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AT THE MOVIES



*The Batman: Brooding and long [22]*

# Sun



# Wind economy?

*Putting turbines in the ocean could bring an influx of jobs to the Central Coast—but not everyone's a believer [8]*

BY MALEA MARTIN

**NEWS** Redistricting in Santa Maria [4]

**ARTS** Picasso and Einstein meet in Orcutt [20]

**EATS** Buellton Wine and Chili Fest is back [24]



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# Contents

MARCH 10 - MARCH 17, 2022 VOL. 23 NO. 2



**OCEAN ENERGY:** Offshore wind could generate more than electricity for the Central Coast.

**A**lthough some are optimistic about the possibilities that could come with installing wind turbines in the waters off the Central Coast, others are more skeptical about what it would mean for jobs and the economy. An economic report published last year by Cal Poly found that the Central Coast's economy won't benefit as much from offshore wind development without also building a specialized wind port. This week, Staff Writer Malea Martin speaks to elected officials and union and contractor representatives about the future [8].

You can also read about the argument over representation in Santa Maria [4]; a play by Steve Martin taking the Orcutt Community Theater stage [20]; and what's on deck for the upcoming Buellton Wine and Chili Festival [24].

*Camillia Lanham*  
editor

Cover photo from Deposit Photos > Cover design by Alex Zuniga

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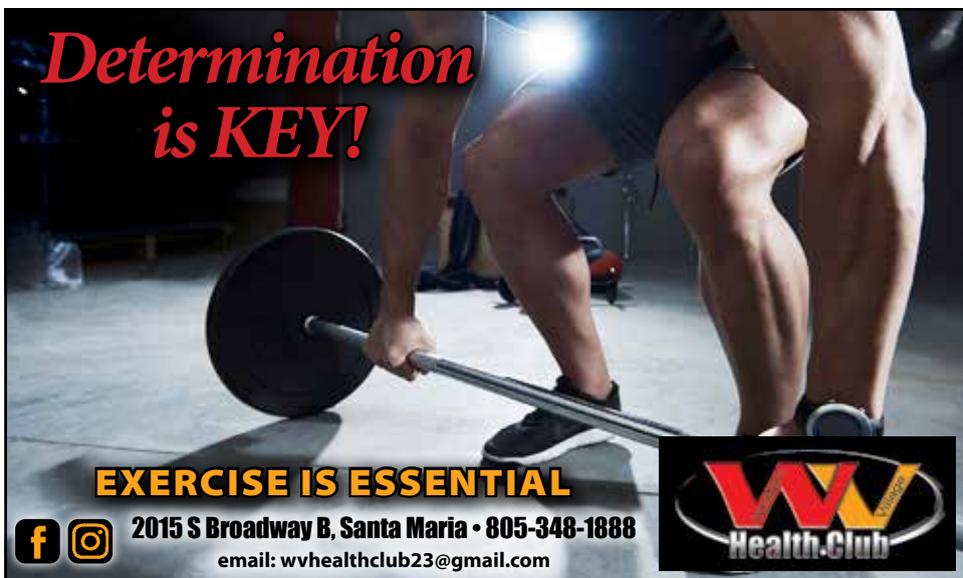
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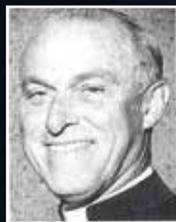
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## Political Watch

• The Santa Barbara County Democratic Party announced it was endorsing Santa Barbara Unified School District Trustee **Laura Capps** for Santa Barbara County 2nd District Supervisor, according to a March 3 statement from party chair **Darcél Elliott**. “We are proud to endorse Laura Capps’ campaign for 2nd District county supervisor. During her service on the SBUSD board of trustees, Laura has exhibited strong leadership on issues affecting our county—spearheading the transition to clean energy, ensuring all students have access to basic needs, and prioritizing health and safety throughout the pandemic,” Elliott said in a statement. “We look forward to seeing her bring her skills and Democratic values to the county Board of Supervisors, and help lead the county through what lies ahead.” Capps—a Santa Barbara County native—began her public service career in Washington, D.C., working for President **Bill Clinton**, Sen. **Ted Kennedy**, and Sen. **John Kerry**. She also worked with nonprofit organizations **Ocean Conservancy** and **The Climate Reality Project**. In 2016, Capps was elected to the Santa Barbara Unified School District board of trustees. The primary election is in June 2022. All voters will be mailed vote-by-mail ballots in early May.

• U.S. Rep. **Salud Carbajal** (D-Santa Barbara) and a bipartisan U.S. House of Representatives majority passed the Honoring our Promise to Address Comprehensive Toxics (PACT) Act—which will treat toxic exposure as a cost of war, giving exposed veterans access to earned benefits and health care through the **Department of Veterans Affairs** (VA), according to Carbajal’s office. “When our service members embark on their missions to protect the United States and its interests around the globe, we make a promise that we would take care of them when they come home. But that promise has not been kept for some veterans who were exposed to toxic chemicals and substances in the course of their duties,” Carbajal said in a statement. The Honoring our PACT Act “will open up health care to more than 3.5 million veterans exposed to toxic substances during their military service and finally concede exposure to burn pits and airborne hazards.” The bill will create presumptions for 23 respiratory illnesses and cancers, shifting the burden of proof off of veterans. According to Carbajal’s office, if a veteran served in a particular theater at a particular time, they will be presumed to be exposed to toxic substances and therefore potentially eligible for health care and benefits. “We owe it to toxic-exposed veterans to provide the care and benefits they’ve earned,” Carbajal said.

• Gov. **Gavin Newsom** announced a new framework to provide individuals with mental health and substance use disorders the care and services they need to get healthy, according to a March 3 statement. **The Community Assistance Recovery and Empowerment (CARE) Court** proposal—which must be approved by the Legislature—would require all 58 counties to provide comprehensive treatment to the most severely impaired and untreated Californians and hold patients accountable to their plan. “CARE Court is about meeting people where they are and acting with compassion to support the thousands of Californians living on our streets with severe mental health and substance use disorders,” Newsom said in a statement. “We are taking action to break the pattern that leaves people without hope and cycling repeatedly through homelessness and incarceration. This is a new approach to stabilize people with the hardest-to-treat behavioral health conditions.” CARE Court does not wait until someone is hospitalized or arrested before providing treatment, but it will allow family members, first responders, intervention teams, and mental health service providers to refer those suffering from mental illness to community-based services. It also offers individualized intervention services and plans—all while remaining community-based—with 12- to 24-month plans taking a client-centered approach, according to the governor’s office. ○



**GROWTH:** Orcutt Fire Station 26—located at 1600 Tiffany Park Court in Santa Maria—is one of the two current fire stations serving the Orcutt community. The new station will be located further north to better serve the unincorporated area.

## Santa Barbara County Fire announces new Orcutt station

Emergency and fire response times in Orcutt could improve in the future as the Santa Barbara County Fire Department begins the process of adding a new fire station in the unincorporated area.

Fire Chief Mark Hartwig and county 5th District Supervisor Bob Nelson hosted a community meeting on March 1 at the proposed site for Fire Station 25 so residents could learn more about what’s happening.

“The interest was high, a little higher than we thought, although not completely unexpected,” Hartwig told the *Sun*. “Mostly we discussed the layout of the timeline for the new station and talked about what it’s like to have a fire station as a neighbor. There were questions about details, staffing, and space for community purposes.”

The land—purchased in 2020—is a 5-acre lot that sits on East Union Valley Parkway. Hartwig estimated that it will cost between \$9 million to \$11 million but said he wouldn’t be sure of the numbers until the planning and design phases are complete. Hartwig and his team will begin conceptual drawings over the next three months, followed by a 12-month design process, which will include construction-ready plans, prior to actually breaking ground, he said.

“It depends on the construction industry at the time, but we’d be looking at a 12- to 18-month construction timeline with the station ready two-and-a-half to three years from now,” Hartwig said. “It always takes a little longer than we wish it did, but the best part of this process is that it’s coming. It’s just going to take a little longer than we want.”

The new station coincides with a larger movement to improve overall fire and emergency services in the county, he said, with the recent approval of a universal dispatch center which would deploy the closest fire engine to the scene, dissolve service borders, and improve response times.

“It’s much needed, our response times in that area are longer than what the guidelines the national fire protection agency guidelines call for. Now, with the station, we’ll be able to meet those response time guidelines or best practices,” Hartwig said.

According to a 2020 Citygate Associates study, county fire’s response time—from answering a 911 call to arriving on the scene—is 2 minutes and 22 seconds slower than Citygate-recommended best practices, according to previous *Sun* reporting. Orcutt currently has two county fire stations,

but three crews are needed for structure fires or rescue operations, Hartwig explained.

“That area’s gotten more populated and bigger; it was identified as a place for more service so we identified it as an ideal location,” Hartwig said.

The future fire station site’s location sits in a triangle of unincorporated area with the Santa Maria Fire Department on either side, which will help the Santa Maria Fire Department in responses, Santa Maria Fire Chief Todd Tuggle said.

“The city and county borders are definitely not straight lines. To have them build another station in the location they chose strategically helps the county protect the community of Orcutt, but with the mutual aid relationship we have it adds additional resources to help all of us,” Tuggle said.

Approximately 150,000 people live in the Santa Maria Valley. The city has six stations and the county has two serving the area. An additional station would mean more hands on deck for the residents, he added.

“I think it’s good to see county fire making a commitment in our area, and we’re very happy to see their commitment to providing this level of service in the county,” Tuggle said. “It supports the overall effort to take care of each of our respective areas while also having units available to assist other communities while also having units available to assist other agencies.”

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—Taylor O’Connor

## Potential Santa Maria redistricting map promotes accessibility

Santa Maria could be looking at a future where City Council members are chosen based on the city’s classic dividing lines: Main Street and Broadway.

The city’s voters starting electing candidates from the districts they lived in during the 2018 election, and now Santa Maria’s adopting new district boundaries based on the 2020 census—a data collection that occurs every 10 years to analyze population growth and the demographic changes.

As they stand now, the city’s four districts aren’t equal—with an 18 percent population deviation between districts. Daniel Phillips from the National Demographics Corporation told council members

at their March 3 meeting. Federal law requires Santa Maria to redistrict in order to maintain balance between its districts with a deviation of less than 10 percent.

“The idea is we’re sticking very close to the districts as they currently are with the realization that the districts perform well with the exception of equal population. We made minimal changes to get the population deviation to an acceptable level,” Phillips explained as he presented three options to the council.

A community favorite was the quadrant plan: A map that used Main and Broadway to divide the city into distinct quadrants, a change compared to the current layout—which zigzags across the city’s major roads. In the quadrant plan, District 1 would be completely north of Main and west of Broadway, District 2 would be north of Main and east of Broadway, District 3 would be south of Main and west of Broadway, and District 4 would be south of Main and east of Broadway.

“This is pretty clean, you have a total population deviation of 6.2 percent—under the 10 percent threshold. Three districts are a majority Latino voting age population, but the percentage in different districts fluctuate. There’s no difference in terms of contiguity or neighborhood integrity, and the boundaries are much more easily identifiable, since they are more straight and serve to keep the district more compact,” Phillips said.

Although the City Council has yet to make any decisions, Councilmember Mike Cordero voiced his support for the quadrant map.

“The quadrant plan is much cleaner and simpler to understand, and it puts the right value on the communities of interest within the city limits,” Cordero said.

Its easy-to-understand boundaries had residents like Rebeca Garcia supporting the quadrant map.

“I noticed that one of the considerations under the second category is that when voters are in a new district, it can be confusing. I like the quadrant plan because even when voters are moved, it’s really easy to understand where you are going to be. I can see off Broadway and Main what district I would be in based on that, and it makes it accessible,” Garcia said during the meeting.

Giovanni Medina—another Santa Maria resident—added to Garcia’s comment.

“As someone who is experiencing the redistricting process for the first time and is

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NEWS from page 4

trying to understand it, I support the quadrant map. It's something I thought was super easy and necessary for our community of voters. It will encourage people to vote; there's a lack of accessibility here with no Spanish translation, and a good first step is making our map accessible," Giovanni said.

The City Council is scheduled to have a second meeting on March 15 to take additional community and council input and adopt a plan. The city is scheduled to adopt a final map on April 5.

—Taylor O'Connor

### Solvang Planning Commission finalizes recommendations on backyard sheds

Solvang's long-debated stance on backyard sheds now rests with the City Council to decide, as the Planning Commission recently passed along its proposal.

In October 2021, the City Council asked the Planning Commission to provide recommended revisions to Solvang's municipal code, due to multiple complaints regarding the city's current laws on rear-yard and side-yard sheds.

