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# Sun

AT THE MOVIES



Lightyear:  
Nostalgic romp [26]



## Same pie, new guy

Longtime employee buys Giovanni's Pizza in Orcutt [28] BY CALEB WISEBLOOD

**NEWS** Cannabis' black market [4]

**NEWS** The county tries to tackle mental health [6]

**ARTS** Seniors, gambling, and murder [24]

# June is Men's Health Month!

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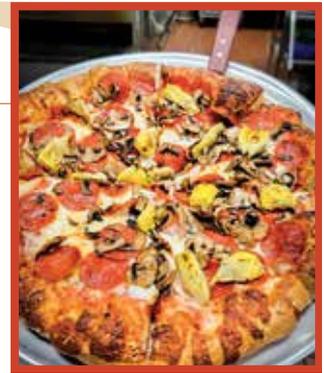


COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTERS OF THE CENTRAL COAST

# Contents

JUNE 23 - JUNE 30, 2022 VOL. 23 NO. 17

**E**ric McDaniel started working for Giovanni's Pizza when he was 18 years old. In the more than two decades that have passed since then, McDaniel has done almost every job there was to do at the Orcutt staple. And now he owns the place! While the pie joint may get a few new TVs, the pizza Giovanni's serves up isn't going to change, according to McDaniel. Arts Editor Caleb Wiseblood has the pizza story for you [28].



**CRUST LUST:** Pizza topping choices at Giovanni's include pepperoni, mushrooms and several more options. "You can't go wrong with pepperoni," new owner and longtime employee Eric McDaniel said of his favorite topping.

You can also read about a cannabis bust and the county's black market problem [4]; the mental health impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic [6]; and a local author who penned a murder mystery involving gambling [24].

Camillia Lanham  
editor

Cover image courtesy of Eric McDaniel > Cover design by Alex Zuniga

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## Political Watch

• The Santa Barbara County COVID-19 Community Data Dashboard will be transitioning to a new format using data from the California Department of Public Health's (CDPH) COVID-19 dashboard beginning July 1, the county Public Health Department announced on June 17. This change marks an important step in the COVID-19 response as county Public Health enacts routine reporting of the data for long-term virus monitoring in the county. Leaning on data from CDPH is a practice that various counties have adopted as part of their ongoing strategy. Local data will continue to be monitored and reviewed by local epidemiologists on a routine basis. "Through the course of the pandemic, our epidemiology team has worked diligently to ensure high quality data is available for our policy leaders, health care partners, and our community at large," Santa Barbara County Public Health Director Van Do-Reynoso said in a statement. "This shift to the use of CDPH data will allow our county Public Health team to continue monitoring COVID-19 data while refocusing on other critical health data, including chronic diseases and social determinants of health." The new dashboard will focus on key metrics like case count, hospitalizations, vaccination, and testing. It will be located at, [publichealthsb.org/data](http://publichealthsb.org/data), the same site on the COVID-19 Information Portal as the current dashboard for continued ease of access.

• U.S. President Joe Biden signed a bipartisan measure—backed by U.S. Rep. Salud Carbajal (D-Santa Barbara)—aimed at reducing supply chain disruptions, according to Carbajal's office. The measure's goal is to crack down on inflated shipping fees and to lower costs for families and businesses. "It seems that no one in America today doesn't know the phrase 'supply chain disruption,'" Carbajal said in a statement on June 16. The Ocean Shipping Reform Act will help "level the playing field by empowering the Federal Maritime Commission (FMC) to strengthen oversight of the shipping market and lower costs for consumers. The legislation will boost FMC funding and new key measures to act against exploitative business practices and improve shipping transparency. "I was proud to stand with President Biden today to get this bipartisan overhaul of our shipping rules signed into law, and I was proud to work with the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee to promote this important legislation that will protect American manufacturers and farmers and counter trade imbalances with foreign exporting countries."

