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Cyrano: New face, old tale [18]

The value of processing

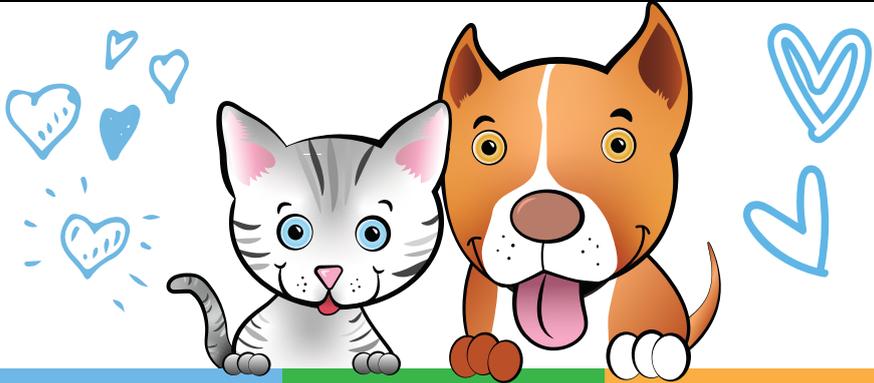
Santa Barbara County aims to increase both its revenue and the number of cannabis processing projects [6]

BY TAYLOR O'CONNOR

NEWS Santa Maria's riverbed cleanup [4]

ARTS Central Coast Music Teachers Association [17]

EATS Gourmet chocolate by Jessica [19]



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Contents

MARCH 3 - MARCH 10, 2022 VOL. 23 NO. 1

Santa Barbara County is changing its cannabis rules to make it easier for processing facilities to apply for a permit, among other things. Processing is limited in the county, which is full of cultivation operations, and some elected officials believe this is also limiting both the value of cannabis and tax revenue in the county. This week, Staff Writer Taylor O'Connor speaks to North County supervisors and others about the changes and what they might mean [6].

You can also read about how mental health was impacted by COVID-19 [4]; the Central Coast Music Teachers Association turns 50 [17]; and the delicate, delicious flavors of Jessica Foster Confections [19].

Camillia Lanham
editor



MISSING MIDDLE: While Santa Barbara County has 30 percent of the cannabis cultivation licenses in California, only a handful of cannabis processing licenses exist.

Cover photo from Deposit Photos > 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.....	17
------------------	----

MOVIES

Reviews.....	18
--------------	----

CLASSIFIEDS, HOME, AND REAL ESTATE

.....	21
-------	----



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Political Watch

• **U.S. Rep. Salud Carbajal** (D-Santa Barbara), U.S. Sen. **Alex Padilla** (D-California), and U.S. Rep. **Ted Lieu** (D-Los Angeles) announced a bicameral affordable housing bill—the Housing for All Act—that will invest in new affordable housing options and help Californians experiencing homelessness, according to a Feb. 25 press release. The bill includes Carbajal’s bipartisan **Naomi Schwartz Safe Parking Program**, which was introduced to support establishment and expansion of safe parking programs. “I am thrilled that my bill, the Naomi Schwartz Safe Parking Program Act, is advancing in the U.S. Senate as a part of Sen. Alex Padilla’s Housing for All Act. This comprehensive legislation package will help us address the core issues of homelessness and affordable housing in California and across the nation,” Carbajal said in a statement. “I’m proud to join Rep. Ted Lieu to introduce this legislation in the House. It will be another step toward our goal of ensuring every American has a roof over their head.” This legislation would invest \$532 billion over the next 10 years to fund new housing units, rental assistance, safe parking programs, hotel and motel conversions, and eviction protection grants. “This legislation is an opportunity to invest and align resources in expanding affordable housing and strengthening proven solutions,” Sen. Padilla said in a statement. “Affordable housing is essential infrastructure, and that’s why I am proud to introduce the Housing for All Act of 2022 to ensure that every person has a place to call home.”

• Gov. **Gavin Newsom** announced California schools will no longer have indoor mask requirements, according to a Feb. 28 statement. Starting March 1, masks will no longer be required for unvaccinated individuals, but will be strongly recommended for all individuals in most indoor settings. Masks will still be required for everyone in high transmission settings like public transit, emergency shelters, health care facilities, correctional buildings, homeless shelters, and long-term care facilities. As always, local jurisdictions may have additional requirements beyond the state guidance. “California continues to adjust our policies based on the latest data and science, applying what we’ve learned over the past two years to guide our response to the pandemic,” Newsom said in a statement. “Masks are an effective tool to minimize spread of the virus and future variants, especially when transmission rates are high. We cannot predict the future of the virus, but we are better prepared for it and will continue to take measures rooted in science to keep California moving forward.” Ending the school mask mandate is a part of the state’s continued phased rollback of executive orders implemented during the pandemic.

• **Santa Barbara County**—in partnership with the **California Office of the Small Business Advocate** and the **Santa Barbara Foundation**—announced the **Microbusiness COVID-19 Relief Grant Program** with emphasis on microbusiness grants, according to a Feb. 24 press release. Eligible microbusinesses that were adversely impacted by the pandemic may apply for up to \$2,500 in funding. The money comes from the **California Microbusiness COVID-19 Relief Grant Program**, and Santa Barbara County has \$500,000 total in available relief funds. “The pandemic has been especially hard on very small businesses that often operate without much cushion,” 3rd District Supervisor **Joan Hartmann** said in a statement. “These microbusiness grants may serve as a lifeline to reestablishing reserves or as a means to invest in people, materials, or new ways of doing business. The grants offer another important resource to help businesses bounce back from the pandemic. We hope that many entrepreneurs will take advantage of this opportunity; microbusinesses contribute significantly to the economic well-being of our entire county.” Applications will be processed on a first-come, first-serve basis. If interest persists and funds are still available, the timeline may be extended. ☐



COURTESY PHOTO FROM MARK VAN DE KAMP

CLEANUP: SLO County-based company 2 Mexicans Junk Removal lead the trash and material removal during the Santa Maria Riverbed cleanup.

Santa Maria officials and organizations collaborate for riverbed cleanup

Trained volunteers from several organizations collected an estimated 50,000 pounds of trash and abandoned materials from the Santa Maria Riverbed and connected about 35 people to resources during a homeless encampment cleanup, Santa Maria Public Information Officer Mark van de Kamp said.

“We’ve had—like most cities in California—homelessness is a very complex social problem with no easy solutions . . . Being homeless in itself is not a crime, but many kinds of public conduct are illegal. We’ve been partnering with various agencies for many years to address the homelessness situation,” van de Kamp said.

The 2020 Homeless Point-In-Time (PIT) count tallied 382 individuals experiencing homelessness in Santa Maria, down from 464 in 2019, and residents have complained to city officials about the trash, debris, and encampments in the riverbed, he said.

“The cleanup went for two days, and we targeted specific areas in the riverbed where we knew there would be trash to be cleaned up. We posted notice-to-vacate signs many days ahead of the [72-hour] minimum,” van de Kamp said.

Moving forward, he said, the effort includes brush trimming, removing abandoned property, and posting repair signs in the riverbed. During the Feb. 24 cleanup, Santa Maria city officials led the coordinated effort with agencies—including the Good Samaritan Shelter, 2 Mexicans Junk Removal, United Way of Northern Santa Barbara County, City Net, Caltrans, private property owners, and the San Luis Obispo County Sheriff’s Office—to follow the city’s three-pronged approach: education and support, enforcement, and partnership, he said.

“I think we’ve made a good impact for now. . . . That said, not everyone is willing to receive the help, but we make the attempt to connect them to resources and assistance,” he added.

City Net—a Santa Barbara County nonprofit—was one of the entities connecting those experiencing homelessness to housing opportunities, Regional Program Manager Emily Koval said.

“We serve encampments from Carpinteria to Santa Maria and we are trying to connect people to housing first and foremost, medical and mental health resources, and anything that falls into the realm of case management,” Koval explained.

About a year ago, City Net was granted two

countywide contracts—one for generalized outreach and the other specific to encampments “off the beaten path” like the Santa Maria Riverbed. City Net was made aware of the cleanup, and its team contacted those living in the riverbed to connect them with services, Koval said.

“There’s been a continuous conversation of the possibility of a cleanup. Once we were aware the cleanup was happening, we wanted to be there to support our population through the decisions they would have to make and if they needed anything. We just remind them that we are there and we do care about them,” she continued.

Although she couldn’t comment on the cleanup’s results, Koval emphasized that Santa Maria—and Santa Barbara County in general—need to continue this coordination to find creative, permanent housing solutions.

“These encampments show how many houses are needed in order to adequately serve our population. . . . One entity can’t act alone, you have to have all the moving parts in place,” she said.

—Taylor O’Connor

Solvang shifts stance on reopening Copenhagen Drive

The Solvang City Council changed its tune on the future of Copenhagen Drive, after hearing proposals on both sides of an ongoing debate about whether to reopen the road or permanently close it.

In January, city staff presented a handful of different approaches to reopening the street to vehicular traffic, but the City Council opted to temporarily maintain its closure and outdoor dining accessibility, and redirected staff to research the potential of supporting a permanent closure.

Staff provided three different closure options and the estimated costs of each during the City Council’s Feb. 28 meeting. The meeting ultimately ended with the City Council embracing its original directive to reopen Copenhagen.

Councilmember Jim Thomas was the first to voice his opinion after staff’s presentation, stating that he would like to see the street temporarily reopened to vehicles before making a final call, and revisit the matter “after people get to see both.” He emphasized that Copenhagen Drive has been closed since 2020.

While referencing recent survey results read during the City Council’s Goal Setting Workshop, held on Feb. 26, Mayor Pro Tem Mark Infanti argued to reopen the road because it would increase parking availability downtown.

“We had a survey done, and the No. 1 issue

in the survey is parking,” Infanti said. “Closing Copenhagen loses 60 parking spaces. So right off the bat, there seems to be a reason not to keep it closed, from the parking alone.”

Infanti also argued that the estimated costs of all three closure proposals were too high, and that the project would only benefit a fraction of businesses located on Copenhagen Drive.

“There’s four or five businesses that get to put tables out on the street and get the advantage of it [the closure],” Infanti said. “We’re looking at spending \$1.5 million to \$3.5 million to close the section of Copenhagen that primarily benefits five businesses of 20-something in those two blocks. I think that’s inappropriate.”

During public comment, local business owner René Kaerskov spoke in favor of keeping the road closed and maintaining it as a “pedestrian street.”

Kaerskov is the owner of the Danish Mill Bakery, located on Copenhagen Drive. He proposed that the city should charge Copenhagen businesses that are encroaching on parking spaces, in order to decrease the costs of a permanent closure.

“I’ve said it before and I’ll say it again, nobody should get real estate for free from the city,” Kaerskov said. “Let the businesses pay for this [the closure], and let the city contribute to it and facilitate it.”

Infanti replied later in the meeting, saying he appreciated Kaerskov’s comment about letting the businesses pay, adding that closing the street would still have some effects on the city.

“It really isn’t completely cost-free to the city,” Infanti said. “And I’m not sure every one of the enterprises would be willing to pay for it or are able to pay some of those costs.”

Councilmember Robert Clarke said he would personally like to see Copenhagen remain closed to vehicular traffic, but would not be opposed to reopening if that benefits a majority of Solvang businesses and community members.

“I personally think it looks nice. I think it adds a lot of flavor to our city,” Clarke said. “I think the visitors like it a lot. But if there’s a groundswell of support to have the street reopen, I wouldn’t stand in the way of that.”

