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# SUN



## The imposter threat

*Scammers target individuals by impersonating law enforcement and holding them hostage over the phone [8]*

BY MALEA MARTIN

**NEWS** Guadalupe gets its first dispensary [4]

**ARTS** Hancock lecturer pens thriller [22]

**EATS** Local restaurateurs honored for legacy [24]

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COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTERS OF THE CENTRAL COAST

# Contents

MAY 5 - MAY 12, 2022 VOL. 23 NO. 10

Local psychotherapist Dr. Nicole Dolan spent hours on the phone with someone impersonating a SLO County Sheriff's Office deputy in December 2021, eventually giving him the money he asked for, and she's now living with the aftermath. This kind of scam is becoming more and more common locally, and Dolan isn't alone. Staff Writer Malea Martin from the Sun's sister paper, *New Times*, speaks to another victim, local law enforcement, and an organization working on behalf of scam victims for this week's story [8].

You can also read about Guadalupe's first cannabis dispensary [4]; a Allan Hancock College lecturer and the thriller he wrote [22]; and two local restaurant industry veterans receiving kudos from the California Winemasters [24].

Camillia Lanham  
editor



**PRO SCAMMER:** The imposter scam usually targets individual people based on their background, and it's impacting more and more people locally.

Cover photo from Adobe Stock > Cover design by Alex Zuniga

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## Political Watch

• U.S. Rep. **Salud Carbajal** (D-Santa Barbara) issued an April 29 statement responding to Gov. **Gavin Newsom's** comments to the *Los Angeles Times* about the possibility of delaying the closure of Diablo Canyon Power Plant, which generated 6 percent of the state's power in 2021. PG&E plans to begin decommissioning the local nuclear plant in 2024 and completely close it by 2025. "Decisions about the future of Diablo Canyon should not be made solely in Sacramento any more than they should be made solely in Washington. And my constituents deserve better than a stop-and-go approach to the future of this facility," Carbajal said in a statement. "I certainly appreciate the governor's interest in continuing California's energy transition and reducing carbon emissions, but too many Central Coast jobs and livelihoods are at stake to make this decision without community input." According to the *LA Times*, Newsom said that he may attempt to delay the long-planned closure of Diablo Canyon, and the state would seek out a share of \$6 billion in federal funds meant to rescue nuclear reactors facing closure. A spokesperson clarified that Newsom still wants to see the facility shut down long-term, but this decision reflects a shift in politics after decades of opposition to nuclear power. Carbajal said he hopes the governor plans to reach out to him and other "community stakeholders who have worked for years to facilitate a consensus agreement that is informed by the San Luis Obispo County families who will be most impacted by his choices."

• Starting May 1, **Medi-Cal**—California's health coverage program for low-income individuals and families—is extending full coverage eligibility to more than 185,000 individuals who are 50 and older, regardless of immigration status, according to an April 29 statement from the **Newsom** administration. "We're delivering concrete results for Californians, continuing to fulfill the promise of a Healthy California for All, and I encourage all those eligible to take advantage of these essential health services," Gov. Gavin Newsom said. "This is an investment in our people, our economy, and our future. But we're not stopping there. California is on the path to expand Medi-Cal to all eligible Californians regardless of age or immigration status, providing the most comprehensive health coverage in the entire country."

• U.S. Sens. **Alex Padilla** (D-California) and **Raphael Warnock** (D-Georgia) led a letter to the **Senate and House Appropriations subcommittees on Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies'** leadership to request millions in new funding for zero-emission school buses in the upcoming fiscal year appropriations bill, according to an April 27 statement from Padilla's office. The letter also calls on the subcommittees to address zero-emission buses and charging infrastructure for school districts in historically underserved and rural communities. In 2021, Congress passed the **Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act** that included the largest down payment the United States has seen to help electrify 480,000 buses, but it only scratched the surface of the need, according to a statement. Padilla also previously introduced the **Clean Commute for Kids Act**, legislation that would invest \$25 billion to replace diesel buses with electric buses. "As you develop the fiscal year 2023 Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies appropriations bill, we write to request at least \$300 million in new funding be provided for zero-emission school buses under the Clean School Bus Program," the letter stated. "We also ask that you include the report language below to enhance the successful deployment of zero-emission buses and robust charging infrastructure for school districts in underserved and rural communities." ○

## Guadalupe approves its first three cannabis projects

The cannabis industry is making its way into Guadalupe as the City Council approved the city's first two dispensaries and a processing facility during a series of March and April meetings in order to increase the amount of revenue coming into its general fund, Mayor Ariston Julian told the *Sun*.

Guadalupe passed three ordinances in 2014 to increase sales and utility taxes so the city could generate more general fund dollars, and voters agreed to another in 2020, but Julian said the city saw funding generated by those measures start to dwindle.

"We were doing well with our money from property taxes, but it was slowing down so we needed to make sure we stretched our tentacles to different portions of the community to generate funds," he said.

After looking at five cannabis business applications, the city approved Element 7's dispensary during its April 26 City Council meeting. The council had already approved SLOCal Roots' dispensary during its April 12 meeting and 151 Obispo's processing facility on March 12, Julian said.

"Each of these individuals said they'll commit a certain amount of their gross revenues to the city's general fund. We are looking at 4 to 6 percent of the gross receipts; if they make \$3 million, we could get 6 percent of that into our general fund," he explained.

These increases could help build the city's general fund reserves and continue Guadalupe's climb out of an economic deficit that started during the 2008 recession. According to city budget documents, its general fund for the 2021-22 fiscal year is a little more than \$6 million, and Julian said the city would need \$800,000 for general fund reserves.

"We only have \$300,000 [in reserves] now, but it's a lot better than deficits. Cannabis is one aspect of how we can bring in other businesses," Julian said.

Outside of dollar generation, the city looked at how the cannabis businesses planned to give back to the community through volunteer work, job provision, and donations to local organizations, he said.

"They are committed to Guadalupe. That's why I ranked them high in terms of the selection process," Julian continued.

SLOCal Roots founder and COO Adam Laurent said he and CEO Austen Conella worked with the city for the past two years in order to better understand Guadalupe's wants and needs.

"I got into this in the medical days of cannabis, [and I know] not only can it heal people, but heal communities, and Guadalupe is an opportunity for us to have a dramatic impact," Laurent said.

Conella said he and his team analyzed data and discovered that the added cannabis businesses could spike Guadalupe's city budget by 20 percent annually because of the city's size, and the demand for cannabis retail and cultivation.

"You are never going to experience that [growth] in a place like SLO or Santa Maria because their cities are too big. ... This is a



**CANNABIS REVENUE:** Guadalupe is hoping to cash in on cannabis after approving two dispensaries and a manufacturing facility in recent months.

very rare opportunity to get people to come to Guadalupe," Conella said.

SLOCal roots pledged 6 percent of its revenue to the city, 50 community service hours per month, and that 75 percent of its employees will be from Guadalupe, he added. About 80 percent of construction supplies, manpower, and services will be from Guadalupe, and the base wage for employees will be \$18 per hour with full-time benefits.

Now that the business is approved, SLOCal Roots still needs to go through the land use and building permitting process—which will take about six to nine months—and the project needs to be approved by the state, Conella said.

"We've been embraced by the community of Guadalupe and welcomed by our neighbors to become a part of the community," Conella said. "It's one of the last undeveloped towns on Highway 1, and we hope we can highlight its historic feel through our branding and our involvement."

—Taylor O'Connor

## Infrastructure bill to fund transit, traffic flow improvements on Central Coast

California continues to have the highest gas prices in the nation by more than 40 cents a gallon, according to AAA data.

But with a lack of accessible public transportation on the Central Coast, driving is many residents' only option to go where buses and bikes can't take them.

With new money coming down the pipe from the federal Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, the Central Coast will soon be able to fund key transportation projects that will relieve traffic congestion, give commuters more options, and mitigate emissions.

U.S. Rep. Salud Carbajal (D-Santa Barbara) announced April 22 that the bill's funds were

recently appropriated, and California is slated to receive more than \$550 million. The funds can be used for public transit projects, electric vehicle charging infrastructure, traffic flow improvements, congestion management, pedestrian and cycle trails, and more, Carbajal told *New Times*.

"California is ahead of the curve and ready to hit the ground running," Carbajal said. "SLOCOG [San Luis Obispo Council of Governments] and SBCAG [Santa Barbara County Association of Governments] are the ones that already have most of these plans and projects in place."

Ed Waage, SLOCOG president and Pismo Beach mayor, said the organization's primary focus is relieving congestion on Highway 101 near Pismo Beach. He also said actually getting federal money in hand requires a lot of planning for organizations like SLOCOG and SBCAG. Projects must fit certain requirements laid out by the government.

"You have to have accountability. There are significant efforts that all the councils of government type agencies have to go through in order to be able to qualify for the grants," Waage said. "We have a regional transportation plan that we have to update and show how everything fits moving forward."

With the price of gas on everyone's mind right now, plus the ever-looming climate crisis, Carbajal said the Central Coast needs to not only address its traffic congestion issues, but also give commuters other options that don't involve a stop at the gas pump.

"We need to build out the electric vehicle charging infrastructure," Carbajal said. "That's going to be huge. ... And the more you do public transit, the less congestion you're going to have. I think this [funding] goes a long way [to reduce] so many vehicle trips that we Californians are used to taking, and focusing more on public transit."

—Malea Martin

## County struggles with unpredictable cannabis cultivation tax revenue

Santa Barbara County is anticipating a \$6 million shortfall in the cannabis cultivation tax revenue it predicted for this fiscal year, thanks to an oversupply of wholesale cannabis in California and the resulting price decrease.

"We overestimated revenues by almost 30 percent this year, and we don't want to be in a position where there's that much volatility," County Executive Officer Mona Miyasato told the Board of Supervisors during an April 14 budget hearing.

At the tail end of the board's budget discussions that day, 5th District Supervisor Steve Lavagnino asked fellow board members if they'd consider potentially changing the county's cultivation tax structure. He said that while cannabis tax revenue rises and falls, the county needs a more stable, permanent source of funding.

"If you look at the cannabis tax right now, it is paying for: ... it's \$2.5 million going into the maintenance fund, ... it is providing the increase for those folks that do in-home health

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**NEWS** from page 4

supportive services, it's proving almost \$800,000 in library funding, \$3.5 million to the co-response program, homeless operating costs, the voter choice act, our translation services. It's being used as kind of a catch-all, which is what it should be," Lavagnino said.

"But when we analyze this a little bit more, we're finding out that while good actors are paying their fair share, our system that we've set up might be a little bit porous for those that find a way to manipulate the system," he continued.

Currently, the county taxes cultivators' gross receipts. According to a Santa Barbara County grand jury report from 2020, while growers may prefer this method because it ties taxes to production, it "presents problems with verification of the volume of actual cannabis grown and sold and could be subverted by growers who try to hide their actual yield and sales."

The county Tax Collector's Office is in the process of auditing cannabis taxes to ensure cultivators are paying the taxes they should to the county. At the same time, the county recently joined the California Cannabis Authority, which should give it access to data and analytics from across the state as well as state information on all the licensed operators in the county. A county staff report said that joining the state cannabis authority should also help staff develop more accurate tax revenue projections.

County Cannabis Analyst Brittany Heaton said another issue with taxing gross receipts is the county's cultivation acreage cap, set at 186 acres in Carpinteria

plus 1,575 acres for the unincorporated areas in the rest of the county. All of those acres are spoken for, Heaton said, but are not necessarily producing cannabis yet. While some of that land is still in the permitting process, Heaton said there are growers who have finished the permitting process and are holding onto acreage under the county's cap but not farming it yet.

"They're kind of holding it," Heaton said, "waiting until the industry recovers."

Only 450 acres of land under the cultivation cap is producing right now, Lavagnino told the Sun. He said yet another compounding factor is that the county was anticipating making 4 percent of gross receipts off of already processed marijuana, which is worth more than non-processed marijuana. However, a lack of processing facilities in the county makes that difficult.

Although supervisors all agreed at the April 14 meeting to direct county staff to study what changing the cultivation tax might look like, Lavagnino told the Sun that it's looking less likely that the county will be able to recommend any changes in time to put them on the November ballot. He added that it's hard to pin down exactly what those changes would even be. Whether the county uses a flat tax per pound, similar to the state, or square-footage tax, like other counties use, each comes with its own set of issues.

"This is not easy to come up with something that you're basically just creating out of thin air," he said. "You can look at other counties to see what they're doing, but they're having problems, too. ... You're not going to get this right the first time." —Camillia Lanham

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# Phone hostage

Local psychotherapist is determined to not let an elaborate scam targeting her industry happen to anyone else

**Editor's note:** This is the second segment of a two-part story covering scam calls on the Central Coast. The first installment described one local woman's experience with a scammer who used knowledge of her job and background to target her. The second focuses on the aftermath, others who have had similar experiences, and the resources available to help.

BY MALEA MARTIN

As a licensed psychotherapist who specializes in a trauma-informed approach to therapy, Dr. Nicole Dolan knows what the stages of trauma look like. But going through it herself was something else: She was the victim of an elaborate scam call late last year that has left her grappling with the trauma of the event ever since.

Dolan's Pismo Beach office is serene. At the entrance, a white-noise machine plays the soothing sound of rushing water. The walls are painted a calming shade of purple, and a velvet couch gives her clients a comfortable place to sink into as they unpack their trauma. Dolan is used to facing that couch, equipping people with the tools they need to cope with what they're going through.

But this time, "I watched myself go through that experience," Dolan said. "I knew how shattered my mind was afterward, my feeling of safety in my body and even in my home. I had so much control over my life at this point. So feeling like something like that could happen felt really unnerving."

