

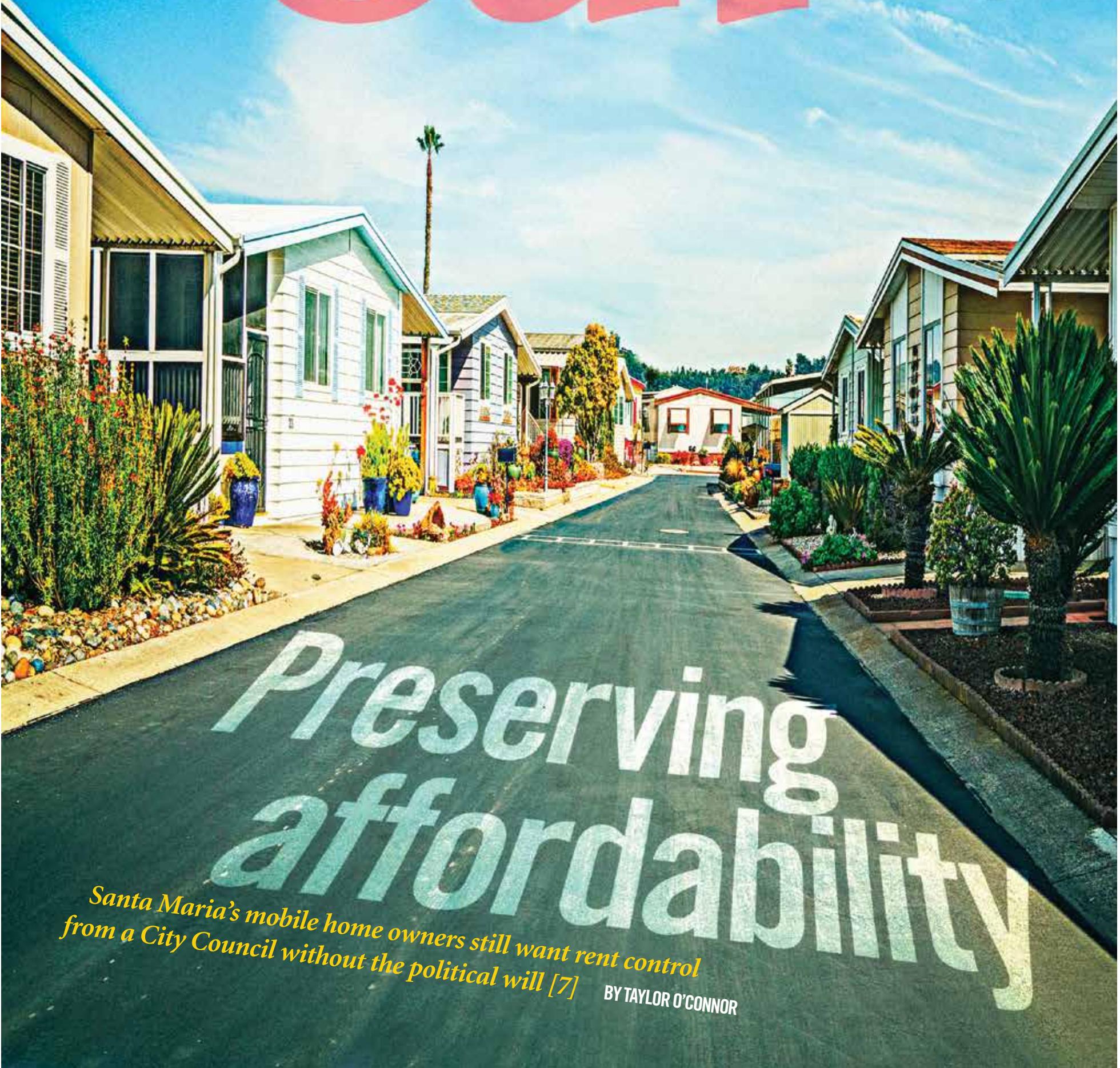
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Sun



Lost City: revised rom-com [24]



Preserving affordability

Santa Maria's mobile home owners still want rent control from a City Council without the political will [7] BY TAYLOR O'CONNOR

NEWS 'Justifiable' homicide in Lompoc [5]

ARTS TMHA joins forces with SLO Rep [22]

EATS Sear Steakhouse gets a new owner [26]

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THE CENTRAL COAST GUIDE TO EVERYTHING OUTSIDE Spring 2022

Access the wild

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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MARCH 31 - APRIL 7, 2022 VOL. 23 NO. 5

Although they know they're up against a City Council that doesn't want to pass a rent control ordinance on mobile home parks, a group of Santa Maria mobile home owners—who rent the land their homes sit on—isn't giving up. They continue to attend meetings and advocate for something that's already a reality in many neighboring cities. Staff Writer Taylor O'Connor writes about the struggle and what rent stabilization could mean for something that many believe is one of the last affordable housing options left [7].

You can also read about the Santa Barbara County District Attorney's Office investigation of an officer-involved shooting in Lompoc [5]; a one-man show at SLO Rep that focuses on mental health [22]; and the new owner/chef at Solvang's Sear Steakhouse [26].

Camillia Lanham
editor

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RENT REALITY: Mobile home owners in North Santa Barbara County want Santa Maria to pass a rent stabilization ordinance.

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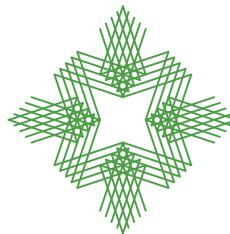
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Political Watch

Registered vehicle owners in California could get at least \$400 per vehicle as part of Gov. **Gavin Newsom's** proposed \$11 billion relief package for Californians facing high gas prices, the governor's office announced on March 23. "We're taking immediate action to get money directly into the pockets of Californians who are facing higher gas prices as a direct result of Putin's invasion of Ukraine," Newsom said in a statement. "But this package is also focused on protecting people from volatile gas prices, and advancing clean transportation—providing three months of free public transportation, fast-tracking electric vehicle incentives and charging stations, and new funding for local biking and walking projects." The proposal calls for \$9 billion in tax refunds—\$400 direct payments capped at two vehicles—and provides \$2 billion in broader relief. About \$750 million will be given in grants to provide free transit for three months, \$600 million will pause a part of the sales tax rate on diesel for one year, and \$523 million will pause gas and diesel inflation, according to Newsom's office. The tax refund will take the form of \$400 debit cards for registered vehicle owners, and individuals will be eligible to receive up to two payments. An average California driver spends approximately \$300 in gasoline excise tax over a year.

U.S. Sen. **Alex Padilla** (D-California) questioned Judge **Ketanji Brown Jackson** on the third day of her confirmation hearing to become the next associate justice of the United States Supreme Court, according to a March 22 statement. Padilla asked Jackson about the role of the Supreme Court in upholding the fundamental right to vote and the federal government's responsibility to and relationship with sovereign tribal governments. "California is home to the largest Native American population in the country. In fact, more than 1 in 10 Native Americans call California home. ... As a general matter, can you just share what your understanding is of the federal government's legal and moral trust, responsibility, and relationship with tribal governments?" Padilla asked, according to a statement. Jackson discussed the relationship between tribal and federal governments, and said that the federal government has some responsibilities to the nations. "It's a very, very important care and trust responsibility that the federal government has in terms of making sure that the tribes are recognized and cared for, in the context of our system," Jackson said.

A bipartisan majority on the **House Committee on Education and Labor** approved the Federal Firefighters Fairness Act, a measure written by U.S. Rep. **Salud Carbajal** (D-Santa Barbara) that ensures federal firefighters receive the same access to job-related disability and retirement benefits as state, county, and municipal firefighters, the congressman's office recently announced. The measure would create the presumption that federal firefighters who become disabled by serious diseases—including heart disease, lung disease, and certain cancers—contracted the illness on the job. Currently, that is not the case, and it makes it difficult for federal firefighters to qualify for workers' compensation or disability benefits, the statement said. The bill now moves to the **U.S. House of Representatives** floor for consideration, and if passed it could improve benefits for more than 10,000 firefighters across the United States. "I'm pleased that to see my measure to give our brave federal firefighters the health care benefits they have earned has made its way through the committee process and one step closer to becoming law," Carbajal said in a statement. "Federal firefighters have been on the front lines in California fighting wildfires as we experience longer and more extreme fire seasons, but their threshold to prove work-related illness is much higher than their state or local counterparts here in California and around the nation." ○

TABLE FROM POINT-IN-TIME COUNT DATA

City/Area	2022 Total	2020 Total	2019 Total
Carpinteria	21	39	21
Goleta	91	166	119
Santa Barbara	822	914	887
Isla Vista	112	69	33
Lompoc	290	211	249
Buellton/Solvang/Santa Ynez Valley	12	2	5
Santa Maria	457	382	464
Guadalupe	2	3	4
Unincorporated	155	111	24
Totals	1,962	1,897	1,806

BREAKDOWN: This chart compares the number of those experiencing homelessness in Santa Barbara County during the 2022 Point-In-Time County to previous years.

County officials expected higher numbers from homeless count

After more than 400 volunteers hit Santa Barbara County's streets in February to capture a snapshot of those experiencing homelessness, the 2022 Point-In-Time Count's preliminary results showed a 3.4 percent increase over 2020.

The count showed 1,962 people were experiencing homelessness in the county on Feb. 23, according to a county Housing and Development press release—a number county officials thought would be higher.

This is the first year the annual U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development-required Point-In-Time Count to collect data on homelessness has happened since 2020 due to COVID-19 pandemic restrictions, Santa Barbara County Homeless Assistance Program Manager Kimberlee Albers said.

"We anticipated—[based] on the numbers we consistently see in our systems—that we would see an increase in homelessness. It's a very modest increase when we look at it countywide, but the North and Mid-County numbers increased," Albers said.

Santa Maria's numbers increased from 382 in 2020, to 457 in 2022 and Lompoc's went from 211 to 290, according to the data. However, South County cities like Goleta and Santa Barbara saw decreases in their numbers—Goleta from 166 in 2020 to 91 in 2022, and Santa Barbara from 914 to 822—which Albers said surprised her.

"I think we would have expected the increase to be consistent across the county based on [other] data we are seeing. We're not seeing people moving in any significant numbers," she said. "It was a very cold evening [for the count]. I know there was some difficulty finding folks in South County."

Santa Barbara County Continuum of Care Chair and Good Samaritan Shelter Executive Director Sylvia Barnard monitors those who are accessing services at the county's two sobering centers in Santa Barbara and Santa Maria, and said she expected higher numbers as well.

The Santa Maria Stabilization Center—a facility only for those experiencing homelessness—has served 284 clients since April 2021, Barnard said, which is equivalent to more than half of the number of homeless individuals counted in Santa Maria on Feb. 23.

"Doing a Point-In-Time Count during a pandemic is difficult with social distancing and considering safety. Hopefully, the next count will have more volunteers and reach more locations," Barnard said. "I do think our numbers would have been higher—especially those who are unsheltered."

Overall, the data still shows a need for more services, county Program Manager Albers said. "We know the numbers have been increasing

and there's a need for both shelter and housing. It doesn't change our trajectory. We have our community action plan that includes the need for shelter, housing, and services in all areas of the county. It just emphasizes we need more of all three in order to address homelessness," Albers said.

The housing management team's still analyzing data, and a future report will be released in May that focuses on sub-populations—like veterans, families, and those experiencing disabling conditions. That information will be presented to the county Board of Supervisors in May, Albers said.

"It [becomes] a more comprehensive report on homelessness with the Point-In-Time Count subpopulation data," she added.

Albers said she hopes the data collected will help get more state and federal funds allocated to the county so it can provide more services.

"There's a lot of funding that has been coming out of the state, and having an accurate count is critical to funding," she said. "There is a housing affordability crisis in our community, and it's accelerating as we emerge from COVID. We have to realize in the short term with modest growth [in homelessness] that we could see another growth with the extreme lack of affordability."

—Taylor O'Connor

District Attorney rules Lompoc officer-involved homicide was 'justifiable'

Fifteen of the 26 bullets Lompoc police officers fired at 32-year-old Travis Daniel Carlon on Oct. 9, 2021, struck his body, according to a recently released investigation from the Santa Barbara County District Attorney's Office.

The office ruled Carlon's death a "justifiable homicide."

Senior Deputy District Attorney Anne Nudson said the DA's Office concluded that the three officers involved in the case were acting within their rights when they pulled their respective triggers. Nudson said the number of shots fired isn't considered excessive force because criminal offense laws (penal codes) don't follow specific numbers, rather they follow the situation at hand.

"A hundred shots could be justified, just depending on the penal code. While 26 seems like a high number to some people ... it's not about the type of force used, it's about the totality of the circumstances in which the force was used," she said. "We are looking at the circumstances and then analyzing the penal codes."

That October night, the Lompoc Police Department responded to a 911 domestic disturbance call at 6:30 p.m. saying Carlon held a gun to his girlfriend's head, according to the report from the DA's Office.

"Officers Calderon, Mendoza, and Molina" arrived at the scene around 6:40 p.m., got his girlfriend safely out of the house, and commanded Carlon to exit his home, the report stated. At 8:26 p.m., Carlon exited the house, pointed a gun toward the responding officers, and officers opened fire, according to the DA's Office. Carlon received medical aid but was pronounced dead at the scene.

The legal analysis included in the report explains that an officer can use "deadly force" if they believe there's a possibility of death or injury to themselves or to other officers, or if they believe the person will cause death or injury unless they are arrested.

"When Carlon came out of his residence and pointed his gun at officers, after being given multiple commands to come out and surrender, he created a reasonable fear of death or great bodily injury in the minds of [the responding officers]," the DA's report said.

Officers located a revolver at the bottom of the front porch with two bullets in the chamber and recovered a suicide note for Carlon's children during their search of his home, the DA's Office said. Neighbors also recorded the shooting and posted it to Facebook Live.

"In the video that captures the time of the shooting, the video showed Carlon come out of his residence and point a black object at law enforcement. The video captured the sound of the shots being fired by law enforcement. The video also captured one of the witnesses on the video saying, 'He pointed a gun at them, what do you expect?' a second male voice responds 'cop suicide,'" the report said.

Witnesses removed the video from Facebook Live "almost immediately," and all three witnesses were interviewed, the report said.

Lompoc Police Department officials told the *Sun* they couldn't comment on the case. Senior Deputy District Attorney Nudson said while the case is considered done as far as the criminal side of the law is concerned, residents could still file a civil lawsuit, Nudson explained.