Infanti motioned to direct city staff to begin the process of reopening Copenhagen Drive and return to the City Council with the necessary steps for final approval, which passed 5-0.

—Caleb Wiseblood

Mental health survey highlights disparities in Spanish-speaking communities

Although the majority of the public experienced mental health impacts due to the COVID-19 pandemic, most Spanish speakers in Santa Barbara County reported no negative impacts, according to a county behavioral wellness assessment.

Behavioral Wellness Chief of Strategy and Community Engagement Susan Grimesey presented these differences and the general need for more universal care at the March 1 county Board of Supervisors meeting.

“We know that globally and nationally, the COVID-19 pandemic has had an impact on people’s mental health and created unique challenges,” Grimesey told the supervisors.

About 5,000 people completed the survey—which was led by a community wellness team made up of more than 35 collaborating agencies and received \$1.5 million in American Rescue Plan Act funds. It took 10 to 15 minutes to finish and looked at demographics, childhood experiences, mental health impacts, stress and post-traumatic stress, as well as resiliency and coping during the pandemic, Grimesey said.

NEWS from page 4

The survey found that 65 percent of English speakers said their mental health was worse, whereas 67 percent of Spanish speakers said the pandemic had no impact on their mental health, Grimesey said. This alarmed 2nd District Supervisor Das Williams because of COVID-19's impact on Latino communities.

"This is interesting since all trends statewide show the disproportionate effect the pandemic's had on Latinos in terms of outcomes and deaths. Life expectancy dropped two years. Understanding why people who are dying in much higher numbers reporting no change is important to understand," Williams said.

Grimesey responded by showing data collected about "help-seeking behavior," which showed the difficulties that Spanish-speaking communities faced in finding proper resources and their resistance to seeking help.

Almost 60 percent of Spanish speakers said they handled their problems on their own, more than 40 percent said they didn't know where to go for help, 40 percent said they were too embarrassed to seek help, and 35 percent said they didn't want friends or family to know they needed help, she explained.

Fifth District Supervisor Steve Lavagnino praised these findings as well and wanted to see more support for Spanish and Mixteco-speaking communities.

"It highlights how we have to be culturally sensitive and culturally aware that people are experiencing the same thing as their neighbor, but viewing it in a different manner. They are downplaying the impact on them when we know it costs

people jobs and puts strain on people," Lavagnino said.

Part of the survey asked participants to suggest what they needed.

"People wanted easy ways to interact with one another, quick access to mental health services and support, and education on symptoms and coping strategies to reduce stigma," she added.

A potential solution includes a tiered approach, Grimesey said—with universal resources at the bottom reaching everyone, and more focused intervention and support moving up each step, with the most complex situations at the top.

"We need a balanced triangle and balanced resources, that's why partnerships are so important. Lower levels are essential to keep higher levels balanced. When it's not balanced, certain levels begin to bulge," she said.

Unbalanced levels lead to inadequate services and resources, and ultimately won't meet the individualized needs of community members, Grimesey said.

In the survey, people asked for more community events that could facilitate socialization and connection, which Grimesey said would be easy for the county to implement. Behavioral Wellness will bring proposals back to the board in June and conduct a follow-up survey to see their impact, she added.

"It's well known that social connection and cohesion with disaster recovery is critical for community and individual resiliency. We're talking about pandemic recovery now, but we are setting up a system that will work four or five years from now," she said. ○

—Taylor O'Connor

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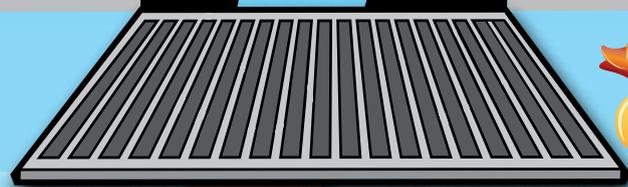
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More opportunity, more revenue

A recent Board of Supervisors decision opens doors for cannabis growers, but residents remain concerned

BY TAYLOR O'CONNOR

When California legalized adult recreational cannabis consumption in 2016, Santa Barbara County created an ordinance to regulate the new industry and welcomed cannabis into the agricultural community. But that approach created a new set of challenges.

"What we've done with cannabis in Santa Barbara County is we've built the plane while we were in mid-flight, which is very scary. We didn't take the wait-and-see approach like a lot of other jurisdictions did," Santa Barbara County 4th District Supervisor Bob Nelson said. "I don't think we fully contemplated the impacts cannabis might have on neighboring agricultural areas. I don't think we did a good job addressing odor issues, and we should have gotten more information about what that might do to people's health."

Because of the learning curve they face in the ever-changing industry, Nelson said that the supervisors want to adjust the county ordinance to allow for smoother changes of ownership, to place a firm end date on license and permit applications, and to create an easier application method for processing facilities.

"Processing is where a lot of value is added to the cannabis product. ... It's easy to grow something; meanwhile if you have a processing facility you have to make sure it's zero net energy and get a building, which is more difficult to approve. If [growers] want to get through the [application] process, they'll want it to be just cultivation. They'd harvest and take it somewhere else," Nelson said.

The ordinance currently has all inland—North County—cannabis cultivation and processing under an acreage cap of 1,575 acres, meaning only a certain number of acres can be used for both cultivation (growing and harvesting the plant) and processing.

During the Feb. 15 board meeting, supervisors voted 4-1 (with 3rd District Supervisor Joan Hartmann dissenting) to remove processing from that acreage cap, making it less competitive and easier to obtain land use permits and business licenses. The item returned to the Board of Supervisors on March 1, and they voted 4-1 (with Hartmann dissenting again) to adopt the resolution.

"Right now we have all this acreage of cultivation

and very little processing facilities in the county. The county gets money from cultivation taxing and different areas," Nelson explained. "The most value is in the processing, but we chased processing out of the county because of the cap. That's what happened. We didn't mean to do that."

Overall, Santa Barbara County holds 30 percent of all cannabis cultivation licenses in the state of California, according to a UC

Santa Barbara report. The microclimate, existing agriculture economy, and an overall welcoming sentiment encouraged the industry to flourish, the report stated.

The growth is evident with the 1,575-acre cap filled, but only 9 acres are dedicated to processing facilities, Nelson estimated. The ordinance change will hopefully encourage more operators to apply for business licenses and land use permits, and—in turn—bring more revenue into the county, Nelson said.

In the first two fiscal quarters of 2022, the county's brought in \$5.4 million in cannabis tax revenue, but that's less than in past years, 5th District Supervisor Steve Lavagnino said. During the 2020-21 fiscal year, the county brought in \$15.7 million, and in 2019-20 it received \$12.2 million total.

"Revenue is falling right now, going back to 2019 numbers, and the reason for that: As this matures—with the black market issues, no retail stores, and taxes are up—we are seeing a fall," Lavagnino said.

Santa Barbara County had a long history of black market marijuana in places like Cebada Canyon but didn't have the revenue for enforcement until the legal market generated funding, he explained.

"We've gotten to the point in Santa Barbara County where we had eight enforcement actions and 3,200 plants were pulled. When we first started, it was hundreds of thousands of plants. We're doing a good job for enforcement, and now more people are adhering to permits," Lavagnino said.

However, the state cannabis tax increased again by another 5 percent this year (almost \$161 per pound, according to *CalMatters*), and the high cannabis costs on legal growers can push them into the black market to earn more bang for their buck, Lavagnino explained.

By opening doors to processing facilities, the county's trying to gain from enticing more legal applications. Right now, unprocessed marijuana is worth \$200 per pound, but trimmed, dried, and packaged marijuana is worth \$1,800, according to *Santa Barbara Independent* reporting. Supervisor Lavagnino said he hopes more revenue trickles in consistently to fund more county projects.

"This thing will find its level at some point to become a steady stream. Even though I am a big proponent of cannabis, on a budget side I tried to make it clear to not spend this on ongoing issues.



PROCESSING: Carpinteria had many greenhouses from previous agriculture projects, like the one pictured, that were renovated for cannabis growth, making it a major Santa Barbara County processing and cultivation hub.

Let's spend this money on one-time funding; cannabis money fluctuates," Lavagnino said. "[We] can't be in a position where [we] are relying on it but don't know what's going to happen to the industry."

Although the county could potentially receive more funding from an increase in cannabis processing projects, some residents—including Susan Ashbrook—remain concerned about the impact the industry has on their lives and neighborhoods.

Ashbrook is a Cebada Canyon resident. She said she joined the Santa Barbara County Coalition for Responsible Cannabis because she's felt the industry's negative impacts and wants to see change. Although no one can develop cannabis projects in Cebada Canyon due planning code regulations, she remains concerned for her neighbors in other impacted communities.

"I joined the coalition like so many of my neighbors because I felt like it was important to be heard, that the supervisors knew there were people that wanted them to slow down," Ashbrook said.

The issue is not that cannabis became legal in 2016, she said, but rather it's ongoing processing problems like odor—which disrupted the quality of life in her neighborhood from projects prior to the county's Cebada Canyon regulations, and now is affecting other communities. Odor control has been inadequate, Ashbrook said, and she fears it will only

get worse if more processing facilities make their way to the county.

"I don't see [odor control] coming from regulation. ... I know when I complained about odor, I never had anyone follow up, and it was on me to prove it," Ashbrook said. "I do see responsible cannabis growers say they are going to improve odor control, and I see there are responsible growers wanting to do the right thing, and I applaud them."

In terms of processing facilities, she recalled one of the Board of Supervisors' discussions where they said they felt "terrible" for cannabis growers who had to travel many miles to get their product processed.

"While I can appreciate that in this economy, I understand there's 20 processing centers in Carpinteria and 29 active applications in the permitting process. It seems to me there's adequate processing without expanding more," Ashbrook said.

She said she wants to see the county take its time with decisions like this to weigh all possible outcomes and listen to community needs.

"I think there's certain areas where people's lives and investments are impacted. ... It affects many layers of people's lives and the generations to come," she said. ○

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

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DONATION: Ashley Agnitch and her family stand with Marian's Cuddle Cot and Marian Regional Medical Center Family Birthing Center representatives.

The gift of time

A Dignity Health nurse raises funds for Cuddle Cots to help families with newborn deaths

BY TAYLOR O'CONNOR

After 14 weeks of pregnancy, Ashley Agnitch was told her daughter had trisomy 18 (or Edwards' syndrome), a genetic abnormality that limited her daughter's heart from fully developing, and was not expected to survive pregnancy, labor, or delivery, Agnitch recalled.

"They had told me that the pregnancy would end in miscarriage and also offered—and recommended—medical termination of the pregnancy. We chose not to do that, we chose to give her life with whatever that looked like," she said.

Agnitch, a labor and delivery nurse at French Hospital who previously worked at Marian Regional Medical Center (both Dignity Health hospitals), tried to figure out what resources were available to help her child; then she discovered Cuddle Cots. They keep babies cool in order to slow down the length of time it take them to pass away.

She said she looked at several Central Coast hospitals and hospice agencies prior to her daughter Greta's birth, but none had Cuddle Cots for rent. Her daughter survived birth and lived for five hours, Agnitch said.

"With a stillborn baby, or infant death, the process of death occurs much more rapidly. Parents can only handle their babies for a short period of time," she explained.

If parents wanted to put them in a final outfit, wrap them, or baptize them, the baby would have to go to the morgue for cooling and then come back to be handled, she said.

