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AT THE MOVIES

Licorice Pizza:
Well done [21]



*What you eat makes a difference
in much of your life, including
your skin [7] and reaching your
fitness goals [8]*

BY SUN STAFF



NEWS Corazón del Pueblo gets vandalized [4]

ARTS An artist with many media on display [20]

EATS More meat and cheese, please [22]

Santa Barbara County is running out of water.

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JANUARY 27 - FEBRUARY 3, 2022 VOL. 22 NO. 48

Every January, we bring you stories about health and wellness, and this year's no different—plus, we're leaving COVID-19 out of it! In this year's issue, Staff Writer Taylor O'Connor speaks with a local esthetician about holistic skin care and how food, stress, and more can impact whether you glow [7], while Staff Writer Malea Martin from *New Times* (the *Sun's* sister paper) writes about supplements, diet, and exercise [8].

You can also read about what happened at the new community arts center in Santa Maria [4]; an artist who dabbles in sculpture, poetry, and more [20]; and what Charcuter'Dee and Fromagerie is prepping for Valentine's Day [22].

Camillia Lanham
editor



YOU ARE WHAT YOU EAT: The food you put in your mouth can effect your skin's health and what supplements you may need to add to your daily regimen.

Cover image from Deposit Photos > Cover design by Alex Zuniga

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Political Watch

Gov. **Gavin Newsom** joined Vice President **Kamala Harris** and U.S. Agriculture Secretary **Tom Vilsack** on a visit to San Bernardino National Forest to highlight new federal funding for wildlife recovery and mitigation efforts as well as discuss state-federal collaboration to tackle the wildfire crisis, according to a Jan. 21 statement. Vice President Harris announced \$1.3 billion in federal funding for post-wildfire and hurricane recovery in states across the country, including \$600 million to support California communities, hit hard by recent wildfires, with cleanup efforts, reforestation, watershed restoration, and infrastructure repairs. At a state level, the California Blueprint proposes an additional \$1.2 billion as part of a total \$2.7 billion multi-year package to step up forest management and other projects to decrease catastrophic wildfire risk amid the extreme climate impacts across the West. "California is on the frontlines of the climate crisis, experiencing record-breaking heat waves, wildfire seasons, and droughts. We're fortunate to have the Biden-Harris administration's partnership in meeting this existential challenge head-on," Newsom said in a statement. These efforts build on the Biden-Harris administration's recently released 10-year strategy that aligns with Newsom's Wildfire and Forest Resilience Action Plan.

U.S. Sen. **Alex Padilla** (D-California) announced that the **U.S. Army Corps of Engineers** will receive \$172.5 million in federal funding to help move forward critical California water infrastructure projects. The funding comes from the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law and the 2022 Disaster Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act—which Padilla voted to pass. This infusion of dollars will help fund infrastructure projects that Padilla supported as a member of the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee, including efforts to clean California waterways and improve resiliency during major weather events. "The Bipartisan Infrastructure Law continues to deliver for California. Infrastructure includes the coastal ports and inland waterways that are vital to our economy, and the wetlands and levees protecting communities from storm surges and catastrophic flooding," Padilla said in a Jan. 20 statement. "I'm proud to announce that millions of dollars are coming to California to improve the capacity of our ports, restore natural habitats around our rivers, and provide more green space and areas for recreation."

The **Santa Barbara County Public Health Department** requested more than 200,000 at-home COVID-19 antigen test kits from federal health care partner **U.S. Health Resources and Services Administration**, according to a statement. As of Jan. 21, about 57,000 test kits were delivered and will be distributed via community partners countywide, according to a statement. "Through the receipt of these initial test kit shipments, we are on the road to community members having regular access to free, at-home test kits," County Public Health Director Van Do-Reynoso said in a statement. "It is only through the many partners that have agreed to assist in test kit distribution that we are able to ensure equity of access for all of our Santa Barbara County communities." Approximately 35 community partners like organizations, cities, agricultural and public housing partners, and service providers for persons experiencing homelessness received and began distributing test kits. Community distribution events will begin taking place as test kits are given to partners, and sites open to the public will be listed at publichealthsb.org/testing. The 211 Call Center will be available to direct those without internet access. The remaining test kits are expected to arrive in the coming weeks. ○

Corazón del Pueblo museum vandalized, staff verbally assaulted

An individual who works in the same building as the Corazón del Pueblo Cultural and Creative Arts Center destroyed an art panel, damaged the center's floors, and physically threatened employees while shouting racial stereotypes about Latino communities on Jan. 18, Executive Director Alex Espinoza-Kulick said.

"It was really upsetting to go through the vandalism. I felt scared; I was there when it happened. Part of the attack was just an individual yelling at me and attacking me personally. It was very scary to see that level of animosity," Espinoza-Kulick said. "It was really upsetting to see it not only damaged, but it was a very intentional attack of violence and aggression to our message of inclusion and belonging."

Corazón del Pueblo is a nonprofit organization that connects artistic expression and cultural celebration to community development work. The Santa Maria Valley organization has been around since 2015, and Espinoza-Kulick said this isn't the first incident connected with racism.

"Unfortunately, there is a pattern that [we've] seen of this hostility, but we've always engaged with that in a place of dialogue. This is the first time it's gone beyond a conversation to a level of violence," Espinoza-Kulick said.

The center's Latinx Little Library—which showcases Spanish language books, Latino and Indigenous authors, and community resources—was also dug out and dumped in the building's plaza next to Heritage Square, he added.

"We immediately contacted our building owner and the police to try and find a quick solution to move forward. Our building owner was initially very supportive, and ensured that it wouldn't happen again. After we tried to update him on how the situation escalated [with] the library being taken out, he stopped responding to our messages and wanting to try and find a resolution," he said.

Espinoza-Kulick said he faced difficulties with filing a police report.

"They didn't get back to us until late that evening with a phone call. They never sent an officer out to talk to us in person and [were] resistant to reporting it," Espinoza-Kulick said.

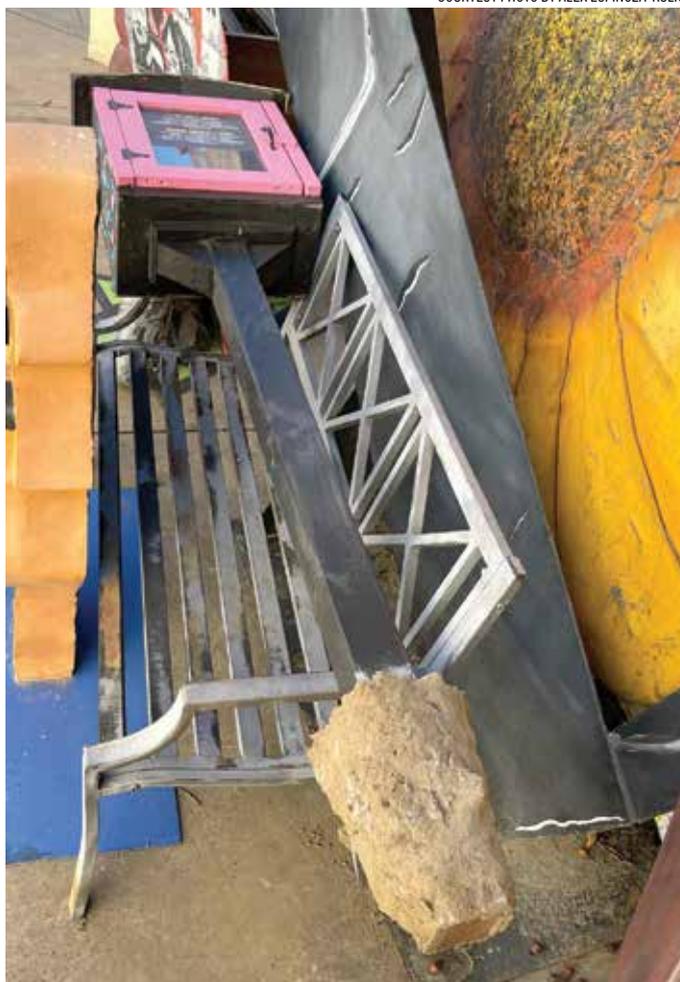
Espinoza-Kulick wanted to press charges and have the crime investigated, but he said police told him that the District Attorney's Office likely wouldn't pursue the case because of significant court backlogs.

"The police are supposed to pass on reports and if the DA isn't going to take it, that is their discretion, not the officer who's filing the report," Espinoza-Kulick said.

Santa Maria Police Department Sgt. II Jesus Valle told the *Sun* via email that the incident was referred to the detective bureau and is being investigated.

"At this point, this appears to be more of a civil issue rather than a criminal one. There does not appear to be a clear and direct link to racist motives," Valle said in an email.

Through these challenges, Corazón del Pueblo turned to other organizations for support. Several businesses, groups, and nonprofits came together



DAMAGE DONE: The Latinx Little Library (pictured), which was recently uprooted and dumped onto the plaza, will be converted into a mobile library unit to take throughout Santa Maria's communities.

by writing a group letter to local newspapers about the attack and vandalism.

"The undersigned arts and cultural organizations from around the tri-county area are appalled by the recent vandalism and racist stereotypes against Corazón del Pueblo in Santa Maria," the letter stated. "The vandalism and racism directed towards Corazón del Pueblo is an act of hate that we condemn, and one we hope the entire community rejects."

Santa Barbara County has recognized racism is a public health crisis, but Espinoza-Kulick said that a recognition only goes so far.

"That declaration is an important recognition, but the declaration itself is just a starting point; there's more to be done," Espinoza-Kulick said. "We can do what we can as a community, but it needs to come across the board so we do see an investment in service and so the community has access to safe spaces. All they are doing is responding to violence and not preventing it."

People wanting to show support can donate at tinyurl.com/DonateCDP, or contact Espinoza-Kulick at alex@corazondepueblo.org to get involved.

—Taylor O'Connor

Solvang adds multi-year renovation projects to sewer master plan

Over the course of the next two decades, the city of Solvang predicts it will spend more than \$10 million on renovating its sewer system.

The estimate was included in the update to the city's sewer master plan—which, until recently, had remained unmodified since the late 1980s. Solvang Utilities Director Jose Acosta sought approval for the proposed update during the City Council's Jan. 24 meeting.

"Most of the city's sewer collections and infrastructure was constructed between the 1950s and the 1970s by the Solvang Municipal Improvement District," Acosta said during the meeting. "The city of Solvang incorporated in 1985, and the first and only SMP [Sewer Master Plan] was prepared shortly thereafter in 1988."

Water Systems Consulting, a firm based in San Luis Obispo, was selected by the Solvang City Council to run an assessment of the city's wastewater collection system, including lift stations, pipelines, and force mains. Acosta summarized the firm's findings and recommendations during his report.

The firm determined that approximately 20 segments of pipe in the city "exceed capacity criteria," Acosta said. The updated master plan includes two pipeline replacement options for the City Council to consider, as well as some recommended improvements to the city's pump stations.

Overall, the new plan includes 14 proposed projects, some of which are projected to take one to five years, while others could take 11 to 20 years. The estimated total cost for all of the projects is \$10.4 million.

After Acosta's report, Mayor Pro Tem Mark Infanti called the update well done and extremely comprehensive, but raised one concern.

"Should we do a new study every five years?" asked Infanti, who said he wanted to make sure a reevaluation policy was included in the update, to prevent waiting another three decades to revisit the plan. "We're not going to just let it sit on the shelf again?"

