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AT THE MOVIES



Death on the Nile: Classic murder mystery [22]

Sun

A great divide

Santa Barbara County and Santa Maria are at odds over proposed housing for the homeless within city limits [7]

BY TAYLOR O'CONNOR



NEWS COVID-19 mask mandate lifted [4]

ARTS Dirty Cello plays in Solvang [21]

EATS Lompoc celebrates Restaurant Week [23]



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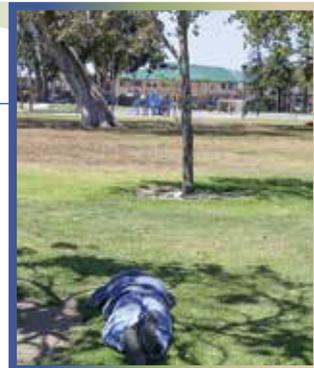
Contents

FEBRUARY 17 - FEBRUARY 24, 2022 VOL. 22 NO. 51

A plan to use \$21 million in state and Santa Barbara County funding to convert a Motel 6 on Main Street into housing for homeless individuals met resistance in Santa Maria. The back and forth between the county and city illustrates a divide between the two that hinders collaboration on projects like these. This week, Staff Writer Taylor O'Connor speaks with Santa Maria Mayor Alice Patino, 5th District Santa Barbara County Supervisor Steve Lavagnino, and others about the issue [7].

You can also read about Santa Barbara County lifting the mask mandate [4]; the San Francisco-based band bringing its distinct sound to Solvang [21]; and the restaurants participating in Lompoc Restaurant Week [23].

Camillia Lanham
editor



HOUSING DILEMMA: Santa Barbara County and the city of Santa Maria don't see eye to eye on the answer to getting homeless people in housing.

Cover file photo by Dylan Honea-Baumann > Cover design by Alex Zuniga

NEWS

News Briefs.....	4
Political Watch.....	4
Spotlight.....	8

OPINION

Web Poll.....	10
Mayfield.....	10
Canary.....	11

EVENTS CALENDAR

Hot Stuff.....	12
----------------	----

ARTS

Arts Briefs.....	21
------------------	----

MOVIES

Reviews.....	22
--------------	----

CLASSIFIEDS, HOME, AND REAL ESTATE

25

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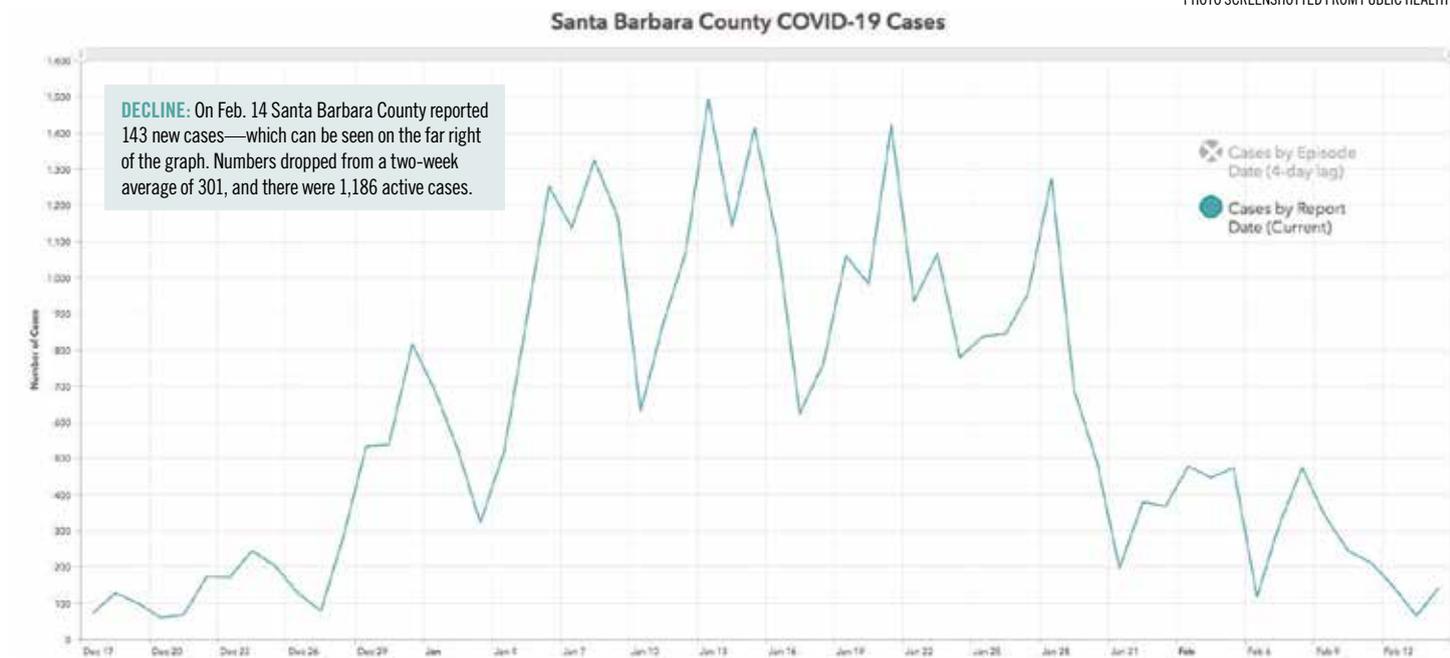
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Political Watch

Gov. **Gavin Newsom** announced \$311.7 million in funding for 126 beautification projects along the state highway system, according to a Feb. 11 statement. As part of his \$1.1 billion Clean California initiative, this project will benefit historically underserved or excluded communities. Over three years, Clean California will remove an additional 1.2 million cubic yards—or 21,000 tons—of trash. Starting in April 2022, these projects are expected to create 3,600 jobs as part of the multi-year initiative led by Caltrans to remove trash and beautify community gateways and public areas along highways, streets, and roads. The 126 projects—which will create art installations, green space, and projects that will improve safety and promote community connections—were developed in collaboration with tribal and local governments, nonprofits, and businesses in 47 of California's 58 counties. "With Clean California projects transforming more and more sites across the state, we're taking the next step to create enriching public spaces that serve the needs of our diverse communities and that all of us can take pride in—starting in the neighborhoods that need it most," Newsom said in a statement. "Working together, the state and local governments are advancing unique beautification projects that will make a positive impact for years to come."

U.S. Sen. **Alex Padilla** (D-California) joined Sen. **Jon Ossoff** (D-Georgia) and 18 other senators to ask U.S. Attorney General **Merrick Garland** to direct Federal agencies to update their language access plans in order to ensure that everyone can obtain critical information and resources in their preferred language, according to a Feb. 11 statement. "Language barriers can impact access to vital services and information related to education, the legal system, health care, housing, and more. We ask that you issue a memorandum directing federal agencies to update their language access plans to meet the present-day needs," the letter stated. Language plans—some not updated in nearly a decade—would direct agencies to update their websites to include language assistance services and boost the distribution of translated materials. According to the **U.S. Census Bureau**, more than 44 percent of Californians speak a language other than English at home. Similarly, a **Center for Immigration Studies** report found that more than 67 million households in the United States spoke a language other than English at home. "With new census data at hand for agencies to better understand the demographics of the populations they are currently serving and evolving technology, now is the time to enforce our nation's commitment to language access," the letter said.

Gov. **Gavin Newsom** announced on Feb. 11 that the state has made available \$38 million in new Homeless Youth Emergency Services and Housing Program grants for community-based organizations to support teens and young adults experiencing homelessness. "These grants will provide relief and emergency support to young people across California experiencing homelessness, who are too often left in dire situations to fend for themselves. We're providing immediate aid for those living on our streets—bringing resources and services directly to young people in need and helping them onto a path toward a stable future," Newsom said in a statement. The grants are being distributed through the **Office of Emergency Services** (Cal OES) to 12 community-based organizations from San Diego to Humboldt for local partners to provide access to a range of housing options that meet their needs, as well as mental health support with crisis intervention and stabilization services. "This funding represents an important lifeline in protecting some of the most vulnerable members of our communities," Cal OES Director **Mark Ghilarducci** said in a statement. "Through the partnership with these community-based organizations we are able to provide meaningful support and change lives." ○



Santa Barbara County rescinds indoor mask mandate

After analyzing recent data and looking at omicron's characteristics, Santa Barbara County Public Health officials decided to end the local indoor mask mandate effective Feb. 16, aligning with California Department of Public Health decisions.

"While the omicron variant has proved to be more transmissible than previous variants, it has also resulted in shorter periods of illness, fewer hospitalizations, and a lower death count for fully vaccinated community members," county Public Health officials told the *Sun* via email.

As of Feb. 14, Public Health data showed new cases dropped by 53 percent, active cases dropped by 49 percent, and hospitalizations dropped by 22 percent. About 67 percent of Santa Barbara County is fully vaccinated, and more than 768,000 doses had been administered.

Only unvaccinated individuals will be required to mask in all indoor public settings, and the county Public Health Department recommends that vaccinated people continue masking indoors. Universal mask requirements will stay enforced at hospitals, K-12 schools, child care centers, shelters, correctional facilities, and public transit, officials continued.

Lompoc Valley Medical Center Chief Executive Director Steve Popkin said this is a step in the right direction.

"Personally, I support it. I think it's time to make that change, and—based on observation—I don't think it will have a material negative impact on the situation. Ultimately we need to get as close to normal as possible, and [move] this from a pandemic to an endemic. The revising of this mandate is an appropriate step in that direction," Popkin told the *Sun*.

All hospital staff are still required to wear masks, and clinical staff can wear normal surgical masks if they have been vaccinated and boosted. Non-vaccinated staff need to wear N95 masks when providing clinical services to patients, he said.

Prior to the mask mandate ending, the Lompoc Valley Medical Center (LVMC) enforced a less restrictive visitor policy that allows two visitors per patient as long as they are fully vaccinated or present a negative COVID-19 test. Other than that, LVMC policies have not changed, Popkin said.

"I think for the foreseeable future, some type of masking will continue in a lot of areas within the hospital. Even before the pandemic, masks were used. Expanding that a little will still happen for quite some time, but I don't think it will be a hardship on employees or visitors to continue to do that," he said. Masking continues at the school level, too,

but Santa Maria-Bonita School District Public Information Officer Maggie White said via email that may change after county Public Health officials review the K-12 school masking policy on Feb. 28.

Right now, students aged 2 to 18 are required to mask up, regardless of vaccination status, but masks are optional in outdoor settings. Vaccinated staff will need to wear masks when students are present while inside, but aren't required to wear a mask unless children are present, White said.

In light of the policy changes, District Interim Superintendent Matt Beecher sent out a memo to families to avoid potential confusion.

"In shared spaces, we encourage our employees to be respectful and considerate of others. There may be a variety of reasons why individuals continue to wear a mask. We also encourage our staff to continue to practice health and safety guidance, such as hand washing, physical distancing, and staying home when sick," the memo stated. "This new guidance relates to mask wearing only. All other mitigation strategies continue in place, such as contact tracing, testing, and isolation [or] quarantine protocols."

—Taylor O'Connor

County planning commissioner calls Santa Ynez project appeal 'unmeritorious'

The Santa Barbara County Planning Commission doubled down on its approval of a two-story house's construction, after denying an appeal that put a half-year halt on the project.

In August of 2021, Thano and Kathy Adamson were granted a land use permit to construct a single-family home on their rural property on Alamo Pintado Road, just north of Ballard. Less than two weeks later, a farm owner across the street from the site filed an appeal, which consequently delayed construction of the house for six months.

During the Planning Commission's Feb. 9 meeting, the appellant, Jan Vandebos, said she has had unrelated, undisclosed quarrels with the Adamsons in the past and felt blindsided by their construction plans, which included the demolition of a barn to make way for the new house.

"We had no information on anything to do with the demolition, and I was actually on a horse the day that this happened," said Vandebos, who trains and rehabilitates injured and off-track racehorses on her farm. "I would just like to say, as a concerned neighbor, I think every person has the right to buy and build, as long as it's done legally and with some concern for the agriculture, the land, the neighbors, the animals—this is what makes our community so special." In her appeal, Vandebos criticized the permitted

demolition—which took place in June 2021—as disruptive and unlawful for multiple reasons, including her claim that it presented health risks related to asbestos.

According to the staff report, the Adamsons' demolition contractor confirmed that there were no asbestos-containing materials, such as drywall or vinyl, in the barn, and a demolition permit was obtained from the Building and Safety Division.

Vandebos also objected to the Adamsons' plans to build a swimming pool in the front yard of the proposed house, which she criticized as not conforming to Solvang's municipal code. Staff's rebuttal was that the project is not within the jurisdiction of Solvang, as it is located in the unincorporated Santa Ynez Valley.