Dolan soon discovered that she isn't alone. As she processed what happened, she reached out to fellow health professionals and found just how pervasive this scam is in her industry.

"The first person who I reached out to had gone through this ... [in Roseville], two months previous to me," Dolan said. "Even when I made the police report that night they said, 'Oh yeah, this happened to a nurse yesterday.'"

In the weeks after a scammer claiming to be a SLO Sheriff's deputy held Dolan hostage on the phone, threatening her with arrest if she didn't pay the fine for not attending a court hearing for one of her clients, Dolan connected with mental health professionals, nurses, and doctors from California to Pennsylvania who had experienced an almost identical scam.

Jaclyn Woods, a licensed marriage and family therapist in San Luis Obispo, received the call more than a year before Dolan did.

"A police officer called me, and when I looked him up he had the same name, badge number, and everything. He said he had a warrant out for my arrest," Woods recalled. "I kept being like, 'Is this a scam?'"

PHOTO BY JAYSON MELLOW



**ATYPICAL:** Dr. Nicole Dolan doesn't fit the stereotype of a person who typically falls victim to a scam call. She's a highly educated, licensed psychotherapist with a Ph.D. But data shows that the long-held stereotype of victims being elderly or less educated are inaccurate.

Then he got really aggressive, and said I needed to come down to the police station. So I thought, if I'm driving down there it's probably not a scam."

Luckily, Woods was with her boyfriend, who was able to contact the real police on his phone and ask if there was a warrant out for Woods' arrest.

"They said no, and this is potentially a scam," Woods said. "Then I basically told the guy, I know what you're doing, and hung up the phone."

Despite not losing any money, Woods was still traumatized by the experience.

"I cried a lot, and went through a whole kind of release [of] anger," she said. "I felt violated."

## 'Like psychological warfare'

For both Dolan and Woods, connecting with other people who have gone through it has not only helped them heal, but also affirmed that there's nothing shameful about falling victim to this crime. It can happen to anyone.

"I think there is a narrative out there of, if you get scammed, you're dumb," Woods said. "But this is actually really serious. It's like psychological warfare, the way they twist you up into this."

Santa Barbara County Deputy District Attorney Vicki Johnson runs a fraud hotline for Central Coast scam victims at (805) 568-2442. She said the people who call her come from all ages and backgrounds—and statistically, young adults are actually at higher risk.

According to Federal Trade Commission data, younger adults are more likely to lose money to fraud than older adults. In 2021, people ages 30 to 39 were the most likely of any age group to be scammed out of money in a fraud scheme.

"We have this myth that people who get scammed are somehow more vulnerable, they're elderly, they have cognitive issues, they're not very well-educated, on and on," Johnson said. "In my experience, most of these people do not fit that profile. Most of these people are educated, they're smart, they're professionals. And they always start the conversation by saying, 'I can't believe I fell for this.'"

Johnson said the specific scam that Dolan and Woods experienced has been "particularly pervasive lately" locally.

"It seems to target mental health workers because they're the people that can get subpoenaed to testify in their patients' cases," Johnson said. "So the scammers are already starting off with a viable premise."

Fraudsters do extensive research ahead of time about the person they plan to victimize, and in this case, the law enforcement officer they impersonate.

"What I don't think people understand is that this is a huge business, a multi-billion-dollar industry in the United States," Johnson said. "But it doesn't start here. Most of these scammers are [foreign] ... so local jurisdictions can't prosecute these folks because we don't have the ability to track them down or arrest them."

The pandemic gave scammers new ways to defraud people, "present[ing] criminal opportunities on a scale likely to dwarf anything seen before," the FBI National Press Office warned in April 2020.

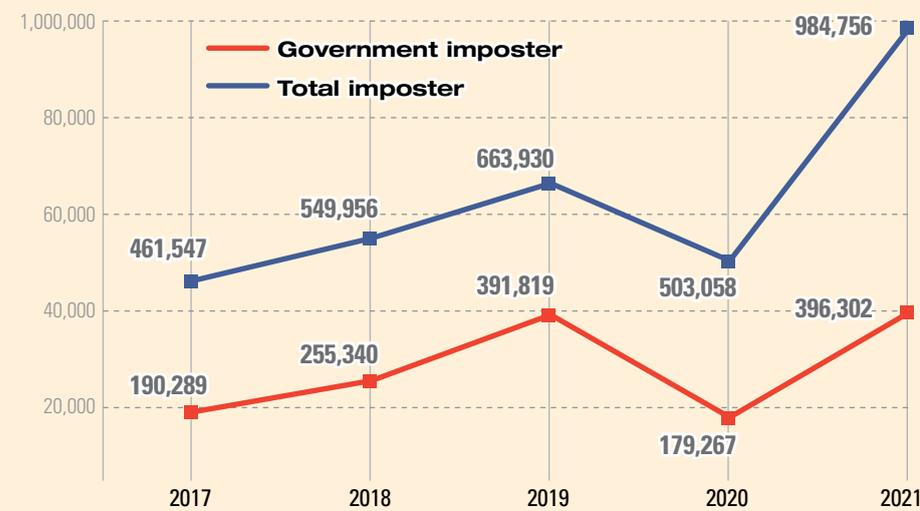
"Most of these scams are scams of opportunity," Johnson said. "For example, as soon as the scammers realized the government was going to start issuing [stimulus] checks, these scams started, and they started before the first check was even issued."

Dolan's scammer leaned on COVID-19 to legitimize his claims.

"He said due to COVID, this is actually a courtesy of him, not to just show up at my house," Dolan remembers. "He said, 'Because you have a clean record, we are calling you as opposed to just coming to arrest you.'"

Federal Trade Commission data shows that imposter scams specifically have skyrocketed since the pandemic began. In 2019, about 664,000 imposter scams were reported in the

## Imposter scam fraud reports in the United States annually



**ON THE RISE:** Imposter fraud is on the rise, with 2021 seeing the most reports to date: There were nearly 1 million reports of imposter scams last year.

GRAPHIC BY LENI LITONJUA, DATA FROM THE FEDERAL TRADE COMMISSION

United States. That number jumped to nearly 1 million in 2021.

"We can't meet you in person because of COVID' is a very convenient excuse for scammers who are always hesitant to meet somebody in real life because that would expose the scam," said Jol Breyault, a fraud expert with the National Consumers League and director at fraud.org.

But the pandemic isn't the only reason scam calls are getting more advanced.

"In years past, scammers would do a technique called spray and pray," Breyault said. "They'd basically send out these calls to thousands of phones and hope that they get a single-digit percentage of people who actually respond, and that makes enough money for the scammers to continue the scam."

Now, because information is more readily available through the internet and social media, scammers are moving toward a different approach.

"We call it spearfishing," Breyault said. "Rather than casting a wide net, they're actually targeting one person."

## Seeking justice

While local jurisdictions are largely powerless in prosecuting foreign scammers, other organizations have the resources.

"The FBI will go after these folks," Johnson said. "When there's enough information, the FBI will put together a task force, and they will work with law enforcement in other [countries] to close down some of these sites."

For scammers to get caught, victims must file a complaint with an organization like fraud.org or agencies like the Federal Trade Commission and the FBI.

"Those complaints, when viewed in the aggregate, can help law enforcement at the state level, at the federal level, build cases and put these criminals behind bars," Breyault said. "That's why we always encourage victims to file complaints."

But filing a complaint won't get victims their money back.

"The problem is, once the money gets sent, because of loopholes in our consumer protection laws, it's very difficult for the consumer to get the money back," Breyault said. "That's why groups like mine are working with Congress and with the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau to try and

change the law, so that when people are induced to send money through fraud, that they're able to get the money back."

Groups like the National Consumers League are working to amend the Electronic Fund Transfer Act, which was passed to protect consumers from losing money when someone steals their debit or credit card and runs up charges.

"Unfortunately, that law does not currently apply to cases where you were induced to send the money through fraud," Breyault said. "The bank is under no obligation to refund you the money. ... We're hopeful that with continued advocacy, we'll get to a point where we can help make victims whole."

As much as Dolan would be happy to get her money back, she lost more than money that day—and she's passionate about making sure it doesn't happen to anybody else.

"I don't even care about the money. [It's] the impact of trauma," she said. "But they messed with the wrong person. ... As a victim of this experience, it's really upsetting to think that it's been going on for years. I'll spread this as far and wide as I can, and hopefully stop it."

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

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# Forestalling flames

Local fire departments mitigate fire risk using California Climate Investments Wildfire Prevention Grants

BY MALEA MARTIN

When asked when fire season officially starts, SLO County Fire Safe Council Executive Director Dan Turner couldn't help but chuckle. Thanks to climate change, he said, fire season is practically year-round in California.

"Typically in San Luis Obispo County, you start experiencing fires mid-April out on the east side of the county, which dries out a lot faster," Turner said. "It will go through November—that's kind of historically typical."

But in recent decades, the rainy season has changed dramatically, and with it, the fire season. This year, Turner said, January was particularly dry. No rain, unseasonably warm weather, and windy conditions create the perfect storm for fires.

"What we're seeing now is that it stopped raining earlier than April, and it starts raining later than October," Turner said. "So the dry season, the non-rainy season, has gotten longer."

Fire safe councils and fire departments across the Central Coast are working to mitigate fire risk using funds from the California Climate Investments Wildfire Prevention Grants Program, administered by Cal Fire.

Along the South Coast, the Santa Barbara County Fire Department is the main recipient of California Climate Investments Wildfire Prevention Grants, said Jonathan Gee of Cal Fire.

"Santa Barbara County got about a \$6.5 million grant in the last grant cycle for a vegetation management project in the Tepusquet area," east of Santa Maria, Gee said. "The Santa Barbara County Fire Safe Council also got about \$686,000 to create Firewise programs in Santa Barbara County."

Firewise USA is a national recognition granted to communities that meet certain standards of wildfire awareness and action to mitigate risk, Turner explained.

"They require that the community engage, that the community participates and holds events to reduce fire hazard and to prevent ignitions," Turner said. "The main value in my perspective of a Firewise community is the community is aware there's a problem and they're doing something about it. That's the first step."

Currently, the SLO County Fire Safe Council is managing \$12.6 million worth of grants, most of which is from the state fund, plus a few from PG&E.

"It's a variety of projects, from planning projects to doing fuel treatment projects, public education, and outreach projects," Turner said. "Our purpose is to educate and help people prepare, and then work with people on hazard reduction."

The SLO County Fire Safe Council is a nonprofit organization made up of all sorts of different wildfire stakeholders from across the county.

"We literally do things from one end of the county to the other," Turner said. "There's four or five areas where we're

concentrating quite a bit of effort and work on. One is the Cambria area."

One of the biggest wildfire threats on the North Coast is the region's forest health.

"We just started late last fall a very significant project that's going to take 10 years to accomplish in doing forest health treatment on the Monterey pine stand up there, which will make the forest healthier," Turner said. "A healthier forest is a less fire-prone forest."

## Promote!

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## Highlight

• Marian Regional Medical Center donated 60 bikes to second and third graders who completed a four-week bike safety and training course at Alvin and Rice elementary schools in Santa



PHOTO COURTESY OF SLO COUNTY FIRE SAFE COUNCIL

**FIRE HAZARD:** Local fire safe councils and fire departments are using state grant money to bolster fire mitigation and education on the Central Coast.

Maria. The hands-on bicycle education course was taught by volunteers from SBBIKE+Coast in partnership with the schools. After students completed the four-week bike safety and training course, SBBIKE+Coast hosted a pre-owned bike sale; all bikes were inspected and renovated for safety and longevity, sold for \$20, and included a free helmet. According to the CDC, helmets reduce overall head injuries by about 60 percent and fatalities by about 73 percent. ○

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

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# UPCOMING SPECIAL PUBLICATIONS

**BESHOAR, THERESA V.**, 90, of Santa Maria passed away 4/25/2022 arrangements with Magner-Maloney Funeral Home & Crematory

**MOTZ, RICHARD CARL**, 78, of Los Alamos passed away 4/19/2022 arrangements with Dudley-Hoffman Mortuary, Crematory & Memory Gardens

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

**MYERS, DAVID**, 78, of Santa Maria passed away 4/24/2022 arrangements with Dudley-Hoffman Mortuary, Crematory & Memory Gardens

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

**NICHOLSON, SUSIE**, 76, of Santa Maria passed away 4/16/2022 arrangements with Dudley-Hoffman Mortuary, Crematory & Memory Gardens

**DE REGT, JOAN CATHERINE**, 91, of Paso Robles passed away 4/14/2022 arrangements with Kuehl-Nicolay Funeral Home

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

**DORNBUSH, TIMOTHY**, 64, of Morro Bay passed away 4/9/2022 arrangements with Blue Sky Cremation Service

**RETZER, MARK**, 61, of Paso Robles passed away 4/11/2022 arrangements with Chapel of the Roses

**DUFF, JAMES**, 63, of Santa Margartia passed away 4/12/2022 arrangements with Chapel of the Roses

**STERN, ADELE**, 93, of San Luis Obispo passed away 4/17/2022 arrangements with Los Osos Valley Mortuary & Memorial Park

**FAREMAN-DAY, AVA NICOLE**, 15, of Lompoc, passed away 4/1/2022 arrangements with Starbuck-Lind Mortuary

**STRADER, PATRICIA DIANE**, 64, of Paso Robles passed away 4/17/2022 arrangements with Chapel of the Roses

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

**STRAIN, JOANNE**, 93, of Templeton passed away 4/12/2022 arrangements with Chapel of the Roses

**HALL, JADYN LOUISE**, 29, of Paso Robles passed away 4/17/2022 arrangements with Kuehl-Nicolay Funeral Home

**TAMAYO, ANTONIO CANCHOLA**, 89, of Lompoc, passed away 4/3/2022 arrangements with Starbuck-Lind Mortuary

**HEDGE, TRUCIA HELEN**, 76, of Cambria passed away 4/14/2022 arrangements with Los Osos Valley Mortuary & Memorial Park

**TITSWORTH, DARLENE GLORIA**, 86, of Santa Maria passed away 4/24/2022 arrangements with Dudley-Hoffman Mortuary, Crematory & Memory Gardens

