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AT THE MOVIES

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Temporary home

Pallet homes and tiny villages provide stability for homeless individuals [6]

BY SUN STAFF

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APRIL 21 - APRIL 28, 2022 VOL. 23 NO. 8

This week's cover story is the second in a two-part series delving into one of the biggest policy priorities for communities up and down the West Coast: homelessness. *New Times* Staff Writer Malea Martin speaks with the city of Tacoma about Pallet housing while *New Times* Staff Writer Bulbul Rajagopal writes about a nonprofit in Oregon running tiny-home villages to help house the homeless [6].

You can also read about Vice President Kamala Harris' visit to Vandenberg [4]; seven artists who came together for a Gallery Los Olivos show [23]; and a place to escape and drink coffee [27].

Camillia Lanham
editor

PALLET CITY: Cities such as Portland and Tacoma have used Pallet shelters as a way to get homeless individuals in stable, temporary housing.

Cover photos courtesy of Multnomah County > Cover design by Alex Zuniga

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Political Watch

• U.S. Rep. **Salud Carbaja**l (D-Santa Barbara) and a group of 40 members of Congress pushed the **Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives** (ATF) for updated and explicit guidance on illegal machine gun conversion devices—also known as auto sears—to reduce gun violence and protect communities, according to an April 12 statement. "These devices, which can allow weapons to fire at a rate of up to 1,200 bullets per minute, make shootings more deadly, make our law enforcement officers' jobs more dangerous, and increase the risk that innocent bystanders could be injured or killed when such a volume of bullets is unleashed," the letter said. "We urge you to issue updated and explicit guidance on auto sears, put a stop to gun companies pushing the legal limits on these devices, and provide additional resources to help rid communities like ours of these dangerous devices." The group—including more than 10 members of California's House delegation—cited the specific use of these devices in Sacramento's shooting on April 4, which killed six people and injured dozens after multiple shooters fired more than 100 rapid-fire rounds. According to the **Houston Bureau of ATF**, the number of guns modified with auto sears seized by law enforcement has quintupled since 2020, from 300 guns to more than 1,500 in 2021, according to Carbajal's office.

• U.S. Sen. **Alex Padilla** and U.S. Rep. **Zoe Lofgren** (D-San Jose) applauded the **U.S. Department of Agriculture**'s (USDA) announcement that it will invest $80.7 million in wildfire prevention projects in California over the next three years, according to Padilla's office. This includes $28.6 million for California this fiscal year—the most received by any state—and follows Padilla and Lofgren's joint efforts with Speaker of the House **Nancy Pelosi** to ensure the federal government prioritizes wildfire mitigation projects in California, which has seen the seven largest fires in state history in the last four years. Collectively, these fires burned more than 2.5 million acres of land and destroyed or damaged more than 30,000 structures. "This funding will allow the Forest Service to remove hazardous trees and vegetation and construct new fuel breaks in some of California's most vulnerable forests. I'm glad the Biden administration heard our calls to prioritize California for wildfire prevention funding. Given the severity and frequency of wildfires are only exacerbated by climate change, we will need to continue to invest in proactive projects to help prevent catastrophic fires and limit their spread," Padilla said in a statement.

• Over the past few months, the California state government has ramped up communications efforts around the **Save Our Water Campaign** focused on encouraging Californians to reduce water use as drought conditions worsen, according to an April 14 statement from Gov. **Gavin Newsom**'s office. From April 11 to April 15, the campaign rolled out new multilingual content across various platforms including social media, digital and streaming platforms, and on the radio to communicate the urgent need to save water and provide actionable steps Californians can take. Newsom joined State Water Resources Control Board Chair **Joaquin Esquivel**, Department of Water Resources Director **Karla Nemeth**, and Department of Fish and Wildlife Director **Chuck Bonham** for a briefing calling on social media influencers and content creators to support statewide efforts. "Make no mistake, California and the entire West are feeling the effects of the intensifying drought—notwithstanding today's rainfall," Newsom said during the briefing. "We're putting to work the lessons learned during the last drought, but with our climate getting hotter and drier, it's critical that we work together to protect our water supply. Engaging Californians from all walks of life and connecting peer to peer, we can meet this challenge head-on." ❍

BRIEFS

PHOTO BY CALEB WISEBLOOD

VEEP HAS LANDED: Vice President Kamala Harris arrived at Vandenberg Space Force Base on April 18, via Air Force Two, to tour the base and announce a new nationwide ban on anti-missile testing.

Kamala Harris announces ban on anti-satellite missile testing while visiting Vandenberg

Air Force Two touched down on the Central Coast April 18, when Vice President Kamala Harris landed at Vandenberg Space Force Base.

While she was there, Harris announced that the U.S. was taking a "major step forward" in addressing "the problem of destructive missile tests in space, like the one Russia took in November."

"We have consistently condemned these tests, and called them reckless," Harris said, referring to Russia's anti-satellite missile test in 2021, and a similar test conducted by China in 2007.

"But that is not enough," she continued. "Today, we are going further. … As of today, the United States commits not to conduct destructive, direct-ascent anti-satellite missile testing."

Harris said that the U.S. is the first nation to make a commitment of this kind and called for other nations to "join us."

"In the days and months ahead, we will work with other nations to establish this as a new international norm for responsible behavior in space," the vice president said.

Harris explained that before her speech, she received a briefing from the 18th Space Defense Squadron, a unit located at Vandenberg, and used the squadron's findings as examples of the harm caused by anti-satellite missile testing.

"When China and Russia destroyed their respective satellites, it generated thousands of pieces of debris—debris that will now orbit our Earth for years, if not decades," Harris said. "So far, the 18th has identified more than 1,600 pieces of debris from the Russian test. There are 2,800 pieces of debris still in space from China's test, 15 years ago."

Harris said that a piece of debris the size of a basketball, or even as small as a grain of sand—moving at thousands of miles per hour—is a risk to national security due to the damage it can cause to U.S. satellites.

Santa Barbara County 3rd District Supervisor Joan Hartmann—one of several elected officials who attended the speech—told the *Sun* that the vice president's remarks "really drew in sharp relief, for me, what the problem is." She praised Harris' stance on propelling the anti-satellite missile ban as an international norm.

Hartmann said she also appreciated the vice president's point about space debris not only damaging defense satellites, but satellites that affect "a whole host of different applications on Earth," including GPS.

Harris also spoke about the importance of nations upholding ongoing norms "on the world stage," and used Russia as an example.

"Rules and norms provide us all with a sense of order and stability. As we have seen in Ukraine, Russia has completely violated the set of international rules and norms established after World War II, which provided unprecedented peace and security in Europe," Harris said. "Our administration is working to establish new rules and norms for the new challenges of the 21st century—areas like emerging technologies, cybersecurity, and of course, space."

"I believe without clear norms, we face unnecessary risks in space," she continued. "The United States will continue to be a leader in order to establish, to advance, and demonstrate norms for the responsible and peaceful use of outer space. … We must write the new rules of the road, and we will lead by example."

—Caleb Wiseblood

Community advocates for Santa Maria skatepark improvements

When Santa Maria's only skatepark's ramps and equipment suddenly disappeared, the skating community was frustrated and angry, community advocate Dan Pankratz said.

"Word had later gotten back to us saying the city wasn't getting rid of the ramps, but planned to fix them and put them back. [That's] all good, but it didn't ease the frustration with nobody reaching out to us to find out what we want," Pankratz said. "It's not the city's fault; it's not their wheelhouse to do that, but this is our opportunity to speak to the city and say, 'Hey, we want to be a part of a solution to bring better skateboarding to Santa Maria.'"

The first step was to advocate for skateboarders' needs at Fletcher Park during the April 12 Santa Maria Recreation and Parks community meeting—which Pankratz and fellow skater Ben Cabreana promoted, Pankratz said. About 30 skateboarding community members showed up in support or to speak, he said.

"The main takeaway was that Recreation and Parks was willing to work with the skateboarding community to create something they could be really proud of. The current skateboard park was not made by skaters but by a manufacturing company selling ramps. No one was there to counsel the city and say, 'This is what we need,'" he added.

Pankratz and Cabreana are working to unify their community's voice by creating a nonprofit organization so they can better collaborate with the city.

"Ben and I are going to sit down and figure out what we are willing to do as an organization to foster the skate community, whether it's putting on skate contests, or lessons for the city or the Boys & Girls Club, because skateboarding has become something that anyone can do and it's a positive outlet for a lot of people," he said.

Cabreana—a 35-year-old Santa Maria native—said the meeting showed promise for skatepark improvements, but the work is not complete.

"Just like with anything else, there are uphill battles. We aren't entirely on the same page, and it's a lot of compromise to meet in the middle. We aren't city officials and they aren't skateboarders: It's going to be hard to resonate," he said. "The meeting was a positive thing, and the conversation did not fall on deaf ears. It did make an impact on people involved with city things, and I'm looking forward to what is happening next."

Recreation Services Manager and interim Assistant Director Dennis Smitherman said Recreation and Parks hopes to collaborate with the skaters as they make improvements to Fletcher Park.

"What our goal is for the future is to work with a contractor who builds those ramps and skate equipment and get the skateboarders on the line with us so we can have a virtual meeting to discuss what their interests are and design a park that is suitable for all ages," he said.

The April 12 meeting highlighted a new demand for the Leisure Needs Assessment—a five- to eight-year plan that develops goals and objectives based on the community's wants for their parks.

"[Skateboarding] wasn't a high item when we did the original assessment, and based on the input with the skateboarders—as with any group—if we have the ability we will do our best to assist in those areas beneficial to the community," Smitherman said.

Fletcher Park's ramps are undergoing maintenance—something Smitherman admitted should have been better communicated with the skateboarders—and the skatepark should be up and running by July if everything is repaired on time and there aren't supply chain issues, he added.

People can send input or questions to rpinfo@cityofsantamaria.com.

—Taylor O'Connor

37th Assembly District race is down to two candidates

Santa Barbara County 2nd District Supervisor Gregg Hart wasn't necessarily looking for something different, but when he saw redistricting's impact on the 37th Assembly District, he said he decided to run for the state-level seat.

"I enjoy my job at the county Board of Supervisors. We have lots of ideological differences, but we manage to work well together and get things [accomplished]. I wasn't looking for a change, but when the district was changed I saw issues for our

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county and south San Luis Obispo County that I've been a part of for the last three decades," Hart said.

The 37th District—which used to include Santa Barbara and Ventura counties—now contains all of Santa Barbara County and southern San Luis Obispo County. Hart's running against Mike Stoker—a former Santa Barbara County Supervisor and an attorney—in the June primary race after fellow candidates Gabe Escobedo, Bruce Wallach, and Jonathan Abboud stepped down, Hart explained.

"I'm proud to have the opportunity to represent my community in Sacramento. All of the issues we grapple with at a local level have parallels in Sacramento and a lot of the policies and constraints are determined in Sacramento. I think I can bring our community voice to that process and have a strong voice for the Central Coast," Hart said.

If elected, Hart's priorities include adjusting the budget for education, enhancing public safety during wildfire season, working with law enforcement and probation to ensure safe neighborhoods, and resolving the housing and homelessness issues, he said.

"I know folks are very concerned about housing and increasing homelessness. These are serious, daunting challenges, and I can bring practical solutions by being a part of the conversation in Sacramento," Hart said. "Being a part of housing projects in the county and the city of Santa Barbara give me the understanding of resolving those issues and having the state be a partner to solve those problems."

Stoker said he believes the state is heading in the wrong direction, and it needs a change in leadership away from those already in office.

"My opponent is a good man, a friend, and he's a good guy, but he thinks California is heading into the right direction [whereas] I don't think it's going in the right direction," Stoker said.

Stoker worked as a land use environmental law attorney, and was a county supervisor from 1986 to 1994. During that time, he also served as the chairman of the county Air Pollution Control District and director of the Southern California Hazardous Waste Management Board, according to his campaign website.

After consulting his wife, Debi, and a lot of reflection, he decided to run for election again, he added. This time around, his priorities include decreasing income and sales taxes, supporting law enforcement, resolving the homelessness issue, and fixing California's water shortage, he said.

"I've been saying we don't have a water shortage problem, we have a storage problem. We have not built a storage reservoir since Gov. Edmund Brown in the '60s. The reason we have a shortage is we haven't kept up in building capacity with the population, and it's caused gridlock," Stoker said. "It's a very top priority of mine with a specific five-point plan that's going to be announced during a separate media event."

Stoker said he's glad this race provides the public with options and gives voters the chance to voice their desires for the state's trajectory.