"Anyone can sue anyone, but any sort of civil remedy has nothing to do with us. Criminal prosecution is our findings on this case based on the evidence we have to date. Anything in criminal prosecution can change," she said. "I have no personal basis to think that in this particular case, but criminal prosecution is a living, breathing thing."

—Taylor O'Connor

Buellton approves new mixed-use complex, amid parking concerns

Buellton Vice Mayor Dave King admittedly got "passionate" about the future of on-street parking, while speaking unfavorably about an upcoming mixed-use development in town.

The 1.22-acre complex that will consist of both commercial businesses and residential units was recently approved by the Buellton City Council in a 4-1 vote, with King dissenting.

"You're going to have parking issues, no matter how you slice it," King said during the City Council's March 24 meeting. "There are going to be cars spilled all over Avenue of Flags."

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NEWS from page 5

The town plaza-esque project, known as The 518, will be located on the corner of Avenue of Flags and 2nd Street, and the city's Planning Commission unanimously recommended the project for approval prior to the City Council meeting. A combination of single-car spaces and private garages will be assigned to development residents, but King said he believes that most residents will use their garages for storage and park their cars on the street instead.

"It would be very naive for anyone in this room to think that people are not going to use that garage for storage," King said. "That car is gonna spill out onto the street."

After City Manager Scott Wolfe proposed that the City Council require the owners of The 518 to provide "signage to regulate on-street parking on Avenue of Flags, adjacent to the project site," with time restrictions, King argued that the added enforcement would lead to a separate problem.

"We're going to take some of our law enforcement resources and they're going to become meter maids," said King, who then described a hypothetical scenario where a police deputy on the parking beat is stuck "sitting out for an hour waiting for a tow truck when he could be out patrolling our streets, doing the job that he was hired to do."

Santa Barbara County Sheriff's Office Lt. Jeff Greene spoke during the March 24 meeting and said he agrees with King that on-street parking problems are bound to come up once The 518 is operational, but he wouldn't label that concern as "a glaring issue."

Councilmember Elysia Lewis expressed support for The 518, and described the residential options at the development as providing a "starting out point" for families and young professionals who can't afford to buy a house in Buellton.

"I have numerous stories of family members and friends that are still living with their parents, and they're 30. It's not because they can't afford it. It's not because they don't want it. It's because there is literally nothing available for them," Lewis said. "We have people living here that have grown up here that can't progress, and this is one of those opportunities where you give a little to get a little bit for those people so they have options."

While responding to Lewis' comment, King said he believes the development will be "a disservice to the people that already live here."

"You're going to have more people living in those apartments because it's going to be cheap, and they're going to live there but they're also going to bring the two cars with them, and possibly high school kids, as well as roommates," King said. "I understand your point about people not being able to live some place, but it's like we're going to sell some really cheap tickets to a three-day cruise to Mexico and we're going to overload the boat, and it sinks halfway to Baja California because we overloaded the boat. Well, that wasn't very prudent, was it?"

Mayor Holly Sierra said "we beat this horse to death" before motioning to accept the final plans for the development, which was approved along with an adjustment regarding street signage and on-street parking restrictions.

—Caleb Wiseblood

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A long haul

Santa Maria mobile home residents advocate for rent stabilization through challenging city politics

BY TAYLOR O'CONNOR

Rancho Buena Vista Mobile Home Park resident Gary Hall has spoken at the last 27 Santa Maria City Council meetings. His mission: to get a mobile home rent stabilization ordinance on the council's agenda.

A rent stabilization ordinance would limit the amount by which landowners can increase the rent each year, said Hall, the North Santa Barbara County Manufactured Homeowners Team president. For the last four years, Hall's team has been advocating for the ordinance to protect mobile home residents who have to rent the land that their homes sit on.

"I want to be able to maintain affordability for not only me but for all the residents that live in Santa Maria. In Santa Maria, the issue today is that it's the one that's been left out," Hall said.

Neighboring counties and cities including Santa Barbara city, San Luis Obispo (city and county), Buellton, and Santa Ynez all have mobile home rental control ordinances in place, he said. Santa Maria is one of the remaining cities without an ordinance, and it doesn't look like one will be added anytime soon, Hall said.

"I think that it's because of politics. We don't have a City Council yet that is of a mind to listen to their citizens and provide that level of protection that's been offered at other places. They've demonstrated that through their past efforts—or lack thereof," he said.

Mobile home rent stabilization has been presented to the council since 2018. In 2019, the item finally made the City Council's agenda in the form of an enforceable model lease—a lease that has a 6 percent ceiling on yearly rent increases that the landowners can choose to offer by signing a contract—according to previous *Sun* reporting.

But the outcome was not favorable for mobile home residents, Hall said, because the city doesn't require landowners to use the lease.

Landowners continued business as usual, he said, and it's ultimately affecting those living in mobile home parks. Hall's rent increased by 22 percent from \$722 a month in 2014 to \$937 in 2022. He said he's still managing well but is worried about others who may not be as financially stable as him.

"Let's get equity in the hands of mobile homeowners of Santa Maria. I've met a lot of mobile homeowners in Santa Maria who—quite frankly—probably have less than I do and need more help," Hall said.

Other efforts

The city of Santa Barbara adopted its Mobile Home and Recreational Vehicle Park Lease Ordinance in 1984, which limits rent increases to only one time per year with a maximum increase of 3 percent per year, according to the city's website.

A recent addition to that city's ordinance is vacancy control—which limits a landowner's ability to raise the price to market price when a tenant leaves—Santa Barbara City Attorney Ariel Calonne said.

"The economics of mobile home parks are a bit unusual because you have the residents owning their coach but renting the land. ...

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By imposing the high rent on a new owner, that can devalue the coach. A coach paying \$300 per month is more in value than a coach paying \$1,500 per month in rent," Calonne explained.

These two pieces working hand in hand protect tenants because they limit extreme rent increases, hold the value of the home, and keep the city involved, he added.

"I do see enforcement," Calonne said. "There are a number of management companies who are known for fairly abusive landlord-tenant practices, given that mobile home park populations [are] senior citizens and those who are at the lower socioeconomic end of the spectrum. The city has to be involved to ensure they are compliant with the law."

Not only does this protect mobile home residents, it protects an affordable housing option in the city. Currently, Santa Barbara's median gross rent is \$1,874 per month—according to U.S. census data—and Santa Maria's rent is not too far behind at \$1,475 per month. But Santa Maria's median household income is about \$13,900 less than its neighbor (\$81,618 in Santa Barbara and \$67,634 in Santa Maria).

And yet, a mobile home rent control ordinance doesn't exist in Santa Maria even as the city pursues more than 300 other affordable housing projects, Councilmember Gloria Soto said. Soto has advocated for mobile home residents during City Council meetings, and she requested that the ordinance be added to the council discussion agenda during the city's March 2 meeting.

"For a city that says it's investing in reducing homelessness, there are things that could be done that aren't being done," she told the *Sun*. "I'm invested because housing costs are just ridiculous at this point, with inflation having gone up as much as it has. Now, more than ever, it's imperative to protect affordable housing, and mobile homes are a type of affordable housing that houses some of our most vulnerable residents in our community."

Despite her continued efforts, Soto said her hands are tied because it's ultimately up to the mayor—Alice Patino—to decide what goes on the agenda, and she can't speak about the item outside of meetings because of the Brown Act regulations.

"It's ridiculous, and I also feel like it's a stubborn council. I really worry; I understand their mind may be set, but it won't hurt to have a discussion again," Soto said. "The way in which the city operates is with a really strong mayor and that's the way the charter's written. The mayor is the only one who is authorized on what items to agendaize, and that's also really frustrating."

Mayor Alice Patino could not be reached for comment before the *Sun*'s deadline.



FAIRNESS: La Maria residents Sue Kappa, Madeline Gay Robertson, Eileen Armijo, and Esther Jensen advocated for rent relief in 2019. Many of them continue that effort.

An unknown future

Councilmember Soto is not the only frustrated one. La Maria Mobile Home Park resident Eileen Armijo has been a part of the ongoing pleas with the City Council because she sees the impact lack of stabilized rent has on her neighbors, she said.

"I looked at some of the people here and saw how hard they were struggling. The inequality of rent raised didn't seem fair or correct," Armijo said. "The owner is an LLC—a corporation—and they want profits and a return on their investment."

Armijo and her husband have been in the park since 2013 and pay about \$700 per month, but she said she knew others paying about \$1,000 per month because the property owners increase rent prices every time a new tenant joins.

"I feel a little bit of guilt because I'm more comfortable, but I feel for these people, and it's not right," she said. "All we're asking for is fairness. They deserve to make their profits, but not to do this, to have such a one-sided approach."

She joined Hall's North Santa Barbara County team to advocate for an ordinance, but said she feels the mobile home residents are ignored by Mayor Patino and Councilmember Etta Waterfield.

"It's very hard. I go with Gary [Hall] most weeks. I've been [in meetings] a couple of times, and Patino and Waterfield are hand in hand. We went one week and they got up and got water while we were talking. I think they just wish we'd go away," Armijo said. "What I don't understand is the city wants and needs affordable housing, and yet mobile homes for seniors could be affordable housing but [rents] are going up at atrocious rates."

"How do you justify that as a city that wants affordable housing?"

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

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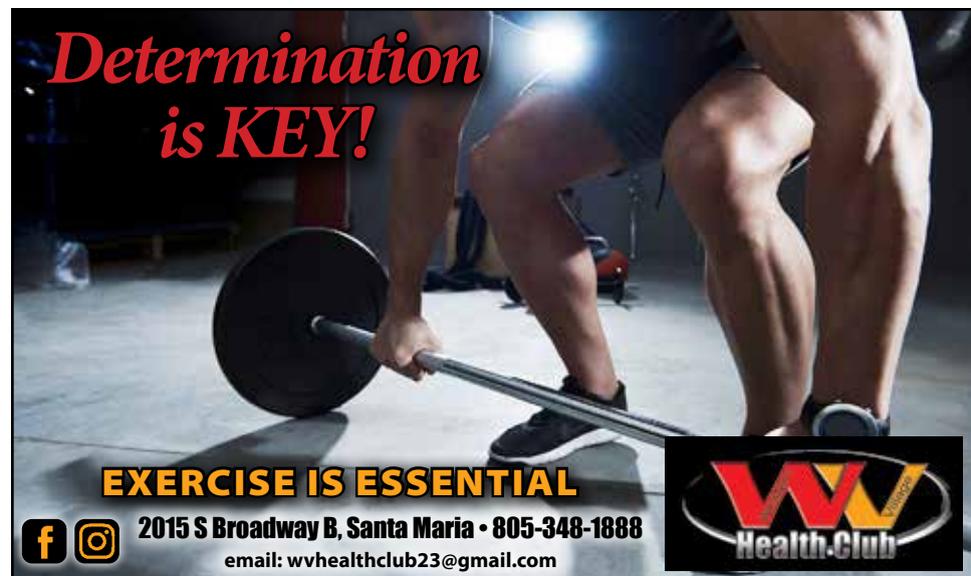
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BAINES, CLIFFORD JR., 80, of Cayucos passed away 3/12/2022 arrangements with Blue Sky Cremation Service

BERGANTZEL, DAVID, 62, of Arroyo Grande passed away 3/15/2022 arrangements with Marshall Spoo Sunset Funeral Chapel

BRADBURY, BARBARA ELAINE, 87, of Santa Maria passed away 3/23/2022 arrangements with Dudley-Hoffman Mortuary, Crematory & Memory Gardens

CRUM, DELMAR LESLIE, 83, of Los Osos passed away 3/16/2022 arrangements with Los Osos Valley Mortuary & Memorial Park

DOMINGUEZ, REYES, 77, of Antioch passed away 3/21/2022 arrangements with Dudley-Hoffman Mortuary, Crematory & Memory Gardens

ESTERLING, VERNON ELMER, passed away 2/15/2022 arrangements with Lady Family Mortuary

GALLEGOS, PHILLIP "PHIL" 87, of Santa Maria passed away 3/24/2022 arrangements with Magner-Maloney Funeral Home & Crematory

GAVER, ROBERT (BOB) FRANCIS, of Arroyo Grande passed away 2/28/2022 arrangements with Lady Family Mortuary

GEREDES, KELLY A. 60, of Atascadero passed away 3/16/2022 arrangements with Chapel of the Roses

GRAVES, TERESA A., 88, of Santa Maria passed away 3/18/2022 arrangements with Dudley-Hoffman Mortuary, Crematory & Memory Gardens

GROSSINI, JOHN, 67, of Oceano passed away 3/24/2022 arrangements with Marshall Spoo Sunset Funeral Chapel

GUTIERREZ, JESSICA ROSE MORENO, 28, of Tulare passed away 3/17/2022 arrangements with Dudley-Hoffman Mortuary, Crematory & Memory Gardens

HAUETER, NORMA, 98, of Santa Maria passed away 3/27/2022 arrangements with Magner-Maloney Funeral Home & Crematory

HOOVER, SUSAN CORINE, 43, of Atascadero passed away 3/16/2022 arrangements with Chapel of the Roses

JOHNSON, JUNE HIROKO, 96, of Santa Maria passed away 3/22/2022 arrangements with Magner-Maloney Funeral Home & Crematory

KORNEGAY, JOHN M., 73, of Santa Maria passed away 3/27/2022 arrangements with Dudley-Hoffman Mortuary, Crematory & Memory Gardens

MONTOYA, JO ANNE, 90, of Arroyo Grande passed away 3/23/2022 arrangements with Marshall Spoo Sunset Funeral Chapel

MOSHER, ALICE M., 82, of Santa Maria passed away 3/21/2022 arrangements with Dudley-Hoffman Mortuary, Crematory & Memory Gardens

NAJERA, ERNESTO ENRIQUE, 27, of Santa Maria passed away 3/13/2022 arrangements with Dudley-Hoffman Mortuary, Crematory & Memory Gardens

NARTATEZ, AURELIA, 81, of Grover Beach passed away 3/23/2022 arrangements with Marshall Spoo Sunset Funeral Chapel

NEELANS, PATRICIA, 71, of Atascadero passed away 3/4/2022 arrangements with Blue Sky Cremation Service

ORTEGA, ROBERT JOSE, 19, of Santa Maria passed away 3/13/2022 arrangements with Dudley-Hoffman Mortuary, Crematory & Memory Gardens

PEREZ, ROBERT, 73, of Nipomo passed away 3/16/2022 arrangements with Marshall Spoo Sunset Funeral Chapel

PROSSOR, ANNE THRESE, 87, of Santa Maria passed away 3/19/2022 arrangements with Dudley-Hoffman Mortuary, Crematory & Memory Gardens

REDMAN, STELLA J., 95, of Santa Maria passed away 3/20/2022 arrangements with Magner-Maloney Funeral Home & Crematory

SORENSEN, RODGER, 77, of Los Osos passed away 2/26/2022 arrangements with Los Osos Valley Mortuary & Memorial Park

SPRADLIN, AUSTIN RAY, 30, of Puyallup, WA passed away 3/11/2022 arrangements with Dudley-Hoffman Mortuary, Crematory & Memory Gardens

TETER, RICHARD, 92, of Paso Robles passed away 3/12/2022 arrangements with Blue Sky Cremation Service

TOURDOT, LINDA, 64, of Arroyo Grande passed away 3/26/2022 arrangements with Marshall Spoo Sunset Funeral Chapel

TRIOL, ELIZABETH JANE, 100, of Paso Robles passed away 3/15/2022 arrangements with Chapel of the Roses

WASHINGTON, BETTY, 84, of Paso Robles passed away 3/15/2022 arrangements with Los Osos Valley Mortuary & Memorial Park

YOUNGQUIST, RIITA K., 82, of Santa Maria passed away 3/26/2022 arrangements with Dudley-Hoffman Mortuary, Crematory & Memory Gardens

ZEPEDA, BARBARA ANN, 66, passed away 3/9/2022 arrangements with Lady Family Mortuary

ZORGER, JOHN RHOADS, 86, passed away 3/6/2022 arrangements with Lady Family Mortuary



DONATION: Fighting Back Santa Maria Valley received a total of \$50,000 in one-time funding from Cottage Health to give coaches training and give kids sports scholarships to cover equipment and team costs. As part of that effort, the Santa Maria Swim Club partnered with Fighting Back to provide an additional \$15,000 in swim team scholarships.