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

**VAN DE VEER, CHARLES**, 79, of Santa Maria passed away 4/18/2022 arrangements with Magner-Maloney Funeral Home & Crematory

**IRISH, GARY**, 81, of Los Osos passed away 4/15/2022 arrangements with Los Osos Valley Mortuary & Memorial Park

**VASQUEZ, FRANK A.**, 72, of Santa Maria passed away 4/20/2022 arrangements with Dudley-Hoffman Mortuary, Crematory & Memory Gardens

**IRIYAMA, RONALD IWAO**, 82, of Santa Maria passed away 4/22/2022 arrangements with Dudley-Hoffman Mortuary, Crematory & Memory Gardens

**VICKERY-CAMPOS, OLIVE-SUE ISSABELLA**, 3, of Lompoc passed away 4/19/2022 arrangements with Starbuck-Lind Mortuary

**LAFONTAINE, REGENIA**, 60, of Atascadero passed away 4/16/2022 arrangements with Chapel of the Roses

**WEIGOLD, ROY**, 70, of Atascadero passed away 4/15/2022 arrangements with Blue Sky Cremation Service

**LAGAN, FORTUNATA ASUNCION**, 94, of Santa Maria passed away 4/19/2022 arrangements with Dudley-Hoffman Mortuary, Crematory & Memory Gardens

**WILKERSON, CAROL**, 78, of Santa Maria passed away 4/20/2022 arrangements with Marshall Spoo Sunset Funeral Chapel

**LANE, LAURIE S.**, 80, of Lompoc passed away 4/8/2022 arrangements with Starbuck-Lind Mortuary

**XIONG, DIA KNONG**, 64, of Lompoc passed away 3/30/2022 arrangements with Starbuck-Lind Mortuary

**LESSARD, SHERRY**, 63, of Santa Margartia passed away 4/18/2022 arrangements with Chapel of the Roses

**MADSEN, JOSEPH PETER**, 50, of Paso Robles passed away 4/20/2022 arrangements with Kuehl-Nicolay Funeral Home

# PRIDE

BOOK ADS BY: May 12  
PUBLICATION DATE: May 19

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# SUMMER GUIDE

BOOK ADS BY: May 19  
PUBLICATION DATE: May 26

Your guide to sun and fun on the Central Coast

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Bill Rumbler, 2021

BOOK ADS BY: June 10  
PUBLICATION DATE: June 16

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## Online Poll

### What are your thoughts on the proposed Santa Maria River Levee Trail expansion to Guadalupe?

- 60% It's a bad idea. The trail shouldn't be expanded through prime ag land.
- 30% It's a great idea; I'd use it all the time!
- 7% I don't really care one way or the other.
- 3% There should be a trail along Highway 166 instead.

55 Votes

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We welcome submissions. Please accompany them with a self-addressed, stamped envelope. All letters to the editor become the property of the Sun.

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## Never enough

### Why is there such a lack of affordable housing?

BY RON FINK

The availability of affordable housing has been a big issue in California for decades. I received a mass e-mail from the California attorney general, Rob Bonita, the other day and he is concerned about “skyrocketing housing costs” and “a housing crisis of epic proportions.”

The current city of Lompoc Inclusionary Housing Ordinance specifies that “the default method of providing the affordable units is to build the units on the project site” thus creating mixed developments, versus pockets of gated wealth or swathes of low-income areas. One of 10 new units must be affordable to more households.

But the IHP (Inclusionary Housing Plan) offers a loophole for developers, “an alternative to constructing affordable units, developers may be permitted to pay a fee to the city” (an “in-lieu fee”), which can then be used by the city to “fund programs that help lower-income households obtain affordable housing.”

## LETTERS

### Hoping for mutual respect and kindness

This is in response to a recent article featuring problems with the newly hired district manager, Ron Jacobs, at the Santa Maria Cemetery (“Residents and workers complain about oversight at the Santa Maria Cemetery, which is showing little sign of changing,” April 7). Our bereavement organization, Angel of Hope, which memorializes children who have passed away, has had several conversations with Mr. Jacobs regarding maintenance and trash issues at the Angel site at the cemetery. He has been very responsive and caring. Many years ago, our Angel was vandalized with trash, rotting vegetables, papers, and broken items. Cleanup was almost daily. Fortunately, we caught the individual in the act and reported him to the police.

Although the vandalism stopped, we still have problems with trash, cigarette butts, dirty diapers, and human waste. Even mementos like wind chimes have been broken or stolen, and this happened prior to the past two cemetery district managers. We hope these families can work with Mr. Jacobs and both sides treat each other with respect and kindness.

Suzanne “Sam” de St. Jean  
Angel of Hope Santa Maria

### More than only Los Alamos lessons

This began not as a Los Alamos NIMBY thing, but as an unfortunate example of much-less-than-best practices by government. Hundreds have signed petitions and sent letters requesting better plans for development of a lot. Why place 12 dwellings on an acre-and-a-half without safe and adequate access?

The access road, a shoulderless fire lane, would remain narrow and, for 100 feet, only single-lane despite being two-way. Current plans would result in scores of additional vehicles, including large trucks.

Under pressure for new housing, even where demonstrably inappropriate, county Planning and Development has failed to give ample consideration to issues of safety.

Planning and Development employees are overwhelmingly approachable and able. The zoning administrator, however, was unprepared for her hearing. This was followed by a public meeting of planning commissioners, two of whom should have

Rates were last set in 2007 and increased from the previous \$86,000 to \$113,998 per required affordable unit; enough to construct a 1,350-square-foot home deemed as adequate by the City Council for affordable housing; this money was deposited in a trust fund.

On April 13, 2022, the Planning Commission discussed a proposed change to the IHP that would “change the basis for the in-lieu fee to the maximum amount of financial assistance available to a single applicant under the Homebuyer Assistance Program. The new fee would be \$72,500.”

That’s like comparing apples to oranges. Why? Because the IHP is designed to build new homes, while the Housing Assistance Program is used to purchase existing homes, not build new ones as the original IHP envisioned. Fewer new units increases the pressure on the affordable market as more people compete for fewer units.

Construction costs are now well above \$250 a square foot when including land, so for a modest 1,350-square-foot home construction cost is \$337,500.

For example, a development on the north end of the city is projected to build 476 homes; 47 of them would be affordable

homes. Using an in-lieu fee of \$72,500, it means the developer pays \$3.4 million to avoid building them on-site.

But if you used the actual cost of \$337,500 per unit it, would be nearly \$15.9 million—for a cost avoidance bonus by the city to the developer of nearly \$12.5 million—and 47 new affordable properties won’t be built.

Another in the southeast corner of town would build 257 new homes; 25 would be affordable. The builder could pay an in-lieu fee of \$1.8 million instead of \$8.4 million—for a city-provided bonus of \$6.6 million and the loss of another 25 affordable homes.

Providing down payment assistance without adding new stock seems to be contrary to the goal of solving “a housing crisis of epic proportions.”

By the way, Councilmember Victor Vega, who is also a real estate agent, has benefitted financially from the Homebuyer Assistance Program and will likely do so in the future. This reeks of “conflict of interest,” and he should recuse himself from discussing this issue; however, he hasn’t in the past. ○

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

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recused themselves due to, at least, the perception of conflicts of interest. Also, staff obligingly displayed my photographic evidence, except for those depicting trucks trying to negotiate the narrow section of road.

A pivotal Planning and Development employee has been transportation planner William Robertson. He has downplayed increased risks of accident at and near the bottleneck, asserting that the county would not be legally liable. He averted a formal traffic study, while choosing not to do a thorough informal one, relying instead on formulas from an international traffic engineering manual. Then he advanced low estimates of road traffic by disregarding half of the planned dwellings on a technicality.

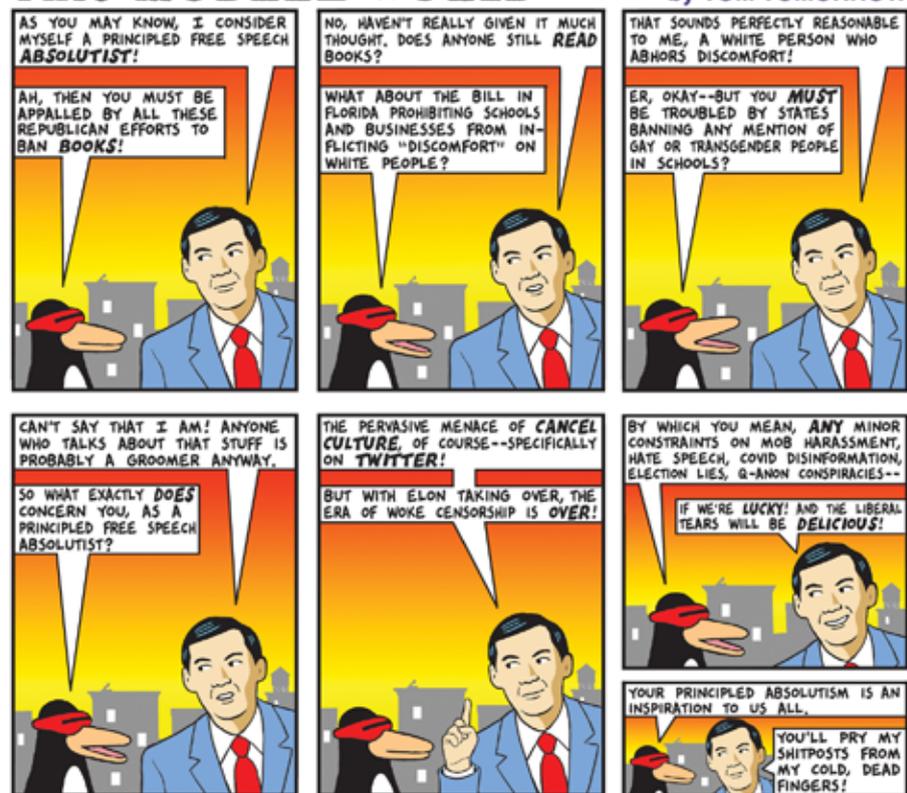
If an appeal had been brought to our county supervisors, I choose to believe that a majority would have seen the wisdom of a better course. In other matters, to the benefit of our economy, health, and safety, they have overturned poorly considered plans endorsed by Planning and Development.

Attention is paid when we take the time to become informed and express ourselves as residents and voters. In this Los Alamos case, efforts led to the offer of some concessions by the developer, although minor in the context of the unmitigable harms. Throughout, our print and e-news media continue to play a crucial and constructive role.

Seth Steiner  
Los Alamos

## THIS MODERN WORLD

by TOM TOMORROW



# Taxing taxes

**Mayor Aristan Julian** believes cannabis is the answer to **Guadalupe's** long-running general fund revenue problems—4 to 6 percent of gross receipts from future dispensaries ought to do the trick, he said!

"If they make \$3 million, we could get 6 percent of that into our general fund," he said of the three cannabis businesses the city recently approved to open.

But you know what sucks about anticipation? Disappointment.

What if they make \$300,000 or \$30,000 or \$300 or \$0. Guadalupe also gets 6 percent of that! But cannabis is such a gold mine! Well, apparently, not all the time.

**Santa Barbara County** seems disappointed with the amount of money it's bringing in from cannabis cultivation taxes—4 percent of gross receipts is a more volatile revenue stream than it anticipated. **County Executive Officer Mona Miyasato** said the county was as much as 30 percent off in its predictions for this fiscal year, overestimating its haul from the cannabis industry and disappointing all the county departments depending on that stream.

In 2019-20, the county pulled in \$12.2 million from cannabis taxes; \$15.7 million in 2020-21; and as of the second quarter for 2021-22, \$5.4 million. That's about \$1.4 million less than the same time period in 2020-21. It still sounds like a lot of money to me, but not if you're expecting to make money off of all the acres under the county's cannabis cultivation cap and less than a third of those acres are actually producing cannabis and the price cannabis farmers are getting for their trouble has fallen from a high of about \$1,500 per pound in October 2020 to about \$800 per pound in April 2022 (according to *The Sacramento Bee*). That's a lot less revenue to tax. So what's the solution to prevent the market from strangling tax revenue? Nothing that seems to be any better at the moment.

The state is currently charging cultivators a flat tax of \$161 per pound, which is almost 20 percent of their revenue if you take April's prices into consideration. In addition to that, the state also charges a 15 percent excise tax as well as a sales and use tax. Cannabis cultivators also have to pay local taxes, such as Santa Barbara County's 4 percent of gross receipts.

According to a commentary in *CalMatters*, some California cannabis farmers are choosing to return to the black market or let crops rot in the fields rather than lose money on their harvest. The commentary advocated for the state to reform its tax policies, something **Santa Barbara County 2nd District Supervisor Das Williams** seemed to also want, according to his comments at the board's April 14 meeting.

The board was discussing cannabis tax reform at the county level, and Williams warned against making the same mistakes that the state made. **Fifth District Supervisor Steve Lavagnino** is on the same page. He called the state's flat tax "ridiculously high right now," because it doesn't adjust to the market.

While the county's tax does adjust to the market, it's also held hostage by it. And as the dollar signs in government's eyes about the budding new cannabis industry start to fade, what's the answer?

I have no idea. And neither does anyone else. ○

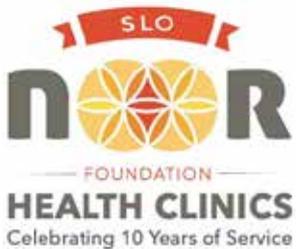
*The Canary* is waiting for a new industry to hit its teen years. Send comments to [canary@santamariasun.com](mailto:canary@santamariasun.com).