Acosta called the new plan a living document, and said that it's meant to be continually reviewed every few years.

Infanti also expressed concern over future developments in the city, and how those developments would impact the projected goals included in the sewer master plan.

"It's always a concern when new construction comes to town, when the contractors don't take into account water and sewer," Acosta said. "But I think this plan does take into consideration and does show that we are adequately able to take on future growth."

"We'll just have to continue monitoring how quickly the growth comes and readjust the plan and modify it accordingly," Acosta continued. "We will keep an eye on that."

In a 5-0 vote, the City Council unanimously approved the updated plan and directed staff to incorporate the plan's recommended projects into the city's 10-year capital improvement program.

—Caleb Wiseblood

Supervisors approve controversial Santa Ynez greenhouse project

Solvang-area resident Steve Decker can finally move forward with building his greenhouse—despite neighbor disputes and frustrations—after nearly two years of going through the planning and appeals process.

"We are happy to see that Planning and Development has fully developed our project to meet—or exceed—the Santa Ynez Community Plan," Decker said at the Jan. 25 meeting.

Decker wants to build a 15,648-square-foot greenhouse that will be used for vegetable

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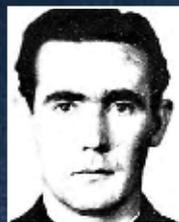
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NEWS from page 4

cultivation on his agriculturally zoned property. He filed a permit application in June 2020, and the project was approved and exempted from California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) review at the time, as county staff classified it as a small structure, according to previous *Sun* reporting. A neighbor filed an appeal to the Santa Barbara County Planning Commission and argued that the structure wasn't compatible with the surrounding neighborhood.

After the commission upheld the appeal and denied his project permit, Decker took the issue to the Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors on Feb. 9, 2021, during which the board asked for an additional environmental review. The Jan. 25 staff report stated that the project met the review requirements as well as fit with the Santa Ynez Valley Community Plan, and the board approved the project permit despite resident concerns.

During public comment, Solvang area resident Nancy Emerson said that this project does not fit the community plan because of the land's commercial use.

"In previous hearings, neighbors addressed the appropriateness of this size structure in a neighborhood that was primarily residences rather than commercial agricultural. No agricultural structure approaches this greenhouse's square footage," Emerson said.

The greenhouse structure would be an eyesore and a potential noise problem for neighbors, she added, issues that fences and barriers can't solve.

Third District Supervisor Joan Hartmann agreed with Emerson.

"The Santa Ynez Community Plan states its

goal is to protect and support agricultural land use and appropriate land expansion. You have to understand [what is] appropriate in this context of these changing kinds of agricultural uses," Hartmann said. "Nobody expected to be living next to a commercial agricultural operation with employees and parking lots, and a huge industrial building in their neighborhood that is highly visible. I believe that it's inconsistent."

Although many residents may agree with Hartmann, 4th District Supervisor Bob Nelson had a hard time finding the project inappropriate for the area's intent.

"I understand where the neighbors are coming from, but that said, it's agriculturally zoned. If I lived in that neighborhood, I wouldn't be happy either, but I've tried to stay consistent as a supervisor on these matters," Nelson said. "I think that it's appropriate for the zoning; it's an agricultural use. As frustrating as that might be, the board can't go anywhere besides supporting Mr. Decker. We asked for an environmental review and got the same result. If we were going to deny it now, we should have denied it a year ago."

Fifth District Supervisor Steve Lavagnino expressed a similar sentiment.

"Nobody is jumping up and down and celebrating this project. At the end of the day, it does meet criteria for the zoning. Mr. Decker has jumped through more than his share of hoops," Lavagnino said. "I'm not a huge fan of the project and I understand the neighbors' concerns, but

unfortunately I can't get to the bar of 'appropriate,' meaning that we have discretion just to be able to pick and choose what projects we approve in that area." ○

—Taylor O'Connor

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PHOTOS BY TAYLOR O'CONNOR

A natural glow

Holistic body therapist Andreea Saileanu-Martin discusses a natural approach to skin care

BY TAYLOR O'CONNOR

Every day, Andreea Saileanu-Martin loads her car full of sugar scrubs, crystal rollers, gua sha tools, and oils to go to clients' houses where she provides a range of therapeutic treatments for skin and body wellness.

Saileanu-Martin began her journey into natural treatments at 19 years old, when she became a licensed esthetician—a skin care therapist—then worked in a dermatologist's office, and eventually founded Wholeistic Fruition Wellness, which she has been running for almost eight years, she said.

"For me it was always about my own health; I always like to say that I started selfishly. I went to esthetician school in the first place because I had horrible acne when I was younger and I kept trying to figure out ways to help myself," Orcutt resident Saileanu-Martin said.

In 2019, Saileanu-Martin said she chose to close down her Santa Maria office and try home visits.

"I decided that it was time to close it down due to rent, and it wasn't really making sense to be in that space anymore. I decided to go mobile, and was mobile up until COVID hit. Then I was off for a while like everyone else," she said.

Now, Saileanu-Martin's mobile again and visiting both new clients and regulars providing her range of skin care services.

No cookie-cutter treatments

Before Saileanu-Martin begins treating clients, she said she'll sit down with them to discuss their issues to try and understand whether there are any root causes to their skin flare-ups.

"I have a website with [a] menu of services I offer, but I don't do cookie-cutter facials; I don't do the same facial for every single person. I might use the same products, but not use them in the same way. It just depends on your skin type, age, and lifestyle," Saileanu-Martin said.

She'll ask her clients questions about the types of products they use, how often they wash and exfoliate their skin, if they've received Botox or fillers, and when their last facial was.

"I really want to be as in-depth about what's going on because your skin's showing what's going on internally, so I ask about what they're doing internally," Saileanu-Martin said.

Meaning, she'll ask about their diet, allergies, and sleep habits, because these choices can impact a person's skin.

"All of these things factor in. It's not just about you coming in and I put things on your face and take them off," Saileanu-Martin said. "It's like I'm invested in you. You come and see me, I'm invested in you, maybe for life."

For those with rough skin or severe acne, she said she'll use microdermabrasion—a machine that uses salt crystals to remove dead skin cells, which leads to smoother skin.

"It's great because it just helps give you a deeper exfoliation than just a manual exfoliation like scrubbing your face with something," she explained.

Saileanu-Martin also offers a lighter, emulsion facial with a



HOLISTIC HEALING: Andreea Saileanu-Martin began her journey into natural treatments at age 19 and has been a certified esthetician since 2001.

product made of honey and maple syrup that can bring blood up to the skin's surface. Once the emulsion is removed, it leaves a nice facial glow without having to do anything "too drastic," she said.

Beyond the face

Besides facials, Saileanu-Martin's also a neuro-palpatation therapist, a type of therapy that focuses on the neurological system working with other systems to identify anything wrong. This 2 1/2 hour facial incorporates a lot of body work, she noted.

"The premise behind this is to get your whole system working so that your skin will do a better job. If we're getting all the body working, then your skin's always going to look better when you're done," she said.

For a soulful experience, Saileanu-Martin practices Reiki, an extremely gentle treatment that uses energy to help connect clients with their bodies to bring peace and healing, she said.

A new talent she recently picked up is herbalism, so she's "a budding herbalist," Saileanu-Martin said with a smile.

"I feel like herbalism is something I'll be learning for the rest of my life because there's always something new to learn. I take it upon myself to go and take courses and learn about herbs because I want to use those in my daily life, but also in my products," she explained.

During the pandemic shutdown, Saileanu-Martin went to a school that taught Eastern and Western herbalism practices, and she began making her own body butters, facial butters, and wellness butters with herbs she finds near her home.

"I've made my gourd oil, which was all grown like 5 miles up the mountains from me and that I picked. Then I started to grow a lot of my own plants in my backyard garden," Saileanu-Martin

said. "I thought I might as well just plant them rather than go off and try to find them, or pay for them."

She now grows lavender, rosemary, and chamomile for products. She infuses them in oil for months to add to shea, cocoa, or mango butters. All of her products are vegan and organic, she added.

The bigger picture

People see a holistic therapist like Saileanu-Martin because they need help, and Saileanu-Martin said there's normally a deeper meaning behind their appointment.

"When I see you for a treatment, I'm always holding space for you to be able to let go of what you're holding onto that may be holding you down. I want you to be able to be in that safe space for that time we're together so your body can relax and can do what it needs both mechanically and scientifically," Saileanu-Martin said.

As someone who worked in a dermatologist's office for 2 1/2 years, she respects the practice and thinks they are great doctors; however, their treatments are only surface level, she said.

"When I look at people compared to a dermatologist, I try to figure out what's going on internally first, and how we can fix that alongside with what we are going to do externally for your skin," she said.

"I always tell people to start in my realm first, start with the natural stuff. Try fixing your diet, try fixing what you are using on your skin. If you do that for a couple months and you are seeing no change—it's just getting worse—then absolutely go see a doctor and see what's happening." ○

Contact Staff Writer Taylor O'Connor at toconnor@santamariasun.com.



NATURAL REMEDIES: Saileanu-Martin uses her own organic products, along with things like honey, rose petals, and crystal rollers to help the skin's natural healing.

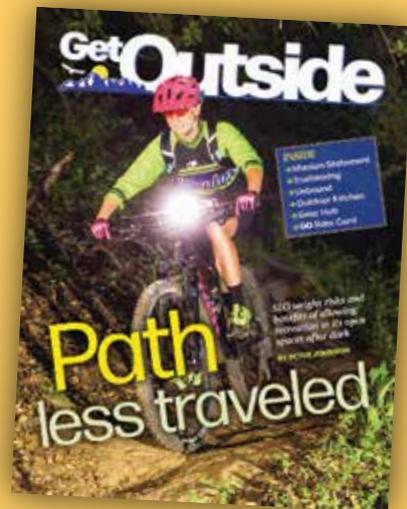
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Get your vitamins

Coast Nutra helps locals learn that vitamins and supplements are just one part of a balanced life

BY MALEA MARTIN

COVID-19 ushered in a new wave of interest in immune system strength and health supplements—and that market is only growing.

“The global impact of COVID-19 has been unprecedented and staggering, with dietary supplements witnessing a positive demand shock across all regions amid the pandemic,” research organization Fortune Business Insights found.

The market grew by nearly 27 percent in 2020 alone, according to Fortune, and is expected to grow from nearly \$72 billion in 2021 to more than \$128 billion in 2028.

Whether you’re an athlete looking to recover faster and reach your fitness goals, or a person with dietary restrictions who’s concerned about nutrient deficiencies, supplements can benefit lots of different people. But with all the wellness marketing campaigns out there trying to convince consumers, it can be hard to parse the ads and figure out what your body will actually benefit from.

That’s part of why SLO County local Hector Escalante Jr. opened up his store, Coast Nutra: to help people make research-backed and informed decisions about supplements—what Coast Nutra calls “nutraceuticals”—to reach

their fitness goals. The products Coast Nutra offers include protein powders, green superfood supplements, and amino acids, among others.

“Supplementation is meant to be an addition,” Escalante Jr. said. “We want customers to know that supplements alone are not going to give you the end result. We always like to educate our customers that you want to keep a good balance of your activity levels [and] nutrition.”

Escalante Jr. first opened Coast Nutra in Santa Maria at the end of 2019. The pandemic hit soon after, but that didn’t stop him from opening a second storefront in San Luis Obispo in 2021.