The Adamsons' agent, Brett Jones of Jones Land Use Planning, spoke on behalf of his clients during the Feb. 9 meeting.

"I would just like to state how disappointing it is that the Adamsons have been delayed from the project, waiting six months to get to this hearing for an appeal that I believe doesn't have any merit whatsoever," Jones said.

Commissioner John Parke said that if Vandebos' accusations were heard during a litigation proceeding, her claims "would border on malicious prosecution."

"The county is spending thousands and thousands of dollars on this appeal, which I believe to be unmeritorious," Parke said, shortly before the Planning Commission unanimously voted to deny Vandebos' appeal.

—Caleb Wiseblood

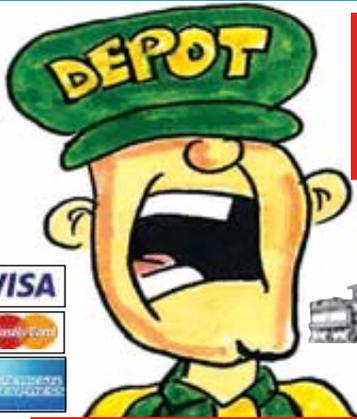
Shooting death of 17-year-old Santa Maria resident sparks community action

Santa Maria residents mourned the loss of 17-year-old Alexis Mendoza Raymundo on Feb. 10 by holding candles and signs and crying for "justicia," Rebekah Spicuglia—executive director for nonprofit One Community Action—recalled.

Mendoza Raymundo was shot and killed on Feb. 5 at the Santa Maria Mall Town Center parking lot, leaving behind his mother, a monolingual Spanish speaker, and three siblings ages 6, 7, and 13. Once Spicuglia heard of the tragedy, she said she looked for more information online and found the family's GoFundMe page, reached out and shared the information with other organizations, and then coordinated the vigil to honor Mendoza Raymundo.

"It's really important that we as a community come together to grieve the loss of life, to grieve the loss of a

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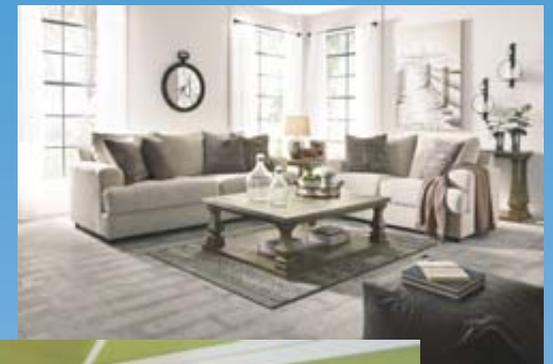
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NEWS from page 4

child, and to grieve injustice. We have a lot of work to do not just ensuring that our children make it to 18, but to ensure that they receive every opportunity," Spicuglia said.

One Community Action confronts systemic inequities and violence to create a safer, more inclusive community, according to its mission statement. After the shooting, Spicuglia contacted more than 30 different nonprofit and philanthropic organizations as well as government agencies to discuss youth safety issues in North County, she said.

"To have a boy shot and killed at the mall is in particular something that hits close to home for many people. It would be a tragedy anywhere in the city, but we believe that such a public place a block from City Hall with businesses around—and a regular gathering spot for young people—we expect safety to be a priority," Spicuglia said.

Santa Maria Police Department Lt. Russ Mengel told the *Sun* that the shooting is still under investigation, and the department can't comment at this time. Santa Maria Mayor Alice Patino also issued a statement about the incident.

"I express my condolences to the family and friends of 17-year-old Alexis Mendoza Raymundo. I ask the entire community to respect the family as they mourn their loss, and I ask the community to cooperate in the investigation with our Santa Maria Police Department," Patino said.

Spicuglia said she was disappointed in the response, and wants to see more culturally competent solutions from the city and Police Department moving forward.

"There's a heavy feeling of despair each time we lose another young person to violence, and it's because we don't see any progress. It doesn't appear that there's any plan, certainly not one that has engaged the community in what solutions we think would help the situation," she said.

Showing Up for Racial Justice Santa Maria Vice President Leslie McGorman echoed these concerns.

"It's not something for SURJ [Standing Up for Racial Justice] to notice, it's something our community partners tell us," McGorman said. "With the most recent death that happened, the family feels there won't be adequate attention paid to the investigation of the crime because he's Latino and the police assume there's gang involvement. What we've heard from our community partners is that there isn't equitable police attention paid to communities and also violent crimes."

She said she can't speak to whether that's true or not, but said that residents' negative view of the Police Department and the Santa Maria City Council demands attention.

"It's a perception for a reason, and that means it's a community issue. It isn't something that the police can dismiss, and similarly with government issues. If part of the community feels unheard, that is something we play a role in mitigating," McGorman continued.

The vigil was the first step toward collaborating on calls for justice, and SURJ plans to continue supporting other community organizations—like One Community Action—in future action, McGorman said.

Spicuglia at One Community Action said she's meeting with the recently contacted organizations in March to form a coalition for youth safety in response to the violence.

"We need to engage the community and the youth themselves in discussions on what we can do to make this area safer. Our young people need and deserve places to gather and have fun without fear," Spicuglia said. "We don't want to just ensure that our children make it to 18, but that they [also] feel a sense of belonging in our community, and are filled with pride and hope for the future." ○

—Taylor O'Connor

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7. **DEADLINE: All posters MUST be turned in by Friday, April 8, 2022, by 4:00 p.m., at the Santa Maria Regional Landfill located at 2065 East Main Street.** Only winning posters will be returned to students.

If not here, then where?

A county- and state-funded housing project proposed in Santa Maria exposes a bigger debate

BY TAYLOR O'CONNOR

A controversial plan to convert a Motel 6 on Santa Maria's East Main Street into permanent housing for the homeless led to questions about the city's ability to collaborate with Santa Barbara County on similar projects. Fifth District Santa Barbara County Supervisor Steve Lavagnino asked to pull the project from the Board of Supervisors' Jan. 25 consent agenda, saying that several city officials—including Santa Maria Mayor Alice Patino, Councilmember Etta Waterfield, and members of the Santa Maria Police Department—opposed the project because the city didn't have the opportunity to present it to community members.

"We could continue to apply for the money, but I have come to believe without the city and the county working together, it's just not going to happen," Lavagnino said.

The Project Homekey project—led by the Santa Barbara County Housing Authority—aims to use nearly \$18 million in state funding and \$3.5 million from the county to renovate the Motel 6 into 75 residential units with six other rooms for resource offices and community spaces, according to the county staff report.

Santa Maria resident Andy Caldwell expressed his opposition to the project during public comment.

"I've never—in my 30 years here—seen the county launch a project with this potential for controversy without collaborating and consulting with the affected party. In this case, Santa Maria would lose bed tax and property tax," Caldwell said. "The collegial thing to do, the respectful thing to do, is you should have asked first. This should have been agendized on the City Council prior."

Lavagnino responded to Caldwell's comments by explaining that there was a Jan. 31 deadline to apply for the state funding at a regional level. Missing that deadline would mean that the county has to compete with jurisdictions across the state for leftover funding.

"We did go speak with the city and hear their concerns, but the problem I see is there's no solution or easy answer. If the Motel 6 on Main

is not the place, then I don't know where it is," Lavagnino said. "We have to deal with these folks; we have to build—or remodel something that's an existing building—to deal with the situation."

Santa Maria City Councilmember Carlos Escobedo spoke during public comment, asking the county not to end the discussion.

"It's one of the items that should be a conversation within the City Council meeting, and it's worth having this in our agenda. I would like you guys not to close this opportunity," Escobedo said.

The item returned to the board's agenda on Feb. 1, and the application for funding included a letter of support from the city. While this project did make the state's Jan. 31 deadline, Lavagnino told the *Sun* that he remained concerned about the potential for future collaboration between the city and the county.

The project

Project Homekey's mission is to increase the supply of affordable housing in California by administering programs that provide grants and loans from both state and federal housing programs, according to California's Department of Housing and Community Development website.

Homekey serves veterans, seniors, young families, people with disabilities, farmworkers, and individuals and families who are experiencing homelessness, the website states. The funding the county recently applied for is the second round of Homekey funding since the program started in 2020.

The Santa Barbara County Housing Authority—which operates as a separate entity from the county government and monitors several local affordable housing projects—is the Motel 6 project applicant. The Housing Authority currently oversees three affordable housing sites in Santa Maria and seven total in the county, said John Polansky, the county Housing Authority's director of housing development.

"[For] the second round of Homekey, we sent out feelers to the various brokers and came back with two prospective sites: the Super 8 in Goleta and the Motel 6 in Santa Maria. We were really

The homeless issue seems like it's going unaddressed, and it's impacting the residents of Santa Maria.'

—Fifth District Supervisor Steve Lavagnino



DIVIDED: Santa Maria and the county have different approaches to the issue of housing the homeless.

happy that we had both a North and South County property—that would be great because the need is in both parts," Polansky said.

The Housing Authority is responsible for the coordinating services, but the city can provide services if it likes, he added.

"We look for whatever level of support from the city and from the police department in making sure people understand we want a safe and secure environment for everybody," Polansky said. "We're still working with the city of Santa Maria."

Back and forth

Lavagnino said he's still working to get the Santa Maria City Council on board with the project, adding that he sees a complex road to collaboration.

"The city has a very skeptical eye when it comes to the county wanting to help. I don't think their values align with the county values, so they are prone to be very skeptical any time that we try to collaborate," Lavagnino said. "We've just run into the city of Santa Maria doing things differently than the county does, and they like it that way. There's just not a lot of collaboration, I'd say."

Santa Maria Mayor Patino said city staff is concerned about the project's success because previous affordable housing renovation projects—like The Residences at Depot Street—have had eviction issues, criminal activity, and neighborhood disturbances, and the city fears the problems will repeat themselves at a different location.

"I would have been going against my duty if I hadn't raised concerns," Patino told the *Sun*. "We asked [the county] to go through the process as any other agency would, to make an application and go

through the Planning Commission to rezone the property. The bottom line is the people of Santa Maria need to weigh in on this. I don't think the [county] government should just do this."

Patino said the city has not had the best information available, and is looking forward to further discussion for better understanding, and—hopefully—solutions.

"It's going to be a mixed reaction, but you'll find that people in Santa Maria are very compassionate and caring people that take the way they treat other human beings very seriously," she said.

Lavagnino said the county adhered to the city's requests, and the decision will ultimately fall onto the city officials.

"We are going to give them the veto power. If they vote to move forward, we will invest county dollars, but if the city leaders don't want that, that's fine as well. We will find another area to spend our dollars in the unincorporated areas of the county," he said.

As of Feb. 11, there isn't a date set for the county to present the project before the City Council, but Lavagnino said it will have to be within the next month.

"That also gives the opportunity for the public to weigh in as well. ... The public will have the chance to speak at the City Council meeting, but at the end of the day, it's going to be a decision of the City Council," Lavagnino said. "There's no golden choice, it's not one [location] is better than the other, but I can't live with the status quo. The homeless issue seems like it's going unaddressed, and it's impacting the residents of Santa Maria."

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

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Housing and justice

Santa Barbara County's One Climate Initiative focuses on new planning elements with a goal of environmental justice

BY TAYLOR O'CONNOR

Santa Barbara County started the One Climate Initiative in 2020 to bring planners together to tackle major issues tied to climate change, according to county Planning and Development Senior Planner Zoë Carlson.

"I like to think of One Climate as an umbrella of all our different planning elements. We are all moving forward concurrently with our different planning efforts. One Climate is the umbrella that helps us move forward," Carlson said.

Now, the planners are adding an environmental justice element to the program: an initiative that will identify strategies to reduce pollution exposure, improve air quality, and promote access to public facilities, healthy foods, and safe and sanitary homes for those experiencing persistent environmental health disparities, she continued.

"Environmental justice is defined as the fair treatment of all people with respect to the adoption of policies," Carlson said. "The environmental justice element will look at our policies and programs, and how we can ensure that we are treating people fairly."

She explained that the first component of this element is understanding where Santa Barbara County's low-income communities are located because they are disproportionately impacted by environmental burdens due to their income status.

Heavily impacted communities were identified through the Santa Barbara County Climate Change Vulnerability Assessment—a multi-year assessment to improve local communities' ability to adapt to changing conditions—according to previous *Sun* reporting.

"We call them environmental justice communities because they have this unique combination of environmental burdens and low economic opportunity," Carlson added. "Within each of these communities, we are going to communicate with them to see how we can develop new policies—or adjust existing policies—in light of their needs as they relate to environmental justice."

Carlson and her fellow planners are working on mapping methodology for the community identification process and will be asking for public review in the near future, she said.

