larsson-Toscher, who is also a featured artist in the show.

Larsson-Toscher said that the most challenging, and enjoyable, aspect of curating the show was its

COURTESY IMAGE BY KAREN MCLEAN-MCGAW


**COASTAL CANVAS:** Watercolor painter Karen McLean-McGaw, a longtime gallery member and participant of previous years' Winter Salon exhibitions, has two coastal landscapes featured in this year's iteration of the show.

themelessness, as its featured artworks capture a variety of subjects not connected to one another. While deciding on which order to arrange the artworks, she aimed to create an unseen bridge between each piece in an attempt to provide viewers with "a cohesive whole" among the show's eclectic paintings.

Another tricky part about arranging the show was "placing the pieces in a way that makes each artist know they are appreciated," she explained.

"We have very talented, highly skilled members, and they deserve to be placed where they can best be seen," said Larsson-Toscher, who has two oil paintings displayed in the exhibit.

Both *Light of my Life* and *Fall Colors* were painted on linen, and are described as works of realism, but with a twist.

"I call my work realism reimagined, because although the elements in my paintings are recognizably realistic, the settings are imaginary," Larsson-Toscher said. "Colors, textures, and designs enhance the objects and create a new way of looking at them." ☀

*Arts Editor Caleb Wiseblood has "Pure Imagination" stuck in his head. Send comments to [cwiseblood@santamariasun.com](mailto:cwiseblood@santamariasun.com).*

COURTESY IMAGE BY KATHI SCARMINACH


**DUAL IDENTITY:** Featured artist Kathi Scarminach described her painting, *Flying Too Close To The Sun*, as a combination of two inspirations: the Icarus myth and Rumi's 13th century poem, "I've Been Tricked By Flying Too Close."

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## Napping in nostalgia

**Editor's Note:** New Times Staff Writer Bulbul Rajagopal and Arts Editor Caleb Wiseblood are filling in for the Starkeys, who are on vacation.

A resurrected Thomas Anderson is trapped in a smaller but more powerful version of the Matrix with no memory of his life as the savior Neo. After an ally named Bugs frees him, Neo has to make the choice to save the human race all over again, but it's tougher than ever. (148 min.)

**Bulbul:** *The Matrix Resurrections* is a poorly delivered punch in the face that'll still have you reeling hours after viewing it. Why? For starters, the first hour of this 2 1/2 hour movie struggles to break the fourth wall with puns and dialogues about the original trilogy and characters moaning about how sequels are never as good. How meta. The fourth addition to the 1999 franchise finds a resurrected older Neo (Keanu Reeves) trapped in the Matrix as his powerless alter ego, Thomas Anderson, just like in the first movie. But *Resurrections* got some 2021 updates. Convinced that the events of the Matrix trilogy didn't happen, Anderson is now a world-famous video game developer who turned the plot of the three movies into a beloved video game. The Matrix has been rebuilt into a stronger structure by a program called the Analyst. It suppressed Neo's memories, and they come back to him in the form of dreams that repeatedly make him question his sanity. His blue-pill-pushing therapist (Neil Patrick Harris) tells him it could be all in his head. But Neo soon finds his way back to the red pill, and fights to carve

### THE MATRIX RESURRECTIONS

What's it rated? R  
What's it worth, Bulbul? Stream it  
What's it worth, Caleb? Stream it  
Where's it showing? HBO Max

a way out with help from Morpheus (now played by Yahya Abdul-Mateen II), Bugs (Jessica Henwick), Sati (Priyanka Chopra), and a restored Trinity (Carrie-Anne Moss), to name a few. *Resurrections* is supposed to be Neo and Trinity's homecoming, what with their deaths at the end of the 2003 trilogy that saves Zion from the machines. But the movie is labored and leaves us with more questions than ever. It's a lesson in understanding that stories are best told when writers know when to stop.