"That's what campaigning is about, how it really should work is to have two candidates with two different perspectives who are willing to own those perspectives. We can both be nice people but it's a question of what direction you want for California," Stoker said. "If you believe California is heading in the right direction under Gov. Newsom, vote for Gregg [Hart] and that's OK. If you think California's heading in the wrong direction and want a new direction, then I'm your guy." ❍

—Taylor O'Connor

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PHOTO COURTESY OF CITY OF TACOMA

Space for stability

Local governments pursue temporary housing as first step to getting people off the streets

SHELTER WITH DIGNITY: The city of Tacoma, Washington, was one of the first places to start a Pallet shelter community. The shelters feature locks, storage, and personal climate control for the people living in them.

Editor's note: This is the second story in a two-part series on solutions to homelessness. The first, "Shelter, services, support: Local governments along the Pacific Coast innovate to address the growing issue of homelessness," ran on April 14.

BY SUN STAFF

When the COVID-19 shelter-at-home mandate went into place in March 2020, 5 Cities Homeless Coalition (5CHC) Executive Director Janna Nichols had one question: "Where will my people shelter at home?" South SLO County doesn't have any homeless shelters.

SLO County Parks gave the coalition 10 spaces at the Coastal Dunes Campground to offer to people already in the organization's case management program. Out of the 10 people who participated in the two-month program, Nichols said, most ended up finding permanent housing.

"That program really helped me see that if people weren't swirling around trying to figure out where they were going to sleep at night, they had a better opportunity to focus on other things," Nichols said.

With the lessons from this program in mind, the 5CHC is partnering with SLO County and the city of Grover Beach to implement a non-congregate shelter model on county-owned land in Grover Beach. The plan is to use modular cabins made by a Washington-based company called Pallet.

"When you first hear our company name, chances are wooden planks forged together might be one of the first images that come to mind," Pallet's website explained. "But unlike wooden shelters, ours are made of durable materials that won't rot."

In addition to a roof, Pallet shelters offer privacy: People have a space either all to themselves or shared with one roommate, a place to keep their belongings 24 hours a day, a bed, and a door that locks.

Tacoma was one of the earliest adopters. The city started its Pallet shelter program in 2017 and now has 58 of the structures.

"This site is their home for 24 hours a day: There's no 'out at this time and in at this time,'" said Megan Snow with the city of Tacoma. "When you are in a shelter situation where you have to vacate at 7 a.m., you have to leave with all of your stuff."

The Pallet model gives unhoused people one less thing to worry about, and acts as a stepping stone for people who aren't ready for permanent housing yet.

"When you don't have a place that's safe, you tend to lose some of those important governmental documents. You're not ready for those reasons," Snow said. "This is that intermediary step where caseworkers are on-site, they're helping you get all your paperwork back in place, and while you're doing that, you have a place where you can lock the door and your stuff is safe."

Since starting in 2017, the Tacoma program has served more than 570 individuals, and about 20 to 30 percent of them have transitioned to permanent housing. Snow said that's a higher rate than traditional congregate shelter models.

A bit closer to home, Good Samaritan Shelter in Santa Barbara County also implemented Pallet shelters, first in Isla Vista, and more recently in Lompoc. Brian Halterman, Good Sam's director of homeless and housing programs in Lompoc, said the main goal of the Pallet program is to provide "a sheltering opportunity for clients or homeless individuals who typically would not enter the traditional, mainstream, congregate living facilities."

"This option of having a smaller, personal area has been an opportunity for that," Halterman continued. "We have one individual who I've known for almost 14 years. They took this option when they would have never considered a shelter before."

Halterman talked about another client who dealt with extreme social anxiety, which stopped her from using congregate shelters in the past. But things have changed for her since coming into Lompoc's Pallet shelter program.

"Over the past two weeks, numerous times she's been over in the main shelter, sitting with groups of people, talking to them, which is something that wouldn't have happened when she first came into the place," Halterman said. "So [there's] those little victories that you see."

There are challenges that arise when dealing with a service-resistant population, Halterman said.

"The challenges have been helping them develop that trust that they're going to be OK, that we can help them," he said. "Even with the Pallets, there are policies and procedures that have to be followed, and for some, even with their own little living space, they just can't."

But the challenges, Halterman believes, are well outweighed by the success of the program.

"Without these Pallets, the 20-plus people we've been able to serve in the past six months would not have been served in a traditional setting," he said. "They would still be out living homeless within our river bottoms and in dangerous positions."

Building a community

In Oregon's Lane County, the success of one nonprofit's tiny-home shelters is measured both incrementally and by getting people in permanent housing.

"Successfully exiting our program would be a move to traditional permanent housing. Continued success within the program is getting along every day and achieving any number of goals. We want everybody to move towards permanent housing, but there are a lot of steps to that," SquareOne Villages Coordinator Ian McBride said. "We don't have a time limit on how long people can stay here as long as they're meeting with the housing coordinator and working to get closer to housing, which can look so many different ways for different individuals."

Currently, the nonprofit runs Opportunity Village—a 30-unit tiny-home village on an acre of land. Open since 2013, the village charges $35 per month from participants. It rests on city-owned land that's leased to SquareOne for $1 every year. The shelter temporarily houses people while they get back on their feet before moving into more stable living situations. Residents can also transition to one of SquareOne's handful of co-op housing facilities.

But SquareOne needed support from the community it serves and elected officials before it could move forward with the concept.

"One of the things we do really well is building political will," said Amanda Dellinger, SquareOne's community relations director. "In 2021, we received $2 million from the Oregon state Legislature to develop one of the villages we're working on now. We just received another $3.3 million from advocacy work from one of our senators, $750,000 from the American Rescue Plan Act for some of our political relationships."

The SquareOne tiny village is a popular idea among San Luis Obispo County's homeless advocates. It was lauded at a tiny-village workshop organized by Hope's Village in March. After years of studying model sustainable community villages, its founder Becky Jorgeson teamed up with Nevada City architect Charles Durrett in hopes of finally getting the ball rolling for SLO County's first tiny village.

"It just takes political will. It will take the [SLO County] Board of Supervisors to say, 'We need to take better care of the people.' We don't have homeless people in Europe because they all say, 'It could be my brother.' That's what I want people to think here," Jorgeson told the *Sun*.

Hope's Village already has a site in mind for its planned village of 30 tiny houses: one of the SLO Social Services building's unused parking lots at 3433 South Higuera St. It's close to offices and grocery stores, isn't surrounded by residential housing, and many homeless people already live in campsites nearby. Jorgeson said they've already vetted potential tiny-village residents.

"We have worked with them for five years at Saturday Showers," a project description states. "We know who is on drugs, who drinks and who does not. We know who wants to work hard to get into and keep housing, and we know who is not ready yet. We will pick and choose very carefully who is offered admission. We know who the drug-pushers are, and they will not be welcome."

Hope's Village does have support, as evidenced by letters sent to the Board of Supervisors from Public Safety SLO and SLO County District Attorney Dan Dow.

But Jack Lahey, the director of homeless services at Community Action Partnership of SLO, questioned the viability of tiny homes—though he added that he supports it.

"My criticism is rooted in what HUD [Department of Housing and Urban Development] will fund and what they will not fund. If they find a way around that, then great," he said. "If HUD is not recognizing it as an intervention, then they could potentially lose their homelessness status, which disallows them from other resources."

Dellinger, from Lane County's SquareOne, said the project doesn't receive HUD dollars for its tiny village because HUD only defines something as housing if it includes plumbing. SquareOne's tiny homes don't come with individual bathrooms, but residents share a common bathhouse and an outdoor kitchen. Their projects are funded through grants and public donations.

Jorgeson, too, said she's looking beyond HUD funding.

"We don't ask for or want government funding because we think we can do a better job," Jorgeson said. "I know everyone is working hard, but you just can't throw government money at homelessness and expect it to improve.

"In the end, it's not about housing but about community." ❍

New Times Staff Writers Malea Martin and Bulbul Rajagopal contributed to this story. Reach them through the editor at clanham@santamariasun.com.

PHOTO COURTESY OF SQUAREONE VILLAGES

MOVING ON: People sheltering at one of SquareOne Villages' communities in Oregon have the option to move into one of the nonprofit's co-op housing facilities when their living situation stabilizes.

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PHOTO COURTESY OF THE SANTA BARBARA COUNTY EDUCATION OFFICE

CLASS OF 2022: Guadalupe Lopez, a Vietnam veteran, stands to receive his retroactive high school diploma as the crowd applauds and celebrates his achievements.

Operation recognition

Six Santa Barbara County veterans received retroactive high school diplomas through countywide initiative

BY TAYLOR O'CONNOR

Guadalupe Lopez left high school to go serve his country in the Vietnam War. Coming from a patriotic family with brothers who served in the Korean War, the then Santa Maria resident felt it was his calling to follow in their footsteps, Lopez said.

"I wanted to finish school and have a diploma, but because of the war—at that point—I needed to do my part for my country," said Lopez, who now lives in Santa Barbara.

He served in combat for two tours as a machine gunner and added that he saw a lot of devastation during his time overseas. When he returned, he jumped right back into the workforce—first harvesting seasonal produce in Santa Maria's fields and then getting a job in the roofing industry, where he remained for his career, he said.

Outside of work, he got married and had children, spoke to high school students about his time in Vietnam, became a pastor, and learned how to play several musical instruments. But Lopez said that he felt he missed out on his educational opportunities.

"I always regretted not finishing school, not getting a GED, or going back to school. When I got back from Vietnam, there was no way I was going to continue on with school. Work was very hard and once you got off at 5/5:30 p.m., the best you could do was go home, eat dinner, and take a shower. I had too many things going on," Lopez said.

He said that recently one of his friends—who served in the South Pacific—told Lopez about a Santa Barbara County program that allows veterans to receive high school diplomas, and recommended that he apply. Lopez took that advice, and on April 7, he received his diploma along with five other veterans through a County Education Office initiative: Operation Recognition.

"I was flabbergasted. They had a ceremony that I can't express how beautiful it was. I've been to high school graduations when I had nephews and grandchildren graduate, but this year was the best graduation I've been to," Lopez said.

More than 200 people attended the ceremony, which was hosted by the Santa Barbara County Education Office, and marked the second year the county honored veterans with retroactive diplomas, County Superintendent of Schools Susan Salcido said.

"I first heard of this program in 2018 when I first started as the county superintendent, and I wanted to bring it into our county. Our first Operation Recognition graduation was in 2019, and we knew we wanted to do another one," Salcido said.

As COVID-19 restrictions died down, Salcido and her team decided it was time for another graduation; the county reached out through social media, publications, and local veterans offices to spread the word about the diploma program. Through that outreach, they identified the six graduates, she said.

The diploma program called for veterans from World War II, the Vietnam War, or the Korean War to apply. After a verification process, the county is able to grant diplomas to the veterans through the California Education Code, which states that education offices are authorized to give retroactive diplomas to eligible veterans, Salcido explained.

"It was a really remarkable day. It is such an honor to recognize these individuals who served our country," she said. "I have the deepest respect for these individuals who served our country. It's our way of giving back and showing gratitude."

Salcido said she hopes to bring the opportunity back in the future. Recent recipient Lopez said he'd recommend any veteran apply to receive their diploma.

"I felt really good. I felt that people really care about us. I wasn't expecting that," Lopez said about the ceremony. "I was thinking some person from the schools was going to hand me my diploma and I was going to walk away."

He added that it affected him sentimentally more than anything. Now retired, he reflected on how it positively impacted his self-esteem after struggling with it for many years.

"Now that I have my diploma, I feel better about myself. Almost 100 percent. I'm happy-go-lucky now. I have a beautiful wife and beautiful grandchildren. I'm flabbergasted, I couldn't ask for any more; I'm a happy camper," Lopez said.