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

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

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



**Interested? Want to find out more?**

For more information, email [volunteer@slonoorfoundation.org](mailto:volunteer@slonoorfoundation.org) or visit our website at [slonoorfoundation.org/volunteer/](http://slonoorfoundation.org/volunteer/)

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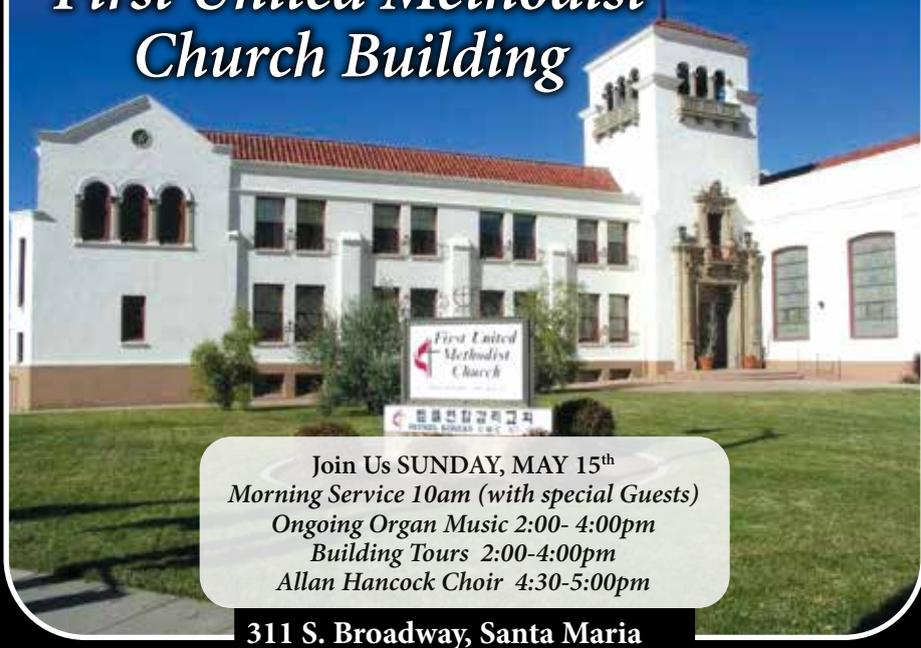


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## 100 Year Anniversary of First United Methodist Church Building



Join Us **SUNDAY, MAY 15<sup>th</sup>**  
Morning Service 10am (with special Guests)  
Ongoing Organ Music 2:00- 4:00pm  
Building Tours 2:00-4:00pm  
Allan Hancock Choir 4:30-5:00pm

**311 S. Broadway, Santa Maria**

**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!

# HOT STUFF

MAY 5 – MAY 12  
2022



PHOTO COURTESY OF ZACA MESA WINERY

## PAW PRINTS

Zaca Mesa Winery in Los Olivos hosts its Dog Walk in the Vineyard event on Sunday, May 15, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Attendees are welcome to bring their dogs to the winery and enjoy a stroll around the estate, followed by a catered lunch with gourmet hot dogs from The Doggy Door. Admission is \$60. Call (805) 688-9339 or visit [zacamesa.com](http://zacamesa.com) to find out more. The winery is located at 6905 Foxen Canyon Road, Los Olivos. —Caleb Wiseblood

## ARTS

### SANTA YNEZ VALLEY

#### FIRE AND ICE: OUR CHANGING LANDSCAPE

Features a wide diversity of artwork, including video installations, photography, paintings, mixed media, and more, illustrating aspects of fire and ice. Through Sept. 26 Wildling Museum of Art and Nature, 1511-B Mission Dr., Solvang, 805-688-1082, [wildlingmuseum.org](http://wildlingmuseum.org).

#### GREENLAND: LAND OF THE MIDNIGHT SUN

Features stunning photographs of Greenland's vast Arctic terrain, its people, and culture. Located in North America near Canada, Greenland is the world's largest island. Contrary to its name, it's not very green and covered in ice. **May 7-Sept. 18** Elverhoj Museum of History and Art, 1624 Elverhoj Way, Solvang, 805-686-1211, [elverhoj.org](http://elverhoj.org).

### LOMPOC/VANDENBERG

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

### SANTA MARIA VALLEY/LOS ALAMOS

**ALLAN HANCOCK FINE ARTS STUDENT SHOW** A showcase of art in various media by Allan Hancock College students. Mondays-Thursdays, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. through May 12 Free. 805-922-6966. [hancockcollege.edu/gallery](http://hancockcollege.edu/gallery). Ann Foxworthy Gallery, 800 S. College Dr., Santa Maria.

**CONGRESSIONAL ART SHOW** The Office of Congressman Salud Carbajal is proud to host the annual Congressional Art Show. This event showcases the artwork of high school students across the district with the winner's work going to hang in the U.S. Capitol. Come show your support. **May 7, 1:30-2:30 p.m.** Free entry. 805-546-8548. Santa Maria Public Library, 421 S. McClelland St., Santa Maria.

**MARIAN THEATRE: INTO THE WOODS** Book by James Lapine. Music and Lyrics by Stephen Sondheim. Through May 15 Marian Theatre, 800 S. College Dr., Santa Maria, [pcpa.org](http://pcpa.org).

**THE LIFESPAN OF A FACT** Two characters come head to head in a comedic yet gripping battle over facts versus truth. Through May 8 [smct.org/shows/](http://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](http://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](http://cityofsantamaria.org/register). Elwin Mussell Senior Center, 510 Park Ave., Santa Maria.

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

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

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

### SOUTH COAST SLO COUNTY

**ART AT DANA ADOBE** See "The Padre's Kitchen" by Rosemary Bauer, and more paintings of historic structures by talented artists. Exhibit title: "Portraits of Historical California Adobes." Through June 4, noon Admission: \$8 Adults, \$3 Children ages 3-17; Members free. 805-929-5679. [danaadobe.org](http://danaadobe.org). DANA Adobe Cultural Center, 671 S. Oakglen Ave., Nipomo.

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

**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/](http://lila.community/) Lila Creative Community, 1147 East Grand Ave. suite 101, Arroyo Grande.

**OPEN STUDIO FOR ADULTS** 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](http://lila.community/). 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/](http://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.

**SPRING FLING POP-UP BOUTIQUE** Presented by Gifts Galore. **May 7, 10 a.m.-3 p.m.** Birchwood Garden Barn & Home, 323 West Tefft Street, Nipomo.

### 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](http://actorsedge.com). Online. See website, San Luis Obispo.

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

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

**ART WORKSHOP: EXPRESSIVE COLLAGE WITH CHANTELE GOLDTHWAITE** Explore minimalist, narrative, abstract, and figurative concepts through the simple act of cut and paste. Contact Chantelle to sign-up, [acszcsey@earthlink.net](mailto:acszcsey@earthlink.net). Second Monday of every month, 2-4:30 p.m. \$20. 805-747-4200. [artcentralslo.com/workshops-events/](http://artcentralslo.com/workshops-events/). Art Central, 1329 Monterey St., San Luis Obispo.

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

**ART WORKSHOP: THE ART OF DRAWING WITH CHANTELE GOLDTHWAITE** Use still-life to explore the concepts of line, contour, and composition. Contact Chantelle to sign-up, [acszcsey@earthlink.net](mailto:acszcsey@earthlink.net). Second Monday of every month, 10:30 a.m.-1 p.m. \$20. 805-747-4200. [artcentralslo.com/workshops-events/](http://artcentralslo.com/workshops-events/). Art Central, 1329 Monterey St., San Luis Obispo.

**BALLET YOUTH PERFORMANCE SHOW** Enjoy performances of The Circus Ballet and The Sound of Music Suite. **May 6, 6:30-8 p.m.** and **May 7, 5-6:30 p.m.** \$11-\$16. 805-440-1439. [bt.slo.org/youth-performance-showcase-2022](http://bt.slo.org/youth-performance-showcase-2022). The School of Ballet Theater San Luis Obispo, 3566 S. Higuera Street, suite 207, San Luis Obispo.

**CAL POLY THEATRE AND DANCE: SOMETIMES THE RAIN SOMETIMES THE SEA** An adaptation, reimagining, and critique of *The Little Mermaid*, this play explores, teases, and expands the ideas of romantic, obsessive, and unrequited love that we learn from popular stories. **May 12, 8-10 p.m., May 13, 8-10 p.m., May 14, 8-10 p.m.** and **May 15, 2-4 p.m.** \$12-\$20. 805-756-7556. Performing Arts Center, 1 Grand Ave., San Luis Obispo, [pacslo.org](http://pacslo.org).

**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/](http://hmcruceceramics.com/). Online, See website, San Luis Obispo.

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SUBMIT YOUR EVENTS

# SANTA BARBARA BOWL



PHOTO: A ARTHUR FISHER

**LORDE** w/REMI WOLF . . . . . **MAY 07**  
**THE SMASHING PUMPKINS** w/BONES UK. . . . **MAY 13**  
**OLIVIA RODRIGO** w/HOLLY HUMBERSTONE . . . . **MAY 21**  
**RAINBOW KITTEN SURPRISE** w/99 NEIGHBORS . **MAY 27**  
**REX ORANGE COUNTY.** . . . . . **JUN 01**  
**STEVE MARTIN & MARTIN SHORT** . . . . . **JUN 17**  
**ROD STEWART** w/CHEAP TRICK . . . . . **JUN 18**  
**LYLE LOVETT** AND HIS LARGE BAND & **CHRIS ISAAK** **JUN 19**  
**BRANDI CARLILE** w/BRITNEY SPENCER. . . . . **JUN 21**  
**CAAMP** w/HEARTLESS BASTARDS . . . . . **JUL 08**  
**FLEET FOXES.** . . . . . **JUL 09**  
**RISE AGAINST** w/THE USED, SENSES FAIL . . . . . **JUL 16**  
**SLIGHTLY STOOPID** w/PEPPER, COMMON KINGS . . **JUL 17**  
**THE BLACK CROWES** . . . . . **JUL 24**  
**THE CHICKS** w/JENNY LEWIS. . . . . **JUL 29**

**JOSH GROBAN** w/PRESERVATION HALL JAZZ BAND **JUL 30**  
**JON PARDI** w/LAINEY WILSON, HAILEY WHITTERS . . . **AUG 05**  
**REBELUTION** w/STEEL PULSE, DENM, DJ MACKLE . . . **AUG 07**  
**TROMBONE SHORTY'S** VOODOO THREAUXDOWN . **AUG 13**  
**MY MORNING JACKET** w/JOY OLADOKUN . . . . **AUG 16**  
**ROBERT PLANT & ALISON KRAUSS** . . . . . **AUG 17**  
**THE HEAD AND THE HEART** w/DAWES. . . . . **AUG 18**  
**IRATION & ATMOSPHERE** w/KATASTRO . . . . . **AUG 25**  
**FLUME** w/TSHA, SEGA BODEGA . . . . . **SEP 01**  
**GOO GOO DOLLS** w/BLUE OCTOBER . . . . . **SEP 03**  
**JACKSON BROWNE** . . . . . **SEP 07**  
**LEON BRIDGES** w/LITTLE DRAGON . . . . . **SEP 08**  
**MAREN MORRIS** w/THE LONE BELLOW . . . . . **SEP 15**  
**BONNIE RAITT** w/MAVIS STAPLES. . . . . **SEP 22**  
**JACK JOHNSON** w/RON ARTIS II . . . . . **OCT 04 & 05**  
**RÜFÜS DU SOL** w/ PARALEVEN. . **OCT 08** **ON SALE 5/5**



SBBOWL.COM f t i : SBBOWL

2022 GOLDENVOKE

**ETERNO, EL FLAMENCO VIVE** Seattle-based Flamenco dancer Savannah Fuentes will perform at the San Luis Obispo Guild Hall. **May 9**, 7:30-9 p.m. SLO Guild Hall, 2880 Broad St., San Luis Obispo, sloguildhall.com.

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

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

**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.

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

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

**MONDAY CLUB: RAISING A READER SUMMER BOOK DRIVE** Stop by to donate new and "gently loved" children's books for children in SLO County. They will be distributed through SLO Food Bank and Raising A Reader events in schools. **May 9**, 1:30-5 p.m. Free.

themondayclubslslo.org/RAR. The Monday Club, 1815 Monterey St., San Luis Obispo, 805-541-0594.

**OPERA SLO: RODGERS AND HAMMERSTEIN'S CAROUSEL** A New England sea air will descend upon Miossi Hall of Performing Arts Center San Luis Obispo, in a spectacular full production of this classic Broadway hit. **May 7** and **May 8** Performing Arts Center, 1 Grand Ave., San Luis Obispo, 756-4849, pacslslo.org.

**OPERASLO PRESENTS CAROUSEL** Make Mother's Day weekend an epic "musical" memory with Opera San Luis Obispo's grand production of Rodgers and Hammerstein's *Carousel*. **May 7**, 2-5 p.m. and **May 8**, 2-5 p.m. \$35-\$75. 8057567556. Performing Arts Center, 1 Grand Ave., San Luis Obispo, pacslslo.org.

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

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

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

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

**THE SLO BOTANICAL GARDEN PRESENTS: MORNING ALTARS WITH DAY SCHILDKRET** Join internationally renowned author, teacher, and artist, Day Schildkret of Morning Altars to learn how to use nature and art as a way to mark the special moments in our lives. **May 14**, 10 a.m.-1:30 p.m. San Luis Obispo Botanical Garden, 3450 Dairy Creek Rd., San Luis Obispo, 8055411400.