"That's an additional morbid experience for a family to go through. The Cuddle Cots are a bassinet that goes on a little stand that connects to a cooling pad that's very discreet. It keeps the baby nice and cool so the baby can be handled more often. It eliminates any need for the baby to go to the morgue. They can stay with their parents if they place the baby in the bassinet between holding the baby," Agnitch said. "Although we were prepared, [Cuddle Cots] would have made a huge difference in our experience and time with Greta."

After Greta passed away, a lot of Agnitch's family and

friends asked where they could make a donation to honor her name, and she kept coming back to Cuddle Cots and decided to create a GoFundMe to purchase a Cuddle Cot for a Dignity Health hospital, she said.

"My goal was to provide one between Marian and French Hospital, but I couldn't choose. Luckily, I didn't

have to make that decision because we were able to donate one to each hospital," Agnitch said.

The GoFundMe raised a little more than \$12,000, enough to purchase a Cuddle Cot for both hospitals—as well as spare parts and plaques to honor Greta—in order to provide families with the best support during an extremely isolating experience, she said.

"I always like to describe it as it gives the families the gift of time. We were fortunate to know so far in advance, we were prepared, and we had our family ready to come out. We knew we wanted a baptism and the chaplain available. We had time to really research. ... A lot of times in these situations, families don't have time to prepare," Agnitch said.

Agnitch said she hopes to continue raising funds to give all Central Coast hospitals a Cuddle Cot to provide this opportunity to everyone.

"I want them to feel as a medical system on the Central Coast that we are here to support them. We definitely do our best to do everything we can, but the more resources we have will give them the most time [with their child]," Agnitch said.

Visit gofundme.com/f/cuddle-cot-in-memory-of-greta for more information and to donate.

Highlight

• The Lompoc Youth Commission announced that the eighth annual Teaching Our Teens As Leaders (TOTAL) conference will be held on March 25 at the Dick DeWees Community and Senior Center—125 W. Walnut Ave. TOTAL is a teen leadership conference open to all junior high and high school students. This year's keynote speaker is Melvin Adams—team captain of the Harlem Globetrotters—and breakout sessions are meant to teach, motivate, empower, energize, and inspire participants. The program begins at 8:30 a.m. with check-in and breakfast, followed by programming from 9 a.m. until 2 p.m. Pre-registration is recommended. Registration fees are \$15 per student; register by phone at (805) 875-8100 or online at apm.activecommunities.com/lompocrecreation. ○

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

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DEATH NOTICES

UPCOMING SPECIAL PUBLICATIONS

ADAM, JAMES R., JR., 73, of Santa Maria passed away 2/24/2022 arrangements with Magner Maloney Funeral Home

JEFFERS, MICHAEL SHANE, 54, of Templeton passed away 2/24/2022 arrangements with Chapel of the Roses

BEIRSTO, BEVERLY J., 95, of Morro Bay passed away 2/17/2022 arrangements with Los Osos Valley Mortuary & Memorial Park

KLEIN, CHARLES, 87, of Arroyo Grande passed away 2/25/2022 arrangements with Blue Sky Cremation Service

CABALLERO, LOUIS JAMES, 79, of Arroyo Grande passed away 2/22/2022 arrangements with Marshall Spoo Sunset Funeral Chapel

LAPLANTE, JOHN, 92, of Morro Bay passed away 2/13/2022 arrangements with Blue Sky Cremation Service

CAULEY, CAROL ELAINE, 69, of Paso Robles passed away 2/19/2022 arrangements with Chapel of the Roses

LAUBACH, MICHAEL JOHN, 85, of Atascadero passed away 2/21/2022 arrangements with Chapel of the Roses

COLIMA, FRANCISCO JONAATHAN, 29, of Santa Maria passed away 2/18/2022 arrangements with Dudley-Hoffman Mortuary, Crematory & Memory Gardens

MARTIN, GEORGE, 85, of Cambria, passed away 2/25/2022 arrangements with Blue Sky Cremation Service

CUELLAR, DEBERAH, 74, of Shandon passed away 2/17/2022 arrangements with Blue Sky Cremation Service

MASON, DEBORAH PARKE, 73, passed away 2/15/2022 arrangements with Lady Fairly Mortuary

EASTERLING, VERNON ELMER, 98, passed away 2/15/2022 arrangements with Lady Fairly Mortuary

MCNERNEY, MARY LOU, 75, of Arroyo Grande passed away 2/20/2022 arrangements with Marshall Spoo Sunset Funeral Chapel

EPPELRY, JORJI ANN COY, 45, of San Luis Obispo passed away 2/15/2022 arrangements with Marshall Spoo Sunset Funeral Chapel

MILLER, MERLE FLOYD, 85, of Atascadero passed away 2/19/2022 arrangements with Chapel of the Roses

FRAZE, PERRY "DENNIS," 68, of Orcutt passed away 2/22/2022 arrangements with Dudley-Hoffman Mortuary, Crematory & Memory Gardens

OBRIEN, JOHN PAUL, 73, of Atascadero passed away 2/20/2022 arrangements with Chapel of the Roses

GARROW, STEPHEN P., 74, of Atascadero passed away 2/22/2022 arrangements with Chapel of the Roses

PROVO, SISTER MIRIAM OS, 99, of Santa Maria passed away 3/1/2022 arrangements with Magner Maloney Funeral Home

GOODWIN, MAXINE LOUISE, 73, of Santa Maria passed away 2/23/2022 arrangements with Dudley-Hoffman Mortuary, Crematory & Memory Gardens

SCHMIECHEN, ANGELA JOLENE, 41, of Grover Beach passed away 2/18/2022 arrangements with Marshall Spoo Sunset Funeral Chapel

GRISSOM, RALPH "BUTCH" E., 78, of Oceano passed away 2/23/2022 arrangements with Marshall Spoo Sunset Funeral Chapel

SERDA, MANUEL, 75, of Morro Bay passed away 2/23/2022 arrangements with Blue Sky Cremation Service

HARRIS, JUNNE JOSEPHINE, 90, of Atascadero passed away 2/21/2022 arrangements with Chapel of the Roses

SILVA, MICHAEL QUINTANA, 23, of Santa Maria passed away 2/19/2022 arrangements with Dudley-Hoffman Mortuary, Crematory & Memory Gardens

HICKEY, MARK, 64, of Morro Bay passed away 2/21/2022 arrangements with Blue Sky Cremation Service

SMITH, SYLVIA FLORENCE, 87, of Paso Robles passed away 2/19/2022 arrangements with Chapel of the Roses

HOFFMAN, NORMAN J., 85, of Santa Maria passed away 2/26/2022 arrangements with Magner Maloney Funeral Home

THOMAS, SHANNON, 46, of Morro Bay passed away 2/10/2022 arrangements with Blue Sky Cremation Service

VALLES, CARLOS A., 69, of Santa Maria passed away 2/22/2022 arrangements with Dudley-Hoffman Mortuary, Crematory & Memory Gardens

SPRING ARTS

BOOK ADS BY: March 11

PUBLICATION DATE: March 17

Our annual seasonal guide to the arts

MENUS

BOOK ADS BY: March 24

PUBLICATION DATE: April

The Central Coast guide to everything food & drink

STRAWBERRY FESTIVAL

BOOK ADS BY: April 21

PUBLICATION DATE: April 28

The Santa Maria Valley Strawberry Festival's program and guide

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What do you think would help student anxiety at schools?

- 38% Taking class time to talk about mental health and mental health management.
- 31% Students don't need any additional help with anxiety.
- 23% Having more counselors available on-site.
- 8% Giving students take-home activities so they can practice outside of school.

13 Votes

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Real conservatism

The core of it is about conserving historical social norms, policies, and practices

BY GORDON FUGLIE

Authentic conservatism needs advocates capable of addressing the ideas and issues of our time. The core belief of conservatism is its partiality to historically inherited social norms, policies, and practices. Thoughtful conservatives contend that societies—especially traditional ones—are complex and that their consolidation over decades and centuries should not be lightly tampered with because doing so risks social fracturing and the loss of vital legacies.

If social change is to occur, it should be gradual so that society can adjust to innovations while minimizing upheavals and avoiding violent backlash from groups feeling threatened.

But as history tells us, when a conservative society exists on the basis of exclusion, injustice, and cruelty, then disruptive social change becomes inevitable. Think of the rise of the civil rights movement in the 1950s. African Americans demanding equal treatment under the law—especially in the Jim Crow South—provoked violent reactions from white supremacist conservatives claiming “the defense of our traditions and way of life.”

Politically, conservatives desire a limited role for government. If government is to act, it should serve already functioning ways of life, typically at the civic and regional level where life is more closely lived and the issues better known. Government efforts—especially from federal and state institutions—to transform society from above are viewed with suspicion. Hence, conservatism will sense a threat in liberalism’s modernization programs and expansion of human rights. The conservative fears that liberal efforts to

cure what they see as evils and abuses in existing society will end up hurting more than helping. For example, do affirmative action programs in schools and businesses create discord by seeming to advantage one group over another?

My own journey in and out (but not quite!) of conservatism began with an interest to be informed beyond my Midwestern-born parents’ narrow worldview. As beneficiaries of the post-World War II economic boom, my white, middle-class, suburban family rarely discussed the “big three” topics: politics, history, and religion. We attended church as our Sunday obligation, and after the concluding hymn, we shelved our one-hour-per-week God for the next six days and headed home to bask in our complacent pleasures.

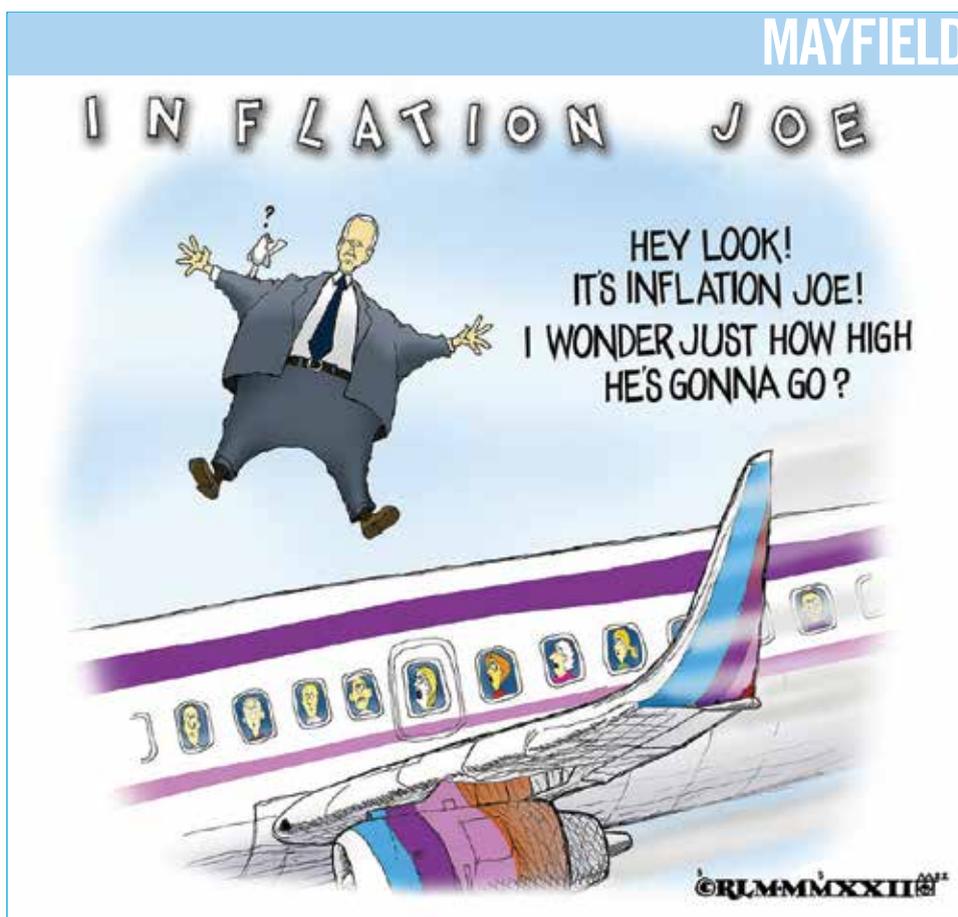
My early college years brought an awareness of ideas beyond my social circle, but my inherited self-satisfaction and nonintellectual surroundings were barriers to deeper engagement. A bit later, however, just enough of my curiosity was piqued to start reading conservative editorials in newspapers that came into our home. William F. Buckley Jr., Russell Kirk, George Will, and Joseph Sobran filled in my thin convictions. This was followed by an early 20s collegiate flirtation with libertarian groups but the rigid self-assurance of Ayn Rand devotees sent me packing. Thereafter

I steered clear of conservative organizations but kept my interest alive via subscriptions to *National Review* and *The American Spectator*.