• U.S. Sens. Alex Padilla (D-California) and Dianne Feinstein (D-California) along with U.S. Rep. Doug LaMalfa (R-Oroville) introduced bipartisan legislation to allow tribal governments to participate in an existing program that allows the Bureau of Land Management to sell and lease certain public lands below market value if they will be used for recreational or public purposes, according to a June 17 statement from Padilla's office. This program currently allows state and local governments to participate, but tribal governments have been excluded from the program. The bill would correct this and ensure that tribal governments enjoy the same opportunities for land acquisition as state and local government. Tribal governments were omitted from the act when it first became law in 1926, which leaves such governments without the same opportunities as state and local governments for public land use. "As our nation works to strengthen tribal sovereignty and self-determination, we must ensure parity in how our laws treat tribal governments," Padilla said in a statement. "It's long past time we fix this omission and allow tribal governments to have the same opportunities to access and purchase public lands as state and local governments. I look forward to working with my colleagues to enact this common-sense bill as quickly as possible." ○

## Illegal marijuana bust signals larger county problem

During the warranted search of a Santa Maria resident's home, the Santa Barbara County Sheriff's Office Cannabis Compliance Team found more than 2 ounces of cocaine, more than 2,000 counterfeit pills (frequently containing fentanyl), more than \$5,000 in cash, and an illegally possessed assault weapon with high-capacity magazines, according to the Sheriff's Office.

"The suspect, identified as 20-year-old Nathan Mediano, was arrested without incident. Nathan's brother, 33-year-old Salvador Mediano, was linked to the crimes and was also arrested without incident," sheriff's officials said in a statement.

In a follow-up email, Lt. Robert Minter said that Nathan was booked on suspicion of sale and possession of a controlled substance, violations of health and safety codes, and the illegal sale and distribution of marijuana. Salvador was also booked on suspicion of similar violations possession of a firearm, ammunition, and an illegal assault weapon—all felony charges.

County 5th District Supervisor Steve Lavagnino said this arrest demonstrates a much larger issue at hand for the county.

"I think we'd be really naive not to believe there are significant illegal drug activities in our community, just like there is in the entire United States," Lavagnino said. "The legal market cannot compete with the black market. We can't have a strong legal cannabis market until we eradicate the black market."

Investigations of illegal cannabis have stepped away from the large, illegal grows seen in the past, he said, and are moving toward legal, permitted operations skimming some of their product for the black market.

"We're starting to get our treasurer-tax collector—who does audits on hotel bed tax and Airbnbs and makes sure they pay their taxes—to audit the top 10 cannabis growers and a random 10 to make sure they are paying full tax and all product is going into the legal market," Lavagnino explained.

He said he's hopeful that audits and spot inspections will push more growers into compliance and limit illegal activity.

Susan Ashbrook, a Santa Barbara Coalition for Responsible Cannabis Board member, said this arrest demonstrates a need for more law enforcement.

"I applaud the Sheriff's Office for their enforcement efforts, but the fact remains that cannabis enforcement is woefully underfunded in Santa Barbara County. I'm hopeful that busts like this can prove to the county why investing in cannabis enforcement is important," Ashbrook said in a statement.

In response, Lavagnino said it's not enforcement alone that's going to tackle the illicit cannabis market, rather it's continued support and investment in the legal market—a challenge that remains due to high cannabis costs and jurisdictional limitations.

"Unfortunately, we still have places that won't allow for dispensaries and that has an impact as well," he said. "The city of Santa Maria—the largest city in the county—won't allow dispensaries even



**PARAPHERNALIA:** Sheriff's detectives found cocaine, counterfeit pills, more than \$5,000 in cash, and an illegally possessed assault weapon with high capacity magazines and ammunition in a Santa Maria home.

though people vote for it and support it, and that's rampant throughout the state. If you don't provide an outlet for the growers, then it's going to go to the black market; it's just economics."

—Taylor O'Connor

## Solvang approves water and wastewater rate increases

The Solvang City Council's latest discussion about water infrastructure took a structureless turn during a recent public hearing on utility rate increases.