**IN THE AIR TONIGHT**

*The Performing Arts Center (PAC) in San Luis Obispo presents two performances of Shen Yun in Harold Miossi Hall, on Tuesday, May 10, and Wednesday, May 11, at 7:30 p.m. both evenings. This live dance and music production was originally scheduled at the PAC in 2020 but was postponed due to the pandemic. Admission to the show ranges from \$80 to \$165. Visit pacslslo.org for tickets or more info. The PAC is located at 1 Grand Ave., San Luis Obispo. —C.W.*

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

**SLO NIGHTWRITERS: A COMMUNITY OF WRITERS** SLO NightWriters supports local writers with monthly presentations, critique groups, contests, and other events. Second Tuesday of every month, 6:30-8 p.m. 805-703-3132. slonightwriters.org. Online, See website, San Luis Obispo.

**SLOPE HONORS PRISTINE COASTAL VISIONS** Celebrate the local beauty of the proposed Chumash Heritage National Marine Sanctuary with the artists of SLOPE in this art exhibit. Through May 30 Art Central,

1329 Monterey St., San Luis Obispo, 805-747-4200, artcentralslo.wordpress.com.

**SOMETIMES THE RAIN, SOMETIMES THE SEA** What are the stories we tell ourselves about love? Playwright, Julia Izumi begins to answer this in her adaptation, reimagining, and critique of *The Little Mermaid*, which explores, teases, and expands the ideas of romantic, obsessive, and unrequited love that we learn from popular stories. **May 12**, 8-10 p.m., **May 13**, 8-10 p.m., **May 14**, 8-10 p.m. and **May 15**, 2-4 p.m. \$12-\$20. theatredance.calpoly.edu/sometimes-rain-sometimes-sea-spring-2022. Spanos Theatre, Cal Poly, San Luis Obispo, 805-756-7113.

ARTS continued page 18



**2022 CRUISIN'**

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# Nationals

**MAY 28, 29 • 2022**

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**FRIDAY NIGHT** Broadway  
**SANTA MARIA**  
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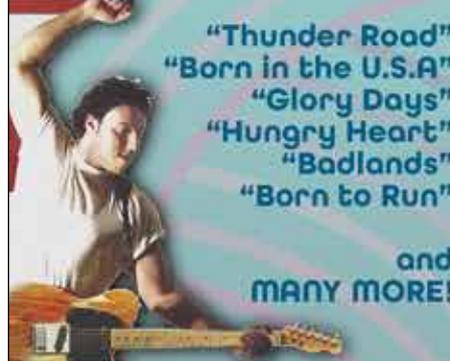
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# ALWAYS AMAZING. NEVER ROUTINE.

## Bruce in the USA

THIS SATURDAY  
May 7 - 7:30pm



"Thunder Road"  
"Born in the U.S.A."  
"Glory Days"  
"Hungry Heart"  
"Badlands"  
"Born to Run"

and  
MANY MORE!

## The Perondi's Stunt Dog Experience



Sat, May 21  
3pm & 7pm

See all the best stunts that rescued dogs can do!

## ELVIS - REMEMBERING THE KING



Sat, June 11  
7:30pm

One of the most unique and entertaining Elvis tributes in the world

Your ticket to a great night!  
(805) 489-9444  
www.clarkcenter.org



### 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



OPENING DAY MAY 4 @ 7PM  
The Great American Melodrama  
doors open: 6:45pm  
FREE POPCORN & SODA for all

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



**Cinderella & Paquita**

World Premiere!  
All New Staging  
of this  
176 year old  
Classical Ballet

**Saturday, June 4 7pm** **Sunday, June 5 3pm**

**Tickets: Adults \$25 Children \$20**

Featuring Guest Artists Chasen Greenwood and Ian Perea  
*Audience Members are Required to Wear Masks*

**Clark Center for the Performing Arts**  
487 Fair Oaks Ave, Arroyo Grande

Tickets available on line, by phone, or at the Box Office  
[www.clarkcenter.org](http://www.clarkcenter.org) 805-489-9444

**Sun**

**Everybody Can DANCE invites you to BALLET CAMP 2022!**

Ages 8-14  
9am-3pm Mon-Fri  
Early drop-off and Late pick up available for working families!

**Learn Fun Dances!! Put on a Show!!**

Camp showcase performance at the end of each session features all students!

**Sessions**  
1st: June 27 - July 8  
2nd: July 11 - July 22

Call now to reserve your place  
**345-5570**



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

**NORTH SLO COUNTY**

**ART AND ABOUT: STUDIOS ON THE PARK** Come and celebrate our new exhibition "Life Refurbished" with wine poured by Adelaida Winery and live music performed by Katie Chappell. **May 7**, 6-9 p.m. 805-238-9800. Studios on the Park, 1130 Pine St., Paso Robles, [studiosonthepark.org](http://studiosonthepark.org).

**LIFE REFURBISHED** Artists used reclaimed materials (such as recycled woods, metals, glass, ceramics, and fabrics) to create new pieces of artwork. Through June 27 [studiosonthepark.org](http://studiosonthepark.org). Studios on the Park, 1130 Pine St., Paso Robles, 805-238-9800.

**POLYMER CLAY BEAD WORKSHOP** You can make nearly anything with a little creativity, even down to the beads in your necklace. Enjoy making a bundle of beautiful, decorative beads for you to rock with pride. **May 8**, 2-4 p.m. \$35. 805-464-0533. [theLartery.com](http://theLartery.com). The ARTery, 5890 Traffic Way, Atascadero.

**SPRING ART SHOW** The Atascadero Art Association presents its 2022 Spring Membership Art Show at The ARTery. Opening reception is May 6. Runs through June. **May 6**, 5:30-7:30 p.m. Free. The ARTery, 5890 Traffic Way, Atascadero, 805 464 0533, [theLartery.com](http://theLartery.com).

**SPRING FLOWER STAKE** Add a colorful fused glass flower to your garden by using a variety of pre-cut glass. **May 7**, 10 a.m.-noon \$35. 805-464-2633. [glassheadstudio.com](http://glassheadstudio.com). Glasshead Studio, 8793 Plata Lane, Suite H, Atascadero.

**STUDIOS ON THE PARK: CLASSES AND WORKSHOPS** Check site for a variety of classes and workshops offered. [studiosonthepark.org](http://studiosonthepark.org). Studios on the Park, 1130 Pine St., Paso Robles, 805-238-9800.

**NORTH COAST SLO COUNTY**

**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](http://artcentermorrobay.org).

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

**FIREFLIES** A staged reading directed by Anita Schwaber. **May 6-8** [my805tix.com](http://my805tix.com). By The Sea Productions, 545 Shasta Ave., Morro Bay, 805-776-3287.

**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.

**IT'S ONLY A PLAY: A STAGED READING** Cambria Center for the Arts Theatre presents a staged reading of Terrance McNally's hilarious hit. This comedy is full of zingers aimed at Broadway itself. **May 13**, 7-9 p.m., **May 14**, 7-9 p.m. and **May 15**, 2-4 p.m. \$15. 805-927-8190. [cambriaarts.org/theatre-season/](http://cambriaarts.org/theatre-season/). Cambria Center for the Arts Theatre, 1350 Main St., Cambria.

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

**MOSAIC TRIVET WORKSHOP** During this workshop, you will learn how to design and create a mosaic

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

**MOSAICS FOR EVERYONE** Learn mosaic basics to create a one-of-a-kind project. Choose a project to make your heart sing while learning mosaic basics to complete your masterpiece. You have many colors, baubles, and beads to choose from. Preregistration required. **May 15**, 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Various. 805-286-5993. CreativeMeTime.com. Art Center Morro Bay, 835 Main St., Morro Bay.

COURTESY IMAGE BY CHRIS JESZECK



**IMAGINATIVE IMAGERY**

*Pigments of My Imagination... Revisited, a new exhibition showcasing acrylic paintings by local artist Chris Jeszeck, will remain on display at the Cypress Gallery in Lompoc through Sunday, May 29. This solo exhibit is presented by the Lompoc Valley Art Association. Call (805) 737-1129 or visit [lompocart.org](http://lompocart.org) to find out more about the show. The Cypress Gallery is located at 119 E. Cypress Ave., Lompoc.*

—C.W.

**PAINTINGS BY LORI SLATER** Lori Slater's eclectic watercolors, oils, and acrylics will be up at Cambria Library. Tuesdays-Saturdays. through May 31 Free. 805-927-4336. [sloblibrary.org](http://sloblibrary.org). Cambria Library, 1043 Main St., Cambria.

**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](http://artcentermorrobay.org).

**THE PLEIN AIR TEAM** Acrylic artist, Nancy Lynn, and husband, watercolorist, Robert Fleming, have an ongoing show of originals and giclee prints of Morro Bay and local birds. 805-772-9955. Seven Sisters Gallery, 601 Embarcadero Ste. 8, Morro Bay, [sevensistersgalleryca.com](http://sevensistersgalleryca.com).

**SEA GLASS STARFISH** Learn how to drill holes in sea glass and basic jewelry making skills to create a beautiful jewelry set. Everything is provided to complete project. Preregistration required. **May 14**, 10 a.m.-noon \$50. 805-286-5993. CreativeMeTime.com. Art Center Morro Bay, 835 Main St., Morro Bay.

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

**CULTURE & LIFESTYLE**

**SANTA MARIA VALLEY/LOS ALAMOS**

**30 VOLUNTEERS NEEDED IN SANTA MARIA/ ORCUTT** Community Partners in Caring is seeking volunteers to help support dependent older adults and seniors. ongoing [partnersincaring.org](http://partnersincaring.org). Santa Maria.

**AHC VITICULTURE AND ENOLOGY CLUB 5K RUN/WALK** Students in Allan Hancock College's Viticulture and Enology Club are hosting a 5K fun run and walk. Funds raised will support the club's activities and programs. **May 7**, 8:30-11:30 a.m. \$45 for general admission and \$35

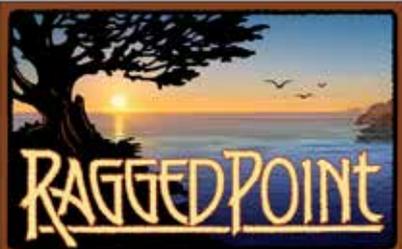
**CULTURE & LIFESTYLE** continued page 20

**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



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**BRUCE'S GET OUT THE VOTE BBQ FUNDRAISER**

**SUNDAY, MAY 15 | 4-7PM**

**BRUCE GIBSON'S GET OUT THE VOTE BBQ FUNDRAISER**

**May 15, 2022 · 4-7pm**

Atascadero Printery Foundation, Atascadero

Presented by:  
**BRUCE GIBSON, SLO COUNTY SUPERVISOR**

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.



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



**SLO Blues Baseball**  
Tickets on Sale NOW!  
**FRI, MAY 27 – SUN, JULY 31**  
Sinsheimer Park, San Luis Obispo



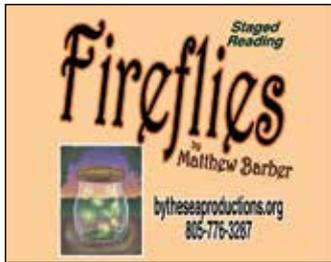
**Season Pass: All 8 Concerts**  
"Live at the Lighthouse"  
**JUNE 25 – OCTOBER 8**  
Point San Luis Lighthouse, Avila Beach



**The Lifespan of a Fact**  
**THURSDAY, MAY 5**  
Sycamore Mineral Springs,  
Gardens of Avila Restaurant



**The Lifespan of a Fact**  
**FRI, SAT, SUN, MAY 6, 7, 8**  
Santa Maria  
Civic Theatre



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



**Bruce Gibson's Get Out the Vote**  
BBQ Fundraiser  
**SUNDAY, MAY 15**  
Atascadero Printery Foundation



**Women Investing in**  
Real Estate (Wiire) SLO  
**FRIDAY, MAY 20**  
Granada Hotel & Bistro, SLO



**GALA Pride & Diversity Center:**  
SLO Pridefest  
**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



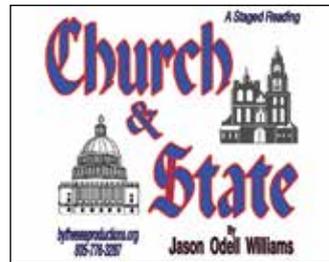
**Cambria Concerts:**  
SLO County Stumblers  
**SUNDAY, MAY 22**  
Old Santa Rosa Chapel, Cambria



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



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



By the Sea Productions:  
**Staged Reading - Church & State**  
**FRI, SAT, SUN, MAY 27, 28, 29**  
545 Shasta Ave., Morro Bay



**SLO Blues Baseball**  
vs. Coastal Dodgers  
**FRI & SAT, MAY 27 & 28**  
Sinsheimer Park, San Luis Obispo



**Symphony of the Vines:**  
Jack Cimo Guitar  
**SATURDAY, MAY 28**  
Trilogy Monarch Dunes



**SLO Blues Baseball**  
vs. West Coast Kings  
**SUN & MON, MAY 29 & 30**  
Sinsheimer Park, San Luis Obispo



**Unfinished Business**  
Memorial Day Jam  
**MONDAY, MAY 30**  
Blacklake Golf Resort, Nipomo



**Vocal Arts Ensemble**  
Spring Concerts  
**JUNE 2, 4 & 5**  
Nipomo, SLO, Cambria



**17th Annual**  
Paso Pinot & Paella Festival  
**SUNDAY, JUNE 5**  
Templeton Park, Templeton



**17th Annual**  
Paso Pinot & Paella Festival  
**FRI, SAT, SUN, JUNE 17-19**  
El Chorro Regional Park, SLO

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# INTO THE WOODS

Music & Lyrics by STEPHEN SONDHEIM | Book by JAMES LAPINE  
Originally directed on Broadway by JAMES LAPINE | Orchestration by JONATHAN TUNICK

APRIL 28 - MAY 15 | Marian Theatre, Santa Maria

TICKETS 805-922-8313 | PCPA.ORG  
GROUPS\* 805-928-7731 x.4150

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for student/staff admission. bit.ly/ahc5k. Allan Hancock College, 800 S. College Drive, Santa Maria.