**Caleb:** Oof. If there's a simulated reality out there where this snooze fest of a sequel/reboot/whatever-you-wanna-call-it doesn't exist, sign me up for that blue pill ASAP. But I'll start with the positives. I enjoyed Neo's introduction as a ritzy Zuckerberg-era video game developer, but we don't get to explore that side of his new life nearly long enough. Neo's regular day-to-day life during the film's

first half-hour is far more interesting than anything that follows. When he's not at work, or in therapy, or sitting in a bathtub during a Jefferson Airplane montage, Neo goes to the same coffee shop most days to try to strike up conversations with another frequent customer, Tiffany, a "happily" married woman he finds extremely familiar, as if they were once lovers in a past life. It's easy for viewers to figure out why, since she's played by Moss. As for new faces though, Jonathan Groff, who *Hamilton* fans will recognize fondly as King George, puts his own spin on this entry's iteration of Agent Smith, the iconic sunglasses-wielding villain previously played by Hugo Weaving. Smith is introduced as Neo's boss at work, or business partner, although he gives off evil movie-boss energy. Unfortunately, once the film's obnoxiously bloated plot progresses and these initial facades of Neo, Trinity, and Smith

begin to dissipate, so does my attention span.

**Bulbul:** One thing that *does* grab my attention about the fourth installment is that it's the first in the franchise directed by only one of the Wachowski sisters. Helmed by Lana Wachowski, *Resurrections* feels incomplete without the creative vision of Lilly. I read an *Entertainment Weekly* interview where Lilly said that returning to direct yet another *Matrix* flick after all these years is a personal regression. Agreed. I wish they let this sleeping machine lie. I did enjoy Neo's trip to Io—a blossoming community led by Niobe (reprise by Jada Pinkett Smith) who has aged 60 years since the trilogy concluded. She shows Neo that Io flourished under a partnership between humans and the machines, something that Zion—the previous human settlement—failed to realize. I also appreciated that Trinity is seen as truly equal to Neo, to such an extent that the Analyst acknowledges that they're whole together. Trinity gains the power to fly unlike the resurrected Neo, and can even see the code from inside the Matrix. But I had to scrape the bottom of the barrel to find these positives, and they're not enough to distract me from this limp deconstruction of a movie. This should have been a fresh slate to show us another exciting exit for Neo from the Matrix. Instead, *Resurrections* couldn't resist basking in the glow of the first game-changer of a movie. Hand me the pill to *Matrix 4*-get.

**Caleb:** I also enjoyed the film's addition of machines that decide to team up with the humans, rather than enslave them. I think it was both cute and unintentionally amusing that some of these machines also decide to shape themselves to resemble animals—probably to help their human counterparts understand that they're good guys now? One of these large four-legged critters nuzzles up to Neo's face like a pet cow, and it's adorable.



**WELCOME BACK:** New and old allies initiate the "resurrection" of Neo (Keanu Reeves), who has forgotten the events of the original Matrix trilogy and has become a successful video game developer, in *The Matrix Resurrections*.

As much fun as it is to see Reeves play Neo again, I think it was a mistake to continue his storyline from the previous films. I would have much rather seen a new story with new characters that takes place in the world of the Matrix, similar to what the Wachowskis and a group of collaborators accomplished with 2003's *The Animatrix*, an animated anthology of standalone vignettes that are superior to any of the original film's sequels. If I was at the pitch meeting for *The Matrix Resurrections*, I would have suggested a prequel exploring how the machines took over our world, as *The Animatrix* does. Or how about a buddy comedy from the point of view of Neo's new robot cow? ☺

*Sun Screen* was written by New Times Staff Writer Bulbul Rajagopal and Arts Editor Caleb Wiseblood this week. Send comments to gstarkey@newtimeslo.com.

## Film Reviews

PHOTO COURTESY OF NEW LINE CINEMA



### MALIGNANT

When? 2021

What's it rated? R

Where's it available? Amazon Prime Video, Apple TV

From dissect-you-in-your-dreams Freddy Krueger to Chucky the killer doll, Hollywood has churned out several horror institutions

*Guilty Pleasures*

over the years. Then there's Gabriel, the parasitic conjoined twin who propelled *Malignant* to Twitter cult status simply for being ridiculous.