The Planning Commission held discussions on the topic during three separate meetings. On March 7, members of the Planning Commission unanimously agreed on a proposal, which Commissioner Justin Rodriguez said he hopes will help end the shed policy debacle "once and for all."

The Planning Commission originally hoped to finalize its recommendations for the City Council in February, but instead sought clarification from staff on a few of the included revisions. One of the original revisions stated that all sheds and accessory structures must remain at least 5 feet away from the residence, in order to give firefighters space for easy ladder access.

Staff was directed to circle back with the Santa Barbara County Fire Department to confirm whether the proposed revision was required by the state fire code or based on a preference from the department. During the March 7 meeting, Assistant City Attorney Chelsea O'Sullivan confirmed that the amendment was recommended by the department, but is not required by law.

Commissioner Aaron Petersen then suggested that the Planning Commission reduce the space requirement between houses and sheds to a minimum of 3 feet, rather than 5 feet. Petersen based his suggestion on the Santa Barbara County Fire Department's separate recommendation that "there be a corridor clear from the ground to the sky with a minimum width of 3 feet in side-yard and rear-yard setbacks," according to the staff report.

Petersen argued that "if all fire needs is 3 feet" for easy access, then there's no need to enforce an extra 2 feet in the revised code, which his peers agreed should be adjusted in the Planning Commission's proposal to City Council.

The original proposal's spacing requirement also applied to all rear-yard and side-yard sheds regardless of size, which caused concern among members of the Planning Commission. In response, Sullivan and staff amended the requirement to only apply to sheds and accessory structures that are 9 feet or taller.

During public comment, two Solvang residents requested that the Planning Commission add an amendment to its proposal that could "grandfather in" homeowners with sheds that violate both the current code and the recommended revisions, based on varying circumstances.

Petersen said he sympathizes with community members who wish to see that happen but argued that leaving any homeowners exempt from the municipal code would complicate the situation. The request was not added to the Planning Commission's final proposal, which moved forward to the City Council after a 5-0 vote. ○

—Caleb Wiseblood

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# DEATH NOTICES

**ABRAHAMS, JOSEPH**, 105, of San Luis Obispo passed away 2/22/2022 arrangements with Los Osos Valley Mortuary & Memorial Park

**BALDWIN, LINDA JEAN**, 81, of Paso Robles passed away 2/23/2022 arrangements with Kuehl-Nicolay Funeral Home

**BOERMAN, GARY LEE**, 86, of Paso Robles passed away 2/20/2022 arrangements with Kuehl-Nicolay Funeral Home

**BROOKS, GRACE**, 78, of Paso Robles passed away 2/21/2022 arrangements with Kuehl-Nicolay Funeral Home

**BROWN, SHIRLEY JEAN**, 94, of Paso Robles passed away 2/24/2022 arrangements with Kuehl-Nicolay Funeral Home

**CANIZALES, JORGE**, 41, of Paso Robles passed away 2/22/2022 arrangements with Kuehl-Nicolay Funeral Home

**CINCERA, MARY "DARLENE,"** 78, of Santa Maria passed away 3/4/2022 arrangements with Dudley-Hoffman Mortuary, Crematory & Memory Gardens

**DAVIS, THOMAS PRESTON**, 88, of Santa Maria passed away 3/2/2022 arrangements with Dudley-Hoffman Mortuary, Crematory & Memory Gardens

**DELFIN, JOSE**, 81, of Nipomo passed away 2/24/2022 arrangements with Dudley-Hoffman Mortuary, Crematory & Memory Gardens

**DELGADO, VINCENT ZARAGOZA**, 62, of Santa Maria passed away 3/5/2022 arrangements with Dudley-Hoffman Mortuary, Crematory & Memory Gardens

**DION, ADRIENNE KAE**, 75, of Los Osos passed away 2/22/2022 arrangements with Los Osos Valley Mortuary & Memorial Park

**FANCHER, BRYAN L.**, 59, of New Cuyama passed away 2/28/2022 arrangements with Dudley-Hoffman Mortuary, Crematory & Memory Gardens

**GOETZ, ROBERT EUGENE**, 95, of San Luis Obispo passed away 2/26/2022 arrangements with Los Osos Valley Mortuary & Memorial Park

**HERRING, RUBY JEWELL**, 88, of Paso Robles passed away 2/21/2022 arrangements with Kuehl-Nicolay Funeral Home

**HERRINGTON, EMMIT**, 21, of Paso Robles passed away 2/26/2022 arrangements with Blue Sky Cremation Service

**KEECH, GLORI**, 87, of San Luis Obispo passed away 3/3/2022 arrangements with Blue Sky Cremation Service

**KOCH, JANET MARIE**, 66, of Santa Maria passed away 2/24/2022 arrangements with Dudley-Hoffman Mortuary, Crematory & Memory Gardens

**KOLASINSKI, ROBERT J. "BOB,"** 84, of Santa Maria passed away 3/1/2022 arrangements with Dudley-Hoffman Mortuary, Crematory & Memory Gardens

**LINDEN, TYANN MARIA**, 65, of Los Osos passed away 3/2/2022 arrangements with Los Osos Valley Mortuary & Memorial Park

**LOOS, RONALD WILLIAM**, 53, of Grover Beach passed away 3/5/2022 arrangements with Marshall Spoo Sunset Funeral Chapel

**MCCLLOUD, DELORAS ANN**, 53, of Santa Maria passed away 3/4/2022 arrangements with Dudley-Hoffman Mortuary, Crematory & Memory Gardens

**MUNOZ, OCCAR**, 77, of Morro Bay passed away 2/28/2022 arrangements with Blue Sky Cremation Service

**MUSCIO, HAROLD**, 93, of Santa Maria passed away 3/4/2022 arrangements with Dudley-Hoffman Mortuary, Crematory & Memory Gardens

**RABOURN, DOROTHY M.**, 93, of Santa Maria passed away 2/26/2022 arrangements with Dudley-Hoffman Mortuary, Crematory & Memory Gardens

**RAZO, MARY ESTER**, 76, of Grover Beach passed away 2/22/2022 arrangements with Los Osos Valley Mortuary & Memorial Park

**SANDECKI, JOSEPH EDWARD**, 78, of Nipomo passed away 3/2/2022 arrangements with Marshall Spoo Sunset Funeral Chapel

**SEALE, CAROL**, 79, of Atascadero passed away 2/15/2022 arrangements with Blue Sky Cremation Service

**SIMIANER, JISELLA T.**, 95, of Santa Maria passed away 3/6/2022 arrangements with Magner Maloney Funeral Home

**SOUZA, GARY ROBERT**, 74, of Arroyo Grande passed away 2/21/2022 arrangements with Los Osos Valley Mortuary & Memorial Park

**TARWATER, KEITH**, 84, of Paso Robles passed away 2/15/2022 arrangements with Kuehl-Nicolay Funeral Home

**TORRES, SHAWN SAINT JOHN**, 51, of Santa Maria passed away 2/28/2022 arrangements with Dudley-Hoffman Mortuary, Crematory & Memory Gardens

**TRUHITTE, MICHAEL KENT SR.**, 73, of Santa Maria passed away 2/22/2022 arrangements with Dudley-Hoffman Mortuary, Crematory & Memory Gardens

**ZASTOUPIL, BEVERLY ANN**, 82, of Los Osos passed away 2/28/2022 arrangements with Los Osos Valley Mortuary & Memorial Park

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# Port importance

*A local wind port may be the key to capturing the economic boost of offshore wind projects—but some are skeptical that it's feasible*

BY MALEA MARTIN

The Central Coast has the green light from the federal government to develop wind energy off the coast of Morro Bay, and lease auctions are opening up this year. But how much the local economy will benefit from such a project is still unclear—and the answer depends on the feasibility of a local port.

“Last week’s record-breaking \$4.37 billion New York Bight offshore wind lease sale makes clear that the market for the clean energy economy is hot,” Melissa James, president and CEO of economic coalition REACH Central Coast, told the *Sun* in a written statement.

But a REACH-commissioned economic report, published last year by Cal Poly, found that the Central Coast’s economy won’t benefit nearly as much from offshore wind development without also building a specialized wind port here.

California doesn’t currently have any wind ports, but it will need one in order to construct and maintain offshore wind turbines—which the Biden administration wants to deploy up and down the state’s coastline. Having a port on Central Coast land would mean the assembly, maintenance, and repair of wind turbines—and many of the jobs that come with those projects—would come from the local region, and thereby benefit the local economy, the report found.

REACH and local politicians have called for a feasibility study to see if a wind port is possible, and some have proposed building it where Diablo Canyon Power Plant sits now.

But Martin Rodriguez, a Tri-County Building and Construction Trades Council executive, isn’t too optimistic.

“The ability to have a port there is probably not realistic, and this is just from my conversations with the contractors looking at these areas,” Rodriguez said. “The biggest detractor for a port in SLO is Diablo won’t be completely decommissioned until 2035 and these [wind turbines] will be done by then.”

Rodriguez believes the region’s economy can still benefit from wind energy without a local port.

“If we’re going to be involved on the Central Coast it’s going to be in the manufacturing and supply chain end of these things,” he said. “That’s where the jobs will come from.”

Though offshore wind is a new concept in California, Rodriguez believes the labor can stay local.

“We already do wind turbines,” he said. “We’ve got a project in Lompoc right now, and the blades, the towers are all the same.”

What’s different, of course, are the floating barges the offshore turbines would sit on.

“So you need a deepwater port,” Rodriguez said. “I don’t see a heavy industrial port being developed right there at the nuclear site. The logistics are not there for setting up a crane and building the infrastructure you’re going to need.”

Hertz Ramirez, business manager of construction union Local 220, agreed that labor unions like his are equipped to build wind turbines.



**WIND POWERED:** Proposed wind turbines off the coast of Morro Bay would float on barges and be connected to the ocean floor with cables.

“Local 220 covers San Luis Obispo, Santa Barbara, and Kern counties, where we’ve worked on numerous onshore wind turbine projects,” Ramirez said. “We have not done any offshore wind, but our sister locals out in the New England region have worked on them. So I don’t think it’s something we have to bring in a different workforce for: I think we can prepare our workforce for when the time comes for that work.”

But, he continued, the regional economic benefits would be greater with a specialized wind port.

“It would create permanent jobs for the maintenance, the lay-down yard, et cetera,” he said. “I think it would be important for the economy, especially to replace some of the permanent jobs that would be lost with Diablo Canyon being shut down.”

Decommissioning Diablo will require hundreds of workers to complete, and the Tri-County Building Trades Council is working to get a project labor agreement in place for it, which ensures that skilled union labor is employed.

The Diablo Canyon Decommissioning Engagement Panel, which PG&E convened to foster communication and public involvement on the power plant’s decommissioning process, is on board. On the panel’s website, it formally recommends that PG&E implement “non-discriminatory project labor agreements that incentivize local contractors [to] hire from the local workforce for decommissioning activities.”

U.S. Rep. Salud Carbajal (D-Santa Barbara) also supports employing union labor on big projects like Diablo decommissioning as well as offshore wind. He said the bipartisan infrastructure package signed into law last November will “support local

jurisdictions’ implementation of project labor agreements” on projects like these, “and creates a hiring framework for local hiring.”

But not everyone agrees with this approach.

Cordelia Perry is the executive director of the San Luis Obispo County Builders Exchange, a contractors’ association. From Perry’s perspective, having a project labor agreement forces contractors to “pay into the union” and to take more union employees than they might otherwise.

“It all falls onto the general contractor, who was forced to take an employee from the union,” Perry said. “He has no idea how long he’s been with the union, how long he’s been trained.”

Project labor agreements aside, Perry is concerned that the Central Coast’s labor force isn’t ready for an offshore wind project.

“As far as really assuring that our local hire can be the boots on the ground ... with the offshore wind, I’m not so sure, just because it’s such a specialized trade,” she said. “People who work in nuclear power plants are specialized, they work here for three months and then go elsewhere in the country.”

And Perry thinks the wind farm labor will look the same. But REACH’s James is confident that the Central Coast and its labor force is ready for offshore wind.

“The lease auctions are opening up on the Central Coast this fall,” she said, “and we are working with legislators, regulators, and elected leaders to advance the planning and due diligence necessary to site and locate the facilities and jobs that will ensure we enable this industry to flourish here.”

Reach Staff Writer Malea Martin from *New Times*, the *Sun*’s sister paper, at [mmartin@newtimeslo.com](mailto:mmartin@newtimeslo.com).

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# Still, we rise

The Santa Maria Women's March comes back together for its first in-person celebration in two years

BY TAYLOR O'CONNOR

Maya Angelou's poem "Still I Rise" inspired Lata Murti and fellow Women's March Santa Maria Valley planning committee members for this year's women's march: Still, We Rise.