Mediate impacts Cottage Health awards toxic stress prevention grants to community organizations

BY TAYLOR O'CONNOR

When a child is exposed to a prolonged amount of stress—like caregiver neglect, substance abuse, mental illness, exposure to violence, or emotional abuse—it can affect their mental health and well-being in the long run, said Cottage Health Population Health Program Manager Ama Atiedu.

The constant adversity in their lives can lead to toxic stress, a type of stress that can impact a child's nervous system and mental health, and can have other physiological impacts, Atiedu explained.

"We wanted to offer services to mediate the impact of toxic stress so it doesn't impact their health later on. It's our goal to try to prevent or mitigate those things by connecting [children] to different types of services," she said.

By partnering with the California Department of Public Health, Cottage Health was able to award one-time, six-month grants to several Santa Barbara County community organizations to help fund mitigation programs that follow guidelines provided by the California Surgeon General's Office.

"The office of the Surgeon General created a trauma-informed network of care roadmap to regulate the stress response, and categorized evidence-based strategies including mental health care, supportive relationships, quality sleep, balanced nutrition, mindfulness practices, access to nature, and physical activity," she said.

Cottage Health sent out requests to potential grant recipients to identify which area in the "stress buster wheel" they would address. Community nonprofit Fighting Back Santa Maria Valley focused on physical activity and supportive relationships in its new sports program, said Executive Director Edwin Weaver.

"The adverse childhood experience research shows that children who have positive relationships in their lives with adults is a buffer, and children who exercise and go outside are buffers," Weaver said. "I've lived in Santa Maria for 11 years now and the Santa Maria Valley has a lot of teams, but what ends up happening is a lot of our [families] don't know how to sign up for the teams or don't have access to sports."

Fighting Back Santa Maria Valley created A Team for Every Child, which helps children participate in athletics. Fighting Back received \$50,000 in one-time funding to give coaches training and to give kids sports scholarships that will cover equipment and team costs. To help in this effort, the Santa Maria Swim Club donated an extra \$15,000 to Fighting Back Santa Maria for swim team scholarships to grow the sports program, he added.

For coach training, Fighting Back partnered with a group out of Notre Dame called Play Like a Champion to bring LA Rams psychologist Carrie Hastings in for an April 23 clinic about a whole-person approach, Weaver said.

"We also have a referral process for doctors, psychologists, counselors, or social workers to refer children to our program," he explained. "I would imagine everybody would like a little help with paying for our kids' sports, but this grant was to address the adverse childhood experiences' impact on the nervous system. By asking for a referral from a professional, we are hoping to target those children who need it the most."

Weaver said the funds will be available to any sport throughout the year but didn't know how many children would receive scholarships.

"It depends on what [sport] they want to do or get involved in. I remember before this program, we sponsored a foster child for water polo and it costs \$250 for the swimsuit. Sports are expensive and that's why a lot of families don't participate," he said.

He hopes more children will join and that the program will continue after the funding ends in June. Weaver's team is currently looking for more funding sources to make this a long-term program, he said.

"Our hope is that children will be able to be on a team where they are nurtured and valued and treated with kindness. That they get a lot of exercise and have a lot of fun; to make new friends and have another adult in their life that cares about them. Those are excellent outcomes we'd like to see," Weaver said.

Highlights

- Coinciding with National Child Abuse Awareness Month, Angels Foster Care is hosting its Sip and Support Fundraiser on April 7 from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m. The event will take place at Old Town Orcutt's Trattoria Uliveto restaurant where guests can enjoy local wines paired with Italian appetizers while learning more about the organization. Guests will be invited back to the Angels Foster Care office to take a tour, ask questions, and speak with Angels staff. For more information, call (805) 884-0012.

- Leadership Santa Maria Valley—an 11-month leadership program—is accepting applications for the class of 2023. The program is in its 28th year, and more than 400 people have graduated. The program allows participants to increase their understanding of local issues, challenges, and solutions while expanding their personal and professional network. Each class gives back to the community with their own unique Legacy Project. Interviews will be held in July. The orientation and kick-off retreat is scheduled for August 2022. Contact Program Director Terri Oneschuck at terrio@santamaria.com, or (805) 925-2403, Ext. 824, for more information. ○

Director Terri Oneschuck at terrio@santamaria.com, or (805) 925-2403, Ext. 824, for more information. ○

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

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Online Poll

How do you feel about the ExxonMobil trucking proposal being rejected?

- 74%** I don't think it was a smart decision because it impacts so many county jobs.
 - 16%** I'm ecstatic! This is the best option for our environment, and our oceans will be better for it.
 - 10%** I think it was the right decision—it will help mitigate climate change.
 - 0%** I don't pay attention to county projects
- 19 Votes

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Democracy is dead in Santa Maria, 'Waterfield Worm' lives on in the city's districts

The leaders of our City Council do not listen to the people of Santa Maria. Everyone who spoke to the council on the re-creation of our voting districts supported a change to four clear quadrants, so we could easily know our district and council person. Alice Patino and Etta Waterfield voted "no." The mayor asked what would happen if the council made no changes to district maps. Legal counsel said what everyone else knew, that the city would be breaking state law. A clueless mayor serves no one well.

Mayor Patino and Ms. Waterfield demand the status quo. In creating new districts, the council had an opportunity to right the wrong they did in creating the current districts. Back then, council broke state law to ensure that they would be safe in the district where they lived. This created the "Waterfield Worm," as it is called, that weaves from the far south to the far northwest, a district that is heavily conservative, just like Ms. Waterfield. Because of their recent vote against four clear quadrants, the "Waterfield Worm" lives on. Question: Does Etta Waterfield even live her district anymore? I wish the Sun would investigate that so we know if she should be voting at all.

Why ask for input and listen to public comment at City Council meetings if you have already made up your minds? This is one way to kill democracy. Anyone who has ever addressed the council knows that democracy is dead in Santa Maria. Council leadership has killed it, and we have allowed them to do it.

Gale McNeeley
Santa Maria

We support inflation, says no one anywhere ever

After reading Mr. Ron Fink's opinion piece in the Opinion section of the Sun's March 24 edition ("Our county needs change"), I am primed for the claptrap that follows the subhead, "Three county supervisors support inflation."

I would challenge anyone to ask any of the supervisors, or anyone with knowledge of how our socioeconomic systems work, as to whether they support inflation, and you'd get resounding "nos" from 100 percent of respondents. Why would anyone support inflation? To say that three county supervisors are in support of that primes the reader to understand that Mr. Fink is going to lay out an argument that is premised on your acceptance of his unsupported mischaracterization of another's position on an issue.

This is the seed of misinformation that has permeated our media, and Mr. Fink is a purveyor of this toxic bombast that is fighting for the attention of those who are easily swayed by faulty arguments.

Mr. Fink correctly points out inflationary actions on the part of the government, specifically the printing of more money to partially remedy the economic disaster that COVID-19 inflicted (not to mention nearly 1 million deaths). Additionally inflationary pressures are brought on by the increase in minimum wage (perhaps allowing those who earn minimum wage to survive on only two jobs). He conveniently leaves out the gargantuan profits being earned by our own oil producing (and government subsidized) companies as they raise prices on all Americans while they still ship oil overseas at a profit.

Mr. Fink goes on to blame President Biden for not replacing the 3 percent of oil we had

been importing from Russia for their invasion of the Ukraine. Perhaps he should tell our oil companies to stop shipping overseas? Would Mr. Fink then be screaming that a president cannot tell private enterprise what to do in the national interest?

The last paragraph of Mr. Fink's opinion piece is the clincher that he wants the reader to focus only on electing leaders who will ease our burden at the gas pumps. This shortsighted and selfish position will appeal to the greedy at the expense of the greater good.

Robert Perry
Buellton

In the midst of COVID, where's the Fourth Estate today?

Santa Barbara recently enjoyed a return of its International Film Festival. Films have played a legendary role in the culture of not only this country but internationally as well.

It happened that the same week, Steven Spielberg's movie *The Post* came up on my Netflix deliveries. Several things struck me. Spielberg ... said it was a compelling story about how the *Washington Post* picked up the torch after a lower court had ordered *The New York Times* to stop publishing the Pentagon Papers. Those leaked documents revealed the misinformation the government used to continue the Vietnam police action.

Facing almost certain imprisonment for their actions, the *Post* went ahead with publication. Spielberg said that his film needed to be made because the press had gotten hammered as being fake news and this story would restore faith in the Fourth Estate.

The Supreme Court upheld the right for the *Times* to publish, lifting a lower court restraining order. The decision was 6 to 3. Justice Hugo Black in a statement supporting the decision said "... only a free and unrestrained press can effectively expose deception in government." He went on to say,

Speak up!

Send us your views and opinion to letters@santamariasun.com.



"The press was to serve the governed and not the governors."

Over the past two years, how has that trust been served? The press has gotten lazy. All in lockstep with the same key words and talking points. Voices contrary to the mainstream narrative are ignored and even censored. Most chilling was the wholesale abdication of duty to investigate and continue to report on voting irregularities under threat of billion-dollar lawsuits by Dominion Voting Systems.

Could Spielberg find another *Washington Post* story today? Except for a couple of cable channels and podcasts, it's crickets. And snoring. Is anyone taking the Centers for Disease Control and World Health Organization to task? A few lawmakers are, but they get no backing from the press.

The truth about reporting COVID-19 is being leaked. The CDC admits more than 70 percent of deaths in vaccinated people listed because of COVID-19 were people with four or more comorbidities. Dr. Fauci came clean on the massive child hospital admissions because of COVID-19 indicating that they were being overreported. Most of the admissions were because of other reasons like broken bones or cuts. A positive COVID test came up during their admission, but they were not sick with the virus.

In addition, the FDA has been ordered to release their review documents of Pfizer's vaccine test data, which they initially wanted to keep locked up for more than half a century.

Truth will out.

Where's the Fourth Estate?

Jan Lipski
Vandenberg Village



Stable instability

Rent stabilization by any other name is rent control—and Santa Maria doesn't want to have it. According to one group of upset city residents, it's all Mayor Alice Patino's and City Councilmember Etta Waterfield's faults.

The group—the North Santa Barbara County Manufacture Homeowners Team—has been begging the city to do something about the ever-increasing cost of renting land in mobile home parks for mobile home owners. They own the homes they live in, but not the land those homes sit on.

"I've been [in meetings] a couple of times, and Patino and Waterfield are hand in hand," team-member Eileen Armijo said. "I think they just wish we'd go away."

You're probably not wrong, Eileen.

In 2019, the city finally decided to do as little as possible about the problem—passing a "model lease" ordinance that mobile home park owners can use if they want to. The lease sets the cap on rent increases at 6 percent per year, but who cares if nobody is required to use the lease? As part of that 2019 deal, the city also agreed not to bring a rent control ordinance forward for about a decade.

Wow. Slow clap for business interests and a big back-hand for low-income city residents.

Councilmember Gloria Soto is so done with the situation that she called the council "stubborn" and the process for getting things on the council's agenda "frustrating" because the mayor is the only one who can authorize agenda items (which is normal for most cities).

The real issue, of course, is one of affordability and how much a city should do to step in and avert

the market forces that make things unaffordable. The majority of Santa Maria's City Council—including the hand-holding besties—isn't about to have government step in to do anything.

So Soto is on her own.

"Now, more than ever, it's imperative to protect affordable housing, and mobile homes are a type of affordable housing that houses some of our most vulnerable residents in our community," Soto said.

And homelessness in Santa Maria is on the rise right alongside inflation. The preliminary results of the February 2022 Point-In-Time Count show that homelessness in the city is up almost 20 percent over 2020's numbers.

Santa Barbara County Homeless Assistance Program Manager

Kimberlee Albers believes the number will continue to climb with inflation as housing in the area becomes even more unaffordable than it already is.

This is something that team-member Armijo is concerned about as she watches the rents in the mobile home park she lives in continue to climb unabated.

"What I don't understand is the city wants and needs affordable housing, and yet mobile homes for seniors could be affordable housing but [rents] are going up at atrocious rates," Armijo said. "How do you justify that?"

Well. The city only "wants" affordable housing because the state of California requires it. If it were up to Patino and Waterfield, the market could push the affordable right out of the city's housing, and they'd be just fine. ○

The Canary has an inflated ego. Send thoughts to canary@santamariasun.com.



Santa Barbara County is running out of water.

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

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HOT STUFF

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FLOWER POWER

An opening reception for *Glory in the Flower*, a new art exhibition at the Cypress Gallery in Lompoc, takes place on Saturday, April 2, from 1 to 3 p.m. The show highlights a collection of paintings by local artist Vicki Andersen and is scheduled to remain on display through Sunday, April 24. For more info on the upcoming exhibit, visit lompocart.org. The Cypress Gallery is located at 119 E. Cypress Ave., Lompoc.