In the mid-1980s I was stirred to commit to

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intentional Christianity, a deeper spiritual connection than occasionally parking my derriere in a church pew. Religion, of course, is woven into the fabric of conservatism, but conservatism doesn't have a monopoly on religious life despite the assertions of white right-wing evangelicals. And here we must transcend the recent phase of angry populist and pietistic politics of America's religious right.

When a conservative society exists on the basis of exclusion, injustice, and cruelty, then disruptive social change becomes inevitable.

A higher level of the place of religion in conservatism is informed by philosophy and a historical consciousness, i.e. the use of reason. A few of my favorite heavyweights in the arena I call Classic Conservatism include Romano Guardini (1885-1968), Karl Rahner, SJ (1904-1984), the Orthodox Rabbi Jonathan Sacks (1948-2020), and Charles Taylor. All affirm what may be called the “Great Story” within the Judeo-Christian tradition. And while they rightly critique the narrow secular (nontranscendent) frame of human life within modernity, they are not blind to its benefits, e.g. science and medicine. They also urge humankind to reconnect with our origins in the sacred, and honor the civilizational calling to a shared and just life defined by mutual self-giving love—even for the stranger.

In economics, conservatives have been staunch advocates of free market capitalism. I grew up in a Southern California town where the commercial enterprises reflected our community. Our shoe and toy store, our restaurants, and even our department stores, bore the names of the individuals or families who created them. Their helpful employees actually were informed about what they served or sold. This was the free market in a human scale and, to me, this was capitalism. Fast forward to the 2020s: Do today's conservatives really want to defend the gargantuan, glaringly lit consumerist warehouses like Walmart, Target, or Kohl's that are stuffed with cheap wares—often manufactured in substandard working conditions—from the People's Republic of China, the Socialist Republic of Vietnam, or the People's Republic of Bangladesh?

This calls to mind a lunch table conversation I had while working at Loyola Marymount University 20 years ago. The two economists were going on about markets, the global economy, and consumption trends. Finally, the Jesuit-trained philosopher spoke up, asking a simple question:

“What in your discussion makes for a *moral economy*?” A long silence ensued.

And I will close with a question of my own. At a time when 30 percent of right-wing Republicans believe violence may be needed to “save America,” I ask today's conservatives: What is it exactly that you are trying to conserve? ○

When not trying to exercise moderation in all things, Gordon Fuglie researches and writes art history and curates art exhibitions. Respond with your own thoughts by emailing an opinion piece to letters@santamariasun.com.

Crime and grime

Being homeless isn't a crime. But "many kinds of public conduct are illegal."

Santa Maria Public Information Officer Mark van de Kamp told us that. And he's not exactly wrong. But, if the public conduct associated with being homeless is illegal, aren't we essentially saying that homelessness is a crime?

A recent Santa Maria Riverbed cleanup roused at least 35 people out of their encampment homes and connected them with resources and collected 25 tons of waste. The cleanup lasted for two days—and cleanup partners are going back into the riverbed for more abandoned property. It's insanity.

"Homelessness is a very complex social problem with no easy solutions," van de Kamp said. "I think we've made a good impact for now. . . . That said, not everyone is willing to receive the help, but we make the attempt to connect them to resources and assistance."

What does society do with the folks who aren't willing to come into the systems we created for them when that same society can't even agree on what the "right" systems are? Remember, Santa Maria and Santa Barbara County still don't necessarily agree on the right place to convert a hotel/motel into housing and services for homeless city residents—and they don't necessarily agree on whether it's actually needed or not.

If you look to the 2020 Point-In-Time Count, it sure looks like Santa Maria is taking a bite out of crime—er, homelessness—with about 80 fewer individuals experiencing homelessness in 2020 versus 2019. Anecdotally, it sure seems like the problem has become exponentially worse in the last two years.

What will the 2022 count show us? Likely that cleanups and connecting people with services

doesn't make a huge dent in sheltering unsheltered individuals. And the economic matters spurred by the pandemic compounded the homelessness issue. The problem, as van de Kamp said, is complex. And by and large, citizens don't want to see it or deal with it.

You know what else some citizens don't want to see or deal with? Cannabis. And they apparently don't want to smell it either.

Why is odor the sticking point on cannabis? Cannabis cultivators and processors are literally paying to have odor-eating technology installed at their project sites, and people still aren't convinced. One woman from Cebada Canyon, where pot is barred from being grown or processed, is so worried about the stench's impact on neighboring communities that she is a member of the Santa Barbara County Coalition for Responsible Cannabis.

How many cannabis projects has the coalition appealed? I lost count, but it's a lot.

Odor control is inadequate, Susan Ashbrook said, and it's only going to get worse! Hold your noses, folks. But not for the stench of rotting cabbage or scent of fermenting grapes—for our leafy, crystal-infused little friend.

And now the county is changing its rules to encourage more processing facilities to apply for permits—and, in turn, hand over more tax dollars to the county, which holds 30 percent of the cultivation licenses in the state. Thirty percent.

Whoa. That's so much! If we're going to deal with the skunk, we might as well fill our county coffers with spunk. Which is why 5th District Supervisor Steve Lavagnino is all about processing: which takes the value of marijuana from \$200 per pound to \$1,800. ○

The Canary is a spunky punk. Send comments to canary@santamariasun.com.



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TALKING HEADS

In conjunction with its ongoing sculpture exhibition, the Elverhoj Museum of History and Art is hosting an artist talk, *Do Sculptures Speak?*, on Saturday, March 5, at 3:30 p.m. One of the panel's featured speakers is Susan Read Cronin, whose bronze sculptures will remain on display at the museum through Sunday, April 24. Admission to the talk is free. Call (805) 686-1211 or visit elverhoj.org for more info. The Elverhoj Museum is located at 1624 Elverhoy Way, Solvang. —Caleb Wiseblood

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

FILE PHOTO COURTESY OF THE ELVERHOJ MUSEUM OF HISTORY AND ART

ARTS

SANTA YNEZ VALLEY

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

SHARING THE LIGHT: ANSEL ADAMS AND ALAN ROSS This duo exhibition showcases the photography careers of both Ansel Adams (1902-1984) and Alan Ross (whose work is pictured), a longtime friend and former assistant of Adams. Through March 20 wildlingmuseum.org. Wildling Museum of Art and Nature, 1511-B Mission Dr., Solvang, 805-688-1082.

SPOKEN WORD OPEN MIC A monthly spoken word/ open mic night. Come to listen or to read poetry or prose. **March 6**, 5-7 p.m. Free. 805-686-9126. arrowsmithwine.com. Arrowsmith's, 1539 Mission Drive, Solvang.

SANTA MARIA VALLEY/LOS ALAMOS

2022 FINE ARTS FACULTY SHOW Ann Foxworthy Gallery presents the works of Hancock College's Fine Arts Faculty as they explore a broad range of media and methodology in this annual exhibition. Closing reception on March 10. Exhibit runs through March 31. **March 10**, 5-6:30 p.m. and **March 10-31** Free to public. 805-922-6966 Ext. 3652. hancockcollege.edu/gallery. Ann Foxworthy Gallery, 800 S. College Dr., Santa Maria.

AS YOU LIKE IT Presented by PCPA. Through March 6 pcpa.org. Marian Theatre, 800 S. College Dr., Santa Maria, 805-928-7731.

THE FULL MONTY A musical adaptation of the popular film. Through March 5 my805tix.com. Santa Maria Civic Theatre, 1660 N. McClelland St., Santa Maria.

LOCAL AND FEATURED ARTIST EXHIBITS Valley Art Gallery, located in the SM Airport, exhibits local and featured artist work. New exhibits are mounted the first Tuesday of even-numbered months. Wide variety of art

available for purchase. ongoing, 8 a.m.-10 p.m. Free. 805-922-0663. Santa Maria Airport, 3249 Terminal Dr., Santa Maria.

OUTDOOR UKULELE LESSONS For individuals 50 years and up, at no charge. Participants will learn to play chords, melodies, and familiar songs. Five baritone ukuleles are available to borrow, or class members may bring one of their own. **March 11-27** Tuesdays, 12:30-1:30 p.m. cityofsantamaria.org/register. Elwin Mussell Senior Center, 510 Park Ave., Santa Maria.

PICASSO AT THE LAPIN AGILE This absurdist comedy, written by Steve Martin, imagines a fictional meeting between Einstein and Picasso in a small Paris cafe in 1904, the year before Einstein revolutionized physics and two years before Picasso redefined the world of art. **March 11-27** my805tix.com. Orcutt Community Theater (Klein Dance Arts), 3546 Skyway Dr, Bldg. 1, Suite A, Orcutt, 805-937-3738.

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

SPECIAL VALLEY READS BOOK CLUB WITH PCPA A special session of the VRBC to discuss *The Grapes of Wrath* by John Steinbeck. Actors from the Pacific Conservatory Theatre (PCPA) will be performing monologues from passages from the novel. Patrons will be able to join from home via Zoom. Registration required. **March 5**, 10-11 a.m. Free. 805-925-0995 ext. 8562. cityofsantamaria.org/city-government/departments/library. Santa Maria Public Library, 421 S. McClelland St., Santa Maria.

SUBMIT YOUR EVENTS

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

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, 12:30-3:30 p.m. \$35. 805-668-2125. lila.community. LiLA 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. lila.community. LiLA Creative Community, 1147 East Grand Ave. suite 101, Arroyo Grande.

PERCUSSIVE DANCE CLASSES Enjoy clogging and dancing to all sorts of music, meet people, and get great exercise. No partners required. For adults and kids ages 8 and over. Thursdays, 10 a.m.-noon through May 26 \$20 per month. 805-975-6601. Heritage Square Park, 201 Nelson St., Arroyo Grande.

SAN LUIS OBISPO

ACTOR'S EDGE: ACTING CLASSES Actor's Edge offers film and television acting training in San Luis Obispo, plus exposure to Los Angeles talent agents. All ages and skill levels welcome. Classes available in SLO, LA, and on zoom. \$210 per month. actorsedge.com. Online, See website, San Luis Obispo.

