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AT THE MOVIES

You Won't Be Alone:
folk horror [24]



Communication breakdown

Santa Maria Cemetery District faces backlash over regulation enforcement, insensitive management [7]

BY TAYLOR O'CONNOR

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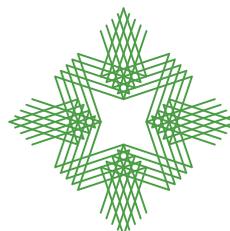


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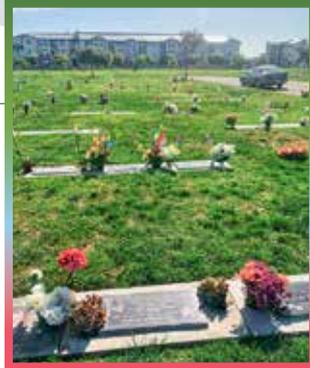
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APRIL 7 - APRIL 14, 2022 VOL. 23 NO. 6

Some of the families with gravesites at the Santa Maria Cemetery say they're being targeted by current management, which they claim is having mementoes removed from certain sites and not others. The number of complaints about management has increased in the last few months, and families are hoping it will result in changes. Staff Writer Taylor O'Connor writes about the conflict between management and families, the regulations governing gravesites, and what one elected official called a communication problem [7].

You can also read about Santa Barbara County Sheriff Bill Brown and the man challenging him for his position in 2022 [5]; an artist whose love for Lompoc's flower fields knows no bounds [22]; and the Cuyama Buckhorn's celebration of all things flour [26].

Camillia Lanham
editor



MOURNING REGS: Families with loved ones buried at the Santa Maria Cemetery are upset over the treatment of mementoes they leave at gravesites.

Cover photo courtesy of Nicole Moreno > Cover design by Alex Zuniga

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Political Watch

- U.S. Rep **Salud Carbajal** (D-Santa Barbara) voted to cap the out-of-pocket cost of insulin at \$35 per month for those on **Medicare, Medicaid**, and private insurance, the Congressman announced on March 31. The legislation advanced by the U.S. House of Representatives ensures vital and affordable access to medication for more than 37 million people in the United States who have diabetes, including one-third of Medicare beneficiaries and more than 7 million Americans who rely on insulin to maintain their health and well-being. "I've heard heartbreaking stories from Californians who have cut back on their insulin doses or skipped doses entirely because the costs have risen to unacceptable rates," Carbajal said in a statement. "I'm committed to lowering costs for American families through legislation like this, and I urge my Senate colleagues to advance this measure to deliver these critical savings to the Central Coast." **The Affordable Insulin Now Act** requires Medicare Part D plans and commercial health insurance plans to cover insulin and cap cost-sharing at no more than \$35 per month. Next year will mark 100 years since the discovery of insulin; despite its history, the price tripled from 2002 to 2013 and doubled again in 2012 to 2016, according to Carbajal's office.

- Amid a rise in racist attacks targeting the Asian American and Pacific Islander communities, Gov. **Gavin Newsom's** administration—in partnership with the **Commission on Asian and Pacific Islander American Affairs** and the **California Asian and Pacific Islander Legislative Caucus**—announced the distribution of \$14 million in grant funds to qualified organizations to provide direct services and support to victims of hate incidents and provide prevention measures, according to a March 31 statement. The **California Department of Social Services** will fund five lead organizations and will work with 76 additional organizations throughout the state to provide services. The Central Coast, South Bay, and Bay Area received more than \$4.1 million, which will provide direct services for victims of hate incidents including legal services, case management, mental health services, and community healing. The funding was approved as a part of the **California Comeback Plan**, which included \$166.5 million to combating bias-motivated attacks. "This is a critical investment that will go a long way towards uplifting our communities and fighting hate and violence around the state," Newsom said in the statement. "We aim to help victims of violence, but also prevent violence in the future. History shows we need to do better, and this helps us get there."

- U.S. Sens. **Alex Padilla** (D-California) and **Elizabeth Warren** (D-Massachusetts) recently co-wrote a letter to the Biden administration to extend the pause on federally held student loan payments until at least the end of the year, and to provide meaningful student debt cancellation, according to Padilla's office. "Given the fast-approaching deadline for borrowers to resume payments, your administration must act as quickly as possible to extend the pause and make clear to the American public your intention to cancel a meaningful amount of student debt. We look forward to supporting your administration in getting it done," the letter stated. In California, more than 45 percent of students graduate with student debt, and the average debt is more than \$21,000, according to a study by the **Institute for College Access and Success**. The payment pause during the pandemic saved borrowers about \$393 per month—bringing several residents relief from financial pressure after job loss or decreased earnings—according to Padilla's office. Most borrowers are not financially prepared to add more bills as costs like food and gas continue to increase. "Canceling student debt is one of the most powerful ways to address racial and economic equity issues. The student loan system mirrors many of the inequalities that plague American society and widens the racial wealth gap," the letter continued. "Student debt cancellation must be one of the key actions in your comprehensive approach to advance equity as our nation works to rebuild a stronger and more equitable economy." ○

PHOTO COURTESY OF JUAN CAMARENA



ENDORSEMENTS: Santa Barbara County Sheriff's Office Lt. Juan Camarena received endorsements from the Deputy Sheriff's Association and the Santa Barbara County Firefighter's Association—the two biggest law enforcement associations in the county.

Lt. Juan Camarena challenges Bill Brown for sheriff

After 16 years with Bill Brown in office, Santa Barbara County Sheriff's Office Lt. Juan Camarena thought it was time for a change and decided to run for sheriff in the June 2022 election.

"I'm very passionate about law enforcement, and I want to bring new leadership and ideas. I want to bring the Sheriff's Office in a new direction that will be evolving over times of change," Camarena said. "In the last couple years, law enforcement has been going through challenging times with a lot of negative publicity, which created a perspective of law enforcement cannot be trusted."

To regain trust, he wants to improve the public's access to information by creating a crime data dashboard, conduct office audits to find areas that need improvement, develop a strategic plan to set department goals, and use technology as a "force multiplier," he explained.

"I respect the current sheriff, but I really believe that we are stagnant and reactive. We need to be proactive and look to the future. We haven't had a strategic plan in my 23 years being here, which makes it very difficult to know what direction we're going," Camarena said.

Before joining the force, he served in the Marines after graduating from Santa Maria High School, and deployed to Somalia and then to the Middle East, he added. Camarena started in the Sheriff's Office as a custody deputy and worked his way up through the ranks to lieutenant, he said.

"I started from the bottom, and I really understand the department [needs] to be able to evolve through these challenging times. I learned the values of leadership in the military and the values of humility, hard work, being respectful, and listening to others from my family, [which] will give me the ability to lead the Sheriff's Office beyond the 21st century," Camarena said.

Current Sheriff Brown said his leadership experience, history in the department, and qualifications will deliver the best service to county residents and reduce crime.

"I like my opponent, I think he's a good man, I just don't think he's ready to be the sheriff. He's never commanded a large portion of the Sheriff's Office, let alone been a chief executive of a law enforcement agency. I had 14 years as a police chief before becoming a sheriff for 16 years," Brown said.

In this election cycle, his priorities include reducing crime by enhancing the rehabilitation and reentry system for inmates, diverting those with mental health-related issues from jail and into community-based treatment alternatives, and creating a program to reduce opioid deaths, he said.

Some goals are already being met with the Northern Branch Jail providing classes, counseling, and religious services to point inmates in a more positive direction, Brown added. The office also partnered with the Santa Barbara County Department of Behavioral Wellness for its co-response team to help respond to mental health-related calls.

The opioid program is a new addition to his priorities after a record-breaking 133 people died from opiates in 2021, he said. The department will model a response that has been used in six Florida counties—which reduced deaths by 75 percent in four years, Brown continued.

"We're working on building support for Project Opioid, which is a community plan put together by leaders from local governments, law enforcement, the faith-based community, business and corporate entities, the medical community, education, and the treatment community to work on a multi-pronged plan to address the supply and demand side of opioids," he said.

Both Brown and Camarena encouraged people to conduct their own research and to vote as part of their civic duty.

"All elections are important, and this one will decide who will be running the Santa Barbara County Sheriff's Office for the next four years," Brown said. "Our organization is critical to the safety of our community. I encourage them [residents] to learn about the two candidates and make their choice appropriately."

—Taylor O'Connor

Santa Maria funds cleanup of railroad-based homeless encampment

It took three days and more than 24 trips to the Santa Maria Regional Landfill for a group of collaborators to clear a half-mile stretch of the Santa Maria Valley Railroad.

The railroad corridor, which borders some businesses and residential neighborhoods between West Depot Street and Blosser Road, has repeatedly been a site for homeless encampments and vandalism over the last several years, Santa Maria Valley Railroad President Rob Himoto said.

But Himoto hopes the recent cleanup, which occurred from March 29 to 31, and a new, ongoing partnership between the railroad, neighboring businesses, nonprofits, and the city of Santa Maria will finally "nip things in the bud."

"We have homeless in other parts of the railroad, but this is by far the worst situation," Himoto said of the site.

He said that the railroad has hosted cleanups on the property in the past, but the site consistently returns to being a homeless encampment "within days."

One of the differences between the railroad's previous solo efforts and the collaborative cleanup is that the city Santa Maria paid for that the latter's budget—approximately \$16,000—through American Rescue Act Plan funds. The latter also marks the first joint effort between the railroad and neighboring businesses and apartment complexes to help maintain the corridor and keep it clear in the long run.

"All the adjacent property owners helped with the cleanup. Everybody came together on this," Himoto said. "Instead of just doing the cleanup and sort of walking away, we did the cleanup, and now everybody's sort of pitching in, trying to figure out ways to keep them off that area."

Planned improvements include stronger fencing, keeping the corridor walls clean with a more immediate response to graffiti than in the past, and "putting down a material that's hard to walk through," to discourage people from using the private property as a walking path or bike path, Himoto said.

He added that park rangers and police officers "have been doing more frequent patrols" in the area, which he hopes will prevent another encampment.

At least 72 hours before to the first day of the cleanup, the city of Santa Maria posted signs with a warning for people to vacate the encampment. On the reverse side of each sign was a list of resources about where to find shelter, food, and counseling.

Mark van de Kamp, public information manager for the city of Santa Maria, wrote in an email to the *Sun* that the encampment was abandoned on time and that the cleanup proceeded "without incident."

Prior to the cleanup, individuals at the encampment were offered shelter services by representatives of CityNet, one of the nonprofit organizations that Santa Maria has partnered with in its approach to supporting those experiencing homelessness.

By the end of the cleanup, a total of 62,000 pounds of trash was removed and trucked to the landfill, according to the city.

—Caleb Wiseblood

Environmental nonprofit plans to sue Santa Maria Airport

Disturbing land that's home to the California tiger salamander put the Santa Maria Airport

NEWS continued page 6

The Santa Maria Joint Union High School District Special Education - Child Find

The Santa Maria Joint Union High School District (SMJUHSD) seeks to identify, locate, and evaluate high school age students suspected of having a disability who may be eligible for special education services designed to meet their educational needs at no cost to families. This includes students that are highly mobile, migrant, experiencing homelessness, students that are wards of the state, and students attending private schools located within SMJUHSD boundaries. If you suspect your child has a disability, contact the school special education department or district office Special Education Department.

SPANISH TRANSLATION

El Distrito Escolar de las Escuelas Preparatorias de Santa Maria Educación Especial - Búsqueda de Estudiantes

El Distrito Unificado de Escuelas Preparatorias de Santa Maria (SMJUHSD) busca identificar, localizar y evaluar a los estudiantes en edad de escuela preparatoria sospechosos de tener una discapacidad que puede ser elegible para servicios de educación especial diseñados para satisfacer sus necesidades educativas sin costo alguno para las familias. Esto incluye a los estudiantes que son altamente móviles, migrantes, sin hogar, estudiantes que están bajo la tutela del estado, y los estudiantes que asisten a escuelas privadas ubicadas dentro los límites de SMJUHSD. Si sospecha que su hijo tiene una discapacidad, comuníquese con el departamento de educación especial de la escuela u oficina de Educación Especial del distrito SMJUHSD.