Councilmember Mark Infanti put a pause on public comment during the City Council's June 13 meeting, after multiple individuals criticized a new five-year water and wastewater rate structure, proposed to take effect in July.

"Normally in the public comment, we just allow people to speak and then we talk amongst ourselves and make some decisions, but I think it's important that the people of the city understand a few things," Infanti said before public comment closed.

The new rate structure includes fixed utility rates for residences and commercial businesses that will gradually increase each year through 2027, regardless of how much water is used. Infanti defended the approach and described the fixed rates as necessary.

"It's kind of like property taxes. The property taxes are necessary to run your city and run the county and the state," Infanti said. "These are necessary to run the water and wastewater departments."

According to the staff report, Solvang's water and wastewater rates have not increased since 2016. In 2021, the city hired HDR Engineering to complete a new rate study.

During the June 13 meeting, Jose Acosta, Solvang's utilities director, said that the proposed rate increases are based on the results of the rate study and will fund needed improvements for aging water infrastructure.

Infanti said some of the facilities Acosta was referring to are more than 50 years old.

"If any one of them breaks, you don't have water," Infanti said, and described the fixed rate increases as "the way we get the money to fix and upgrade

those [facilities]."

Councilmember Claudia Orona also defended the rates before public comment closed, in response to a few individuals' complaints that the fixed costs are not fair to residents who are consciously trying to conserve their water usage.

"If everybody conserves water at the same time, then there's no funding coming on to fund the water services, and this needs to be sustainable no matter what," Orona said. "You need to cover the cost to operate your wastewater treatment plant, and to bring the water, and to service the piping and everything, whether you are using it [water] or not."

Infanti said he tries to conserve water whenever he can, but not with the expectation that his water bill will go down.

"I'm in the same boat as all of you. I got rid of my grass, I got drip irrigation, I water maybe once a week and not very often, not very long. It's all drip," Infanti said. "My bill doesn't go down, it really doesn't."

Infanti added that fixed rates are put in place to make sure water is available to city residents, whether they decide to use it or not.

Public comment was still open when someone from the audience asked to approach the stand and respond to Infanti's comments, but Mayor Charlie Uhrig responded with "not right now."

After another voice spoke up in the audience to ask a question, Uhrig said "I need you just to sit down, we need to keep moving on."

"We're trying our best, it's all we can do," Uhrig said. "Everyone is paying the fair share, it doesn't feel like it, it doesn't feel like that to us sometimes, but we all are here together. ... Public hearing is closed."

In a 5-0 vote, the Solvang City Council ultimately agreed to adopt the new utility rate structure.

—Caleb Wiseblood

## Board of Supervisors debate unallocated budget funds

The Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors approved the 2022-23 budget 4-1 (with 4th District Supervisor Bob Nelson dissenting), with a motion

NEWS from page 4

to divide unallocated funds between the county's districts—a conversation that sparked heated debate between the supervisors.

For the upcoming fiscal year, the county has a \$1.4 billion budget, with an unallocated remaining \$419,200 that staff recommended supervisors save for "emerging issues," County Executive Officer Mona Miyasato said during the June 14 budget hearings.

But that thought began to morph after 5th District Supervisor Steve Lavagnino brought up Growing Grounds—a nonprofit organization that provides farming opportunities for those experiencing mental health related issues in need of more funding—and asked that the county provide \$200,000 to the organization.

"One of the things I'm proud of is we've had no service level reductions over the last four years, but if this budget goes forward as we go right now, there will be significant service reductions," Lavagnino said.

Although he didn't want to bring forward a new item at the last minute, Lavagnino said he wasn't aware of the organization's situation during the April budget workshops—when supervisors discussed potential allocations to address county needs—so it didn't get included in the county budget.

"If I have to find another \$200,000, I will. We'll figure it out. It might be some give and take to cut something that I agreed to in this budget that now doesn't rise to the priority that this does," he said.