**ANDROID PHONE CLASS** First Thursdays of the month Oasis Center, 420 Soares Ave., Orcutt, 805-937-9750.

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

**DIGITAL LITERACY FREE WORKSHOPS: PRESENTED BY PAINTED BRAIN** Do you have questions about your phone, tablet, laptop, or even a desktop computer? Then sign up for these interactive classes with members from Painted Brain. Wednesdays, 4 p.m. through May 25 Free. 805-925-0994. cityofsantamaria.org/city-government/departments/library. Santa Maria Public Library, 421 S. McClelland St., Santa Maria.

**ENERGY SAVINGS DIY TOOLKIT PRESENTATION WITH 3C-REN** Learn how saving energy can benefit you, your home, and our climate. Presented in English and Spanish. **May 7**, 10:30 a.m. Free. 805-925-0994. cityofsantamaria.org/city-government/departments/library. Santa Maria Public Library, 421 S. McClelland St., Santa Maria.

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

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

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

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

SOUTH COAST SLO COUNTY

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

**GRIEF RECOVERY GROUP FOR WIDOWS** Call for more details. Second Saturday of every month, 10 a.m. 805-904-6615. Oak Park Christian Church, 386 N Oak Park Blvd., Grover Beach.

**KATHLEEN GODDARD JONES MEMORIAL HIKE AT BLACK LAKE ECOLOGICAL AREA** Just a short trek from the parking area to the lake and back, the trail spans 1.5 miles round-trip. Hosted by the Dunes Center. **May 15**, 9 a.m.-noon my805tix.com. Black Lake Ecological Area, 1158 Cabrillo Way, 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.

**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, 5citieswimsschool.com.

SAN LUIS OBISPO

**BEYOND MINDFULNESS** Realize your potential through individualized meditation instruction with an experienced teacher via Zoom. This class is for those who wish to begin a practice or seek to deepen an existing one. Flexible days and times. Certified with IMTA.

Email or text for information. Mondays-Sundays, 5:30-6:30 p.m. Sliding scale. 559-905-9274. theartofsilence.net. Online. See website, San Luis Obispo.

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

**CAL POLY BASEBALL VS CSU BAKERSFIELD** Come watch the Mustangs take on CSU Bakersfield in a Big West Conference game at Baggett Stadium. **May 6**, 6 p.m. gopoly.com/. It's Bark at the Park; bring your furry friend to the baseball game. The first 100 dog owners at Baggett Stadium will get a special Cal Poly leash. **May 7**, 4 p.m. gopoly.com/. Celebrate Mother's Day with Cal Poly Baseball. It's also Youth Day, so bring the whole family because all kids ages 13 and under get in free. **May 8**, 1 p.m. Free for kids. gopoly.com/. Baggett Stadium, 1 Grand Ave., San Luis Obispo, 805-756-7297.

**CAL POLY SOFTBALL VS UC DAVIS** The Mustangs take on UC Davis in a Big West Conference doubleheader. **May 6**, 3 p.m. Free. gopoly.com. It's Senior Day; arrive early as we honor the Mustang senior athletes playing in their final game at Bob Janssen Field. **May 7**, 1 p.m. Free. gopoly.com. Bob Janssen Field, 1 Grand Ave., San Luis Obispo, 805-756-7297.

**CENTRAL COAST GET FIT CHALLENGE CHANGE THE WAY YOUR BODY WEIGH'S IN 21 DAYS** Change the way your body weighs in 21 days. Succeed in making changes that will transform your life. Mondays-Sundays, 8 a.m. through June 5 Call for pricing. 805-235-7978. gratefulbodyhealthcoaching.com. Online, See website, San Luis Obispo.

**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. **May 7**, 9:30-11:30 a.m. No charge. 805-234-4457. missionsanluisobispo.org. Mission San Luis Obispo de Tolosa, 751 Palm Street, San Luis Obispo.

COURTESY PHOTO BY DAY SCHILDKRET



MORNING MUSES

The San Luis Obispo Botanical Garden holds its Morning Altars event on Saturday, May 14, from 10 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Author, teacher, and artist Day Schildkret will show participants of this workshop ways to use nature and art "to mark the special moments in our lives," according to press materials. Visit slobg.org to find out more. The SLO Botanical Garden is located at 3450 Dairy Creek Road, San Luis Obispo. —C.W.

**FOUR WALKS IN FOUR DAYS** The Central Coast Beachboardwalkers are hosting 5km/10km walks that highlight our area. Venues include Kinney Hotel, Los Osos Park Schoolhouse, Pismo Lighthouse Suites, and Centennial Park Gazebo, Arroyo Grande. **May 12**, 4-6 p.m., **May 13**, 12-3 p.m., **May 14**, 8-11 a.m. and **May 15**, 8-11 a.m. Free/donation. 805-714-1552. The Kinney Hotel, 1800 Monterey Street, San Luis Obispo, beachboardwalkers.org.

**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.

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

**SKATE MISSION PLAZA: POP-UP ROLLER RINK**

There will be a number of theme nights (see site for full schedule), so bring out all the stops and dress up while you skate the night away. **May 6-22** downtownslo.com. Mission Plaza, Downtown, San Luis Obispo.

**TRANS\* YOUTH PEER SUPPORT GROUP**

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

**YAPPY HOUR**

Friends of SLO City Dog Parks (non-profit) is raising funds for dog park amenities (agility equipment) at Laguna Lake dog area. Come for live music, local wine, beer, and food. Participate in fun dog contests. All friendly dogs on leash welcome. Rain cancels. **May 7**, 2-5 p.m. \$20-\$25 donation. 805-441-5894. instagram.com/slocitydogs. Laguna Lake Park, 504 Madonna Rd., San Luis Obispo.

**YPNG'S SPRING SOIREE**

Tasty treats and libations will be provided by Beachwalk BBQ, Tap Truck SLO, and the YPNG alum-owned Baguette About It. Games, music, and Operation Surf team members onsite to share more about the life changing support they provide to the veteran community **May 7**, 2-5 p.m. \$35-\$50. 209-352-9697. ypng.org/events/spring-soiree. Octagon Barn Center, 4400 Octagon Way, San Luis Obispo.

**FOOD & DRINK**

**SANTA YNEZ VALLEY**

**DOG WALK IN THE VINEYARD**

Learn more about our historic winery while strolling along the roads of our estate vineyard. Enjoy a catered lunch at the winery of exceptional, gourmet hot dogs by The Doggy Door while sipping hand-crafted wines. Special treats for pets too. **May 15**, 10 a.m.-1 p.m. \$60. 805-688-9339. zacamesa.com/upcoming-events/. Zaca Mesa Winery, 6905 Foxen Canyon Road, Los Olivos.

**KALYRA: PURCHASES AND PICK-UPS**

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

**STANDING SUN: CELLAR CLUB**

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

**SANTA MARIA VALLEY/LOS ALAMOS**

**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**

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**SIMPLY SOURDOUGH**

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

**TACO TUESDAY**

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

**SOUTH COAST SLO COUNTY**

**PISMO BEACH FARMERS MARKET**

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

**SAN LUIS OBISPO**

**MOTHER'S DAY AT BRASSERIE SLO**

Join Hotel Cerro's Brasserie SLO to celebrate Mom. Indulge in a thoughtfully-curated menu from Executive Chef Derek Brooks and ingredients from the hotel's own Edible Garden. **May 8**, 10:30 a.m.-4 p.m. 805-592-3880. hotelcerro.com/slo-events/moms-dining/. Brasserie SLO, 1119 Broad St., San Luis Obispo.

**MOTHER'S DAY HIGH TEA**

Celebrate daughters, mothers, grandmothers with this British tradition. "Refined culture, refreshing food, and relaxing nature will be yours to discover." **May 7**, 1 p.m. \$50 adults; \$15 children. 805-543-0638. historycenterslo.org/tea.html. Dallidet Adobe and Gardens, 1185 Pacific St., San Luis Obispo.

**MUSIC**

**SANTA YNEZ VALLEY**

**ABOUT TIME LIVE**

**May 14**, 1-5 p.m. Maverick Saloon, 3687 Sagunto St., Santa Ynez, 805-686-4785, mavericksaloon.org.

**DUSTY JUGZ LIVE**

**May 13**, 8:30 p.m. Maverick Saloon, 3687 Sagunto St., Santa Ynez, 805-686-4785, mavericksaloon.org.

**LIVE MUSIC AND FOOD TRUCK AT ZACA MESA**

Winery Come on out and enjoy a wine tasting with live music by

Dewey Roberts and delicious fare by Danny's Pizza Co. Reservations recommended. **May 8**, 12-3 p.m. 805-688-9339. zacamesa.com/upcoming-events/. Zaca Mesa Winery, 6905 Foxen Canyon Road, Los Olivos.

**LIVE MUSIC SUNDAYS**

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

**NATALY LOLA LIVE**

**May 11**, 5-7 p.m. Brick Barn Wine Estate, 795 W. Hwy 246, Buellton, 805-686-1208, brickbarnwineestate.com.

**PAUL KENT TRIO LIVE**

**May 7**, 2-6 p.m. Brick Barn Wine Estate, 795 W. Hwy 246, Buellton, 805-686-1208, brickbarnwineestate.com.

**PULL THE TRIGGER LIVE**

**May 7**, 8:30 p.m. Maverick Saloon, 3687 Sagunto St., Santa Ynez, 805-686-4785, mavericksaloon.org.

**RANDY LEDUNE LIVE**

**May 8**, 12-4 p.m. Maverick Saloon, 3687 Sagunto St., Santa Ynez, 805-686-4785, mavericksaloon.org.

**ROBERT HEFT LIVE**

**May 7**, 1-5 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**

**ALLAN HANCOCK COLLEGE AND SBCC JOINT CHOIR CONCERT**

The choirs of Allan Hancock College and SBCC will present the magic of Mozart in a concert of three of his most beloved choral works. **May 15**, 3-4 p.m. \$10 suggested donation; students free. 805-922-6966. hancockcollege.edu. St. Peter's Episcopal Church, 402 S. Lincoln, Santa Maria.

**THE HOMESTEAD: LIVE MUSIC ON THE PATIO**

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

**LIVE MUSIC AT THE SHIFT**

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

**SANTA MARIA PHILHARMONIC: FIRST FRIDAYS AT FOUR**

Featuring musicians from the Santa Maria Philharmonic, this monthly series of musical adventures are recorded in local settings and offered free to the public. First Friday of every month. smphilharmonic.org. Soundcloud (Santa Maria Philharmonic), Online, Santa Maria.

**SOUTH COAST SLO COUNTY**

**BRUCE IN THE USA**

Much more than just another tribute, Bruce in the USA is a high-energy, note-perfect, and visually accurate musical experience of a Bruce Springsteen and The E St. Band show. This powerhouse band has taken this genre of performance art "to a whole new level." **May 7**, 7:30-9:30 p.m. \$50-\$58. 805-489-9444. clarkcenter.org/shows/bruce-in-the-usa/. Clark Center for the Performing Arts, 487 Fair Oaks Ave., Arroyo Grande.

**FOREVER GREEN LIVE**

Identical twin sisters Christi and Cara write and perform original alternative indie/folk/pop/rock music with an Americana twist. **May 6**, 6-8 p.m. forevergreenband.com. Broad Street Public House, 3590 Broad Street, San Luis Obispo, 805-439-3055.

**PACIFIC BREEZE CONCERTS IN PISMO BEACH**

The City of Pismo Beach Recreation Division proudly presents the 13th annual Pacific Breeze Concerts at Pismo Beach Rotary Amphitheater at Dinosaur Caves Park. Acts include The Damon Castillo Band, Dante Marsh and The Vibesetters, and The Molly Ringwald Project. Second Sunday of every month, 1-4 p.m. through July 10 Free. 805-773-7063. pismobeach.org/recreation. Dinosaur Caves Park, 2701 Price St, Pismo Beach.

**SAN LUIS OBISPO**

**CAL POLY WOMEN'S CHORUS AND GUEST ENSEMBLE KITKA: SLAVIC SOUNDS**

The Cal Poly Women's Chorus will host the world-famous ensemble Kitka to present repertoire of Eastern Europe. Kitka is an award-winning women's ensemble specializing in folk music of Slavic tradition. **May 7**, 7:30 p.m. \$20 general; \$10 students. 805-756-4849. music.calpoly.edu/calendar/. First Presbyterian Church of San Luis Obispo, 981 Marsh St., San Luis Obispo.

**NORTH COAST SLO COUNTY**

**AEROMYTH LIVE**

An Aerosmith tribute. **May 7**, 8 p.m. The Siren, 900 Main St., Morro Bay, 805-225-1312, thesirenmorrobay.com/.

**EASTON EVERETT DUO**

Folk, indie, world beat. **May 7**, 5-7 p.m. eastoneverett.com. The Clubhouse Grill at Sea Pines, 250 Howard Ave., Los Osos, 805-528-2333.