"It's also inspired by the fact that women all over the world are always rising up against injustices, and part of what identifying as a woman [means is] rising up against injustices," Murti said.

The 2022 Women's March was held on March 6 in person with guest speakers from the Santa Ynez Band of Chumash Indians, Lideres Campesinas, Lompoc Union School District students, and Murti's 13-year-old daughter. She said that the event also included Spanish, Mixteco, and American Sign Language interpreters.

"We haven't gathered for it in two years and so in that way it's great we're able to do it again. It's outdoors, which makes it COVID-safe for a lot of people. It's a show of solidarity for women in our community and globally," Murti said a few days before the event. "We all crave connection. Even though we've all been fighting for women's rights and that didn't stop because of the pandemic, we were a little disconnected. Now, we can come together face-to-face again."

Participants were invited to make posters and

pick up buttons and stickers before the march, and Lideres Campesinas provided COVID-19 vaccines. Speakers began at 2 p.m. at the Minami Community Center and the march started at 3 p.m.

"You can learn from women in our community and what you can do to improve the lives of women in our community as well as women internationally," she said.

Nationally, the Women's March started in January 2017 as a response to the Trump administration and the possibility of women's rights being threatened, Murti said. Santa Maria didn't launch its own march until 2019, after seeing a greater need for representation.

"We decided Santa Maria needed its own Women's March here because our community is different from SLO's and Santa Barbara. . . . We have more women of color and people of color," she said.

Murti didn't join the Women's March until she attended Santa Maria's first march in 2019 and saw the difference between Santa Maria and its neighboring cities.

"The demographics are different. There's a lot more representation of communities and culture in Santa Maria, and in the women in particular. That's what really appealed to me and made me think I want to invest more in this local march.

"As a woman of color, I want to invest in this March rather than marches in other areas," Murti said.

This year's march was designed to highlight International Women's Day (March 8), celebrate women from other countries, and recognize the injustices they faced and continue to face, she continued.

"Women internationally are rising up against injustices, and since we have women [from] all over the world living in Santa Maria, we are not blind to those injustices happening," Murti said.



JUSTICE: The 2020 Women's March Santa Maria event was held before the COVID-19 pandemic started and was the organization's last in-person event until this year.

In the U.S., women face limited child care opportunities and maternity leave options, unequal pay and—in some instances—violence, Murti said. Women fleeing their countries to come to Santa Maria face language barriers, immigration concerns, and health care setbacks.

"They don't go away because they come to the U.S. I think the women's movement and marches are so U.S. focused that I welcome the discussion for women's rights globally," she said.

the Urban Forest Grant—invite community members to a Lompoc tree-planting event on March 12. Local volunteers are joining others in 30 communities across California to plant 2,000 urban trees in the state. Local residents are encouraged to sign up to plant trees from 8 a.m. to noon at River Park and Riverbend Park. Volunteers will meet near the pond at River Park off Highway 246 and Sweeney Road. Participants need to register at [volunteermatch.org/search/opp3444696.jsp](http://volunteermatch.org/search/opp3444696.jsp). Direct questions to [grantinfo@wcainc.com](mailto:grantinfo@wcainc.com) or (714) 926-0563.

Taylor O'Connor wrote this week's Spotlight. She can be reached at [toconnor@santamariasun.com](mailto:toconnor@santamariasun.com).

## Highlight

The city of Lompoc, Lompoc Trails, and West Coast Arborists—all partners on the Cal Fire Amplifying

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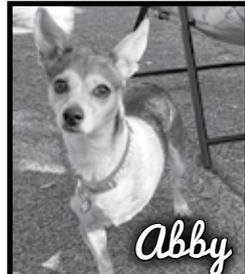



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### Online Poll

#### What's your take on Solvang's latest decision to reopen Copenhagen Drive to cars?

- 47% It's terrible—we need to keep outdoor dining options!
- 24% Finally! I miss all the parking in town.
- 18% Who cares about Solvang?
- 12% It's fine either way, as long as I can still get my aebleskivers.

17 Votes

Vote online at [www.santamariasun.com](http://www.santamariasun.com).



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# How many are too many?

## Lompoc needs to limit its cannabis retail/dispensary permits and ensure operators pay all applicable fees

BY RON FINK

When the city of Lompoc considered licensing the manufacturing, distribution, sale, and on-site consumption of cannabis in our city, the subject of how many permits to issue was discussed. If our City Council would have bothered to listen to the information presented by the staff when this issue was decided, they would have understood that there are some accepted permit-to-population ratios used in other jurisdictions to determine how many permits of this type would be considered reasonable.

One former council member convinced the others that the "market should determine how many the city could support." Some of the members of the majority who agreed are still serving on the council. Since then, 24 retail/dispensary and 28 manufacturing/distribution licenses have been issued.

The population of the city of Lompoc is about 42,000 people and an additional 10,000 to 12,000 live in the surrounding unincorporated areas of the Lompoc Valley. So the local population served by these businesses is about 55,000 people. Of course, not everyone buys or uses these products, just like any other retail commodity.

According to a recent State of Cannabis Equity presentation by The United CORE Alliance, "Currently, the dispensary to resident ratio in Sacramento is 1:17,000; with Sacramento allowing 10 more dispensary permits, that number will drop to 1:13,000, which is in line with the ratios for cities like Los Angeles, Oakland, and San Francisco."

But in Lompoc the City Council majority seemed to feel that an unlimited number, with 24 current retail/dispensary permits, or a ratio of 1:2,290, is appropriate for the area served. So why did they allow an unregulated number of permits?

As they were debating the

permit issue, you could almost see the council members salivating at the concept of millions of dollars in new revenue flowing into city coffers; soon they would be able to spend like drunken sailors on liberty in a foreign port. But they may have forgotten a costly key provision that is part of their licensing authority.

Cannabis business operators must submit an annual self-certification that they are complying with all permit conditions of state and local laws pertaining to their business. They must also submit financial information to assure that all taxes are paid. The city staff then verifies that the information submitted is true and correct with both financial audits and on-site inspections.

People familiar with this process have indicated that they estimate the cost of these verification and compliance audits will be about \$2 million annually, but it doesn't include audit, regulatory, and other costs.

During the current fiscal year budget update presented on Feb. 1, the staff estimated that the annual revenue from the cannabis tax would be about \$2 million annually; so the cost of regulating these businesses is about equal to the new revenue stream. Of course, this was only an estimate, so we'll have to wait and see what the actual revenue increase and compliance review expenses are.

Using the revenue estimate and taking the estimated cost of compliance into consideration, it would mean a net zero revenue increase in disposable revenue from this business sector.

The council included a cost recovery provision in the ordinance enabling cannabis operators requiring that license holders "pay all initial and annual fees to cover the city's costs for processing, reviewing, and auditing the commercial cannabis use license and activity."

But, in past council meetings there have been hints from some

council members that they felt that the cannabis taxes met this requirement.

I am sure that they have been getting pressure from some operators to adopt this position, but the council would be wise to consider that other businesses pay fees for annual compliance inspections as indicated on the master fee schedule in addition to business license fees and sales taxes. All businesses should be treated equally, and if the council waives audit fees for the cannabis industry, then they should also waive similar fees for all other businesses.

But the initial question was, "How many cannabis retail/dispensary permits are too many?"

For a city the size of Lompoc, if you included the population of the unincorporated areas and used a basis of 55,000 residents and then considered accepted retail/dispensary-to-population ratios in other jurisdictions, a maximum of four licenses would be more than enough.

To get to that number from the current 24 retail/dispensary licenses, the city would have to suspend any new retail license approvals, disallow license transfers to new owners, and allow attrition to reduce the number down to the new level over the next several years.

Survival of the fittest applies to cannabis dispensaries and retail outlets too. The first failed business will undoubtedly point to the city's taxes/fees as the only reason they couldn't make it as a going concern and not, say, poor management by the owner or any of dozens of reasons why so many other businesses fail soon after opening.

The license reduction plan should receive some serious consideration in future council meetings since the city doesn't appear to be gaining anything except a regulatory burden from the glut of permits. Perhaps the candidates for the three council seats open in the next election would be willing to discuss this issue during their campaigns. ○

Ron Fink writes to the Sun from Lompoc. Send a letter for publication to [letters@santamariasun.com](mailto:letters@santamariasun.com).

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



## LETTERS

### Santa Maria BMX racetrack brings back fond memories of home

I was feeling nostalgic for my hometown of Santa Maria and thinking of all the things that my family left behind and found your paper's 2015 article on the Santa Maria BMX track ("Trick-less speed: Santa Maria BMX racing is alive and well," March 31, 2015).

My father and our family built that track back in what seems like another lifetime ago, around 2009 when I was in high school at Righetti. I know it's an old article at this point and there are much larger pressing issues in the news now, but reading about it again and seeing names of people I rode with still around in 2015—and especially reading that it was at the time being run by someone I had never met—brought me so much joy and happiness! I am so touched that it has survived and continued to foster a community of thrill-seeking racers. The people were always the best part of that sport, and it warms my heart to see that something my father and our family poured so much of our love, time, effort, and personal investments into has survived to touch so many people.

It would be nice to know how my father's legacy is holding up in these trying times. Unfortunately my father, Michael Porter, the founder of the track, lost his battle with cancer in 2017. But it always brought me comfort that his name was stamped on a small plaque by the moto boards of the racetrack that he believed in so much. I would love to hear how the track is doing now—I am so far from home, and with all the strains of life these days, I have no idea when I will ever be able to return.

Thank you for keeping journalism on the Central Coast alive.

Ryan Porter  
A local far from home

**THIS MODERN WORLD**  
by TOM TOMORROW

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MAKES PERFECT SENSE TO ME!

**THE TUCKER TWO-STEP**  
I SUPPORT RUSSIA! I LOVE PUTIN'S SPECIAL BRAND OF ETHNO-NATIONALIST AUTOCRACY! HE'S MY KINDA GUY!  
ER, I MEAN TO SAY-- PUTIN IS TO BLAME HERE! EVEN IF HE IS A MANLY MAN WHO INVADED UKRAINE BECAUSE JOE BIDEN IS SUCH A CUCK!

**THE POWER OF POSITIVE THINKING**  
WE NEED A NO FLY ZONE! OR A PRE-EMPTIVE ATTACK ON RUSSIAN GROUND FORCES!  
SURE, IT WOULD UNDOUBTEDLY START WORLD WAR THREE--  
--BUT NUCLEAR WINTER PROBABLY WOULDN'T BE AS BAD AS EVERYONE SAYS!  
I DID MY OWN RE-SEARCH!

**A VERY STABLE GENIUS**  
WE SHALL SIMPLY EXPLAIN TO THE WORLD THAT WE ARE DE-NAZIFYING UKRAINE! BY DEPOSING ITS JEWISH PRESIDENT!  
IS EXCELLENT PLAN, DO YOU NOT AGREE?  
UH--DA! ABSOLUTELY, MISTER PRESIDENT!  
Мені в повній жоді...

**JUST ASKING THE QUESTION**  
HOW CAN YOU CALL THE RUSSIAN INVASION TYRANNY WHEN WE ARE BEING ASKED TO GET INOCULATED AGAINST A DEADLY PANDEMIC AND SOMETIMES HAVE TO WEAR FACE MASKS?  
GOTCHA, LIBS!

**THIS IS FINE DOT GIF**  
AND AS THE SHELLING AND DEATH CONTINUE WITH NO CLEAR WAY OUT, RUSSIA'S NUCLEAR FORCES ARE NOW ON ALERT! THERE'S ABSOLUTELY NO TELLING WHAT HAPPENS NEXT!  
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# History repeats

In a contest between squiggly lines or straight lines, will the straight lines win?

It's definitely possible in Santa Maria, where the City Council and residents seem to favor a redistricting map that divides the city into the four quadrants that have always divided the city—along Main Street and Broadway.

Those two roads divide so much ... social, economic, and racial demographics. They are the divisions that define the city, its problems, its pressure points, its history.

And if you ask City Councilmember Mike Cordero, it was meant to be. In

his long, rambling soliloquy during the March 3 Santa Maria City Council meeting, I wasn't quite sure where his stilted speech was heading. Did he like the proposed district maps presented to them at the meeting?

"Looking back in history back in the 1800s, four men came along. I think Miller, Thornburg, Cook, and Thessler, and they donated the land that was centered at Main and Broadway where all the properties intersected," he said. "And obviously, they didn't have an idea that in 2022 we'd be looking at this, but the quad[rant] map—unintended so—takes into consideration going back to the 1700s about how that was originally planned out for us. ... I think they're all gone now."

You think? By "they," do you mean the original folks from the 1800s or the 1700s, because you mention two different centuries? Last I checked, we don't have anyone over the age of 119 years old living on this planet right now, so yes, those people who founded the city are definitely long gone.