Staff | Special Education
 Santa Maria Joint Union High School District
smjuhsd.k12.ca.us



NEWS from page 5

District on the Center for Biological Diversity's short list for a potential lawsuit.

Despite acknowledging the salamander's existence by putting together a habitat conservation plan (HCP) on behalf of the endangered species in 2016, center Senior Scientist Tiffany Yap said the district has continued to develop over what little habitat the salamanders have left.

"Within that habitat conservation plan, it also included a proposal to develop on a 32-acre plot. That's when we got concerned because it looked like there was salamander habitat [there], and we wanted to see if there was a pattern of ground-disturbing activities," she said. "We were concerned that they illegally and knowingly did ground-disturbing activities in this designated critical habitat."

After years of gathering information and monitoring the situation, Yap said the center—and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service—discovered that the district destroyed at least 400 acres of salamander habitat that was used for nearly two decades, Yap said.

As a result, the Center for Biological Diversity sent the district an intent to sue notice because of its damage—or take—of salamander habitat, which violated the Endangered Species Act, according to the letter submitted by the Center for Biological Diversity.

"The airport's refusal to implement mitigating actions or enter into an adequate HCP indicates that further harm and take of CTS [California tiger salamanders] is reasonably

certain to recur. These do not appear to be one-off incidents or accidents. These appear to be intentional actions, carried out by the airport, despite [Fish and Wildlife Service] warnings and objections," the letter stated.

Yap said the airport district has 60 days to answer, and the center will consider its options once it gets a response. Santa Maria Airport District General Manager Chris Hastert provided a statement regarding the notice, and added that the district's still evaluating everything in the letter.

"The Santa Maria Public Airport District is committed to the conservation of the California tiger salamander. Although, I can't discuss details regarding potential litigation, we hope to resolve the issue cooperatively with any agency or group with concerns about airport activities," Hastert said.

Yap said she's concerned the district will stay on its current path. In 2009, there were only approximately 60 known breeding ponds in Santa Barbara County, according to a Center for Biological Diversity press release.

When the ground's dug up for development, it displaces or kills the salamanders, causing the chances of survival to decrease, Yap added.

"They may not be a charismatic animal that people are drawn to, but it's a creature that people find charming. They keep the soil healthy and they are really important for healthy ecosystems," she said. "They affect

the food web and the carbon cycle, which benefits humans too. There's multiple reasons I think why it's important to protect these species that are on the brink of extinction."

—Taylor O'Connor

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A place of unease

Residents and workers complain about oversight at the Santa Maria Cemetery, which is showing little sign of changing

BY TAYLOR O'CONNOR

To honor the memory of her son, Connie Branquinho recently placed a \$100 personalized cross on his gravesite at the Santa Maria Cemetery, but it disappeared.

He passed away from an accidental fentanyl overdose in May 2021, and it's not the first time items have disappeared from the family's gravesites. Branquinho's father—a war veteran—is also buried there. An American flag disappeared from her father's site too, presumably thrown away, she said.

But when the cross bearing her son's name and face was removed, the issue had gone over the line for her, she said.

"I had a lot of problems with things disappearing; I thought it was the public, but it's not the public, it's [the manager]," Branquinho said.

The Santa Maria Cemetery is a special district, independent from city and county governments, with its own board of trustees that decides the cemetery's management and regulations. In June 2021—one month after Branquinho's son passed away—the board hired Ron Jacobs as its new district manager. Branquinho said Jacobs doesn't work well with those who are grieving, and she claimed that he targets certain families' gravesites and removes items from them, not touching similar items on other sites.

"He is unbelievable. I'm a very easygoing person and cannot believe his attitude or demeanor. You have no idea when you lose a child what you go through, and to [work with] him was my worst nightmare," she said. "He makes us feel like we're out partying, but we are just trying to take care of our mothers, fathers, grandmas, grandpas, loved ones. It actually breaks my heart to see someone so uncaring in that position."

Determined to make a change, she wrote a letter to the Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors asking for action.

"Since June, the Santa Maria Cemetery has become unwelcoming and downright hostile to grieving families. This change coincides with Ron [Jacobs] being on the board. Ron is rude and disrespectful," Branquinho wrote. "He says things like 'you people.' He accuses families that come to visit their loved ones after 5 p.m. as 'drug addicts.' ... He refuses to listen to people, instead he walks away, tells us he can do what he wants to do."

Jacobs declined to comment, and referred the *Sun* to members of the board of trustees who could speak on the issue.

More families have reported grievances since Branquinho wrote the letter, she said. Fifth District Supervisor Steve Lavagnino said he received the letter along with several other complaints—the most he's received in his 12 years as a supervisor.

"I don't want everyone at the cemetery painted with a broad brush that they are the problem," he said. "The cemetery as a whole has an expansion program going on and a lot of good things; unfortunately, there are some problems, and the last six months it's just turned into a big problem."

The biggest problems, he said, have to do with communication. People don't necessarily understand the rules and regulations at the cemetery, and the enforcement of those regulations hasn't been as empathetic or respectful as it should be, Lavagnino said.

"That's the No. 1 job at a cemetery—to make them feel better. We have to enforce these rules, but it's like an officer where they have to know how to diffuse the situation," he said.

Lavagnino said that all he can do is pass the complaints along to the cemetery's board.

"The Board of Supervisors oversees the appointment of the trustees, and there's five trustees. Their terms all end at the end of 2022, and they are responsible for the overseeing of the cemetery. They hire the general manager and staff who report to the trustees when there are issues," he explained.

A group of grieving parents and family members approached the trustees during the cemetery district's March 14 meeting to discuss their issues with the gravesite rules and regulations as well as the management, and to advocate for needed updates, said group member Nicole Moreno.

Santa Maria Cemetery District rules and regulations require any markers or monuments to be installed by the superintendent; all flowers to be kept within the cement border of the headstone; no jars, glass, balloons, stakes, fences, or solar lights be placed on the gravesite; and all dead flowers and paper trimmings be discarded in trash bins, according to the cemetery's website.

Moreno's son passed away in a car crash in April 2021, and she has left mementos on her son's gravesite, including rocks painted with the words "believe," "faith," and "one day at a time." They, too, disappeared, even though she said they were within the regulations.

"I don't want to be stressed when I go visit my son. I expect to be at peace; I go there for comfort," Moreno said. "I honestly feel like these rules have gone almost ancient. I just want to be able to put rocks on my son's headstone."

She took her concerns to the March meeting where she said the district only gave attendees three to five minutes total to speak during public



COMFORT: Connie Branquinho visits her son's gravesite almost every day for her own sense of peace, but incidents of mementos disappearing have robbed her of a calm connection with her loved ones.

comment. Moreno noted that the trustees did not respond to concerns during the meeting. As a result, Moreno said she added herself to the next meeting's agenda on April 11 in the hope of being able to have more of a dialogue and—hopefully—see some change.

Board Chair Lee Diaz said that the board's working with Lavagnino to host a community meeting at the end of April to alleviate confusion regarding the regulations and acknowledged the complaints about cemetery district manager Jacobs' behavior.

"We talked to our manager, and he denied these allegations. There's been strange things dealing with him," Diaz said. "As trustees, we don't like to hear complaints. He may have a little trouble working with people, [but] he's trying. He's new at it and only been on for seven months."

The board hasn't taken any disciplinary action against Jacobs, but he is "trying to improve," Diaz said. Potential policy updates are also on the horizon, including notifying visitors prior to removing items from a gravesite.

"We're just puzzled why this came up all of a sudden; we've had these regulations for years," Diaz said "We've heard allegations [against Jacobs], and that's not new. We have talked to the manager, but there's just a misunderstanding. I don't know if there's other motives and I don't know what's going on, but we are working on it."

Others say they aren't so sure. One cemetery employee—who asked the *Sun* not to use his name because he still works at the cemetery—said that the manager has caused a toxic work environment for employees, and the board members are a part of the problem.

"The board's not doing anything to resolve the

problem; they have done nothing but create chaos for employees trying to work for the community," the employee said. "It's sad we don't have the proper channels to feel like we're listened to, and [feel] like there's no light at the end of the tunnel. I'm not seeing it as promising as it could be,"

The strain has taken a toll on his mental health, the employee said, adding that he's had nervous breakdowns at work since the new management took over and debated leaving. He said he's seen the new manager dismiss families and visitors, roll his eyes at them, lock the entrance gates early, and request that the sprinklers get turned on during weekends—which are peak visitor hours.

"There's so much chaos that it makes me sick to my stomach to come to work. ... It's not just a business, it's a place where we need to have some kind of compassion, and it starts with the employees," the employee said. "I've got to stay positive, but sometimes I want to go home and stick my head in a hole."

The only way he sees any future change for the better is a change in management and a change on the board of trustees. He explained that the majority have held their seats for at least 10 years, there aren't any females on the board, and there isn't Latino representation either. He said he'd like to see new board members who better represent Santa Maria.

"The poison's always been the board members, and they are allowing a person to continue that poison. It's upsetting to say the least," the employee said. "This is the final chapter of people's lives, and we want the people that come to feel like their loved ones are respected to the fullest." ○

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

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SWEET TREATS: Much of the food sold at the Santa Maria Strawberry Festival will feature the star of the event: strawberries.

Community connection

Presale tickets are available for the Santa Maria Strawberry festival's in-person return

BY TAYLOR O'CONNOR

Right pink strawberry lemonade and powdered-sugar coated strawberry funnel cake will soon be sipped and devoured as the Santa Maria Strawberry festival makes its return to an in-person event at the Santa Maria Fairpark.

"The strawberry festival has been around for over 30 years. In 2020 we were unable to do it, and in 2021 we did a modified, drive-through style. Coming back this year, it gives families in our communities a chance to experience a festival, carnival feel in their backyard, and it gives us a chance to highlight the industry," said Public Relations and Sponsorship Coordinator Rebecca Barks.

This festival celebrates one of the largest industries on the Central Coast—about 80 percent of the nation's strawberries come from the Santa Maria Valley, according to the Environmental Protection Agency—with more than 30 shopping vendors, 20 food booths, carnival rides, center stage performances, camel rides, a rodeo, strawberry tastings, and a strawberry eating contest between April 29 and May 1.

Attendees can choose to come on themed days that offer special discounts or events,

Barks added. Senior Day—where adults 62 and older can get in for free—is on April 29. Kids 11 and under will cost \$2 for entry on Pepsi Day (April 30). Finally, Fiesta Day on May 1 will have a rodeo and concert at the Fairpark's Michelob Ultra Minetti Arena (which is a separate ticketed event), according to the Santa Maria Fairpark website.

Presale admission tickets are available through April 25—which gives a \$2 discount on entry and a \$5 discount on carnival wristbands.

"We've been locked up for so long, people are looking for something to do. To have something in our own backyard, reasonably priced to get in, not very far, and all encompassing with entertainment, activities, food, [and] adult beverages. There's something for everyone all in one admission price," Barks said.

Social distancing and the pandemic's restrictions hurt the Fairpark as well as many of the vendors who typically came to this event, Barks said.

"We saw a definite decrease in our industry in terms of food vendors and concessionaires. You are seeing that negative impact of them not being able to work [at any event] for the last two years to the point where they don't do it anymore,"

she explained. "It's the same with our live entertainment; who's been performing when they haven't been able to perform the last two years? It's been a hump to overcome and we have."