—Caleb Wiseblood

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

COURTESY IMAGE BY WICKI ANDERSEN

ARTS

SANTA YNEZ VALLEY

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

FIRE AND ICE: OUR CHANING LANDSCAPE Features a wide diversity of artwork, including video installations, photography, paintings, mixed media, and more, illustrating aspects of fire and ice. **April 9-Sept. 26** Wildling Museum of Art and Nature, 1511-B Mission Dr., Solvang, 805-688-1082, wildlingmuseum.org.

SPOKEN WORD OPEN MIC A monthly spoken word/ open mic night. Come to listen or to read poetry or prose. **April 3**, 5-7 p.m. Free. 805-686-9126. arrowsmithwine.com. Arrowsmith's, 1539 Mission Drive, Solvang.

SANTA MARIA VALLEY/LOS ALAMOS

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

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

MUSIC LESSONS AT COELHO ACADEMY Check website for info on music classes offered at Coelho Academy. coelhomusic.com/index.html. Coelho Academy of Music, 325 E. Betteravia Rd., Santa Maria.

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

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

SANTA MARIA VALLEY RAILWAY HISTORICAL MUSEUM TOURS The collection includes late 1800's-early 1900's Engine used by the Betteravia Union Sugar Company, a 1930's Sacramento Northern box car, and more. Second Saturday of every month, 12-4 p.m. smvrhm.com. Santa Maria Transit Center, Miller and Boone Streets, Santa Maria.

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

VALLEY READS BOOK CLUB The Valley Reads Book Club meets on the first Tuesday of every month. The book for the month of April will be *Wolf Hall* by Hilary Mantel. Join for discussion. **April 5**, 2-3 p.m. Free. 805-925-0994. cityofsantamaria.org/city-government/departments/library. Santa Maria Public Library, 421 S. McClelland St., Santa Maria.

WINE AND DESIGN CLASSES Check Wine and Design's Orcutt website for the complete list of classes, for various ages. Varies. wineanddesign.com/orcutt. Wine and Design, 3420 Orcutt Road, suite 105, Orcutt.

SOUTH COAST SLO COUNTY

BEST OF THE SAN FRANCISCO STAND-UP COMEDY COMPETITION Back by popular demand, the SF Stand-Up Comedy Competition brings a new group of winners to the stage. For more than 40 years, the competition has served as a major springboard for the most talented new comics in the country. **April 9**, 7:30-10 p.m. \$32-\$45. 805-489-9444.

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

clarkcenter.org/shows/best-of-san-francisco-stand-up-comedy-competition/. Clark Center for the Performing Arts, 487 Fair Oaks Ave., Arroyo Grande.

BOOK SALE Featuring children's books, biographies, popular fiction, crafts, self-help, or coffee table and collectable books. Books sold by the inch, so you can load up on your favorite genres and pay the same price. **April 2**, 8 a.m.-3 p.m. 805-481-4131. Grover Beach Community Library, 240 N 9th St., Grover Beach.

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

SAN LUIS OBISPO

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

ACTS OF WORSHIP: SYMBOL, MEANING, AND RITUAL IN CONTEMPORARY ART An on-site and online exhibition of recent works by Larry Stone. Call or email for location (in Paso Robles). Open by appointment only, email actsofworshipart@gmail.com **April 2-30**, 1-4 p.m. Free. 626-393-1750. actsofworship-art.com. Online, See website, San Luis Obispo.

APRIL FOOLS' LIVE COMEDY AT THE ODD FELLOWS Come celebrate the return of live events at this historic venerable hall with host Sal Espana presenting the best of local comics and L.A.-based headliner Anthony Dayo. Arrive early for preferred seating. Food and drink will be available. Safe on-site parking. **April 1**, 7:30-10 p.m. \$10. 775-720-1060. Odd Fellows Hall, 520 Dana St., San Luis Obispo.

ART AFTER DARK AT SLOMA: OPENING RECEPTIONS Includes the opening receptions of "Poem of the Body," from Lena Rushing and David Limrite, and "Imprinted" Printmaking and Portraiture, with the Central Coast Printmakers. Free live music with Forrest Williams and Hillary Langdon from The Topsy Gypsies. Free wine. **April 1**, 5-8 p.m. Free. 805-710-4798. San Luis Obispo Museum of Art, 1010 Broad St., San Luis Obispo, slooma.org/.

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

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

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

CALIFORNIA CENTRAL COAST PASTEL SOCIETY: 3CPS MEMBER ONLINE SHOW Discover California Central Coast Pastel Society's new online exhibit, with vibrant contemporary and classical paintings in varied styles and themes. Find exhibit, workshop, membership, paint-out dates, and event info on website. Through March 31 Free. 3cps.org/3cps-online-show/. Online, See website, San Luis Obispo.

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

CIVIC BALLET OF SLO: THE SCARLET IBIS James Hurst's coming-of-age story, "The Scarlet Ibis," arrives on stage as a new contemporary ballet created by Civic Ballet artistic director Drew Silvaggio. A story that explores themes of family, acceptance, pride, and

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Partnering with the Rotary Club of Santa Maria South

Shred2You is offering a

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SHREDDING Fundraiser

Wednesday, April 13 to Friday, April 15

10 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. (No Appointment Necessary)

550 W. Betteravia Road

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100% of Shredding Event fees go to Rotary Santa Maria South and its designated charity Casa de Hope, a nonprofit giving hope to women survivors of human trafficking

Rotary 
Club of Santa Maria South

fragility. **April 2**, 7-9 p.m. and **April 3**, 2-4 p.m. \$26-\$42. 805-756-4849. pacsl.org. Performing Arts Center, 1 Grand Ave., San Luis Obispo.

CONTEMPORARY MUSICAL THEATER SONGS A variety of works will be performed, including from well-known and loved shows like *Les Mis* and *Grease*, to some obscure selections. **April 9**, 7:30 p.m. \$20 public; \$10 students. 805-756-4849. music.calpoly.edu/calendar/. Spanos Theatre, Cal Poly, San Luis Obispo.

COPPÉLIA: A STORY-TIME BALLET Make enjoying the ballet a family affair with a pared down version of this show, perfect for visitors ages 3 to 6. Following the 45 minute performance, they'll have the opportunity to learn dances seen onstage and join characters for tea and treats. **April 10**, noon \$15-\$45. cuesta.university.tickets.com. Cuesta College Cultural and Performing Arts Center, Highway 1, San Luis Obispo.

COPPÉLIA: PRESENTED BY THE MOVEMENT ARTS COLLECTIVE The Movement Arts Collective is excited to present Ryan Lawrence's adaptation of the classical ballet, *Coppélia*. While utilizing the classical score, the setting and plot are updated to reflect Lawrence's contemporary vision, in a story where friendship and diversity are celebrated. **April 9**, 7 p.m. and **April 10**, 3 p.m. \$45-\$15. Cuesta College Cultural and Performing Arts Center, Highway 1, San Luis Obispo, cuesta.edu.

EVERY BRILLIANT THING A funny and moving play about depression and the lengths we go to for the ones we love. Fridays, Saturdays, 7-8:30 p.m. and Saturdays, Sundays, 2-3:30 p.m. through April 10 \$20-\$36. 805-786-2440. slorep.org/shows/every-brilliant-thing/. San Luis Obispo Repertory Theatre, 888 Morro St., San Luis Obispo.

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

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

ILIZA SHLESINGER: BACK IN ACTION TOUR Iliza Shlesinger is Back in Action and back on the Central Coast, having wowed a packed PAC with her 2018

Elder Millennial tour. This award-winning comedian and actor-writer-producer-author currently has five stand-up specials streaming on Netflix. **April 1**, 8-10 p.m. \$39-\$69. 805-756-4849. pacsl.org. Performing Arts Center, 1 Grand Ave., San Luis Obispo.

IMPRINTED: PRINTMAKING AND PORTRAITURE

An exhibition exploring printmaking and portraiture featuring artwork by members of the Central Coast Printmakers. Mondays, Thursdays-Sundays, 11 a.m.-5 p.m. through May 16 Free. 805-543-8562. sloma.org/exhibition/imprint/. San Luis Obispo Museum of Art, 1010 Broad St., San Luis Obispo.

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

KIDS IMPROV CLASS Taught by theater owner and experienced drama teacher, Sabrina Pratt. A fun way for kids to express themselves while building confidence 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](http://WhisperingVistaStudios.com), 224 Squire Canyon Rd, San Luis Obispo, patriciamartinartist.com.

LIZ MARUSKA'S ART: QUINTESSENTIAL JAPAN Experience the exquisite beauty of the cherry blossom festival. Wander through Maruska's spellbinding impressions of "Quintessential Japan" in an inspiring display of art rendered in a luminous, colorful palette. Every 23 days Free. 805-550-3308. SLOProvisions.com. SLO Provisions, 1255 Monterey St., San Luis Obispo.

MASK MAKING AND HAT MAKING Geared for children and adults. ongoing [Spirits of Africa Gallery](http://SpiritsofAfricaGallery.com), 570 Higuera St., San Luis Obispo, spiritsofafricagallery.com/.

PAINTING CLASSES Easels, brushes, and canvases provided. Limited to 20 students. ongoing [Spirits of Africa Gallery](http://SpiritsofAfricaGallery.com), 570 Higuera St., San Luis Obispo, spiritsofafricagallery.com/.



BOOKMARK YOUR CALENDAR

The Grover Beach Community Library hosts a book sale on Saturday, April 2, from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. Guests can browse through or shop for a diverse collection of books, ranging from a variety of genres and categories. For more info on the event, call (805) 481-4131 or visit groverbeachlibrary.org. The Grover Beach Community Library is located at 240 9th St., Grover Beach.

—C.W.

PARSONS DANCE COMPANY Performing works based on the vast repertory of storied choreographer David Parsons, Parsons Dance is an internationally renowned contemporary American dance company known for its energized and athletic ensemble work. **April 9**, 8-10 p.m. \$26-\$62. 805-756-4849. pacsl.org/online/article/parsonsdance22. Performing Arts Center, 1 Grand Ave., San Luis Obispo.

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.

POEM OF THE BODY: DAVID LIMRITE AND LENA RUSHING SLO County painters: David Limrite and Lena Rushing. David works in graphite, charcoal, acrylic, and collage, creating mysterious, dramatic, energetic, dark, and edgy figurative work. Lena's work features a strong, unconventional female presence relying heavily on symbolism. **April 1-May 29**, 11 a.m.-5 p.m. 805-543-8562. San Luis Obispo Museum of Art, 1010 Broad St., San Luis Obispo, sloma.org/.

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

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IT'S NO ORDINARY MONTH

The Center provides direct services to survivors of sexual violence while also providing educational programming on child abuse prevention year-round, yet in April we like to take the opportunity to raise awareness in different ways while also honoring survivors of sexual violence and child abuse. Instead of it being just an "April" campaign, we call on each of you to make ending sexual assault and child abuse a DAILY goal in our local communities. It will take each of us raising our voices and doing our part to end these horrific crimes. Will you join us?



North County Rape Crisis and Child Protection Center



Help us raise awareness by joining us for our Planting a Pinwheel for Awareness Campaign. Planting of Pinwheels will happen April 1st at 9:30am in Lompoc at 511 E. Ocean Ave. and April 5th at 9:30am in Santa Maria at 511 Lakeside Pkwy. For more information call: 805-736-8535 or email office@ncrccpc.org

24-Hour Support Line: 805-736-7273

KNOW MORE | DO MORE | NO MORE!

CADA Expands Mentor Program to North County

At-Risk Youth Benefit from 1:1 Time with Caring Adults

CADA recently expanded its Mentor Program into North County. Now in its 18th year, the program matches youth (3rd-8th grades) with caring adult mentors who commit to spending weekly time with their young mentee talking about the student's issues and concerns, working on school assignments, setting goals, and enjoying each other's company in a positive environment.

Andrea Mobley has joined CADA as North County Mentor Program Coordinator. She was mostly recently Assistant Director of the Arroyo Grande United Methodist Children's Center. Andrea is working closely with the Santa Maria-Bonita School District and local community leaders and organizations to develop the program.

To become a CADA Mentor, contact Andrea at amobley@cadاسب.org; 805.357.5777.

Speak with the administrative team at your child's school to request a referral. *(More about the Mentor Program on Page 3.)*

Mentor Program expansion into North County was made possible by generous grants from Santa Barbara-based the SG Foundation and the Towbes Foundation.

Sponsored by



CADA is committed to building healthier lives, stronger families, and a safer, more vibrant community for all.

Since 1949, the Council on Alcoholism & Drug Abuse (CADA) has delivered programs and services focused on the education, prevention, and treatment of substance abuse and co-occurring mental health conditions affecting children, adolescents, adults, and families in Santa Barbara County.

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CADA Announces First North County Summit for Danny Community Hike

Join a Fundraiser for the Santa Maria and Lompoc Daniel Bryant Youth & Family Centers

With Emcee Judge Rogelio Flores

Saturday, October 22, 2022

8:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., Orcutt Community Park

More information to come at www.summitfordanny.org

Contact Mackenzie Taylor at 805.722.1303, mtaylor@cadاسب.org

Summit for Danny was created by Santa Barbara business leader Bob Bryant and his wife Patty. Bob lost his son Danny to substance abuse in 1995 and was determined to turn his tragedy into hope for others, teaming up with CADA to establish the first Daniel Bryant Youth & Family Center in 2001. Since then, annual local and international hikes have raised nearly \$3 million for the centers, which have provided over 7,000 teens and their family members with treatment for early substance abuse and related mental health issues.

"CADA's school-based therapy program has been a much-needed mental health support for so many of our students who wouldn't normally have access to therapy. This service by CADA is incredibly important for our students' mental health."

- Brian Zimmerman, Director of Pupil Personnel Services, Santa Maria-Bonita School District

Meet Our North County Leaders



Martena Wilson is the Director of Education & Prevention in North County, with oversight for School-Based Therapy, the Mentor Program, the Lompoc Wellness Project, and the Lompoc Resiliency Program. She holds an MA in clinical psychology from Antioch University and an MBA from California State University, San Bernardino. Martena is also a Registered Alcohol and Drug Technician, yoga teacher, and the owner of HunnyFly Yoga Studio in Lompoc.