“Especially during the pandemic, immunity, health, and wellness has become a huge focal point,” he said. “Our counties, SLO and Santa Barbara counties, are very health oriented.”

For a holistic approach to supplementation, Coast Nutra partners with local gyms and trainers, encouraging customers to seek out an active lifestyle. The store is all about transparency.

“We give full product descriptions for every product that we have, with full detail. We focus on California brands, all 100 percent transparent, third-party tested, safe for sport,” Escalante Jr. said. “We don’t bring in the big, corporate-based brands, so there’s no



FITNESS FOCUS: Coast Nutra, which started in Santa Maria and expanded to Downtown SLO, sells supplements aimed at helping people reach their lifestyle and fitness goals.

commonality [in products] between us and GNC, The Vitamin Shoppe, Vitamin World.”

Having worked as a trainer for 15 years, Escalante Jr. said this experience informs his approach.

“We focus on the goal: What are we looking to accomplish, and how can we be supportive of that?” he said. “What have you taken, products-wise? Then we focus on what brands that we carry that would be either similar or better for your health, because we don’t carry brands

that have fillers or proprietary blends, all this unnecessary junk.”

Fitness is just one niche that the supplement industry occupies. Supplements can also be used to target nutritional deficiencies for folks who have certain medical conditions or dietary restrictions. But Dr. Peggy Papatthakis, a Cal Poly professor of nutrition, told the *Sun* that people should focus first and foremost on what they’re eating.

HEALTH & WELLNESS continued page 10



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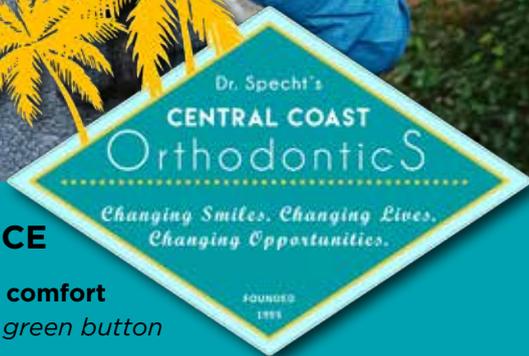
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Sun

Health & Wellness

PHOTO FROM DEPOSIT PHOTOS

HEALTH & WELLNESS
from page 8

“It totally depends on the person: stage of life, disease,” she said. “If you eat a diet rich in fruits and vegetables and whole grains, a plant-based diet with some animal products, dairy, other proteins, there’s usually not a need for a supplement.”

But not everyone, of course, is able to eat foods from all these categories.

“If you’re lactose intolerant and you don’t consume any dairy, and you don’t drink any of the alternative milks, then calcium and vitamin D are very appropriate supplements,” Papathakis said. “If you’re like me, I have osteopenia, then a calcium, vitamin D supplement is very important.”

One of the most common deficiencies in the United States is iron, Papathakis said. According to the Mayo Clinic, people who menstruate, don’t eat meat, or frequently donate blood are at the highest risk for iron deficiency anemia. Blood work can help gauge iron levels.

“If you measure ferritin, your storage iron, if that was low, that would show you you’re low in iron,” she said. “Iron deficiency anemia is the United States’ most common nutrient deficiency—about 10 or 12 percent of the population.”



GET BALANCED: According to Dr. Peggy Papathakis, a Cal Poly professor of nutrition, the best way to determine if you’re getting all the vitamins and minerals you need is to take a look at your diet.

Papathakis added that many people don’t eat enough fatty fish, which is rich in omega-3 fatty acids, an important nutrient for the brain.

“It’s good for your eyes too, all your membranes,” she said. “We are made up of cells, and our cells all have membranes, and those membranes are all made up of lipids, or fats.”

The easiest way to determine if you’re getting enough nutrients, Papathakis said, is to look at the quality of your diet.

“Are you eating three to four servings of fruit a day? Are you eating three or four servings of vegetables a day? Are you eating whole grains, maybe five or six servings of those a day?” she said. “I think people who eat well feel better.”

Reach New Times Staff Writer Malea Martin at mmartin@newtimeslo.com.

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WILD LIFE: Kids can explore the outdoors at the recently renovated Buena Vista Park, which includes the cabin, a multi-age playground, and a new play field area.

Neighborhood adventure

The Santa Maria Parks and Recreation Department again offers its children's outdoor education program

BY TAYLOR O'CONNOR

Santa Maria children can learn about plants, animals, and outdoor activities in their area through the Wildlife Explorers program: a returning Santa Maria Department of Recreation and Parks opportunity that expanded this year for more kids to join, Recreation Supervisor Rudy Gutierrez said.

"We were really looking for opportunities to engage the youth in the community with the outdoors and everything that's great about being outdoors. We do a lot of outdoor, nature programs for everyone in the community. We wanted to bring that into town, to offer that to the community, and [to] the kids who can't make it out of town all the time," Gutierrez said.

Each week starting Feb. 2, California Naturalist Susan Tuttle will lead children ages 5 to 10 through different activities to educate children about wildlife that lives in their neighborhood. The first program is called Eyes in the Sky, which will bring in raptors—birds of prey—for a live demonstration about their purpose in nature, he said.

"It's cool because it exposes them [children] to the critters and the wildlife they may not see in town. The purpose is to connect youth in the city to nature," Gutierrez said.

The COVID-19 pandemic pushed the program to expand because of a higher demand for outdoor recreation, he added.

"It's a great outlet for kids to get out and play, and get away from TV and video games to learn a lot about nature, local plants, and wildlife," Gutierrez said. "Susan does a great way of educating them with different, interpretive talks. They do nature crafts and scavenger hunts; it's something fun. We want to make it a very hands-on experience."

Alongside Tuttle, a translator speaks about the different activities for non-English-speaking kids, making sure they get the same experience as English-speaking children, he highlighted.

"We thought it was really critical to have the bilingual component for [the] non-English-speaking and Spanish-speaking residents. With the different demographics we have in our community, we wanted to make it available for any child in the Santa Maria Valley," he said.

This year, the department expanded its Wildlife Explorers program to 15 spaces as opposed to 2021's eight available spots, Gutierrez said.

"We had a pretty good turnout last year [2021], filling each spot each week. It was more of a challenge last year; we had less numbers because of more restrictive COVID guidelines, but we [were] able to open it up a little more," Gutierrez said. "We had really good feedback from the parents, and it gave us an opportunity to provide this kind of outdoor experience to the schools and the kids in the area. We're right after school at 3:30 p.m., and it gives them something to do."

Parents must be in attendance with their kids throughout the program, and pre-registration is required. To provide this experience to as many people as possible, no repeat registrations are permitted. The Wildlife Explorers Program runs every Wednesday from 3:30 to 5 p.m. until Feb. 23. It also follows Santa Barbara County COVID-19 guidelines and enforces social distancing during the program's duration.

To register, visit cityofsantamaria.org/register and use session number 10600. Buena Vista Park is located at 800 South Pine St. For more information, call the Recreation and Parks Department at (805) 925-0951, Ext. 2260.

Highlight

The Santa Maria Mayor's Task Force on Youth Safety has activities for seventh through 12th grade students from 2 to 4 p.m. each Thursday in February at the Newlove Community Building. Students can participate in a cornhole competition on Feb. 3, a water bottle rocket experiment on Feb. 10, a planter pot painting on Feb. 17, and a canvas painting on Feb. 24. The Task Force on Youth Safety's mission is to prevent violence through safe and healthy programming in partnership with the Santa Maria Recreation and Parks Department. The Newlove Community Building is located at 1619 South Thornburg St.; no pre-registration is required.

Call the Recreation and Parks Department at (805) 925-0951, Ext. 2260, for more info. ○

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

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Monday – Friday

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Have you been able to get COVID-19 test kits?

- 47% Testing is available, but I've needed to book an appointment.
- 33% It's been tough—rapid tests sell out immediately in stores and appointment slots are taken.
- 20% I haven't gotten tested because I know I don't have COVID-19.
- 0% Yes. They've been readily available, and I've had no issue.

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Getting to work?

Lompoc's new city manager hits the ground running with odd priorities and unnecessary proposed changes

BY RON FINK

The newly appointed city manager isn't wasting any time establishing his priorities. In the first agenda of his administration, there are five consent calendar items and two public hearing items. One of the public hearing items is to restructure the Human Resources Division and make it a separate city department.

In the process, the city manager will be asking the council to approve a new assistant city manager to direct this new department at a starting salary of \$128,000 per year plus benefits following a council request from Councilman Victor Vega on Dec. 7. I haven't seen a council member's request answered this quickly in years.

Councilwoman Gilda Cordova pointed out that, after reviewing a recording of the Dec. 7 council meeting, at no time did Councilman Vega request that the Human Resources Department be reorganized. Even though this item was returned in six weeks, she also pointed out that Councilman Dirk Starbuck's request for a report on the enterprise funds several months ago still hasn't been provided, and her request for a review of the Lompoc municipal code is more than a year old and still no report has been provided.

With all the very important items awaiting council action, it seems odd that the highest priority on the new city manager's list would be to add an executive level position to the organization chart. The future agenda list for February meetings is sparse: Only a redistricting decision—one that has already been completed by almost every other agency in the county—and some very minor administrative matters are on the list published on the city website.

But on to the issue at hand. The city manager explains the need to restructure Human Resources like this: "Originally, the goal for cost savings for the Human Resources Division was to use outside attorney consulting services to resolve labor disputes. However, over time, that morphed into a hybrid system, with current Human Resources staff resolving the majority of grievances and labor negotiations, while using consulting services only when necessary. This has resulted in a large cost savings by utilizing existing staff and has increased morale as issues are resolved quickly and efficiently."

So, he admits that the current way of doing business saves money and is working just fine, but he wants to add an executive position anyway. If this justification confuses you, I am not surprised; that's how government works—there is never too much.

To fund this new position, the staff report explains that the previous city manager didn't spend all the allotted funds for "city administration."

If they have that kind of general fund money lying around, why doesn't the council fund the fire inspector position that fire chiefs have been requesting for the last decade? This would have far more value to the community at large than a new executive position at City Hall to manage a department that's already functioning efficiently.

There are many issues in this city that need the attention of the City Council; adding a new executive to address a problem that doesn't exist isn't one of them. And the new city manager should reevaluate his priorities.

might make all the sense in the world to those who prepared the report and the city manager but can be confusing to council members and the public.

A perfect example is the staff report used to justify the proposed assistant city manager position. In it the city manager admitted that the current way Human Resources is managed is working well, so why would they want to change it? That explanation was lacking.

The new city manager should confront this issue head-on with internal working groups made up of his senior managers or enlist the aid of a consultant to resolve this issue. He may have trouble with this since some of the reports he has provided in the past decade were the subject of intense scrutiny by council members because his message was convoluted.

A report on the progress of trying to "clean up" the homeless issue throughout the city should merit a higher priority. The homeless still roam around town, some causing disturbances in local business, others suffering from mental illness, and cluttering the landscape with their trash. So far efforts to deal with this situation have not resolved the problem. The council appointed an ad hoc committee consisting of two council members, and a status report is needed.

Another important matter is how to fund the Police Department dispatch center; previously the Fire Department "contributed" a major portion of their budget to fund handling 10 percent of the calls for service, however the council approved a plan to use a regional dispatch center operated by Santa Barbara County to improve fire and medical services response times. This leaves the Police Department with a need to staff its dispatch function with the same number of people but with less funds.