Highlight

• SoCalGas announced a second $525,000 donation to the California Restaurant Foundation's Restaurant Care Resilience Funds. Funding applications are open through April 20, and restaurants in Santa Barbara and San Luis Obispo counties are encouraged to apply for the $3,000 grants. SoCalGas' partnerships with the California Restaurant Foundation is a part of the company's ASPIRE 2045 sustainability goals, which includes a commitment to invest $50 million to drive positive change in diverse and underserved communities over the next five years. ❍

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

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

DEATH NOTICES

BLIZZARD, JAMES, 89, of Los Osos passed away 4/10/2022 arrangements with Los Osos Valley Mortuary & Memorial Park

BOYLE, JAMES "JIM," 75, of Arroyo Grande passed away 4/15/2022 arrangements with Dudley-Hoffman Mortuary, Crematory & Memory Gardens

BURGESS, RANDAL, 63, of Templeton passed away 4/5/2022 arrangements with Kuehl-Nicolay Funeral Home

CARAMELLI, SAMUEL VINCENT, 95, of Oro Valley, AZ passed away 4/9/2022 arrangements with Los Osos Valley Mortuary & Memorial Park

CAZALY, BETTY JEAN, 83, of San Miguel passed away 4/3/2022 arrangements with Kuehl-Nicolay Funeral Home

CHAPMAN, WAYNE G., 91, of Santa Maria passed away 4/8/2022 arrangements with Dudley-Hoffman Mortuary, Crematory & Memory Gardens

CHATFIELD, LINDA LEE, 60, of Atascadero passed away 4/8/2022 arrangements with Chapel of the Roses

CHERRY, ANNA RENEE, 76, of Atascadero passed away 4/5/2022 arrangements with Chapel of the Roses

DE CORTES ESTELA RIOS, 74, of Santa Maria passed away 4/13/2022 arrangements with Dudley-Hoffman Mortuary, Crematory & Memory Gardens

EVANGELISTA, GUADALUPE "LUPE" A., 67, of Santa Maria passed away 4/16/2022 arrangements with Dudley-Hoffman Mortuary, Crematory & Memory Gardens

EVERHART, JACK DEAN II, 42, passed away 4/6/2022 arrangements with Lady Family Mortuary

FITZGERALD, MICHAEL EDWARD, 84, of Paso Robles passed away 3/22/2022 arrangements with Kuehl-Nicolay Funeral Home

FREDERICK, ROBERT, 75, of San Miguel passed away 4/7/2022 arrangements with Blue Sky Cremation Service

GREEN, JANET BOYD, 92, of Orcutt passed away 4/14/2022 arrangements with Dudley-Hoffman Mortuary, Crematory & Memory Gardens

GUERRERO, ELIZABETH LOUISE, 64, of Arroyo Grande passed away 4/10/2022 arrangements with Marshall Spoo Sunset Funeral Chapel

HAMPTON, EILEEN CAY, 74, of Paso Robles passed away 4/13/2022 arrangements with Chapel of the Roses

HENDERSON, SHARON LYNN, 82, of Santa Maria passed away 4/18/2022 arrangements with Magner-Maloney Funeral Home & Crematory

HERNANDEZ, RICK, 73, of Paso Robles passed away 4/10/2022 arrangements with Blue Sky Cremation Service

HERNANDEZ, DIEGO, 24, of Paso Robles passed away 4/4/2022 arrangements with Kuehl-Nicolay Funeral Home

KLIPPNESS, VIRGINIA MARIE, 88, of Santa Maria passed away 4/15/2022 arrangements with Dudley-Hoffman Mortuary, Crematory & Memory Gardens

LAKE, MICHAEL JONATHAN, 75, of Atascadero passed away 4/10/2022 arrangements with Chapel of the Roses

LOPEZ, MARIA, 64, of Salinas passed away 4/13/2022 arrangements with Magner-Maloney Funeral Home & Crematory

MCCLISH, DONALD, 86, of Los Osos passed away 4/17/2022 arrangements with Blue Sky Cremation Service

MERRIMAN, JO ELLEN, 78, of Santa Maria passed away 4/16/2022 arrangements with Dudley-Hoffman Mortuary, Crematory & Memory Gardens

OLIVER, FREDERICK RAYMOND, 78, of Paso Robles passed away 3/26/2022 arrangements with Kuehl-Nicolay Funeral Home

RADER, PHILIP L., 89, of Creston passed away 4/13/2022 arrangements with Chapel of the Roses

RANIS, JUANITA N., 85, of Santa Maria passed away 4/12/2022 arrangements with Dudley-Hoffman Mortuary, Crematory & Memory Gardens

READING, PATRICIA LILLIAN, 78, of Paso Robles passed away 4/3/2022 arrangements with Kuehl-Nicolay Funeral Home

SHEEHY, PATRICK JAMES, 62, of Nipomo passed away 4/12/2022 arrangements with Dudley-Hoffman Mortuary, Crematory & Memory Gardens

SMITH, BEVERLY "BEV" A., 84, of Santa Maria passed away 4/11/2022 arrangements with Dudley-Hoffman Mortuary, Crematory & Memory Gardens

SMITH, CHAD HUBERT, 85, of Santa Maria passed away 4/15/2022 arrangements with Dudley-Hoffman Mortuary, Crematory & Memory Gardens

STEVENS, LISA, 56, of San Luis Obispo passed away 4/12/2022 arrangements with Blue Sky Cremation Service

TAYLOR, MARGARET, 83, of Atascadero passed away 4/12/2022 arrangements with Blue Sky Cremation Service

TURNQUIST, JUNE ELOISE, 92, of Paso Robles passed away 4/8/2022 arrangements with Kuehl-Nicolay Funeral Home

VON STROHEIM, PETER, 69, of Atascadero passed away 4/12/2022 arrangements with Blue Sky Cremation Service

VUKOBRADOVICH, JENNIFER S., 45, of Santa Maria passed away 4/11/2022 arrangements with Dudley-Hoffman Mortuary, Crematory & Memory Gardens

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Saturday, April 23, 2022
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Utilities Department
Santa Maria All-America City
(805) 925-0951 ext. 7270 ■ www.cityofsantamaria.org

Online Poll

What type of initiative to address homelessness do you think would be most effective in your area?

67% Whole person care to address more than housing.
11% Pallet shelters or tiny homes.
11% A sanctioned tent encampment.
11% A more robust safe-parking program.

9 Votes

Vote online at www.santamariasun.com.

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Costly maintenance headache

A cost history of how the Lompoc Aquatic Center has become a 'money pit hidden from public view'

BY RON FINK

A white elephant is a possession that its owner cannot dispose of and whose cost, particularly that of maintenance, is out of proportion to its usefulness.

First let's stipulate that a community needs a recreational venue like an aquatic center; in Lompoc the city's aquatic center currently serves about 10,000 users each month.

The second stipulation is that the government, when providing public projects at any level, is prone to make serious errors in judgment that wind up costing taxpayers in the form of excessive operation and maintenance costs. And when politicians with no experience in how projects are built and/or are unable to look beyond the immediate ribbon cutting involve themselves in engineering design decisions, it just gets worse.

The Lompoc Aquatic Center is a perfect example of this phenomena and has become a continuing and very costly maintenance headache for the city of Lompoc. Let's review how this project grew from a need to repair or replace the old pool in front of City Hall into a money pit hidden from public view.

The reason it needed to be replaced was that over the life of the pool, unabated corrosion had taken its toll on the piping and major metal structural members holding the roof up. So the City Council of the time was fully aware that corrosion was a major maintenance issue for indoor, heated pools.

They decided to replace it, but they chose a location that is on an out-of-the-way parcel of land behind a multi-story shopping center and set back 350 feet from the nearest roadway. It is totally hidden from public view, and unless you know where it is you will have a hard time finding it.

I managed to reconstruct a cost history of the aquatic center project, one that would offer the people of Lompoc a world-class recreational venue. To be sure, the well-hidden facility is superior, but whether the initial construction costs associated with this project equaled what was promised to property owners when they approved the assessment or that the city could afford to maintain is another matter.

On May 21, 2002, the City Council approved a ballot proposal to go to property owners to establish an assessment for the "Lompoc Park Maintenance and City Pool District #2002-1." The engineers report suggested that the "estimated cost of the Family Aquatics and Swim Center is $7.8 million." Voters approved it with an overwhelming vote of support.

Then the problems began. The first cost escalation was just two years later in June 2004 when the Lompoc City Council authorized additional funding "to balance the budget for the projected $10.4 million necessary to construct the new aquatic center." The report also said, "The current projected cost estimate for [pool] construction is $9,292,214 compared to an estimate of $7,521,599 in October 2003."

And, in the 20 years since the assessment that was originally approved by property owners, it has nearly doubled and continues to rise every year.

The cost escalation wasn't over yet as the council kept tinkering with the design. Somewhere between August 2004 and the completion of the pool in late 2005, the final cost rose again to $12.8 million; at the time the mayor claimed it was "under budget." But was it? That's an eye-popping 60 percent more than the original project estimate approved by voters!

During the construction phase, as it became evident that costs were still escalating, the council decided to cut out a dehumidifier system from the project to "save money." This proved to be another costly mistake; apparently, they didn't learn anything from how badly the old pool had suffered from corrosion.

The government ... is prone to make serious errors in judgment that wind up costing taxpayers in the form of excessive operation and maintenance costs.

In November of 2009, the council was informed that the aquatic center, just opened in 2006, was beginning to show some serious signs of corrosion, a result of their earlier poor decision making. And in August 2010 they approved a $1.15 million project to install the dehumidifier that an earlier council had removed from the original construction.

The design of this facility includes systems and components that need constant upgrades and/or replacements. Most recently, the staff reported on April 5 that the manufacturer recommends that all four dehumidification units be replaced every 10 years; the manufacturer's recommended life span on the retractable roof ceiling panels and motor track are 10 years; and therapy pool heaters have a manufacturer lifespan of six to eight years.

To compound this comedy of errors, the staff says, "Because historically the city has not had sufficient revenue sources in the general fund to fund reserves for the LAC [Lompoc Aquatic Center] capital replacements, there are no funds specifically set aside to replace these equipment components that have a finite lifespan." Any competent homeowners association or property management firm knows that you must maintain maintenance reserves to amortize projects like this with so many components with a short shelf life.

Three councilmembers, Gilda Cordova, Dirk Starbuck, and Victor Vega, seemed frustrated by the lack of planning. City Manager Dean Albro agreed, "The past practice of the city of Lompoc has been very reactive. We wait for something to break, then we find the money to fix it. The general fund should be run like a utility where we do set money aside."

But will the council eventually agree to do what most homeowners association groups do and put money aside for future facility repairs or continue relying on emergency funding requests?

On April 5, the council agreed to a request for additional "appropriations of $983,288 for the aquatic center roof repair, pool heaters, and dehumidification system replacement project." All of this comes from the general fund. I am guessing that since the estimates were a couple of months old that these costs will increase to well over $1 million due to inflation.

Clearly this recreational facility would qualify as a "white elephant" by anyone's definition. ❍

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

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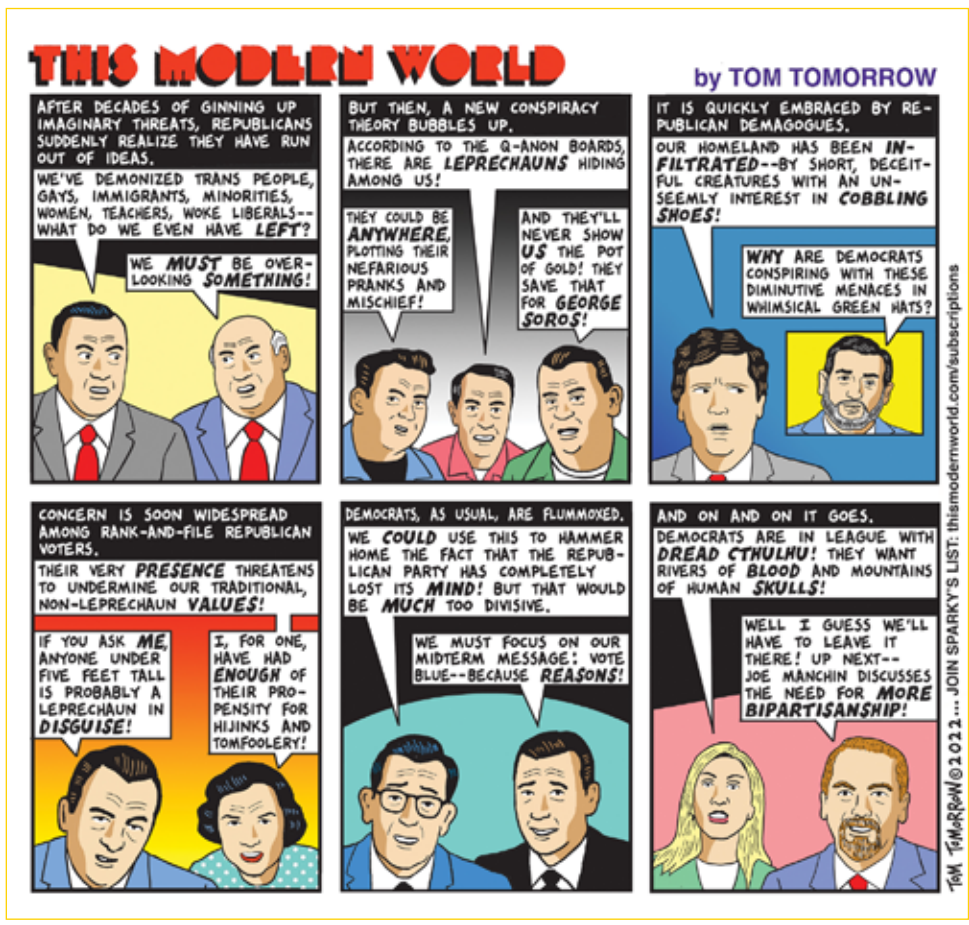

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Very nice

To hear **Mike Stoker** tell it, campaigning for elected office is really about one thing: "How it really should work is to have two candidates with two different perspectives who are willing to own those perspectives. We can both be nice people but it's a question of what direction you want for California."