Now, vendor numbers are growing back to what they were before the pandemic, and the festival's made some new kid-friendly additions, she added.

"In the arena, we will have what we're calling machine mayhem, [which] will have John Deere Tractors, EMS [emergency medical services] vehicles, a bus, and farm equipment for kids to jump, play on, and check out," Barks said.

The strawberry coloring contest will also go out to local elementary schools to encourage more child participation, she added. The California Strawberry Commission will also come out to provide educational opportunities and hand out information to festivalgoers, and the California Women for Agriculture will be hosting a "strawberry of the day" stand where people can try the different varieties of the fruit.

With the festival coming quickly, Barks said she hopes it will bring back a sense of communal connection and allow the growers to showcase their hard work as well as highlight the entire industry.

"It gives the berry growers the chance to reach out with the community and be with the community, which is a nice thing for them. ... It's one of the largest attended festivals in our area, and the only annual festival in Santa Maria highlighting our very industry," she said.

Promote!

Send business and nonprofit information to spotlight@santamariasun.com.



Highlight

• The Santa Maria Recreation and Parks Department announced several free "active living" programs offered at the Elwin Mussell Center, 510 E. Park Ave., for adults 50 and older including table tennis, indoor pickleball, and mah-jongg. Table tennis will be held on Tuesdays and Thursdays beginning April 5 from 9 to 11 a.m., and indoor pickleball will be held on Thursdays from noon to 2 p.m. Loaner equipment is available for participants. Mah-jongg—a strategic game played with tiles—will be held the first and third Wednesday of the month and every Friday from noon to 4 p.m. For more information, call (805) 925-0951, Ext. 2260. ○

Taylor O'Connor wrote this week's Spotlight. You can reach her at toconnor@santamariasun.com.



DEATH NOTICES

ALEXANDER, ANTHONY L., 85, of Paso Robles passed away 3/31/2022 arrangements with Chapel of the Roses

ANDOLSEK, GERALDINE ANN, 83, of Santa Maria passed away 3/26/2022 arrangements with Dudley-Hoffman Mortuary, Crematory & Memory Gardens

BRAZZI, HERBERT GEORGE, 91, of Santa Margarita passed away 3/19/2022 arrangements with Chapel of the Roses

BROOKS, WILLIAM, 93, of Arroyo Grande passed away 3/31/2022 arrangements with Marshall Spoo Sunset Funeral Chapel

BRYANT, LANCE D., 78, of Santa Maria passed away 3/29/2022 arrangements with Dudley-Hoffman Mortuary, Crematory & Memory Gardens

CARROLL, DORWIN D., 86, Formerly of Santa Maria passed away 4/2/2022 arrangements with Magner-Maloney Funeral Home & Crematory

CHASTY, ALBERT TERRY, 79, of Santa Maria passed away 4/3/2022 arrangements with Dudley-Hoffman Mortuary, Crematory & Memory Gardens

COLBERT, CHERYL LYNN, 73, of San Miguel passed away 3/26/2022 arrangements with Chapel of the Roses

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

DE LEON, ADAM "POP" F. II, 21, of Santa Ynez passed away 3/28/2022 arrangements with Dudley-Hoffman Mortuary, Crematory & Memory Gardens

EBERLE, DIXIE GAIL, 83, of Templeton passed away 3/30/2022 arrangements with Chapel of the Roses

FENZKE, KAY, 74, of Pismo Beach passed away 3/25/2022 arrangements with Marshall Spoo Sunset Funeral Chapel

FRIAS, ROBERT GEORGE, 92, of Santa Maria passed away 4/1/2022 arrangements with Dudley-Hoffman Mortuary, Crematory & Memory Gardens

GEIBEL, JOSHUA DOYLE, 45, of San Luis Obispo passed away 12/31/2021 arrangements with Reis Family Mortuary & Crematory

INFANTE, ANGELA "ANGIE", 76, of Santa Maria passed away 3/30/2022 arrangements with Dudley-Hoffman Mortuary, Crematory & Memory Gardens

ISVAK, JOSHUA P. JR., 38, of Santa Maria passed away 3/27/2022 arrangements with Dudley-Hoffman Mortuary, Crematory & Memory Gardens

JEFFREYS, SHANNON DOYLE, 52, of Oceano passed away 3/24/2022 arrangements with Marshall Spoo Sunset Funeral Chapel

JOHNSON, CORBIN SCOTT, 1 day, of Atascadero passed away 3/22/2022 arrangements with Chapel of the Roses

LOPEZ, JOSEPH "JOEY", 61, of Santa Maria passed away 3/31/2022 arrangements with Dudley-Hoffman Mortuary, Crematory & Memory Gardens

MARTIN, CINDI, 70, of Templeton passed away 3/17/2022 arrangements with Chapel of the Roses

MCGLADE, ALICE MAE, 91, of Atascadero passed away 3/31/2022 arrangements with Chapel of the Roses

PEARSON, MARTHA ELIZABETH, 91, of San Luis Obispo passed away 3/24/2022 arrangements with Marshall Spoo Sunset Funeral Chapel

PETERSEN, SUZIE, 74, of Orcutt passed away 3/27/2022 arrangements with Dudley-Hoffman Mortuary, Crematory & Memory Gardens

PIRMAN, MARK OWEN, 83, of Santa Maria passed away 3/29/2022 arrangements with Dudley-Hoffman Mortuary, Crematory & Memory Gardens

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

RARIG, NICHOLAS, 69, of Cayucos passed away 3/28/2022 arrangements with Marshall Spoo Sunset Funeral Chapel

SANTILLAN, ANTONIA, 64, of San Miguel passed away 3/25/2022 arrangements with Chapel of the Roses

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

SOTO, DANIEL, 73, of Santa Maria passed away 3/26/2022 arrangements with Dudley-Hoffman Mortuary, Crematory & Memory Gardens

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

WHITTAKER, BETTY, 78, of Grover Beach passed away 3/31/2022 arrangements with Marshall Spoo Sunset Funeral Chapel

WIIRRE, JANET EILEEN, 64, of Santa Margarita passed away 3/26/2022 arrangements with Chapel of the Roses

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

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Online Poll

What are your thoughts on a Santa Maria mobile home rent control ordinance?

- 52% It'd be great for mobile home residents because it makes rent less of a financial burden.
- 20% It's important because the city needs affordable housing options.
- 20% I don't think it's a good idea. It's the landowner's property and they should get to decide.
- 8% I don't live in a mobile home, and I don't care either way.

25 Votes

Vote online at www.santamariasun.com.

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Objective answers

Is Lompoc Mayor Jenelle Osborne really 'glossing over' the violence that's happening in Lompoc, as the Canary says?

BY RON FINK

A recent headline in the *Sun* reported, "Lompoc officials, community organizations respond to violent crimes through investment in public safety and youth violence prevention" ("Pieces of the puzzle," March 17), and a follow-up editorial opined that Mayor Jenelle "Osborne does a lot of glossing over of the violence that's happening in Lompoc"; and claimed that she was a "seasoned Democrat" ("Expert testimony," March 17), which is an opinion and not a fact.

There is a lot more to this story than just statistics, and it begins in the state Legislature. Let's try and take a different approach to this issue, then you may draw a different conclusion.

Before settlers arrived on the eastern shores of what is now the United States, groups of American Indians established small communities. They also established rules of behavior for their tribal members; violating these rules resulted in punishment. Thus, the first law enforcement agents and tribal courts began their work.

When European settlers arrived, they also formed communities, then cities, and they too created rules for their community to follow based on the Ten Commandments and English law and eventually had to hire, train, and equip constables, marshals, sheriffs, and police departments to investigate crime and capture the scofflaws.

Laws were created by governing bodies to address citizen concerns based on what they considered as bad behavior; assault, robbery, theft of horses and wagons, murder, and many other egregious actions were considered violations of the rules they established. Over the last couple of hundred

years, tens of thousands of laws have been passed to address citizen concerns.

Courts were established to give the scofflaws a chance to defend themselves and/or mete out punishment for their crimes when found guilty.

Today, a more permissive society has begun to question many of these laws; for example, "what harm is there in breaking someone's window or stealing a merchant's goods if no one is hurt" they ask. Sacramento lawmakers have responded by eliminating bail and reducing the punishment for many crimes like these.

When these crimes occur, rapid and decisive intervention by trained police officers in sufficient numbers is needed, and the solution is not just 'jobs, extracurricular activities, tutoring, and behavioral intervention,' as the study suggests.

But, if it's your window, then the harm is that you must pay to replace it, and if it's your goods shoplifted from your business, then you'll lose some of your income.

In September 2017 I observed in a commentary, "Broken windows; Lompoc is full of them." This commentary was based on a theory by social scientists James Q. Wilson and George Kelling in 1982 that used broken windows as a metaphor for addressing disorder within neighborhoods (see also: "Broken windows," July 29, 2021).

Expanding on the theory, they wrote, "If the first broken window in a building is not repaired, the people who like breaking windows will assume that no one cares about the building and more windows will be broken. Soon the building will have no windows." They argued that if minor crimes are not addressed, then criminals would be emboldened to commit more serious crimes.

There are several examples of the broken window theory in Lompoc, the state, and nationwide, and I don't mean just broken glass; they are so called quality-of-life crimes that can rot the core of society. Failing to take care of thefts, illegal camping, assaults, malicious property damage, shoplifting, and other crimes some people consider as "minor" seems to have led to a lack of concern by some people for the impact of their lawlessness.

The *Sun* reported that "in 2021, the city [Lompoc] saw five homicides, 29 rapes, and 760 assaults, which is an increase from 2020's rates of four homicides, 25 rapes, and 753 assaults."

The *Sun* editorial observed, "One of the strongest ways to prevent future violent crime from happening according to the City University of New York's John Jay College Research and Evaluation Center, is to add structure such as jobs, extracurricular activities, tutoring, and behavioral intervention to the lives of young people. So—not more police."

Each of those structural changes is important, but so is an adequately staffed, trained, and equipped police department. It's a simple fact of daily life in any community that some folks are prone to break the law; some with violent consequences for their victims. When these crimes occur, rapid and decisive intervention by trained police officers in sufficient numbers is needed, and the solution is not just "jobs, extracurricular activities, tutoring, and behavioral intervention," as the study suggests.

It's also a fact that other manpower-intensive incidents—such as mass evacuations, significant traffic accidents, searches for at-risk individuals and criminal investigations—demand the skills of several police officers. Last year the police chief provided a presentation to the City Council showing how Lompoc trailed and lagged behind in the officer-to-resident staffing ratio when compared to the national and state average.

The *Sun* also reported that Mayor Osborne said, "The fallout and downturn of the economy—it reached us in 2010—was the same time you saw law enforcement had a difficult time hiring and retaining people. By the time we hit a lack of funding and reduction in the staff, and the inability to maintain our task force . . . it [created] the perfect storm for drug- and gun-related crimes," and, "It's a growing process, and our growing process is being able to hire and recruit. We're thrilled we're able to send enough cadets through the academy and [get] them up to speed in our community. We've implemented changes in structural staffing with two lieutenants positions that can help with training and oversight."