The second state-required addition

to the comprehensive plan is a housing element—which will identify potential undeveloped or underdeveloped locations, and update zoning policies and housing programs to ensure the county can meet future regional housing needs for all income levels, according to One County Initiative press materials.

Housing Element Project Manager Jessi Steele said the state passed down a housing goal to build 6,000 new housing units between 2024 to 2032—almost 10 times more than the current plan's goal of 661 new units.

"We are looking at a lot of innovative ways to facilitate those housing units. We are trying to connect with groups that have been historically underserved in the funding process," Steele said.

Housing and environmental justice coincide because they promote equitable access to safe and sanitary communities, Steele said.

"The environmental justice and housing teams are really trying to align our goals, projects, and programs with the county's goals for climate action," she said.

These collaborative efforts are crucial because climate change touches every aspect of people's lives, Climate Program Manager Garrett Wong added.

"Climate change is one frame that addresses community concerns, but it is a complicated and multifaceted topic, especially if you don't have the time, awareness, or the resources to participate," Wong said.

Tackling a subject like climate change presents many internal and external



EQUITABLE ACCESS: Water access to sources like Lake Cachuma, where water levels continue to drop, is a concern for Santa Barbara County's One Climate Initiative.

challenges, he continued.

"[Externally], not everyone thinks climate change is a pressing issue and it's not something the government should be acting on—local governments should do what they can within their own authority," Wong said, explaining challenges the program faces.

Within his own work, there are five action plans that could result in new policies and project work with certain priorities that need to get managed and coordinated, he continued.

"Another way I like to think about it is it creates more opportunities for us to be creative and collaborate and work together. ... Some of it is driven by ensuring we are protecting our communities and [ensuring] a safe future for everyone," Wong said.

People can sign up for One Climate Initiative's monthly newsletter that highlights community resources, activities, and events associated with these projects. To learn more and sign up, visit countyofsb.org/oneclimate.

Highlight

• Santa Maria Recreation and Parks Department and the Access to Motion Dance Company are offering a variety of new dance classes at the Minami Community Center—600 West Enos Drive. Ballet, lyrical dance, hip-hop, tap, jazz-funk, and creative movement will be taught by instructors from Access to Motion Dance Company including owner A.C. Williams. Dance fitness classes are available for ages 3 to 16, and the first day of class is March 1. Classes will be held on Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Saturdays from March to May; prices range from \$40 to \$60 per month for each class. Advance registration is required and can be done at cityofsantamaria.org/register. Questions may be directed to the Recreation and Parks Department at (805) 925-0951, Ext. 2260. ○

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

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DEATH NOTICES

ACAÏN, BASILIO, 88, of Los Osos passed away 2/6/2022 arrangements with Los Osos Valley Mortuary & Memorial Park

ALVES, DANIEL F., 80, formerly of Santa Maria passed away 2/10/2022 arrangements with Magner Maloney Funeral Home

ARRIOLA, JANET L., 65, of Santa Maria passed away 2/9/2022 arrangements with Dudley-Hoffman Mortuary, Crematory & Memory Gardens

BALDERAMA, EDWINA, 89, of Santa Maria passed away 2/5/2022 arrangements with Dudley-Hoffman Mortuary, Crematory & Memory Gardens

BEGTZOS, PAUL JOHN, 85, of Paso Robles, passed away 2/3/2022 arrangements with Chapel of the Roses

DEPEW, ALBERT JAMES, 78, of Lompoc passed away 2/1/2022 arrangements with Starbuck-Lind Mortuary

DILLE, DONALD KEITH, 86, of Los Osos passed away 2/6/2022 arrangements with Los Osos Valley Mortuary & Memorial Park

DORSEY, CHRISTOPHER, 61, passed away 2/1/2022 arrangements with Reis Family Mortuary & Crematory

DUNAETZ, SAMUEL H., 86, of Lompoc passed away 2/5/2022 arrangements with Starbuck-Lind Mortuary

GREGORY, WILLIAM R. "BOB", 92, formerly of San Luis Obispo, passed away 2/6/2022 arrangements with Marshall Spoo Sunset Funeral Chapel

HEIZENRADER, SANDRA, 87, passed away 2/4/2022 arrangements with Reis Family Mortuary & Crematory

HERNANDEZ, ARTHUR S., 84, of Santa Maria passed away 2/6/2022 arrangements with Dudley-Hoffman Mortuary, Crematory & Memory Gardens

HOOKS, FRANCES, 92, of San Luis Obispo passed away 2/11/2022 arrangements with Blue Sky Cremation Service

JOHNSON, SUE, 85, of Santa Maria passed away 2/4/2022 arrangements with Dudley-Hoffman Mortuary, Crematory & Memory Gardens

KILLION, LEWIS EMMITT, 87, of San Luis Obispo passed away 2/6/2022 arrangements with Chapel of the Roses

LAPLANTE, JOHN, 92, of Morro Bay passed away 2/3/2022 arrangements with Blue Sky Cremation Service

LEARY, "TENNEY" HORTENSE, 101, of Lompoc passed away 2/3/2022 arrangements with Starbuck-Lind Mortuary

LIMON, IRENE BARBA, 89, passed away 1/19/2022 arrangements with Reis Family Mortuary & Crematory

LOWE, HAROLD ROBERT, 102, passed away 1/30/2022 arrangements with Reis Family Mortuary & Crematory

MC CANN, RON PAUL, 51, of Santa Maria passed away 2/8/2022 arrangements with Dudley-Hoffman Mortuary, Crematory & Memory Gardens

MOORE, THOMAS, 58, of Paso Robles passed away 2/13/2022 arrangements with Blue Sky Cremation Service

MUNOZ, RANDABETH "RANDY MURPHREE", 94, of Santa Maria passed away 2/8/2022 arrangements with Dudley-Hoffman Mortuary, Crematory & Memory Gardens

NICCOLI, MARY JANE, 87, of Santa Maria passed away 2/3/2022 arrangements with Dudley-Hoffman Mortuary, Crematory & Memory Gardens

OLIVEIRA, CAROL, 79, of Lompoc passed away 2/6/2022 arrangements with Starbuck-Lind Mortuary

PENA, SOC, 77, of Pismo Beach passed away 2/5/2022 arrangements with Marshall Spoo Sunset Funeral Chapel

PICKENS, JAMES, 85, Templeton passed away 2/7/2022 arrangements with Blue Sky Cremation Service

PRICE, KATHRYN, 73, of Paso Robles passed away 2/12/2022 arrangements with Blue Sky Cremation Service

PUETT, DONALD LEROY, 71, of Morro Bay passed away 2/4/2022 arrangements with Los Osos Valley Mortuary & Memorial Park

RUIZ-STEEL, DEBORAH, 64, of Los Osos passed away 2/7/2022 arrangements with Los Osos Valley Mortuary & Memorial Park

SCHWARZKOPF, ROBERT LEE, 81, of Santa Maria passed away 2/11/2022 arrangements with Dudley-Hoffman Mortuary, Crematory & Memory Gardens

SHIFFER, SHIRLEY, 84, of Atascadero passed away 2/1/2022 arrangements with Blue Sky Cremation Service

SILVA, LINDA BROWN, 78, of Atascadero passed away 2/8/2022 arrangements with Blue Sky Cremation Service

STEPHANS, LINDA SUE, 77, of Lompoc passed away 1/10/2022 arrangements with Starbuck-Lind Mortuary

STRIEGEL, PATRICK R., 73, of Santa Maria passed away 2/3/2022 arrangements with Dudley-Hoffman Mortuary, Crematory & Memory Gardens

STUART, DIANA, 63, of Arroyo Grande passed away 2/4/2022 arrangements with Marshall Spoo Sunset Funeral Chapel

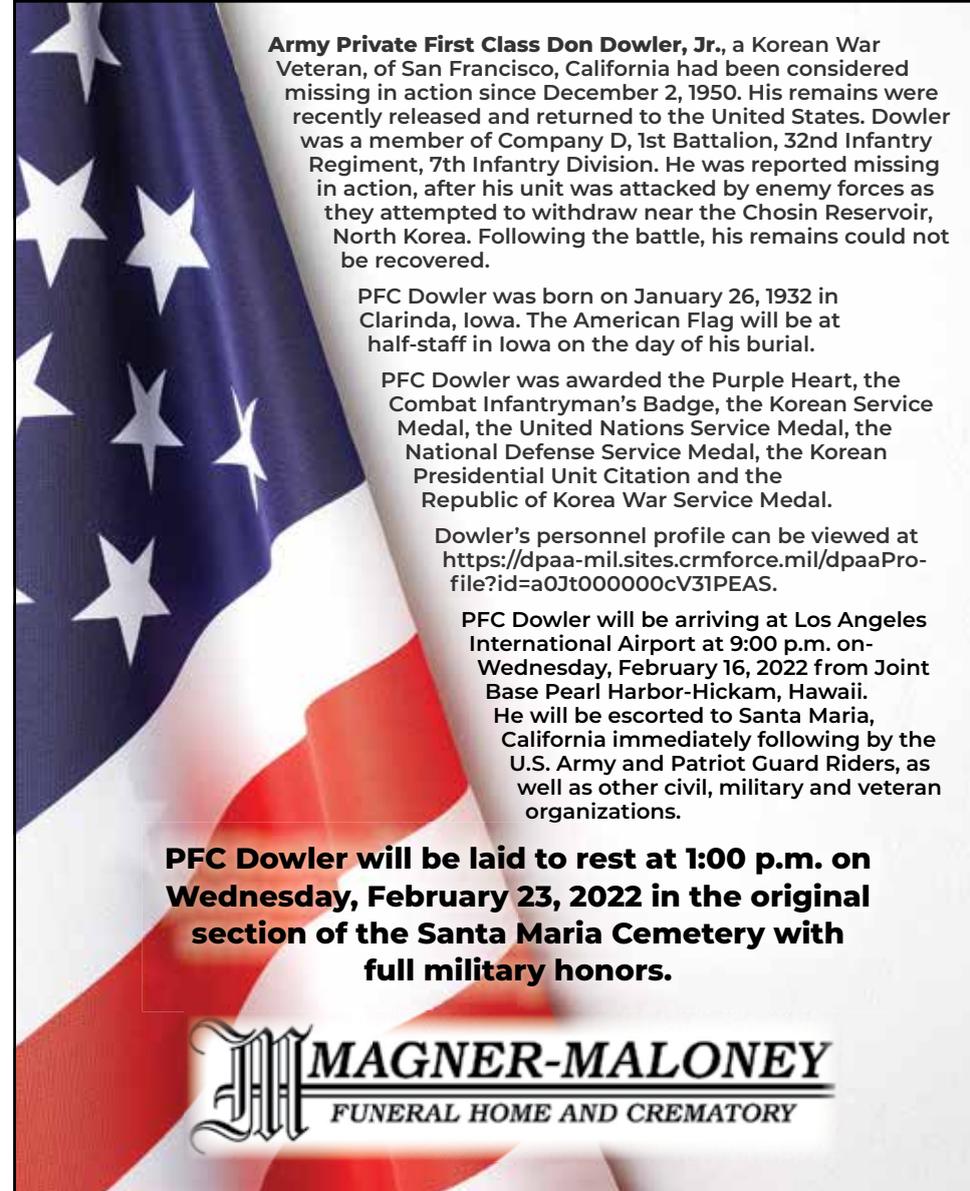
SUMMERS, JOHN, 88, of Paso Robles passed away 2/8/2022 arrangements with Blue Sky Cremation Service

TORRES, ESPERANZA FARIAS, 94, of Nipomo passed away 2/11/2022 arrangements with Dudley-Hoffman Mortuary, Crematory & Memory Gardens

WILDE, KEITH REYNOLD, 92, of Santa Maria passed away 2/5/2022 arrangements with Dudley-Hoffman Mortuary, Crematory & Memory Gardens

WILLIAMS, BEATRICE, 67, of Casmalia passed away 2/6/2022 arrangements with Dudley-Hoffman Mortuary, Crematory & Memory Gardens

WINTJEN, RICHARD J., 70, of Santa Maria passed away 2/12/2022 arrangements with Magner Maloney Funeral Home



Army Private First Class Don Dowler, Jr., a Korean War Veteran, of San Francisco, California had been considered missing in action since December 2, 1950. His remains were recently released and returned to the United States. Dowler was a member of Company D, 1st Battalion, 32nd Infantry Regiment, 7th Infantry Division. He was reported missing in action, after his unit was attacked by enemy forces as they attempted to withdraw near the Chosin Reservoir, North Korea. Following the battle, his remains could not be recovered.

PFC Dowler was born on January 26, 1932 in Clarinda, Iowa. The American Flag will be at half-staff in Iowa on the day of his burial.