There are many issues in this city that need the attention of the City Council; adding a new executive to address a problem that doesn't exist isn't one of them. And the new city manager should reevaluate his priorities and address long-standing council requests that seem to have fallen into a crevasse in City Hall. ○

Ron Fink writes to the Sun from Lompoc. Send a letter for publication to letters@santamariasun.com.

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THIS MODERN WORLD

by TOM TOMORROW



DEATH NOTICES

ABELOE, CARL "TOOTIE" SR, 85, of Los Alamos passed away 1/20/2022 arrangements with Dudley-Hoffman Mortuary, Crematory & Memory Gardens

ALLARD, WAYNE G., 72, of Grover Beach passed away 12/27/2022 arrangements with Marshall Spoo Sunset Funeral Chapel

ALVARADO, PETRA R., 99, of Guadalupe passed away 1/12/2022 arrangements with Dudley-Hoffman Mortuary, Crematory & Memory Gardens

BAKER, CHARLES, 92, of Arroyo Grande passed away 1/16/2022 arrangements with Marshall Spoo Sunset Funeral Chapel

BAYUS, VIRGINIA, 92, of Santa Maria passed away 1/17/2022 arrangements with Dudley-Hoffman Mortuary, Crematory & Memory Gardens

CASTILLO, VICENTA, 69, of Santa Maria passed away 1/17/2022 arrangements with Dudley-Hoffman Mortuary, Crematory & Memory Gardens

DE ARMOND, NANCY LINDA, 80, of Santa Maria passed away 1/15/2022 arrangements with Dudley-Hoffman Mortuary, Crematory & Memory Gardens

DUTRA, RHONDA, 67, of Arroyo Grande passed away 1/15/2022 arrangements with Marshall Spoo Sunset Funeral Chapel

FROELICH, SHERRI ANN, 66, of Lompoc passed away 1/11/2022 arrangements with Dudley-Hoffman Mortuary, Crematory & Memory Gardens

FURNARI, JAN, 78, of Arroyo Grande passed away 1/19/2022 arrangements with Marshall Spoo Sunset Funeral Chapel

GIORGI, ALBERT VIRGIL, 87, of Santa Maria passed away 1/17/2022 arrangements with Dudley-Hoffman Mortuary, Crematory & Memory Gardens

GRANT, MARGARET RODRIGUEZ, 88, of Santa Maria passed away 1/12/2022 arrangements with Dudley-Hoffman Mortuary, Crematory & Memory Gardens

HARNEY, ARDELL NAOMI, 91, of Santa Maria passed away 1/20/2022 arrangements with Dudley-Hoffman Mortuary, Crematory & Memory Gardens

HARPER, GILBERT W., 90, of Santa Maria passed away 1/14/2022 arrangements with Dudley-Hoffman Mortuary, Crematory & Memory Gardens

HARRIS, EVA ALLINE, 97, of Santa Maria passed away 1/10/2022 arrangements with Dudley-Hoffman Mortuary, Crematory & Memory Gardens

HARVEY, WILLIAM "BILL," 84, of Arroyo Grande passed away 1/15/2022 arrangements with Marshall Spoo Sunset Funeral Chapel

HERNANDEZ, SAUL, 82, of Santa Maria passed away 1/11/2022 arrangements with Dudley-Hoffman Mortuary, Crematory & Memory Gardens

HUNTER, LAURA LYN, 58, of Santa Maria passed away 1/17/2022 arrangements with Dudley-Hoffman Mortuary, Crematory & Memory Gardens

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LEBLANC, ELIZABETH "BETTY," 76, of Nipomo passed away 1/24/2022 arrangements with Magner Maloney Funeral Home

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RANGEL, ISABEL, 68, of Grover Beach passed away 1/19/2022 arrangements with Marshall Spoo Sunset Funeral Chapel

SANI, CHAD, 65, of San Luis Obispo, passed away 1/22/2022 arrangements with Blue Sky Cremation Service

SCHILLING, JAYNE, 100, of Arroyo Grande passed away 1/7/2022 arrangements with Marshall Spoo Sunset Funeral Chapel

SENF, NORMA NELL, 100, of Santa Maria passed away 1/13/2022 arrangements with Dudley-Hoffman Mortuary, Crematory & Memory Gardens

SOUZA, LELA "DICKIE," 95, of Santa Maria passed away 1/18/2022 arrangements with Dudley-Hoffman Mortuary, Crematory & Memory Gardens

STEWART, SYLVIA, 89, of Atascadero passed away 1/12/2022 arrangements with Blue Sky Cremation Service

TRETTNER, IRNEST, 74, of Atascadero passed away 1/21/2022 arrangements with Blue Sky Cremation Service

VALENCIA, JOANNA, 39, of Arroyo Grande passed away 1/14/2022 arrangements with Marshall Spoo Sunset Funeral Chapel

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Appropriate politics

In a real shocker of a decision, the **Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors** sided with greenhouses in the political war over agriculturally zoned land in the **Santa Ynez Valley**.

Should it be for residential uses only or should agricultural activities still be allowed on agricultural land? Well, according to the **Santa Ynez Valley Community Plan**, those ag-type uses should only be allowed if they're "appropriate" for the area—whatever that means.

It means the Board of Supervisors was playing politics over the definition of one word in their discussion about a greenhouse.

"Appropriate" is apparently up for interpretation, and the objective subjectivity over its meaning seems to have tied up Santa Ynez/Solvang-area resident **Steve Decker's** 15,000-plus square foot greenhouse project for 18 months. Welcome to Santa Barbara County.

If you ask **3rd District Supervisor Joan Hartmann** and Decker's neighbors, the answer was no, it's not considered "appropriate" for the area. It's a residential neighborhood, don't you know? Even if it is in an agriculturally zoned area, where greenhouses are considered an "allowable use."

"Nobody expected to be living next to a commercial agricultural operation with employees and parking lots, and a huge industrial building in their neighborhood that is highly visible. I believe that it's inconsistent," Hartmann explained during a Jan. 25 hearing on the matter.

So do people just move to agriculturally zoned areas so that they can say they live in the country next to bucolic grapevines without having to be around any actual commercial ag properties?

One local resident seemed to think that the size of the greenhouse is what made it inappropriate for the area, which is "primarily residences rather than commercial agriculture. No agricultural structure approaches this greenhouse's square footage," **Nancy Emerson** said.

Perhaps the Santa Ynez Valley Community Plan should have addressed this specific issue—the size of commercial structures on ag land that's primarily used for residences. Because, according to county code, Decker could build another 4,000 square feet of greenhouse if he wanted to. And the community plan doesn't restrict the type of development allowed on Decker's land.



But even though the NIMBYs didn't want a giant greenhouse in their backyard—and even the conservative supervisors understood that—NIMBYs don't always get to determine what's appropriate.

"I understand where the neighbors are coming from, but that said, it's agriculturally zoned," **4th District Supe Bob Nelson** said. "I think that it's appropriate for the zoning." Yeah. Greenhouses are an agricultural use. Duh! And as far as the word "appropriate," who gets to decide what that means? Although he didn't have an answer to that exact question, **5th District Supervisor Steve Lavagnino** seemed to think he knew what it didn't mean.

"I can't get to the bar of 'appropriate,' meaning that we have discretion just to be able to pick and choose what projects we approve in that area," he said.

Yeah. That's what zoning and community plans are for! You don't like it? Maybe you neighbors should get together and work on an update to the community plan, which was approved in 2009. Now, that would be appropriate! ○

The canary is appropriate, but not always. Send comments to canary@santamariasun.com.

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HOT STUFF

JAN. 27 – FEB. 3
2022

SALOON TUNES

The Maverick Saloon in Santa Ynez presents *Carmen and the Renegade Vigilantes*, live in concert, on Friday, Jan. 28, starting at 8:30 p.m. This California-based band specializes in performing classic rock and country songs. Visit facebook.com/crvband to learn more about the group. For more info on the concert, call (805) 686-4785 or visit mavericksaloon.com. The venue is located at 3687 Sagunto St., Santa Ynez.

—Caleb Wiseblood

FILE PHOTO COURTESY OF CARMEN AND THE RENEGADE VIGILANTES

ARTS

SANTA YNEZ VALLEY

FABLES, FOIBLES, AND FAIRYTALES BY ARTIST SUSAN READ CRONIN Bronze sculptures with humorous and allegorical themes by local artist Susan Read Cronin. Mondays, Thursdays-Sundays, 11 a.m.-5 p.m. through April 17 Free. 805-686-1211. elverhoj.org. Elverhoj Museum of History and Art, 1624 Elverhoy Way, Solvang.

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

SANTA MARIA VALLEY/LOS ALAMOS

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. Through Jan. 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.

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

SANTA MARIA PUBLIC LIBRARY: BOOK CLUB OVER THE PHONE A teleconference book discussion group, meets on the first Tuesday of each month. For more information email jgaytan@cityofsantamaria.org First Tuesday of every month, 2-3 p.m. 805-925-0994. cityofsantamaria.org/city-government/departments/library. Santa Maria Public Library, 421 S. McClelland St., 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.

SOUTH COAST SLO COUNTY

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

SUBMIT YOUR EVENTS

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

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

THE PEKING ACROBATS Known for their countless television appearances and decades of live touring on stages around the world, The Peking Acrobats have redefined the ancient arts of Chinese acrobatics. Their athleticism and pageantry "create a one-of-a-kind experience that leaves the audience in awe." Feb. 5, 7:30-9:30 p.m. \$36-\$50. 805-489-9444. clarkcenter.org/shows/the-peking-acrobats/. Clark Center for the Performing Arts, 487 Fair Oaks Ave., Arroyo Grande.

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.

WOMEN'S MORNING OF RENEWAL On the last Saturday of every month, celebrate your own unique creative process. This month we will play a collective drawing game, leading us into some whimsical watercolor paintings. Come see how joyful art and community can be. Last Saturday of every month, 10 a.m.-noon \$35. 805-668-2125. lila.community/all-workshops/womens-morning-of-renewal-twwyl. LiLA Creative Community, 1147 East Grand Ave. suite 101, Arroyo Grande.

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. \$210 per month. actorsedge.com. Online, See website, San Luis Obispo.

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

ART AND ABOUT SLO Join us for Art and About 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, Citywide, SLO.

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.

CAMBRIA FILM FESTIVAL A showcase of independent feature and short films from around the world. The focus is on romance, romantic comedy, and the complexities of love. The 2022 Festival includes virtual screenings only. Feb. 3, 10:30 a.m.-9 p.m., Feb. 4, 10:30 a.m.-9 p.m. and Feb. 5-6, 10:30 a.m.-9 p.m. Varies. 805-927-8190. cambriafilmfestival.com/. 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. ongoing 805-835-5893. hmcruceceramics.com/. Online, See website, San Luis Obispo.

EXPOSURE COMPOSURE 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-composure/. San Luis Obispo Museum of Art, 1010 Broad St., San Luis Obispo.

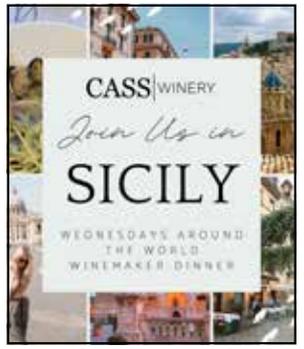
FIDDLER ON THE ROOF A fresh and authentic vision of this beloved theatrical masterpiece. Jan. 27, 7:30 p.m. Performing Arts Center, 1 Grand Ave., San Luis Obispo, 756-4849, pacslo.org.