April Esparza is Manager of CADA's Diversion Programs in North County, which includes the Teen Court and YES! programs. She also serves as Office Manager of the Santa Maria Daniel Bryant Youth & Family Center. Born and raised in Santa Maria, April is very connected to her community, and leans on her own life experiences every day as she helps local children, teens and families solve issues she faced in her own young life.



Jose Mejia is Treatment Program Coordinator at the Santa Maria Daniel Bryant Youth & Family Center, where he oversees therapy and parenting support. He is an Associate Marriage and Family Therapist and certified in MultiDimensional Family Therapy. Jose holds both bachelor of science and master's degrees in psychology from Brandman University. Born in Santa Maria, Jose believes that at-risk teens have been deeply affected by the challenges of the pandemic, and his dedication to helping them take control of their lives is stronger than ever.



Peggy Sue Black is Program Manager of School-Based Therapy, overseeing 25 CADA therapists working with students TK-8th grade in the Santa Maria Bonita School District. She holds an MS in counselor education in substance abuse/behavioral health from the University of Las Vegas. Before joining CADA, she was with CommUnify in Santa Maria, as Clinical Services Director for Family and Children Services Head Start (ages 0-5) and Family and Transition Youth (ages 16-26).



Andrea Mobley is in the new role of North County Mentor Program Manager. She has a Master of Education from Walden University (Minneapolis), and a BA in liberal studies with a concentration in social services from California State University, Bakersfield. She additionally holds certificates and licenses in early child development. Andrea is underway with recruiting caring adult mentors willing to invest an hour minimum a week of their time, attention, knowledge, and talents to enrich the lives of local youth.

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Continued from page 1

CADA works in close partnership with local schools, community leaders, law enforcement, the judicial system, health care providers, other social service agencies, businesses, and the media. This powerful network of care helps our clients get and stay healthy, strengthening families and the community.

Our programs are staffed by experienced Licensed and Associate Therapists and Social Workers, Registered and Certified Substance Abuse Counselors, and Case Managers, all under the oversight of a seasoned Clinical Director and Executive Director. Clients receive care in an environment of understanding and respect.

Everyone on the CADA team is committed to:

- Serve every client with empathy and tolerance
- Be mindful of the importance of diversity issues
- View each client's unique situation through a trauma informed lens
- Work as a team to ensure the most positive outcomes possible for every client and his/her family

Services are provided without regard to gender, gender preference, age, race, ethnicity, or national origin. No one is turned away for inability to pay.

North County Locations



106 South C Street, Suites A-C
Lompoc, CA 93436
805.741.4243



526 East Chapel Street
Santa Maria, CA 93454
805.925.8860

CADA Holds Highest National Recognition for Transparency

In 2020 and 2021, CADA received a Platinum Seal of Transparency from Guidestar®, the largest source of nonprofit data in the country. Platinum status is awarded based on transparency of mission statement, leadership, capabilities and programs, financial soundness, goals, impacts and effectiveness. CADA also earned 100 out of 100 points both years from Charity Navigator's new Encompass Rating System™, which evaluates a nonprofit's financial and accountability practices. Organizations at or above 75 points are designated as "Give with Confidence" nonprofits.



Judge Rogelio Flores Represents North County on CADA Board of Directors



Highly respected Santa Maria resident Judge Rogelio Flores joined the CADA Board of Directors in April 2021, bringing vast professional experience and deep personal commitment to the agency's mission. Prior to retiring from the bench in May 2018, Judge Flores presided over hundreds of cases involving felonies, mental health issues, substance abuse and domestic violence. Determined to create collaborative judicial options to address the spiraling disease of drug

and alcohol abuse, he was assigned to various collaborative courts in Santa Maria, including the Substance Abuse Treatment Court. He also oversaw the Mental Health Court and calendars specializing in co-occurring disorders and presided over the DUI High Risk Offender Treatment Court. He considers the Veterans Treatment Court (founded in Santa Maria in 2011, followed by Lompoc in 2016) to be the crown jewel of his professional achievements.

"CADA's underlying strength is serving young people. There are many competing forces trying to tear them apart. We all have a responsibility to invest in rebuilding individuals and families struggling with substance abuse and mental health issues. Especially now when we need to focus on sharing messages and programs focused on hope and recovery." - Judge Flores

North County Programs and Services



The Mentor Program matches adult volunteers with at-risk youth (3rd-8th grades) enrolled in Santa Maria area schools. Mentors/mentees spend at least one hour together each week, talking about the student's issues and concerns, working on school assignments, setting goals, and enjoying each other's company. This regular interaction helps Mentees learn to understand and avoid risky behaviors, develop self-confidence, and learn self-improvement skills. There is no cost to participate. For more information, contact Andrea Mobley at amobley@cadassb.org; 805.357.5777. Speak with the administrative team at your child's school to request a referral. *(More about the Mentor Program on Page 1.)*



Daniel Bryant Youth & Family Centers in Lompoc and Santa Maria provide outpatient treatment and services

to youth (ages 10-21) struggling with substance abuse and mental health issues. Treatment plans are customized to each child and all decisions are made in collaboration with the client and their family. Treatment can include MultiDimensional Family Therapy, highly effective in addressing adolescent substance abuse (CADA is the only non-profit agency in Santa Barbara County offering MDFT). No client is ever turned away for inability to pay, and scholarships are available. Contact the Daniel Bryant Centers at 805.925.8860 (Santa Maria); and 805.741.4243 (Lompoc); or email YouthTreatment@cadassb.org.

"The program helped me to stay clean from cannabis and smoking and helped me not get in trouble at home."

- Client, Santa Maria Daniel Bryant Youth & Family Center



Teen Court is an alternative to the traditional juvenile justice system for minors (ages 10-18) facing first-time school code violations or misdemeanor charges. Offenders and their parents appear before a Peer Review Court (a volunteer adult judge and a jury of teen peers) who review the case and

create a restorative sentence that holds the offender accountable for their actions. Sentences might include community service, written letters of apology, essays, and education classes. The program is offered to students in the Santa Maria-Bonita School District. There is no cost to participate. For more information, contact Teen Court Santa Maria at 805.925.8860.

"The program has helped my son recognize right from wrong and has impacted his behavior at home and school. He is now getting better grades and is actively helping out at home."

- Mom of Teen Court Participant



Parenting Together/Padres Juntos helps parents guide their adolescent children through difficult situations. Weekly group parenting classes (in person and by video) allow parents to share experiences and work with a Certified Substance Abuse Counselor. Parents can also call a confidential Parenting Helpline for support, advice, and referrals. There is no cost to participate. For Parenting Classes, call 805.925.8860 (Santa Maria); or email

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parentingtogether@cadab.org. Call the Parenting Helpline at 805.456.1234 Mondays and Fridays, 1 p.m.-4 p.m. and Wednesdays, 5 p.m.-8 p.m.; or leave a message any time to receive a return call.



Youth Empowerment Services (YES!) is a diversion program for youth (ages 13-17) exhibiting risky behaviors, replacing traditional school disciplinary actions or a referral to the juvenile justice system. Case Managers help clients develop a Restorative Action Plan, which can include classes; counseling; substance abuse treatment; parent education/support groups; and community service-learning opportunities. Teens and their parents are referred by a school administrator, law enforcement, or the probation department. There is no cost to participate. For more information, contact YES Santa Maria at 805.357.5782; YES Lompoc at 805.741.4243; or email yes@cadab.org.

"This program really opened my son's eyes about decisions having consequences. It was a great help."

- Parent of YES Program Participant



School-Based Therapy is provided on school campuses (TK-8th grades) in the Santa Maria-Bonita School District. Mental Health Therapists address many issues, including student learning, behavior, trauma, emotional problems, bullying, alienation, and disengagement from classroom learning. Therapists help them learn skills that boost resiliency and improve their social and

academic function. Students are referred to the program through their school. There is no cost to participate. For more information, contact the student's school directly; or call/email CADA at 805.925.8860, sbc@cadab.org.

"I have a better relationship with my family, especially my mom. Due to the program, I am sober, and I will continue that way."

- YES Program Student



Friday Night Live (FNL) is for youth (9th-12th grades) who want to develop leadership and advocacy skills to promote alcohol and tobacco free lifestyles. Students work with adults to develop in the areas of public speaking, media relations, environmental issues, and advocacy, and then use these skills to plan and implement school-based substance abuse prevention campaigns like Red Ribbon Week and National Drug and Alcohol Facts Week. Students in 7th and 8th grades participate in Club Live; FNL Kids is for 5th and 6th graders. There is no cost to participate. For more information, call 805.722.1320; or email fnl@cadab.org.



The Lompoc Wellness Project supports mental wellness and resiliency for children, teens, and their families through weekly classes and monthly special events that include yoga, mindfulness, meditation, and nutrition education. The Project is managed by CADA's Director of Prevention and Education Martena Wilson, Associate

Marriage & Family Therapist. The use of yoga in schools has shown to promote overall student wellness and performance, including physical fitness, self-esteem, student behavior, and academic performance. Classes and special events are free and available in person or virtually. For more information, contact Martena at 805.741.4243, mawilson@cadab.org.



The Lompoc Resiliency Program, in partnership with Lompoc Unified School District, provides mental health counseling to students (grades 6-12) who live in neighborhoods affected by gang violence of who have experienced trauma from exposure to violence. Students learn to understand traumatic experiences and become more resilient in dealing with their reoccurrence. Funding for the program is provided by a federal grant from the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP). There is no charge to participate. For more information, contact Martena Wilson at 805.741.4243, mawilson@cadab.org.

SAVE Employee Assistance (the only local EAP program in Santa Barbara County) provides employees of contracted companies with free counseling, assessment, referral, financial consultation, and legal guidance. A resource to local Human Resource Professionals, the program supports employees through personal and professional challenges. SAVE services include Professional Growth, Employee Trainings, Counseling Services, Financial Consultations, Legal Guidance, Mediation, Sexual Harassment Training, and Critical Incident Stress Debriefing. For more information about SAVE, contact Victoria Rightmire, vrightmire@cadab.org; 805.962.5387.

SLOMA's Mission Plaza double doors. Second Saturday of every month, 11 a.m.-1 p.m. through Dec. 10 Free. 805-543-8562. slo.ma.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 June 30 Free. 805-926-5050. slogallery.com. SLO Gallery, 1019 Broad Street, San Luis Obispo.

SLO GALLERY: ART AFTER DARK The latest works by California photographers, painters, sculptors, and craftmakers. **April 1**, 5-8 p.m. slogallery.com. SLO Gallery, 1019 Broad Street, San Luis Obispo.

SLOPE HONORS PRISTINE COASTAL VISIONS A tribute showing and sale of inspired paintings dedicated to the SLO County coastline of this Marine Sanctuary, with a portion of the proceeds benefiting the Northern Chumash Tribal Council. **April 1-May 30** Art Central, 1329 Monterey St., San Luis Obispo, 805-747-4200, artcentralslo.wordpress.com.

STUDENT OPERA THEATRE: CONTEMPORARY MUSICAL THEATER SCENES AND SONGS An evening of scenes and songs from musicals written since 1990. The event will feature Cal Poly students as they explore this wonderful genre. **April 9**, 7:30-9:30 p.m. \$10-\$20. 805-756-4849. pacslo.org/online/article/copera22. Performing Arts Center, 1 Grand Ave., San Luis Obispo.

THE WIZARD OF OZ The SLO High School Performing Arts Company presents this beloved tale, based on the classic film. The plot follows Dorothy, a Kansas farm girl, who travels over the rainbow to discover the magical power of home. **March 31**, 7-9:30 p.m., **April 1**, 7-9:30 p.m. and **April 2**, 2-4:30 & 7-9:30 p.m. \$8-\$12. slohdrama.com. San Luis Obispo High School, 1499 San Luis Dr., San Luis Obispo, 805-596-4040.

NORTH SLO COUNTY

FUSED GLASS PLATE OR BOWL CLASS Learn the basics of fusing and slumping in this 2-hour beginner class. Create a plate or bowl. All materials included. Limited to 6 participants. **April 6**, 6-8 p.m. \$100. 805-464-2633. glassheadstudio.com. Glasshead Studio, 8793 Plata Lane, Suite H, Atascadero.

PRESSED FLOWER STAINED GLASS SUN CATCHER Capture the timeless beauty of pressed flowers and leaves between two pieces of glass. Learn how to use copper foil and solder to encase your botanical design. Finish off your piece with a beaded hanger. All materials included. Limited to 4 participants. **April 3**, 11 a.m.-3 p.m. \$125. 805-464-2633. glassheadstudio.com. Glasshead Studio, 8793 Plata Lane, Suite H, Atascadero.



NORTH COAST SLO COUNTY

84 CHARING CROSS RD. A staged reading of a dramatization of business letters between a young struggling writer in New York and an antiquarian book store in London. Directed by Anita Schwaber. **April 1-3** my805tix.com. By The Sea Productions, 545 Shasta Ave., Morro Bay, 805-776-3287.

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.

APRIL RECEPTION: GALLERY AT MARINA SQUARE Gallery at Marina Square presents an Opening Reception for its monthly Featured Artists for April. Painter Steve Dayton, Watercolorist Sheril Viau, and Featured Craft Artist Jane Siragusa will be showing their amazing work all month. **April 9**, 5-7 p.m. Free. 805-772-1068. galleryatmarinasquare.com. Gallery at Marina Square, 601 Embarcadero suite 10, Morro Bay.

AQUARIUS 2022 ACMB is proud to host the Central Coast Watercolor Society's annual art exhibit, Aquarius 2022. Frank Eber will be the juror and judge of awards for this exceptional art exhibit. In addition, Mr. Eber will hold a 2-day watercolor workshop on Feb. 28. Through April 4, 12-4 p.m. 805-772-2504. artcentermorrobay.org/index.php/upcoming-exhibits/. Art Center Morro Bay, 835 Main St., Morro Bay.

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

CALL FOR FIBER ARTISTS: ENTANGLEMENTS III Cambria Center for the Arts' Gallery seeks to exhibit the best of contemporary, as well as traditional fiber art and invites submissions that reflect this wide range of textile creations; and to include innovative works rooted in traditional fiber processes, structure, and material. Mondays, Wednesdays, Fridays, Saturdays. through May 2 805-927-8190. cambriaarts.org/call-artists/. Cambria Center for the Arts, 1350 Main St., Cambria.