Directed by James Wan of *Conjuring* fame, the movie opens in 1993, in a research hospital where doctors are trying to curb a psychiatric patient called Gabriel who tries to kill the medical staff. Cut to 2020, we see the pregnant lead Madison Lake (Annabelle Wallis) living with her abusive husband in Seattle. After he hits her against a wall, she locks herself in their bedroom alone and falls asleep. But after dreaming of a man violently entering her house, Madison wakes up to find her husband killed. With a police investigation in full swing where she's the prime suspect, Madison has constant mental run-ins with Gabriel where, in a paralyzed state, she witnesses him killing others.

But here's the kicker: Gabriel doesn't just live in her mind figuratively, he's a rent-free resident! He's Madison's secret evil twin who, conjoined back-to-back, manipulated her to harm others by way of sharing the same brain. When Gabriel's shenanigans got a little too dangerous, the doctors tried to separate the pair. But their shared brain meant he couldn't be removed completely, so a sentient piece of him was pushed into

Madison's skull and stitched out of view.

What makes him come back 27 years later to exploit her all over again? Madison's head-smash undoing the stitches.

This movie is marketed as a slasher, but it will elicit more laughs than screams. The plot is riddled with hammy dialogues and over-explained imagery like Madison behind literal jail bars to represent her "mental prison."

*Malignant* ends with the hint of a sequel as Madison gears up to fight Gabriel again. (111 min.)

—Bulbul

### HARRY POTTER 20TH ANNIVERSARY: RETURN TO HOGWARTS

What's it rated? TV-14

When? 2022

Where's it showing? HBO Max

### new flicks

To celebrate the 20th anniversary of the first Harry Potter film's release, HBO Max is streaming a new retrospective documentary that reunites several of the franchise's main cast members and filmmakers to reflect on the series and their most



memorable experiences while filming it over the course of more than a decade.

I hate to be a stickler, but the January release of this heartwarming tribute is technically two months late, as *Harry Potter and The Sorcerer's Stone* came out in November of 2001. Womp, womp. But I'm happy to report that's my only quarrel—or should I say, *Quirrell*—with the documentary, which I thoroughly enjoyed every minute of. It's a must-see for any fans of the series, magic folk and muggles alike. (102 min.) ☺

—Caleb



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COURTESY PHOTO BY TIM CARL



COURTESY PHOTO BY TIM CARL

**THROUGH THE GRAPEVINE:** Winemaker Alisa Jacobson said the Santa Ynez Valley "checked all of her boxes" in terms of an ideal winemaking region, compared to other areas along the Central Coast. "I like Edna Valley, but you're looking at two main varieties there, pinot and chard. I liked that Santa Ynez had a diversity of different areas, and lots and lots of varieties you could find out there."

## Wines and waves

Vintner and environmentalist Alisa Jacobson highlights coast-driven flavors with Turning Tide Wines

BY CALEB WISEBLOOD

As much as she loves scuba diving and paddle boarding, moving closer to the ocean was more of a work-related decision for winemaker Alisa Jacobson.

"That fog that comes off the ocean and the winds do help develop the flavors that I like in wines," said Jacobson, who moved to the Central Coast from Sonoma County near the end of 2020.

She ended up buying a house in Shell Beach but sought to establish her new winemaking operation farther south, in the Santa Ynez Valley, rather than Edna Valley, although the latter is much closer to home.

"I liked the fact that you could

grow a lot of different varieties there," Jacobson said, discussing how Santa Ynez "checked all of her boxes" in terms of what she was looking for from an ideal winemaking region. "I like Edna Valley, but you're looking at two main varieties there, pinot and chard. I liked that Santa Ynez had a diversity of different areas, and lots and lots of varieties you could find out there."

"They also have a lot of natural groundwater," she added.