ARTS continued page 16

Supporting local journalism, one ticket at a time.



Ted's Estate Beef Winemaker Dinner: Short Ribs
FRIDAY, JANUARY 28
Cass Winery, Paso Robles



Wednesdays Around the World: Sicily
WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 2
Cass Winery, Paso Robles



Madrid Night Valentine's Event
SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 12
Cass Winery, Paso Robles



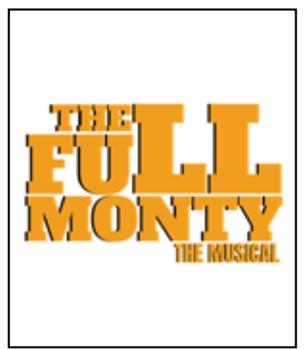
Rock 'n' Roll Sweetheart Valentine Dance
SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 12
SLO Guild Hall



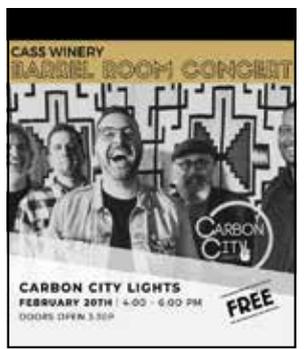
A Special Valentine Winemaker Dinner
SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 13
Cass Winery, Paso Robles



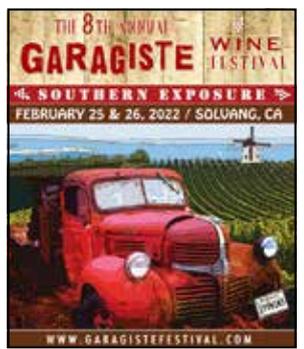
Ted's Estate Beef Winemaker Dinner: Osso Buco
FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 18
Cass Winery, Paso Robles



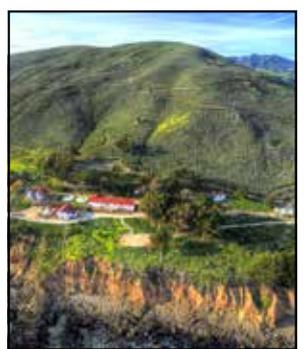
The Full Monty: The Musical
FEBRUARY 18-MARCH 5
Santa Maria Civic Theatre, Santa Maria



Barrel Room Concert: Carbon City Lights
SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 20
Cass Winery, Paso Robles



8th Annual Garagiste Wine Festival
FRI & SAT, FEBRUARY 25 & 26
Solvang Veterans Memorial Hall



In-Person Tours WED & SAT
Virtual Tours ON DEMAND
Point San Luis Lighthouse, Avila Beach



Barrel Room Concert: Damon Castillo
SUNDAY, MARCH 6
Cass Winery, Paso Robles



Symphony of the Vines: Gallant Guitar
SUNDAY, MARCH 20
Cass Winery, Paso Robles

Interested in selling tickets with My805Tix? Contact us for a demo today! info@My805Tix.com



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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. slo.ma.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 Brickel. Through Feb. 6, 11 a.m.-5 p.m. Free. 805-543-8562. slo.ma.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, 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, spiritsofamericagallery.com/.

of her small town and rocky marriage. Feb. 2, 7:30 p.m. Performing Arts Center, 1 Grand Ave., San Luis Obispo, 756-4849, pacsl.org.

NORTH SLO COUNTY

ART AND ABOUT PASO Join us for Art and About Paso, 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 Saturday of every month, 5-9 p.m. Free. 805-544-9251. artsobispo.org/art-and-about. Participating locations, Paso Robles, City-wide.

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

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

FILE PHOTO COURTESY OF RANCHO BOWL



STARS AND STRIKES

The city of Santa Maria Mayor's Task Force on Youth Safety is hosting its free neon bowling event on Friday, Jan. 28, from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. The program is open to teens ranging from grades 7 through 12. Attendees are asked to meet at the Abel Maldonado Community Youth Center, located at 600 S. McClelland St., Santa Maria, where they will then be transported to Rancho Bowl. Visit cityofsantamaria.org for more info.

—C.W.

MEMBERS ONLY SHOW: ONLINE ONLY

Although the Gallery is closed until further notice, you can view and purchase artworks from the current show through the CCA website. While the show's intent is to honor faithful CCA Members who were unable to exhibit during closure, new members were encouraged to participate. Through Jan. 31 cambriaarts.org. Online, See website, San Luis Obispo.

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

REPRESENTATION IN FILM FRIDAYS: HEDWIG AND THE ANGRY INCH SLO Library presents this film series highlighting issues of representation. Professor Brenda Helmbrecht of the Cal Poly English Department will introduce the film and facilitate discussion afterwards. Jan. 28, 6-9 p.m. Free. 805-781-5184. slolibrary.evanced.info/signup/calendar. San Luis Obispo Library Community Room, 995 Palm Street, 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.

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. slo.ma.org/exhibition/touchy-touchy/. San Luis Obispo Museum of Art, 1010 Broad St., San Luis Obispo.

WAITRESS This popular musical follows Jenna, a waitress and expert pie-maker who dreams of a way out

NORTH COAST SLO COUNTY

ABSTRACT EXPLORED This workshop introduces you to abstract drawing and painting. You will explore color, texture, shapes, and mark making that will improve composition and improvisation. This workshop is designed to expand your ability to enjoy and respond to abstract art. Jan. 31, 10 a.m.-1 p.m. \$75 Members; \$85 Non-Members for this one-day workshop. 805-772-2504. artcentermorrobbay.org/index.php/shop/. Art Center Morro Bay, 835 Main St., Morro Bay.

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

ART WITH JUDY ANN STUDIO GALLERY: ART AND WINE FESTIVAL Join Art with Judy Ann Studio Gallery for the annual Cambria Art and Wine Festival. Releasing new art series and special discounts for the weekend. Serving Changala Wine. Judy will demonstrate alcohol inks. Jan. 28, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. and Jan. 29, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. 805-286-8380. Artwithjudyann.com. Art With Judy Ann Studio Gallery, 2024 Main Street, Cambria.

FACES OF MORRO BAY This fun workshop will feature interesting key people from the beautiful town of Morro Bay. Each session is 3 hours long with the model in one pose for two 3-hour sessions. Workshop designed for beginning to professional artists. Thursdays, 5-8 p.m. through Jan. 27. Members \$60; Non-Members \$80, for this 2-day workshop. 805-772-2504. artcentermorrobbay.org/index.php/shop/. Art Center Morro Bay, 835 Main St., Morro Bay.

FIBER ART BY GAY MCNEAL Gay's love of textiles and the fiber arts started when her mother taught her to sew when she was ten years old. Gay received a BA in Art with an emphasis in Interior and Textile Design from CSU Long Beach. Mondays, Wednesdays-Sundays, 11 a.m.-5 p.m. through Jan. 29 Free. 805-772-1068.

ARTS continued page 17

gallerymarinasmall.com. Gallery at Marina Square, 601 Embarcadero suite 10, Morro Bay.

FINE ART PAINTING BY MARY SUMMERS Oil painter Mary Summers, PhD, RN, has a lifelong love of the outdoors. She values capturing scenes in beautiful light, including early morning and late in the day. Her philosophy is to "follow the brush" to record the rich colors, designs, and textures of the world. Mondays, Wednesdays-Sundays, 11 a.m.-5 p.m. through Jan. 29 Free. 805-772-1068. gallerymarinasmall.com. Gallery at Marina Square, 601 Embarcadero suite 10, Morro Bay.

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. Through Feb. 21, 12-4 p.m. Free. 805-772-2504. 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.

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 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. gallerymarinasmall.com. Gallery at Marina Square, 601 Embarcadero suite 10, Morro Bay.

GEODES IN INK Experience art in a vibrant new way. Art with Judy Ann, located in the Shops in the Garden Shed of Cambria, is now showing the new Geode Series, of alcohol inks. Original work with artist on site. Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays-Sundays, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. through Feb. 4 805-286-8380. Artwithjudyann.com. Art With Judy Ann Studio Gallery, 2024 Main Street, Cambria.

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 Through Jan. 29 \$135. 805-528-8791. facebook.com/larry.lebrane. Central Coast Glass Blowing and Fusing, 1279 2nd Street, Los Osos.

MASTER MOSAICS Learn mosaic basics to create a one-of-a-kind project. Choose a project to make your heart sing while learning mosaic basics to complete your project. You have many colors, baubles, and beads to choose from. Preregistration required. **Feb. 6**, 10 a.m.-1 p.m. Various. 805-286-5993. CreativeMeTime.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/. Art Center Morro Bay, 835 Main St., Morro Bay.

SEA GLASS 3D JEWELRY Create a gorgeous sea glass necklace using an easy technique to adhere glass to a metal shape. Everything is provided to complete the projects from local sea glass (choose brown, white, or green in class). Preregistration required. **Feb. 5**, 1-2:30 p.m. \$25. 805-286-5993. CreativeMeTime.com. Art Center Morro Bay, 835 Main St., Morro Bay.

SUCCULENT HEART WREATH Enjoy a relaxing morning creating with succulents to make a gorgeous, lush wreath. Preregister to join. All supplies provided. **Feb. 5**, 10 a.m.-noon Various. 805-238-6300. CreativeMeTime.com. Art Center Morro Bay, 835 Main St., Morro Bay.

ARTSOCIAL805 Enjoy a guided paint night with an art instructor from ArtSocial805. Canvas, paint, apron, and supplies are provided. Snacks, sweets, and wine will be available for purchase. **Feb. 3**, 6-8 p.m. \$48 per person. 562-400-3679. stashlocalgoods.com/shopcollection/paint-night-with-artsocial805. STASH Local Goods, 815 Main St, Cambria.

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. Cambria Library, 1043 Main St., Cambria.

PHOTO COURTESY OF CASS WINERY AND VINEYARD



PLATE DATE
Cass Winery and Vineyard in Paso Robles hosts its next Ted's Estate Beef Dinner as part of the venue's Winemaker Dinner Series on Friday, Jan. 28, from 6 to 9 p.m. Guests will enjoy a five-course, farm-to-table dinner featuring short ribs, all paired with award-winning wines. Tickets are available in advance at my805tix.com. Visit casswinery.com for more info. The winery is located at 7350 Linne Road, Paso Robles.
—C.W.

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. ongoing partnersincaring.org. Santa Maria, Citywide, Santa Maria.

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

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

LOW VISION WORKSHOP Please join Library staff for a Low Vision Workshop. Patrons will learn about Library materials and resources available to those living with low vision. Topics covered will include large print materials, audiobooks, Braille books, and databases with accessibility features. Library tour included. **Feb. 5**, 10:30-11:30 a.m. Free. 805-925-0994. cityofsantamaria.org/city-government/departments/library. Santa Maria Public Library, 421 S. McClelland St., Santa Maria.

ONLINE JOB SEARCHING Learn how to locate jobs on the web and submit applications through online portals. Participants will gain hands-on experience to jumpstart their job search. Registration required. **Feb. 5**, 12-1:30 p.m. 805-925-0994. cityofsantamaria.org/city-government/departments/library. Santa Maria Public Library, 421 S. McClelland St., Santa Maria.