First District Supervisor Das Williams said that while Growing Grounds has done great work for the county, making last-minute

adjustments could open a whole new can of worms for supervisors.

"I think we have to think about whether partial funding for this group this year is worth opening up Pandora's box. I guarantee you there are people that I've turned away, that others have turned away, that wanted to do the same thing," Williams said. "They will be back next year, and they will be back in mass."

He reflected on "the old days" where there would be "knives to the jugular" for the last slivers of funding and said that last-minute proposal would push the supervisors back into those methods.

Lavagnino said he didn't like the old approach either and apologized for bringing this on as a last-minute request, but he said he had to try.

"If it's something you're not comfortable with, I'd rather you just say no than us changing the way we do things," Lavagnino said.

Williams said he understood why Lavagnino pushed to fund the organization, but his assumption that other districts didn't have the same needs was not true and not right.

"Then don't vote for it," Lavagnino responded. "It's real easy."

Still, Williams advocated the supervisors divide up the remaining \$419,200 after giving Growing Grounds the requested \$200,000 to allocate between the districts for other projects or needs—which the majority of the supervisors agreed to in the final vote.

"That would give his proposal the bigger share, which I think is cool because he hasn't always leveraged things like he could. He's been a team player and we should be a team player to him," Williams said. ○

—Taylor O'Connor

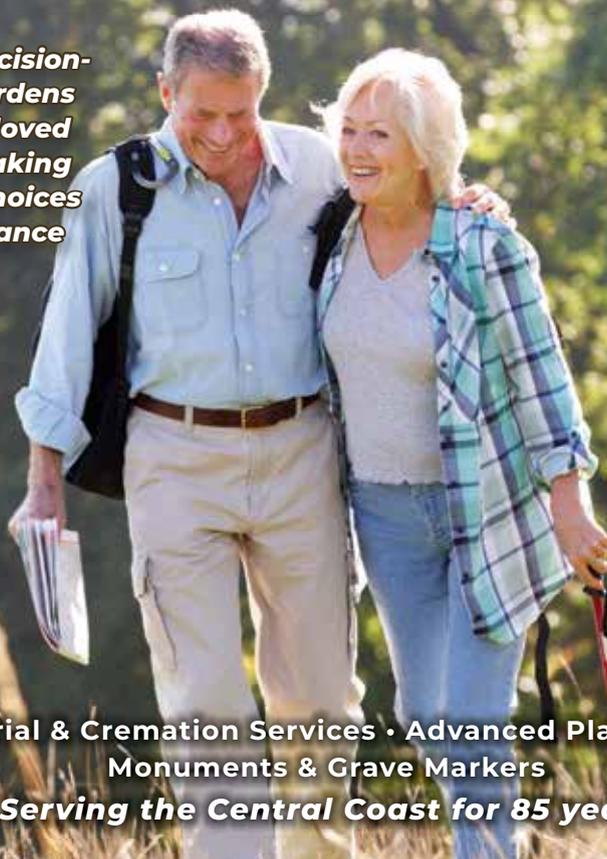
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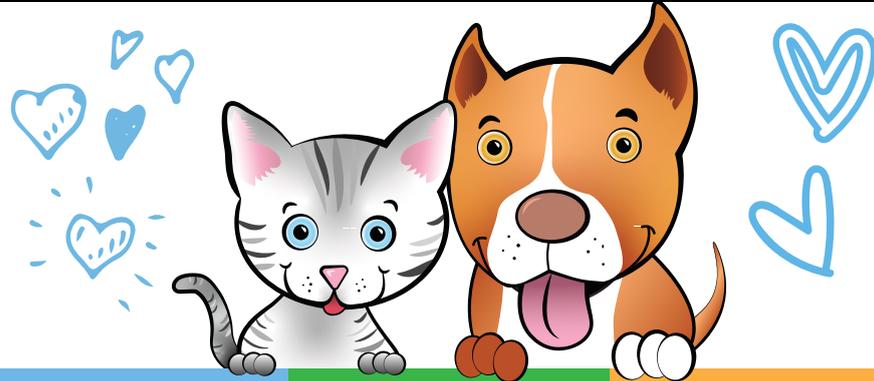
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# Damage done

As COVID-19 lingers, county officials work to provide adequate mental health services to support both English- and Spanish-speaking communities

BY TAYLOR O'CONNOR

Steve DeLira wasn't expecting to have an aunt die of COVID-19, or any relative for that matter.