PFC Dowler was awarded the Purple Heart, the Combat Infantryman's Badge, the Korean Service Medal, the United Nations Service Medal, the National Defense Service Medal, the Korean Presidential Unit Citation and the Republic of Korea War Service Medal.

Dowler's personnel profile can be viewed at <https://dpaa-mil.sites.crmforce.mil/dpaaProfile?id=a03t000000cV31PEAS>.

PFC Dowler will be arriving at Los Angeles International Airport at 9:00 p.m. on Wednesday, February 16, 2022 from Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, Hawaii. He will be escorted to Santa Maria, California immediately following by the U.S. Army and Patriot Guard Riders, as well as other civil, military and veteran organizations.

PFC Dowler will be laid to rest at 1:00 p.m. on Wednesday, February 23, 2022 in the original section of the Santa Maria Cemetery with full military honors.

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Online Poll

What is your favorite part of weddings?

- 61% Having friends and family all gathered in one place.
- 23% Being in a beautiful location for the day.
- 8% Enjoying the free food and beverages.
- 8% I don't like weddings.

13 Votes

Vote online at www.santamariasun.com.

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We welcome submissions. Please accompany them with a self-addressed, stamped envelope. All letters to the editor become the property of the Sun.

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Not a good example

Santa Maria leaders should follow all the rules, including their own

BY GALE MCNEELEY

There is a sign, topped with the city's logo, posted on Santa Maria city buildings. It says: ATTENTION in capital letters, and shows the picture of a mask. It then says, in capitals: MASKS ARE REQUIRED INSIDE CITY FACILITIES. This is followed by the words: "Thank you for your cooperation."

Mayor Alice Patino and Councilmember Etta Waterfield do not follow this city directive. They have not worn masks for meetings in the City Council chambers since our country was locked down in March of 2020.

Leaders must never set rules for others they refuse to follow themselves.

Wearing a mask indoors means that you respect all the people around you, wishing not to harm them in any way. The federal government, state, county, and city of Santa Maria direct us in how to

be safe ourselves, and to keep those around us safe.

As leaders, what we do is more important than what we say. If our behavior is selfish and thoughtless, that is the standard we set for others. True leadership is putting the needs of others before our own.

We live in a free country, but we are not free to put others in danger of infection. We are free to make private decisions in our private lives. We are not free to make harmful decisions in our public lives. Leaders are elected to do the right thing, whether it is convenient or not.

It would be unfortunate if the actions of the mayor and Ms. Waterfield led to their being infected by the virus. It would be criminal if their actions infected others, or if people in Santa Maria followed their example in stores, restaurants, and other public buildings. Close to a million Americans have died of this virus. Many of those refused to wear masks.

It does not matter what justification leaders use for not wearing a mask. It is time for them to put their personal beliefs aside, and to lead by example. Time for them to reassure the people who elected them that they are doing all they can to keep everyone in Santa Maria safe and healthy.

It is time for them to obey the directives of the federal, state, and county government, and city rules they have posted on their public buildings.

Remember, these are the same two leaders who voted against waiving library fines for the month of January. Etta Waterfield gave this reason:

"They're finding a way to get what they want to use, but they can't find a way to bring it back. That's responsibility, and we've got to set the rules." She said this in the City Council chambers, while not wearing a mask, despite the city's mandate for facial coverings inside city facilities.

If the mayor and Ms. Waterfield continue to break federal, state, county, and Santa Maria rules, as citizens we can file a complaint with the county Public Health Department. Isn't it time we held them to account? ○

Gale McNeeley writes to the Sun from Santa Maria. Send a response to the editor at clanham@santamariasun.com, or submit a letter for publication to letters@santamariasun.com.

LETTERS

Federal pandemic aid falls short of helping seniors and the disabled

While it is commendable that the Biden administration has done much to aid families with children and those seeking work with the recently passed infrastructure bill and stimulus checks, that aid did nothing to help the elderly living on Social Security or the disabled who cannot work.

Even if the Build Back Better bill is passed by Congress, that will also do nothing to help seniors. The last state stimulus check of \$600 was only distributed to Californians who filed taxes with the IRS. As a senior living meagerly on my monthly check, I implore other seniors to raise their voices and make their representatives aware of this issue, and hopefully the representatives can let the president know he is forgetting a critical voting bloc.

Thank you for your attention to this.

Joseph Cortez
Santa Maria

Los Alamos is being subjected to development without planning

Los Alamos is a small town that relies on the county for governance. But we have been suffering under its bureaucracy and its unwillingness to admit obvious shortcomings of a development plan. And the county disbanded our planning advisory committee that might have reviewed this poorly conceived development project.

More than 200 residents have signed a petition requesting that Planning and Development take community safety into account and reevaluate the plan. This unwise development scheme has reached another stage now. And there is a new legal wrinkle.

First, a brief recap. A developer wants 12 dwellings on his 1 1/2 acre lot—six without garages. After opting not to do a study, Planning and Development advanced patently low estimates of additional traffic. It ignores the effects of a one-lane bottleneck and of illegal parking obstructing emergency vehicles on the fire lane.

At December's Planning Commission hearing, two of five commissioners had conflicts of interest... the chairman himself admitted having bought

Speak up!

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a home from the developer, and another having multiple business dealings with the developer, Mr. Ruffino. Neither commissioner recused. Prior to the hearing, four had spoken with the developer, and the majority had met with Ruffino and his agent on at least two to three occasions. However, only two had accepted an invitation to hear our viewpoint and concerns.

Also remarkable and confounding is Planning and Development's lack of candor with regard to the developer's right of access to a private road that the county requires us homeowners to maintain. The county document that is claimed to give access to the developer only applies to half the road. This

is a setup for unauthorized use of all of the road—and a flashpoint for future conflict. And there are still costly liability concerns the county transportation engineer dismisses regarding accident or injury at the one-lane bottleneck.

So what's new? The Board of Supervisors will hear this case and new legal findings in March. We hope they will take a fresh look and apply their wisdom. For the sake of safety and the preservation of a neighborhood, access to the project needs to be reconfigured. A small town simply asks to be respected.

Seth Steiner
Los Alamos



Right solution?

Santa Barbara County and Santa Maria are fighting over the homeless and a Motel 6. At least, that's the simple version of the story.

The real story goes back many years but comes down to ideological differences and what Santa Maria believes is best for the city. Mayor Alice Patino, City Councilmember Etta Waterfield, and others don't think the Motel 6 on East Main Street should be converted into housing units for homeless people with wraparound social services. You know, the whole, "It's not the right place," refrain (Hear that one before!). And the Housing Authority of Santa Barbara County does.

But to make it happen, the city and county need to become better communicators—like any couple in a marriage on the rocks. And Fifth District Santa Barbara County Supervisor Steve Lavagnino, who lives in Santa Maria, is skeptical about the county and city's ability to make that happen.

"The city has a very skeptical eye when it comes to the county wanting to help. I don't think their values align with the county values, so they are prone to be very skeptical any time that we try to collaborate," Lavagnino said. "We've just run into the city of Santa Maria doing things differently than the county does, and they like it that way."

Umm. That's an understatement! I don't think I've heard any government on the Central Coast complain more about state and county government policies than the folks on the Santa Maria City Council. Also, it's hard to align with county values when the majority of the work that's being done filters through government buildings on the south

(liberal) end of the county.

The bottom line, Mayor Patino said, is that the county should go through city planning processes just like any other project would, and it hasn't yet. But the Board of Supervisors' agenda item that sparked all of this negative naysaying was simply to apply for funding on the project, and that application was due by Jan. 31. Although it was a tight squeeze, the county and city managed to come to enough of an understanding to actually apply for \$18 million in state funding for the project.

The project's definitely not out of the woods, yet—as Housing Authority Director of Housing Development John Polansky said, "We're still working with the city of Santa Maria."

It seems that Santa Maria isn't too keen on Housing Authority projects of this nature, accusing the organization's currently operating affordable housing projects of having criminal activity and neighborhood disturbances. Patino said the city is looking forward to more discussions, understanding, and solutions.

"It's going to be a mixed reaction, but you'll find that people in Santa Maria are very compassionate and caring people that take the way they treat other human beings very seriously," she said.

OK. Great! Unfortunately "compassionate and caring" can only get you so far when it comes to addressing the complicated problems associated with homelessness.

Lavagnino wants action, people! He's frustrated, sick of the status quo, and believes that one location isn't necessarily better than another.

"The homeless issue seems like it's going unaddressed, and it's impacting the residents of Santa Maria," he said. ○

The Canary thinks Steve Lavagnino is right. Send thoughts to canary@santamariasun.com.



Santa Barbara County is running out of water.

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

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

HOT STUFF

FEB. 17 – FEB. 24
2022



POURING PLAZA

The Garagiste Wine Festival holds its tasting events at the Solvang Veterans' Memorial Hall on Friday, Feb. 25, and Saturday, Feb. 26. Tickets to the festival, which will showcase more than 150 wines from local micro-production wineries, are available in advance at my805tix.com. Visit garagistefestival.com for more info. The Solvang Veterans' Memorial Hall is located at 1745 Mission Drive, Solvang.

—Caleb Wiseblood

FILE PHOTO COURTESY OF THE GARAGISTE WINE FESTIVAL

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 Elverhoj Way, Solvang.

LAUGH THERAPY-STAND UP COMEDY 2022 Featuring headliner Laura Hayden, along with fellow comedians Charlene Prunier, Sal España, and David Uhlfelder. Hosted by Paco Zamora. **Feb. 23**, 8 p.m. my805tix.com. Maverick Saloon, 3687 Sagunto St., Santa Ynez, 805-686-4785.

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

SANTA MARIA VALLEY/LOS ALAMOS

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. 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.

SCREENING AND DISCUSSION OF DOLORES Please join us for a special screening of *Dolores* presented by PCPA. This documentary film is about the labor and feminist icon, Dolores Huerta. A bilingual discussion will be led by PCPA artist/educator, Marilet Martinez. No registration required. **Feb. 22**, 4 p.m. Free. 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. ongoing 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. LiA Creative Community, 1147 East Grand Ave. suite 101, Arroyo Grande.

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

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-twyyil. LiA 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. ongoing \$210 per month. actorsedge.com. Online. See website, San Luis Obispo.

ART CENTRAL'S FIFTH ANNUAL FUNDRAISING GARAGE SALE Come and browse through gently used art supplies, generously donated by local artists. All proceeds go towards creating scholarships for graduating local high school students continuing their art studies in college. In partnership with Morro Bay Art Association. Items available for cash only. **Feb. 21-26**, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Free. 805-747-4200. artcentralslo.com/. Art Central, 1329 Monterey St., San Luis Obispo.

ARTIST TALK WITH ERIN LEANN MITCHEL Join artist Erin LeAnn Mitchell and SLOMA Chief Curator Emma Saperstein for an informal Q-and-A about Mitchell's practice at large and the concept behind her new piece at the Museum. Limited to 40 people, please RSVP at mwaters@sloma.org **Feb. 23**, 5-6 p.m. Free. 805-543-8562. sloma.org/. San Luis Obispo Museum of Art, 1010 Broad St., San Luis Obispo.

CAL POLY THEATRE AND DANCE: WORKING This 2012 Musical Revival amplifies the American worker's story, highlighting the hopes, dreams, dignity, and sense of purpose shared by the modern workforce. Based on Pulitzer prize-winning author Studs Terkel's best-selling book. **Feb. 24**, 8-10 p.m., **Feb. 25**, 8-10 p.m., **Feb. 26**, 8-10 p.m. and **Feb. 27**, 2-3 p.m. \$12-\$20. 805-756-7556. pacslo.org. Performing Arts Center, 1 Grand Ave., San Luis Obispo.

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

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.

INDEX

Arts	12
Culture & Lifestyle.....	18
Food & Drink.....	18
Music	20

FAIG AHMED: COLLISION SLOMA is pleased to present a solo exhibition of prolific contemporary artist Faig Ahmed. From his studio in Baku, Azerbaijan, Ahmed creates textile works that transcend and transform the history of carpet making in the region. Through May 15, 11 a.m.-5 p.m. Free. 805-543-8562. San Luis Obispo Museum of Art, 1010 Broad St., San Luis Obispo, sloma.org/.

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

IN THE MOMENT An exhibition featuring members of The Painters Group. These paintings represent specific moments that at first glance appear mundane but in actuality reflect profound realities of the artist's lives. Through March 27 Free. 805-543-8562. sloma.org/exhibition/tpg-2022/. San Luis Obispo Museum of Art, 1010 Broad St., San Luis Obispo.