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

CULTURE & LIFESTYLE continued page 18

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Share the Love

Cambria Film Festival: February 3-6, 2022 · Virtual Only



47 shorts
7 feature films
3 filmmaker talks
Plus community films and special events



Ticketing and schedule at cambriafilmfestival.com

What's Your Take?

This week's online poll 1/27 - 2/3

What do you do for your own well-being?

- I exercise every day and try to eat healthily.
- I like to meditate and practice mindfulness.
- I try to do what I can to take care of myself, but there's not enough time in the day.
- I don't do any of these because I am a very healthy individual.

We know you've got an opinion. Everybody's got one!

Enter your choice online at: SantaMariaSun.com



SOUTH COAST SLO COUNTY

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/. Weekly San Luis Lighthouse, 1 Lighthouse Rd., Avila Beach.

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

SAN LUIS OBISPO

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

BENEDICT'S DHARMA: BUDDHISTS REFLECT ON THE RULE OF ST. BENEDICT A spiritual conversation and book discussion on Zoom. Tuesdays, 10:15-11:45 a.m. through March 1 Free. 805-528-0654. stbensoslosos.org. Online, See website, San Luis Obispo.

BEYOND MINDFULNESS Realize your potential through individualized meditation instruction with an experienced teacher via Zoom. This class is for those who wish to begin a practice or seek to deepen an existing one. Flexible days and times. Certified with IMTA. Email or text for information. Mondays-Sundays, 5:30-6:30 p.m. Sliding scale. 559-905-9274. theartofsilence.net. Online, See website, San Luis Obispo.

805-756-7297.

CAL POLY WOMEN'S BASKETBALL VS. UC IRVINE It's Heroes Day, so all military, veterans, first responders, and frontline hospital workers receive free admission to the game. **Jan. 29**, 2-4 p.m. 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. San Luis Obispo.

DANCE CLUB: DANCE FITNESS CLASS WITH CHRISTIANA A mood-elevating, dance-centric dance fitness class that enables you to live out your back-up dancer dreams. The choreography is curated to a culturally diverse playlist that is equal parts sassy and empowering. Tuesdays, 7:15-8:15 p.m. through Feb. 15 \$15 per class (discounted multi-class package available). 805-305-5609. DanceClubSLO, 3422 Miguelito Ct. Studio 3, San Luis Obispo, ChristianaEnriquez.Zumba.com.

GARDEN FOUNDER WALK AND TALK Walk and talk with Eve Vigil in the Botanical Garden each month on the first Tuesday. Free garden tour with paid admission to the Garden. Free for members. No need to RSVP, just show up and enjoy. First Tuesday of every month, 11 a.m.-noon Free with \$5 Garden Entry. 805-541-1400. slobg.org/calendar. Walk and talk with Eve Vigil in the Botanical Garden each month on the first Wednesday. Free garden tour with paid admission to the Garden. Free for members. No need to RSVP, just show up and enjoy. First Wednesday of every month, 11 a.m.-noon Free with \$5 Garden Entry. 805-541-1400. slobg.org. San Luis Obispo Botanical Garden, 3450 Dairy Creek Rd., San Luis Obispo.

LGBTQ+ FED THERAPIST LEAD SUPPORT GROUP (VIRTUALLY VIA ZOOM) A pro-recovery group offering space to those seeking peer support, all stages of ED recovery. We understand recovery isn't linear and judgment-free support is crucial. Share, listen,

COURTESY IMAGE BY JEFF ODELL



HOT STUFF
JAN. 27 - FEB. 3
2022

BOATS AND HUES

Gallery at Marina Square in Morro Bay is featuring three new artists, Jeff Odell (whose work is pictured), Debbie Gedayloo, and Stevie Chun, starting on Tuesday, Feb. 1. All three exhibits will remain on display through Sunday, Feb. 27. A joint opening reception will be held on Saturday, Feb. 12, from 5 to 7 p.m. Call (805) 772-1068 or visit galleryatmarinasquare.com for more info. The gallery is located at 601 Embarcadero, suite 10, Morro Bay.

—C.W.

BIRDS AND BOTANY MONTHLY WALK AT SLO BOTANICAL GARDEN The Garden is excited to present a monthly bird walk series on the fourth Thursday of every month which explores the intersection of birds and botany. Fourth Thursday of every month, 8-11 a.m. \$10 for Garden Members; \$40 for general public. 805-541-1400. slobg.org. San Luis Obispo Botanical Garden, 3450 Dairy Creek Rd., San Luis Obispo.

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

CAL POLY WOMEN'S BASKETBALL VS. UC SAN DIEGO Come watch the Mustangs take on UC San Diego. **Jan. 27**, 7-9 p.m. gopoly.com. Mott Athletics Center, 1 Grand Ave., San Luis Obispo, 805-756-7297.

CAL POLY WOMEN'S BASKETBALL VS. LONG BEACH STATE Celebrating National Girls and Women In Sports; there will be pregame activities for girls, and free shirts for the first 500 fans. **Feb. 5**, 2-4 p.m. gopoly.com. Mott Athletics Center, 1 Grand Ave., San Luis Obispo,

and be part of a community building up each other. First Wednesday of every month, 7-8 p.m. Free. galacc.org/events/. Online, See website, San Luis Obispo.

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

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-diann-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/. 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.

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

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. slonoonetime.toastmastersclubs.org. Zoom, Online, Inquire for Zoom ID.

SLO SKIERS MONTHLY MEETING SLO Skiers, a local non-profit sports and social club for adults has a monthly meeting. First Wednesday of every month, 5:30-7:30 p.m. through Dec. 7 Meetings free; Yearly membership \$50. 805-528-3194. sloskiers.org. Dairy Creek Golf Course, 2990 Dairy Creek Rd., San Luis Obispo.

SLO TABLE TENNIS Many tables available. Always welcome to new players. Variety of skill levels welcome. Extra paddles and balls available. Sundays, 4-7 p.m., Tuesdays, 6-9 p.m. and Thursdays, 7-10 p.m. Free. 805-540-0470. Ludwick Community Center, 864 Santa Rosa, San Luis Obispo.

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

TRANS* TUESDAY A safe space providing peer-to-peer support for trans, gender non-conforming, non-binary, and questioning people. In-person and Zoom meetings held. Contact tranzcentralcoast@gmail.com for more details. Tuesdays, 7-9 p.m. Free. GALA Pride and Diversity Center, 1060 Palm Street, San Luis Obispo, 805-541-4252.

WKND RECREATIONAL: TASTE THE WEEKEND Exclusive launch party of the hottest brand in cannabis. Live music, interactive art, selfie walls, free food, and more. **Jan. 29**, 11 a.m.-5 p.m. my805tix.com. Alex Madonna Expo Center, 100 Madonna Rd, San Luis Obispo.

WRITE TO FIND YOUR INNER A-HA Reach your own inner truth and wisdom through a writing practice. Talk through the process to tap into your personal power. A Zoom series of three small-group sessions. Text to join. **Feb. 6**, 3-4 p.m. \$55. 515-707-1557. leanjacobsen.com. Online, See website, San Luis Obispo.

FOOD & DRINK

SANTA YNEZ VALLEY

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

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

SANTA MARIA VALLEY/LOS ALAMOS

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

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

SOUTH COAST SLO COUNTY

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

MUSIC

SANTA YNEZ VALLEY

CARMEN AND THE RENEGADE VIGILANTES LIVE **Jan. 28**, 8:30 p.m. Maverick Saloon, 3687 Sagunto St., Santa Ynez, 805-686-4785,

mavericksaloon.org.

FLANNEL 101 LIVE Feb. 5, 9 p.m. Maverick Saloon, 3687 Sagunto St., Santa Ynez, 805-686-4785, mavericksaloon.org.

JIMI NELSON BAND LIVE Jan. 29 Maverick Saloon, 3687 Sagunto St., Santa Ynez, 805-686-4785, mavericksaloon.org.

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

THE MOLLY RINGWALD PROJECT LIVE Feb. 4, 9 p.m. Maverick Saloon, 3687 Sagunto St., Santa Ynez, 805-686-4785, mavericksaloon.org.

THE REGULARS LIVE Feb. 6, 12-4 p.m. Maverick Saloon, 3687 Sagunto St., Santa Ynez, 805-686-4785, mavericksaloon.org.

ROBERT HEFT AND DAVE WILSON LIVE Jan. 30, 12-4 p.m. Maverick Saloon, 3687 Sagunto St., Santa Ynez, 805-686-4785, mavericksaloon.org.

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

SANTA MARIA VALLEY/LOS ALAMOS

SANTA MARIA PHILHARMONIC: FIRST FRIDAYS AT FOUR Featuring musicians from the Santa Maria Philharmonic, this monthly series of musical adventures are recorded in local settings and offered free to the public. First Friday of every month. smphilharmonic.org. Soundcloud (Santa Maria Philharmonic), Online, Santa Maria.

SOUTH COAST SLO COUNTY

ARIELLE SILVER LIVE Feb. 6, 5 p.m. Puffers of Pismo, 781 Price St., Pismo Beach, puffersofpismo.com.

CALL FOR AUDITIONS: SAN LUIS OBISPO MASTER CHORALE Following a highly successful return to the stage performance last month, the SLO Master Chorale is holding auditions for new members. Choral experience is preferred but not required. You can learn more about auditions and sign up for a time slot by visiting our website. **Jan. 31**, 7-10 p.m. 805-538-3311. slomasterchorale.org/audition/. Saint Paul The Apostle Catholic Church, 800 Bello Street, Pismo Beach.

DJ DRUMS Fridays, 9-10 p.m. Mongo's Saloon, 359 W. Grand Ave., Grover Beach, 805-489-3639.

FIRST FRIDAY LIVE For those over age 55 or so, the James Way Band leads you on a cruise down Memory Lane that includes classic country music, the great old Gospel hymns and favorites, and some classic rock as well. You'll enjoy a concert of nostalgic, inspiring, entertainment. **Feb. 4**, 7:30-9:30 p.m. Free. 805-489-9444. clarkcenter.org/shows/first-friday-live-free-event-816-797-843/. Clark Center for the Performing Arts, 487 Fair Oaks Ave., Arroyo Grande.

SAN LUIS OBISPO

ALLEN STONE LIVE Feb. 1, 8 p.m. The Fremont Theater, 1035 Monterey St., San Luis Obispo, 805-546-8600, fremontslo.com.

BIG HEAD TODD AND THE MONSTERS LIVE Jan. 29, 9 p.m. The Fremont Theater, 1035 Monterey St., San Luis Obispo, 805-546-8600, fremontslo.com.

BUMPIN' UGLIES LIVE With Joey Harkum. **Feb. 3**, 7 p.m. SLO Brew Rock, 855 Aerovista Pl., San Luis Obispo, 805-543-1843, slobrew.com.

CHRIS BELAND LIVE Jan. 28, 7 p.m. SLO Brew Rock, 855 Aerovista Pl., San Luis Obispo, 805-543-1843, slobrew.com.

DARK STAR ORCHESTRA LIVE Feb. 2, 8 p.m. The Fremont Theater, 1035 Monterey St., San Luis Obispo, 805-546-8600, fremontslo.com.

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

EASTON EVERETT SOLO Enjoy some indie-acoustic, live music. Thursdays, 5:30-7:30 p.m. eastoneverett.com. Big Sky Cafe, 1121 Broad Street, San Luis Obispo, (805)545-5401.