Two candidates with two different perspectives. We only get two choices about the direction we want this state to go? What about the rest? The primary election should really be about narrowing down our choices for the general election—not having them narrowed down for us.

In the **37th District Assembly** race, we now only have two choices where there were once five: You Northern Santa Barbara County folks either get to vote for former Santa Barbara County Supervisor Stoker or current Santa Barbara County Supervisor **Gregg Hart**. So markedly conservative or liberal with a progressive tendency. Boring!

Why did the other three—**Gabe Escobedo, Bruce Wallach, and Jonathan Abboud**—drop out? Maybe they couldn't stick by their perspective on one of the state's most pressing issues: homelessness. I doubt that. I bet it was money or pressure from our broken two-party system. Or both.

But back to homelessness. Stoker said the state needs to resolve homelessness, but he was short on a prospective direction or details. Other than saying that Gov. **Gavin Newsom** is leading this state in the "wrong direction," he really doesn't say much of anything about what the right direction actually is.

Don't worry, though, he's a nice person who will be announcing a five-point plan in the very near future to help build higher and newer state reservoirs. No word yet on what he's going to do about the lack of rain or snowpack to fill the state's existing reservoirs. But that's just a minor hiccup.

Hart seems to believe that he can bring "practical solutions" to homelessness based on his experience with housing projects in both the city of Santa Barbara and the county. However, he isn't specific about those solutions or what the state needs to do to address the issue in a way that will impact the district that he's running in.

Don't worry, though, he's also a nice person who seems to understand that state policies impact local decision-making. It's earth-shattering stuff, really. I can't wait for the primary.

You know what else is nice?

Actually, it's not nice. It wasn't nice when the city of **Santa Maria** removed the ramps in the skatepark near **Fletcher Park** without clearly communicating their plan with the skateboarders who use said ramps. And a lot of people use that park. Many thought the ramps were just gone for good.

"Word had later gotten back to us saying the city wasn't getting rid of the ramps, but planned to fix them and put them back. [That's] all good, but it didn't ease the frustration with nobody reaching out to us to find out what we want," community advocate **Dan Pankratz** said.

Santa Maria Recreation Services Manager **Dennis Smitherman** admitted that the **Recreation and Parks Department** could have done a better job communicating with ramp users that those ramps were going to disappear temporarily. And it sounds like skateboarders might just get some input on how the city plans for skateboarding in the future.

Now, *that* is very nice.

The canary is never nice. Send comments to canary@santamariasun.com.

55 Fiction

A brief story, fifty-five words or less, with a headline no longer than seven words.

We accept entries to our annual **55 Fiction** writing contest all year long. Entries submitted by **5pm Tuesday, July 5, 2022** will be considered for this year's publications which will be out on **July 28, 2022**.

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An Untold Triumph: America's Filipino Soldiers *film*	**Monday, April 25**
The Black 54th Coast Artillery *living history*	**Tuesday, April, 26**
The Great Raid *WWII movie night*	**Tuesday, April, 26**
***SS Montebello* - WWII Impact on Morro Bay**	**Wednesday, April 27**
Central Coast Aviators of WWII *presentation*	**Wednesday, April 27**
World War II in Arroyo Grande *presentation*	**Thursday, April 28**
Letters from Interned Japanese Families *readings*	**Friday, April 29**
Japantown & Brook Street Black Hub *walking tour*	**Sunday, May 1**

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HOT STUFF

APRIL 21 – APRIL 28
2022

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

THE PLACES YOU'LL GO

Watercolor paintings by Nipomo-based artist Sheril Viau are currently on display at Gallery at Marina Square in Morro Bay. Viau's colorful landscapes are inspired by her various travels and will remain up at the gallery through Saturday, April 30. The venue is open daily from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. and is located at 601 Embarcadero, suite 10, Morro Bay. Call (805) 772-1068 or visit galleryatmarinasquare.com to find out more about the exhibit.

—Caleb Wiseblood

COURTESY IMAGE BY SHERIL VIAU

ARTS

SANTA YNEZ VALLEY

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

LAUGH THERAPY: STAND-UP COMEDY NIGHT Headliner: Phil Johnson. Also featuring Jeremy McKiernan, Jenn Gonzalez, and Sal España. **April 27**, 8-10 p.m. my805tix.com. Maverick Saloon, 3687 Sagunto St., Santa Ynez, 805-686-4785.

NEW PERSPECTIVES Gallery Los Olivos presents a group exhibition of seven new gallery artists: Marcia Burtt, 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.

PAUL RODRIGUEZ LIVE Enjoy live stand-up. **April 22**, 8 p.m. $39-$69. Chumash Casino Resort, 3400 E. Highway 246, Santa Ynez, 800-248-6274, chumashcasino.com/entertainment.

SPOKEN WORD OPEN MIC A monthly spoken word/open mic night. Come to listen or to read poetry or prose. **May 1**, 5-7 p.m. Free. 805-686-9126. arrowsmithwine.com. Arrowsmith's, 1539 Mission Drive, Solvang.

SPRING PEDDLER FAIRE Wide assortment of handmade items including quilts and other unique items. Learn about the fun and fascinating art of quilting from Santa Maria Valley Quilt Guild members. **April 30** River View Park, 151 Sycamore Dr., Buellton.

LOMPOC/VANDENBERG

PIGMENTS OF MY IMAGINATION Showcasing acrylic artworks by featured artist Chris Jezeck. **April 29-May 29** lompocart.org/events/pigments-of-my-imaginationrevisited. Cypress Gallery, 119 E Cypress Ave., Lompoc, 805-705-5328.

SANTA MARIA VALLEY/LOS ALAMOS

AMDA DAY A dance scholarship and workshop for students in the performing arts. May 28 is for theater arts majors and May 29 is specific to dancers. There will be a presentation, workshop, and audition for the conservatory at AHC in studio D-118. **April 29**, 3:30-7:30 p.m. Free. 801-427-2760. hancockcollege.edu. Allan Hancock College, 800 S. College Drive, Santa Maria.

MARIAN THEATRE: *INTO THE WOODS* Book by James Lapine. Music and Lyrics by Stephen Sondheim. **April 28-May 15** Marian Theatre, 800 S. College Dr., Santa Maria, pcpa.org.

THE LIFESPAN OF A FACT Two characters come head to head in a comedic yet gripping battle over facts versus truth. **April 22-May 8** smct.org/shows/. Santa Maria Civic Theatre, 1660 N. McClelland St., Santa Maria.

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

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.

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. Fourth 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. ongoing. wineanddesign.com/orcutt. Wine and Design, 3420 Orcutt Road, suite 105, Orcutt.

SOUTH COAST SLO COUNTY

DYEING SILK SCARVES WITH HUMBLE PLANTS Come learn how easy and thrilling it can be to create your own dye vats from colors you probably already have in your very own kitchen or yard. **April 27**, 6-8 p.m. and **April 30**, 10 a.m.-noon $40. 805-668-2125. lila.community. LilA Creative Community, 1147 East Grand Ave. suite 101, 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.

WOMEN'S MORNING OF RENEWAL On the last Saturday of every month, celebrate your own unique creative process. This month we will play a collective drawing game, leading us into some whimsical watercolor paintings. Come see how joyful art and community can be. Last Saturday of every month, 10 a.m.-noon $35. 805-668-2125. lila.community/all-workshops/womens-morning-of-renewal-twwyl. LilA Creative Community, 1147 East Grand Ave. suite 101, Arroyo Grande.

SAN LUIS OBISPO

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

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.

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 ACRYLIC PAINTING DEMONSTRATION WITH RACHEL CORVESE Participants of the demo are encouraged to bring a donation of canned/dry food

ARTS continued page 14

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 newtimesslo.com. You may also email calendar@newtimesslo.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@newtimesslo.com.**

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MY 805 TIX

ALL TICKETS. ONE PLACE.

ON SALE NOW!

BREW AT THE ZOO!

Sat., April 30 · 5:30–9pm

Charles Paddock Zoo,
Atascadero

Presented by:
CITY OF ATASCADERO

TICKETS AVAILABLE AT
MY805TIX.COM

Does your organization sell tickets?
Get more exposure and sell more tickets with a local media partner. Call 805-546-8208 for more info.

ADOPT!

Adoptable Pets of the Week

Juneau
Age: 2 years 7 months
Breed: Siberian Husky/German Shepherd
Sex: Male
Weight: 55 lbs.

Barney
Age: 6 years 2 months
Breed: Domestic Shorthair
Sex: Male
Weight: 13 lbs.

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

Santa Maria Valley Humane Society

1687 West Stowell Rd • Santa Maria
(805) 349-3435 • www.smvhs.org

Adoption Center Hours
Wed–Sun 11am–6pm

AD PROVIDED BY
Bunny Maxim
The Maxim in Real Estate
(805) 878-0807
CORNERSTONE MISSION COASTREALTY

ALWAYS AMAZING.
NEVER ROUTINE.

JUANES
MAY 14 | SATURDAY | 8PM

WAR
JUNE 11 | SATURDAY | 8PM

LUIS R CONRIQUEZ
JUNE 24 | FRIDAY | 8PM

THERESA CAPUTO
JULY 29 + 30 | TWO NIGHTS | 8PM

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

CHUMASH CASINO RESORT

Welcome to Freedom

ON SALE NOW

THE GREAT AMERICAN MELODRAMA EST. THEATRE 1975

Bring this coupon with you for
A FREE LARGE POPCORN
with paid reservation
expires: 4/28/22

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

or for a food drive. Save your spot today by contacting Rachel Corvese, raisedcreations@gmail.com **April 23**, 1-2 p.m. Free. 805-747-4200. artcentralslo.com/spring-arts-events-and-opportunities-here-at-art-central/. Art Central, 1329 Monterey St., San Luis Obispo.

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

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.

IMPROV 101 COMEDY CLASS Improv Comedy 101 is a beginning level course for people who are interested in exploring performance and learning how to create improvised comedy with an ensemble. This class is taught by experienced improviser and the owner of Central Coast Comedy Theater, Sabrina Pratt. Wednesdays, 6-8 p.m. through June 1 $225. centralcoastcomedytheater.com. Central Coast Comedy Theater Training Center, 2078 Parker Street, Suite 200, San Luis Obispo, 803-487-4401.

IMPROV COMEDY SHOWS A free show from the Central Coast Comedy Theater cast and a new local improv team, The Rim Shots. **April 24**, 5-7 p.m. Free. centralcoastcomedytheater.com. Bang the Drum Brewery, 1150 Laurel Lane, suite 130, San Luis Obispo, 805 242-8372.

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

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

MAKE YOUR MOVE: FILMS ABOUT MOVEMENT Presented by R.A.C.E MATTERS SLO with SLO Film Fest. A free program of five short films curated by R.A.C.E Matters, featuring stories about movement and movements — moving through life, moving us forward. Includes Q-and-A with filmmakers. **April 30**, 12:30-2:30 p.m. Free. 805-242-6242. slofilmfest.org. The Fremont Theater, 1035 Monterey St., San Luis Obispo.

COURTESY PHOTO BY LUIS ESCOBAR REFLECTIONS PHOTOGRAPHY STUDIO

TALES AS OLD AS TIME

The Pacific Conservatory Theatre's latest production, Into the Woods, premieres at the Marian Theatre 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. The cast includes George Walker and Ekaterina Bouras (left and right, respectively). Tickets range between $33.50 and $50. Visit pcpa.org for more info. The Marian Theatre is located at 800 S. College Drive, Santa Maria.

—C.W.