As I read the *Sun* report, I couldn't see that Mayor Osborne was "glossing over" the violence that's happening in Lompoc; I saw that she provided objective answers to questions posed by the reporter based on her knowledge of crime in the last decade and steps the City Council is taking to address the issue. ☺

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

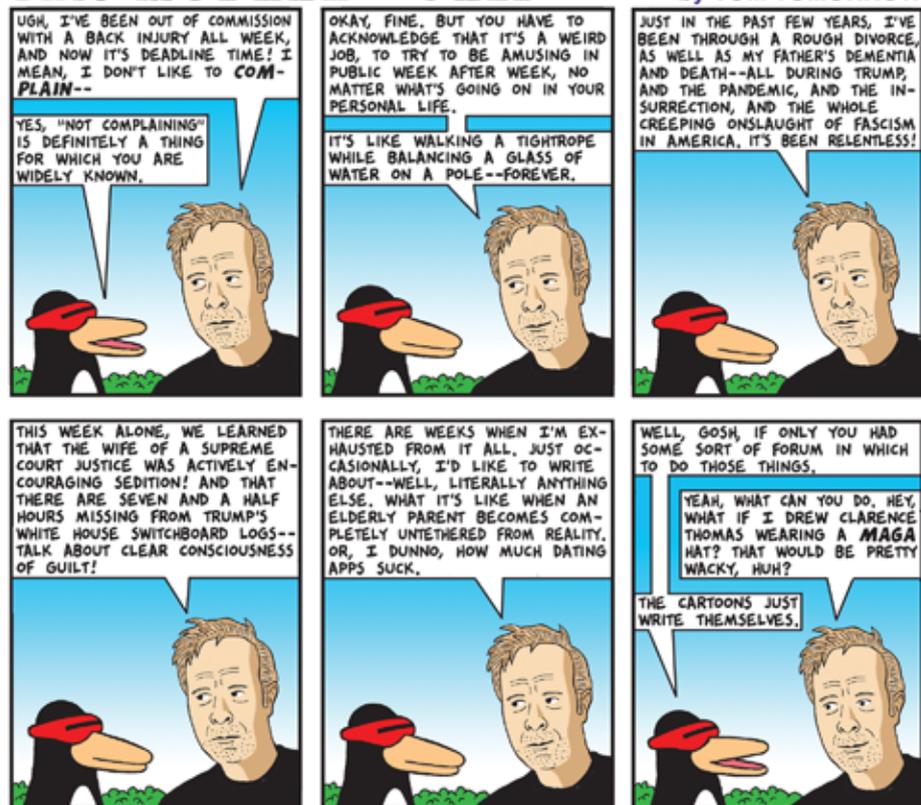
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THIS MODERN WORLD

by TOM TOMORROW



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Monday – Friday

Call, response?

Empty liquor bottles, bullets, and Porta-Potties aren't allowed on or near gravesites at the **Santa Maria Cemetery**. You're not allowed to drink alcohol or have a barbecue there either.

While that may sound like common sense, it apparently is not common knowledge—according to the Santa Maria Cemetery District, which posted a long PDF on its website responding to what it called “noise” surrounding the ... cemetery.”

“In addition to the objectionable activity surrounding the cemetery, there has been a definite increase in the number of unauthorized flowers/decorations on the cemetery grounds,” the PDF stated.

What exactly are “unauthorized flowers/decorations”? See “Rule and Regulations” on the cemetery website:

“All flowers must be kept within the cement border of the headstone.”

“Maximum height limit of 2 foot for decorations.”

“No graveside markers or monuments be installed by the public.”

I can't believe that the cemetery is so fed up with “unauthorized” mementos cluttering up its gravesites, that the district has taken to throwing out things like personalized crosses, American flags, and rocks with inspirational words on them—which don't appear to be on the “no” list posted on the cemetery's website.

Families are pissed, they feel targeted, and I don't blame them.

“I had a lot of problems with things disappearing; I thought it was the public, but it's not the public, it's [the manager],” said **Connie Branquinho**, whose son passed away in 2021.

She believes her problems started when the district's current manager, **Ron Jacobs**, took over last June. And Branquinho's not the only one complaining about items disappearing and disparaging treatment.

Fifth District Supervisor Steve Lavagnino chalks up a lot of the issues to communication problems. People don't necessarily understand the rules and regulations at the cemetery, and the enforcement of those regulations hasn't been as respectful as it should be, Lavagnino said. But it sounds like Jacobs might be a little overzealous in his enforcement, cleaning up items that shouldn't necessarily be cleaned up.

District board Chair Lee Diaz said they've spoken with Jacobs, who denied the allegations.

“There's been strange things dealing with him,” Diaz said. “He may have a little trouble working with people, [but] he's trying. He's new at it, and it's only been on for seven months.”

The regulations, Diaz said, have been in place since 2010, so why is it such a big deal all of a sudden? Maybe if the board gave the public more than five minutes to speak during the March 14 meeting's public comment period, it would have an answer.

A cemetery district employee told us there's so much chaos at work that he almost can't handle it: “It's a place where we need to have some kind of compassion, and it starts with the employees.”

Sounds like at least one district employee—the manager—might need to work on the compassionate part of managing a cemetery. And the board might want actually govern the cemetery, which means hearing out the public and responding to its concerns. ○

The Canary is overzealous with punditry. Send comments to canary@santamariasun.com.



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EYE OF THE BEHOLDER

New Perspectives, a seven-person group exhibition at Gallery Los Olivos, will remain on display through the end of April. This exhibit highlights a collection of works from gallery members who joined within the past five years. Call (805) 688-7517 or visit gallerylosolivos.com to find out more about New Perspectives. Gallery Los Olivos is open Thursday through Monday, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., and is located at 2920 Grand Ave., Los Olivos.

—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 EMIL MORHARDT

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 CHANGING 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.

NEW PERSPECTIVES Gallery Los Olivos presents a group exhibition of seven new gallery artists: Marcia Burt, Karen Scott Browdy, Sherri Cassell, Britt Friedman, Pamela Larsson-Toscher, Emil Morhardt, and Ginny Speirs. Mondays, Thursdays-Sundays, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. through April 30 805-688-7517. GalleryLosOlivos.com. Gallery Los Olivos, 2920 Grand Ave., Los Olivos.

SANTA MARIA VALLEY/LOS ALAMOS

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

LOCAL AND FEATURED ARTIST EXHIBITS Valley Art Gallery, located in the SM Airport, exhibits local and featured artist work. New exhibits are mounted the first Tuesday of even-numbered months. Wide variety of art available for purchase. 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. ongoing coelhomusic.com/index.html. Coelho Academy of Music, 325 E. Betteravia Rd., Santa Maria.

OPEN MIC POETRY NIGHT Corazón del Pueblo is hosting an open mic Poetry night in honor of National Poetry Month. **April 15**, 7-8 p.m. Free. 209-312-8653. tinyurl.com/PoetryNightApril. Cubanissimo Cuban Coffee House, 4869 S. Bradley Rd., #118, Orcutt.

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 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. ongoing Everybody Can Dance, 628 S. McClelland St., Santa Maria, 805-937-6753.

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

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

OPEN STUDIO FOR ADULTS Call to reserve. All materials included. Tuesdays, 6-9 p.m. and Wednesdays, 12:30-3:30

p.m. \$35. 805-668-2125. lila.community. Guests can come in and decide what materials they would like to work with and create freely. Share your creative process with others and see how your work will flourish. Tuesdays, 6-9 p.m. and Wednesdays, 12:30-3:30 p.m. \$40. 805-668-2125. Lila.community/. Lila Creative Community, 1147 East Grand Ave. suite 101, Arroyo Grande.

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

SAN LUIS OBISPO

ACTOR'S EDGE: ACTING CLASSES Actor's Edge offers film and television acting training in San Luis Obispo, plus exposure to Los Angeles talent agents. All ages and skill levels welcome. Classes available in SLO, LA, and on zoom. 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 Through April 30, 1-4 p.m. Free. 626-393-1750. actsofworship-art.com. Online, See website, 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.

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.

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. 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

SUBMIT YOUR EVENTS

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

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Dive In

OUR Changing CHANNEL

Explore the underwater world of the Santa Barbara Channel in our updated upstairs exhibit. Encounter a Two-spot Octopus, Moon Jellies, Giant Pacific Seahorses, a California Moray, and more. Learn about the channel's unique habitats from rocky reefs to kelp forests and see the animals that live there.



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CENTER**

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sbnature.org/seacenter

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docent tours. Saturdays, 11 a.m. Free. 805-543-8562. sloma.org. San Luis Obispo Museum of Art, 1010 Broad St., 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.

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

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

NASSIM From Iranian playwright Nassim Soleimanpour comes an audacious new theatrical experiment, wherein an audience member-turned-performer joins the playwright on stage while the unseen script awaits in a sealed box. **April 14**, 7:30-10 p.m. \$25-\$32. 805-756-4849. pacsllo.org/online/article/working22. Performing Arts Center, 1 Grand Ave., San Luis Obispo.

COURTESY PHOTO BY RYLO MEDIA DESIGN, RYAN C. LOYD



STAGE PRESENCE

Performances of SLO Rep's latest production, Every Brilliant Thing, are scheduled to run through Sunday, April 10. This one-man show stars Kevin Harris as an unnamed protagonist who reflects on his life and his list of things worth living for. Visit slorep.org for tickets and more info on the show. SLO Rep is located at 888 Morro St., San Luis Obispo.

—C.W.

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

PARSONS DANCE COMPANY Performing works based on the vast repertoire 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. pacsllo.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. Through 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 SLOMA's Mission Plaza double doors. Second Saturday of every month, 11 a.m.-1 p.m. through Dec.

10 Free. 805-543-8562. sloma.org/events/second-saturdays/. San Luis Obispo Museum of Art, 1010 Broad St., San Luis Obispo.

SLO GALLERY ARTISTS View new works by California painters, photographers, sculptors and craftmakers at SLO Gallery. Thursdays-Sundays, 12-4 p.m. through June 30 Free. 805-926-5050. slogallery.com. SLO Gallery, 1019 Broad Street, San Luis Obispo.

SLO NIGHTWRITERS: A COMMUNITY OF WRITERS SLO NightWriters supports local writers with monthly presentations, critique groups, contests, and other events. Second Tuesday of every month, 6:30-8 p.m. Free. 805-703-3132. slonightwriters.org. Online, See website, 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. Through 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. pacsllo.org/online/article/cpopera22. Performing Arts Center, 1 Grand Ave., San Luis Obispo.

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

NORTH SLO COUNTY

BOOK BINDING WORKSHOP

In this class, you'll be learning a technique that utilizes a needle and sturdy, waxed thread to attach the bundles of artist quality drawing paper together. **April 10**, 12-4 p.m. \$55. 805-464-0533. the1artery.com. The ARTery, 5890 Traffic Way, Atascadero.

DEPRISE BRESCIA ART GALLERY: OPEN DAILY

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

THE EYE OF THE NEXT GENERATION

Featured photographers were encouraged to showcase their skills in the following categories: landscape, floral, animal, portrait, city/urban,

and still life. Through May 2 Studios on the Park, 1130 Pine St., Paso Robles, 805-238-9800, studiosonthePark.org.

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 13**, 6-8 p.m. \$100. 805-464-2633. glassheadstudio.com. Glasshead Studio, 8793 Plata Lane, Suite H, Atascadero.

PASO ROBLES ART IN THE PARK

The event showcases 135 fine artists and craft designers. **April 9**, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. and **April 10**, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. pasoroblesartinthepark.com. Downtown City Park, 11th and Spring St., Paso Robles.

STUDIOS ON THE PARK: CLASSES AND WORKSHOPS

Check site for a variety of classes and workshops offered. studiosonthePark.org. Studios on the Park, 1130 Pine St., Paso Robles, 805-238-9800.

NORTH COAST SLO COUNTY

ALLISON REIMUS: FEELINGS IN A FAMILIAR FRAMEWORK

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

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.

ARTS continued page 16

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ATTENTION all former SMJUHS Special Education Students born 1996 and 1997!

All records for any Special Education student that was born within 1996 -1997 and attended a Santa Maria Joint Union High School District school, your physical special education records are available for pick up at no charge from the District Office. All Records not picked up by June 1, 2022 will be destroyed.