But Cordero's insinuation that the city really hasn't changed in 200-plus years says a lot about Santa Maria. Communities of interest gravitate toward the same parts of the city and wealth is concentrated in the same parts of the city. And the dividing lines that started the city are still relevant.

It says almost as much about the city as Mayor Alice Patino did with her question: "This is just a hypothetical, but what if we did nothing, and stayed where we are right now?"

She posed the question to the city's redistricting consultant, Daniel Phillips, who had just finished telling her and her colleagues that the city was required to change its districts in response to the 2020 census because the existing districts didn't comply with federal law.

You know how she doesn't like state and federal laws telling the city what to do.

"You would be sued for not being in compliance with federal law," he said, giving the answer we all knew was coming.

Duh!  
It's kind of like what happened in Solvang, which is still battling over backyard sheds. SHEDS! Seriously. Sheds.

Apparently a couple of Solvang residents asked the Solvang Planning Commission if the city's new rules could be amended to "grandfather" in homeowners who have sheds that violate both the current rules and the future rules.

What? Kind of like, no rules for you?

Planning Commissioner Aaron Petersen said he sympathized (and I do, too; I hate it when my bird cage is out of compliance), but argued that exempting any homeowners would complicate the already complicated situation.

Duh! ☹

The Canary believes bird cage rules need to be overhauled. Send comments to [canary@santamariasun.com](mailto:canary@santamariasun.com).



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Janet Silveria  
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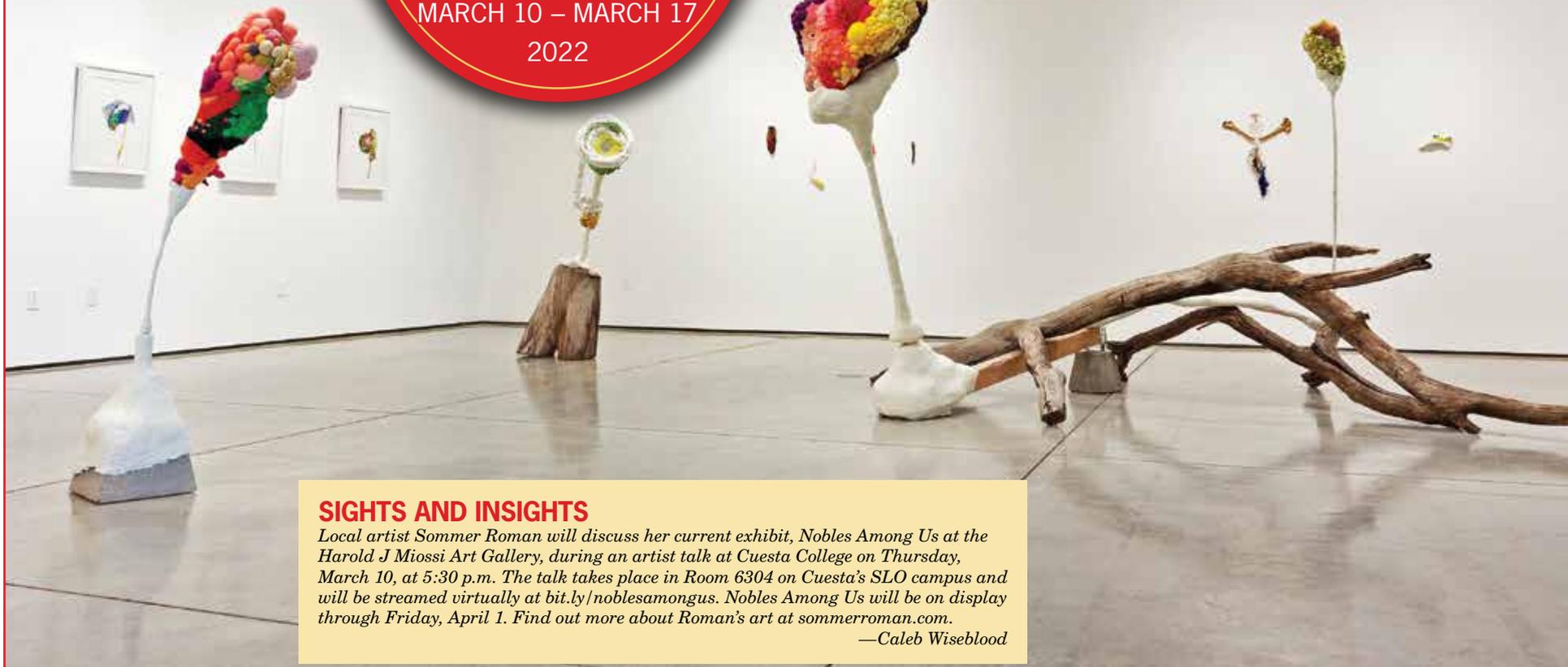
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# HOT STUFF

MARCH 10 – MARCH 17  
2022

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



## SIGHTS AND INSIGHTS

Local artist Sommer Roman will discuss her current exhibit, *Nobles Among Us* at the Harold J Miossi Art Gallery, during an artist talk at Cuesta College on Thursday, March 10, at 5:30 p.m. The talk takes place in Room 6304 on Cuesta's SLO campus and will be streamed virtually at [bit.ly/noblesamongus](http://bit.ly/noblesamongus). *Nobles Among Us* will be on display through Friday, April 1. Find out more about Roman's art at [sommerroman.com](http://sommerroman.com).

—Caleb Wiseblood

FILE PHOTO COURTESY OF HAROLD J. MIOSSI ART GALLERY

## 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](http://elverhoj.org). Elverhoj Museum of History and Art, 1624 Elverhoj 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](http://wildlingmuseum.org). Wildling Museum of Art and Nature, 1511-B Mission Dr., Solvang, 805-688-1082.

### 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](http://hancockcollege.edu/gallery). Ann Foxworthy Gallery, 800 S. College Dr., Santa Maria.

**LIVE COMEDY AT THE SWISS** Enjoy an evening of laughs from veteran touring comics every third Saturday of the month. A new lineup every show. Arrive early for optimum seating. For ages 21 and over. Third Saturday of every month, 9-11 p.m. through Aug. 21 Free. 805-347-7800. The Swiss Restaurant, 516 N. Broadway, Santa Maria.

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

**OUTDOOR UKULELE LESSONS** For individuals 50 years and up, at no charge. Participants will learn to play chords, melodies, and familiar songs. Five baritone ukuleles are available to borrow, or class members may bring one of their own. Tuesdays, Thursdays, 12:30-1:30 p.m. [cityofsantamaria.org/register](http://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](http://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.

**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. [wineanddesign.com/orcutt](http://wineanddesign.com/orcutt). Wine and Design, 3420 Orcutt Road, suite 105, Orcutt.

### SOUTH COAST SLO COUNTY

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

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

**PERCUSSIVE DANCE CLASSES** 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

**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](http://newtimeslo.com). You may also email [calendar@newtimeslo.com](mailto: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](mailto:cwiseblood@newtimeslo.com).**

exposure to Los Angeles talent agents. All ages and skill levels welcome. Classes available in SLO, LA, and on zoom. ongoing \$210 per month. [actorsedge.com](http://actorsedge.com). Online, See website, 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. Through March 28, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Free. 805-747-4200. [artcentralslo.com/gallery/](http://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/](http://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/](http://artcentralslo.com/workshops-events/). Art Central, 1329 Monterey St., San Luis Obispo.

**CALIFORNIA CENTRAL COAST PASTEL SOCIETY: 3CPS MEMBER ONLINE SHOW** Discover California Central Coast Pastel Society's new online exhibit, with vibrant contemporary and classical paintings in varied styles and themes. Find exhibit, workshop, membership, paint-out dates, and event info on website. Through March 31 Free. [3cps.org/3cps-online-show/](http://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/](http://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 Erma Stauffer. **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](http://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. Free. 805-543-8562. San Luis Obispo Museum of Art, 1010 Broad St., San Luis Obispo, [sloma.org/](http://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](http://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. Reception held during Art and About, on Feb. 4. Through March 27 Free. 805-543-8562. [sloma.org/exhibition/tpg-2022/](http://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](http://centralcoastcomedytheater.com/classes). Central Coast Comedy Theater Training Center, 2078 Parker Street, Suite 200, San Luis Obispo, 803-487-4401.

**IT'S MAGIC!** A show that's been delighting magic enthusiasts of all ages for more than five decades. These performers are internationally recognized award-winners, direct from the world's exotic showrooms, as well as Hollywood's famous Magic Castle. **March 13**, 3-5:30 p.m. \$19-\$54. 805-756-4849. [pacsls.org/online/article/itsmagic21](http://pacsls.org/online/article/itsmagic21). Performing Arts Center, 1 Grand Ave., San Luis Obispo.

**KIDS IMPROV CLASS** Taught by theater owner and experienced drama teacher, Sabrina Pratt. A fun way for kids to express themselves while building confidence

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**SUBMIT YOUR EVENTS**

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learning teamwork and acting skills. Thursdays, 4-5:30 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: Whispering Vista Studios, 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. Through March 27, 5-8 p.m. Free. 805-550-3308. SLOProvisions.com. SLO Provisions, 1255 Monterey St., San Luis Obispo.

**MASK MAKING AND HAT MAKING** Geared for children and adults. 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 Free. 805-546-3202. cuesta.edu/student/campuslife/artgallery/. Harold J. Miossi Gallery, Highway 1, San Luis Obispo.

**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. Through March 19 Free. 626-393-1750. actsofworship-art.com. Private Location, TBA, Paso Robles.

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

**MISFIT LIVE COMEDY PRESENTS PROFESSIONAL EMMY-WINNING COMEDY** Kabir "Kabeezy" Singh is fresh off his standing ovation and acclaim on NBC's America's Got Talent in June, 2021, and he has been a touring headliner for almost a decade now. **March 19**, 7-9 p.m. \$30. 805-238-0083. eventbrite.com/e/misfit-live-comedy-presents-professional-emmy-winning-comedy-tickets-249619848687?aff=ebdssbdestsearch. Kramer Estate Wines, 825 Riverside Ave #16, Paso Robles.

**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.

**ORIGAMI FLOWER MAKING** In this class, you will

PHOTO COURTESY OF JUDY LINDQUIST



## GREEN DAY

The Elwin Mussell Center in Santa Maria hosts its St. Patrick's Dance on Sunday, March 13, from 1:30 to 4 p.m. Guests can look forward to live music from the Riptide Big Band and vocalist Bob Nations. Admission to the dance is free, thanks to funding from the Community Foundation of SLO. Call (805) 925-0951, Ext. 2260, or visit [riptidebb.com](http://riptidebb.com) for more info. The venue is located at 510 E. Park Ave., Santa Maria.

—C.W.

**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.

**SLO GALLERY ARTISTS** View new works by California painters, photographers, sculptors and craftmakers at SLO Gallery. Thursdays-Sundays, 12-4 p.m. through March 31 Free. 805-926-5050. centralcoastartistscollective.org. SLO Gallery, 1019 Broad Street, San Luis Obispo.

**WALT WHITMAN GAY MEN'S BOOK CLUB** Walt Whitman Gay Men's Book Club meets virtually via zoom. This club reads, studies and discusses books chosen by the group which relate to their lives as gay men. All are welcome. Second Monday of every month, 7-9:30 p.m. Free. galacc.org/events/. Online, See website, San Luis Obispo.

hand make a beautiful bouquet of origami flowers after learning the basics of this classic Japanese art form. Attendees will receive all the supplies needed. **March 13**, 2-4 p.m. \$35. 805-464-0533. the1artery.com. The ARtery, 5890 Traffic Way, Atascadero.

**SPRING FLOWER STAKE** Add a colorful fused glass flower to your garden by using a variety of pre-cut glass. A metal stick can be glued to the back of the fired piece, or it can be hung as a sun catcher. All materials included. Limited to 6 people. **March 20**, 11 a.m.-1 p.m. \$35. 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. 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.