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

MONTHLY ART WORKSHOP: TANKA WRITING This month's event will be hosted by Dr. Lata Mutri, who will be demonstrating to us how to create Tankas. Tanka poems, which originated in Japan, are short poems intended to evoke vivid imagery. **April 27**, 7-8 p.m. Free. 209-312-8653. tinyurl.com/TankaApril22. Online, See website, San Luis Obispo.

MUTTVILLE COMIX Murphy the ladder-climbing fox terrier and Willy the border collie lead a diverse cast of pooches in this hilarious slapstick comedy show for every family member and dog lover among us. Joined by their human "straight man" Johnny Peers. **April 24**, 1-2:30 & 4-5:30 p.m. $26-$36. 805-756-4849. pacslo.org/online/article/muttvillecomix22. Performing Arts Center, 1 Grand Ave., San Luis Obispo.

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

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/.

SLO FILM FEST In-person and virtual passes available now. **April 26-May 1** slofilmfest.org. Online, See website, 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.

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.

NORTH SLO COUNTY

BLOCK PRINTING WORKSHOP Learn the art of block printing. By the time you're done, you'll have printed your very own design on your very own totebag from your very own block that you made with your very own hands. **April 24**, 2-4 p.m. $75. 805-464-0533. the1artery.com/events/2021/6/19/block-printing-7b7xn. The ARTery, 5890 Traffic Way, Atascadero.

ARTS continued page 19

What's Your Take?

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

This week's online poll 4/21 – 4/28

How do you feel about the vice president's announcement of the new nationwide ban on anti-satellite missile testing?

- ❍ I'm all for it. Space debris sucks!
- ❍ I'm honestly not sure; I need to look into it.
- ❍ I'm not convinced that it should be banned.
- ❍ I'm against any kind of banning—just let me do what I want!

Enter your choice online at: SantaMariaSun.com

Sun

MISSION

The mission of the North County Rape Crisis and Child Protection Center is to reduce the incidence of and vulnerability to sexual assault, child abuse, and human trafficking by providing education and prevention skills to community children and adults, and to alleviate the trauma experienced by survivors of these crimes by providing direct services.

KNOW MORE
DO MORE
NO MORE!

North County Rape Crisis and Child Protection Center

Prevention Education Services | Intervention & Counseling

24-Hour Support Line (805) 736-7273
www.sbcountyrapecrisis.org

This ad provided by: HUTTON PARKER FOUNDATION

Sun

OUR STORY IS YOUR STORY

NORTH COUNTY RAPE CRISIS AND CHILD PROTECTION CENTER

The Center was established in 1974 when a group of Lompoc women realized there was a critical need for support and resources for survivors of sexual assault.

Nothing existed at that time in the area, so they got together and did something about it: **The Rape Crisis Center** was born. Thirteen years later, the branch office in Santa Maria was established.

The Center provides 24-hour hotline support, crisis intervention services and prevention outreach in Lompoc, Santa Maria/Guadalupe, Santa Ynez Valley, Cuyama/New Cuyama and neighboring areas through our prevention and intervention efforts.

North County Rape Crisis and Child Protection Center has a total of 11 full- and part-time staff positions.

With over 116 years of combined service, Center staff are fully dedicated to the mission of the organization, providing direct services as well as educational programming in the community.

School-based ChildSAFE Program provides personal safety, sexual harassment, and healthy relationship workshops.

ChildSAFE has been provided to North County youth since 1984; these workshops are delivered to children from pre-school to high-school level.

With this specialized instruction, younger children learn about different types of touch in the "**Good Touch, Bad Touch**" presentation, how to prevent unwanted touch, and how to identify and get assistance from "helping people" in the community, and who these people may be.

Older students get an extended lesson on abuse which also concentrates on how to recognize and prevent potentially dangerous situations. The presentations are age appropriate and specific, based on different stages of socialization experienced by each age group and the different issues that they may face.

NORTH COUNTY RAPE CRISIS AND CHILD PROTECTION CENTER

An exciting and effective program also presented by Center staff is called "Word on the Street."

This training is given specifically to youth aged 14–19, and focuses on the perils of human trafficking and what one needs to be aware of as far as the tricks and traps that exploiters use to groom vulnerable youth into a life of being trafficked.

Commercially Sexually Exploited Children (CSEC) are, sadly, a common occurrence on the Central Coast, and The Center is working hand-in-hand with many organizations to not only assist the survivors of these crimes, but to raise awareness and prevent children from being victimized in this manner. The Center's goal through its prevention programs is to reduce their vulnerability by providing healthy dialogue that helps them explore the dangers and learn practical ways to avoid the tactics of exploiters. The program can be tailored to meet the needs/time constraints of the attendees, but ideally it is a multi-week program

Center staff and volunteers provide intervention and direct services 24 hours a day.

Our services are available to survivors of sexual violence, child abuse and human trafficking as well as advocacy for their significant others and others in crisis. Services include crisis intervention and support through our **24-hour** Support Line, immediate advocacy, case management, counseling, follow-up contact, information/referral services, and support groups. One of the most critical aspects of the Center's intervention program is our membership with the county's **SART (Sexual Assault Response Team)**. The Center's role on the team is to provide accompaniment and support services for the survivor once they disclose to law enforcement.

Our intervention services are available not only for an immediate crisis; we serve all survivors – whether they were victimized an hour ago or 60 years ago.

We assist people of **all ages** – yes, **men and boys**, too, as we understand that they are victimized at an alarming rate; just as women are. Significant others are welcome to contact us for direction in helping their family member or friend on their journey of healing. All services and programs are available **free of charge** to all, though donations are of course accepted, and are tax deductible.

Volunteers play a critical role in providing services.

On average, volunteers donate over 250 hours per month supporting the agency's direct services to survivors and significant others by providing critical linkages on the 24-Hour Support Line. Without dedicated volunteers answering these calls for service, the staff would be hard-pressed to meet the continual need. We may not always know "what" our impact is, but if we plant a seed of hope and have helped alleviate someone's trauma, then we have done our job.

KNOW MORE
DO MORE
NO MORE!

If you would like to **KNOW MORE**, and **DO MORE**, so that there is **NO MORE!** violence, we encourage you to contact us.

Let us know how you want to KNOW MORE by:

- Becoming more involved with the Center
- Becoming a volunteer with the Center
- Attend educational programs in the community or call us to schedule one for your place of work or group you belong to
- Attend a self-defense/personal safety program

Perhaps you want to DO MORE by:

- Partnering with the Center in ending violence
- Assisting the Center with fundraising/events

Or perhaps you would like more information on how you can help us financially by:

- Having your gift matched by my employer
- How to make a gift of appreciated securities
- How to include the Center in your will

VOLUNTEERS-WE NEED YOU

Want to join us? Training is available and sign-ups are being taken now!

For more information on the Center's Volunteer Program and to learn how big of an impact you can make, contact Liz at (805)922-2994 x 204 or email liz@ncrccpc.org

FUTURE

We have navigated through two years of a pandemic that has tested our abilities on every level. With fundraising efforts over the last two years being severely crippled and still not fully knowing what the ripple effect this pandemic will have on future funding, we continue to need your support. Your gift can and does make a difference!

Did you know that:

- **$1,000** funds **40 hours of assistance** for teens identified as Commercially Sexually Exploited Children and adult survivors of human trafficking.
- **$750** funds **3 months of 24-hour Support Line Services** accessibility for survivors of sexual assault, child abuse and human trafficking.
- **$500** funds **4 ChildSAFE three-day workshop**s for one school. The Center provides these workshops in all north county secondary schools.
- **$250** funds **art supplies for four** Survivor support group sessions.
- **$100** provides **workbooks to 15 youth** in the Center's Word on the Street human trafficking prevention program.
- **$50** funds **four survivors with clothes** to wear home after a SART/Rape Kit exam. We average over four SART's a month.
- **$25** provides **office supplies** that are used for outreach programming.

CALL OR VISIT OUR WEBSITE TODAY!

Lompoc (805) 736-8535

Santa Maria (805) 922-2994

www.sbcountyrapecrisis.org

Our service area is expansive from the Goleta Tunnel north to the Santa Maria River bridge and all of the outlying areas in the unincorporated areas of Northern Santa Barbara County.

Main administrative office:
511 East Ocean
Lompoc
(805) 736-8535

Satellite office:
301 South Miller, Suite 206
Santa Maria
(805) 922-2994

24-Hour Support Line (805) 736-7273
www.sbcountyrapecrisis.org

North County Rape Crisis and Child Protection Center

Prevention Education Services | Intervention & Counseling

Facebook: @ncrccpc • Instagram: @ncrccpc • Twitter: @ncrccpc_org

YouTube Channel:
Search "North County Rape Crisis Staying Centered"

ARTS from page 14

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.

MOSAIC MIRROR WORKSHOP This is a 2-day workshop. The first day, you will create and glue your design on a pre-cut wooden base. The second day, you will come back to grout and finish your mirror. All materials included. 6 spaces available. **April 30**, 10 a.m.-noon and **May 1**, 12-1 p.m. $75. 805-464-2633. glassheadstudio.com. Glasshead Studio, 8793 Plata Lane, Suite H, Atascadero.

OPEN PROJECT NIGHT Create a fused glass project of your choice. You will be able to choose from a variety of plates, platters, or bowl molds. All materials included. Prices based on sizes. 6 spaces available. **April 22**, 6-8 p.m. Starts at $40. 805-464-2633. glassheadstudio.com. Glasshead Studio, 8793 Plata Lane, Suite H, Atascadero.

POP-UP ART SHOW An outdoor experience at The Educated Gardener. Local artists will be showcasing their artwork in a garden setting. This free event is open to all ages. Come support local art and small business. **April 24**, 11 a.m.-4 p.m. 805-438-4250. The Educated Gardener, 22210 El Camino Real, Santa Margarita.

NORTH COAST SLO COUNTY

ART AND ABOUT MORRO BAY Join us for Art and About Morro Bay, a self-guided art walk that gives the community an opportunity to experience visual, literary, and performing art in galleries and other venues. Visit site for a map of locations. (Events will not occur on major holidays). Fourth Saturday of every month, 1-4 p.m. Free. 805-544-9251. artsobispo.org/art-and-about. Morro Bay (participating artists), Townwide, Morro Bay.

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

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. Free. 805-772-1068. galleryatmarinasquare.com. Gallery at Marina Square, 601 Embarcadero suite 10, Morro Bay.

ENCAUSTICS WORKSHOP WITH VICKY HOFFMAN This workshop provides a hands-on introduction to the basic techniques of the encaustic process – beeswax, resin, and pigment. **April 23**, 1-4 p.m. Art Center Morro Bay, 835 Main St., Morro Bay, 805-772-2504, artcentermorrobay.org.

COURTESY IMAGE BY CARLSON STURGEON

HOT STUFF
APRIL 21 – APRIL 28
2022

FACE TO FACE

A special reception for Allan Hancock College's 2022 Fine Arts Student Art Show in Santa Maria will be held on Thursday, April 21, from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m. This group exhibition showcases a collection of paintings, drawings, photographs, and artworks in various other media created by Hancock students. The show will remain on display in the Ann Foxworthy Gallery through Thursday, May 12. Visit hancockcollege.edu/gallery to find out more about the exhibit.

—C.W.

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, 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.

INTRO INTO ENCAUSTICS This mini workshop provides a hands-on introduction to the basic techniques of the encaustic process (beeswax, resin, and pigment). **April 23**, 1-4 p.m. $75 Members; $85 Non-Members. 805-772-2504. artcentermorrobay.org. Art Center Morro Bay, 835 Main St., Morro Bay.

LOVE: OPEN HEARTS, OPEN MINDS This exhibit is open to the public. Through 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. 1-4 p.m. $60. 805-772-2504. artcentermorrobay.org/index.php/workshops/. Art Center Morro Bay, 835 Main St., Morro Bay.

NOW AND THEN A staged reading directed by Nicolette Tempesta. **April 22**-24 By The Sea Productions, 545 Shasta Ave., Morro Bay, 805-776-3287, bytheseaproductions.org.

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 a show of originals and giclee prints of Morro Bay and local birds. 805-772-9955. Seven Sisters Gallery, 601 Embarcadero Ste. 8, Morro Bay, sevensistersgalleryca.com.

THE REBOOT: STORYTELLING REIMAGINED Featuring a curated mix of seasoned and first-time tellers performing true, personal stories around a different theme each month. Held in an enchanted garden theater under the stars, each unique show weaves words into gold. **April 29**, 7-9:15 p.m. Free. 805-772-9225. facebook.com/the.reboot4u. Top Dog Coffee Bar, 857 Main St., Morro Bay.