If you have any questions, or to arrange a pickup date/time, contact:

Sandra Hernandez / Special Education Dept.
Santa Maria Joint Union High School District
2560 Skyway Dr.
Santa Maria, CA 93455
805-922-457 ext. 4311

SPANISH TRANSLATION

ATENCIÓN estudiantes anteriores de SMJUHS nacidos en 1996 y 1997!

Todos los registros de cualquier estudiante de Educación Especial que haya nacido dentro de 1996 -1997 y asistió a una escuela del Distrito Escolar de las escuelas preparatorias de Santa Maria, sus registros físicos de educación especial están disponibles para recoger sin cargo en la Oficina del Distrito. Todos los registros que no hayan sido recogidos para el 1 de junio de 2022 serán destruidos.

Si tiene alguna pregunta, o para programar una fecha/hora de recogida, comuníquense con:

Sandra Hernandez / Dept. de Educacion Especial
Santa Maria Joint Union High School District
2560 Skyway Dr.
Santa Maria, CA 93455
805-922-457 ext. 4311

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What's Your Take?

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

This week's online poll 4/7 - 4/14

What do you think should change at the Santa Maria Cemetery?

- The manager, he sounds like he's difficult to work with.
- The board of trustees should be replaced with new members.
- Rules and regulations should be updated for a more modern approach.
- Nothing needs to be updated—the cemetery is fine as it is.

Enter your choice online at:
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.

With limited water resources, Cachuma Lake is down to just 53% of its capacity, and no end in sight, it's time to hit the pause button on new cannabis cultivation and save our water.



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for responsible cannabis

Join the Fight
and Learn More at:
sbcountycoalition.com

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.

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.

CRAFTS BY JANE SIRAGUSA: GALLERY AT MARINA SQUARE Jane Siragusa is an artist on the Central Coast living in Morro Bay. She creates paintings, collage, sculpture, and jewelry. Through April 29, 11 a.m.-5 p.m. 805-772-1068. galleryatmarinasquare.com. Gallery at Marina Square, 601 Embarcadero suite 10, 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. Through April 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.

GALLERY AT MARINA SQUARE: FINE ART PAINTING BY SHERIL VIAU Sheril Viau's vibrant, detailed, uplifting watercolors are inspired by her many travels. Through April 29 Free. 805-772-1068. galleryatmarinasquare.com. Gallery at Marina Square, 601 Embarcadero suite 10, Morro Bay.

LOVE: OPEN HEARTS, OPEN MINDS This exhibit is open to the public. **April 7-May 23**, 12-4 p.m. Free. 805-772-2504. artcentermorrobay.org. Art Center Morro Bay, 835 Main St., Morro Bay.

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

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

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, have an ongoing show of originals and giclee prints of Morro Bay and local birds. ongoing 805-772-9955. Seven Sisters Gallery, 601 Embarcadero Ste. 8, Morro Bay, 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.

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. partnersincaring.org. Citywide, Santa Maria.

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

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

DISCOVERY MUSEUM'S FREE FAMILY KITE FESTIVAL Central Coast residents of all ages will send hundreds of brightly colored kites soaring into the sky at the annual Free Family Kite Festival. **April 16**, 12-4 p.m. Free. 805-928-8414. smvdiscoverymuseum.org. Rotary Centennial Park, 2625 South College Dr., Santa Maria.

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

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

FILE PHOTO COURTESY OF FESTIVAL MOZAIC



THE SOUND OF MOZAIC

Festival Mozaic presents artist-in-residence and violinist Abigel Kralik, live in concert, at the Harold J. Miossi Cultural and Performing Arts Center in SLO on Saturday, April 16, at 7:30 p.m. Musicians Matthew Lipman, Sterling Elliot, and Julia Hamos will accompany Kralik during this performance. Tickets to the show start at \$35. Call (805) 781-3009 or visit festivalmozaic.org for more details.

—C.W.

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 16**, 11:45 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. Varies. Unwind Studio, 130 N. Broadway, suite B, Santa Maria, 805-748-2539, unwindsantamaria.com.

SOUTH COAST SLO COUNTY

BIRD HIKE WITH THE GUADALUPE-NIPOMO DUNES CENTER A bird hike through Oso Flaco Lake, through the dunes, and out to the ocean (about 3 miles round trip). **April 16**, 8-10 a.m. my805tix.com. Oso Flaco Lake Natural Area, Oso Flaco Lake Rd., Nipomo, 805-343-2455.

CENTRAL CORE WEEKEND WELLNESS Features creative Pilates workouts, an archery class, a gourmet cooking class, dinner, beach walks, and more. The small event (just 12 people) is open to everyone and all fitness levels. **April 9**, 10 a.m.-6 p.m. and **April 10**, 10 a.m.-1 p.m. \$325. 805-295-9505. mpspost.wordpress.com/events-2/. Central Core, 1160 Price Street, Pismo Beach.

EASTER EGG-STRAVAGANZA This free event will include games, bounce houses, crafts, food vendors, visits with the Easter Bunny, and more. There will also

CULTURE & LIFESTYLE continued page 18

**The San Luis Obispo
Noor Foundation
is looking for new
volunteers!**

SLO Noor's mission is to provide quality medical, dental, and vision care for uninsured adults in SLO County. They are always in need of new volunteers to help with clerical work, data entry, office tasks, as well as any professionals in their fields (doctors, dentists, optometrists, eye techs, etc.)

No prior experience in a healthcare setting needed! SLO Noor provides its volunteers with hands-on training, flexible scheduling, and strict protocols to keep all their volunteers safe. All ages welcome!



Interested? Want to find out more?

For more information, email volunteer@slonoorfoundation.org or visit our website at slonoorfoundation.org/volunteer/

Go Green IN THE Spring

The City of Santa Maria Utilities Department is providing City residents with a **FREE landscape burlap and three MPR1000 Rotator sprinklers and anti-leak sprinkler bodies.**

This promotion is to remind all homeowners, gardeners, and landscapers to **Go Green in**

the Spring

by pulling weeds and collecting

clippings to spruce up the landscape, planting drought-tolerant plants to conserve water, and regularly checking irrigation sprinklers and outdoor faucets to address any leaks.

Promotion available while supplies last. Call to reserve today.



One (1)
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Sat, Apr 23 7:30pm

All the Eagles songs that you love!



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The Perondi's Stunt Dog Experience
Sat, May 21 at 3pm & 7pm

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www.clarkcenter.org

CULTURE & LIFESTYLE
from page 16

be a magician to give an egg-citing show at 10:30 a.m. and noon in the Rotary Amphitheater at the park. **April 16**, 10 a.m.-1 p.m. 805-773-7063. pismobeach.org/recreation. Dinosaur Caves Park, 2701 Price St, Pismo Beach.

PAULDING AT THE PARK A chance to meet Jimmy Paulding in person. Hear why he is running for supervisor and his plans for South County. **April 10**, 2-4 p.m. Free. 805-994-0025. jimmypaulding.org/. Nipomo Regional Park, 255 Pomeroy Road, Nipomo.

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

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

SAN LUIS OBISPO

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

BUNNY TRAIL AT THE DOWNTOWN SLO FARMERS' MARKET Hop into spring at the Downtown SLO Farmers' Market. This event is free, family-friendly, and open to the public. Please RSVP on Facebook. **April 14**, 6-8 p.m. Free. 805-541-0286. downtownslo.com. Downtown SLO, Higuera 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 LONG BEACH STATE Cal Poly opens a Big West series against Long Beach State at Baggett Stadium. **April 8**, 6 p.m. gopoly.com/. Baggett Stadium, 1 Grand Ave., San Luis Obispo, 805-756-7297.

CAL POLY BASEBALL VS LONG BEACH STATE: GAME 2 Don't miss the second game between Cal Poly and Long Beach State at Baggett Stadium. **April 9**, 4 p.m. gopoly.com/. Baggett Stadium, 1 Grand Ave., San Luis Obispo, 805-756-7297.

CAL POLY BASEBALL VS LONG BEACH STATE: YOUTH DAY It's Youth Day, so all kids ages 13 and under get in for free and can run the bases after the game. **April 10**, 1 p.m. Free for kids. gopoly.com/. Baggett Stadium, 1 Grand Ave., San Luis Obispo, 805-756-7297.

FREE ADMISSION DAY AT THE GARDEN The SLO Botanical Garden is having a free admission day. **April 9**, 9 a.m.-5 p.m. San Luis Obispo Botanical Garden, 3450 Dairy Creek Rd., San Luis Obispo, 8055411400.

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

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

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

SLO LEZ B FRIENDS (VIRTUALLY VIA ZOOM) A good core group of friends who gather to discuss topics we love/ care about from movies, outings, music, or



BEST IN THE WEST

The Lompoc Pops Orchestra presents a Western-themed concert at the First United Methodist Church on Monday, April 11, at 7:30 p.m. Featured selections will include tunes from Rodgers and Hammerstein, Aaron Copeland, and other composers. General admission is \$20. Children ages 12 and under get in for free. Call (805) 733-1796 for more info. The First United Methodist Church is located at 925 N. F St., Lompoc.

—C.W.

being new to the area. We come from all walks of life and most importantly support each other. Transgender and Nonbinary folks welcome. Third Friday of every month, 6:30-9 p.m. Free. sloqueer.groups.io/g/lezbfriends. Online, See website, San Luis Obispo.

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

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

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

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

WOMEN'S GOLF BIG WEST CHAMPIONSHIPS Come watch Cal Poly Women's Golf compete in the Big West Championships. **April 10, April 11 and April 12** Free. gopoly.com/sports/womens-golf. San Luis Obispo Golf and Country Club, 255 Country Club, San Luis Obispo, (805) 543-3400.

FOOD & DRINK

SANTA YNEZ VALLEY

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

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

TREAD AND FRIENDS THURSDAY Every Thursday in April, Zaca Mesa is offering one complimentary TREAD wine tasting with the purchase of another TREAD wine tasting. Thursdays, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. through April 29 \$30. 805-688-9339. zacamesa.com/upcoming-events/. Zaca Mesa Winery, 6905 Foxen Canyon Road, Los Olivos.

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, 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.

SAN LUIS OBISPO

WINE 4 PAWS WEEKEND TO BENEFIT WOODS HUMANE SOCIETY Join forces with more than 50 SLO County wineries to raise funds for Woods Humane Society. Pick your option for support: visit in person, or order online. **April 9-10 and April 10** No cost to attend. 805-801-6589. wine4paws.com. Participating wineries, County-wide, SLO County.

MUSIC

SANTA YNEZ VALLEY

THE BRIAN TITUS TRIO LIVE April 8, 8-11 p.m. Maverick Saloon, 3687 Sagunto St., Santa Ynez, 805-686-4785, mavericksaloon.org.

GREG ADAMS AND EAST BAY SOUL Solvang Theaterfest presents Greg Adams and East Bay Soul, former Tower of Power members, who deliver a sensational blend of funk, soul, jazz, and R&B, creating "a recipe of musical magic and wizardry in every song." **April 16**, 6-8 p.m. \$27 (\$3 processing fee). 805-686-1789. Kalyra Winery, 343 N. Refugio Rd., Santa Ynez.

JIMMY RANKIN LIVE April 10, 12-4 p.m. 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.

NATALY LOLA LIVE April 13, 5-7 p.m. Brick Barn Wine Estate, 795 W. Hwy 246, Buellton, 805-686-1208, brickbarnwineestate.com.

PULL THE TRIGGER LIVE April 9, 8:30-11:30 p.m. Maverick Saloon, 3687 Sagunto St., Santa Ynez, 805-686-4785, mavericksaloon.org.