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

ART EXHIBIT: BACK IN THE STUDIO An exhibit featuring the talented artists of SLO High School. Stop by during store hours to support our local blooming artists. **March 4-28**, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Free. 805-747-4200. artcentralslo.com/gallery/. Art Central, 1329 Monterey St., San Luis Obispo.

ART WORKSHOP: ACRYLIC PAINTING WITH RACHEL CORVESE An explorative workshop, meant to expose the ideas in your mind, and express them on canvas. Discover an elaborate composition from abstract mark-making. Artists of any skill level are welcome to join. Thursdays, 1-4 p.m. \$30 per class, or \$100 for 4 classes. 805-747-4200. artcentralslo.com/workshops-events/. Art Central, 1329 Monterey St., San Luis Obispo.

ART WORKSHOP: FIGURE DRAWING WITH RACHEL CORVESE Work on drawing style, proportions, and loosening the fixed perspectives we have on art and ourselves. A live, clothed model will pose from 1 to 20 minutes over a 2-hour period. Ages 16 and over welcome. Fridays, 11 a.m.-1 p.m. \$15 per class, or \$50 for 4 classes. 805-747-4200. artcentralslo.com/workshops-events/. Art Central, 1329 Monterey 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. **March 3**, 8-10 p.m., **March 4**, 8-10 p.m. and **March 5**, 8-10 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

INDEX

Arts	12
Culture & Lifestyle.....	14
Food & Drink.....	15
Music	16

ARTS continued page 14

ALWAYS AMAZING. NEVER ROUTINE.

DEBRA MANN

Sat, Mar 5th
7:30pm

"Waterloo"
"Fernando"
"Dancing Queen"
"Super Trouper"
"Take a Chance on Me"
"Winner Takes It All"
and MANY MORE!



MELISSA ETHERIDGE

MARCH 24 | THURSDAY | 8PM



WFC 135

APRIL 1 | FRIDAY | 6:30PM

The World Famous Glenn Miller Orchestra



Sat, Mar 19th
4:00pm



WFC 136

APRIL 2 | SATURDAY | 6:30PM



PAUL RODRIGUEZ

APRIL 22 | FRIDAY | 8PM

Must be 21 years of age or older to attend. Chumash Casino Resort reserves the right to change or cancel promotions and events. Chumash Casino Resort supports responsible gaming. For information about problem gambling, call the Problem Gambling Helpline at 1-800-522-4700.

CHUMASH
CASINO RESORT

Welcome to Freedom

Close to You: The Music of The Carpenters

Sat, Mar 26th
7:30pm



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Great Snacks · Cold Beer · Hwy 1 Oceano · 805-489-2499 · americanmelodrama.com

Free. 3cps.org/3cps-online-show/. Online, See website, San Luis Obispo.

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

ESCAPING EDEN A talking snake, Mennonite preachers, smorgasbords, a red dotted Swiss dress, and apple pie all have central roles in this witty, insightful solo show that explores one woman's take on life, liberty, and the pursuit of potato salad. World premiere by Erna Stauffer. **March 6**, 4-5:15 p.m. and **March 13**, 4-5:15 p.m. Pay what you can: \$5, \$10, \$15, \$20. Octagon Barn Center, 4400 Octagon Way, San Luis Obispo, (805) 544-9096, octagonbarn.org.

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. 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.

INTRODUCTION TO IMPROV CLASSES This six-week improv class series is an introduction to the foundations of improvising with an ensemble. Thursdays, 6-8 p.m. through April 28 \$225 (for all 6 weeks). centralcoastcomedytheater.com/classes. Central Coast Comedy Theater Training Center, 2078 Parker Street, Suite 200, San Luis Obispo, 803-487-4401.

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: whisperingvista.com, 224 Squire Canyon Rd, San Luis Obispo, patriciamartinartist.com.

LIZ MARUSKA'S ART: QUINTESSENTIAL JAPAN Experience the exquisite beauty of the cherry blossom festival. Wander through Maruska's spellbinding impressions of "Quintessential Japan" in an inspiring display of art rendered in a luminous, colorful palette. **March 4-27**, 5-8 p.m. Free. 805-550-3308. [SLOProvisions.com](https://sloprovisions.com). SLO Provisions, 1255 Monterey St., San Luis Obispo.

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

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. 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, spiritsofamericagallery.com/.

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

SECOND SATURDAYS FREE ART EVENT SLOMA's Second Saturdays program features art-making activities that complement the Museum's current exhibitions. It's completely free and open to the public, on the lawn outside SLOMA's Mission Plaza double doors. Second Saturday of every month, 11 a.m.-1 p.m. through Dec. 10 Free. 805-543-8562. sloma.org/events/second-saturdays/. San Luis Obispo Museum of Art, 1010 Broad St., San Luis Obispo.

NORTH SLO COUNTY

ACTS OF WORSHIP: SYMBOL, MEANING, AND RITUAL IN CONTEMPORARY ART A "pop-up" group exhibition featuring Dorothy Halic, Tim Anderson, Marie Ramey, Vicky Hoffman, Tony Martin, and Larry Stone. Curated by Larry Stone. View work at Paso Robles location by appointment only. **March 5-19** Free. 626-393-1750. actsofworship-art.com. Private Location, TBA, Paso Robles.

PASO, A SELF-GUIDED ART WALK that gives the community an opportunity to experience visual, literary, and performing art in galleries and other venues. Visit site for an updated map of locations. Events will not occur on major holidays. First Saturday of every month, 5-9 p.m. Free. 805-544-9251. artsobispo.org/art-and-about. Participating locations, Paso Robles, City-wide.

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

MOSAIC MIRROR WORKSHOP This is a 2-day Workshop. The first day you will create and glue the glass design on a pre-cut wooden base. The second day you will come back to grout and finish your mirror. All materials included. Limited to 6 people. **March 12**, 10 a.m.-noon and **March 13**, 12-1 p.m. \$75. 805-464-2633. glassheadstudio.com. Glasshead Studio, 8793 Plata Lane, Suite H, Atascadero.

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.

ANIMALISTIC HUMAN: ART WORKSHOPS Create an artwork mirroring your psyche through animal form with a guided Jungian approach. Each session will include guided focus and silent self-inquiry, anatomy observation, animal symbolism, making collage, notes, sketches, and creation of final artwork. Thursdays, 5:30-8:30 p.m. through March 24 2 sessions: \$100. 4 sessions: \$190. 805-772-2504. artcentermorrobay.org/. Art Center Morro Bay, 835 Main St., Morro Bay.

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

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

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. Through April 4, 12-4 p.m. Free. 805-772-2504. artcentermorrobay.org. Art Center Morro Bay, 835 Main St., Morro Bay.

FINE ART JEWELRY BY MARJORIE ZLOTOWITZ Ever since humans figured out how to string stones and bones, we've adorned ourselves with things we find aesthetically pleasing. Zlotowitz views jewelry-making as 3-dimensional painting. Mondays, Wednesdays-Sundays, 11 a.m.-5 p.m. through March 28 Free. 805-772-3883. galleryatmarinasquare.com. Gallery at Marina Square, 601 Embarcadero suite 10, Morro Bay.

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

GALLERY AT MARINA SQUARE: FINE ART PAINTING BY ARDELLA SWANBERG Swanberg finds subjects to paint within the many places she has lived—from living on a cattle ranch north of Cayucos to the harbor of Morro Bay, California. Mondays, Wednesdays-Sundays, 11 a.m.-5 p.m. through March 29 Free. 805-772-3883. galleryatmarinasquare.com. Gallery at Marina Square, 601 Embarcadero suite 10, Morro Bay.

HEMA SUKUMAR: GALLERY AT MARINA SQUARE As a resident artist of California, Sukumar gravitates toward painting nearby coastal scenes and landscapes from National Parks. Mondays, Wednesdays-Sundays, 11 a.m.-5 p.m. through March 29 Free. 805-772-3883. galleryatmarinasquare.com. Gallery at Marina Square, 601 Embarcadero suite 10, Morro Bay.

METAL ART BY TRUDI GILLIAM Gilliam creates her sculptures using copper, brass, nickel/silver, and found

objects. She 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 prints of Morro Bay and local birds. 805-772-9955. Seven Sisters Gallery, 601 Embarcadero Ste. 8, Morro Bay, sevensistersgalleryca.com.

SEA GLASS ART DECO JEWELRY Create a gorgeous art deco-inspired sea glass necklace and two pierced earring set. Everything is provided to complete the projects, including local sea glass (choose brown, white, or green in class). Preregistration required. **March 12**, 10 a.m.-noon \$50. 805-286-5993. [CreativeMeTime.com](https://creativemetime.com). Art Center Morro Bay, 835 Main St., Morro Bay.

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

CULTURE & LIFESTYLE

SANTA MARIA VALLEY/LOS ALAMOS

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

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

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

COMMUNITY BAZAAR: MARCH MADNESS Features more than 65 vendors. **March 6**, 11 a.m.-4 p.m. Filipino Community Center, 2270 Preisker Lane, Santa Maria.

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

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

SANTA MARIA VALLEY'S BUSINESS EXPO 2022 Hosted by the Santa Maria Valley Chamber of Commerce. **March 3**, 11 a.m.-2 p.m. santamaria.com. Radisson Hotel, 3455 Airport Dr., Santa Maria.

TECH HELP SATURDAY Schedule a one-on-one appointment for instruction on technology topics. Registration is required. **March 5**, 11 a.m.-1 p.m. Free. 805-925-0994. cityofsantamaria.org/city-government/departments/library. Santa Maria Public Library, 421 S. McClelland St., Santa Maria.

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



HOT STUFF

MARCH 3 - MARCH 10
2022

GUITAR PICK

The Brick Barn Wine Estate in Buellton presents local musician Keith Cox live in concert on Saturday, March 12, from 2 to 6 p.m. Reservations to this outdoor event are recommended but not required. Wine will be available for purchase throughout the show. For more info on the concert and other upcoming musical acts hosted by the Brick Barn Wine Estate, call (805) 686-1208 or visit brickbarnwineestate.com. The winery is located at 795 W. Highway 246, Buellton.

—C.W.

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.

POP-UP SALE: OUTDOOR FLEA MARKET POP-UP Features multiple vendors. **March 5**, 11 a.m.-4 p.m. 805-270-4045. Pop-up location, 148 West Branch St., Arroyo Grande.

WEEKLY WATER SAFETY LESSONS Facility advertised as open and safe. Give the office a call to register over the phone. Mondays-Fridays \$160-\$190. 805-481-6399. 5 Cities Swim School, 425 Traffic Way, Arroyo Grande, 5citysswimschool.com.

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.

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

CAL POLY BASEBALL VS. SAN JOSE STATE A midweek game. Cal Poly Baseball faces San Jose State. **March 8**, 6 p.m. \$5. 805-756-4849. gopoly.com/. Baggett Stadium, 1 Grand Ave., San Luis Obispo.

CAL POLY BASKETBALL VS. UC IRVINE The Mustangs take on UC Irvine in a Big West Conference match-up. **March 3**, 7-9 p.m. gopoly.com/. Mott Athletics Center, 1 Grand Ave., San Luis Obispo, 805-756-7297.

CAL POLY BASKETBALL VS. UC SAN DIEGO The last Cal Poly Basketball game of the season. The Mustangs will take on UC San Diego. **March 5**, 7-9 p.m. gopoly.com/. Mott Athletics Center, 1 Grand Ave., San Luis Obispo, 805-756-7297.