HOT STUFF continued page 20

MY 805 TIX
ALL TICKETS. ONE PLACE.
ON SALE NOW!

SLO PRIDEFEST
May 20–May 22
Laguna Lake Park,
San Luis Obispo
Presented by:
GALA PRIDE & DIVERSITY CENTER
TICKETS AVAILABLE AT
MY805TIX.COM
Does your organization sell tickets?
Get more exposure and sell more tickets with a local media partner. Call 805-546-8208 for more info.

2022
SUMMER CONCERT SERIES
FEATURING
Central Coast bands, BBQ, and beer on our outdoor patio from 12-4pm

MAY

5/7	Spanky Paul
5/8	Roughhouse
5/14	Jumping Jax
5/15	Soleffect
5/21	Spanky Paul
5/22	Jill Knight
5/28	Moonstone Band
5/29	Shameless

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
"Where Natural History Comes to Life."

The Natural History Museum
412 S. McClelland Street, Santa Maria
(805) 614-0806 · smnaturalhistory.org

Winning Images

27th Annual Photography Contest & Exhibition

Lance Wilson, 2021

ENTER ONLINE MAY 12–26

CATEGORIES: ANIMALS · FLORA · IN MOTION
LAND/SEASCAPES · PEOPLE · TRAVEL · OPEN · YOUTH

Winners will be published on June 16, 2022
and will be a part of an online gallery.

New Times Sun The Photo Shop

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HOT STUFF from page 19

CULTURE & LIFESTYLE

SANTA YNEZ VALLEY

NEAL TAYLOR NATURE CENTER'S 25TH ANNUAL FISH DERBY The annual fundraiser for the Neal Taylor Nature Center at Cachuma Lake. Participants compete for various cash and merchandise prizes. **April 23**, 6 a.m. and **April 24**, 6 a.m.-noon $35-$45. 805-729-2246. clnaturecenter.org. Neal Taylor Nature Center, 2265 Highway 154, Santa Barbara.

SANTA MARIA VALLEY/LOS ALAMOS

2022 KIWANIS POPPY POKER RALLY Route takes you through beautiful locations in the Santa Maria Valley visiting local non-profit sites and gardens. **April 24**, 12-3 p.m. my805tix.com. Oasis Center, 420 Soares Ave., Orcutt, 805-937-9750.

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

EARTH DAY PRESENTATION WITH TRI-COUNTY REGIONAL NETWORK (3C-REN) 3C-REN partnered with local libraries to host the Home Energy Savings DIY Toolkit Webinar, which which will cover the tools, equipment, and a guide to help you save energy. **April 21**, 6 p.m. Free. 805-925-0994 ext. 8526. cityofsantamaria.org/city-government/departments/library. Santa Maria Public Library, 421 S. McClelland St., Santa Maria.

EARTH DAY WITH THE GUADALUPE-NIPOMO DUNES CENTER AND THE GUADALUPE COMMUNITY CHANGERS Celebrating our planet with kid activities, a community clean-up, and informational booths. **April 23**, 10 a.m. my805tix.com. Guadalupe-Nipomo Dunes Center, 1065 Guadalupe St, Guadalupe, 8053432455.

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

SANTA MARIA VALLEY STRAWBERRY FESTIVAL Check website for updates on happenings at offerings at the Strawberry Festival. **April 29-May 1** santamariafairpark.com. Santa Maria Fairpark, 937 S. Thornburg St., Santa Maria.

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

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 30**, 11 a.m.-1 p.m. Free. 805-925-0994. cityofsantamaria.org/city-government/departments/library. Santa Maria Public Library, 421 S. McClelland St., Santa Maria.

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

SOUTH COAST SLO COUNTY

BEGINNER GROUP SURF LESSONS AND SURF CAMPS Lessons and camp packages available daily. All equipment included. ongoing Starts at $70. 805-835-7873. sandbarsurf.com/. Sandbar Surf School Meetup Spot, 110 Park Ave., Pismo Beach.

CENTRAL CORE WEEKEND WELLNESS FITNESS RETREAT: SPA WEEKEND Enjoy Pilates workouts, plus massage, hot springs, beach walks, food, wine tasting. The small event is open to everyone and all fitness levels. You don't need to be a member of Central Core studio. **April 30**, 10 a.m.-6 p.m. and **May 1**, 10 a.m.-1 p.m. $325. 805-295-9505. mpspost.wordpress.com/events-2/. Central Core, 1160 Price Street, Pismo Beach.

FREE YOGA FOR FIRST RESPONDERS, EMS, AND COMMUNITY CARETAKERS Join for some well-deserved self-care. Anyone including fire, EMS, police, hospital workers, medical staff, assisted living caretakers, etc. is welcome. All yoga abilities are encouraged to attend. Please email empoweryoga805@gmail.com in advance to enroll. Thursdays, 6-7 p.m. 805-619-0989. Empower Yoga Studio and Community Boutique, 775 W. Grand Ave., Grover Beach, empoweryoga805.com.

MODEL RAILROAD DAYS SLO Model Railroad Association is proud to announce Model Railroad Days at the Oceano Depot. Features a free display of working model railroads and more. All ages welcome. **April 22**, 10 a.m.-5 p.m., **April 23**, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. and **April 24**, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Free. 951-526-1147. slomra.org. Oceano Train Depot, 1650 Front St., Oceano.

PAULDING AT THE PARK Hear why he is running for supervisor and his plans for South County. **April 24**, 2-4 p.m. Free. 805-994-0025. jimmypaulding.org/. Elm Street Park, 1221 Ash St., Arroyo Grande.

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.

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

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

SAN LUIS OBISPO

ADDRESSING RACISM AND DIVERSITY IN MUSIC INSTITUTIONS: WEBINAR The guest panelists will be Stephanie Shonekan, associate dean of the College of Arts and Science and professor of music at the University of Missouri (MU), and Keith Jackson, dean of the College of Creative Arts at West Virginia University (WVU). **April 28**, 11 a.m. Free. 805-756-2406. music.calpoly.edu/calendar/special. Online, See website, San Luis Obispo.

HOT STUFF
APRIL 21 – APRIL 28
2022

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.

BIRDS AND BOTANY MONTHLY WALK AT SLO BOTANICAL GARDEN The Garden is excited to present a monthly bird walk series on the fourth Thursday of every month which explores the intersection of birds and botany. Fourth Thursday of every month, 8-11 a.m. $10 for Garden Members; $40 for general public. 805-541-1400. slobg.org. San Luis Obispo Botanical Garden, 3450 Dairy Creek Rd., San Luis Obispo.

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

CAL POLY GENDER EQUITY CENTER PRESENTS ORIGINAL WOMXN'S NARRATIVES (OWN) As a student-created, student-performed production at the intersection of social justice and theatre, OWN explores the countless stories of taking ownership of or defying expectations of gender. **April 22**, 7-9 p.m. and **April 23**, 7-9 p.m. $7. 805-756-4849. pacslo.org/online/article/own22. Performing Arts Center, 1 Grand Ave., San Luis Obispo.

CAL POLY SOFTBALL VS LBSU The Mustangs take on Long Beach State in a Big West Conference showdown. **April 24**, 1 p.m. gopoly.com. Bob Janssen Field, 1 Grand Ave., San Luis Obispo, 805-756-7297.

CAL POLY SOFTBALL VS LONG BEACH STATE For Strikeout Cancer, there will be shirts for sale, a raffle, and special ball toss to raise money for Hearst Cancer Resource Center. **April 23**, 1 p.m. gopoly.com. Bob Janssen Field, 1 Grand Ave., San Luis Obispo, 805-756-7297.

DOCENT TRAINING: MISSION SAN LUIS OBISPO DOCENTS Daily tours of Mission San Luis Obispo are very popular for visitors from all over the world. Learn the fascinating history from Daniel Krieger, PhD, over three Saturdays at the Mission. A rewarding volunteer activity. **April 23**, 9:30-11:30 a.m. and **April 30**, 9:30-11:30 a.m. 805-234-4457. missionsanluisobispo.org. Mission San Luis Obispo de Tolosa, 751 Palm Street, San Luis Obispo.

FREE GUIDED MEDITATION GROUP A free guided meditation group held every Friday morning. Call for more info. Fridays, 10-10:45 a.m. through Jan. 27. 805-439-2757. RuthCherryPhD.com. Online, See website, San Luis Obispo.

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

PLANNED PARENTHOOD CALIFORNIA CENTRAL COAST'S ROE SLO Please join Planned Parenthood California Central Coast for

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

CULTURE & LIFESTYLE continued page 22

MY 805 TIX

Tickets on sale now at My805Tix.com

SELL YOUR TICKETS WITH US AND SEE YOUR EVENT HERE

By the Sea Productions presents Staged Reading: Now and Then
FRI, SAT, SUN, APRIL 22, 23, 24
545 Shasta Ave, Morro Bay

The Lifespan of a Fact
APRIL 22, 23, 24, 29, 30,
MAY 1, 2, 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

Earth Day in Guadalupe with The Dunes Center
SATURDAY, APRIL 23
Downtown Guadalupe

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

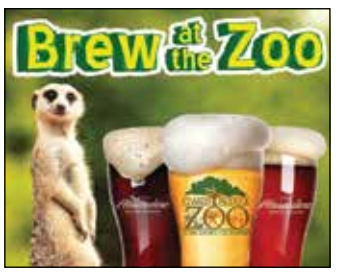
Point San Luis Lighthouse Tours
In-Person WED & SAT
Virtual ON DEMAND
Avila Beach

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

Laugh Therapy Stand-Up Comedy
WEDNESDAY, APRIL 27
Maverick Saloon, Santa Ynez

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

Bird Hike with The Guadalupe-Nipomo Dunes Center
SATURDAY, APRIL 30
Oso Flaco Lake, Arroyo Grande



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 presents Staged Reading: 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, Calabasas

Spring Ready Room Pick Up Weekend
SAT & SUN, MAY 14 & 15
Volatus Winery, Paso Robles

Kathleen Goddard Jones Memorial Hike at Black Lake
SUNDAY, MAY 15
Black Lake Ecological Area, Nipomo

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
Old Santa Rosa Chapel, Cambria

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

Symphony of the Vines: Joyful Beethoven
FRIDAY, MAY 27
Mission San Miguel

Interested in selling tickets with My805Tix? Contact us for a demo today! **info@My805Tix.com**

POWERED BY: New Times & Sun

CULTURE & LIFESTYLE from page 20

its celebration of the anniversary of Roe v. Wade. Enjoy cocktails and hors d'oevres on Hotel SLO's rooftop terrace while listening to guest speaker and PPCCC's Chief Medical Director, Dr. Maryam Guiahi, MD, MSc. **April 27**, 5:30-7:30 p.m. $150. 805-722-7153. roe.ppcentralcoast.org/. Hotel San Luis Obispo, 877 Palm Street, San Luis Obispo.

SLO COUNTY EARTH DAY FAIR 2022 Seeking volunteers to help with planning or to help on the day of the event. All levels of experience welcome. Exhibitor applications are available on website. **April 23**, 11 a.m.-4 p.m. 805-544-8529. earthdayalliance.com. Laguna Lake Park, 504 Madonna Rd., San Luis Obispo.

WWII COMMEMORATION WEEK Features various events. Check website or call for full schedule of programs. **April 24-May 1** historycenterslo.org/commemoration.html. History Center of San Luis Obispo County, 696 Monterey St., San Luis Obispo, 805-543-0638.

NORTH SLO COUNTY

THREE SPECKLED HENS: ANTIQUES AND OLD STUFF SHOW A biannual event that specializes in selling one-of-a-kind antique and vintage items. Over 100 vendors will participate in the show, selling everything from antiques and vintage items to re-purposed treasures. **April 29**, **April 30** and **May 1** my805tix.com. Paso Robles Event Center, 2198 Riverside Ave., Paso Robles.

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.

PHOTO COURTESY OF ROCKY ROSS

MONTHLY MIX

The fourth season of The Reboot: Storytelling ReImagined kicks off in Morro Bay starting on Friday, April 29, at 7 p.m. Various storytellers participate in presenting their work at this monthly outdoor gathering, which will continue on every fourth Friday through October. The event is held at Top Dog Coffee's Garden Theater, located at 857 Main St., Morro Bay. Email the event's host, Rocky Ross, at the.reboot4u@gmail.com for more info or to pitch a story for inclusion.

—C.W.