MUSIC continued page 20



**SLO County Jazz Federation:
Ben Rosenblum Jazz Trio**
SATURDAY, APRIL 9
Mt. Carmel Lutheran Church, SLO



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



**Mo Betta Jazz: Send One
Your Love Jazz Concert**
TUESDAY, APRIL 12
The Penny, SLO



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



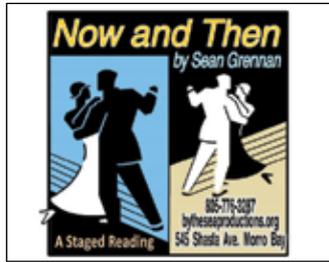
**Docent-Led Bird Hike
at Oso Flaco Lake**
SATURDAY, APRIL 16
Oso Flaco Lake, Arroyo Grande



**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, 23, 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



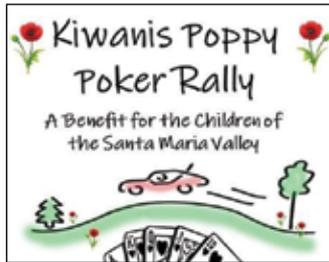
The Cheeseballs
FRIDAY, APRIL 22
Charley's LG,
Los Gatos, CA



**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



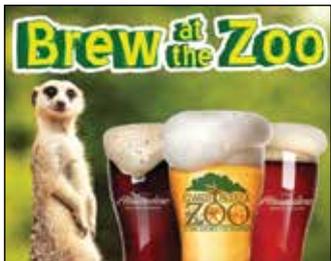
**Indulge In
Wine and Cheese**
SUNDAY, APRIL 24
Cass Winery, Paso Robles



**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



**By the Sea Productions:
Fireflies**
FRI, SAT, SUN, MAY 6, 7, 8
545 Shasta Ave, Morro Bay



**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



**Barrel Room Concert:
Cuesta Ridge**
SUNDAY, MAY 22
Cass Winery, Paso Robles

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PAUL RODRIGUEZ

APRIL 22 | FRIDAY | 8PM



JUANES

MAY 14 | SATURDAY | 8PM



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THERESA CAPUTO

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FRANKIE VALLI
AND THE FOUR SEASONS

FRANKIE VALLI

AUGUST 19 | FRIDAY | 8PM

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

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SALE
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MARCH 17 - APRIL 30



Bring this coupon with you for
A FREE LARGE POPCORN
with paid reservation
expires: 4/14/22

MUSIC from page 18

RANDY LEDUNE LIVE April 9, 1-5 p.m. Maverick Saloon, 3687 Sagunto St., Santa Ynez, 805-686-4785, mavericksaloon.org.

RODNEY CROWELL LIVE Part of the Tales from the Tavern series. **April 13**, 7:30 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.

LOMPOC/VANDENBERG

LOMPOC POPS ORCHESTRA: SPRING CONCERT The Central Coast's highly acclaimed 55-piece Lompoc Pops Orchestra presents a fun-filled evening of country and western music. **April 11**, 7:30-9 p.m. \$20 general admission; \$5 students; free for ages 12 and under. 805-733-1074. First United Methodist Church, 925 North F St., Lompoc.

SANTA MARIA VALLEY/LOS ALAMOS

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.

FORT VINE LIVE Part of a series showcasing touring artists performing original music in the genres of contemporary folk, acoustic, country, and Americana. **April 17**, 6:30 p.m. my805tix.com. Unity Chapel of Light Church, 1165 Stubblefield Rd., Orcutt.



HOAPILI POMAIIKA'I ALOHA PRESENTS WAIPUNA: LIVE IN CONCERT The Central Coast Hoapili Pomaika'i Aloha hula group is proud to welcome back Waipuna, in concert. With dramatic musical arrangements and progressive instrumentation, Waipuna's one-of-a-kind sound combines the traditional teachings of their mentors and expands the boundaries of today's Hawaiian music. Call for tickets. **April 15**, 7-9 p.m. \$25. 805-363-5863. waipunaonline.com/. Unity Chapel of Light Church, 1165 Stubblefield Rd., Orcutt.

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.

SOUTH COAST SLO COUNTY

FOREVER GREEN BAND: LIVE AT PUFFERS OF PISMO Features a special guest. **April 9**, 5:30-7 p.m. Free. Puffers of Pismo, 781 Price St., Pismo Beach, puffersofpismo.com.

SAN LUIS OBISPO

THE BEN ROSENBLUM JAZZ TRIO LIVE Presented by the SLO Jazz Federation. **April 9**, 7:30 p.m. my805tix.com. Mount Carmel Lutheran Church, 1701 Fredericks St., San Luis Obispo, 805-544-2133.

METALACHI LIVE April 9, 7:30 p.m. SLO Brew Rock, 855 Aerovista Pl., San Luis Obispo, 805-543-1843, slobrew.com.

THE ROMEROS The Romeros encompass three generations of gifted classical guitarists whose glorious sound has delighted audiences and won the raves of music critics worldwide for more than 60 years. **April 10**, 7-9:30 p.m. \$24-\$65. 805-756-4849. pac slo.org/online/article/romeros22. Performing Arts Center, 1 Grand Ave., San Luis Obispo.

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

SEND ONE YOUR LOVE: JAZZ CONCERT Mo Betta Jazz Productions presents renowned jazz vocalist Deborah Gilmore, along with a local star studded combo. **April 12**, 6:45 p.m. \$20 (includes dessert and beverage); \$30 (includes dinner and beverage). my805tix.com. The Penny, 664 Marsh St., San Luis Obispo.



APR 29TH, 30TH & MAY 1ST

KID'S ART CONTEST

OPEN TO 1ST-8TH GRADERS,
MUST ATTEND SCHOOL IN
NORTHERN SANTA BARBARA COUNTY TO BE ELIGIBLE

Requirements:

Paper size must be 8 1/2" x 11" with a strawberry image brought to life by design and creativity, recommended pattern attached. Entry must include – *Student's name, phone number, address and grade, teacher's name, phone number, school name, and address on the backside of entry.* Artists may use any colorful medium that includes, but is not limited to markers, paint, colored pencils or crayons. No computer-generated or enhanced artwork will be accepted.

Criteria of Judging:

Entries will be judged according to grade category. Grade categories are as follows: Grades 1st – 3rd
4th – 6th, 7th – 8th,
Entries will be judged on the following three criteria:

1. Originality
2. Artistic composition
3. Relevant content

Restrictions on entry:

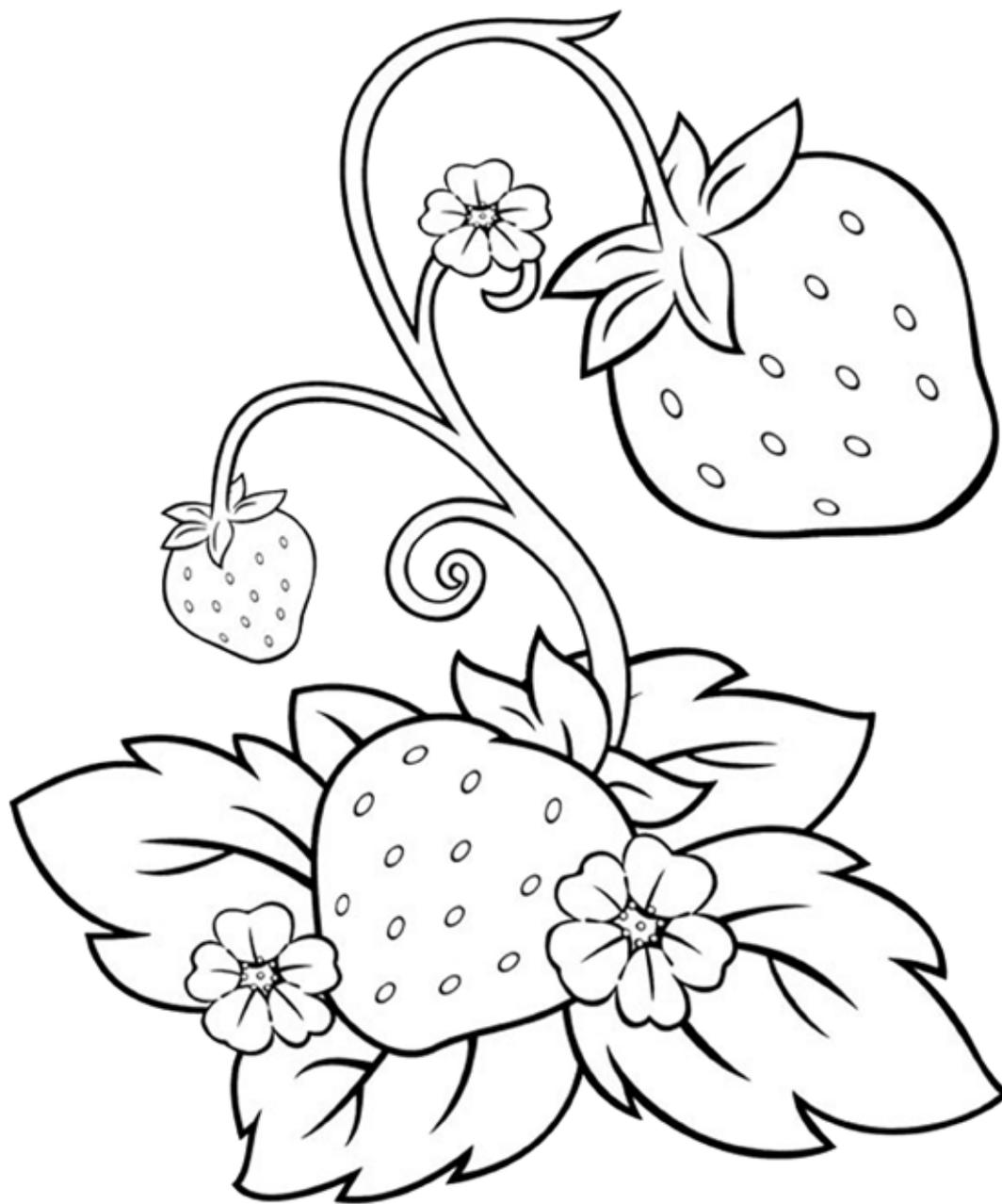
The artwork must depict images appropriate for children to view. The design must be the contestant's own original creation and may not be copied, traced or duplicated from previously published art, including photographs. Submissions must have been completed within the month of March 2022 through April 15, 2022. Selection and ownership of contest entries: All entries become the property of the Santa Maria Fairpark and artwork will not be returned to the artist.

Prizes:

The 1st place winners, in each grade category will receive a \$25 gift card and a Family Fun Pack for 4 to the 2022 Santa Maria Valley Strawberry Festival. The 1st place winner's classroom will also receive a \$150 gift card for classroom supplies.

Contest Deadlines:

All entries must be submitted to the Santa Maria Fairpark at 937 S. Thornburg St., Santa Maria CA 93458, by 5 p.m. on Friday, April 15, 2022.



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For questions, please call
(805) 925-8824 x108 or visit us at
www.santamariafairpark.com

Arts Briefs

Santa Maria Ameriprise showcases photos from local photographer Kathleen Gerber

COURTESY PHOTO BY KATHLEE



A meet-the-artist reception for Kathleen Gerber, whose photographs are displayed in a new exhibit at Santa Maria Ameriprise, will be held on Thursday, April 7, from 4 to 6 p.m. This exhibit is part of an ongoing series curated by Terry Dworaczyk, private wealth advisor at Santa Maria Ameriprise, to showcase local art and artists in the area, according to press materials.

The showcase includes a collection of photos taken during Gerber's multiple trips to Africa.

"I have found myself drawn to travel photography and photo essays since still photography is a powerful way to translate conditions and experiences between different cultures," Gerber said in a statement.

Proceeds from the exhibit will benefit projects in Africa associated with the African Millennium Foundation and other causes. To find out more about Gerber's work as a photographer, visit kgerberphoto.com. Santa Maria Ameriprise is located at 2605 S. Miller St., suite 104, Santa Maria.