CULTURE & LIFESTYLE continued page 12

CAL POLY BEACH VOLLEYBALL VS ARIZONA STATE Watch the Mustangs battle Arizona State. **March 12**, 10:30 a.m. Free. gopoly.com/. Swanson Beach Volleyball Complex, 1 Grand Ave, San Luis Obispo, 805-756-4849.

CAL POLY BEACH VOLLEYBALL VS LMU The Mustangs take on LMU. **March 11**, 7 p.m. Free. gopoly.com/. Swanson Beach Volleyball Complex, 1 Grand Ave, San Luis Obispo, 805-756-4849.

CAL POLY BEACH VOLLEYBALL VS SAN JOSE STATE The first home match of the season as the Mustangs take on San Jose State. **March 11**, 4 p.m. Free. gopoly.com/. Swanson Beach Volleyball Complex, 1 Grand Ave, San Luis Obispo, 805-756-4849.

CAL POLY BEACH VOLLEYBALL VS WASHINGTON Come watch the Mustangs take on Washington. **March 12**, 10:30 a.m. Free. gopoly.com/. Swanson Beach Volleyball Complex, 1 Grand Ave, San Luis Obispo, 805-756-4849.

CAL POLY SOFTBALL MUSTANG CLASSIC Cal Poly Softball hosts Pacific and Nevada on day one of the Mustang Classic at Bob Janssen Field. **March 12**, 11 a.m. Free. gopoly.com. Cal Poly Softball hosts Pacific and Nevada on day two of the Mustang Classic at Bob Janssen Field. **March 13**, 12:30 p.m. Free. gopoly.com. Bob Janssen Field, 1 Grand Ave., San Luis Obispo, 805-756-7297.

CAL POLY SOFTBALL VS PENN A home opener doubleheader. **March 9**, 3 p.m. Free. gopoly.com. Bob Janssen Field, 1 Grand Ave., San Luis Obispo, 805-756-7297.

CALIFORNIA DURING WORLD WAR II: HISTORY CENTER CARNEGIE LECTURE WITH SGM DANIEL SEBBY A History Center Carnegie Lecture about Camp San Luis Obispo, the training center for the troops that fought in the Pacific and changed SLO forever while they were here. Free event on Zoom; call History Center for the link. **March 4**, 5:30-7:30 p.m. 805-543-0638. historycenterslo.org. History Center of San Luis Obispo County, 696 Monterey St., San Luis Obispo.

CARNEGIE LECTURE: CALIFORNIA AND WORLD WAR II (CAMP SAN LUIS OBISPO) Sergeant Major Dan Sebbly will highlight the role of Camp San Luis Obispo, the original home of the California National Guard, during World War II. Camp San Luis served as the training site for seven infantry divisions of GIs called to the front. **March 4**, 5:30 p.m. Free. 805-543-0638. historycenterslo.org/lecture. Online, See website, San Luis Obispo.

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

FAMILY COUNCIL FOR SLO COUNTY LONG TERM CARE RESIDENTS Learn about Long Term Residents' Rights and other tools for improving quality of life for anyone in a nursing home, assisted living, or care home. **March 5**, 10-11:30 a.m. and **March 9**, 2-3:30 p.m. Free. 805-785-0132. bit.ly/SLOFamilyCouncil. Online, See website, San Luis Obispo.

HISTORY OF CHUMASH LAND AND LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS WITH ALAN SALAZAR Chumash/Tataviam elder Alan Salazar will discuss what a land acknowledgement is and talk about the history of Chumash and Tataviam lands on the Central Coast. Part of the Book of the Year program in partnership with Cuesta College and Cal Poly Student Diversity and Belonging. **March 5**, 11 a.m.-noon Free. 805-781-5184. slolibrary.evanced.info/admin/signup/Calendar. San Luis Obispo Library, 995 Palm St., 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.



SCENIC AND SPELLBINDING

SLO Provisions presents a new solo exhibition, Quintessential Japan, which debuts on Friday, March 4, and is scheduled to remain on display through Sunday, March 27. This exhibit showcases colorful artworks by featured artist Liz Maruska. Admission to view the show is free. Call (805) 550-3308 or visit lizmaruska.com for more info. SLO Provisions is located at 1255 Monterey St., San Luis Obispo.

—C.W.

March 5, 10 a.m.-12:30 p.m. None. 805-451-4219. literacyforlifeso.org/become-a-tutor.php. Online, See website, San Luis Obispo.

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

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

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

SLO 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. slonoontime.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.

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

MID-STATE FAIR MARKET Features local crafters and artisans from throughout San Luis Obispo County, selling handmade and unique items. Find jewelry, apparel, fashion accessories, home décor, health and beauty products, art, antiques, handmade eats, used items, and more. **March 11**, 12-5 p.m., **March 12**, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. and **March 13**, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Free. 805-239-0655. midstatefair.com/event-center/pages/midstatefairmarket.php. Paso Robles Event Center, 2198 Riverside Avenue, Paso Robles.

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

NORTH COAST SLO COUNTY

AXE THROWING Enjoy the art of axe throwing in a safe and fun environment. Kids ages 10 and older are welcome with an adult. No personal axes please. Fridays, 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m. and Saturdays, 12-6 p.m. \$20. 805-528-4880. baysidemartialarts.com. Bayside Martial Arts, 1200 2nd St., Los Osos.

BOOK-SIGNING: MORNING WORDS BY SHIANA SEITZ Seitz's book is an inspirational collection of words and photographs that will inspire readers to be still, create space for harmony, and learn how to live in the moment. Meet the author herself. **March 12**, 1-3 p.m. Free. Coalesce Bookstore, 845 Main St., Morro Bay, 805-772-2880, coalescebookstore.com/.

CENTRAL COAST WOOD CARVERS Learn the art of wood carving or wood burning. Join Central Coast Wood Carvers in Morro Bay at St. Timothy's. Open for beginners, intermediate, or advance. Learn a wide range of techniques and skills. Mask Required. Tuesdays, 9:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Free. St. Timothy's Catholic Church, 962 Piney Way, Morro Bay, 805-772-2840, sttimothymorrobay.org/index.html.

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

2022 KIWANIS CORNED BEEF AND CABBAGE DINNER Each meal includes a generous portion of lean corned beef, red potatoes, cabbage, carrots, onions, horseradish, and a freshly baked roll. All meals will be packaged to-go; stay in your car for a contactless pick-up. **March 13**, 11:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m. my805tix.com. Minami Community Center, 600 W. Enos Drive, Santa Maria.

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

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

SOUTH COAST SLO COUNTY

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

FOOD & DRINK continued page 16

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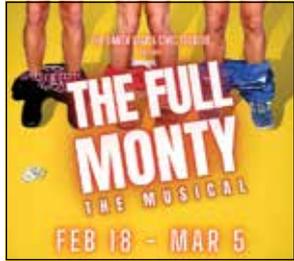
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The Full Monty: The Musical
MARCH 4 & 5
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Santa Maria



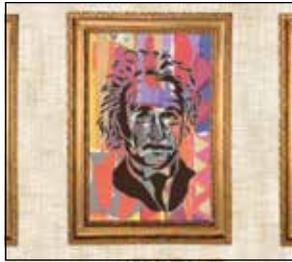
46 West Safari Sunday!
SUNDAY, MARCH 6
Various 46 West Wineries,
Paso Robles



Wednesdays Around the World Winemaker Dinner: Ireland
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 9
Cass Winery, Paso Robles



A Love Affair in Paris Jazz Concert
THURSDAY, MARCH 10
Fremont Theater, SLO



Picasso at the Lapin Agile
FRIDAY, MARCH 11 &
SUNDAY, MARCH 27
KleinDance Arts, Santa Maria



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



Kiwanis Drive-Thru Corned Beef & Cabbage Dinner
SUNDAY, MARCH 13
Minami Community Center, SM



Spring Release Weekend Sunset Social
FRIDAY, MARCH 18
Cass Winery, Paso Robles



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



Central Coast Guitar Show
SATURDAY, MARCH 26
Radisson Hotel, Santa Maria



Songwriters at Play: Langham and Gill
SUNDAY, MARCH 27
Unity of Santa Maria



5CHC Hope for the Homeless Golf Tournament
SATURDAY, APRIL 2
Pismo State Beach Golf Course



Ted's Estate Beef Winemaker Dinner: Brisket
FRIDAY, APRIL 15
Cass Winery, Paso Robles



34th Annual AAUW Garden Tour
SUNDAY, APRIL 24
Morro Bay / Los Osos



Barrel Room Concert: Soundhouse
SUNDAY, APRIL 24
Cass Winery, Paso Robles

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SAN LUIS OBISPO

"UNTAMED" DINNER At Her Table is celebrating International Women's Day with an unforgettable formal dinner. The menu is inspired by women living life with freedom and tenacity. It will feature 6 women chefs and 6 women winemakers. **March 8**, 5:30-9 p.m. \$175. athertable.com/events-2022. The Carrisa, 736 Higuera St., San Luis Obispo, 805-543-1843.

AT HER TABLE: WOMEN'S WEEK CELEBRATION Support more than 150 women-owned businesses within the food and beverage industry in a week of culinary celebration. Schedule includes workshops, special menu items, dinners, and more. **March 6-13** Varies. athertable.com/. SLO County, Countywide, San Luis Obispo.

BEHIND THE BAR: DISCUSSION AND MIXER Women in the beverage industry will be sharing their experiences behind the bar. This discussion is moderated by Jaime Lewis of Consumed, with light bites provided by Highwater. See the link for details. **March 7**, 5:30-8 p.m. \$25. athertable.com. Highwater, 1127 Broad St., San Luis Obispo, 805-439-1259.

COURTESY PHOTO BY CONNOR BAILEY



JAZZY JAMBOREE

Mo Betta Jazz Productions presents its next jazz concert, *A Love Affair in Paris*, at the Fremont Theater on Thursday, March 10, at 7:30 p.m. Performers include local jazz vocalist Deborah Gilmore (pictured) and special guest musician Walt Johnson, Frank Sinatra's former lead trumpet player. Tickets to the show range from \$20 to \$30 and are available in advance at my805tix.com. Children 12 and under can get in for free with a paid adult. The Fremont Theater is located at 1035 Monterey St., San Luis Obispo.

—C.W.

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.

MUSIC

SANTA YNEZ VALLEY

ERIC ZOBEL: GUITAR COVERS Zobel has been playing 6 and 12 string guitars and singing for more than 40 years. Musical styles include rock, folk, blues, country, pop, reggae, and contemporary. **March 5**, 6-9 p.m. 805-686-9126. arrowsmithwine.com. Arrowsmith's, 1539 Mission Drive, Solvang.

JEZ BLACKER: LIVE ON THE PATIO **March 5**, 1 p.m. Maverick Saloon, 3687 Sagunto St., Santa Ynez, 805-686-4785, mavericksaloon.org.

LINDSEY MARIE: SINGER AND GUITARIST Lindsey Marie sings her own compositions, along with covers, and plays the electric guitar. **March 11**, 6-9 p.m. 805-686-9126. arrowsmithwine.com. Arrowsmith's, 1539 Mission Drive, Solvang.

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

MEDICINE HAT LIVE **March 5**, 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.

SANTA MARIA VALLEY/LOS ALAMOS

THE HOMESTEAD: LIVE MUSIC ON THE PATIO Check the Homestead's Facebook page for details on live music events. Fridays, Saturdays The Homestead, 105 W. Clark Ave, Old Orcutt, 805-287-9891, thehomesteadoldorcutt.com.