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**30+ Wineries, Craft Breweries & Spirits** including Seltzers, Ciders, & Kombucha

**Chili Cook Off & Salsa**

**Live Music by Paradise Kings, Real Doug Lane and DJ FIU**

**Street Faire & Food Vendors**

**Shuttle Service from Santa Barbara, Goleta, Santa Maria & Lompoc**

**Sunday, March 20th**  
**Flying Flags RV Resort**  
**12 - 4:30 p.m.**

BUELLTON  
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE SINCE 1928

**BuelltonWineandChiliFestival.com**



## CENTRAL COAST CRAFT BEER FESTIVAL



**Saturday, March 26th**  
**12 - 4 p.m.**

**Sunken Gardens**  
**Atascadero**

VISIT  
**Atascadero**  
SIMPLY GENUINE

**55+ INDEPENDENT CRAFT BREWERIES**  
**SELTZERS, CIDERS, KOMBUCHA & WINE**

**LIVE ENTERTAINMENT:**  
**Wordsauce**  
**Ghost Monster**  
**DJ Hecktik**

**Food Trucks • Lawn Games**  
**Street Faire Vendors**  
**Bus Transportation Available**  
**from SLO and Paso Robles**



**CentralCoastCraftBeerFest.com**





**■ CALIFORNIA AREA RESIDENTS CASH IN:** It's hard to tell how much these unsearched Vault Bags loaded with rarely seen Gov't issued coins that everyone will be trying to get could be worth someday. That's because each Vault Bag is known to contain nearly 3 pounds of Gov't issued coins some dating back to the 1800's including all those shown in today's publication. In addition, after each bag is loaded with over 200 rarely seen coins, each verified to meet a minimum collector grade of very good or above, the dates and mint marks are never searched to determine collector values. So you better believe at just \$980 these unsearched Vault Bags are a real steal.

# Rarely seen United States coins up for grabs in California -zip codes determine who gets them

*Unsearched Vault Bags loaded with rarely seen U.S. Gov't issued coins some dating back to the 1800's and worth up to 50 times their face value are actually being handed over to residents who find their zip code below and beat the 48 hour order deadline*

**CA RESIDENTS: IF YOU FIND YOUR ZIP CODE BELOW. CALL: 1-800-869-3164 UV32791**

93401	93410	93428	93442	93449	93454	93465
93402	93420	93430	93444	93451	93455	
93405	93422	93432	93445	93452	93458	
93406	93424	93433	93446	93453	93461	

"The vaults at Federated Mint are going empty," said Laura A. Lynne, Director of Coin and Currency for Federated Mint.

That's because a decision by Federated Mint to release rarely seen U.S. Gov't issued coins, some worth up to 50 times their face value, means unsearched Vault Bags loaded with U. S. Gov't issued coins dating back to the 1800's are now being handed over to U.S. residents who find their zip code listed in today's

publication.

"But don't thank the Government. As Director of Coin and Currency for Federated Mint, I get paid to inform and educate the general public regarding U.S. coins. Ever since the decision by Federated Mint to release rarely seen Gov't issued coins to the general public — I'm being asked how much are the unsearched Vault Bags worth? The answer is, there's no way to tell. Coin values always fluctuate and there are

never any guarantees, but we do know this. Each unsearched bag weighs nearly 3 pounds and is known to contain rarely seen Morgan Silver Dollars and these coins alone could be worth \$40 - \$325 in collector value each according to The Official Red Book, a Guide Book of United States Coins. So there's no telling what you'll find until you search through all the coins. But you better believe at just \$980 these unsearched Vault Bags are a

steal," said Lynne.

"These are not ordinary coins you find in your pocket change. These are rarely seen silver, scarce, collectible and non-circulating U.S. coins dating back to the 1800's so we won't be surprised if thousands of U.S. residents claim as many as they can get their hands on. That's because after the bags were loaded with nearly 3 pounds of Gov't issued coins, each verified to

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(Continued on next page)

**UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT  
ISSUED COINS SEALED IN EACH BAG:**



Silver Morgan Dollar  
1878-1921



Silver Liberty Head  
1892-1915



Silver Walking Liberty  
1916-1947



Silver Peace Dollar  
1921-1935



Silver Ben Franklin  
1948-1963



■ **UNSEARCHED:** Pictured above are the unsearched Vault Bags being handed over to California residents who call the National Toll-Free Hotline before the 48-hour deadline ends. And here's the best part. Each Vault Bag is loaded with over 200 Gov't issued coins, including all the coins pictured in today's publication, some dating back to the 1800's and worth up to 50 times their face value. Each coin is verified to meet a minimum collector grade of very good or above before the bags are securely sealed and the dates and mint marks are never searched by Federated Mint to determine collector value. If you find your zip code listed, call 1-800-869-3164 EXT.UV32791 immediately.

(Continued from previous page)

meet a minimum collector grade quality of very good or above, the dates and mint marks were never searched to determine collector values and the bags were securely sealed. That means there's no telling what you'll find until you search all the coins," said Lynne.

The only thing U.S. residents who find their zip code printed in today's publication need to do is call the National Toll-Free Hotline before the 48-hour deadline ends.

This is very important. After the Vault Bags were loaded with over 200 Gov't issued coins, each verified to meet a minimum collector grade quality of very good or above, the dates and mint marks were never searched to determine collector values. The Vault Bag fee has been set for \$1,500 for residents who miss the 48-hour deadline, but for those U.S. residents who beat the 48-hour deadline the Vault Bag fee is just \$980 as long as they call the

National Toll-Free Hotline before the deadline ends.

"Remember this, we cannot stop collectors from buying up all the unsearched bags of coins they can get in this special advertising announcement. And you better believe with each bag being loaded with nearly 3 pounds of Gov't issued coins we're guessing they're going to go quick," said Lynne.

The phone lines will be ringing off the hook beginning at precisely 8:30 a.m. this morning. That's because each unsearched Vault Bag is loaded with the rarely seen coins pictured left and highly sought after collector coins dating clear back to the 1800's including iconic Morgan Silver Dollars, a historic Peace Silver Dollar, stunning Silver Walking Liberty Half Dollars, the collectible Silver Eisenhower Dollars, spectacular Silver Liberty Head Half and Quarter Dollars, rarely seen Silver Franklin Half Dollars, high demand President Kennedy Silver Half

Dollars, beautiful Silver Standing Liberty Quarter Dollars, American Bicentennial Quarters, rare Liberty V Nickels, one cent Historic Wheat Coins including 1943 "Steel Cents", one of the beautiful Winged Liberty Head Dimes, scarce Indian Head one cent U.S. coins and the last ever minted Buffalo Nickels.

"With all these collectible Gov't Issued coins up for grabs we're going to do our best to answer all the calls," said Lynne.

Thousands of U.S. residents stand to miss the deadline to claim the U.S. Gov't issued coins. That means U.S. residents who find their zip code listed in today's publication can claim the unsearched bags of money for themselves and keep all the U.S. Gov't issued coins found inside.

If you find your zip code listed, call 1-800-869-3164 EXT. UV32791 immediately. Just be sure to call before the deadline ends 48 hours from today's publication date. ■

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**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/](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://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. This new series of whales and birds uses copper and sea glass. ongoing 805-772-9955. Seven Sisters Gallery, 601 Embarcadero Ste. 8, Morro Bay, [sevensistersgallery.com](http://sevensistersgallery.com).

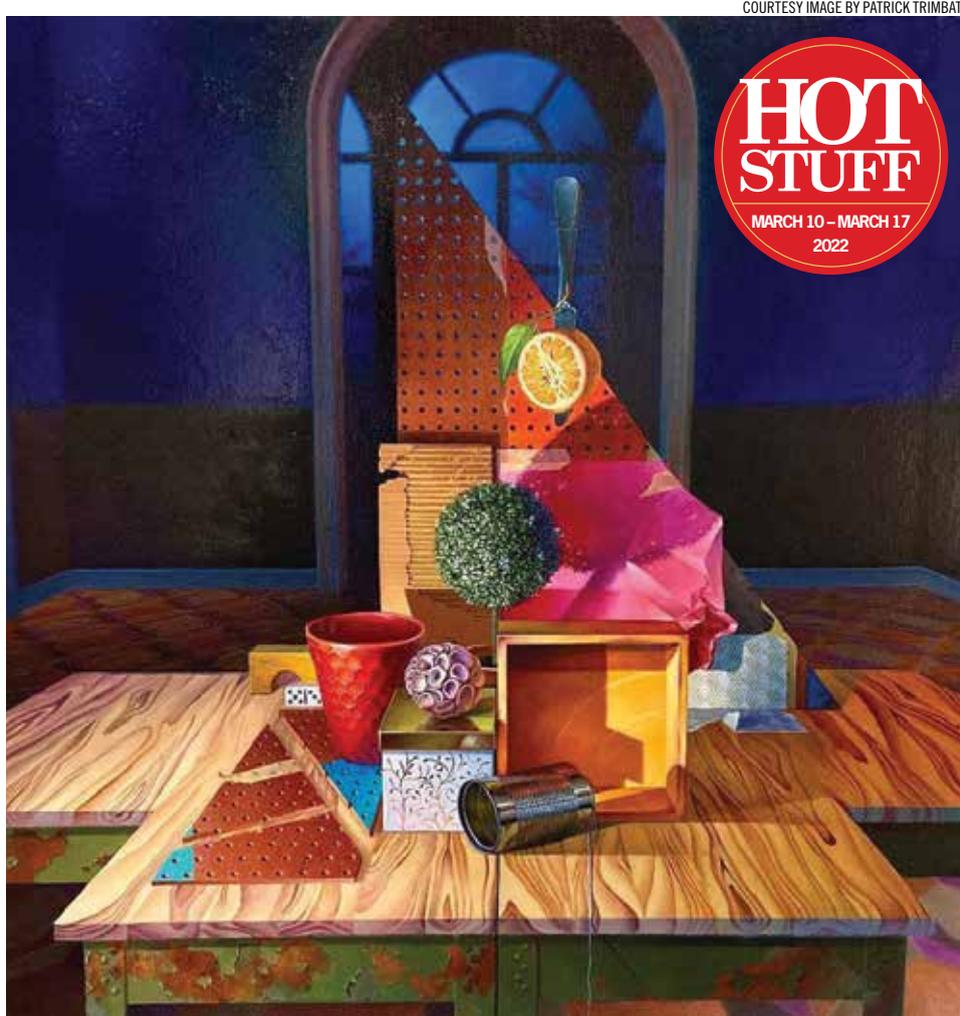
**MICHAEL J COSTA'S CROSSING BORDERS: PHOTO JOURNEY OF PERU** Drop by Costa Gallery and check out Michael J Costa's collection, "Crossing Borders," a photographic journey through Peru. Thursdays-Sundays, 11 a.m.-4 p.m. through April 3 Costa Gallery, 2087 10th Street, Los Osos, 559-799-9632.

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

**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. ongoing 805-772-9955. Seven Sisters Gallery, 601 Embarcadero Ste. 8, Morro Bay, [sevensistersgallery.com](http://sevensistersgallery.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](http://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](http://galleryatmarinasquare.com). Gallery at Marina Square, 601 Embarcadero suite 10, Morro Bay.



## PLETHORA OF PERSPECTIVES

*Artworks from a group of Allan Hancock College instructors are currently on display in the Fine Arts Faculty Show, which runs at the Ann Foxworthy Gallery through Thursday, March 31. A closing reception for the exhibit takes place on Thursday, March 10, from 5 to 6:30 p.m. The show highlights a broad range of media, including painting, drawing, sculpture, digital art, and more disciplines. Visit [hancockcollege.edu/gallery](http://hancockcollege.edu/gallery) for more info. The gallery is located at 800 S. College Road, Santa Maria.*

—C.W.

## CULTURE & LIFESTYLE

### LOMPOC/VANDENBERG

**MARCH MADNESS VENDOR FAIR** The Village Treasure Chest announces its March Madness Vendor Fair, which features home made items, baked goods, and home based businesses. **March 12**, 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Vendor fair location, 3769 Constellation Rd., Vandenberg Village.

### 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](http://partnersincaring.org). Santa Maria, Citywide, Santa Maria.

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

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

**TECH HELP SATURDAY** Schedule a one-on-one appointment for instruction on technology topics. Registration is required. **March 19**, 11 a.m.-1 p.m. Free. 805-925-0994. [cityofsantamaria.org/city-government/departments/library](http://cityofsantamaria.org/city-government/departments/library). Santa Maria Public Library, 421 S. McClelland St., Santa Maria.

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

### SOUTH COAST SLO COUNTY

**POINT SAN LUIS LIGHTHOUSE TOURS** Tours will give you a glimpse into the lives of Lighthouse Keepers and their families, while helping keep our jewel of the Central Coast preserved and protected. In-person and virtual tours offered. Check website for more details. Wednesdays, Saturdays [pointsanluislighthouse.org/](http://pointsanluislighthouse.org/). Point San Luis Lighthouse, 1 Lighthouse Rd., Avila Beach.



and Nevada on day two of the Mustang Classic at Bob Janssen Field. **March 13**, 12:30 p.m. Free. [gopoly.com](http://gopoly.com). Bob Janssen Field, 1 Grand Ave., San Luis Obispo, 805-756-7297.

**CENTRAL COAST POLYAMORY (VIRTUALLY VIA ZOOM)** Hosting a discussion group featuring different topics relating to ethical non-monogamy every month. Virtually meet via Zoom. Third Wednesday of every month, 6:30-8:30 p.m. Free. [galacc.org/events/](http://galacc.org/events/). Online, See website, San Luis Obispo.