LEARN TO WEAVE MONDAYS An opportunity to learn how a four-shaft loom works. You will get acquainted as a new weaver or as a refresher with lots of tips and tricks. This class includes getting to know a loom, how to prepare/dress a loom, and much much more. Mondays, 1-4 p.m. \$75 monthly. 805-441-8257. Patricia Martin: Whispering Vista Studios, 224 Squire Canyon Rd, San Luis Obispo, patriciamartinartist.com.

LEARN TO WEAVE WEEKEND A weaving weekend-long series with lots of tips and tricks. This class includes getting to know a loom, how to prepare/dress a loom, understand the terminology, and weave a scarf. **Feb. 19** and **Feb. 20** \$225. 805-441-8257. Patricia Martin: Whispering Vista Studios, 224 Squire Canyon Rd, San Luis Obispo, patriciamartinartist.com.

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

THE MET LIVE IN HD: VERDI'S RIGOLETTO The Met rings in the new year with the gala premiere of a bold new take on Verdi's timeless tragedy from Bartlett Sher. The Tony Award-winning director resets the opera's action in 1920s Europe. **Feb. 20**, 2-5:30 p.m. \$12-\$22. 805-756-7556. pacslo.org. Performing Arts Center, 1 Grand Ave., San Luis Obispo.

NEW ARTISTS AT SLO GALLERY SLO Gallery welcomes new painters, photographers, crafters and sculptors to the gallery, now under new management by the Central Coast Artists Collective. Thursdays-Sundays, 12-4 p.m. through Feb. 27 centralcoastartistscollective.org. SLO Gallery, 1019 Broad Street, San Luis Obispo, 805-926-5050.

ARTS continued page 17

SUBMIT YOUR EVENTS

Santa Maria.
Philharmonic
SOCIETY

*Listen
Local
Live*



Under the direction of
MAESTRO
MICHAEL NOWAK

OUR SEASON CONTINUES

CONCERTS WITH FULL ORCHESTRAS

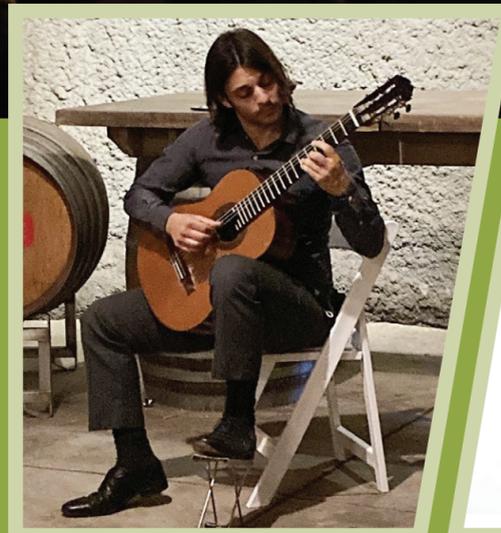
FREE FAMILY CONCERT

FREE MUSIC AT THE LIBRARY SERIES

The Santa Maria Philharmonic Society

is dedicated to bringing the joy and excitement of live classical music to the Santa Maria Valley through superb concerts and an array of opportunities for youth and families. Through our concerts and youth programs we are building a future for musicians and music lovers of all ages.

*Nurturing a passion for music as we
Listen Local Live together again*



Even when live concerts were not possible due to lockdowns, our patrons and friends were able to Listen Local (almost) Live through the SMPS's **First Fridays at Four** series of recordings on our YouTube channel, featuring small groups of musicians playing in special intimate settings in Santa Maria and environs.

Our first live concert with an audience for the 2021-22 season was presented at the Cottonwood Winery in August 2021. This was followed by our first full orchestra concert of the season in September and our holiday concert in December.

And our season continues ... the Phil is BACK!

STILL TO COME THIS SPRING

Santa Maria Philharmonic SOCIETY
2021-22 SEASON
RETURNING LIVE UNDER THE DIRECTION OF
MAESTRO MICHAEL NOWAK

February 26, 2022

Peace and Tranquility
PASTORAL LANDSCAPES

Listen Local Live

Dvorak: From the Bohemian Forest, No. 5 "Silent Woods"
Tchaikovsky: Variations on a Rococo Theme
Rossini: Tancredi Overture
Haydn: Symphony No. 104 "London"



Jacob Braun, Cello

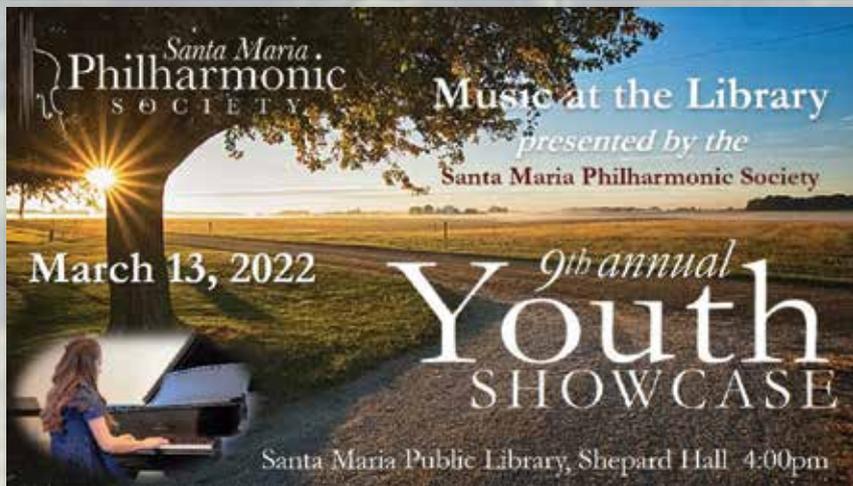
Santa Maria Philharmonic SOCIETY

Music at the Library
presented by the
Santa Maria Philharmonic Society

March 13, 2022

9th annual
Youth Showcase

Santa Maria Public Library, Shepard Hall 4:00pm



Santa Maria Philharmonic SOCIETY

A FREE Family Concert
that celebrates Science, Technology,
Imagination, and the Arts

Fly Me to The Moon
FROM J.S. BACH TO MR. SPOCK

4:00 pm on Sunday
MARCH 27, 2022

Pacific Christian Center




Santa Maria Philharmonic SOCIETY
2021-22 SEASON
RETURNING LIVE UNDER THE DIRECTION OF
MAESTRO MICHAEL NOWAK

April 30, 2022

Soaring.
Masterpieces
FATE AND DESTINY

Listen Local Live

Verdi: La Forza del Destino Overture
Copland: A Lincoln Portrait
Beethoven: Violin Concerto

Roger Wilkie, Violin

David Selby, Narrator




You are Cordially Invited
to a **Garden Party**
Celebrating Classical Music in Santa Maria
at the Santa Maria Inn
Santa Maria Philharmonic SOCIETY
May 14, 2022




santamariaphil.org

Santa Maria Philharmonic Society - PO Box 375, Santa Maria, CA 93456-0375 - (805) 925 0412

info@santamariaphilharmonic.org

 Santa Maria Philharmonic Society

NOBLES AMONG US: MATERIAL THOUGHTS ON A POETIC ECOLOGY A solo exhibition of artwork by Sommer Roman, whose work aims to evoke a sense of wonder about life and our relationship to "other," and furthermore, recalls the essential mutuality between plant, animal, and human that is core to our aliveness. Mondays-Fridays, 11 a.m.-4 p.m. through April 1 Free. 805-546-3202. cuستا.edu/student/campuslife/artgallery/. Harold J. Miossi Gallery, Highway 1, San Luis Obispo.

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

SLO COMEDY FESTIVAL: BEST OF THE FEST Bringing you the best performers from the entire festival. Audience members from Saturday vote for their favorite comedians to be on this show. **Feb. 27**, 7:30-9:30 p.m. \$37. 805-756-7556. paclo.org. Performing Arts Center, 1 Grand Ave., San Luis Obispo.

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

PHOTO COURTESY OF PATRICIA MARTIN



DREAM WEAVING

Learn to Weave Weekend, a weekend-long workshop series, takes place at Whispering Vista Studios in SLO on Saturday, Feb. 19, and Sunday, Feb. 20. Weaving instructor Patricia Martin will share a variety of weaving tips and tricks in the series, during which participants will weave their own scarves. Admission is \$225. Call (805) 441-8257 or visit patriciamartinartist.com for more info. Whispering Vista Studios is located at 224 Squire Canyon Road, San Luis Obispo.

—C.W.

NORTH SLO COUNTY

DEPRISE BRESCIA ART GALLERY: OPEN DAILY

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

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

NORTH COAST SLO COUNTY

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.

AQUARIUS 2022 ACMB is proud to host the Central Coast Watercolor Society's annual art exhibit, Aquarius 2022. Frank Eber will be the juror and judge of awards for this exceptional art exhibit. In addition, Mr. Eber will hold a 2-day watercolor workshop on Feb. 28. **Feb. 24-April 4**, 12-4 p.m. 805-772-2504. artcentermorrobay.org/

index.php/upcoming-exhibits/. Art Center Morro Bay, 835 Main St., Morro Bay.

ART AND ABOUT MORRO BAY Join us for Art and About Morro Bay, 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 a map of locations. (Events will not occur on major holidays). Fourth Saturday of every month, 1-4 p.m. Free. 805-544-9251. artsobispo.org/art-and-about. Morro Bay (participating artists), Townwide, Morro Bay.

ART ON THE PATIO Features a live pastel demonstration by Greg Trombly, as well as 6 MBAA artists showing their art on the patio (oils, fused glass, acrylics, jewelry, and more). **Feb. 26**, 1-4 p.m. 805-772-2504. artcentermorrobay.org. Art Center Morro Bay, 835 Main St., Morro Bay.

COLLAGE TRANSFER TECHNIQUES Create inspirational art by delving into the many collage transfer techniques. Instructor will demo some of her favorite techniques, including some of the fussy applications. Transfers can enhance your work with wonderful depth and transparency. **Feb. 19**, 1-4 p.m. \$75 Members; \$85 Non-Members. 805-772-2504. artcentermorrobay.org/index.php/shop/. Art Center Morro Bay, 835 Main St., Morro Bay.

EARTH AND FIRE Earth and Fire will be on display in the main gallery, concurrent with AQUARIUS, which will be on display in the Virginia Russel Gallery upstairs. This event is free and open to the public. **Feb. 24-April 4**, 12-4 p.m. Free. 805-772-2504. artcentermorrobay.org. Art Center Morro Bay, 835 Main St., Morro Bay.

FEATURED CRAFT ARTIST DEBBIE GEDAYLOO

Debbie Gedayloo is a self-taught fiber artist. Her primary medium is wool but she also incorporates various other fibers into her art. Come see her felted tactile artwork. Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays-Sundays, 11 a.m.-5 p.m. through Feb. 27 Free. 805-772-1068. galleryatmarinasquare.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.

METAL ART BY TRUDI GILLIAM

Gilliam creates her sculptures using copper, brass, nickel/silver, and found objects. This new series of whales and birds uses copper and sea glass. ongoing 805-772-9955. Seven Sisters Gallery, 601 Embarcadero Ste. 8, Morro Bay, sevensistersgalleryca.com.

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.

THE PLEIN AIR TEAM Acrylic artist, Nancy Lynn, and husband, watercolorist, Robert Fleming, have an ongoing show of originals and giclee printings of Morro Bay and local birds. 805-772-9955. Seven Sisters Gallery, 601 Embarcadero Ste. 8, Morro Bay, sevensistersgalleryca.com.

ROAD TO MASTERY DRAWING CLASS With Marie Ramey. Six session class. This is a foundational beginning drawing class designed to teach basic drawing skills and on which more advanced skills can be developed. Mondays, Tuesdays, Fridays, 10 a.m.-1 p.m. through Feb. 18 \$130 per member and \$140 per non-member. 805-772-2504. artcentermorrobay.org. Art Center Morro Bay, 835 Main St., Morro Bay.

STEVIE CHUN: FINE ART WATERCOLORS Stevie is a self-taught artist who found her love for watercolor while exploring different mediums. Her work has been displayed in group shows around Southern California. Mondays, Wednesdays-Sundays, 11 a.m.-5 p.m. through Feb. 27 Free. 805-772-1068. galleryatmarinasquare.com. Gallery at Marina Square, 601 Embarcadero suite 10, Morro Bay.