LIVE MUSIC AT THE SHIFT Check the Shift's social media for updates on live music happenings. Fridays, Saturdays theshiftrestaurant.com. The Shift, 205 E Clark Ave., Orcutt, 805-264-7871.

LOGAN LANDRESS LIVE **March 4**, 6 p.m. Vino et Amicis, 156 S. Broadway, Orcutt, 805-631-0496, vinoetamicis.com.

PIANO TECHNIQUE LECTURE WITH UCSB INSTRUCTOR CHARLES ASCHE Presented by the Central Coast Music Teachers Association. **March 5**, 11 a.m. Free. centralcoastmusic.org. Santa Maria Public Library, 421 S. McClelland St., Santa Maria, 805-925-0994.

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

ST. PATRICK'S DANCE Santa Maria Recreation and Parks and the Santa Maria Valley Senior Club presents a St. Patrick's Dance featuring Riptide Big Band with vocalist Bob Nations. Wear green. Funded by the Community Foundation of SLO. **March 13**, 1:30-4 p.m. Free. 805-925-0951. riptidebb.com. Elwin Mussell Senior Center, 510 Park Ave., Santa Maria.

SOUTH COAST SLO COUNTY

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

SAN LUIS OBISPO

DAN HORNE BAND With support by Omar Velasco. **March 4**, 7 p.m. SLO Brew Rock, 855 Aerovista Pl., San Luis Obispo, 805-543-1843, slobrew.com.

DREW AND ELLIE HOLCOMB LIVE **March 4**, 7 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.

ERIC KRASNO AND SON LITTLE With the Assembly Band. **March 3**, 7 p.m. SLO Brew Rock, 855 Aerovista Pl., San Luis Obispo, 805-543-1843, slobrew.com.

JAZZ AT THE FREMONT: A LOVE AFFAIR IN PARIS Presented by Mo Betta Jazz Productions. Features local jazz vocalist Deborah Gilmore and prolific trumpet player Walt Johnson, backed by cast of jazz musicians. **March 10**, 6:30 p.m. \$20-\$30. my805tix.com. The Fremont Theater, 1035 Monterey St., San Luis Obispo, 805-546-8600.

SAID THE SKY **March 9**, 8 p.m. The Fremont Theater, 1035 Monterey St., San Luis Obispo, 805-546-8600, fremontslo.com.

TAJ MAHAL QUARTET LIVE **March 6**, 7 p.m. The Fremont Theater, 1035 Monterey St., San Luis Obispo, 805-546-8600, fremontslo.com.

Spread the word!



Send event information to calendar@santamariasun.com.

Arts Briefs

Wine and Design hosts new monthly workshop series, West Coast Landmarks

FILE PHOTO BY JOE PAYSNE



On Saturday, March 5, Wine and Design in Orcutt will host the first entry in a new workshop series, West Coast Landmarks. Participants of the course, held at 6:30 p.m., will paint a landscape of Multnomah Falls in Oregon, and each monthly class to follow will be based on a different well-known landmark.

Guests are welcome to bring their own snacks and nonalcoholic drinks to the class, while alcoholic beverages—including wine, beer, and more—will be available for purchase. Only people ages 21 or older will be admitted to the workshop. Admission is \$38 per person. Early registration is encouraged, as space is limited.

To find out more about the event and other upcoming entries in the West Coast Landmarks series, call (805) 868-1746 or visit wineanddesign.com. Wine and Design is located at 3420 Orcutt Road, suite 204, Orcutt.

PCPA seeks affordable housing for incoming artists and students

The Pacific Conservatory Theatre (PCPA) is currently seeking low-cost housing opportunities for the company's incoming interns, students, and guest artists. Santa Maria residents with an extra room to rent out are encouraged to contact PCPA's assistant production manager Geno Franco at (805) 928-7731, Ext. 3153, or by emailing companymanager@pcpa.org.

Housing providers will be required to offer each renter a bedroom with a bed, a private or shared bathroom, and access to an on-site kitchen and laundry facilities. Residences that are walking distance to Allan Hancock College and the PCPA offices in Santa Maria are preferred. Visit pcpa.org for additional info.

Solvang Theaterfest nearly reaches fundraising goal of \$4.7 million

FILE PHOTO BY ANDREA ROOKS



During the Solvang Festival Theater's recent Rejsegilde celebration in February, a special announcement was made regarding the status of the theater's ongoing fundraising efforts.

"We're now a little more than \$100,000 from our original goal," Ann Foxworthy Lewellen, board vice chair and capital campaign chair of Solvang Theaterfest, said during the gathering, according to a press release. "A lot of people said we would never be able to get here, and now, we're almost there."

The nonprofit has been raising funds to renovate the Solvang Festival Theater since 2018. The original fundraising goal was \$4.7 million. The final cost of renovations will increase marginally, due to minor cost adjustments, according to the organization.

To find out more about the Solvang Festival Theater's renovation project, visit solvangtheaterfest.org. The amphitheater is located at 420 2nd St., Solvang. ○

Arts Briefs is compiled by Arts Editor Caleb Wiselblood. Send information to cwiselblood@santamariasun.com.

PHOTO COURTESY OF THE CENTRAL COAST MUSIC TEACHERS ASSOCIATION



PUPILS AND PRODIGIES: The Central Coast Music Teachers Association's most recent student competition took place in Arroyo Grande at the beginning of February. The four winning piano students were Grant Smith, Andy Shen, Suri Kim, and Francesca Osgood (from left to right).

Where the wunderkinds are

2022 marks the Central Coast Music Teachers Association's 50th anniversary

BY CALEB WISEBLOOD

When music instructor Louise Frye moved from Southern California to the Central Coast, she quickly found a convenient way to connect with colleagues and potential new students in the area.

Today, there's probably an app for that. But this was 1985.

"Being a piano teacher and a previous member of the Music Teachers Association of California, I was anxious to meet other teachers with a similar professional philosophy," said Frye, who was thrilled to find out the statewide nonprofit had a local chapter near her new home.

Frye can remember going to her first meeting hosted by the Central Coast Music Teachers Association, held one evening at a member's house in San Luis Obispo.

"I knew right away that I would join," said Frye, who felt confident she would "enjoy the comradeship of the other teachers and experience a lot of professional growth," she added.

While its parent organization—the Music Teachers National Association—has been around since the late 1800s, the Central Coast chapter was founded in 1972,

PHOTO COURTESY OF THE CENTRAL COAST MUSIC TEACHERS ASSOCIATION



DREAM TEAM: Participating members of the Central Coast Music Teachers Association include local music instructors Kate Hepworth, Betty Hansen, Nell Kauffman, Deborah Lagomarsino, Charlotte Wallace, Louise Frye, Linda Brady, and Mary Stornetta (from left to right).

making this year its 50th in existence.

"Hopefully our chapter will find a way to celebrate our 50th anniversary," said Frye, who currently serves the association as its secretary. "Perhaps a nice lunch or dinner out when we get closer to summer. The pandemic situation has forced us to mainly meet on Zoom."

The group is currently able to host some in-person events though, including an upcoming piano lecture led by Charles Asche, a music professor at UCSB. The free program will take place at the Santa Maria Public Library in Shepard Hall on Saturday, March 5, at 11 a.m.

"His lecture will focus on the fundamentals of developing an effortless sound and technique," said Frye, who first met Asche through the association and has known him since the 1990s.

Like her students, Frye's own musical journey began during her childhood. She was 7 years old when her father taught her how to play the piano, and 13 when she started taking formal lessons at the San Francisco Conservatory of Music.

Frye received her master's degree in music at CSU Fullerton before becoming a piano teacher herself.

"I still teach after 45 years and really enjoy it," said Frye, whose music studio is based in Nipomo. "A few

The music never stops

Visit centralcoastmusic.org for more info on the Central Coast Music Teachers Association, which aims to promote music education offerings throughout Santa Barbara and San Luis Obispo counties. On the association's website, visitors can click on a tab for any Central Coast city, ranging from Lompoc to Cambria, to see who's teaching where.

of the teachers in our group have been teaching equally as long and well past retirement age."

The Central Coast Music Teachers Association aims to promote music education offerings throughout Santa Barbara and San Luis Obispo counties, as the group's member instructors are based in several different cities. On the association's website, visitors can click on a tab for any Central Coast city, ranging from Lompoc to Cambria, to see who's teaching where.

"The benefits of joining the Central Coast Music Teachers Association are really worthwhile," said Frye, adding that the group is just as beneficial to

local music students as it is to local music instructors.

Along with free lectures and other programming, the Central Coast chapter and its parent group also host periodic music competitions. The most recent local piano competition took place in Arroyo Grande at the beginning of February.

"Motivated students have many avenues to showcase their talents in performance and improve their musicianship skills," Frye said. ○

Stay tuned for Arts Editor Caleb Wiselblood's next feature. Send comments to cwiselblood@santamariasun.com.

FILE PHOTO BY ZAC EZZONE



LOCAL LECTURE: The Central Coast Music Teachers Association is hosting a free piano technique lecture, led by UCSB music professor Charles Asche, at the Santa Maria Public Library in Shepard Hall on Saturday, March 5, at 11 a.m.

PHOTO COURTESY OF THE CENTRAL COAST MUSIC TEACHERS ASSOCIATION



MUSIC HISTORY: Like her students, music teacher Louise Frye's own musical journey began during her childhood. She was 7 years old when her father taught her how to play the piano. Frye received her master's degree in music at CSU Fullerton before becoming a piano teacher herself.

Pen and sword

Joe Wright directs the oft-told tale of *Cyrano de Bergerac*, a real-life 17th century French novelist, playwright, poet, and swordsman whose life was fictionalized in Edmond Rostand's famous 1897 play. Wright adheres to Rostand's original, with an adapted screenplay and original songs by Erica Schmidt from her 2018 stage musical. If you happen to have never seen any of the two dozen or so film versions, the story goes like this: *Cyrano* (Peter Dinklage, substituting his short stature for Cyrano's original "flaw" of a massive nose), loves his longtime friend, Roxanne (Haley Bennett), but believes himself unworthy of her. She, on the other hand, falls for the handsome but inarticulate soldier, Christian (Kelvin Harrison Jr.). Because Cyrano wants Roxanne to be happy, he helps the romantically inept Christian win her with beautifully written love letters. Naturally, things do not go smoothly. (123 min.)

Glen: *Cyrano* and Roxanne's story has been fodder for a lot of movies that have taken great liberties with Rostand's original play, but I like that director Wright and screenwriter Schmidt have decided to deliver the tragicomic tale as it was originally intended: a heartbreaking story of unrequited love about a fearless, brilliant man whose physical characteristic renders him insecure, keeping him from a relationship he deserves. Dinklage is excellent as Cyrano, a man who's heard and endured every insult but who's able to compose on the spot a witty verse while engaging in a duel and dispatching a man. Dinklage has an amazingly expressive face and a soulful tenor singing voice. Most viewers know him from *Game of Thrones*, but he's had terrific lead roles in films such as *The Station Agent* (2003) and *My Dinner with Hervé* (2018). Here he's riveting, and he and Bennett have terrific chemistry. For her part, Bennett's Roxanne is luminous, and Bennett's singing voice is absolutely lovely. The songs are very understated but at times heartbreaking, for instance when soldiers sing "Wherever I Fall" as they hand over their last war letters before charging into battle.