**SLOFOLKS LIVE WITH THE JASON ANICK TRIO**

Jason Anick is a renowned jazz violinist. With both his trio and his quartet (The Rhythm Future Quartet), he leans heavily on the style of Django Reinhardt, adding his own innovations and stylings. **May 7**, 7:30-10:30 p.m. \$25. 805-238-0725. slofolks.org. Castoro Cellars, 1315 N. Bethel Rd., Templeton. ☺



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## Arts Briefs

### Students from Righetti, Pioneer Valley, and Santa Maria high schools collaborate on new, outdoor production of *Grease*

PHOTO COURTESY OF THE SANTA MARIA JOINT UNION HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT



A new, local production of *Grease*—with upcoming performances on Friday, May 6, and Saturday, May 7, at 5:30 p.m. both evenings—features a cast of students from Righetti High School, Pioneer Valley High School, and Santa Maria High School. Tickets to the show, held at Pioneer Valley High School's outdoor amphitheater, are available online at [onthestage.tickets](http://onthestage.tickets).

The plot of *Grease* follows a group of teenagers “as they navigate the complexities of peer pressure, gossip, politics, personal core values, and love,” according to press materials from the Santa Maria Joint Union High School District.

The show's ensemble cast includes Angelina Rocha, a junior at Pioneer Valley High School, who plays Sonny.

“The best part of this so far has been being able to act, dance, and see everyone do the entire play all the way through for the first time,” Rocha said in a statement.

Brian Solar, a senior at Pioneer Valley High School, plays Kenickie in the show. Both Solar and Hunter McCormick, also a senior at Pioneer Valley High School, said in the statement that their favorite number in the musical is “Grease Lightning.”

“I also have a solo [during “Grease Lightning”] and that is always exciting,” McCormick, who plays Doody in the show, said in the statement.

Riccardo Sanchez, a senior at Righetti High School, described “Grease Lightning” as “the hardest dance number to learn.”

“There's a lot of going up and down the steps, and we all have to work together,” Sanchez, who plays Roger in the show, said in the statement.

To find out more about the production, visit [smjuhsd.k12.ca.us](http://smjuhsd.k12.ca.us). Pioneer Valley High School is located at 675 Panther Drive, Santa Maria.

### Santa Maria Civic Theatre presents *The Lifespan of a Fact*

PHOTO COURTESY OF SMCT



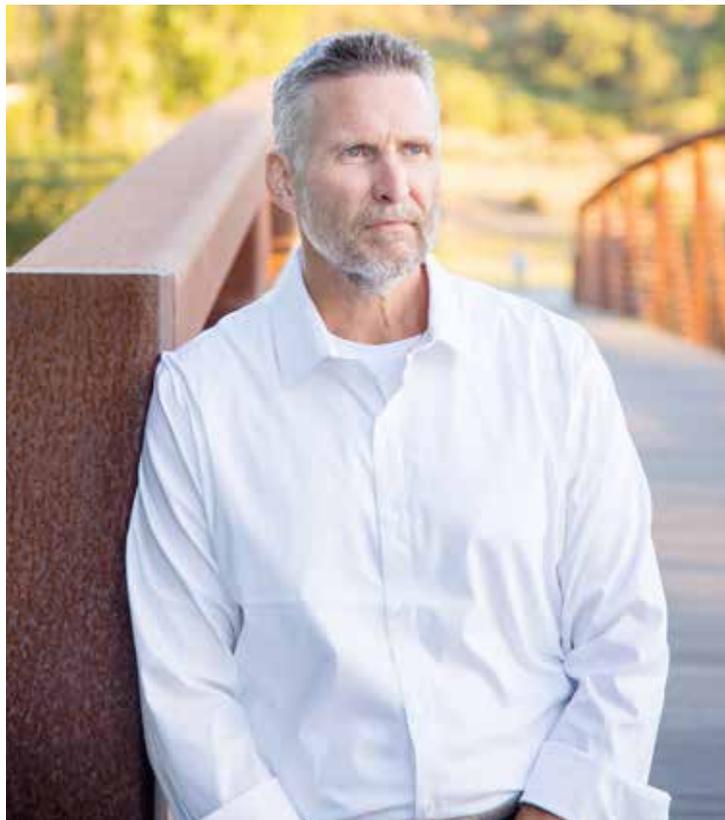
The Santa Maria Civic Theatre's (SMCT) latest production, *The Lifespan of a Fact*, runs through Sunday, May 8. The show's plot follows a feud between an essay writer and a fact checker, who has been assigned by a magazine to proofread the essay before it becomes published.

The play is described as comedic yet gripping in press materials. The cast of the show includes Todd Long, Danya Nunley, and Jude Walker.

Tickets to *The Lifespan of a Fact* are available in advance at [my805tix.com](http://my805tix.com). Call (805) 922-4442 or visit [smct.org](http://smct.org) for more info. SMCT is located at 1660 N. McClelland St., Santa Maria. ○

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

PHOTO COURTESY OF PATRICK SHATTUCK



**THE WRITER BEHIND THE WEB:** Local novelist and English teacher Patrick Shattuck was inspired to write his new thriller, *Dawn's Web*, by his personal connection to a real murder case that occurred in New York in 1997.

## Fact and fiction

### Hancock College lecturer Patrick Shattuck opens up about his new thriller novel, *Dawn's Web*

#### BY CALEB WISEBLOOD

**A**fter a body is found in Central Park, two teenage New Yorkers with violent tendencies become the prime suspects. The police bring in a psychologist to observe the duo's erratic behavior, but as he's drawn deeper into the investigation, both his professional and personal life become increasingly jeopardized.

Before writing *Dawn's Web*, a new thriller novel focused on these three characters, local author and English teacher Patrick Shattuck drew inspiration from a real murder case. He based his two youths, Dawn and Zander, off of Daphne Abdela and Chris Vasquez, the pair charged with killing Michael McMorrow in New York in 1997.

But the names have been changed for the novel, and the psychologist, Dr. Duncan Bright, is a fictional character of Shattuck's own creation. Shattuck recently opened up to the *Sun* via an email interview, in which he discussed his creative process while writing *Dawn's Web* and his own personal connection to the McMorrow case.

**Sun:** Is it true that your experience working as a high school English teacher in Manhattan, years before moving to Santa Maria, inspired you to write *Dawn's Web*?

**Shattuck:** Christopher Vasquez, one of the two youths charged with killing McMorrow, was attending the school where I had worked for 16 years when the horrific crime shocked the city. This

#### On the web

*Dawn's Web* was recently released by Genius Book Publishing and is now available for purchase through Amazon and other sellers. Visit [geniusbookpublishing.com](http://geniusbookpublishing.com) for more details.

#### Showtime!

Send gallery, stage, and cultural festivities to [cwiseblood@santamariasun.com](mailto:cwiseblood@santamariasun.com).



personal connection to the story led me to take up this psychological exploration in fiction.

**Sun:** How long did you live and teach in Manhattan for? And what originally brought you to move to Santa Maria?

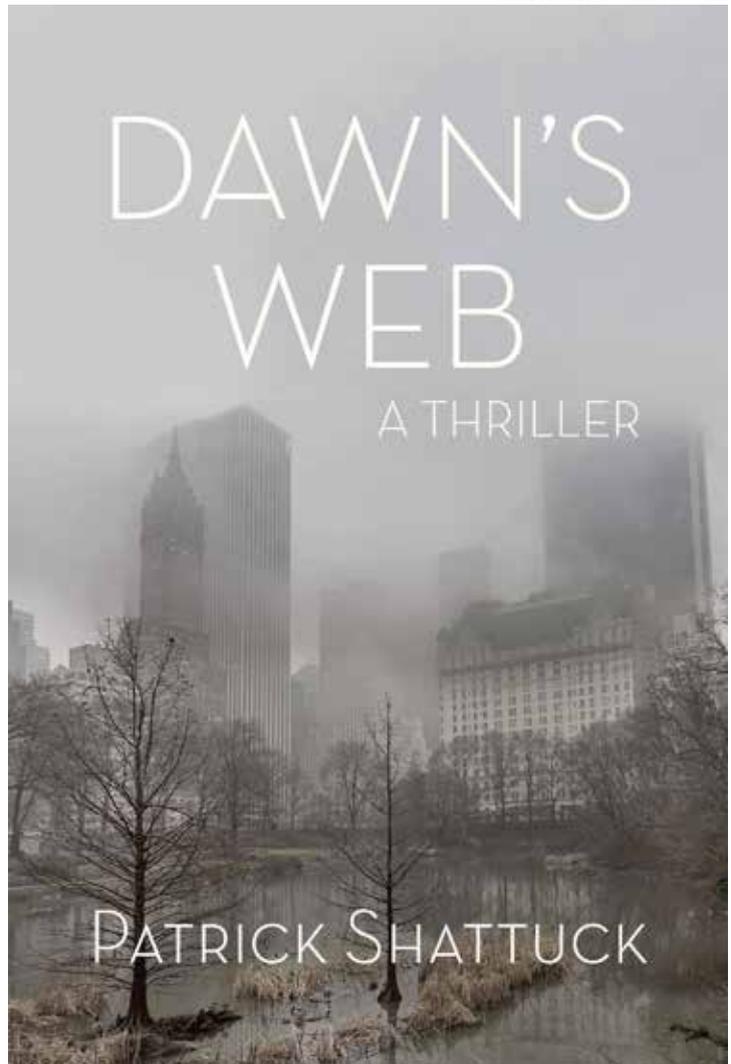
**Shattuck:** I am originally from Syracuse, New York, however I moved to Manhattan in 1994 and taught high school there for 18 years. My wife is from Santa Maria, and we moved here in 2014 after we had our second child. I have been a lecturer in the English Department at [Allan] Hancock [College] since 2015.

**Sun:** While basing *Dawn's Web* around a real murder, you created a fictional protagonist, Dr. Duncan Bright—a psychologist who becomes involved with the case. How would you describe your process developing this multi-layered character? Are parts of him based on anyone from your own life?

**Shattuck:** When writing the novel, I interviewed several psychologists, so I'm sure they helped compose Dr. Bright. Creating his flaws was easy because I found material every time I looked in the mirror. However, all the characters in the book, including Dr. Bright, took on a life of their own as the book progressed, and all I had to do was listen to them.

**Sun:** Prior to writing the novel, would you have called yourself a big fan of psychological thrillers? If so, what are some of your favorite thriller novels or films?

**Shattuck:** I am definitely a big fan of the genre. Some of my favorite thriller novels are *Crime and Punishment* and *Rebecca*, while some of my



**DAWN OF THE READ:** *Dawn's Web*, written by Santa Maria-based author Patrick Shattuck, was released in February through Genius Book Publishing—an LA-based publisher that specializes in crime fiction and true crime books.

favorite films are *The Silence of the Lambs*, *Psycho*, *Strangers on a Train*, and *Night of the Hunter*.

**Sun:** To any aspiring authors potentially reading this interview, what advice would you give them? Is there a piece of advice you were once given when starting out that has always stuck with you?

**Shattuck:** My piece of advice would be don't give up, and don't let anybody tell you you're no good. If you want to write, that means you're a writer, so don't let anyone come between you and your dream.

**Sun:** With *Dawn's Web* complete, do you have any writing projects in mind you're excited about possibly working on next?

**Shattuck:** At the moment, I'm working on something in the realm of magical realism, but I can't say any more about it because it's in the larval stage. ○

*Arts Editor Caleb Wiseblood always loves to hear from local authors. Send comments to [cwiseblood@santamariasun.com](mailto:cwiseblood@santamariasun.com).*

FILE PHOTO BY JAYSON MELLOM



**LOCAL LECTURES:** Patrick Shattuck has been an English lecturer at Allan Hancock College since 2015. He started at Hancock just a year after he and his family moved to Santa Maria from Manhattan, where he formerly taught high school English for almost two decades.

### Ingeniously self-reflexive

Co-writer and director Tom Gormican (*That Awkward Moment*) helms this action comedy with Nicolas Cage playing himself. He's strapped for cash, so he agrees to take a million-dollar appearance fee at billionaire fan Javi Gutierrez's (Pedro Pascal) extravagant birthday bash, but when it turns out Javi may be a drug kingpin involved in the kidnapping of a politician's daughter (Alessandra Mastronardi), Cage finds himself recruited by two CIA agents (Tiffany Haddish and Ike Barinholtz). (107 min.)

**Glen:** If you're not savvy to Nicholas Cage's reputation as an over-the-top, scenery-chewing madman, step one is to stop reading this, open YouTube, and search for "Nicholas Cage losing his shit," which will take you to a montage of some of the actor's choicest moments of wild-eyed thespian mayhem. He's also known for rarely saying no to a paycheck, especially in recent years where it's not uncommon for him to film five or more movies a year, some of them arguably terrible: *Jiu Jitsu* (2020) anyone? Yet, Cage has proven himself a remarkable talent—the man can be an absolute genius. All these disparate truths are in play in *The Unbearable Weight of Massive Talent*, which simultaneously makes fun of and pays homage to Cage's reputation. It's an absolute blast.