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 Fo online to make a reservation to taste at the winery or find more info on the winery's Wine Club offerings. presquilewine.com. Presqu'ile Winery, 5391 Presqu'ile Dr., Santa Maria.

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

MUSIC

SANTA YNEZ VALLEY

FLANNEL 101 LIVE April 23, 9 p.m. Maverick Saloon, 3687 Sagunto St., Santa Ynez, 805-686-4785, mavericksaloon.org.

GHOST/MONSTER LIVE April 30, 12-6 p.m. Brick Barn Wine Estate, 795 W. Hwy 246, Buellton, 805-686-1208, brickbarnwineestate.com.

JOHN LYLE LIVE April 24, 2-6 p.m. Brick Barn Wine Estate, 795 W. Hwy 246, Buellton, 805-686-1208, brickbarnwineestate.com.

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

THE MOLLY RINGWALD PROJECT LIVE April 22, 9 p.m. Maverick Saloon, 3687 Sagunto St., Santa Ynez, 805-686-4785, mavericksaloon.org.

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

SANTA MARIA VALLEY/LOS ALAMOS

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

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

A RED CARPET AFFAIR: SENIOR PROM Santa Maria Recreation and Parks and Santa Maria Valley Senior Club presents A Red Carpet Affair Senior Prom featuring Riptide Big Band, vocalists Bo Prescott, Bob Nations, and Mitch Latting. Grant funding from Community Foundation of SLO County. **May 1**, 1:30-4 p.m. 775-813-5186. RiptideBB.com. Elwin Mussell Senior Center, 510 Park Ave., Santa Maria.

SANTA MARIA PHILHARMONIC SOCIETY: SOARING MASTERPIECES (FATE AND DESTINY) The 2021-2022 season concludes in dramatic fashion with music by Mozart, Copland, and Brahms. **April 30**, 7:30-9:30 p.m. 805-925 0412. givebutter.com/SoaringMasterpieces. Grace Baptist Church, 605 E. McCoy Ln., Santa Maria.

SOUTH COAST SLO COUNTY

DESPERADO: THE NATION'S PREMIER EAGLES TRIBUTE "Take It To The Limit" and celebrate four decades of hit songs with America's favorite Eagles tribute. **April 23**, 7:30-9:30 p.m. $45-$58. 805-489-9444. clarkcenter.org/shows/desperado-the-nations-premier-eagles-tribute/. Clark Center for the Performing Arts, 487 Fair Oaks Ave., Arroyo Grande.

YOSEMITE JAZZ BAND LIVE Opener: Tevis Junior High School Jazz Band from Bakersfield, at 1 p.m. **April 24**, 2-4 p.m. pismojazz.com. Pismo Beach Veterans Memorial Hall, 780 Bello St., Pismo Beach.

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Arts Briefs

Central Coast Film Society recognizes winners of third annual Student Showcase

COURTESY PHOTO BY ASHLEY ROBINSON

Students from various local high schools were awarded with scholarships at the Central Coast Film Society's third annual Student Showcase, which was held at San Luis Obispo High School in the beginning of April. Each winner was a participant of this year's Student Film and Digital Media Arts Competition, and had the opportunity to showcase their submissions during the showcase.

In press materials, the Central Coast Film Society's board president, Sarah Risley, described the event as the chance "to give local creators a platform to show their creative works, and reward them for their talents."

A total of 175 submissions were reviewed by a panel of judges and narrowed down to a group of finalists. Entries ranged from students based in Santa Barbara, San Luis Obispo, Ventura, and Monterey counties, and the judges of the competition were Alan Fraser, co-founder of the Cambria Film Festival; Chachi Ramirez, owner of the Guadalupe Royal Theater; and Chris Hite, a film professor at Allan Hancock College in Santa Maria.

Daniel Lahr, executive director of the Central Coast Film Society, gave a "a huge thank you to the teachers, mentors, and judges" involved with the competition in press materials.

"Your hard work and insights are building the next generation of filmmakers, screenwriters, and photographers," Lahr said.

First place winners—Colin Dowse, Rhys Eleanor Demarest, Abigail Reinstedt, Ashley Robinson (a Central Coast New Tech High School student who won for her photo, *Cat Reflection*), and Coleman Howe—were selected, respectively, from the following five categories: film, screenwriting, photography, highlight reel (editing/animation/FX), photography, and "Central Coast Spirit."

Each award recipient received a $250 scholarship to support their future creative endeavors. For more info on the Central Coast Film Society's Student Showcase, visit centralcoastfilmsociety.org.

RoseDog Books publishes new thriller, *The Horrendous Disaster*, by Santa Maria-based teen author

Santa Maria local and eighth grade student Penelope Wasylychyn wrote a 30-page fiction book, *The Horrendous Disaster*, which was recently published by RoseDog Books and is currently available for purchase. Paperback editions are $9, while the eBook version is $5.

According to RoseDog Books, Wasylychyn began writing the book during the pandemic. In her free time, she enjoys writing fan fiction, playing softball, and camping. The release describes the plot of *The Horrendous Disaster* as following two sisters who "fight for their lives against a slew of disasters."

Visit rosedogbookstore.com/the-horrendous-disaster for more info on the book. ❍

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

COURTESY IMAGE BY EMIL MORHARDT

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

BIRD IS THE WORD: Based in Santa Barbara, Emil Morhardt is an artist well known for his highly detailed bird paintings. One of his featured pieces in New Perspectives—Gallery Los Olivos' latest group show—is *American Kestrel*.

Magnificent seven

New Perspectives highlights a septet of artists at Gallery Los Olivos

BY CALEB WISEBLOOD

Seven artists recently assembled to showcase their varying media, diverse perspectives, and different artistic approaches in Gallery Los Olivos' latest group exhibition, New Perspectives. One of the featured painters, Marcia Burtt, also served as curator and coordinator for the show.

"Pulling together such widely different points of view felt like a challenge," said Burtt, who's locally known as a prolific acrylic painter and as the owner of Marcia Burtt Gallery in downtown Santa Barbara.

One of Burtt's favorite things about organizing and participating in this year's edition of New Perspectives—which will remain on display at Gallery Los Olivos through Saturday, April 30—was getting to know the other artists involved, many of whom she hadn't met before. The purpose of this periodic exhibit, traditionally held every two years, is to showcase a batch of the gallery's newest recruits.

"Because this show features artists who are all recent additions to Gallery Los Olivos, most of us didn't know each other," Burtt said. "I was very excited to see every single person's work and particularly happy to see some very different approaches."

Burtt said there was "art chat galore" when the seven artists first met as a group to start collaborating on the exhibit, and that she made new friends right away.

"Each of us brought an assortment of work; just pieces we had ready to put on the wall at the moment," Burtt said of the collaborative showcase, which premiered at the gallery at the end of March.

Burtt's six peers featured in the exhibit are fellow artists Karen Scott Browdy, Britt Friedman, Pamela Larsson-Toscher, Ginny Speirs, Sherri Cassell, and Emil Morhardt.

Almost all of the pieces in the show are paintings (acrylic, oil, etc., depending on the artist), minus a unique collection of "intricate tongue-in-cheek assemblages," by Browdy, Burtt said. Browdy uses and combines several kinds of three-dimensional objects to craft her creations.

Larsson-Toscher has some "large tapestry-like paintings, augmented with smaller illustrative figure paintings" highlighted in the show, Burtt said, while Speirs' featured pieces are "small, energetic close-ups of vegetable and flower life."

The remainder of the exhibit is enveloped in landscapes by Friedman, Cassell, and Burtt, and "big, striking images of owls and hawks" by Morhardt, Burtt described. Based in Santa Barbara, Morhardt is an artist well known for his highly detailed bird paintings, which he bases off his own photographs.

When pressed to name her single favorite piece in the group show, Burtt would rank *Pacific Coast Series 5*, a colorful oil painting by Friedman, at the top of her list.

For Burtt, seeing each of the seven featured artists' various artworks displayed side by side in the exhibit adds a unique layer that goes beyond viewing each piece individually. The curator used her response to seeing Morhardt's sparrow hawk painting, *American Kestrel*, hung alongside Larsson-Toscher's *Danger*—a vivid painting of a snake—and Spiers' *Spinning*—a plant still life—as an example.

"I was most touched by how the coloring in a Morhardt hawk brought out warmth in a Spiers succulent and the luscious golden snake in Larsson-Toscher's large piece," Burtt said. ❍

Arts Editor Caleb Wiseblood is a proud Slitherin. Send comments in Parseltongue to cwiseblood@santamariasun.com.

All things new

New Perspectives will remain on display at Gallery Los Olivos through Saturday, April 30. The gallery is located at 2920 Grand Ave., Los Olivos. Call (805) 688-7517 or visit gallerylosolivos.com for more info.

COURTESY IMAGE BY BRITT FRIEDMAN

COASTAL CANVAS: When pressed to name her single favorite piece in the group show, New Perspectives curator Marcia Burtt would rank *Pacific Coast Series 5*, a colorful oil painting by Britt Friedman, at the top of her list.

COURTESY IMAGE BY MARCIA BURTT

SKY HIGH: Marcia Burtt is locally known as a prolific acrylic painter and as the owner of Marcia Burtt Gallery in downtown Santa Barbara. One of her featured paintings in New Perspectives is *Spring Sky*.

PHOTO COURTESY OF KAREN SCOTT BROWDY

CRAFTY COLLAGE: Almost all of the pieces in New Perspectives are paintings, minus a unique collection of "intricate tongue-in-cheek assemblages," by Karen Scott Browdy, who combines several kinds of three-dimensional objects to craft her creations.

ENVIRONMENTAL ALLIANCE | Santa Barbara County Museums

IMPACT: CLIMATE CHANGE & THE URGENCY OF NOW

It's Time to Get Creative About Climate Change

Fourteen leading local museums and cultural institutions unite to creatively explore the impacts of climate change through art, history, science, or nature. Exhibits and activities from April to September 2022 aim to inform, inspire, and prompt action.

For a full listing of exhibits and programs, visit sbmuseumsalliance.org

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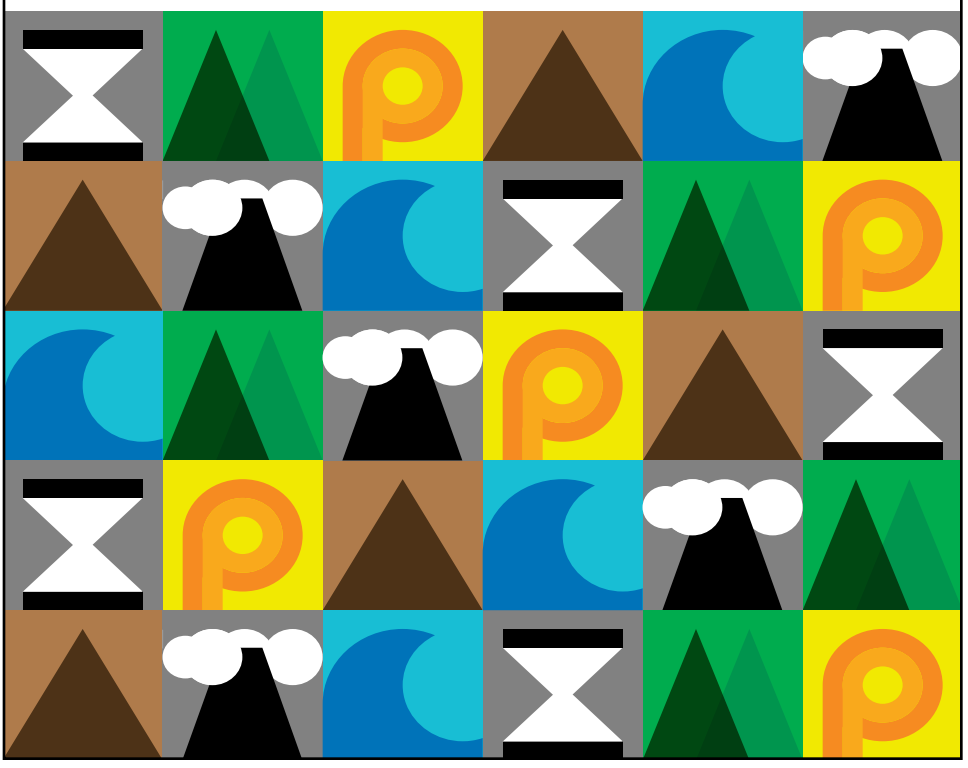

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Road to radicalization

Co-writer Dina Amer—in her directorial debut—helms this story about two young Arab sisters (played by real sisters Lorenza and Ilonna Grimaudo) living with their neglectful mother in Paris. After the girls are taken from their mother by social services and separated, the film follows the elder sister, Hasna (played by Amer, Sabrina Ouazani, and Mouna Soualem) as she suffers in poverty, experiences racism and misogyny, and struggles to find a sense of belonging in a country that doesn't seem to want her. (91 min.)