Anna: I like that Wright didn't try to turn this story on its head too much. I think a lot of filmmakers would feel like the retelling needs to be something different—but let's face it, it's a classic story for a reason. I love Dinklage. He's a studied and skilled performer who breathes a whole lot of life into his characters. Cyrano is a tortured soul; his wit has served him well in many ways, but he feels he will never be the man that Roxanne desires. You must suspend some disbelief that Cyrano and Roxanne were childhood friends. Dinklage is almost 20 years Bennett's senior and the two do not look like peers age-wise for that reason. However, the two actors work so well together and are such a wonderful duo that I don't mind it. The music is lovely and tenderhearted, sung well by all. I haven't seen the stage show, but Schmidt's score and lyrics are beautiful. It may be an old tale, but this rendition gives it a new face.

Glen: Every story needs an antagonist, in this case it's "nobleman" De Guiche (a menacing Ben Mendelsohn), who wants Roxanne as his bride, or at least in his bed. She's perfectly happy to accompany the rich but gauche aristocrat to the theater with her attendant, Marie (Monica Dolan) for propriety's sake, but Roxanne loves poetry and romance, and De Guiche is crass. Even though Christian is a dullard and undeserving of Roxanne, he's at least earnest and respectful, and though we're cheering for Cyrano to get his due, Christian is certainly a better match than De Guiche. Wright's two-hour film can't contain all that Rostand's five-act play laid out, and some elements have been changed, but the story's soul remains: tragically unrequited love with the second most famous balcony scene in theater since you-know-who.

CYRANO

What's it rated? **PG-13**
 What's it worth, Anna?
Full price
 What's it worth, Glen?
Full price
 Where's it showing?
The Palm in SLO



UNREQUIRED: Expert swordsman and gifted poet Cyrano (Peter Dinklage, right) is deeply in love with Roxanne (Haley Bennett), but believes his small stature makes him unworthy, in *Cyrano*.

Anna: De Guiche is so easy to hate here, and Mendelsohn delivers quite a performance as the sleazy character. The film is pretty evenly scored between audiences and critics on Rotten Tomatoes, and overall, this musical is accessible and entertaining. I also really enjoyed Dolan as Marie, who chides Roxanne like a younger sister but begrudgingly stands by her side always. Full of wonderful banter, especially between Cyrano and Roxanne, this script is witty as well as emotional. This film is certainly worth the price of admission. ○

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

TV Reviews

INVENTING ANNA

What's it rated? **TV-MA** When? **2022**
 Where's it showing? **Netflix**

I remember hearing about Anna Delvey while her trial was going on, but I had no idea the depths to which her deceptions went. The "this whole story is completely true, except for all the parts that are totally made up" retelling of Delvey's mysterious character and eventual downfall gets to the nitty gritty of not just Anna herself, but those around her who bought her lies for so long. A lot of the series also focuses on Vivian Kent (Anna Chlumsky), a reporter hungry for her next story and desperate for redemption after a professional fumble.

Julia Garner's Anna speaks with an odd and undefinable accent, is rude and blunt, and is only interested in helping people if it helps herself. From using private jets to staying in lavish hotel rooms without paying, what Delvey managed to pull off is quite stunning. Creating fake bank statements, promising money wires that never came through, securing loans with banks based on her imagined \$60 million trust fund—she did it all. She wanted to build the Anna Delvey Foundation, an exclusive club in New York city devoted to



PHOTO COURTESY OF SHONDALAND

providing the über rich with a place to show off their wealth.

In looking for her story, Vivian finds people in two camps—either they feel conned and wronged by Delvey, or they stand behind her, even after learning what a house of cards her life really was. The character is truly unlikeable, and Garner plays a vicious brat so well. This series is great for a binge. It's a Shonda Rhimes (*Grey's Anatomy*, *Scandal*) drama in the best way possible. (nine 53- to 89-min. episodes)

—Anna

BINGEABLE

1883

What's it rated? **TV-MA**
 When? **2021-present**
 Where's it showing? **Paramount Plus**

Created by Taylor Sheridan (*Sicario*, *Hell or High Water*, *Wind River*), *1883* is a prequel to the popular TV series *Yellowstone*, about the Duttons, a ranching family struggling to maintain their hold on a sprawling Montana ranch. In *1883*, we follow James (Tim McGraw) and Margaret Dutton (Faith Hill), and their daughter, Elsa (Isabel May), as they team up with wagon train guide Shea Brennan (Sam Elliott) and his sideman Thomas (LaMonica Garrett) when they agree to take a group of greenhorn immigrants across the country and into Oregon.

It's classic Western storytelling. The aging Shea is on his last push across the frontier, wanting to make one last hard, bitter trek, knowing he's all that stands between success and certain death for the travelers desperate for a better home. Independent James Dutton puts family first and teaming up is a strategic decision—one that can be reversed if it suits him.

Much of the story is about independent Elsa, a young woman coming into her own, who falls in love with the land ... and a



PHOTO COURTESY OF 101 STUDIOS AND CBS ENTERTAINMENT

Native American named Sam (Martin Sensmeier). There's danger at every turn, whether it's the terrain, weather, bad men, or war parties protecting their territory. It can get melodramatic to be sure, but Sheridan knows how to write a propulsive storyline. I'm looking forward to season 2, and there's also word of a show called *1932*, portraying another chapter in the Dutton family story. (10 approximately one-hour episodes) ○

—Glen

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Questions? Email calendar@santamariasun.com



Truffle shuffle

Experimental confectioner Jessica Foster reflects on a prolific career in chocolatiering

BY CALEB WISEBLOOD

As a kid, Jessica Foster loved to make mud pies—with real mud—while playing in the dirt. That’s the only memory she can confidently label as foreshadowing her career path.

“I liked candy, but I didn’t love chocolate,” the professional chocolatier said. “I was like the fruity candy kid. I was more into Skittles, Starbursts, stuff like that.”

The Santa Barbara resident specializes in handmade, gourmet chocolate truffles and has operated her own business—Jessica Foster Confections—for nearly two decades. Her chocolates are available at several

COURTESY PHOTO BY JAN FIREK



AN UNLIKELY CANDY CRAFTER: Santa Barbara local Jessica Foster started her own chocolate truffle business in 2003, although she admitted to not having a sweet tooth herself. “I think that the fact that I’m not a big sweets person has ‘made my flavor.’ My inspirations are very savory. I like to use a lot of not traditionally sweet ingredients,” she said.

markets and wineries across the Central Coast, including locations in Buellton, Los Olivos, and Santa Ynez.

Born and raised in Santa Maria, Foster has lived in Santa Barbara County for most of her life, minus a one-year stint in Spain after she graduated from Ernest Righetti High School. Foster credits her time abroad as rebooting her taste buds.

“There were spices I had never heard of and I just got obsessed. I gained probably like 30 pounds in my little trip there,” said Foster, who moved to Santa Barbara after returning to the U.S.

During her college years at UCSB, Foster said she became engrossed in watching cooking shows on the Food Network, and would often try recipes out for herself in her free time. She enjoyed presenting her results at casual dinner parties.

“I would just invite friends over and experiment on them,” said Foster, who continues to embrace experimentation when it comes to chocolate making.

Foster’s first attempt to make chocolate truffles was inspired by a Martha Stewart article in the early 2000s. She gradually found herself making more and more DIY chocolates, but with less conventional recipes.

“I would just go and grab stuff and then take it back to my kitchen and try to mix things together,” said Foster, whose favorite store to buy spices and other ingredients from was, and continues to be, the Indo China Market in Goleta.



BOXED BEAUTIES: Boxes of Jessica Foster’s handmade, gourmet chocolates can be found at several markets and wineries across the Central Coast, including locations in Buellton, Los Olivos, and Santa Ynez.

COURTESY PHOTO BY KRISTEN JOHANSEN

Confections to celebrate

Find out more about Jessica Foster Confections at jessicafosterconfections.com. The company’s offerings can be found at various markets and wineries throughout the Central Coast, including locations in Buellton and Los Olivos.

Owner and founder Jessica Foster will be one of the featured culinary guests at the Women Winemakers Celebration: A Toast to Women in Wine and Food, held on Sunday, March 6, from 1 to 4 p.m., at Roblar Farm in Santa Ynez.

“I think that the fact that I’m not a big sweets person has ‘made my flavor.’ My inspirations are very savory. I like to use a lot of not traditionally sweet ingredients,” Foster added. “I just like putting in weird stuff because I don’t like super sweet things, so I think it maybe sets me aside.”

Foster held positions at a handful of restaurants before starting her confections business in 2003, which

EATS continued page 20



FLAVOR HAVEN: Jessica Foster Confections offers about 30 different truffle flavors, which include dark chocolate chipotle, dark chocolate habanero, milk chocolate madras curry, and several more that use spices, herbs, exotic teas, and other ingredients.

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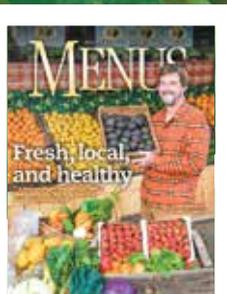
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EATS

EATS from page 19

she operates in a commercial kitchen with a small staff of employees.

To date, Jessica Foster Confections offers about 30 different truffle flavors, which include dark chocolate chipotle, dark chocolate habanero, milk chocolate madras curry, and several more that use spices, herbs, and exotic teas.

While available at various storefronts, and through direct delivery options, Foster's chocolates can also be found during local pop-up events. On Sunday, March 6, Foster will be one of the featured culinary guests at the Women Winemakers Celebration: A Toast to Women in Wine and Food, held at Roblar Farm in Santa Ynez.

This fundraiser reception showcases a large group of female winemakers, bakers, chefs, and other food crafters, and proceeds from the event will benefit the Community Health Centers of the Central Coast.

COURTESY PHOTO BY SILAS FALLSTICH



PREMIUM PACKAGING: While Jessica Foster's chocolate truffles are available at several local venues, her company also offers direct delivery options to customers. Orders are nearly always packed with gel ice packs, and other precautionary measures are taken to make sure packages arrive "safe, sound, and delicious," according to Foster's website.

Foster is excited to mingle with her peers at the outdoor celebration and taste some new offerings, while trading her own. Many of the featured vintners are already well acquainted with Foster's business, as "probably a good 30 percent of my wholesale customers are wineries," she said.

When Foster sees her truffles paired with wines, one of her favorite reactions to watch from customers is after they've tried white chocolates with a white wine—one of her own preferred pairings, which she considers vastly underrated.

"Everyone assumes that red wine and dark chocolate is like the Holy Grail or something," Foster said. "Dark chocolate is actually a lot more difficult to pair with red wine. Milk chocolate is easier." ○

Share tasty tips!



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Send your favorite wine and chocolate pairings to Arts Editor Caleb Wiseblood at cwiseblood@santamariasun.com.

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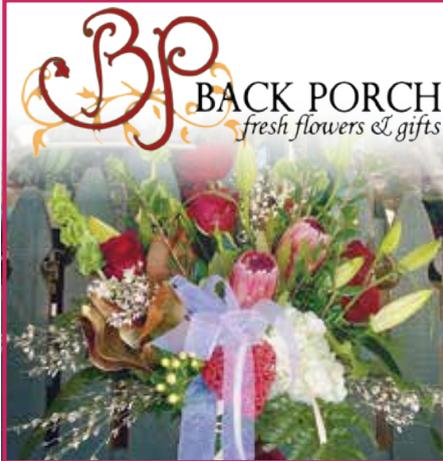
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