PCPA presents *Into the Woods* at the Marian Theatre

COURTESY PHOTO BY LUIS ESCOBAR, REFLECTIONS PHOTOGRAPHY STUDIO



The Pacific Conservatory Theatre's (PCPA) next production, *Into the Woods*, debuts at the Marian Theatre in Santa Maria on Thursday, April 28, and is scheduled to run through Sunday, May 15. The plot of this popular musical interweaves a variety of classic fairy tale and storybook characters, including Cinderella, Little Red Riding Hood, and the Big Bad Wolf.

Roger DeLaurier, the director of this upcoming iteration of *Into the Woods*, described the musical as a "fascinating, funny, and heartfelt piece of theatre," in press materials from PCPA.

"The density of ideas, lyrics, music, and plot make *Into the Woods* a wonderful challenge for us as a company and for our audiences," DeLaurier said in a statement.

The cast of *Into the Woods* includes Kitty Balay, Christen Celaya, Jennie Greenberry, Eduardo Enriquez, Emily Trask, Erik Stein, and George Walker. The show is choreographed by Jay Brennehan and features sets designed by Jason Bolen and costumes by Sara Curran Ice. A special talkback event, featuring a post-show Q-and-A with the cast and crew, is scheduled to be held after the May 13 performance.

Tickets to *Into the Woods* range between \$33.50 and \$50. Later this summer, the production will be reprised at the Solvang Festival Theater Thursday, Aug. 11, through Sunday, Sept. 4. For more info on both the spring and summer runs of the show, visit pcpa.org.

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

COURTESY IMAGES BY VICKI ANDERSEN



Showtime!

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



SOURCE MATERIAL: One of Vicki Andersen's most recent paintings, *Glory in the Flower*, was based on a photograph she either took during "the late '80s or early '90s," she guesses but can't say for sure. The piece shares a title with Andersen's latest solo exhibit, *Glory in the Flower*, at Cypress Gallery.

Pedal to the petals

Lompoc artist Vicki Andersen brings flower-centric paintings to Cypress Gallery

BY CALEB WISEBLOOD

When it comes to painting, Vicki Andersen constantly draws inspiration from her own photographs. The Lompoc-based artist has a "humongous stack" of photos—taken at various times over the past four decades—she'll peruse before picking the subject of her next acrylic piece, she said.

One of Andersen's most recent paintings, *Glory in the Flower*, was based on a photo she took during either "the late '80s or early '90s," she guesses but can't say for sure. The colorful painting depicts a young girl standing in the middle of a vast flower field.

"I've been taking pictures of the flower fields since we first got here," said Andersen, who moved with her husband and family to Lompoc in 1979 and hasn't left since.

Back then, "the City of Arts and Flowers" felt enveloped in flowers, with flower fields "as far as the eye can see," Andersen recalled.

"At one point, Lompoc was the flower seed capital of the world. We were here on, I don't want to say the tail end of it, but kind of when it was starting to wane," Andersen said. "It used to be field after field after field. ... Out over the valley, towards the ocean, it was like a giant patchwork quilt with all these different fields of different flowers."

Glory in the Flower, based on one of the flower fields Andersen has fond memories of, is featured in the local artist's latest solo exhibit, which shares the same name as the painting. The phrase was lifted from one of Andersen's favorite poems, "Splendour in the Grass," by William Wordsworth.

The English poet's "glory in the flower" line reverberated "in the back of my brain," Andersen said, when she decided on the flower theme for her new show, which is currently on display at the Cypress Gallery and is scheduled to run through April 24.

Alongside the exhibit's titular piece, *Glory in the Flower* highlights a collection of similarly vibrant paintings with different kinds of flowers at the forefront. Other pieces in Andersen's show include *Rose Fence* and *Hollyhock Splash*.

Andersen is excited for the exhibit's young viewers to experience Lompoc the way she loves to remember it and hopes the "old-timers" will appreciate her reverence for the city's sprawling flower fields of the past. Lompoc still has flower fields of course, the artist said, just not as many as it used to.

As a painter, Andersen's goal is simply to adapt the source photograph she's working from with bright, colorful vibrancy.

"I don't have a lot of hidden meaning or a big story behind my work," said the artist,

Path to glory

The Lompoc Valley Art Association presents *Glory in the Flower*, a showcase of paintings by local artist Vicki Andersen, which will run through April 24 at Cypress Gallery, located at 119 E. Cypress Ave., Lompoc. Visit lompocart.org for more info.

whose passion for painting started after she was given a set of oils, brushes, and an easel on her 16th birthday. "I like color and I like the way light affects it."

One interesting trend Andersen has discovered over her decade-long painting career is that no matter what kind of music she puts on in the background while working, it won't influence her art.

"I'm not affected by music. When I listen to music while I'm painting, I tune it out. I don't hear it," Andersen said. "If I play something somber, it doesn't make my work dark. I tuned it out. I don't hear it once I get it going. I can put on 'Hotel California' on repeat all day and it doesn't affect what I'm doing."

Andersen especially loves listening to film soundtracks while she paints. Some of her favorite scores include *The Alamo* (1960), *Out of Africa*, and *La La Land*.

One of Andersen's favorite compliments she's ever received about her artwork came from

someone who said he heard music while looking at her paintings.

"To think someone's heard music when they looked at my work, I thought, bless his heart, that is so sweet," Andersen said. ○

One of Arts Editor Caleb Wiseblood's favorite CDs to put in while driving is *La La Land*. Send comments to cwiseblood@santamariasun.com.



ROSE-COLORED LENSES: Local artist Vicki Andersen's current show at Cypress Gallery, *Glory in the Flower*, highlights a colorful collection of vibrant paintings with various kinds of flowers at the forefront.



ARTS AND FLOWERS: "I've been taking pictures of the flower fields since we first got here," said Vicki Andersen, who moved with her husband and family to Lompoc in 1979 and bases her paintings on her own photographs.

SAT APR
16
7:30 PM

Performing Arts Center
Cuesta College

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MOZAIC

2021/22 SEASON

**ABIGEL
KRALIK**

Hungarian-American Violinist

MOZAIC ARTIST-IN-RESIDENCE

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EARTH DAY 2022

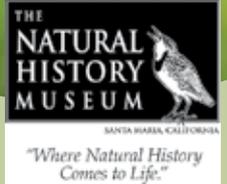
"Backyard Transformations"

- Composting
- Veggie starts
- Native plant starts
- Pollinator gardening
- Questions about recycling?
- Mr. Biggers Student Ukulele Band
- Great tacos
- Zoo to You
- Crafts for Kids



FREE EVENT
Sunday, April 24th
Noon-3PM

Sponsored by



The Natural History Museum

412 S. McClelland Street, Santa Maria
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**BEN ROSENBLUM
JAZZ TRIO**

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Folk horror

In his feature-length debut, writer-director Goran Stolevski helms this horror story set in a secluded 19th century Macedonian mountain village. An infant named Nevena is promised to Maria (Anamaria Marinca), a “wolfeateress” witch, upon the child’s 16th birthday. Hoping to protect her daughter from her fate, her mother (Irena Risti) locks her in a grotto, leaving her to turn nearly feral from the isolation. The plan fails and the witch returns to claim the young woman (Sara Klimoska), turning her into a witch and teaching her how to inhabit the bodies of her victims. Fascinated about the human life she was denied, the new witch inhabits a series of people, learning what it means to be human. (in old Macedonian; 108 min.)



PHOTO COURTESY OF CAUSEWAY FILMS

INSIDE OUT: Noomi Repace stars as Bosilka, one of several 19th century Macedonian villagers serially inhabited by a witch called Nevena, in writer-director Goran Stolevski’s unsettling new horror film, *You Won’t Be Alone*.

Glen: Stolevski is surely a student of Terrance Malick’s films. He approaches this story in the same meandering way, with close-ups of faces, a deep fascination and examination of the natural world, and a Mark Bradshaw soundtrack that sounds like the atmospheric music Malick would use. Even though this is billed as a horror film and includes some very grisly gore, this is a meditation on what it means to be human, societal gender roles, and the rewards of being moral. When Nevena inhabits Bosilka (Noomi Repace), she discovers women’s second-class status, inhabiting a man she learns of toxic male preference, and as a young girl she learns of parental love. Maria thought she had bargained for a companion, but Nevena lacks the old witch’s bitterness and is a disappointment to her. Maria also wonders at Nevena’s ability to inhabit humans without being discovered as an imposter—something she tried but clearly couldn’t do. This is a different sort of horror film from the typical. For comparison’s sake, think Lars von Trier’s *Antichrist* (2009), Robert Eggers’ *The Witch* (2015), or Ari Aster’s *Hereditary* (2018) or

Midsommar (2019). It’s not going to appeal to everyone, but I found it fascinating and beautifully crafted.

Anna: The language and translation is also really interesting. Narrated by Nevena—who is mute after Maria takes her tongue as a baby—it’s lyrical and poetic, like water washing over pebbles and roots down a meandering stream. It offers a fascinating perspective on the world from someone who was denied it. The film is gruesome and visceral in many moments—I definitely covered my eyes in a few scenes of animal slaughter—but certainly a different kind of horror film nonetheless. When Nevena sees how Maria shape-shifts, she realizes that there’s opportunity for her to experience life not as an exile, but as part of a community. The brutality of society is at times just as ugly as Maria’s wretched soul, but Nevena manages to learn through all of it—both the pleasantries of life and the incredible pain humanity holds as well. Later in the film we learn how Maria came to be in the form she is now—a monstrous creature

full of vindictive jealousy. She can’t understand why the world has accepted Nevena in her various forms, and she is determined to ruin any and every life Nevena tries to lead besides one as an outcast like Maria. This may be one of those films that’s “a little too weird” for some, but I’m with you. I thought it was wonderfully executed.

Glen: Maria is positively loathsome, and even after we learn of her backstory, I still couldn’t conjure much empathy. She’s mean to the bone. Nevena, on the other hand, even though she’s killing people, is very worthy of empathy. The reason she can pass as a human is because somewhere inside her humanity still exists. The film’s title is fitting. Maria is cursed to walk the world alone because she’s unworthy of companionship. She has nothing to give but desolation. Through inhabiting others, Nevena learns to love, and in doing so, she earns the joy of fellowship. The film closes with a heart-tugging jolt and maybe a small hope that Maria’s cruel legacy may come to a close.

Anna: While Maria seems to kill for the joy of it, Nevena stumbles into the bodies she inhabits out of self-preservation and accidents. She isn’t cruel for the sake of cruelty like Maria, instead soft and childlike in her core. While her mother may have been trying to protect her, the damages of Nevena’s isolation leave her vulnerable and scared. All she wants is a chance to live life again in a way that bonds her to those around her, but Maria can’t stand the idea of Nevena’s happiness. She’s evil through and through, a very easy villain to hate. It’s just a haunting tale overall. If you enjoyed the films Glen mentioned above, catch this one at the Palm—it is well worth a watch. ○

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

YOU WON'T BE ALONE

What’s it rated? **R**
 What’s it worth, Anna? **Full price**
 What’s it worth, Glen? **Full price**
 Where’s it showing? **Palm Theatre in SLO**

TV Reviews

UNDERCURRENT: THE DISAPPEARANCE OF KIM WALL

What’s it rated? **TV-MA** When? **2022**
 Where’s it showing? **HBO Max**

In 2020, HBO released *The Investigation*, a six-part Danish series detailing the investigation of journalist Kim Wall’s mysterious murder onboard a privately owned submarine. It must have gone over well because the story comes once again to HBO in *Undercurrent: The Disappearance of Kim Wall*.

Wall’s murder and the man behind it captured the world’s attention as more bizarre and horrifying facts came to light. In this two-part series, filmmaker Erin Lee Carr attempts to weave the story once again. Featuring interviews with the journalists who covered the story and friends of both the victim and the perpetrator, this series attempts to tell the stories of the people involved more in depth, Wall in particular. It talks of her journalism career, a calling by all accounts she couldn’t imagine life without.