CALL TO ARTISTS: LOVE Open Hearts, Open Minds. "Love has been the inspiration for the creation of more great art than any other human emotion. How do you depict love?" **April 5**, 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Art Center Morro Bay, 835 Main St., Morro Bay, 805-772-2504, artcentermorrobay.org.

CONVERGENCE This juried event is a collective of exceptional encaustic and 3 dimensional artworks, featuring some of the finest contemporary artists in the world. **April 7-May 23** Art Center Morro Bay, 835 Main St., Morro Bay, 805-772-2504, artcentermorrobay.org.

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

DENNIS CURRY: A RETROSPECTIVE The CCA Gallery's current show, Dennis Curry: A Retrospective, will run through May 1. The show is open virtually at the CCA website and at the gallery. Thursdays-Sundays. through May 1 cambriaarts.org/gallery-exhibits/. Cambria Center for the Arts, 1350 Main St., Cambria.

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

FINE ART PAINTINGS BY STEVE DAYTON: GALLERY AT MARINA SQUARE Dayton divides his time between creating assemblages and abstract painting on wood panels. The paintings are abstracts in his Cayucos series, inspired by the Central Coast. **April 1-30** 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.

HAMMERED METAL TRIANGULAR JEWELRY Create a gorgeous necklace and two pierced earring set. Everything is provided to complete the projects including your color choice of beads. Preregistration required. **April 2**, 10 a.m.-noon \$50. 805-286-5993. CreativeMeTime.com. Art Center Morro Bay, 835 Main St., Morro Bay.

IMPROV COMEDY SHOWS Live improvised comedy show at The Schoolhouse in Los Osos (venue is the one room school house located by the Los Osos Community Center). This show is fast-paced, fun and uniquely created, using audience suggestions. **April 3**, 5-7 p.m. \$10. centralcoastcomedytheater.com. Red Barn at Los Osos Community Park, 2180 Palisades Ave., Los Osos.

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

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

MOSAICS CLASS Learn mosaic basics to create a one-of-a-kind project. Choose a project to make your heart sing while learning mosaic basics to complete your masterpiece. You'll have many colors, baubles, and beads to choose from. Preregistration required. **April 3**, 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Various. 805-286-5993. CreativeMeTime.com. Art Center Morro Bay, 835 Main St., Morro Bay.

PLEIN AIR PAINTERS OF THE CENTRAL COAST A self-directed fun group of dynamic artists who enjoy painting and sketching outdoors. Meet at the Art Center Morro Bay and then the group decides on the location to go paint. Wednesdays, 9 a.m.-noon Art Center Morro Bay, 835 Main St., Morro Bay, 805-772-2504, artcentermorrobay.org.

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

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

HOT STUFF continued page 20

SAT APR

16

7:30 PM

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HOT STUFF from page 19

CULTURE & LIFESTYLE

SANTA MARIA VALLEY/LOS ALAMOS

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

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

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

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

FIRST FRIDAY First Friday of every month facebook.com/firstfridayoldtownorcutt/. Historic Old Town Orcutt, S. Broadway and Union Ave., Orcutt.

SUCCULENT EXCHANGE The Santa Maria Public Library is hosting a free succulent exchange. Please bring "pest free" clippings of your favorite succulents to trade and share with other succulent lovers. Pick up new succulent cuttings to plant at home. **April 2**, 11 a.m.-noon Free. 805-925-0994. cityofsantamaria.org/city-government/departments/library. Santa Maria Public Library, 421 S. McClelland St., Santa Maria.

TECH HELP SATURDAY Schedule a one-on-one appointment for instruction on technology topics like setting-up new devices, installing apps, and enjoying library e-resources at home. Registration is required. Call the Library to schedule an appointment. **April 2**, 11 a.m.-1 p.m. Free. 805-925-0994. cityofsantamaria.org/city-government/departments/library. Santa Maria Public Library, 421 S. McClelland St., Santa Maria.

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

SOUTH COAST SLO COUNTY

HOPE FOR THE HOMELESS GOLF TOURNAMENT 2022 This fun celebration of community and charity is a great opportunity to test your skills on the green while helping your neighbors in need. **April 2**, 7 a.m.-1 p.m. my805tix.com. Pismo Beach Golf Course, 25 West Grand Ave., Grover Beach.

OUTDOOR FLEA MARKET POP-UP Features multiple vendors. **April 2**, 11 a.m.-4 p.m. Historic Village of Arroyo Grande, Branch and Short St., Arroyo Grande.

TOUR DAY Tour Greener Pastures Farm Sanctuary. Meet the rescued residents and hear their stories of triumph from volunteers who work with them. See goats, miniature horses, sheep, potbelly pigs, mini donkeys, chickens, ducks, and turkeys. **April 3**, 12-1 & 1-2 p.m. \$10. 805-704-7327. greenerpasturesanctuary.org. Greener Pastures Farm Sanctuary, 2148 S. Halcyon Rd., Arroyo Grande.

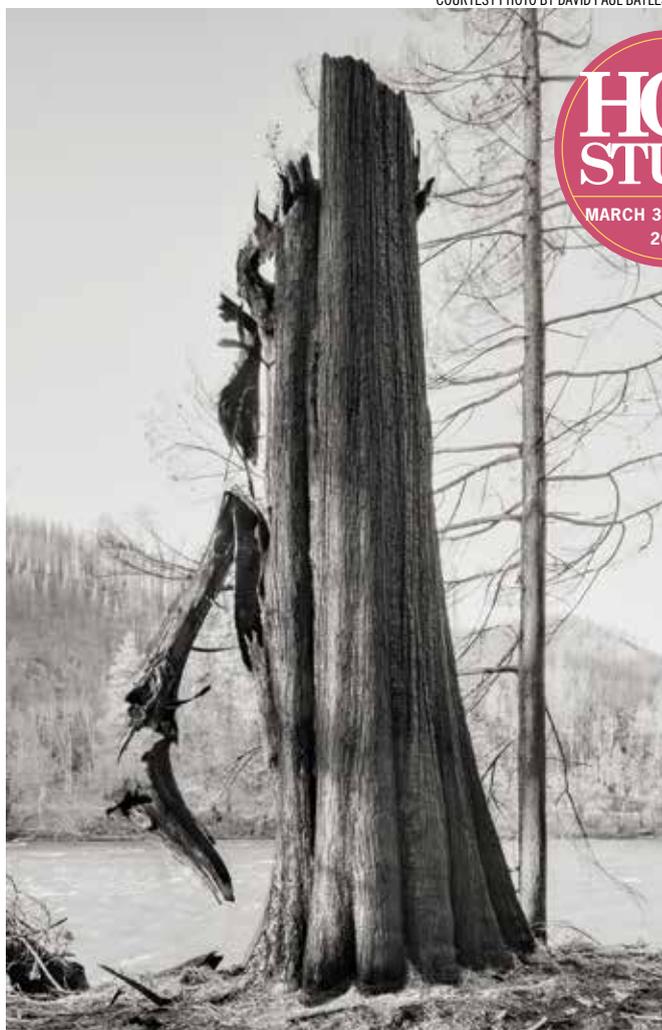
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BEYOND MINDFULNESS Realize your potential through individualized meditation instruction with an experienced teacher via Zoom. This class is for those who wish to begin a practice or seek to deepen an existing one. Flexible days and times. Certified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

BREAKING NEWS: FREEDOM IS OURS NOW The event is described as offering "a fresh perspective on God and God's creation." **April 2**, 2-3 p.m. Free. 805-543-5853. bit.ly/ChristianScienceSLO. San Luis Obispo Library Community Room, 995 Palm Street, San Luis Obispo.

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

CAL POLY BASEBALL VS DIXIE STATE Come watch the Mustangs take on Dixie State. **April 1**, 6 p.m. gopoly.com/. It's Youth Day and Ice Cream Sunday, so kids 13 and under are free, and the first 250 kids at the game will get a free ice cream. **April 3**, noon Free for kids. gopoly.com/. Baggett Stadium, 1 Grand Ave., San Luis Obispo, 805-756-7297.



BRANCHING OUT

The Wildling Museum of Art and Nature will hold an opening reception for *Fire and Ice: Our Changing Landscape*, a new group exhibition, on Sunday, April 10, from 3 to 5 p.m. The exhibit showcases several artists working with various media and is scheduled to remain on display through Monday, Sept. 26. To find out more about the show, call (805) 688-1082 or visit wildlingmuseum.org. The Wildling Museum of Art and Nature is located at 1511 Mission Drive, unit B, Solvang.

—C.W.

CAL POLY BASEBALL VS DIXIE STATE (GAME 2) The Mustangs host Dixie State for a day/night doubleheader. One ticket is good for both games. The first 250 fans at game 1 will get a Cal Poly camo hat for Heroes Day. **April 2**, 1 p.m. gopoly.com/. Baggett Stadium, 1 Grand Ave., San Luis Obispo, 805-756-7297.

CAL POLY SOFTBALL VS UCSB The Mustangs take on rival UC Santa Barbara in a Big West Conference doubleheader. **April 2**, 1 p.m. gopoly.com. It's Ice Cream Sunday, so the first 250 kids will receive a free ice cream. **April 3**, 1 p.m. Free. gopoly.com. Bob Janssen Field, 1 Grand Ave., San Luis Obispo, 805-756-7297.

DAHLIA TUBER AND PLANT SALE Dahlia tubers and cuttings will be on sale for \$6 and \$12, and mini lectures on how to grow them and demonstrations will be offered. Over 300 varieties covered. Free parking. Cash, check, and debit cards accepted. **April 3**, 9 a.m.-1 p.m. Free. 805-801-3917. centralcoastdahlias.org. Dr. Rene Bravo's parking lot, 3241 South Higuera, San Luis Obispo.

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

MINDFULNESS AND MEDITATION (ONLINE MEETING) Zoom series hosted by TMHA. Thursdays,

Spread
the word!

Send event information to
calendar@santamariasun.com.



COURTESY PHOTO BY DAVID PAUL BAYLES

13:00 a.m.-noon Transitions Mental Health Warehouse, 784 High Street, San Luis Obispo, 805-270-3346.



SLO ASTROLOGERS

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

SLO SKIERS MONTHLY MEETING

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

SPRING FLING AT THE DALLIDET

The weather is warming, the plants are waking up, and it's time to celebrate. Features an assortment of spring vegetables to serve, and no shortage of spring beauty to share. **April 3**, 12-2 p.m. \$50. 805-543-0638. historycenterslo.org/spring. Dallidet Adobe and Gardens, 1185 Pacific St., San Luis Obispo.

SUPPORT GROUP FOR CAREGIVERS OF PERSONS WITH FTD (FRONTOTEMPORAL DEMENTIA)

A welcoming meeting providing information and support for caregivers of people with Frontotemporal Dementia (FTD). FTD is a dementia that affects younger people and is very difficult for families. This is an open group. Caregivers can drop in for information, supportive discussion, and caregiving tips. Second Saturday of every month, 2:30-4 p.m. through Jan. 14 805-471-8102. calpoly.zoom.us/j/83141446835. Online, See website, San Luis Obispo.

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.

SEAFOOD BOIL AT ZACA MESA WINERY Savor a mouthwatering seafood boil of shrimp and crawfish by Valley Piggery while sipping your favorite TREAD chardonnays and pinot noirs. Musician Jinneane Coderre will perform. **April 2**, 5-7 p.m. \$140. 805-688-9339. zacamesa.com/upcoming-events/. Zaca Mesa Winery, 6905 Foxen Canyon Rd, Los Olivos.

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

FOOD TRUCK FRIDAYS Fridays, 5-8 p.m. Wine Stone Inn, 255 W. Clark Ave., Orcutt, 805-332-3532, winestoneinn.com/.

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

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

TACO TUESDAY Tuesdays, 5-8 p.m. Wine Stone Inn, 255 W. Clark Ave., Orcutt, 805-332-3532, winestoneinn.com/.

SOUTH COAST SLO COUNTY

FISH FRY The Italian Catholic Federation (ICF) will be serving a fish and chips and coleslaw dinner this Lenten season. One, two, and three-piece fish dinners available. Dinner prices start at \$10. Beverages and desserts also available. Everyone is welcome. Dine in or take out. Fridays, 4-7 p.m. through April 8 \$10-\$20. St. Patrick's Church, 501 Fair Oaks Ave., Arroyo Grande, stpatsag.org.

HOT STUFF continued page 21

MUSIC

SANTA YNEZ VALLEY

BLUE MOON GYPSY BAND LIVE April 3, noon
Maverick Saloon, 3687 Sagunto St., Santa Ynez, 805-686-4785, mavericksaloon.org.

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

LOWDOWN DUDES LIVE April 9, 2-6 p.m. Brick Barn Wine Estate, 795 W. Hwy 246, Buellton, 805-686-1208, brickbarnwineestate.com.

MICHAEL MONROE GOODMAN LIVE April 2, 8:30 p.m. Maverick Saloon, 3687 Sagunto St., Santa Ynez, 805-686-4785, mavericksaloon.org.

PAUL KENT TRIO LIVE April 2, 2-6 p.m. Brick Barn Wine Estate, 795 W. Hwy 246, Buellton, 805-686-1208, brickbarnwineestate.com.

SOUNDHOUSE LIVE April 1, 8:30 p.m. Maverick Saloon, 3687 Sagunto St., Santa Ynez, 805-686-4785, mavericksaloon.org.

TONY FURTADO LIVE Part of the Tales from the Tavern series. **April 6**, 7:30-9:30 p.m. Maverick Saloon, 3687 Sagunto St., Santa Ynez, 805-686-4785, mavericksaloon.org.

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

SANTA MARIA VALLEY/LOS ALAMOS

43RD ANNUAL BIG SHOW 2022 Features the Righetti High School Marimba Band and Ballet Folklórico. **April 1-2**, 7-9:30 p.m. \$10 in advance; \$15 at the door. 805-937-2051 Ext. 2716. Ethel Pope Auditorium, 901 S. Broadway, Santa Maria.

CHAMBER MUSIC TRIO Presented by the Santa Maria Philharmonic Society. Part of the Music at the Library series. **April 9**, 7:30 p.m. Santa Maria Public Library, 421 S. McClelland St., Santa Maria, 805-925-0994.

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.

HOP TIL YOU DROP DANCE Santa Maria Recreation and Parks and Santa Maria Valley Senior Club presents the Hop Til You Drop Spring Dance featuring Riptide Big Band with vocalist Bob Nations. Funded by the Community Foundation of SLO County. **April 10**, 1:30-4 p.m. Free. 805-925-0951 Ext 2260. RiptideBB.com. Elwin Mussell Senior Center, 510 Park Ave., Santa Maria.