Growing grapes in an area that doesn't require too much supplementary water ties into Jacobson's philosophy of discouraging wastefulness and encouraging sustainability in the wine industry. Jacobson doesn't claim to be 100

### Turn the tide

Find out more about Turning Tide Wines at [turningtidewines.com](http://turningtidewines.com). Owner and winemaker Alisa Jacobson's wines can be found at the Santa Ynez Wine Collective, located at 475 1st St., Solvang, and the 1865 Craft House and Kitchen, located at 1865 Monterey St., San Luis Obispo.

Jacobson is co-organizing an upcoming sustainability seminar at the Unified Wine and Grape Symposium, a three-day wine industry expo held in Sacramento between Jan. 25 and 27. Visit [unifiedsymposium.org](http://unifiedsymposium.org) for more details.

percent sustainable, but she constantly adapts the latest environmentally conscious approaches to winemaking and wine business practices through new research each year.

"There's no real playbook for it, so we all need to have these talks and discussions to figure out what we should all be doing [in the wine industry]. We're all still trying to figure it out," said Jacobson, who is co-organizing a sustainability seminar at the Unified Wine and Grape Symposium, a three-day expo held in Sacramento at the end of January.

**PICK YOUR POISON:** Many of Alisa Jacobson's Turning Tide wines can be found at the Santa Ynez Valley Wine Collective in Solvang. Her chardonnay is also available by the glass at the 1865 Craft House and Kitchen in SLO, where it pairs well with the venue's pizzas and flatbreads, she said.

COURTESY PHOTO BY ADAM DECKER



**LESS IS MORE:** "Sometimes the alcohol just overwhelms the rest of the wine," said Alisa Jacobson, who believes that lower alcohol levels allow for more complex nuances in her libations to shine—the subtle aromas and flavors at risk of being overshadowed by higher alcohols.

One of Jacobson's sustainable practices has to do with packaging her Turning Tide label, which sources grapes from Santa Barbara County and winemaking regions in Oregon, in low weight bottles. This carbon-reducing

approach falls in line with Jacobson's aim to "turn the tide on climate change," by following the guiding principles of regenerative agriculture.

EATS continued page 20

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## EATS

COURTESY PHOTO BY ADAM DECKER



**TRIPLE THREAT:** Turning Tide is a triple entendre, referring to winemaker Alisa Jacobson's aim to "turn the tide" on climate change through environmentally conscious winemaking, her wines' coastal fog-influenced flavors, and her love for the ocean in general, as a longtime scuba diver and paddle boarder.

EATS from page 19

"The best thing you can do on the packaging side to help sort of lower your carbon emissions is buy a lighter weight bottle," she said. "You know how people got really excited in the last decade or so about these super heavy bottles, but it's just kind of wasteful."

The approach is also beneficial for business in general, because less weight means lower transportation costs. Jacobson also uses recycled paper and compostable ink to make her foil-free labels.

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Send your favorite pizza pairings to Arts Editor Caleb Wiseblood at [cwiseblood@santamariasun.com](mailto:cwiseblood@santamariasun.com).

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As for the wine itself, Jacobson carries over her "less is more" attitude to alcohol percentages as well.

"Sometimes the alcohol just overwhelms the rest of the wine," said Jacobson, who believes that lower alcohol levels allow for more complex nuances in her libations to shine—the subtle aromas and flavors at risk of being overshadowed by higher alcohols.

Jacobson's Santa Ynez-sourced white wine for example has a 12.5 percent alcohol level. It's one of her personal favorites, especially as a casual, lunchtime wine, because of its low percentage and pairing flexibility.

"If you want a glass of wine during lunch, you don't want something that's 16 percent alcohol; you want to get back to work afterwards," she said.

Many of Jacobson's Turning Tide wines can be found at the Santa Ynez Valley Wine Collective. You can also find her chardonnay in San Luis Obispo, available by the glass at the 1865 Craft House and Kitchen. It pairs well with the venue's pizzas and flatbreads, she said.

"If you have a balanced wine, that's going to generally pair with food, rather than something that's just big and over the top, like super oaky or super alcoholic, because then it gets specific, and won't always fit with what you're eating," Jacobson said. ☀

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