**Anna:** I love when someone who has been a household name for decades and has every reason to carry around bravado and ego doesn't mind poking fun at themselves. I applaud his willingness to be both the star and the butt of the joke. In the film, Nick's struggling not only to find his next big project and source of income, but also with his relationship with his 16-year-old daughter, Addy (Lily Mo Sheen). She's unimpressed by his taste in books and film and his desire for her to like all the things he likes. His ex-wife, Olivia (Sharon Horgan), is sick of having to explain to him that it shouldn't be a shock that his teenage daughter doesn't dig his obscure picks for movie night. When he loses out on a part he really wanted and wallows by getting way too sauced at Addy's birthday party, it's clear



PHOTO COURTESY OF LIONSGATE AND SATURN FILMS

**BESTIES?** Nicolas Cage and Pedro Pascal star in the action comedy *The Unbearable Weight of Massive Talent*, in which Cage stars as himself hired to attend a billionaire fan's birthday party, leading to a wild weekend involving a drug cartel and the CIA.

that Nick needs to get his life together. Then the fun can really begin when he meets Javi after agreeing to attend his birthday party for a price. Even as the film's plot line becomes more and more ridiculous, it only gets more fun to watch. Cage and Pascal are wonderful together—I'll watch a buddy comedy between those two anytime!  
**Glen:** Pascal is positively ebullient! There's an amazing scene when they decide to drop acid together, and the look in Pascal's eyes is pure delight. The first thing I remember seeing him in was *Kingsman: The Golden Circle* (2017), where he struck me as a Latin Burt Reynolds. He's handsome and roguish, but in this role he's downright giddy. Javi loves Nick and his films so much, and as their relationship blossoms, they truly appreciate one another, though Cage is understandably wary. Much of the comedy comes from their mixed signals to one another—because Cage believes Javi's a remorseless drug runner, he reads menace in all the wrong places. Soon they're

collaborating on a screenplay together, discussing twists and turns and how potentially ludicrous they'd be to the character arcs and plot points . . . and yet the film goes in outlandish directions and makes it work. This may not be the best film in theaters this year, but it's certainly one of the most fun.  
**Anna:** It had me laughing over and over again, especially their acid-fueled adventure and paranoia that led to some real hijinks. Cage can't help but like Javi, even after he's been told Javi is a kidnapper. He seems so affable and truly interested in working with Nick on their screenplay. Haddish and Barinholtz play the CIA agents trying to recover Maria, both great comedians and great additions to this cast. This is just one of those films that you leave believing that everyone on set had a great time making it. It's silly and outlandish and totally fun from start to finish. I can see this being one of those films I rewatch when I need a mood boost—it just gave me a lot of joy. ○

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

### THE UNBEARABLE WEIGHT OF MASSIVE TALENT

What's it rated? **R**  
 What's it worth, Anna? **Full price**  
 What's it worth, Glen? **Full price**  
 Where's it showing? **Regal Edwards RPX Santa Maria, Movies Lompoc, Regal Edwards Arroyo Grande**

### Film & TV Reviews

**THE NORTHMAN**  
 What's it rated? **R**  
 When? **2022**  
 Where's it showing? **Regal Edwards RPX Santa Maria, Regal Edwards Arroyo Grande**

Co-writer Robert Eggers (*The Witch*, *The Lighthouse*) directs this action-packed revenge tale about 10th century Viking prince Amleth (Alexander Skarsgård), who embarks on a bloody quest to avenge his father's (Ethan Hawke) murder at the hand of his brother, Fjölfnir (Claes Bang), who takes the king's wife, Queen Gunrún (Nicole Kidman), as his own. Co-written with Sjöfn (*Lamb*, *Dancer in the Dark*). The movie also stars Anya Taylor-Joy, Willem Defoe, and Björk.

Move the "h" in Amleth to the front of his name and you have Hamlet. In fact, Shakespeare's most famous play (written between 1599 and 1601) derives its plot from Danish history document *Saxo Grammaticus* (written around 1200) about a hero whose name translates as "not sane" avenging his slain father and ascending to Valhalla. As a cracking good action flick with stunning visuals, *The Northman* is spellbinding, but Eggers has more in mind than Norse mythology.

PHOTO COURTESY OF FOCUS FEATURES AND PERFECT WORLD PICTURES



**VENGEANCE!** Amleth (Alexander Skarsgård), a Viking prince whose father was murdered, sets out to exact his revenge, in *The Northman*, screening in local theaters.

Toxic masculinity abounds in Viking culture. Women are slaves—even the ones meant to be queens such as Gunrún and Olga (Taylor-Joy). And what of Amleth's quest and ultimate goal? Maybe it's just me, but dying in battle to ascend to Valhalla seems like a pyrrhic victory. I'd rather grow old with

my queen. Eggers and co-writer Sjöfn seems to be saying Viking machismo is utter insanity. (136 min.)

—Glen

### THE THING ABOUT PAM

What's it rated? **TV-14**  
 When? **2022**  
 Where's it showing? **Peacock**

**BINGEABLE**

Get ready to get angry when you settle in to watch *The Thing About Pam*. Renee Zellweger dons a bunch of prosthetics to play Pam Hupp, and while she is not unrecognizable, she certainly looks much closer to the real Pam than Zellweger ever could without a lot of movie magic.

As absolutely vile as a person Zellweger portrays on screen, real-life Pam Hupp is even more disgusting and dastardly. I recommend the six-part podcast by the same name if you really want to get into the dirty details of this case. Pam pretends to be everyone's friend—everyone except her husband and kids, that is—and when her best friend, Betsy, is murdered, Pam can't help but insert herself into the case over and over.

Wherever she goes, the story seems to follow, and also following that story is a researcher from *Dateline*, who sees a very different set of puzzle pieces than DA Leah Askey (Judy

PHOTO COURTESY OF BIG PICTURE CO. AND NBC NEWS STUDIOS



**ZELLWEGER TRANSFORMED:** In *The Thing About Pam* screening on Peacock, Renée Zellweger wore full body and face prosthetics to star as Pam Hupp, who in 2011 was involved in the murder of Betsy Faria.

Greer), who refuses to believe the only one guilty is Betsy's husband, Russ (Glenn Fleshler). Soon enough, Pam's armchair expertise at getting away with murder starts to fall apart, and the lengths she goes to in order to stay out of the hot seat are unbelievable. (six 43-min. episodes) ○

—Anna

## What's Your Take?

This week's online poll 5/05-5/12

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

**What do you think about Guadalupe approving its first marijuana dispensaries?**

- Way to go, man, it's about time!
- There goes the neighborhood.
- It'll be good for the city's tax revenue.
- I don't care, so long as there aren't any safety issues.

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# Laudable legacy

Local restaurateurs Mike and Kathie Gordon to be honored at California Winemasters' 33rd annual soiree and fundraiser

BY CALEB WISEBLOOD

lights, camera, auction! Hundreds of high-end wines and other coveted items will be auctioned off during an upcoming fundraiser at Warner Bros. Studios in Burbank. This year's edition of A Culinary Event with the California Winemasters will showcase about 75 different California-based vintners, as well as more than 50 international chefs—including a handful employed by two local restaurateurs.

Four chefs representing the Toscana Restaurant Group, co-owned by Santa Ynez residents Mike and Kathie Gordon, will be preparing dishes from their respective restaurants during the event. Mike and Kathie have attended the fundraiser in the past, but their presence at this year's upcoming event comes with a unique distinction.

The Gordons will be formally honored for their fruitful careers in the restaurant industry, which began more than three decades ago, when they opened their first restaurant, Toscana, in Brentwood.

"I think the rule of thumb at the time was, at restaurants, if they last three years, that's considered successful," Kathie said. "So we made it past three years, and I thought, 'Oh, well, great.' You know? We made it, and we got to five years, and I thought, 'Oh, wow, this is even better.'"

"Sometimes it's a complete surprise to think for 33 years we've kept a very successful restaurant going in a very difficult market," said Kathie, who opened Toscana in 1989 with her husband, Mike, and their longtime friend and business partner, Doc Severinsen.

### Delicious details

For more info on the Toscana Restaurant Group, visit [toscanarestaurantgroup.com](http://toscanarestaurantgroup.com). S.Y. Kitchen is located at 1110 Faraday St., Santa Ynez. Nella Kitchen and Bar is located at 2860 Grand Ave., Los Olivos.

To find out more about the California Winemasters fundraiser, held on Saturday, May 14, at Warner Bros. Studios in Burbank, visit [cawinemasters.org](http://cawinemasters.org).

Lisi, executive chef of Nerano and BG Lounge; Miguel Martinez, executive chef of Toscana; and Justino Quirino, executive chef of Bar Toscana, at the California Winemasters event.

Tickets to the food-centric fundraiser are already sold out, but donations are still being accepted to support its beneficiary, the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation. Over the years, the annual event has raised more than \$34 million for this organization, dedicated to funding research and drug development to cure cystic fibrosis and providing specialized care to individuals with the genetic disorder.

The Gordons have a personal connection to the nonprofit's efforts, as a dear friend of Mike's has a granddaughter who was diagnosed with cystic fibrosis. In response to being named the honorary chairpersons of this year's fundraiser, the Gordons described the recognition as a humbling, unexpected surprise.

"We feel greatly honored to be in the community of other well-known chefs and restaurateurs," Kathie said.

Mike said he felt like the past three decades working in the restaurant industry flew by, and described the couple's foray into the industry as passionate labor of love.

Before the couple decided

to pursue owning their own restaurant during the 1980s, Mike worked as a business manager, with LA-based clients in the entertainment industry, and Kathie's background was in marketing and publicity.

Given Mike's previous line of work, it seems fitting for the Gordons to be honored during an event held in the outdoor backlot of a prestigious movie studio, although Mike "never spent much time on a set," he said.

"Most of Mike's clients were more like writers and producers," Kathie said.

Accompanied by their Australian Labradoodle, Bruno, who can often be found scurrying around the vineyard property outside the Gordons' front door, Mike and Kathie continue to call

the Santa Ynez Valley their home. They said they treasure the relationships they've made with friends, neighbors, and colleagues since first moving up from LA.

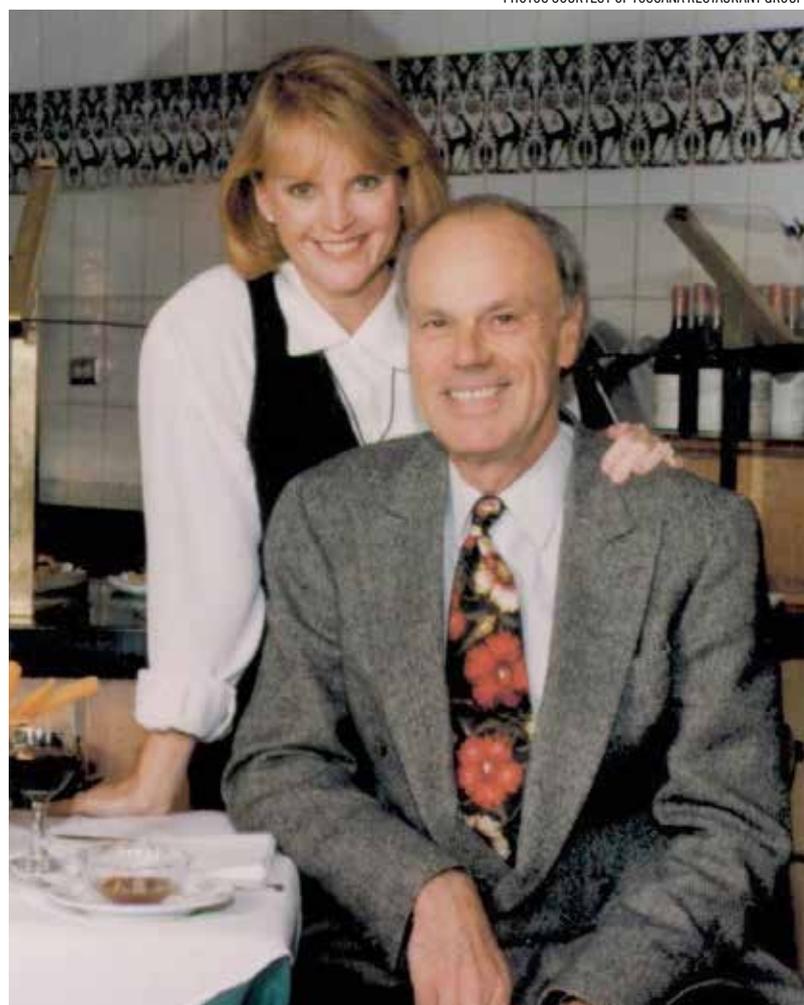
"Because this is a smaller community, it's been nice really getting to know so many people here in the valley and being part of the valley life," Kathie said. ○

### Share tasty tips!

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



Arts Editor Caleb Wiseblood would love to sneak onto a set at Warner Bros. Studios. Send comments to [cwiseblood@santamariasun.com](mailto:cwiseblood@santamariasun.com).



**DYNAMIC DUO:** Santa Ynez residents Kathie and Mike Gordon opened their first restaurant, Toscana, in Brentwood in 1989. Over the past three decades, they've opened five additional restaurants in Los Angeles County and Santa Barbara County.



**IN THE BEGINNING:** "Sometimes it's a complete surprise to think for 33 years we've kept a very successful restaurant going in a very difficult market," said Kathie Gordon. Kathie and her husband, Mike, opened their first restaurant in the late 1980s, on a corner in Brentwood where a pharmacy once stood.

Severinsen is best known as the jazz trumpeter who led *The Tonight Show* band during Johnny Carson's reign. Severinsen was also the first person to encourage the Gordons to move to the Central Coast, Kathie said.

"He's the one that pushed Mike all along ... 'Come on, you gotta move up here, you gotta move up here,'" Kathie recalled.

The Gordons moved to Santa Ynez in the early 2000s and debuted their first Central Coast-based restaurant, S.Y. Kitchen, in 2013, led by executive chef Luca Crestanelli. The Toscana Restaurant Group also includes Bar Toscana in Brentwood, Nerano and BG Lounge in Beverly Hills, and Nella Kitchen and Bar in Los Olivos.

Crestanelli, who is also the executive chef of Nella, will join his peers Michele



**BEAUTIFUL BANQUET:** Four chefs representing the Toscana Restaurant Group, co-owned by husband and wife Mike and Kathie Gordon, will be preparing a wide variety of dishes from their respective restaurants during the upcoming California Winemasters event, held in Burbank.



**CULINARY CAPTAINS:** Michele Lisi, Luca Crestanelli, Justino Quirino, and Miguel Martinez (from left to right) are the executive chefs at Nerano and BG Lounge, S.Y. Kitchen and Nella Kitchen and Bar, Bar Toscana, and Toscana, respectively.

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