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

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

SOUTH COAST SLO COUNTY

THE DRIFTERS Enjoy timeless classics from the Drifters. Since their inception in 1953, they've been bringing their vocal talents to audiences around the world. They defined the vocal sound of the '50s, blending rhythm and blues and gospel that gave them hit after hit. **April 2**, 7:30-9:30 p.m. \$45-\$58. 805-489-9444. clarkcenter.org/shows/the-drifters/. Clark Center for the Performing Arts, 487 Fair Oaks Ave., Arroyo Grande.

SAN LUIS OBISPO

DON FELDER LIVE April 7, 8 p.m. The Fremont Theater, 1035 Monterey St., San Luis Obispo, 805-546-8600, fremontslo.com.

THE GREEN AND KEZNAMDI April 3, 7:30 p.m. The Fremont Theater, 1035 Monterey St., San Luis Obispo, 805-546-8600, fremontslo.com.

OH GEESY LIVE April 3, 8 p.m. The Fremont Theater, 1035 Monterey St., San Luis Obispo, 805-546-8600, fremontslo.com.

TESSA LARK AND MICHAEL THURBER Award-winning violinist Tessa Lark and composer/bassist Michael Thurber met years ago as alumni of NPR's "From the Top" and quickly realized how much they had musically in common. By fusing classical and American music influences, they created a wholly original sound. **April 6**, 7:30-9:30 p.m. \$33-\$42. 805-756-4849. pacsl.org. Performing Arts Center, 1 Grand Ave., San Luis Obispo.

WHITE DENIM LIVE April 7, 7:30 p.m. SLO Brew Rock, 855 Aerovista Pl., San Luis Obispo, 805-543-1843, slobrew.com.

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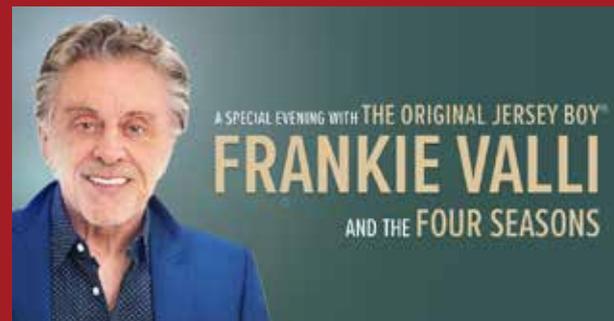
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Arts Briefs

Environmental Alliance of Santa Barbara County Museums holds exhibits, events to raise climate change awareness

FILE PHOTO BY STEVE E. MILLER



The Environmental Alliance of Santa Barbara County Museums presents Impact: Climate Change and the Urgency of Now, a series of events and programming offered at 14 different locations between April and September. The collaborative program is described in press materials as “a multidisciplinary project aimed at building a greater collective responsibility for limiting the effects of the planet’s rising temperature.”

Steve Windhager, executive director of the Santa Barbara Botanic Garden (one of the organizations in the alliance), said he believes the program “will inform and engage the public, while being a force multiplier for positive change.”

“We are 14 institutions with one shared vision,” Windhager said in a statement.

The Alliance is made up of the Santa Barbara Botanic Garden, the Santa Barbara Zoo, and 12 local museums, including the Elverhoj Museum of History and Art and the Wildling Museum of Art and Nature.

“Each of the Alliance members’ unique exhibits and program offerings offer a range of disciplinary approaches to the chosen theme, enabling visitors to deepen their understanding through art, history, science, interactions with animals, and in botanic garden settings,” Stacey Otte-Demangate, executive director of the Wildling Museum, said in the statement.

While hosting individual programming throughout the multi-month series, each of the 14 organizations in the Alliance will also jointly participate in the 2022 Santa Barbara Earth Day Celebration, which will be held at the Arlington Theatre in Santa Barbara on Saturday, April 23.

For the full list of events and programs that will be hosted in conjunction with Impact: Climate Change and the Urgency of Now, visit sbmuseumsalliance.org.

Fort Vine holds live folk concert in Santa Maria

Manhattan-based folk duo Fort Vine, featuring Nyna Nelson and Trevor Tunison, will perform in the sanctuary of Unity of Santa Maria on Sunday, April 17, at 6:30 p.m. The pair is widely known for touring across the U.S. from concert to concert in a Sprinter van.

This upcoming performance is part of a monthly series at the venue presented by Songwriters at Play.

FILE COURTESY PHOTO BY GIANNA JOY



Tickets to the show are \$20 and are available at the door, or in advance at my805tix.com. Unity of Santa Maria is located at 1165 Stubblefield Road, Santa Maria. For more info on the Songwriters at Play series and other scheduled performances at Unity of Santa Maria, visit songwritersatplay.com.

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

COURTESY PHOTOS BY RYLO MEDIA DESIGN, RYAN C. LOYD



Box office brilliance

SLO Rep presents its production of *Every Brilliant Thing* through April 10. Visit slore.org for more info on the show. The theater is located at 888 Morro St., San Luis Obispo.

Some performances of the show are followed by talkbacks with mental health professionals from Transitions-Mental Health Association (T-MHA), as the play covers topics of depression and suicide. For more info on TMHA, a nonprofit that serves San Luis Obispo County and northern Santa Barbara County, visit t-mha.org.

ALL FOR ONE: Sole cast member Kevin Harris stars as an unnamed protagonist in SLO Rep’s production of *Every Brilliant Thing*, a poignant one-man show.

Emotional roller coaster

Kevin Harris is heartfelt and humorous in SLO Rep’s bittersweet one-man show, *Every Brilliant Thing*

BY CALEB WISEBLOOD

Don’t go into SLO Rep’s latest production empty-handed. Bring tissues. Lots of tissues. Within the first 15 minutes of the performance I attended, there were few dry eyes to be found in the audience.

I suspect even the most stoic of attendees of *Every Brilliant Thing* will be susceptible to tears, but not just in reaction to the play’s most solemn, remorseful reflections. This one-man show is full of heart and humor, and some examples of the latter had me on the verge of cry-laughing.

The play tackles heavy topics, including grief and suicide, and its sole actor onstage, Kevin Harris, achieves a remarkable balancing act as his character opens up to the audience about his most personal fears, regrets, small joys, and guilty pleasures.

The show starts with Harris’ unnamed protagonist recalling a few key moments from his childhood and reenacting some of them. He often enlists assistance from volunteers in the audience to help jog his memory, and most of these instances result in the tears of joy I alluded to.

In one scene, after Harris’ recollections have progressed to his college years, the actor picks someone from the front row to join him onstage, get

down on one knee, and ask for his hand in marriage. Ninety-nine percent of the show is scripted, from the thoughtful musings of co-authors Duncan Macmillan and Jonny Donahoe, but it’s so much fun to watch scenes like the marriage proposal and other moments of spontaneity where occasional improv is inevitable.

Throughout the show, no matter which era of his life Harris is recalling, the topic of discussion he consistently jumps back to is a list he started compiling as a child. At age 7, the protagonist is told that his mother is in the hospital because she’s “done something stupid,” his father said vaguely, and finds it hard to be happy.



DROP THE MIC: Ninety-nine percent of the show is scripted, from the thoughtful musings of the play’s co-authors Duncan Macmillan and Jonny Donahoe, but it’s fun to watch scenes with audience participation, where occasional improv becomes inevitable.

This inspires Harris to start making a list of “everything that’s brilliant about the world”; things worth living for—ice cream, staying up late to watch TV, etc.

Harris’ character continues to add items to the list as he grows older but also faces periods of depression that leave the list idle for long stretches of time.

After some performances of the show (check website for scheduling), talkbacks are held with Harris and mental health experts from Transitions-Mental Health Association (TMHA), which partnered with SLO Rep to co-produce this iteration of *Every Brilliant Thing*.

The production’s director, Suzy Newman, thanked TMHA for providing “knowledgeable, dedicated people to guide discussions and answer questions after the show” in the show’s program, where she also encourages attendees to take some time to process their feelings following the play, regardless of whether they’re able to stay for a talkback or not.

“Every good piece of theatre continues after the lights go down, requiring processing and figuring out; syncing thoughts with gut feelings. This is why a drink with friends after a show is so welcome and common, and a substantial car ride home with a partner is not a bad thing,” Newman wrote.

“No theatre exists without someone to watch and experience it. After our shared experience of the last two years, coming out of your home with the intention of sitting in a small space with other humans has become an intensely personal journey,” she added. “Thank you for being here and being part of this story.”

Send some of your favorite “brilliant things” to Arts Editor Caleb Wiseblood at cwiseblood@santamariasun.com.



WILL YOU MARRY ME? In one instance, during the protagonist’s recollections of his college years, Kevin Harris picks someone from the front row to join him onstage, bend down on one knee, and ask for his hand in marriage.



Showtime!

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



OFF STAGE: The show starts with its sole character (Kevin Harris, right) recalling a few key moments from his childhood and reenacting some of them, often enlisting volunteers in the audience to help jog his memory.

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Getting to know you

Araron and Adam Nee (*The Last Romantic*, *Band of Robbers*) co-direct this rom-com adventure about reclusive romance novelist Loretta Sage (Sandra Bullock), who writes about fictional hero Dash McMahon, who's portrayed by dimwitted cover model Alan Caprison (Channing Tatum). During a book promotion tour for her new novel, *The Lost City of D*, she's kidnapped by eccentric billionaire Abigail Fairfax (Daniel Radcliffe), who believes the lost city Loretta describes in her new book is real and that she can guide him to it. Despite having zero survival skills, her cover model Alan goes off to rescue her. (112 min.)

Glen: Apparently, Hollywood's powers that be decided audiences needed another *Romancing the Stone* (1984), with Bullock standing in for Kathleen Turner's beautiful romance novelist and Brad Pitt as Michael Douglas' roguish mercenary. The twist is Tatum's vapid cover model, Alan, who's not so secretly in love with Loretta, a self-described "sapiosexual" (someone who's attracted to intelligence), a bill which Alan clearly does not fill. The question is can Alan prove his worth? It's corny and screwball and satisfactorily charming when you're not rolling your eyes at some of the lame one-liners, ridiculous contrivances, or the fact Bullock/Loretta has to sashay through a jungle adventure in an on-loan purple-sequined jumpsuit, which turns into one of the film's many running jokes. Pitt shows up as Jack Trainer, someone Alan met at a meditation retreat, who's hired to rescue Loretta, and he's spectacular—the sort of larger-than-life real hero that Alan pretends to be on Loretta's book covers. How's Alan going to top that? There are some painfully obvious lessons to be learned, like not judging a book by its cover (insert groan), but also some more subtle ideas, like not dismissing romance novels as shlock because they bring fans real joy, which is commendable. Is it great? From it, but it's a serviceable rom-com diversion.

Anna: This is the type of movie you can put on in the background, invite your gal pals over for brunch, gab away, laugh at occasionally, and easily follow along. It's fluff. Corny, silly, sometimes nonsensical,



PHOTO COURTESY OF PARAMOUNT PICTURES

SET SAIL FOR ADVENTURE: Kidnapped romance novelist Loretta Sage (Sandra Bullock) is rescued by her cover model Alan Caprison (Channing Tatum) in the rom-com adventure *The Lost City*, screening in local theaters.

but perfect for when you need a movie that reminds you of cotton candy. I love both Bullock and Tatum—both have a great knack for comedy. Here they are given some real whoppers to deliver, so kudos to them for being able to pull off some of the more groan-inducing lines. But here's the thing—I had a pretty good time watching it! Loretta is still grieving after the death of her husband five years ago, and her publicist, Beth (Da'Vine Joy Randolph), is desperate to get her out of her funk and have a smashingly successful book tour. Randolph is another good source of comedy in the film, from her exasperation with Loretta and Alan to her global adventure to find and rescue them, Beth is a well-used character. Radcliffe pulls off eccentric in his role as Abigail Fairfax. Money plus a harebrained scheme involving kidnapping and treasure are not a good mix for that guy's mental stability.

Glen: I also enjoyed Oscar Nuñez as the cargo plane pilot Beth hires to get her to the island. I found his comic timing a lot more subtle than Randolph's comic soliloquies. There are a lot of sparky moments,

apparently filmed in the Dominican Republic, but a lot of the island landscapes look computer generated. That said, there's a lot of star power on-screen, and Bullock, Tatum, Pitt, and Radcliffe shine. If you're not afraid to head into a theater, this is worth a matinee. **Anna:** Nuñez was a great addition; he's an awesome comedic actor. He was also in Bullock's 2009 film *The Proposal* where he plays Ramone, the small town's celebrity stripper. He had me laughing in both roles. Like you said, there's really nothing new here, but if you've got a craving for popcorn and a couple of hours to kill, it's a good excuse to get out of the house and hit the theater for a matinee. You probably won't be incredibly disappointed if you wait to rent it at Redbox, but the cast is solid and even though it's nothing original, it does have some real moments of fun. Bullock and Tatum are a good match. ○

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

THE LOST CITY

What's it rated? **PG-13**
 What's it worth, Anna? **Matinee**
 What's it worth, Glen? **Matinee**
 Where's it showing? **Regal Edwards RPX Santa Maria, Regal Edwards Arroyo Grande, Movies Lompoc, Fair Oaks Theatre**

but this is a predictable plot filled with tired genre clichés. If you're going into the film hoping to be surprised by originality, you won't be, but if you want the cinematic equivalent of comfort food, this one's satisfying and mostly unmemorable. It's pretty enough to look at and was

Film Reviews

VIVARIUM

What's it rated? **R** When? **2019**
 Where's it showing? **Amazon Prime**

Gemma (Imogen Poots) and Tom (Jesse Eisenberg) think it is finally time to take the next step and look at homes together, but instead of walking into their future, they walk into a nightmare. Eerily odd real estate agent Martin (Jonathan Aris) leads them to Yonder, an endless sea of identical green homes. He thinks No. 9 will be the perfect fit—"Not a starter home," he says, "a forever home."

The two are both disturbed and amused by the odd man, but when he and his vehicle disappear, the couple are mystified. Shrugging it off as simply an odd afternoon, they pile back into their car and drive away. Except they can't. Every street they turn down, every different turn or direction they go, leads them back to the door of No. 9. What follows is the terrifying realization that they are in some sort of alternate universe or twisted game that won't let them leave. Mysterious boxes with supplies appear, as does a newborn baby. They are instructed to raise the child if they wish to be released.