**CITY FARM SLO'S YOUTH EMPOWERMENT PROGRAM** Check site for more info on programming and summer camps. ongoing [cityfarmslo.org](http://cityfarmslo.org). San Luis Obispo, Citywide, SLO.

**GALA PRIDE AND DIVERSITY CENTER BOARD MEETING (VIA ZOOM)** Monthly meeting of the Gala Pride and Diversity Center Board of Directors. Meets virtually via Zoom and is open to members of the public. Visit [galacc.org/events/](http://galacc.org/events/) to fill out the form to request meeting access. Third Tuesday of every month, 6-8 p.m. No admission fee. [galacc.org](http://galacc.org). Online, See website, ISan Luis Obispo.

**LGBTQ+ FED THERAPIST LEAD SUPPORT GROUP (VIRTUALLY VIA ZOOM)** A pro-recovery group offering space to those seeking peer support, all stages of ED recovery. We understand recovery isn't linear and judgment-free support is crucial. Share, listen, and be part of a community building up each other. Third Wednesday of every month, 7-8 p.m. Free. [galacc.org/events/](http://galacc.org/events/). Online, See website, San Luis Obispo.

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

**OPEN HOUSE** During this special event, prospective families are invited to experience the unique benefits and character of the school. **March 19**, 9:30 a.m.-noon 805-235-4401. Wishing Well School, 880 Manzanita, Los Osos, [wishingwellschool.org](http://wishingwellschool.org).

**PIERRE RADEMAKER: MY CAREER IN DESIGN** For over forty years, Pierre has been doing design and consultation. SLO RAM (Retired Active Men) is a local men's group. Visit site more info on this and future meetings. **March 17**, 8:30-9:30 a.m. \$10. 805-547-1715. [retiredactivemen.org](http://retiredactivemen.org). Madonna Inn Garden Room, 100 Madonna Rd, San Luis Obispo.

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

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

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

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

**SUPPORT GROUP FOR CAREGIVERS OF PERSONS WITH FTD (FRONTOTEMPORAL DEMENTIA)** A welcoming meeting providing information and support for caregivers of people with Frontotemporal Dementia (FTD). FTD is a dementia that affects younger people and is very difficult for families. This is an open group. Caregivers can drop in for information, supportive discussion, and caregiving tips. Second Saturday of every month, 2:30-4 p.m. through Jan. 14 805-471-8102. [calpoly.zoom.us/j/83141446835](http://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](mailto: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.

**WATERSHED STEWARDS PROGRAM** Come learn about the impacts of invasive species on our watersheds and help us remove invasive Cape-ivy. Please bring a water bottle. Additional water, refreshments, and snacks will be provided. **March 19**, 9 a.m.-1 p.m. [ccc.wsp.gov](http://ccc.wsp.gov). SLO Creek, Monte Road, San Luis Obispo.

**CULTURE & LIFESTYLE** continued page 17

**NORTH SLO COUNTY**

**CELESTIAL VIBRATIONS: CRYSTAL SOUND HEALING FOR PEACE AND LIGHT** An evening of deep sound healing with the pure celestial vibrations of crystal singing bowls, pyramids, and voice by Seshen, who recently moved to the Central Coast, followed by a circle with heart connection and sharing. **March 10**, 7-8:30 p.m. \$25. 805-464-2838. oracleatascadero.com. Oracle, 6280 Palma Ave., Atascadero.

**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.

**SACRED SEXUALITY** Allison Lorne, Nurse/Midwife, will answer questions and create a safe space to explore and connect to your sacred sexuality. **March 12**, 9-11 a.m. \$33. 805-464-2838. oracleatascadero.com. Oracle, 6280 Palma Ave., Atascadero.

**VIARGO FULL MOON RITUAL AND SOUND HEALING** Please join Oracle Owner/Psychic Medium, Tiffany Klemz, and Jamie Nicole of Harmonic Holistics, for a Virgo full moon ritual and sound healing experience. **March 16**, 6:30-8:30 p.m. \$33. 805-464-2838. oracleatascadero.com. Oracle, 6280 Palma Ave., Atascadero.

**NORTH COAST SLO COUNTY**

**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/.



**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.

**SOUTH COAST SLO COUNTY**

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

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

**SAN LUIS OBISPO**

**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. Through March 13. Varies. athertable.com/. SLO County, Countywide, San Luis Obispo.

**CALLING ALL E-BIKERS: RIDE AND WINE** Join the Central Coast Chargers (E-bikers) for a Vineyard Tour and Barrel Tasting. Electric bikes only please. **March 20**, noon Wolff Vineyards, 6238 Orcutt Road, San Luis Obispo, 805-781-0448, wolffvineyards.com.

**FOOD & DRINK** continued page 18

# ALWAYS AMAZING. NEVER ROUTINE.



**MELISSA ETHERIDGE**

**MARCH 24 | THURSDAY | 8PM**



**WFC 135**

**APRIL 1 | FRIDAY | 6:30PM**



**WFC 136**

**APRIL 2 | SATURDAY | 6:30PM**



**FRANCO ESCAMILLA**

**MAY 5 | THURSDAY | 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.

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**NORTH SLO COUNTY**

**AT HER TABLE: PROGRESSIVE MENU PASO MARKET WALK** Paso Market Walk is celebrating At Her Table: Women's Week. During this exclusive event, guests can enjoy a Progressive Menu Experience, while dining and drinking at 6 women-owned purveyors. **March 10**, 12-7 p.m. \$75. [athertable.com/](http://athertable.com/). Paso Market Walk, 1803 Spring St, Paso Robles, 805-720-1255.

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

**MUSIC**

**SANTA YNEZ VALLEY**

**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](http://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](http://brickbarnwineestate.com).

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

**LOMPOC/VANDENBERG**

**ORGANIST CHRISTIAN ELLIOTT: A NIGHT AT THE MOVIES** Colleen Moore, the top grossing box-office draw of the silent film era in 1927, stars in *Ella Cinders*, as a clever Cinderella. Renowned organist Christian Elliott accompanies with a live score throughout. Bonus silent film, *One Week*, stars Buster Keaton. **March 11**, 7:30 a.m.-9:30 p.m. \$5-\$25. 805-588-5971. First United Methodist Church, 925 North F St., Lompoc.

**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](http://thehomesteadoldorcutt.com).

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

**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](http://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.

**GLENN MILLER ORCHESTRA** Decade after decade, the Glenn Miller Orchestra continues to be "the number one name in swing jazz." Enjoy some of the best and most enduring original American music ever made. Sponsored by Splash Café. **March 19**, 4-6 p.m. \$39-\$52. 805-489-9444. [clarkcenter.org/shows/the-world-famous-glenn-miller-orchestra/](http://clarkcenter.org/shows/the-world-famous-glenn-miller-orchestra/). Clark Center for the Performing Arts, 487 Fair Oaks Ave., Arroyo Grande.



**TOMATO, TOMATO**

The Los Osos Valley Garden Club presents *How to Grow Tomatoes Easily*, a free Zoom program, on Saturday, March 19, from 9:30 to 10:30 a.m. This virtual event is led by Dave Freed, aka "The Tomato Guy." Freed will offer a variety of tips on the intricacies of tomato gardening. Email [info@lovgardenclub.org](mailto:info@lovgardenclub.org) or visit [lovgardenclub.org](http://lovgardenclub.org) for more details, including the link to join the Zoom meeting.

—C.W.

**SAN LUIS OBISPO**

**THE ALTONS LIVE** March 11, 7 p.m. SLO Brew Rock, 855 Aerovista Pl., San Luis Obispo, 805-543-1843, [slobrew.com](http://slobrew.com).

**BLACK VIOLIN LIVE** Black Violin performs its signature blend of hip hop and classical music. **March 20**, 7-8:30 p.m. \$28-\$65. 805-756-4849. [pacslo.org/online/article/blackviolin2022](http://pacslo.org/online/article/blackviolin2022). Performing Arts Center, 1 Grand Ave., San Luis Obispo.

**CAL POLY CHOIRS' WINTER CONCERT: TO THE HANDS** Students from Cal Poly's Liberal Arts and Engineering Studies and Theatre and Dance departments will join the choirs to present two choral masterpieces. The Cal Poly Chamber Choir will present Dietrich Buxtehude's "Membra Nostris," a baroque-era cantata on the subject of the limbs of Christ. **March 12**, 7:30 p.m. \$10-\$15. 805-756-4849. [music.calpoly.edu/calendar](http://music.calpoly.edu/calendar). Performing Arts Center, 1 Grand Ave., San Luis Obispo.

**CAL POLY SYMPHONY WINTER CONCERT: STUDENT SOLOIST SHOWCASE** Every fall the Cal Poly Symphony holds auditions for student soloists of any major, and the prize is to perform with the symphony on its winter concert. Come hear this year's winners and celebrate musical talent from across the university. **March 11**, 7:30 p.m. \$10-\$15. 805-756-4849. [music.calpoly.edu/calendar/](http://music.calpoly.edu/calendar/). Performing Arts Center, 1 Grand Ave., San Luis Obispo.

**CHRISTIAN ELLIOTT: WHY BE GOOD? (SILENT FILM WITH ORGAN)** Considered a lost film, a print of the 1929 silent comedy film *Why Be*

*Good?*, starring SLO icon Colleen Moore, was discovered in an Italian archive in the late 1990s. Now nearly 90 years later, organ accompanist Christian Elliot brings it back to life. **March 17**, 7:30-9 p.m. \$15-\$32. 805-756-4849. [pacslo.org](http://pacslo.org). Performing Arts Center, 1 Grand Ave., San Luis Obispo.

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

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

**AN EVENING IN BRITAIN** SLO Wind Orchestra offers a evening of historically important British music from the comfort of the Cuesta CPAC. Join Music Director Jennifer Martin and the SLO Wind Orchestra in this revival of the 2022 mini-season, highlighting beautiful early 20th century music from Britain. **March 19**, 7:30-9:30 p.m. \$10-\$30. 805-464-9434. [slowinds.org](http://slowinds.org). Cuesta College Cultural and Performing Arts Center, Highway 1, San Luis Obispo.

**AN EVENING WITH MOONSHINER COLLECTIVE** **March 12**, 7 p.m. SLO Brew Rock, 855 Aerovista Pl., San Luis Obispo, 805-543-1843, [slobrew.com](http://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

PHOTO COURTESY OF WENDY MCKEOWN

Johnson, backed by cast of jazz musicians. **March 10**, 6:30 p.m. \$20-\$30. [my805tix.com](http://my805tix.com). 805-546-8600 The Fremont Theater, 1035 Monterey St., San Luis Obispo.

**KENNY WAYNE SHEPHERD BAND** **March 13**, 8 p.m. The Fremont Theater, 1035 Monterey St., San Luis Obispo, 805-546-8600, [fremontslo.com](http://fremontslo.com).

**LIVE MUSIC FROM GUITAR WIZ BILLY FOPPIANO AND MAD DOG** Join "Guitar Wiz" Billy Foppiano and his trusty side kick Mad Dog for a mix of blues, R&B, and more. Saturdays, 11 a.m.-1 p.m. 805-544-2100. Bon Temps Creole Cafe, 1819 Osos Street, San Luis Obispo, [bontempscreolecafe.com/index.htm](http://bontempscreolecafe.com/index.htm).

**LIVE MUSIC WITH DEVIN WELSH** Enjoy live music and dine on Mexican cuisine prepared on the grill by The Birria Boyz. Enjoy your favorite wines and craft beers at our Wine Bar and Beer Garden. Tuesdays, 5-7 p.m. Free. 805-544-9463. [slowineandbeerco.com/events](http://slowineandbeerco.com/events). SLO Wine and Beer Company, 3536 S. Higuera Street, Suite 250, San Luis Obispo.

**OPEN MIC NIGHT (FEATURING TOAN CHAU)** Every Wednesday is open mic/jam night. Enjoy your favorite wines and craft beers. Wednesdays, 4-7 p.m. Free. 805-544-9463. [slowineandbeerco.com/events](http://slowineandbeerco.com/events). SLO Wine and Beer Company, 3536 S. Higuera Street, Suite 250, San Luis Obispo.

**TED WISE: GUITAR AND VOCALS** Classical/contemporary guitar solos. Vocal covers galore; from Bach to the Beatles and beyond. Fridays, 6-8 p.m. 805-457-0050. [trefiammeslo.com/](http://trefiammeslo.com/). Tre Fiamme Restaurant, 1560 Los Osos Valley Road, #190, San Luis Obispo.