FORTUNATE YOUTH LIVE Jan. 27, 7 p.m. SLO Brew Rock, 855 Aerovista Pl., San Luis Obispo, 805-543-1843, slobrew.com.

GHOST/MONSTER LIVE Jan. 27, 10 p.m. Frog and Peach Pub, 728 Higuera St., San Luis Obispo, 805-595-4764, frogandpeachpub.com.

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

STEEL PULSE LIVE Feb. 3, 7:30 p.m. The Fremont Theater, 1035 Monterey St., San Luis Obispo, 805-546-8600, fremontslo.com.

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

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PHOTOS COURTESY OF THE ELVERHOJ MUSEUM OF HISTORY AND ART

Arts Briefs

NatureTrack Foundation co-produces award-winning documentary, *The Accessible Outdoors*

PHOTO COURTESY OF THE NATURETRACK FOUNDATION



The Accessible Outdoors, a new, live-action documentary co-produced by the NatureTrack Foundation and Golden Cage Films, recently won Second Place for Best Short Documentary at the Hollywood Independent Filmmaker Awards and Festival. The film has been featured in several festivals, including the Oregon Documentary Film Festival, which was held at the end of January, and the upcoming Colorado Environmental Film Festival in February.

This documentary examines the lack of access disabled individuals have to natural areas, including beaches and trails, executive producer Sue Eisaguirre explained in a press materials.

"I wanted the film to convey the importance of connection and access to nature for all people," said Eisaguirre, the founder of the NatureTrack Foundation—a Santa Barbara County-based nonprofit dedicated to funding outdoor field trips for local students.

The film also explores the benefits of the Freedom Trax apparatus, a motorized off-road attachment for manual wheelchairs. Eisaguirre said that NatureTrack uses this equipment for docents, teachers, and students with physical disabilities to participate in the nonprofit's outdoor field trip program.

For more info on *The Accessible Outdoors* and the NatureTrack Foundation, visit naturetrack.org.

Santa Maria Japanese Community Center seeks design proposals for new monument

Professional artists are encouraged to apply for the position of monument designer with the Santa Maria Japanese Community Center, which is accepting introductory applications through Monday, Jan. 31. Five finalists will be notified on Friday, Feb. 4, and assigned to submit their monument proposals on Monday, April 4. The final selection process will conclude on Friday, April 15.

Applicants are asked to include a statement of interest, a résumé, three examples of previous art installations, three references, and contact info in their introductory applications, which they can submit to weskoyama@gmail.com and fruit01@msn.com. Finalists will be tasked with proposing and designing a monument to honor first-generation Japanese immigrants who migrated from Japan to settle and start a new life in the Santa Maria Valley.

At the end of the selection process, the chosen artist will have a maximum budget of \$50,000—including artist fees, fabrication, lighting, supplies, labor, insurance, delivery, installation, and more—to complete the monument.

Solvang Festival Theater installs six new lighting towers

As part of its ongoing renovation project, the Solvang Festival Theater recently used a 350-ton crane to install six new steel columns. Each of the columns weigh about 12,000 pounds and rise more than 50 feet above the theater.

Lighting technicians will operate on top of the towers during future productions held at the venue. Visit solvangtheaterfest.org for more info. ○

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



ALL THAT GLITTERS IS BRONZE: Elverhoj Museum guests can view a whimsical variety of Susan Read Cronin's bronze sculptures in a new solo exhibit, *Fables, Foibles, and Fairy Tales*, which is scheduled to open on Jan. 29. Pictured: *The Dingalings*.

Metal menagerie

Elverhoj Museum showcases bronze sculptures, poetry, and more from Montecito artist Susan Read Cronin

BY CALEB WISEBLOOD

Even in Susan Read Cronin's most whimsical sculptures, there's an underlying sense of dire tension.

To Have and To Hold, for example, depicts a warm, potentially romantic embrace between a rabbit and a carrot. Cronin's furry subject gazes down at the lifeless vegetable—cradled in the rabbit's long, anthropomorphized arms—with ambiguous desire.

"There's a little element of danger. Is he gonna eat it? But he loves it so much. Maybe he won't, maybe he will," teased Cronin, whose work is currently featured in a new exhibition at the Elverhoj Museum of History and Art in Solvang.

The Montecito-based sculptor plays with similar themes in another piece, *To the Rescue*, which depicts an army of acorns at war with a hungry squirrel.

Cronin said she originally wanted to show her two-legged acorns running away from the squirrel in fear, but the piece eventually evolved into a rescue mission instead, with the acorns charging their enemy in a courageous attempt to save one of their own from being eaten.

While almost all of Cronin's bronze sculptures involve animals, she doesn't have any pets of her own at the moment—any domesticated pets at least.

Tell-tale art

Fables, Foibles, and Fairy Tales debuts at the Elverhoj Museum of History and Art in Solvang on Jan. 29 and is scheduled to run through April 24. For more info, call (805) 686-1211 visit elverhoj.org. The museum is located at 1624 Elverhoj Way, Solvang.

"I actually have a squirrel that's outside all the time and looks in the window at me. So I sort of feel like he's kind of my pet," said Cronin, whose new solo show—*Fables, Foibles, and Fairy Tales*—is scheduled to premiere on Jan. 29.

Cronin's bronze characters will remain on display at the Elverhoj Museum through April 24, alongside a collection of her poems and silhouette artworks as well.

While Cronin has specialized in casting bronze since the 1990s, poetry became one of her new favorite art forms during the pandemic. Similar to her sculptures, Cronin's poems are often playful and full of humorous twists.

She described "Once Upon a Time"—one of her featured poems in the exhibit—as "Mad Libs for fairy tales." The poem has been blown up into



DYNAMIC DISPLAY: Susan Read Cronin's bronze characters will remain on display at the Elverhoj Museum through April 24, alongside a collection of the artist's poems and silhouette pieces as well. Pictured: *Heel, Toe, and Away We Go*.

a large display for the showcase, but Cronin hasn't seen it for herself yet.

"I think it's like 8 feet or something, so it's going to be hanging in a big panel," she said.

The Elverhoj Museum staff insisted on installing the exhibit without Cronin's assistance, the artist said, which she was thrilled about. The thought of walking blindly into a showcase of her own work excited her.

"The idea of someone else interpreting my work in their own way and seeing how it connects and in what ways they're going to display it is going to be really fun," Cronin said.

When it comes to hearing different interpretations of her work, Cronin's favorites are often the ones that stray far from her intended context.

"Sometimes I don't like to tell my backstory about a piece because I want to hear what your story about the piece is because you're bringing your own experience to it," she said. "I want to put things out in the world that make people think twice, or they can have a good time with."

Cronin aims to leave her sculptures open-ended, with ample room for the consumer to interact and improvise. *Dive In*, for example, is a piece that begs to be played with, the artist explained.

The piece consists of two separate sculptures, a mouse poised on the edge of a spoon as if it's a diving board, and a tea cup for the rodent to land in—or not.

"I don't want to glue this onto a base, or have it nailed down," said Cronin, opening the door to infinite alternate realities. "If he wants to dive into a bowl of mashed potatoes or whipped cream, you just take the cup away and put whatever you want him to dive into." ○

Arts Editor Caleb Wiseblood needs a reality check at cwiseblood@santamariasun.com.

Showtime!

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



THE NUTTY PROFESSION: *To the Rescue* (pictured) depicts an army of acorns about to charge a hungry squirrel in order to save one of their own from being eaten.



Slice of life

Writer-director Paul Thomas Anderson (*Hard Eight*, *Boogie Nights*, *Magnolia*, *Punch-Drunk Love*, *There Will Be Blood*, *The Master*, *Inherent Vice*, *Phantom Thread*) helms this story about a first love between Alana (Alana Haim) and Gary (Cooper Hoffman), set in the San Fernando Valley circa 1973. (133 min.)

Glen: Paul Thomas Anderson is such a singular filmmaker. This is his ninth film, and he's yet to make a bad one. He grew up in and still resides in the San Fernando Valley, and this film is his love letter to his home, the 1970s, adolescence, and first loves. Gary is an ambitious, confident hustler. At 15, he's already a seasoned child star with a PR firm. His mom, Anita (Mary Elizabeth Ellis), is his sole employee. When Gary meets Alana on photo day at school, he's immediately smitten. She's there working with Tiny Toes Photography. At 25, she's 10 years Gary's senior, but Gary's unbridled swagger disarms her. She's directionless, going through her 20s on autopilot, and about to be inspired in ways she never dreamt of. It's such a weird, unconventional story, and it'd be easy to judge it as disturbing, but their bumpy romance is chaste, and in almost every way Gary is more mature than the mercurial, slightly angry Alana, who still lives at home with her parents and two sisters (Haim's actual siblings and parents, sisters Danielle and Este, father Moti, and mother Donna Haim). We watch as Gary and Alana race through the valley from one exciting moment to another, start a waterbed and beanbag chair company, run into a wild cast of eccentric characters,

and make each other in turns exacerbated, jealous, or inspired. The plot is secondary—this is about possibilities and living in the moment.

Anna: Both characters have a lot of growing up to do, and while the idea of a 25-year-old leading on a 15-year-old definitely makes me feel all kinds of uncomfortable, these two characters are magnets you just can't keep apart. Gary is both way beyond his years and still very much a teenager with all the typical problems like acne and girl troubles. He's endearing, loving to his mother—a woman who seems a little lost herself—and his younger brother, Kirk (Will Angarola). Along comes Alana, pretty in an unassuming way, smart-alecky and witty, wanting more than her simple life but totally lost at what to change. Anderson is definitely a favorite. He's so good at making mundane moments watchable, trusting his cast to tell a story, even if that story isn't about a whole lot. He pulled quite the cast here, too, from Bradley Cooper as the creepy and cocky Jon Peters, to Sean Penn as movie star Jack Holden and Tom Waits as director Rex Blau. This hasn't done as well with audiences as it has with critics. From what I've seen, some people found it a little too much about nothing. For me, a nothing story is just fine if it's told well with a solid cast—and *Licorice Pizza* absolutely fits that bill.

Glen: Gary's character is based on Gary Goetzman, a child actor turned producer who now works with Tom Hanks. Penn as Holden is clearly meant as a nod to William Holden. Cooper's Jon Peters is also a real person, now a film producer who when this story is set was a hairdresser dating Barbra Streisand. There's also a cameo by John C. Reilly playing Fred Gwynne, the Herman Munster actor. You see him during this amazing tracking shot of Gary moving through the Hollywood Palladium to set up a

LICORICE PIZZA

What's it rated? **R**
 What's it worth, Anna? **Full price**
 What's it worth, Glen? **Full price**
 Where's it showing? **Downtown Centre in SLO, Fair Oaks in Arroyo Grande**

waterbed booth during a Teen Expo, which leads to the film's weirdest tangent, which I won't ruin for you. My favorite small moment is when Gary is helping Alana get into show business by setting her up with an interview with his talent agent, Mary Grady (Harriet Sansom Harris), another real-life character. Harris' performance is so amazingly cringe-inducing. Wait's Rex Blau was based on director Mark Robson, known for *The Harder They Fall* (1956), *Peyton Place* (1957), and *Valley of the Dolls* (1967). The sets, locations, costumes—it all screams 1970s. I really loved this film, and it will absolutely make stars of its two leads, with both making their feature film debuts. This is an ingenious, deeply entertaining film.