PHOTO COURTESY OF THE OTHRS AND ARTEMIS RISING FOUNDATION

SISTERHOOD: Mariam (Ilonna Grimaudo) and Hasna (Lorenza Grimaudo) are two young Arab sisters living on the streets of Paris, and after social services separates the two, the older experiences a dangerous transformation into radicalization, in *You Resemble Me*, screening as part of the SLO International Film Fest.

Glen: This is a gut-wrenching film. Amer, who wrote the story with Omar Mullick, was working as a reporter for *Vice News* and covered the 2015 Saint-Denis raid, in which police say Hasna Aït Boulahcen detonated a suicide vest, becoming the first female suicide bomber in France. The police report turned out to be wrong, and Amer went on a quest to tell the truth about Hasna, conducting 360 hours of interviews over several years with her family and friends. Hasna was certainly radicalized, but Amer's film explores what led her to join jihad. I read that Amer landed a major studio deal but walked away from it because she wanted to preserve her vision. The film depicts Hasna as fiercely loyal to her younger sister, Mariam. She fed her (often through theft) when their mother couldn't, remembered her birthday and stole her a present when their mother didn't, and protected and entertained her as best she could. Separating them devastated Hasna. Mariam was her whole world. As an adult, Hasna is searching for her identity, which is signaled in a really unique way: In scenes of stress, Hasna's face morphs between the three actresses playing her. It's both deeply disturbing and effective. It may not be a joy to experience, but this is a potent film.

Anna: It definitely packs a punch. Hasna, Mariam, and their other siblings are subject to cruelty and neglect at the hands of their mother. She's especially cruel to Hasna, who doesn't even have a place in the home even as a young child. It's totally heartbreaking, even more so when Hasna and Mariam are placed in different foster homes. Hasna's life was already in a tailspin, and being thrown into a situation without her sister and into a foster home with people who have absolutely no concept of what her life has been so far does nothing to slow the inevitable crash and burn. When we jump forward in time, we find Hasna doing whatever she needs to do to get by and masking her pain with booze and hard living. She isn't without those who love and want to help her, but the sister she yearns for only seems to become more and more distant. Hasna is desperate to make something out of her splintered reality, and unfortunately what she finds is what leads to the tragic and terrible end to her life and that of many others.

Glen: How does someone become radicalized? This film's goal is to show one path. If you're unrooted from your home culture, thrown into a country that doesn't respect or want you, given no opportunities to succeed, and have been stripped of what you love and need by an uncaring system, it's easy to gravitate to a group that says they understand and will accept you. When Hasna sees her cousin Abdelhamid (Alexandre Gonin) on recruitment propaganda, she reaches out, and soon she thinks she's found a home. Instead, her cousin found a tool to use in his jihad. It's a sad, crushing story, and I think it's amazing that after Amer learned she'd gotten her reporting wrong about Hasna setting off a suicide vest, she cared enough to set things straight. This is a terrific, albeit depressing, film.

Anna: Hasna is desperate for a purpose. She's falling for Abdelhamid, and he knows he can use that to his advantage to pull her into a web she won't escape from. It's a completely heart-wrenching film. I was gutted. However, it is supremely powerful, well executed, and acted. It's not a light watch, but it is an important one.

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

YOU RESEMBLE ME

What's it rated? **Not rated**
What's it worth, Anna? **Full price**
What's it worth, Glen? **Full price**
Where's it showing? **April 27 in the Palm Theatre in SLO at 5 p.m.; April 28 in Downtown Centre Cinemas in SLO at 7:45 p.m.; April 29 in the Palm Theatre at 7:30 p.m.; May 1 available virtually all day**

Film Reviews

A LOVE SONG

What's it rated? Not rated When? 2022
Where's it showing? **April 28 in Fremont Theater in SLO at 8 p.m.; April 29 in Fremont Theater at 2 p.m.; April 30 in Downtown Centre Cinemas in SLO at 7:45 p.m.; May 1 in Park Cinemas in Paso Robles at 1 p.m. and virtually all day**

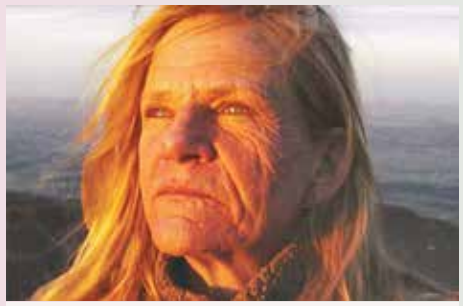
Writer-director Max Walker-Silverman helms this tender story about two lonely souls—once childhood sweethearts and now both widowed—who meet again decades later to share a night by the lake in the mountains. Dale Dickey is Faye, who's camped by the lake awaiting the arrival of Lito (Wes Studi). She spends her days bird watching and her nights stargazing, and she pulls crayfish from the lake for her meals. She doesn't know when Lito will arrive.

There's an element of magical realism afoot. Faye has a radio that she turns on and spins the dial, and it always plays "the perfect song" for the moment. She's visited by a young girl (Marty Grace Dennis) and four cowboys, who arrive and ask her to move since they buried their dead father in the campsite and whose view has now been disturbed by an oil derrick, so they want to move him. Deeply charming moments are sprinkled throughout.

When Lito finally arrives, the two reminisce while navigating their complicated feelings about the past and present. Both Dickey and Studi are masterful actors with fascinating faces, and watching all these emotions wash over them is spellbinding. The film is slow and beautiful and tender—the antithesis of a Hollywood blockbuster and a breath of fresh cinematic air. (81 min.)

—*Glen*

PHOTO COURTESY OF COW HIP FILMS



LOVE IS PATIENT: Dale Dickey stars as Faye, a widow camping by a mountain lake as she awaits the arrival of a childhood sweetheart, in *A Love Song*, screening as part of the SLOIFF.

PRINCESS (PRINZESSIN)

What's it rated? **Not rated** When? **2022**
Where's it showing? **April 27 in the Palm Theatre in SLO at 6:30 p.m.; April 28 in Park Cinemas in Paso Robles at 7 p.m.; May 1 in Downtown Centre at 10:15 a.m. and virtually all day.**

Writer-director Peter Luisi helms this story of addiction and redemption. When we meet Josef (Fabian Krüger), he's deep in the bottle, spending his days drinking until he's blackout drunk. He's so out of it he misses his mother's funeral, and when his half-sister, Karin (Anne Haug), shows up to tell him she inherited half the house he lives in and she wants to sell, he refuses.

With no other choices available, the struggling single mother moves into the second apartment with her young daughter, Nina (Lia Hahne), who quickly charms Josef and inspires him to overcome his addiction … but can he? He wants to do the right thing, but his weakness for alcohol is overwhelming, and Karin has no patience for him.

The second half of the film takes place 35 years later. Karin has died, and at the funeral, Josef (now played by Matthias Habich) discovers that Nina (now played by Johanna Bantzer) is in trouble, and that her family has abandoned her.

Beautifully acted, written, and directed, *Princess* conjures powerful emotions as it explores the weaknesses and strengths of the human spirit. It's painful to watch but poignant and honest about its subject matter. (in German and English; 101 min.)

—*Glen*

PHOTO COURTESY OF DIRECTORY FILMS

HER KNIGHT: Josef (Fabian Krüger) is a full-blown alcoholic on a downward trajectory until his half-sister and his niece, Nina (Lia Hahne), move next door, giving him something to live for. But when Nina grows up, can Josef inspire her to fight her own demons? Watch *Princess*, screening as part of the SLOIFF, to find out.

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PHOTOS BY CALEB WISEBLOOD

FRONT AND CENTER: One Room Escapes and Coffee—a Lompoc-based cafe and bakery—opened in 2018, but 2022 marks the debut of a concept the venue's owners have always hoped to incorporate within their business: an escape room.

OUT OF THE BOX: For an extra $6, patrons can turn their sandwich order into a "lunch box" combo, which includes a side (choices include chips and other options), a beverage, and a chocolate chip cookie.

Game of scones

One Room Escapes and Coffee prepares to debut its first escape room, The Sorcerer's Sanctum

BY CALEB WISEBLOOD

Primarily open during the day for breakfast and lunch, One Room Escapes and Coffee is best known for its drinks, baked goods, and seemingly endless amount of board games available for patrons to play. All three of those offerings are about to extend into occasional evening hours at the Lompoc venue, along with a new addition to the list.

Husband and wife John and Hether Frias first opened One Room in 2018, but 2022 will mark the debut of a concept the pair has always hoped to incorporate within their business: an escape room.

"We've always had it in our design to combine the food element and the escape room and see how those two play out, because I don't know a lot of places that have that combination," said John, who added that the final touches on the room—set to open at the end of April—are underway.

One room to rule them all

Call (805) 430-8306 or visit oneroomcoffee.com to find out more about One Room Escapes and Coffee, located at 113 N. A St., Lompoc.

The entrance to the magic-themed escape room—titled The Sorcerer's Sanctum—is located in the middle of the cafe, with a large, mysterious, sealed doorway situated between shelves of tea pots and other decor at the shop.

The only way to find out what's on the other side of that wall is to play the escape room, or wait for someone else to play and force the details out of them.

What John can reveal about the room is that wands and spell casting are definitely involved.

"We have put some really unique, quote-unquote 'magical' things that I don't think you're going to see anywhere else. … Some really spectacular effects," said John, who added that his former career as a software engineer has given him a "leg up" in terms of designing an escape room from scratch.

Upon filling out a reservation for the escape room online, an official synopsis reads: "An evil sorcerer has taken up residence in our cafe and we need your help. … Search his lair and learn as much as you can about him."

John said he's excited to see how people react to the escape room and hopes to open a second room—perhaps with a Western theme—in the near future, if the Sorcerer's Sanctum proves to be a success.

"We'll see where it goes," said John, who added that the venue's current game selection includes a handful of modern escape-room-in-a-box style board games.

Another new game-related promotion at One Room is Game Night, a dinner and game service held every Friday and Saturday night by reservation only between 6 and 9:30 p.m. Guests are able to keep their reserved tables for the entire duration of the service, which includes an appetizer, dinner, drink, and dessert for each attendee.

On some nights, each party can have their pick of the venue's board game assortment. There will be nights where a reservation indicates a designated game or puzzle for all tables to play—and compete against one another.

"Everything that we do is about connecting

EATS continued page 28

BOARDING PASS: One Room's plethoric board game selection (available for patrons to play) includes a wide variety of classics, along with a handful of modern escape-room-in-a-box style board games.

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PHOTO BY CALEB WISEBLOOD

ROOM TO GROW: "The coffee shop has grown tremendously," One Room owner John Frias said, reflecting on the many hats—cafe, bakery, gaming lounge, family hangout—the eatery has worn over the years. "We have a really nice customer base—a lot of return customers, and new customers all the time."

EATS from page 27

with people," said John, who added that One Room will offer a discount to parties that agree to check in their phones before dinner, to encourage face-to-face, in-the-moment gameplay without texting-related distractions.

"The idea is to get you to reconnect with your family and reconnect with friends when you come here," the owner continued.

Dinner options at Game Night will include pizza, "Dragon Stew" (a beef and vegetable stew served with mashed potatoes), and other new items separate from One Room's established daytime menu. The eatery offers a wide selection of breakfast and lunch sandwiches (made with freshly baked bread) during the day, and several sweet options (including cookies, muffins, and scones), fit to pair with any of the venue's hot or iced coffee and tea drinks.

"What we especially—for the last couple years—have been known for is our baked goods. And those are all handmade every single day," John said. "Our cinnamon rolls are probably by far the single most popular baked goods.

"The coffee shop has grown tremendously," he added, reflecting on the many hats—cafe, bakery, gaming lounge, family hangout—One Room has worn over the years. "We have a really nice customer base—a lot of return customers, and new customers all the time." ❍

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Arts Editor Caleb Wiseblood recommends One Room's chicken salad sandwich. Send comments to cwiseblood@santamariasun.com.

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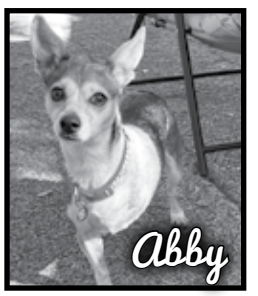

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