HOT STUFF continued page 18

FOXEN[®] VINEYARD & WINERY



Wines of Elegance & Balance Since 1985



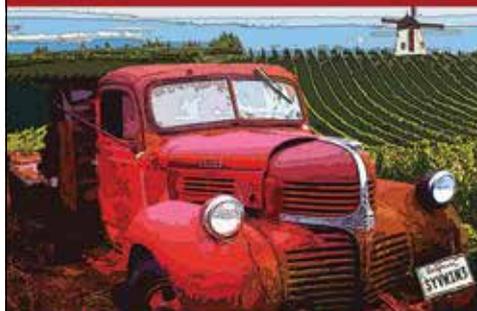
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FEBRUARY 25 & 26TH



THE 8TH SOUTHERN EXPOSURE
GARAGISTE
WINE FESTIVAL



THE HOME OF THE EXPLODING
MICRO-PRODUCTION WINE MOVEMENT

CELEBRATING THE ARTISAN WINEMAKER / www.garagistefestival.com



FEATURING HARD-TO FIND, ULTRA-PREMIUM, SMALL LOT WINERIES

VOTED #1 BEST WINE FESTIVAL IN AMERICA
IN THE USA TODAY 2018 READERS CHOICE AWARDS

Come discover what the buzz is all about.
Taste and explore the expanding range of
30 California micro-wineries all in one place!

Solvang Veterans Memorial Hall - 1745 Mission Drive, Solvang, CA

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 25TH

6:30-9:00pm / Rare & Reserve Kick-Off Party - \$70

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 26TH

2:00-5:00 pm / Grand Tasting - \$75

Early Access & Weekend Passes available!

TICKETS ON SALE! DON'T MISS OUT!

For Full Event Schedule and list of Participating Wineries please visit

WWW.GARAGISTEFESTIVAL.COM



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. ongoingpartnersincaring.org. Santa Maria, Citywide, Santa Maria.

BLACK HISTORY MONTH CELEBRATION The NAACP of Santa Maria and Lompoc are partnering with the Santa Maria Public Library to celebrate Black History Month. Join us in celebration with speeches, dance, poetry, and much more. **Feb. 19**, 3-4:30 p.m. 805-925-0994. cityofsantamaria.org/city-government/departments/library. Santa Maria Public Library, 421 S. McClelland St., Santa Maria.

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

RESUME AND ONLINE JOB SEARCH WORKSHOP

Are you an emerging adult needing help entering the job market? Learn how to craft a professional looking resume, how to locate jobs on the web, and submit applications through online portals. Participants will gain hands-on experience to jumpstart their job search. **Feb. 25**, 4-5:30 p.m. Free. 805-925-0994. cityofsantamaria.org/city-government/departments/library. Santa Maria Public Library, 421 S. McClelland St., Santa Maria.

SMVGS MEETING Visitors welcome. Contact smvgs.org for program and location info. Third Thursday of every month, 2:15-4 p.m. smvgs.org. Santa Maria Valley Genealogical Society, 908 Sierra Madre, Santa Maria.

VIRTUAL WORKSHOPS OVER ZOOM Visit site or call to learn about various virtual workshop offerings. ongoing. Unwind Studio, 130 N. Broadway, suite B, Santa Maria, 805-748-2539, unwindstamaria.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/. Point 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, 5citieswimschool.com.

SAN LUIS OBISPO

250 YEARS OF HISTORY Early California life on display including Mission and Bell Tower tours, music and dancers, food sampling, crafts and demonstrations; fun for the whole family. **Feb. 20**, 11 a.m.-3 p.m. Free. 805-234-4457. Mission San Luis Obispo de Tolosa, 751 Palm Street, San Luis Obispo, missionsanluisobispo.org/.

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. stbenslososos.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.

BIRD (AND BOTANY!) WALK The Garden is excited to present a monthly bird walk series which explores the intersection of birds and botany. Allow for a two-hour exploration on mostly flat terrain. Third Thursday of every month, 8-10 a.m. through Feb. 24 \$10/members, \$20/public. 805-541-1400. slobg.org/calendar. San Luis Obispo Botanical Garden, 3450 Dairy Creek Rd., San Luis Obispo.

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



TRANQUIL TUNES

The Santa Maria Philharmonic Society presents its next concert, Peace and Tranquility: Pastoral Landscapes, at Grace Baptist Church on Saturday, Feb. 26, at 7:30 p.m. Shortly before the program, a pre-concert lecture will start at 6:50 p.m. Visit smphilharmonic.org to find out more. Grace Baptist Church is located at 605 E. McCoy Lane, Santa Maria.

—C.W.

Tuesdays, Thursdays, Fridays calhopeconnect.org. Transitions Mental Health Warehouse, 784 High Street, San Luis Obispo, 805-270-3346.

CAL POLY BASKETBALL VS. CSU BAKERSFIELD A Tuesday evening showdown between the Mustangs and CSU Bakersfield. **Feb. 22**, 7-9 p.m. gopoly.com/. Mott Athletics Center, 1 Grand Ave., San Luis Obispo, 805-756-7297.

CAL POLY WOMEN'S BASKETBALL VS. HAWAII Don't miss the last home game of the season as the Mustangs take on Hawaii at Mott Athletics Center. **Feb. 26**, 2-4 p.m. gopoly.com. Mott Athletics Center, 1 Grand Ave., San Luis Obispo, 805-756-7297.

CAL POLY WOMEN'S BASKETBALL VS. UC DAVIS Cheer on the Mustangs against UC Davis. **Feb. 17**, 7-9 p.m. gopoly.com. Mott Athletics Center, 1 Grand Ave., San Luis Obispo, 805-756-7297.

CAL POLY WOMEN'S BASKETBALL VS. UC RIVERSIDE It's the annual Play4Kay game; raising money for the fight against women's cancers. Wear pink to the game, make a donation, or participate in the raffle to raise money for the Kay Yow Cancer Fund. **Feb. 19**, 2-4 p.m. gopoly.com. Mott Athletics Center, 1 Grand Ave., San Luis Obispo, 805-756-7297.

CENTRAL COAST BIONEERS CONFERENCE Come enjoy some uplifting environmental and social justice news. Features speakers and workshops on stopping urban oil drilling, restorative justice architecture, indigenous voices in climate activism, offshore wind generation, Diablo Canyon Lands, beavers in the Salinas River and more. Attend in person or virtually. **Feb. 26**, 9 a.m.-4 p.m. \$45 for adults and \$25 for students. 805-548-0597. ecologistics.org. SLO Guild Hall, 2880 Broad St., San Luis Obispo.

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

CENTRAL COAST TOPTRACER GOLF CLASSIC 3 tee times (10 a.m., 12:30 p.m., and 3 p.m.). Sign up as individual, twosome, threesome, foursome. Benefits MBHS Scholarships and StoveTeam International. **Feb. 26**, 10 a.m.-6 p.m. \$50 per golfer. 805-748-3923. Dairy Creek Golf Course, 2990 Dairy Creek Rd., San Luis Obispo, dairycreekslo.com.

CITY FARM SLO'S YOUTH EMPOWERMENT PROGRAM Check site for more info on programming and summer camps. cityfarmslo.org. San Luis Obispo.

ENJOY THE RIDE: A MINI RETREAT FOR EDUCATORS Press the pause button on your busy life as a parent and home educator and take a day for extended education and personal development. **Feb. 26**, 8:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m. \$55. 805-548-8700. sloclassical.org/enjoytheride/. SLO Classical Academy, 165 Grand Ave., San Luis Obispo.

JEWISH FESTIVAL OF LEARNING KEYNOTE PRESENTATION: PHIL KOEK Koek shares the story

of his father, Joe, and his aunts, Eva and Henny. Koek was born in 1930 in The Hague, Holland. The Nazis invaded and began to occupy Holland in May 1940. Learn more online. **Feb. 25**, 5-7 p.m. Varies, from free to \$100. 805-426-5465. jewishfestivaloflearningslo.com. Phillips Hall, 1 Grand Ave, San Luis Obispo.

JEWISH FESTIVAL OF LEARNING KEYNOTE SPEAKER: MARK OPPENHEIMER The Festival's keynote speaker, set for Thursday evening, is author Mark Oppenheimer. He will discuss his book, *Squirrel Hill: The Tree of Life Synagogue Shooting and the Soul of a Neighborhood*. **Feb. 24**, 4-6 p.m. Varies, from free to \$100. 805-426-5465. jewishfestivaloflearningslo.com. Spanos Theatre, Cal Poly, San Luis Obispo.

JEWISH FESTIVAL OF LEARNING: FRIDAY MORNING SESSIONS A campus-community wide celebration of Jewish life and education on antisemitism for the Central Coast. In-person sessions will be at Cal Poly; community viewing live-stream options will be at local synagogues. **Feb. 25**, 9 a.m.-2:30 p.m. Varies, from free to \$100. 805-426-5465. jewishfestivaloflearningslo.com. Online, See website, San Luis Obispo.

LITERACY FOR LIFE VIRTUAL TUTOR TRAINING Literacy For Life has a San Luis Obispo countywide need for tutors. Work one-on-one with non-literate adults learning to read, write, and speak English. This tutor training will be held virtually. As we slowly transition to in-person tutoring, this training will focus on hybrid models. **Feb. 26**, 10 a.m.-12:30 p.m. None. 805-451-4219. literacyforlifelslo.org/become-a-tutor.php. Online, See website, San Luis Obispo.

MEET THE REAL ZOOLANDER Meet the "real" Zoolander in SLO (did you know he's a climbing bum?) and watch the film. Hosted by The Pad Climbing as a fundraiser for its inclusive climbing memberships. **Feb. 18**, 7-10 p.m. \$25 online; \$30 at door. eventbrite.com/e/so-hot-right-now-meet-the-real-zoolander-watch-the-film-ccb-tickets-229071337537. Central Coast Brewing, 6 Higuera Street, San Luis Obispo, 805783-2739.

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

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

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.

SIERRA CLUB SLO HISTORIC WALK: THE MISSION, CHUMASH, AND GOLD RUSH RENEGADES Join a guided stroll past the Mission

and other landmarks. Hear stories of the early days of San Luis Obispo. Masks required if not vaccinated. Leader: Joe Morris. **Feb. 20**, 2-3:30 p.m. Free. 805-549-0355. Under the clock at Monterey and Osos Street, Corner of Monterey and Osos St, San Luis Obispo.

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

SLO 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. slonoonline.toastmastersclubs.org. Zoom, Online, Inquire for Zoom ID.

SLO TABLE TENNIS This local table tennis club is open to anyone. Many tables available and new players welcome. Games for all ability levels. Sundays, 4-7 p.m., Tuesdays, 7-10 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.

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

WRITE TO FIND YOUR INNER AHA! Reach your own inner truth and wisdom through a writing practice. Talk through the process of journaling to tap into your personal power. A Zoom series of three small-group sessions. Email to join: leanjacobsen@gmail.com. **Feb. 20**, 3-4 p.m. \$55. 515-707-1557. leanjacobsen.com. Online, See website, San Luis Obispo.

WWII HISTORY OF BLACK COAST ARTILLERY REGIMENT IN SLO COUNTY Historian Erik Brun and friends present They Faced the Rising Sun: The 54th Coast Artillery Regiment on the Central Coast in WWII, the story of Black soldiers deployed here with two batteries of heavy artillery to defend against Japanese attacks. Also available on Zoom. **Feb. 18**, 2-3:30 p.m. Free. 805-550-7713. southcountyhistory.org/. San Luis Obispo Library Community Room, 995 Palm Street, San Luis Obispo.

FOOD & DRINK

SANTA YNEZ VALLEY

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

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

SANTA MARIA VALLEY/LOS ALAMOS

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

SOUTH COAST SLO COUNTY

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

SAN LUIS OBISPO

TUESDAYS WITH THE BIRRIA BOYZ All the way from Lompoc, The Birria Boyz heads to SLO Wine and Beer Company on Tuesdays. Enjoy their Birria Tacos, Birria Quesadillas, and Birria Ramen with expertly paired wines by the glass and craft beers. Tuesdays, 3:30-7 p.m. Varies. 805-544-9463. SLO Wine and Beer Company, 3536 S. Higuera Street, Suite 250, San Luis Obispo, slowineandbeerco.com.

HOT STUFF continued page 20

**Deuces Wild
Dueling Pianos**

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Sat, Mar 26 at 7:30pm

The Drifters

Sat, Apr 2 at 7:30pm

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MELISSA ETHERIDGE

MARCH 24 | THURSDAY | 8PM



PAUL RODRIGUEZ

APRIL 22 | FRIDAY | 8PM

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HOT STUFF from page 18

MUSIC

SANTA YNEZ VALLEY

CARMEN AND THE RENEGADE VIGILANTES LIVE Feb. 18, 8:30 p.m. Maverick Saloon, 3687 Sagunto St., Santa Ynez, 805-686-4785, mavericksaloon.org.

DIRTY CELLO LIVE San Francisco-based band Dirty Cello brings the world a high energy and unique spin on blues, rock, and Americana. Led by cellist Rebecca Roudman. Feb. 25, 8 p.m. \$20. lostchordguitars.com. Lost Chord Guitars, 1576 Copenhagen Dr., Solvang, 805-331-4362.