**NORTH SLO COUNTY**

**BACK BAY BETTY LIVE** **March 11**, 6 p.m. Broken Earth Winery, 1650 Ramada Dr., Paso Robles, 805-239-2562.

**DEJAVU LIVE** **March 13**, 1 p.m. Broken Earth Winery, 1650 Ramada Dr., Paso Robles, 805-239-2562.

**GRAMMY-WINNER LOUIE ORTEGA: LIVE AT COLONY MARKET AND DELI** Enjoy live music on the Patio at Colony Market and Deli in Atascadero. Singer/songwriter Louie Ortega graces the stage. **March 12**, 4-6 p.m. 805-460-6252. Colony Market and Deli, 6040 El Camino Real, Atascadero, [colonymarketanddeli.com](http://colonymarketanddeli.com).

**SONGWRITERS AT PLAY FEATURES CARBON CITY LIGHTS DUO** Songwriters at Play host Steve Key presents an afternoon of live music featuring Michael Venia and Bob Liepman of the local alt. rock band, Carbon City Lights. Their music rings with influences of Dave Matthews Band, Pearl Jam, and Coldplay. **March 12**, 12:30-3:30 p.m. Free. 805-204-6821. [stevekey.com/events](http://stevekey.com/events). Sculpterra Winery, 5015 Linne Rd., Paso Robles.

**SURFEZA: LIVE AT CAL COAST BEER COMPANY** Surfeza will be serving up their fresh local music, paired with beers from Cal Coast Beer Co. **March 12**, 2-5 p.m. California Coast Beer Company, 1346 Railroad St., Paso Robles, 805-369-2347, [calcoastbeer.com/](http://calcoastbeer.com/).

**NORTH COAST SLO COUNTY**

**CORB LUND WITH LAUREN MORROW** **March 13** The Siren, 900 Main St., Morro Bay, 805-225-1312, [thesirenmorrobay.com/](http://thesirenmorrobay.com/).

**FOREVER GREEN: LIVE MUSIC DUO** Identical twin sisters and singer/songwriters Cara and Christi Brown, play, write, and sing harmonic original indie/pop/folk rock music with medieval undertones and a modern twist. **March 12**, 5-7 p.m. 805-528-2333. The Clubhouse Grill at Sea Pines, 250 Howard Ave., Los Osos.

**THE LIL SMOKIES LIVE** **March 16** The Siren, 900 Main, Morro Bay, 805-225-1312, [thesirenmorrobay.com/](http://thesirenmorrobay.com/).

**THE WINEHOUSE EXPERIENCE** A celebration of Amy Winehouse. **March 11**, 7:30-10:30 p.m. The Siren, 900 Main St., Morro Bay, 805-225-1312, [thesirenmorrobay.com/](http://thesirenmorrobay.com/).

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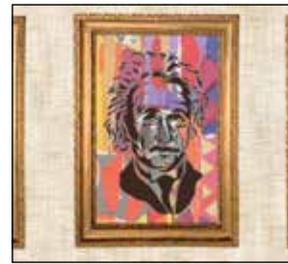
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## Arts Briefs

### Local filmmakers behind *FireStorm '77* to appear at upcoming Q-and-A and screening

The Santa Barbara International Film Festival (SBIFF) is hosting a screening of a locally produced, feature-length documentary, *FireStorm '77*, on Friday, March 11, at 2:20 p.m., at the Metro 4 Theatre in Santa Barbara.

The award-winning documentary examines the history of the Honda Canyon Fire and was shot, directed, and edited by Christopher Hite, a longtime film instructor at Allan Hancock College in Santa Maria. Hite will join producer Joseph N. Valencia and executive producer Dennis R. Ford for a special Q-and-A in conjunction with the screening.

Both Valencia and Ford are Lompoc locals and were part of the teams (made up of more than a thousand firefighters and augmentees) assigned to fight the Honda Canyon Fire in 1977. Both men share their respective accounts of the event during the documentary, which is currently available for purchase through iTunes, YouTube, and other services.

Visit [sbiff.org](http://sbiff.org) for more info on the SBIFF's *FireStorm '77* screening and other programming.

### Wildling Museum seeks entries for Earth Day poetry competition

The deadline to enter the Wildling Museum's second annual Earth Day poetry competition, *Climate Change: Our Impact*, is Monday, March 21, at 5 p.m. Santa Barbara County residents of all ages are welcome to submit poems that "interpret the effects of climate change and our role in a variety of ways," according to the museum.

Submissions will be judged by two former Santa Barbara poets laureate, Sojourner Kincaid Rolle and Chrissy Yost. Awards in the contest range from cash prizes to museum family memberships. The writers of the top three poems in both the adult and youth categories will be given the opportunity to read their work during the Community Environmental Council's Santa Barbara Earth Day Celebration, held at the Arlington Theatre on Saturday, April 23.

For more details on the competition, call (805) 686-8315 or visit [wildlingmuseum.org](http://wildlingmuseum.org).



FILE PHOTO COURTESY OF THE WILDLING MUSEUM OF ART AND NATURE

### Allan Hancock College's dance program holds folklórico performances

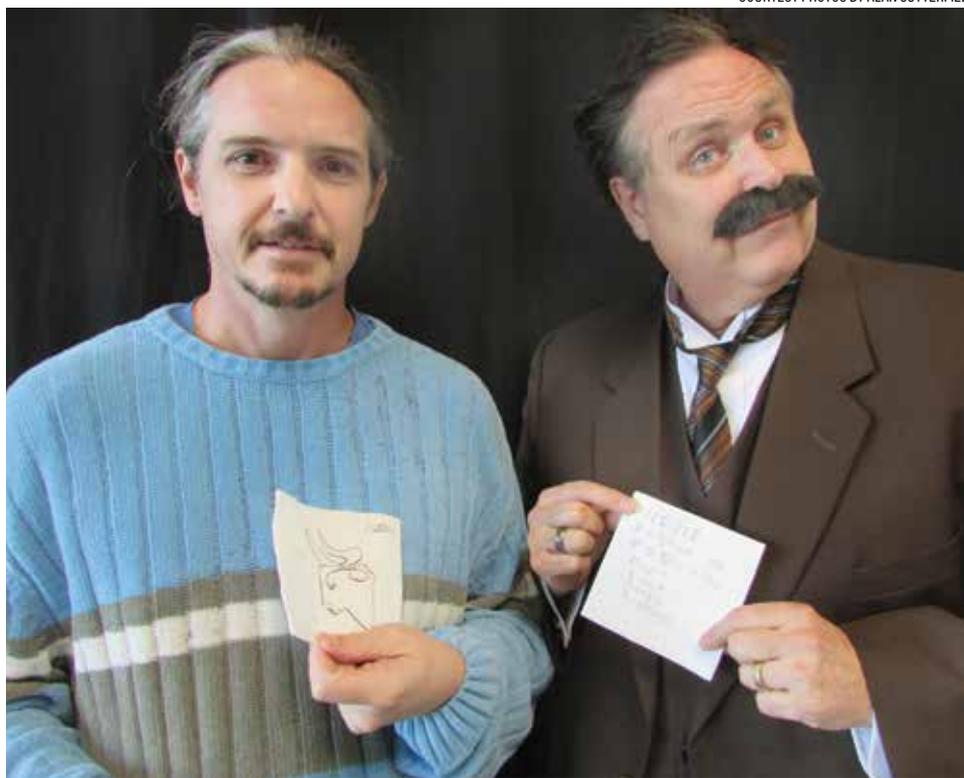
Performances of a new folklórico production, hosted by Allan Hancock College's dance program, will be held at the Ethel Pope Auditorium in Santa Maria on March 10, 11, and 12 at 7 p.m. each evening. The show will include both traditional and contemporary takes on folklórico dance styles from a variety of different regions in Mexico, according to Hancock College.

Dancers in the show include members of Hancock's dance program, dance faculty, and Ernest Righetti High School's ballet folklórico program. Tickets to the production are \$15 each and can be purchased at the door or online through Eventbrite.

The Ethel Pope Auditorium is located at 901 S. Broadway, Santa Maria. ○

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

COURTESY PHOTOS BY ALAN SUTTERFIELD



**PROLIFIC PAIR:** *Picasso at the Lapin Agile* is set in 1904 and imagines a fictional meeting between Pablo Picasso and Albert Einstein, played by local actors Jarrod Zinn (left) and Todd Buranen (right), respectively, in Orcutt Community Theater's new production.

## Great minds drink alike

### A Parisian pub brings two geniuses together in Orcutt Community Theater's latest production, *Picasso at the Lapin Agile*

BY CALEB WISEBLOOD

Albert Einstein and Pablo Picasso walk into a bar.

This scenario isn't the start of a joke, but it originated with someone who tells jokes for a living.

Central Coast local Dan Bullard described his choice to direct a new production of *Picasso at the Lapin Agile* as "a very easy decision," based on his admiration for the show's writer, Steve Martin.

"I was attracted to the play, then and now, due to being a huge Steve Martin fan ever since the mid to late 1970s, when he exploded onto the scene with his phenomenal stand-up comedy act," Bullard said. "I have followed his career at every turn since then. He is truly one of this era's leading comedic lights."

Bullard first saw *Picasso at the Lapin Agile*

during its West Coast premiere run in 1995 at the Westwood Playhouse in Los Angeles. When the hardback copy of the play was

published the following year, Bullard bought it immediately, he said.

Friday, March 11, marks the debut of Orcutt Community Theater's production of *Picasso at the Lapin Agile*, directed by Bullard. The show—which runs through Sunday, March 27—is set in 1904 and imagines a fictional meeting between Picasso and Einstein, played by local thespians Jarrod Zinn and Todd Buranen, respectively.

"When Dan cast me opposite of Jarrod, I was very excited," Buranen said. "I have worked with Jarrod before, and have been directed by him in a show at Santa Maria Civic Theatre. But this is our first opportunity to play against each other."

Buranen said he enjoys

### March madness

Orcutt Community Theater presents its production of *Picasso at the Lapin Agile* at KDA Studios in Santa Maria, March 11 through 27. Performances are held on Fridays and Saturdays at 8 p.m., and Sundays at 1:30 p.m. Tickets are \$15 and are available in advance at [my805tix.com](http://my805tix.com).

Visit [orcuttcommunitytheater.org](http://orcuttcommunitytheater.org) for more info on the show. KDA Studios is located at 3558 Skyway Drive, Santa Maria.

sporting crazy hair, a thick mustache, and "an exaggerated German accent" for his role as Einstein and cannot imagine feeling nearly as ecstatic if the two lead roles were reversed.

"I don't think I would enjoy playing Picasso. I really enjoy the silliness and humor of Einstein," Buranen said. "Picasso has too much swagger for my taste. No offense, Jarrod."

Zinn, on the other hand, said he would gladly embrace swapping roles, hypothetically speaking.

"I think it would be a great deal of fun to play this iteration of Einstein, and Todd would find a lot in Picasso I'd never thought of, and haven't," Zinn said.

"I must tip my hat to Todd, though, as the only challenge for me would be in memorizing the flow of the dialogue itself," added Zinn, referring to some of Einstein's most cerebral tangents in the show. "Einstein takes us all on a flighty trip through the cosmos. ... It's certainly not your usual fodder for comedy, but Steve Martin found a way."

Zinn said he spent about two to three weeks researching his character and the historical setting he inhabits.

"PCPA taught me many years ago to do my research first. In this case, I researched Paris of 1904. Then I researched Picasso, his life, and especially his art," Zinn said. "He [Picasso] played with the brains of his viewers in ways no one before or since has been able to top."

Zinn enjoyed the arc of Picasso's progression in the show, which begins during the artist's "blue phase" and ends in his "rose phase," the actor explained.

At the start of the play, Picasso is primarily using blue hues, "because he was suffering the melancholy of losing his best friend to suicide," Zinn explained, and his process of recovery is explored throughout the show, "according to Steve Martin's peculiar stream of consciousness."

"Moving from melancholy to joy is so important for the whole world at this time," Zinn said. "And it's a privilege to portray the journey." ○

**Showtime!**

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Arts Editor Caleb Wiseblood once dressed up as Albert Einstein for a history project in fourth grade. Send comments to [cwiseblood@santamariasun.com](mailto:cwiseblood@santamariasun.com).



**STEALING THE SHOW:** In Orcutt Community Theater's iteration of *Picasso at the Lapin Agile*, Candyce Columbus portrays "The Countess," a woman who catches the attention of Albert Einstein.



**RAISING THE BAR:** Rachel Mello (left) and Craig Scott (right) play Germaine and Freddy, the proprietors of a French tavern, in a new, local production of *Picasso at the Lapin Agile*.



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## Vengeance or justice?