His cousin held her mom in her arms as she passed away, he recalled, and one thing DeLira remembered worrying about was whether his cousin would catch COVID-19 too, he said.

"How could I let my mother pass and not hold her?" DeLira's cousin asked him.

DeLira said his decisions started changing because of the virus and he became himself overwhelmed by grief, a heightened anxiety around the virus, and concern for his family members.

"All of that impact is overwhelming, and at one point you go from 'it's overwhelming,' to 'it's a mental health issue,' [but] how do you identify that? How do you know this overwhelming sense has gone into a mental health issue?" DeLira asked.

DeLira is the deputy chief executive officer for Family Service Agency—a nonprofit organization serving Santa Barbara County residents with food, shelter, case management, and mental health programs—and he said the organization has received an increased demand for mental health services during COVID-19.

"We are encouraging people to go down the path [of services] and continue that journey. I don't think the mental health days are going away for a while. This really hit us hard. The last two years is a sad story, and we're all living through it," DeLira said.

There are still some question marks as to how the virus has impacted the community, specifically within the Spanish-speaking population. The Santa Barbara County Department of Behavioral Wellness conducted a survey that found most Spanish speakers in the county reported no negative mental health impacts.

Advocates and researchers found those responses alarming, and they believe the lack of reporting has to do with mental health stigmas within the community.

Regardless, the county found that there was a dire need for mental health support, and the Department of Behavioral Wellness is expecting \$900,000 from the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) to set up new support systems by mid-July.

About 5,000 people completed the survey—which was led by a community wellness team of more than 35 collaborating agencies and received \$1.5 million in ARPA funds. Results showed that 65 percent of English speakers said their mental health was worse, whereas 67 percent of Spanish speakers said the pandemic had no impact on their mental health.

The percentages alarmed the county Board of Supervisors when the results were presented during its March 1 meeting.

"This is interesting since trends statewide show the disproportionate effect the pandemic's had on Latinos in terms of outcomes and deaths. Life expectancy dropped two years," 1st District Supervisor Das Williams said during the meeting.

According to the Santa Barbara County COVID-19 Community

Dashboard, the Hispanic and Latino population made up about 56 percent of the hospitalizations and 49 percent of the deaths in the county, whereas white people made up for 35 percent and 41 percent, respectively.

Nationwide, Latinos are 1.7 times more likely to contract COVID-19, 4.1 times more likely to be hospitalized with the virus, and 2.8 times more likely to die from COVID-19 than their non-Hispanic, white counterparts, according to the Center for American Progress.

Santa Barbara County Public Health Director Van Do-Reynoso told the *Sun* that she and her team quickly identified this population as an "at-risk community" because a lot of Latino and Hispanic community members were in essential jobs, highly populated living situations, and work that exposed them to more infections.

"It's complicated. What we are seeing is actually a very visible demonstration of the health inequities, notably among our Hispanic, Latino, and indigenous communities," Do-Reynoso explained. "They are overrepresented in cases and deaths because of where they work, live, recreate, and worship. These are factors that affect their risk, and this pandemic really highlighted the inequities that exist."

Although the Latino and Hispanic communities may have experienced a greater toll because of COVID-19—and many people expected that to be reflected in the county's mental health survey—there are also many factors to consider for their responses regarding mental health needs, according to county Behavioral Wellness Chief of Strategy and Community Engagement Suzanne Grimesey.