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

THE ROBERT HEFT BAND LIVE Feb. 25, 8:30 p.m. Maverick Saloon, 3687 Sagunto St., Santa Ynez, 805-686-4785, mavericksaloon.org.

TEDDY SPANKE: LIVE ON THE PORCH Feb. 20, noon Maverick Saloon, 3687 Sagunto St., Santa Ynez, 805-686-4785, mavericksaloon.org.

TEX PISTOLS LIVE Feb. 19, 8:30 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.

PHOTO COURTESY OF CASS WINERY AND VINEYARD



HOT STUFF

FEB. 17 - FEB. 24 2022

NOW SEATING

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, Feb. 18, from 6 to 9 p.m. Guests will enjoy a five-course dinner—including osso buco and other dishes—paired with award-winning wine selections. Tickets to the dinner are available in advance at my805tix.com. Visit casswines.com for more info. The winery is located at 7350 Linne Road, Paso Robles.

—C.W.

SANTA MARIA VALLEY/LOS ALAMOS

PEACE AND TRANQUILITY: PASTORAL LANDSCAPES This concert begins in Italy with a composer famous for his appetite-whetting overtures, Giacomo Rossini, and then moves to Germany with Haydn at the summit of his compositional powers in his famous London Symphony. Feb. 26, 7:30-9:30 p.m. \$40. 805-925-0412. Grace Baptist Church, 605 E. McCoy Ln., Santa Maria.

SOUTH COAST SLO COUNTY

AMERICA'S DIAMOND: STARRING JAY WHITE Presented by the Clark Center. Exclusively Sponsored by Nan's Pre-Owned Books. Rescheduled from 2020. Jay White is Neil Diamond in this tribute which captures the heart and soul of one of America's most popular songwriters. Feb. 19, 7:30-9:30 p.m. \$45-\$58. 805-489-9444. clarkcenter.org/shows/americas-diamond-starring-jay-white/. Clark Center for the Performing Arts, 487 Fair Oaks Ave., Arroyo Grande.

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

A WHOLE LOT OF NONSENSE: PRESENTED BY THE CENTRAL COAST FOLLIES An annual fundraising event to benefit Parkinson's Disease research. Central Coast Follies has donated nearly \$400,000 since their first performances in 2003. This volunteer group is made up of

CIRCLE JERKS LIVE Feb. 22, 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.

THE EMO NIGHT TOUR Feb. 19, 8 p.m. The Fremont Theater, 1035 Monterey St., San Luis Obispo, 805-546-8600, fremontslo.com.

AN EVENING WITH JERRYS MIDDLE FINGER Feb. 18 SLO Brew Rock, 855 Aerovista Pl., San Luis Obispo, 805-543-1843, slobrew.com.

NOTHING BUT THIEVES (VIRTUAL) Feb. 22, 8 p.m. SLO Brew Rock, 855 Aerovista Pl., San Luis Obispo, 805-543-1843, slobrew.com.

STRAIGHT NO CHASER: BACK ON THE HIGH LIFE TOUR Hear what happens when the captivating sound of nine unadulterated human voices comes together to make extraordinary music in a humorous, moving, and unforgettable evening. Feb. 24, 7:30-9 p.m. \$39-\$69. 805-756-7556. pacsllo.org. Performing Arts Center, 1 Grand Ave., San Luis Obispo. ○

Spread the word!

Send event information to calendar@santamariasun.com.



Arts Briefs

Wildling Museum hosts virtual tribute, Ansel Adams: The Man Behind the Camera

Photographer Alan Ross (pictured, left) will lead a virtual presentation dedicated to his late friend and mentor, Ansel Adams (pictured, right), who would have celebrated his 120th birthday this year. The public is invited to tune in to the Zoom program, hosted by the Wildling Museum of Art and Nature, on Sunday, Feb. 20, from 2 to 3 p.m. Photographs by both Ross and Adams are currently on display at the museum in a duo exhibition, *Sharing the Light*.

COURTESY PHOTO BY MICHAEL REIDLINGER



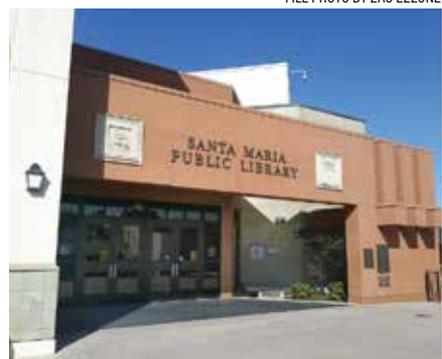
Rather than discuss Adams' well-documented photography techniques, Ross will reveal more about who Adams was as a person, according to a press release from the Wildling Museum.

"It's always exciting for me to share a little bit of the Ansel I knew and worked with ... the man behind the lens, the educator, activist, comedian, mentor, and friend," Ross said in the release. "I have no doubt that if he was still here with us, a grand party would be in the works to celebrate his 120th trip around the sun. In his absence, I'll enjoy celebrating him by sharing my stories and memories."

A donation of \$5 is suggested to join the virtual event. To register for the Zoom meeting or find out more, call (805) 686-8315 or visit wildlingmuseum.org. *Sharing the Light* will remain on display in the Wildling Museum's first floor main gallery through Sunday, March 20. The museum is located at 1511 Mission Drive, unit B, Solvang.

PCPA and the Santa Maria Public Library co-host screening of documentary, *Dolores*

FILE PHOTO BY ZAC EZZONE



Dolores, a documentary on activist Dolores Huerta, will screen at the Santa Maria Public Library on Tuesday, Feb. 22, at 4 p.m. Admission to the screening, which is co-hosted by the Pacific Conservatory Theatre (PCPA), is free. The screening will take place in Shepard Hall and will be immediately followed by a bilingual Q-and-A session regarding the film, led by PCPA guest artist Marilet Martinez.

At the age of 91, Huerta continues to fight for racial and labor justice. Huerta was an equal partner in co-founding the first farmworkers unions with Cesar Chavez. The documentary examines Huerta's lifelong crusade for social change, according to a press release from PCPA.

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

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

Maiden voyage

San Francisco-based ensemble Dirty Cello performs inaugural Solvang concert



BAND ON THE RUN: Dirty Cello is playing its first live concert in Solvang at Lost Chord Guitars on Friday, Feb. 25. The band has previously performed in several venues along the Central Coast, including in San Luis Obispo and Arroyo Grande.

Guitar heroes

For more info on Dirty Cello, visit dirtycello.com. The group's upcoming concert takes place on Friday, Feb. 25, at 8 p.m., at Lost Chord Guitars, located at 1576 Copenhagen Drive, Solvang. Tickets are \$20. Call (805) 331-4362 for more details.

Showtime!

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



BY CALEB WISEBLOOD

Sometimes the only article of clothing you need to get into a Dirty Cello concert is a face covering. One of the group's most memorable shows took place at a nudist resort in San Jose, band leader Rebecca Roudman revealed.

"The audience dutifully kept their masks on, but nothing else," Roudman said. "We kept our clothes on and found the whole experience to be beyond distracting, especially when the hula hoops came out and the dancing kicked up a notch."

Internationally known for its high-energy, genre-bending performances, Dirty Cello prides itself in finding concert venues off the beaten path but isn't opposed to playing in traditional settings. The group has found examples of both along the Central Coast.

"We've played all up and down the Central Coast, with special mentions going to a giant buffalo ranch near San Luis Obispo and the beautiful Clark Center in Arroyo Grande," said Roudman, whose band will mark its first concert



DYNAMIC DUO: The one band member who consistently joins cellist and bandleader Rebecca Roudman for live concerts—in China, Iceland, Ireland, England, and beyond—is her husband and guitarist Jason Eckle, while the rest of Dirty Cello is composed of "a rotating cast of bass, drums, keys, and backup singers," Roudman said.

in Solvang on Friday, Feb. 25, with an 8 p.m. performance at Lost Chord Guitars.

"Fun, quirky venues like Lost Chord Guitars are truly saving musicians," Roudman said of the local spot, described as a triple threat—music store, music venue, and art gallery. "We want people to close their computers, turn off the damn TV, get off the couch, and come see some live music for a great evening!"

Roudman has been playing cello since childhood and performed in several professional orchestras as an adult before becoming the founder of Dirty Cello.

"While I still love playing in various symphonies, before long I wanted to figuratively and literally let my hair down—there's actually a hair dress code for orchestras," the cellist said. "So I started trying to find something else to do with my cello."

A bit of experimentation led Roudman to switch from performing classical to classic rock, blues, and Americana hits, albeit "getting rid of the lead guitar and replacing it with my cello," she said.

But it wasn't smooth sailing from there, added Roudman, while recalling her "disastrously weird" experience bringing her newfound style to *America's Got Talent*.

"A standout moment was Sharon Osbourne telling me that when she died, and went to hell, she imagined my playing as the soundtrack," Roudman said. "Despite all that, the band took off fast, and before long, we had major performance tours all over the world."

The one band member who consistently joins Roudman for live concerts—in China, Iceland, Ireland, England, and beyond—is her husband and guitarist Jason Eckle, while the rest of Dirty Cello is composed of "a rotating cast of bass, drums, keys, and backup singers," the bandleader said.

"We perform so many shows that we've essentially had to create two bands that we mix and match to make sure everyone's available," Roudman said. "The size of the band we bring depends on the audience size and the venue size. ... We'll play from the bottom of a cave for five people, to a giant show of over 2,000, and we'll do it within the same week if needed."

Dirty Cello takes a similar play-it-by-ear approach



GENRE BENDER: Rebecca Roudman (pictured) has been playing classical cello since childhood and performed in several professional orchestras as an adult before becoming the founder of Dirty Cello. A bit of experimentation led Roudman to switch from performing classical to classic rock, blues, and Americana hits, albeit "getting rid of the lead guitar and replacing it with my cello," she said.

when it comes to picking which songs they're going to perform, Roudman explained.

"We step on stage with a giant pile of songs in our repertoire, then we start rocking, and see what the audience likes. There's no pre-planned set of music," she said. "So if the audience wants to hear what Eric Clapton would sound like as a cello player, we'll do that. Jimi Hendrix? Why not?"

When it comes to taking specific audience requests, chances are, if it's a song from the '60s or '70s, "we either know it or will learn it by the next show," Roudman added. ○

Arts Editor Caleb Wiseblood wants to hear Tiny Tim's ukulele riffs in cello form. Send comments to cwiseblood@santamariasun.com.

Loved to death

Kenneth Branagh (*Belfast*, *Murder on the Orient Express*) directs himself as novelist *Agatha Christie's* famed Belgian detective, *Hercule Poirot*. During a river vacation on the Nile, Poirot must investigate the murder of a young heiress. (127 min.)

Glen: Branagh is a slick director, and here he begins with Poirot's mustache origin story. It's 1914, and Poirot is on the front lines in an ugly trench warfare campaign. His commanding officer, who sports a massive mustache, reluctantly orders his men to charge a bridge, knowing mass casualties will result, but since the officer is simply carrying out orders from above, there's no choice. It's certain death for all until Poirot, a clean shaven Branagh made young through computer generation, comes up with a sneak attack plan. I won't spoil the fun, but suffice it to say, his genius shows itself early. Now, flash forward to 1937, where the massively mustachioed Poirot enters a jazz club and sees blues singer Salome Otterbourne (Sophie Okonedo) perform. He can't help but notice Jacqueline "Jackie" de Bellefort (Emma Mackey) dirty dancing with her fiancé, Sam Doyle (Armie Hammer). The two are clearly in love ... until Jackie's heiress friend Linnet Ridgeway (Gal Gadot) arrives and quickly becomes smitten by Sam, setting up a rift between her and her longtime friend, Jackie, and setting the stage for the murderous mystery afoot. It's a well-made film, shot on an English sound stage and on location in Morocco, so Egypt's monuments are but ones and zeros in a computer, but it's still fun to look at. My two complaints are that it's too easy to guess the killer, and the middle of the film drags a bit, but its many love themes are well timed for Valentine's Day.

Anna: Don't be surprised if you guess the mystery murderer and the circumstances around the crime pretty early on. Usually, I'd say not having a little more twist to the tale is a letdown, but this movie is fun to look at, and I didn't mind knowing what was up even before Monsieur Poirot. The costuming is on point, the settings are stunning, and there's a cast of characters all devious and cunning in their own regards. The

DEATH ON THE NILE

What's it rated? **PG-13**
 What's it worth, Anna? **Full price**
 What's it worth, Glen? **Full price**
 Where's it showing? **Regal Edwards Santa Maria & RPX, Regal Edwards Arroyo Grande**

wedding party is a mashup of family, old friends, even an ex-boyfriend named Windlesham played by Russell Brand. Poirot's old friend Bouc (Tom Bateman) is there with his mother, Euphemia (Annette Bening), as well as Linnet's aunt, Marie Van Schuyler (Jennifer Saunders), and her nursemaid, Mrs. Bowers (Dawn French); Linnet's servant, Louise (Rose Leslie); Salome and Rosalie (Letitia Wright); and cousin, Andrew (Ali Fazal). While the group may all seem like they have good intentions to celebrate the happy couple, Linnet soon reveals to Poirot that she doesn't trust any of them besides her new husband. Jackie is full-on stalking them, maybe even trying to kill them. While Linnet is rich enough to buy any material goods she wants, she cannot buy a sense of security. The film does trudge along a little bit in the middle, but it's all in hopes of creating suspense around the mystery that keeps unfolding. This one's fun to see on the big screen.