Anna: This film is certainly a nod to nostalgia and a love letter to Hollywood. It's cleverly shot, too—that tracking shot was awesome, as was watching Alana navigate a runaway truck backwards down the winding hills of Southern California in order to avoid Jon Peters. It's hilarious and poignant, and the characters are acutely aware of how delicate life, relationships, and friendships can be. At one point,



SHEER EXUBERANCE: Gary (Cooper Hoffman, son of Philip Seymore Hoffman) and Alana (Alana Haim of the band Haim) make their feature-length debuts in Paul Thomas Anderson's *Licorice Pizza*, a love letter to the '70s and San Fernando Valley.

Alana is having a smoke with her sister and she asks, "Is it weird that I hang out with Gary and his 15-year-old friends? Cuz I think it's ****ing weird." It's a character seeing the absurdity of her own situation, but there's just something there she can't stay away from. The cameos in this were so much fun; you can tell stars want to work with Anderson. I'll watch this one again and again. It hits a perfect sweet spot of nostalgia, friendship, and learning how to trust the people we're becoming during those tumultuous first years of adulthood, love, and finding our path. ○

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

Film Reviews

ANTLERS

What's it rated? **R** When? **2021**
 Where's it showing? **Redbox**

Co-writer Scott Cooper (*Crazy Heart*, *Black Mass*) directs this supernatural horror thriller about a schoolteacher, Julia Meadows (Keri Russell), who suspects one of her students, Lucas (Jeremy T. Thomas), is being abused at home. The boy's father, Frank (Scott Haze), runs a meth lab in an abandoned mineshaft, so there's reason to suspect Frank may be a neglectful or abusive man, but the truth is far more sinister. An ancient entity that preys on humanity has been unleashed.

The film is rich in atmosphere, which is its strongest characteristic. Set in a small Oregon town that's fallen into hard times, the story is also about Julia's brother, Paul (Jesse Plemons), who's the town's sheriff and must contend with all the drug activity. As the story unfolds, we learn why Julia returned to town and now lives with Paul in their dead parents' house. They, too, harbor secrets.

As they continue to uncover what's happening to Lucas, it becomes clear that something supernatural is afoot, but how to end this wily curse? The film covers a lot of themes, from child



PHOTO COURTESY OF FOX SEARCHLIGHT PICTURES

CREEPY: Twelve-year-old Lucas (Jeremy T. Thomas) is handed enormous responsibility when his father and brother encounter a supernatural entity, setting in motion a quest to end a curse, in *Antlers*, available at Redbox.

abuse to environmental destruction, and it's admittedly uneven. It's basically about a body-jumping entity that turns its host into a stag monster, which is inherently dumb.

The film takes itself seriously, which may have been a mistake. It either needed to explore more thoroughly its dark themes or lighten up and take *The Wolf of Snow Hollow* (2020) comedy-horror approach, but it's at Redbox, and with my \$1.25-off promo, it felt like 60 cents well spent. (99 min.)

—Glen

NEW Flicks

BEING THE RICARDOS

What's it rated? **R** When? **2021**
 Where's it showing? **Amazon Prime**

I Love Lucy was my absolute favorite as a kid—while the show was on well before my generation, it was what I picked every day after school to watch. It's iconic, physical comedy at its finest, featuring a brash redhead who—gasp!—dared to be pregnant on television.

Of course, that show is what first comes to mind when you think of Desilu Productions, but the real story, and what *Being the Ricardos* focuses on, is what was going on behind the scenes, and the relationships that Lucille Ball and Desi Arnaz had not just with each other, but with their co-stars, writers, and everyone in between. I don't think I'm alone when I say I always thought of Lucille Ball as the power end of that couple, but this movie shines a light on Desi as well and the strong influence he had and the power he was able to wield.

Certainly imperfect, the couple struggled with infidelity and the trappings of fame, but the question of love was never there, at least from what we see. When Lucy was called out as a communist in big red letters all over the newspaper, damage control was needed fast



PHOTO COURTESY OF ESCAPE ARTISTS AND AMAZON STUDIOS

SCANDAL! *Being the Ricardos* centers on Lucille Ball (Nicole Kidman) being accused of being a communist, and how her husband, Desi Arnaz (Javier Bardem), helped to save her career, screening on Amazon Prime.

or the whole house of cards would soon tumble down. A lot of this film centers on that time and what calculations were made around the response. Both Nicole Kidman as Lucille and Javier Bardem as Desi inhabit these iconic roles well, and while there may never be another Lucille Ball, Kidman paints an honest and grounded portrayal of the star. (in color and B&W; 131 min.) ○

—Anna

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PHOTOS COURTESY OF CHARCUTER'DEE AND FROMAGERIE



FIFTY NUMBERS: Santa Maria local Deanne Carrisoa, owner and founder of Charcuter'Dee and Fromagerie, loves creating custom orders for celebratory events, including these special age-themed boxes shaped like numbers for birthday parties.



BOXING BUSINESS: Charcuter'Dee and Fromagerie caters for events—weddings, business functions, fundraisers, private picnics, etc.—and serves clients all along the Central Coast, including outside Santa Barbara County. The company's list of assortment options is extensive, and orders can be customized to be gluten-free, vegan, or vegetarian.

The bee's cheese

Charcuter'Dee and Fromagerie celebrates second anniversary and preps for Valentine's Day orders

BY CALEB WISEBLOOD

When it comes to assembling the perfect charcuterie display, Deanne Carrisoa likes to think outside the box. The Santa Maria local described the way she organizes her boxes and boards as “all over the place,” and said many of her final products end up looking more like colorful paintings than symmetrical assortments.

It can be tough to stand out as a Central Coast-based charcuterie business, as there are many wonderful options in the area, said Carrisoa, the owner and founder of Charcuter'Dee and Fromagerie. So it's important for her to let her personality shine through her work.

Even when her clients make strict customizations, Carrisoa will often persuade them to embrace one of her own personal recommendations, especially if it's something they haven't already tried.

“I always—especially with repeat customers—try to encourage adding something that they've never tried before. And they'll usually call back and be like, ‘Oh my gosh, that was so good!’” Carrisoa said. “That's kind of where I find my greatest pleasure,” she added. “It's really nice to see people expanding a little bit on that.”

One of Carrisoa's favorite examples of this was convincing a customer to take a chance on goat cheese. “She said, ‘Absolutely no goat cheese, zero.’ And I was like, ‘Are you sure?’” said Carrisoa, recalling the large order, tailored for a party the client was hosting. “I was surprised she even tried it.”

Shortly after the catered event, which did include goat cheese as recommended, the client made sure her next charcuterie order included said cheese as well.

Carrisoa's epiphany to start her own charcuterie business came about while she was coming up with ways to raise funds for her son-in-law, who was recovering from injuries from a severe car collision at the time.

She wanted to find something she could make and sell herself, to give donors something in return for their support.

“I was just sitting down one day and I thought, ‘Ah, cheese boxes!’” said Carrisoa, who regularly prepared plates of different sliced cheeses for herself and her family.

Carrisoa's cheese box idea evolved into a full-fledged charcuterie box, with walnuts, almonds, delicatessen meats, seasonal fruit, honey, crackers, chocolates, and more. After the fundraiser, requests for more charcuterie boxes didn't stop, so Carrisoa decided to just run with it.

In January of 2020, Carrisoa founded her business and christened it with a perfectly punny moniker: Charcuter'Dee and Fromagerie. Since then, her catering and home delivery service has grown bigger than she ever imagined. She celebrated the company's second anniversary/birthday on Jan. 17.

“I totally blew off our first birthday and forgot about it,” said Carrisoa, who admitted she forgot to commemorate the occasion last January, but is excited to offer a celebratory promo this year.

As a proud participant in Santa Maria Valley's Restaurant Month, Carrisoa is offering her mid-sized Second Anniversary Box for \$20.22. The offer runs through Feb. 13—just a day before one of her company's busiest holidays of the year.

“It's just so slammed now, with Valentine's Day, and the Super Bowl, and then wedding season,” said Carrisoa, who enjoys creating themed boxes depending on the holiday or occasion—Halloween, birthday parties, you name it.

While based in Santa Maria, Charcuter'Dee and Fromagerie caters for events—weddings, business functions, fundraisers, private picnics, etc.—and serves clients all along the Central Coast, including

Meat and greet

Find out more about Charcuter'Dee and Fromagerie at facebook.com/charcuterdeehandfromagerie. As a participant in Santa Maria Valley's Restaurant Month, Charcuter'Dee and Fromagerie is currently offering a mid-sized charcuterie box for \$20.22, now through Feb. 13.

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COLORFUL CHARCUTERIE: Deanne Carrisoa described her assortment style for many of her charcuterie packages as “all over the place,” and she often avoids lining up her items symmetrically, in favor of more abstract, colorful patterns.

outside Santa Barbara County. Everything Carrisoa offers is completely customizable, and her extensive items list includes gluten-free, vegan, and vegetarian options.

When it comes to making her own box or board to enjoy for herself though, it's really all about the cheese selection, she said.

“I really like cheese, so I kind of lean toward that route and fruit, versus the meat. There's so many good cheeses,” said Carrisoa, who was born and raised in Santa Maria, where she continues to live today with her family and German shepherd (who inspired Carrisoa's line of ‘Bark-uterie’ packages made specially for dogs).

Carrisoa can even remember life in Santa Maria before the mall was built.

“I was 8 when the mall went up; I remember the post office over there and the old movie theater,” she said.

The lifelong local hopes Charcuter'Dee and Fromagerie will eventually lead to her having her own brick-and-mortar shop someday, either in Santa Maria or possibly Old Town Orcutt.



SAY CHEESE: When it comes to making her own box or board to enjoy for herself, it's really all about the cheese, Deanne Carrisoa said. “I really like cheese, so I kind of lean toward that route and fruit, versus the meat. There's so many good cheeses.”

“My end goal in doing this is to have a little cheese shop,” Carrisoa said. “That's my endgame.”

Arts Editor Caleb Wiseblood wants to know your favorite charcuterie inclusions at cwiseblood@santamariasun.com.

MENUS

The Central Coast Guide to All Things Food & Drink

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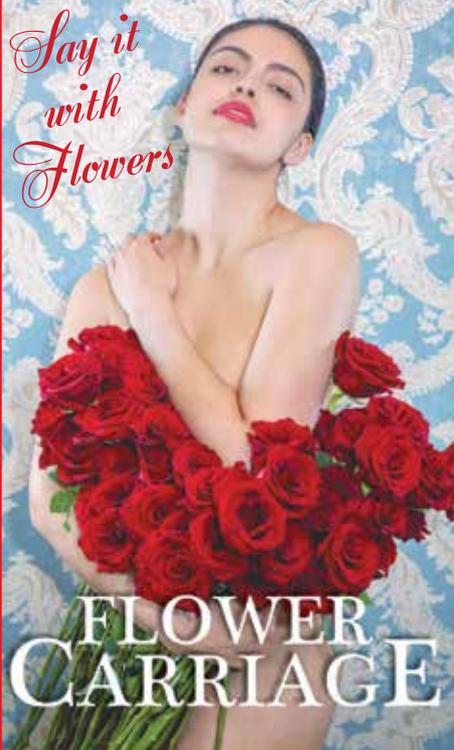
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