Later in the series, we hear from those who knew Kim’s murderer, Peter Madsen. He was an inventor whose eccentric personality and ideas made him a minor celebrity. What lay



PHOTO COURTESY OF ABSTRACT AND ANCHOR ENTERTAINMENT

MAD GENIUS: Peter Madsen, a Danish inventor, built his own rockets and a submarine, but he also had a sick fascination with murder and dismemberment, which came to fruition when journalist Kim Wall joined him on his sub, chronicled in the two-part HBO Max series *Undercurrent*.

below the surface was a much darker story. If you don’t know anything about this case, this series may be a good place to start. While I much prefer the 2020 series to this new release, true-crime junkies will be glad for another telling of this bizarre tale, even if it doesn’t hold a whole lot of new insights. (two episodes totaling 125 min.)

—Anna

BINGEABLE

BAD VEGAN: FAME. FRAUD. FUGITIVES.

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

It seems stories of cons, crime, and deception are hot now with the popularity of documentaries like *The Tinder Swindler* and *The Puppet Master: Hunting the Ultimate Conman*, as well as the dramatized true stories portrayed in *Inventing Anna* and *The Dropout* (just to name a few). Streaming services are full of stories about characters that somehow manage to grift scores of people.

In this story about Sarma Melngailis, we watch as this intelligent and successful entrepreneur gets lured into the web of a con man—and marries him! Why? Because Sarma participated in the documentary, we get answers—instead of speculation—though not always logical or justified answers. Some believe Sarma to be a part of her husband’s grift, while others see her as a manipulated and gaslit victim who also lost everything to Andrew Strangis’ scheme.

After Strangis promises Sarma he can make her dog immortal, let’s just say ... things get weird. From being a black ops spy to a nonhuman god, Strangis wraps Sarma up in a world that even she has a tough time explaining. This is a wild ride



PHOTO COURTESY OF NETFLIX

PERP OR VICTIM? Sarma Melngailis had it all—a successful Manhattan vegan restaurant, celebrity clients, and magazine-cover fame—until a con man came calling and coerced her to steal money from investors, in Netflix’s miniseries *Bad Vegan*.

through the rise and fall—and hopefully redemption—of Sarma. However, sussing out the truth behind the bizarre story still feels like a mystery. (four 44- to 61-min. episodes) ○

—Anna

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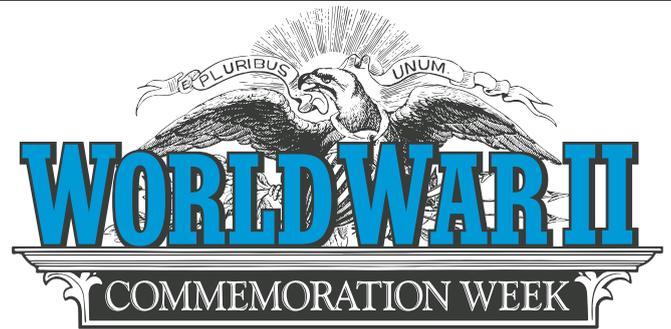
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CUYAMA COCKTAILS: The 2022 Wild Flour Celebration in New Cuyama includes a special cocktail hour, where attendees can enjoy libations from the Ventura Spirits Company and mead tastings provided by Cuyama Beverage Co.

PLATE DATE: Attendees of the Wild Flour Celebration can look forward to enjoying a four-course farm-to-table dinner prepared by the Buckhorn Restaurant's executive chef, Daniel Horn.

Born to be wild

Dinners, tastings, and more await the guests of Cuyama Buckhorn's Wild Flour Celebration

BY CALEB WISEBLOOD

Pizza, cocktails, live music, and a beginner-friendly bread-making class—all wrapped up in a two-night stay at a scenic roadside resort. This is just a handful of goodies and events that attendees of Cuyama Buckhorn's Wild Flour Celebration can expect.

This year's weekend-long celebration—which also includes a four-course farm-to-table dinner, mead tastings, and more—marks the second event of its kind for Cuyama Buckhorn. This year was originally intended to mark the venue's third outing, explained Savannah Fox, Cuyama Buckhorn's marketing and events manager.

The first iteration of the celebration "was scheduled for April 2020 but ended up being postponed due to the pandemic," said Fox, who started working with Cuyama Buckhorn in 2018.

Fox said that the concept for the Wild Flour Celebration began soon after she joined the resort, "in early conversations about our plans for

Finest flour

To find out more about this year's Wild Flour Celebration, visit cuyamabuckhorn.com. The weekend-long event will be held between April 8 and 10 at Cuyama Buckhorn, located at 4923 Primero St., New Cuyama.

programming the property." The initial idea was to host a food-centric event during the spring, while also celebrating the Cuyama Valley's seasonal blooms.

"We wanted to provide people with the opportunity to get out and explore our valley to see our blooming spring wildflowers," with a "culinary education component" as well, Fox said.

With that goal in mind, someone pitched a perfectly punny event title, which Fox can't take credit for.

"Our brilliant partner, Trisha Cole, who assists with our marketing efforts, came up with the clever name for this event, with the idea of blending flowers and flour for a full culinary experience," Fox said.

"Our owner, Ferial Sadeghian, is incredibly passionate about food, cooking, and sourcing, and has always had the vision to center our programming around food and specifically culinary education," Fox continued, adding that the first Wild Flour Celebration—rescheduled to 2021—featured culinary workshops, including a sourdough bread-making class led by Laura Journeys, of Bakers Outpost in Bakersfield.

EATS continued page 28

PHOTO COURTESY OF CUYAMA BUCKHORN



HUZZAH FOR PIZZA: The weekend-long Wild Flour Celebration kicks off with a pizza party catered by Pinyon Ojai. Live music will be provided by country artist Victoria Bailey during the party.



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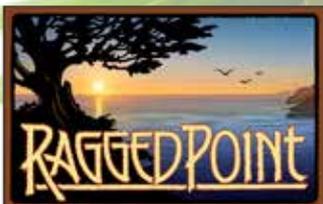
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EATS

EATS from page 26

This year's event includes a bread-making course of a different variety, focaccia, hosted by Oat Bakery, an artisan bakery based in Santa Barbara. Fox described the class as "suitable for all baking levels" and said that participants of the workshop "will walk away with the bread they've created themselves."

The focaccia class is scheduled for Saturday, April 9, but the Wild Flour Celebration kicks off the night before, with a pizza party catered by Pinyon Ojai on Friday, April 8. Live music will be provided by country artist Victoria Bailey during the party.

The following day begins with the bread workshop and is followed by a special cocktail hour featuring libations from the Ventura Spirits Company and mead tastings hosted by Cuyama Beverage Co.

"The most fulfilling part of curating these events is the opportunity to highlight incredible people and organizations in the culinary scene who are supporting local and sustainable food systems and the amazing relationships and partnerships that have been formed along the way," Fox said.

Later on Saturday evening, attendees can look forward to enjoying a four-course farm-to-table dinner prepared by the Buckhorn Restaurant's executive chef, Daniel Horn. The dinner begins with a warm farro salad with asparagus, pistachio, flowers, and feta, followed by a millet, cauliflower, and pea fritter with citrus yogurt, spinach salad, and flowers.

Guests have three choices to pick from when it comes to the third course: a seared yellowtail served over cold buckwheat noodles, snap peas, carrot, seaweed vinaigrette, and flowers;

Share tasty tips!

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are incredible, although I may be biased, as my family is from the South and I have grown up with and love grits," Fox said. ○

Send gritty comments to Arts Editor Caleb Wiseblood at cwiseblood@santamariasun.com.

PHOTO COURTESY OF CUYAMA BUCKHORN



A GAME OF GIVE AND BAKE: This year's Wild Flour Celebration includes a focaccia bread-making course, hosted by Oat Bakery, an artisan bakery based in Santa Barbara. The workshop is described as suitable for all baking levels.

roasted rack of lamb with blue corn grits, sautéed kale, rosemary gremolata, flowers; or roasted mushroom with the same sides featured with the rack of lamb.

"You really can't go wrong," said Fox, who would be happy with any of the three options, although she'd feel inclined to pick one of the latter two for one specific side dish.

"I have to say the blue corn grits from Capay Mills

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Antique secretary bookcase slant front desk, glass double doors on top, pigeon holes and small desk drawers, bottom is three large wavy drawers. Ball and clawfoot legs. \$100. 805-929-3487, leave message & phone # (No Caller ID, no text)

ANTIQUA WRIGHT & MCGILL Bamboo Fly Fishing Rod, 9ft, 4 pieces, w/ 2 tips, in original sock and cardboard tube. Made in Denver CO. \$125. Pflueger Metalist #1595 Antique fly fishing reel. Mint. In original box with paperwork. \$100. 805-929-3487, leave message & phone # (No caller ID, no texts)

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APPLIANCES

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Get Outside
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

- BEYOND
- | National Forests
- | Open Space
- | Disc golf
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The Central Coast Guide to Everything Outside

Contact the editorial department at GO@newtimeslo.com and the advertising department at advertising@newtimeslo.com

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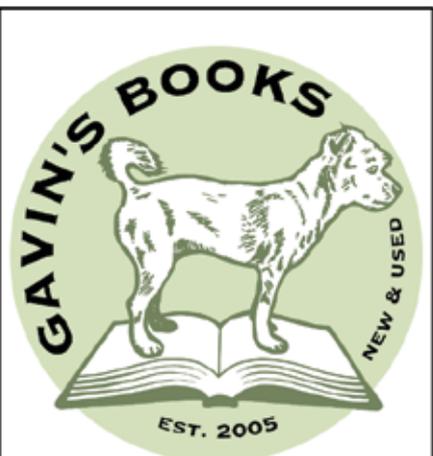
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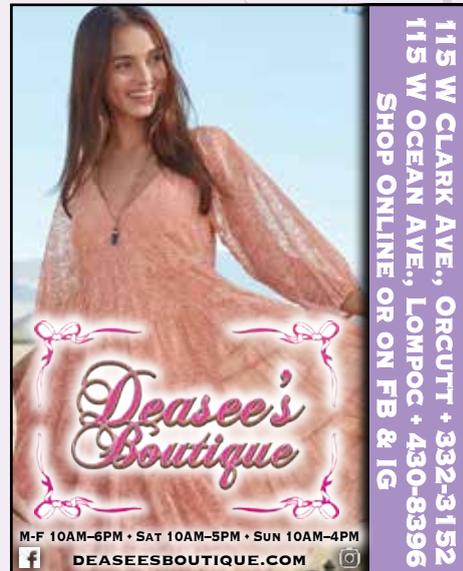
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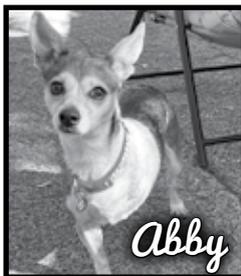
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Abby had her front leg amputated after being shot several times, but she is now healed and getting along great! Abby has a great personality that we are just now beginning to see... our little 2 year old chihuahua girl is wonderful with other dogs and lives with several cats in her foster home. While shy at first, it doesn't take long before she is snuggling up in a warm accepting lap and offering kisses.

Donations for her care would be gratefully welcomed.

Donations can be mailed to our PO Box, or thru PayPal on our website.



Abby

ADOPT!

Adoptable Pets of the Week



Russet

Age: 1 year
3 months
Breed: Domestic
Shorthair
Sex: Male
Weight: 60 lbs.



Oliver

Age: 9 years
1 month
Breed: Domestic
Shorthair
Sex: Male
Weight: 13 lbs.

All animals are health checked, spayed/neutered, vaccinated and microchipped.



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