Glen: The cast is exceptional, though Hammer's recent charges of sexual misconduct do hang over the film a bit. Okonedo is especially good as the wise and soulful blues singer who just might be enough to spark some life in the long-celibate Poirot. It's a very old-fashioned kind of film, and Branagh seems uninterested in trying to spice it up for a contemporary audience. If you like a classic, old-school murder mystery filled with exotic locales, a great soundtrack, and a terrific cast



WHODUNIT? After a murder on a river cruise, famed Belgian detective Hercule Poirot (Kenneth Branagh, who also directs) must investigate the remaining passengers to find the killer, in *Death on the Nile*, screening in local theaters.

of characters, this will more than do. It's also got a hopeful, romantic ending that brings the flashback young-Poirot beginning full circle. Aside from my brief mid-film nap, I thoroughly enjoyed it.

Anna: I definitely would have been much happier seeing someone else in Hammer's role, but it seems this movie was in the can long before the allegations came out. It was originally slated for release in December 2019, was pushed due to COVID-19 several times, and is just now getting to theaters. Despite the unfortunate casting of Hammer, this film really is a slick looking piece of work, and I found the whodunit adventure pretty entertaining. If you want something pleasing to look at, entertaining, and not too personal or emotional, *Death on the Nile* will totally satisfy. ○

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

Film & TV Reviews

HUNTER HUNTER

What's it rated? **Not rated**
 When? **2020**



Where's it showing? **Hulu, Amazon Prime, Yidio, Fandango**
 Writer-director Shawn Linden (*Nobody*, *The Good Lie*) helms this unusual crime thriller that starts as a wilderness survival story but turns into a serial killer cat-and-mouse tale with a gory turn. It's gripping and goes in some unexpected directions.

Joseph Mersault (Devon Sawa) lives with his wife, Anne (Camille Sullivan), and daughter, Renée (Summer H. Howell), in a remote cabin in the deep woods. They make their living working a line of traps and trading furs for supplies in the nearest town. Fur prices are down, times are tough, and they're heading into winter without enough food to survive. Anne wants her husband to return to civilization, but Renée loves the wild life. To make things worse, a rogue wolf has returned and is eating their trapped prey, stealing their livelihood, and imperiling their future.

Joseph sets out to hunt the wolf but instead stumbles upon a gruesome scene. Meanwhile back at the cabin, Anne encounters a wounded stranger (Nick Stahl) with what looks like

PHOTO COURTESY OF JULIETTE AND MARVISTA ENTERTAINMENT



STALKER: Anne (Camille Sullivan, right) and her young daughter, Renée (Summer H. Howell), are being stalked by a wolf and encountered a wounded stranger, in *Hunter Hunter*, currently streaming on various platforms. It's free with a Hulu subscription.

a nasty bite on his leg. With no help in sight, she takes him in, wary and watchful over her daughter. Where's her husband? Can Anne survive what's coming? (93 min.)

—Glen

THE OTHER TWO

What's it rated? **TV-MA**
 When? **2019-present**
 Where's it showing? **HBO Max**

BINGEABLE

This series snuck up on me—I hadn't heard of it, but when I saw Molly Shannon, I knew it was probably going to be a funny ride. That's a total understatement, and Shannon isn't even carrying most of the comedic weight. Heléne York and Drew Tarver are the ones really steering this ship as brother and sister Brooke and Cary.

They both haven't found success either professionally or personally, floundering their way through gig after gig and both feeling pretty hopeless in life. When younger brother Chase (Case Walker) finds fame as pop star Chase Dreams, the two hop on the bandwagon of his success as does their mother, Pat (Shannon).

The situations are outrageous, the characters are hilariously lovable, and there is both story and character development that gives the show some emotional heft. Former SNL head writers Sarah Schneider and Chris Kelly are the brains behind this series, and with a third season coming our way on HBO, we'll have a chance to see these character arcs even more fully formed. If you've got HBO and don't mind a bit of raunch and

PHOTO COURTESY OF BROADWAY VIDEO



IN HIS SHADOW: Aspiring actor (Drew Tarver, left) and former professional dancer (Heléne York, right) must figure out their place in the world after their 13-year-old brother (Case Walker, center) suddenly achieves Internet fame, in *The Other Two*, screening on HBO Max.

appreciate a series not taking itself way too seriously, this is definitely one to watch! (20 30-min. episodes) ○

—Anna

the HITZHING POST

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FISH WISH: As a participant in Lompoc's Restaurant Week, Alfie's Fish and Chips is offering patrons the chance to purchase two two-piece fish and chips combos for a total of \$20.22.

Diverse dining

Bars, bistros, burger joints, and more participate in Lompoc's seventh annual Restaurant Week

BY CALEB WISEBLOOD

Brace yourselves, foodies. There's a seven-day sweet and savory storm heading to Lompoc in the form of the city's seventh annual Restaurant Week.

In conjunction with this year's festivities, several restaurant owners throughout Lompoc are offering exclusive deals for \$20.22, the same price as participants of Santa Maria Valley's Restaurant Month, albeit within a much shorter time frame. Here's a speedy rundown of some of the meal deals you can expect to find in town between Monday, Feb. 21, and Sunday, Feb. 27.

Fishy business

For the most authentic English pub-style fish and chips in Lompoc, you need only seek out the town's lone red phone box. The vintage booth rests just outside **Alfie's Fish and Chips**, the only remnant of a former franchise that originated in 1969. Hundreds of locations throughout the U.S. have been dismantled one by one over the decades. In 2019, Lompoc's venue became the last known Alfie's in the country.

In celebration of Restaurant Week, Alfie himself—the eatery's iconic mascot in a bowler hat—is offering patrons the chance to purchase two two-piece fish and chips combos for a total of \$20.22. If you're a Central Coast local who doesn't remember Alfie, you clearly didn't grow up during the early 2000s. Consider this my petition to bring back the family-owned pub's locally produced television commercials, full of James Bond parodies and a tagline that echoes in my mind to this day—"Don't forget about the hush puppies."

For Alfie's full menu or more info, call (805) 736-0154 or visit alfiesfish.com. Alfie's Fish and Chips is located at 610 N. H St., Lompoc.

Seek the week

For more info on Lompoc Restaurant Week, held between Monday, Feb. 21 and Sunday, Feb. 27, and its participating businesses, visit lompoc.com.



CHEESE PLEASE: Old Town Kitchen and Bar's \$20.22 lunch deal is split macaroni and cheese, with a choice of sauce (classic cheddar, alfredo, basil cream, or sun-dried tomato cream), and two topping options (choose your favorite duo between tri-tip, chicken bites, bacon, peppers, and caramelized onions).

FILE PHOTO BY NICK POWELL

Burgers, breakfast, and so much more

There's nothing overly traditional about the burgers and sandwiches you'll find at Lompoc's **Old Town Kitchen and Bar**, even with a nostalgic name that harks back to days of yore. The descriptions of the pastrami cheeseburgers and Central Coast cheesesteak sandwiches are enough to get my mouth watering, and the barbecue smoked tri-tip burger the venue chose for its \$20.22 option is just as taste-bud triggering.

The tri-tip burger comes with house-made barbecue sauce, cheddar, lettuce, tomato, and caramelized onions, and its dinner combo includes a soda, fries, and the kitchen's signature Old Town corn bites. There are two additional dinner deals to steal if you're not in a burger mood: an order of steak bites served with grilled bread and a salad; or a plate of pan-seared fish served over creamy linguine pasta, also with a salad.

The kitchen is also offering a \$20.22 lunch special: split macaroni and cheese, with a choice of sauce (classic cheddar, alfredo, basil cream, or sun-dried tomato cream), and two topping options (choose your favorite duo between tri-tip, chicken bites, bacon, peppers, and caramelized onions). The lunch



SANDWICH SUITE: Central Coast Specialty Foods is offering a combo of one sandwich with chips, a small deli salad, a dessert, and drink—all for \$20.22.

combo also comes with a salad and molten chocolate cake for dessert. Find out more about all of Old Town Kitchen's lunch and dinner options by calling (805) 741-7631 or visiting oldtownkitchenlompoc.com. The restaurant is located at 319 E. Ocean Ave., Lompoc.

Also known for its burger variety, **Tom's Burgers** is participating in Lompoc's Restaurant Week by offering its own pair of two-themed specials: two

EATS continued page 24

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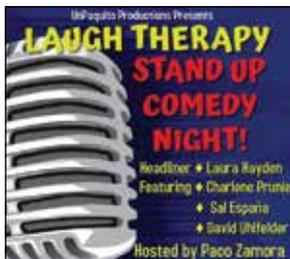
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Barrel Room Concert: Carbon City Lights
SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 20
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Various Wineries, Paso Robles



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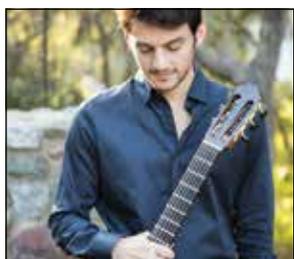
Wednesdays Around The World Winemaker Dinner: Ireland
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EATS from page 23

chicken strip sandwiches with two drinks and a half order of fries (offered Tuesday through Saturday); or two pancakes and two eggs, with a choice of two bacon pieces or two sausages, with coffee or juice (offered on Friday and Saturday only). Both combos are \$20.22 of course. Tom's Burgers is located at 115 E. College Ave., No. 13, Lompoc.

Burger buffs and sandwich swooners can also get their fix at **O'Cairns Inn and Suites**, which is offering patrons two burgers or two chicken clubs for \$20.22. Both pairs come with one drink. The hotel is located at 940 E. Ocean Ave., Lompoc.

Pizza palate

Mi Amore Pizza and Pasta in Lompoc is spreading some week-long love with two separate Restaurant Week options: one medium one-topping pizza with two dinner salads; or two half orders of spaghetti with two dinner salads. Both of these \$20.22 deals only apply to dine-in orders at the restaurant, located at 1321 N. H St., Lompoc.

Pizza prices are just as wild over at **Wild West Pizza and Grill**, located at 1137 N. H St., Lompoc. Not only does this venue's \$20.22 option come with a medium specialty pizza and a dinner salad for two, it also comes with a cannoli for dessert.

Meanwhile, **Eye on I** is locally known for its diverse pizza selections, but its Restaurant Week offering showcases a different side of the eatery's expansive menu. "A Taste of Ethiopia" is \$20.22 and includes *doro wat*, *misir wat*, *gomen*, and *injera*. Eye on I is donating proceeds of this special to Future Lompoc, a community outreach organization that aims to empower local high school



RAISE THE BAR: The list of Restaurant Week participants continues to grow and currently features a handful of Lompoc bars and wine bars, including Valle Eatery and Bar (cocktail pictured), Pali Wine Co., and Old Town Kitchen and Bar. Visit lompop.com for up-to-date info on each venue's exact \$20.22 offerings, as some details have yet to be announced.

students. Visit facebook.com/futurelompop for more info. Eye on I is located at 131 N. I St., Lompoc.

Appetizing additions

The list of Lompoc's Restaurant Week participants—which currently also includes **The Bread Board Deli**, **Floriano's Mexican Food and Fresh Cuts**, **Pali Wine Co.**, **Central Coast Specialty Foods**, **Valle Eatery and Bar**, and **Sweetzer**

Cellars—continues to be updated through the promotion's start date, and can be found at lompop.com.

Arts Editor *Caleb Wiseblood* is starving. Send comments to cwiseblood@santamariasun.com.

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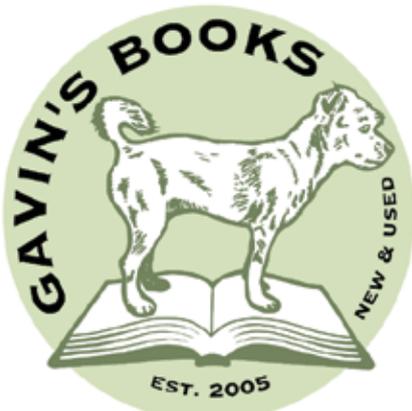
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