The Boy, as they call him, ages rapidly into youth—and is



PHOTO COURTESY OF LOVELY PRODUCTIONS

STARTER HOME: Young couple Gemma (Imogen Poots) and Tom (Jesse Eisenberg) suddenly find themselves trapped in a suburban nightmare, in *Vivarium*, screening on Amazon Prime.

a complete nightmare. Mimicking the couple, screaming like a baby bird waiting to be fed, and honestly just being a complete creep, he wedges a divide between the two as they are trapped endlessly and still trying to escape. This is a strange film but mesmerizing. I wasn't sure where they were going to be able to go with the plot line, but they managed to take it in some very unexpected directions. If you like a film to leave you unsettled, *Vivarium* is going to hit the spot. (97 min.).

—Anna

New Flicks

ENCOUNTER

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

Michael Pearce directs this paranoia-driven sci-fi adventure about former U.S. Marine Malik Khan (Riz Ahmed), who believes an alien invasion is in progress via meteors arriving on Earth carrying parasitic insects that infect and control humans from within. He embarks on a rescue mission to save his two sons—Jay (Lucian-River Chauhan) and Bobby (Aditya Geddada)—from his ex-wife, Piya (Janina Gavankar), and her new partner, Dylan (Misha Collins), who may already be infected.

Along the way, they must evade the authorities and infected humans, some of whom are members of a radical militia group. But there may be more to the story than Malik is willing to admit, as he's also being pursued by his parole officer, Hattie Hayes (Octavia Spencer), and very determined FBI Agent Shepard West (Rory Cochrane), who has his own theories about Malik's motives.

This isn't your typical sci-fi thriller, and it goes to unexpected places. It's also very well acted, especially by the two boys, who turn in compelling performances. It had its world premiere at the Telluride Film Festival and played the festival circuit



PHOTO COURTESY OF AMAZON STUDIOS

FIGHTING ALIENS: Former U.S. Marine Malik Khan (Riz Ahmed, center) rescues his sons Jay (Lucian-River Chauhan, left) and Bobby (Aditya Geddada) during an alien invasion no one seems to be aware is happening, in the paranoid sci-fi thriller *Encounter*, screening on Amazon Prime.

until it got a limited theatrical release in December 2021, and now it's available with your Amazon Prime subscription. Well worth a look! (108 min.) ○

—Glen

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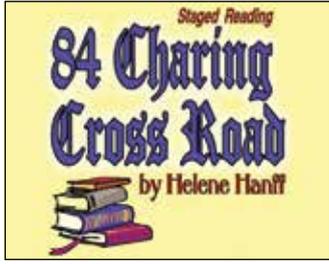
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April Fools' Live Comedy at the Odd Fellows
FRIDAY, APRIL 1
Odd Fellows Hall, SLO



By the Sea Productions: 84 Charing Cross Road
SATURDAY, APRIL 2
545 Shasta Ave, Morro Bay



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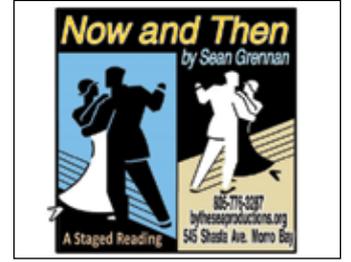
Ted's Estate Beef Winemaker Dinner: Brisket
FRIDAY, APRIL 15
Cass Winery, Paso Robles



Songwriters at Play: Fort Vine
SUNDAY, APRIL 17
Unity of Santa Maria



Wednesdays Around the World Winemaker Dinner: Thailand
WEDNESDAY, APRIL 20
Cass Winery, Paso Robles



By the Sea Productions: Now and Then
FRI, SAT, SUN, APRIL 22-24
545 Shasta Ave, Morro Bay



The Lifespan of a Fact
FRI, SAT, SUN: APRIL 22, 23, 24;
29, 30, MAY 1; MAY 6, 7, 8
Santa Maria Civic Theatre



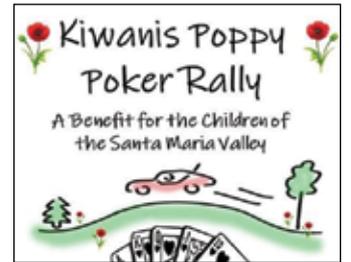
The Cheeseballs
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Charley's LG, Los Gatos, CA



Tiny Porch Concerts: Outlaw Country Night: Leroy from the North
FRIDAY, APRIL 22
Westlake Village, CA



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



Kiwanis of SM Valley Foundation Poppy Poker Rally
SUNDAY, APRIL 24
Oasis Center, Orcutt



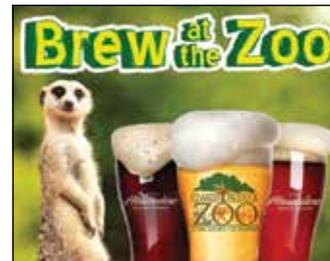
Indulge In Wine and Cheese
SUNDAY, APRIL 24
Cass Winery, Paso Robles



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



Three Speckled Hens: Antiques & Old Stuff Show
FRI, SAT, SUN, APRIL 29-MAY 1
Paso Robles Event Center



Brew At The Zoo
SATURDAY, APRIL 30
Charles Paddock Zoo, Atascadero



Wednesdays Around the World Winemaker Dinner: Costa Rica
WEDNESDAY, MAY 4
Cass Winery, Paso Robles



Tiny Porch Concerts: Chris Pierce with Abby Posner
SUNDAY, MAY 8
King Gillette Ranch in Agoura



GALA Pride & Diversity Center: SLO Pride Festival
FRI, SAT, SUN, MAY 20, 21, 22
Laguna Lake Park, SLO



Songwriters at Play: Kiki Ebsen
FRIDAY, MAY 20
Unity of Santa Maria



Randall King Featuring Allie Colleen
SATURDAY, MAY 21
Rava Wines, Paso Robles



Cambria Concerts: SLO County Stumblers
SUNDAY, MAY 22
Camp Ocean Pines, Cambria

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PHOTO COURTESY OF STILETTO MARKETING



NEW CHEF IN TOWN: Restaurateur and chef Nathan Peitso recently moved to the Santa Ynez Valley from LA to own and operate Sear Steakhouse in Solvang.



PHOTO BY CALEB WISEBLOOD

Beef-and-mortar

To find out more about Sear Steakhouse, call (805) 245-9564 or visit searsteakhouse.com. The restaurant is located at 478 4th Place, Solvang.

THE LIMIT DOES NOT EXIST: “I didn’t buy an existing business because I wanted to start a new concept. It’s still going to be a steakhouse,” said Nathan Peitso, the new owner and executive chef of Sear Steakhouse, located in downtown Solvang. But guests at the eatery can look forward to new offerings with Peitso’s arrival as well, including menu items and weekly events.

Housewarming

Nathan Peitso takes on dual role as Sear Steakhouse’s new owner and executive chef

BY CALEB WISEBLOOD

Almost all the walls at Sear Steakhouse are adorned with at least one historic photograph or colorful artwork, minus one particular wall with a large bookshelf in front of it. Pressing hard on a specific side of the shelf reveals its true purpose—a secret door, straight out of a Scooby-Doo episode.

“It’s totally the Batcave,” Sear Steakhouse owner and executive chef Nathan Peitso said, comparing the hidden room behind the shelf to Bruce Wayne’s sanctum.

The unconventional entrance leads to

a spacious four-walled vacancy, which Peitso intends to furnish and rent out to guests as a private dining room in the future. It’s an ongoing project, but for now, Peitso—who entered his new dual role at the restaurant in March—is prioritizing the venue’s menu offerings and simply aiming to run the best steakhouse possible, he said.

“I didn’t buy an existing business because I wanted to start a new concept. It’s still going to be a steakhouse,” said Peitso, who wants to make even the most traditional sides—mashed potatoes, Caesar salad, etc.—noticeably “the very best” for his diners.

PHOTO BY CALEB WISEBLOOD



NAME OF THE GAME: Under previous ownership, Sear Steakhouse cultivated working relationships with several local farmers, which is a trend the restaurant’s new owner, Nathan Peitso, plans to continue. The venue will continue to source ingredients from Santa Ynez Valley-based farms, as well as additional farms based in Southern California.

Peitso described this goal as “reinventing the classics” while keeping these dishes’ familiarity intact. Before discovering Sear Steakhouse near the end of 2021, the restaurateur was on the hunt for a new venue and looked into spots in Ventura and Ojai. His search ended with the opportunity to live and work in “the most beautiful part of California, in my opinion,” he said.

“I love the whole Santa Ynez Valley,” said Peitso, who, before recently moving, had lived in Los Angeles for the past three decades. He became acquainted with the Central Coast over the years through weekend trips, weddings, and other happenings that brought up the coast.

“I have no ego or chip on my shoulder about having come from LA. I’m here to run a steakhouse, and I’m gonna do that the best way I possibly can,” Peitso said.

Before buying Sear Steakhouse, Peitso owned a farm-to-table fine dining restaurant, Farmhouse, in LA but had to let go of the eatery near the start of the pandemic due to low revenue and other circumstances caused by the COVID-19 crisis.

“Being back in command of something like this, after having lost my last restaurant to COVID, was very gratifying. It felt just like breathing again,” said Peitso, who described his first night working at Sear Steakhouse as surreal. “I could hear the bustle and see the people and talk to tables and see the kitchen working, and it just felt like I could breathe again.”

Under previous ownership, Sear Steakhouse cultivated working relationships with several local farmers, which is a trend Peitso plans to

continue. He said that the restaurant will source ingredients from Santa Ynez Valley-based farms, as well as additional farms based in Southern California.

As for changes at Sear Steakhouse, guests at the eatery can look forward to an increase in vegetable-based dishes on the dinner menu, as well as an elevated seafood presence, sourced from Santa Barbara-based fishers.

Peitso is also introducing a special weekly dinner offering—held every Monday, between 5 and 8 p.m. priced at \$35 per person—that features braised beef sugo (which can be substituted for a veggie option) over polenta, a side salad, and craft beer. On Fridays and Saturdays, Sear Steakhouse now hosts an “after hours” bar night, from 10 p.m. to 1:30 a.m., which includes a menu of charcuterie, crostini, cheese boards, and other light bites for guests to pair with their libations.

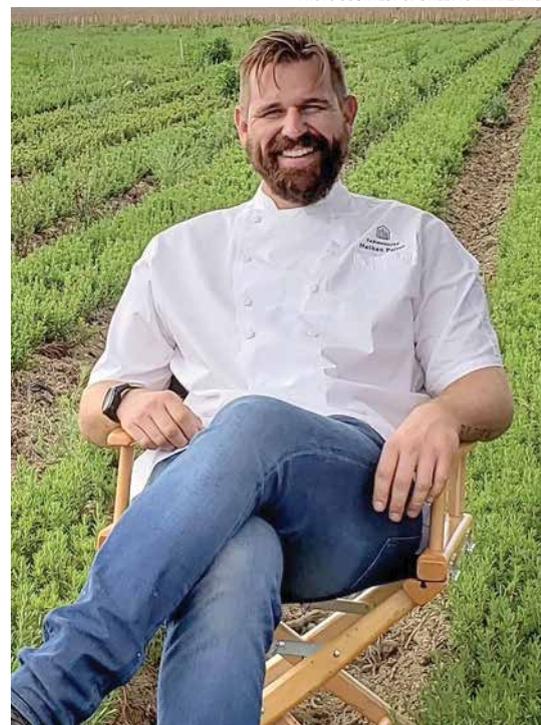
No matter what day of the week it is, when it comes to incoming guests Peitso is excited to meet, there is someone in particular he hopes will eventually stop by—Jeff Bridges.

Share tasty tips!

Send tidbits on everything food and drink to cwiseblood@santamariasun.com.



PHOTO COURTESY OF STILETTO MARKETING



LIGHTS, CAMERA, ACTION: One of the first things most people comment upon when meeting executive chef Nathan Peitso is his uncanny resemblance to Academy Award winner Jeff Bridges.

“I can’t wait to meet him. Apparently he comes here sometimes,” Peitso said of the actor and Central Coast resident.

When most people meet Peitso for the first time, one of the things they quickly comment on is his uncanny resemblance to the Academy Award winner.

“I wonder if he would agree,” Peitso said. ○

Arts Editor Caleb Wiseblood would also love to meet Jeff Bridges. Jeff, if you’re reading this, please email me at cwiseblood@santamariasun.com.

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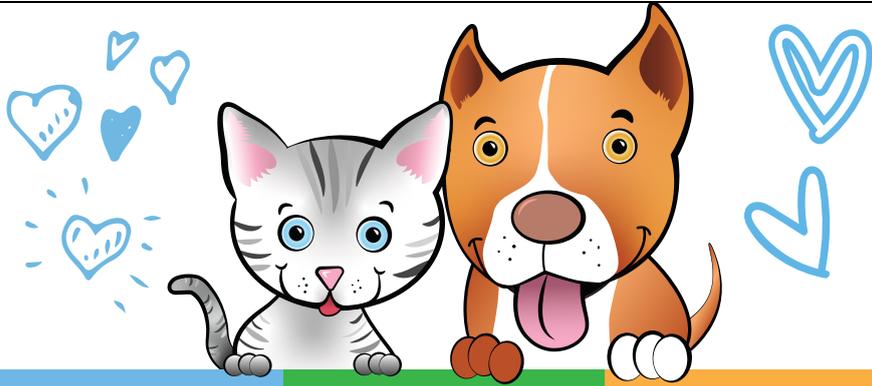


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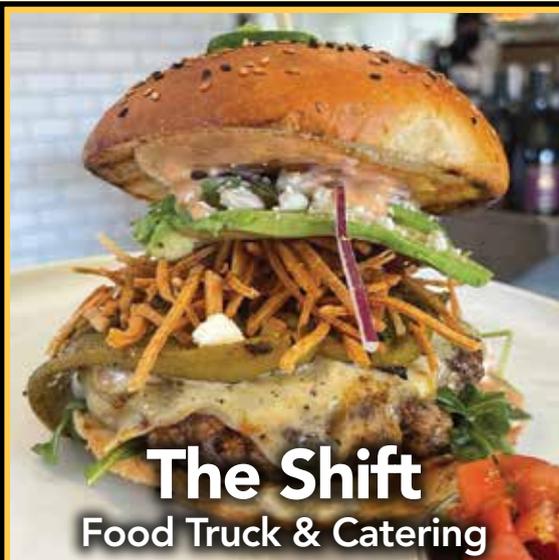
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