**C**o-writer Matt Reeves (*Cloverfield*, *Let Me In*, *Dawn of the Planet of the Apes*) directs this new reboot of the popular DC Comics series about Bruce Wayne (Robert Pattinson), a vigilante crime fighter with deep pockets and a brooding persona. When *The Riddler* (Paul Dano) begins murdering key politicians in Gotham, Wayne as his alter ego, Batman, investigates. *Catwoman* (Zoë Kravitz) and *Penguin* (Colin Ferrell) also make appearances. (175 min.)

**Glen:** Relentlessly dark, overlong by about an hour, and gothic as Hades, this new Batman flick still manages to offer a potent payoff with some cracking good cinematography and set design along the way. Pattinson plays Bruce Wayne in full emo mode—his black hair shrouding his eyes, brows furrowed, mouth set to grimace. Only about 30 years old, he's new to crime fighting, and he questions whether he's having an effect, knowing Gotham is a big town and he can't be everywhere at once. When *The Riddler* begins taking out politicians, leaving behind thorny clues to be deciphered, Batman starts to unravel conspiracy and corruption at Gotham's highest levels. And just to add to his angst, his revered father may too have been involved in some way. Dano's *The Riddler* is a physically weak, pasty type, with an inflated ego. His weapon is his brain, and he likes to invent diabolical devices to exterminate his prey. He considers Batman more of a friend than a foe—after all, they're both after justice. Then there's Selina Kyle, aka *Catwoman*, who has her own agenda against the criminal underworld, especially reclusive kingpin Carmine Falcone (John Turturro). Working at the Iceberg Lounge, a criminal underworld hangout,

Selina becomes the tool Batman needs to get inside information. It's all very convoluted with lots of characters, including Oswald "Oz" Cobblepot, aka Penguin (Colin Ferrell, made unrecognizable under facial prostheses). Jeffrey Wright stars as honest cop James Gordon, who against his fellow officers' wishes brings Batman into the investigation into *The Riddler*.

**Anna:** I had absolutely no idea that Colin Farrell was Penguin. That's bonkers! Whoever the artist is who made his prosthesis should win an award—he was completely unrecognizable. I'm in agreement that this film definitely could have been tightened up. There are very few movies that have enough meat to actually justify an almost three-hour runtime, and *The Batman* isn't one of them. That said, I like the storyline, I like the characters, I even like the dark moodiness and style that were chosen. There were just too many lingering shots and long moments where in my head I was snapping my fingers and saying, "Tighten it up, people!" I wasn't sure how Pattinson would come across as Batman. Honestly, he's not exactly the actor I picture for the role, but he handled this young Bruce Wayne with a real sense of the tortured hermit that Wayne is, especially in his younger years. Dano does creepy so well, and his *Riddler* is definitely an unforgettable villain. This film is, of course, a setup for more to come, and I'll totally watch them—I just hope the next go around they stick with a two-hour script.

### THE BATMAN

What's it rated? **PG-13**  
 What's it worth, Anna? **Full price**  
 What's it worth, Glen? **Full price**  
 Where's it showing? **Regal Edwards RPX Santa Maria, Regal Edwards Stadium 10, Movies Lompoc, Fair Oaks**



**THE BAT AND THE CAT:** Batman (Robert Pattinson) and Catwoman (Zoë Kravitz) help each other in their pursuit of justice in the new franchise reboot, *The Batman*.

**Glen:** I'm still of the mind that director Christopher Nolan's *The Dark Knight* trilogy is the best run of Batman flicks, but this one is appealing, and I'm all in for sequels too. This is less a standard superhero movie and more a political thriller noir. Gotham is a horrible place to live—dirty, crime-ridden, operated on graft and corruption. It feels irredeemable, and one wonders why Wayne even bothers. In part, it's because he thinks it's his legacy since he believes his father was such a do-gooder, which is why the story's revelations shake him to his core. He essentially has no one left ... except Alfred (Andy Serkis), the family butler, the only person still able to guide him to do more than mere vengeance. This isn't a revelatory reimagining, but it's a nice twist on a favorite franchise.

**Anna:** It's not my favorite Batman film, but it definitely soars above some of the disasters that have happened over the years. Kravitz is a good fit for the *Catwoman* character, playing a damaged woman who is desperate for vengeance. I love an effective villain, and Dano's *Riddler* is creepy, sinister, and unpredictable enough to do the job here. The finale of the film pulls off some epic shots, and without going into spoilers, I'll just say that both good and evil have their time to shine. One thing is for sure, I'll never set my Zillow search to Gotham—that place is bleak, rain soaked, and riddled with crime. ○

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

## Film Reviews

### MOSES STORM: TRASH WHITE

What's it rated? **Unrated** When? **2022**  
 Where's it showing? **HBO Max**

From a stage composed of a big screen and surrounded by piles of trash painted white to match his clothing, comedian Moses Storm presents a comedy special that also is a commentary on growing up in poverty.

From being the lookout for the family while they went dumpster diving to the reality of a family of seven living on a converted Greyhound bus, Storm manages to make the tragic moments hilarious in retrospect, but he doesn't let us get too comfortable in our laughter.

The comedian points out that he "looks like he should be rich," but the wounds created in his younger years still live with him now. From hilarious anecdotes about a family day gone wrong spent rummaging for discarded ice cream and then sneaking into a pool, to his mother's endless attempts to stage "hilarious" moments in hopes of winning \$10,000 from *America's Funniest Home Videos*, we get a full tour of Storm's unique brand of humor.



PHOTO COURTESY OF HBO MAX

**POOR WHITE SMASH:** Moses Storm gets personal about his impoverished childhood in the new HBO Max comedy special, *Moses Storm: Trash White*.

Fans of comedy will eat up this HBO special—it's smart and sarcastic, and Storm manages to bring everything full circle. (one hour)

—Anna



### KIMI

What's it rated? **R** When? **2022**  
 Where's it showing? **HBO Max**

Steven Soderbergh (*Erin Brockovich*, *Ocean's Eleven*, *Magic Mike*) directs this thriller about Angela Childs (Zoë Kravitz), an agoraphobic tech worker whose job is to monitor data streams from a new smart speaker called *Kimi*, making corrections to its software. Unlike other smart speakers that use AI to improve algorithms, actual people like Angela monitor *Kimi*, working to improve its ability to respond to any query. While examining a recording, Angela believes she's discovered evidence of a violent crime.

If you're immediately thinking *Blow-Up* (1966) about the photographer who inadvertently captures a murder on film, *Blow-Out* (1981) about a movie sound engineer who accidentally records evidence that a car crash was a murder, or *The Net* (1995) about a reclusive tech worker who stumbles on a conspiracy, you're on the right track. *Kimi*, a product of tech corporation Amygdala, is about to hold an initial public offering, making the company and its CEO Bradley Hasling (Derek DelGaudio), a fortune.

It's a tasty little thriller about a wounded woman struggling with a past assault whose



PHOTO COURTESY OF NEW LINE CINEMA AND WARNER BROS.

**TECHNO THRILLER:** Zoë Kravitz stars as Angela Childs, an agoraphobic tech worker who thinks she's stumbled on a murder, in *Kimi*, screening on HBO Max.

fear of the outside world was worsened by the pandemic. Can she overcome her crippling anxiety to get justice for the victim? David Koepp's script is propulsive, and Cliff Martinez offers a score that would sound at home in a Hitchcock thriller. As usual, Soderbergh is a wiz behind the camera. It's a fun watch. (89 min.) ○

—Glen

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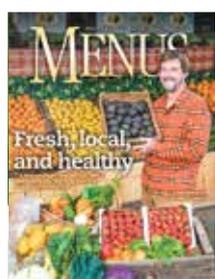
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PHOTOS COURTESY OF THE BUELLTON WINE AND CHILI FESTIVAL



**GRAB SOME GRUB:** Admission to the Buellton Wine and Chili Festival includes unlimited samples of chili and salsa. The one-day event takes place on Sunday, March 20, and features more than 20 different chili and salsa vendors.

### Share tasty tips!



Send tidbits on everything food and drink to [cwiseblood@santamariasun.com](mailto:cwiseblood@santamariasun.com).



**CHEERS:** Each general admission ticket for festivalgoers over 21 years old includes a souvenir wine glass.



**TASTINGS GALORE:** Participating vintners in the Buellton Wine and Chili Festival include Flying Goat Cellars, Camins 2 Dreams, Pali Wine Co., Buttonwood Winery and Vineyard, and several more.

# Chillin' and thrillin'

Get your fill of foodie festivities at the Buellton Wine and Chili Festival

BY CALEB WISEBLOOD

More than 20 all-you-can-taste options await guests of the Buellton Wine and Chili Festival. Sampling every different chili will give festivalgoers more than their money's worth, but nobody's gonna stop anyone from going all-in on their favorite.

"You get to walk around and try everyone's chili. If you really like a chili, you can keep trying it over and over again," said Andres Nuño, co-owner of En Fuego Events, the organizer behind this year's festival. "With your ticket, you get unlimited samples of chili and salsa. It's a lot different than a traditional wine fest, where all you get is alcohol."

The popular annual one-day event will be held on Sunday, March 20, at the Flying Flags RV Resort in Buellton. Nuño described the outdoor gathering as one of a kind because it offers "a little bit of everything for everyone, regardless of how old you are," he explained.

"It's a pretty unique event in that it's also family-friendly, right? So mom and dad could come out and bring the kids with them, and they can eat all the chili and salsa they want. And the parents are also getting to sample some wine or beer or whatever else they want," said Nuño, who added that the festival carries seltzers, kombucha, ciders, and spirits as well.

Guests can also look forward to live entertainment throughout the festival, provided by The Paradise Kings, The Real Doug Lane, and DJ FIU. Local artisans and crafters will be on-site during the event as well, selling their wares—but that's outside the ticket price of course. General admission covers many things, but free jewelry isn't one of them.

### Tickets to ride

Find out more about the Buellton Wine and Chili Festival at [buelltonwineandchilifestival.com](http://buelltonwineandchilifestival.com). The event takes place at the Flying Flags RV Resort on Sunday, March 20, from noon to 4:30 p.m. General admission is \$55. Tickets for guests under age 21 are \$20 each. The resort is located at 180 Avenue of the Flags, Buellton.

Despite a hefty lineup of vendors so far, Nuño said there is still time for chefs, winemakers, and other hopeful participants to sign up, roughly until about a week before the event. Food and drink vendors can also register to compete with their peers for prizes during the festival.

"We still have spaces available. We are still looking for chili cooks," Nuño said. "We do run out of room, there is limited space. We do give priority to anybody who is making a chili or salsa or serving alcohol. The other street fair vendors are kind of the third in line."

The Solvang Brewing Company, Figueroa Mountain Brewing Company, and Firestone Walker Brewing Company are among the featured restaurants scheduled to serve chili and beer, while participating vintners include Flying Goat Cellars, Camins 2 Dreams, Pali Wine Co., Buttonwood Winery and Vineyard, and several more.

"Most people associate chili with beer. But what we found was, actually, there are a lot of wineries that make wines that go great with chili," Nuño said. "We are so lucky to be on the Central Coast because there's so many good wineries. ... You have people coming from all over the place because they know that this event is going to have a lot of those wineries."

Proceeds from the Buellton Wine and Chili Festival will be used to benefit a handful of local causes, including college and high school scholarships and community programs designated by the Buellton Chamber of Commerce. Nuño's company was chosen by the chamber to organize the festival, as the company primarily handles event management for large fundraisers.

"We love being able to come in and help a nonprofit make money because it's so important for them to raise funds at these community events. It's something that we take pride in," Nuño said. "It's a big reason that we want to do our best to make sure we put on a great event that people want to go to, and that sponsors want to sponsor, and people want to participate in." ○



**GOURMET GATHERING:** Despite a hefty lineup of featured vendors so far, there is still time for chefs, winemakers, and other hopeful participants to sign up to showcase their offerings at the Buellton Wine and Chili Festival—a large outdoor tasting event held at Flying Flags RV Resort.

Arts Editor Caleb Wiseblood needs a bowl of chili, immediately. Send comments to [cwiseblood@santamariasun.com](mailto:cwiseblood@santamariasun.com).

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THE CENTRAL COAST GUIDE TO EVERYTHING OUTSIDE *Spring 2022*

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*Reopening federal lands closed to the public due to fire and floods takes time, funding, and volunteers [22]*

BY CAMILLIA LANHAM

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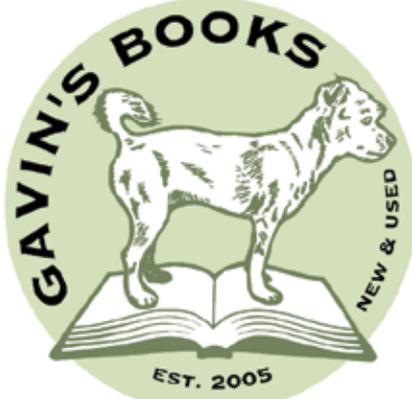
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