She noted that there are natural cultural elements that create a certain level of insulation, like connectivity with family, and these deep connections are helpful in lessening the mental health impacts of COVID-19.

"I can't speak for certain, but we do know that in [Latino] cultures, there's a built-in self-protective factor that can force connections among family members. When people have that built-in support, it leads to people [being] less likely to reach out to other supports," Grimesey added.

Stigma about mental illness—not unique to the Latino and Hispanic communities—presents a continued challenge as well, she said.

Natalia Jaramillo—a UCSB graduate and now a doctor at Los Angeles Children's Hospital—conducted research on mental health disparities for Hispanic and Latino young adults (ages 18 to 29), and said her findings discussed how stigma could hold people back from voicing mental health needs.

"There is a mental health stigma that exists in the Latinx community, especially in older people, but it was very significant in [my research group]," Jaramillo said. "They felt they couldn't talk to their family or talk about accessing mental health services because they didn't feel validated as a result of what they attributed to mental health stigma."

Another important factor to keep in mind when looking at mental health data and reporting is generational trauma, she continued. Many families had to endure immigrating to the United States, and constantly fear family separation.

"For young people born in the U.S., they are feeling guilt for feeling the impact of the pandemic, and feeling the compounded stress from COVID," Jaramillo said.

But she said there are small steps being taken toward ending the stigma. Many of Jaramillo's research participants said they were just happy to be in a space where they could relate to one another and talk about mental health impacts and wanted to see more conversational opportunities.

"They talked about informational sessions in the community. ...



PHOTO BY TAYLOR O'CONNOR

**MORE INFORMATION:** In order to bridge inequities between English- and Spanish-speaking residents, the county hosted informational events in Spanish to help community members receive resources, vaccinations, and boosters, as well as connect with several organizations for additional support.

They also wanted increased access to mental health services. There's still a need in terms of accessing services. Young Latinos have more barriers to access services, and they are less likely to access them," Jaramillo said.

Grimesey, from county Behavioral Wellness, said that the department's striving to fill some of those needs countywide after processing the survey results.

Although she couldn't share any plans yet because nothing's set in stone, Grimesey did say that both English- and Spanish-speaking survey participants asked for more opportunities to connect with people who've been impacted in the same way—similar to Jaramillo's study participants.

"They asked for a group that would teach the signs and symptoms of mental illness, and a group that would teach people to help others easily navigate resources. They asked if there was a way that more people could be trained on knowing how to access resources, connect and talk to people who experienced [similar things]," she said.

The more discussion that happens around mental health, the greater the chances are of ending stigma and giving help to those in need of services, Grimesey said. But she fears what will happen as COVID-19 restrictions continue to lessen and the virus begins to move to the back of people's minds.

"While the pandemic was more pronounced, people's mental health was impacted and they talked about it. I hope that will not go away, and people will keep talking about mental health, and we will never get complacent about that," she said. "The more we talk, it helps." ○

Reach Staff Writer Taylor O'Connor at [toconnor@santamariasun.com](mailto:toconnor@santamariasun.com).

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PHOTO BY TAYLOR O'CONNOR



**OUTDOOR ACCESS:** In a recent recreation survey, the Santa Maria Recreation and Parks Department found that many residents hadn't been beyond city limits and hadn't visited the ocean.

## Access nature

A new grant program allows Santa Maria to provide outdoor recreation opportunities

BY TAYLOR O'CONNOR

Outdoor space became more important for Santa Marians when COVID-19 hit and social distancing took over, said Dennis Smitherman, the Santa Maria Recreation and Parks Department manager.

"If you drove by a park [in Santa Maria] and it wasn't full, it was a bad weather day," Smitherman said. "I think people got used to being outside and appreciated what's available locally. Trails are great for exercise and there's something for everyone in trails, the same with parks."

But it gets challenging for people to get to trails all the time; gas is expensive, not everybody has access to a car, and going hiking for the first time can be intimidating. There were once previous efforts to start carpool programs to get people outside, but they never really stuck, Smitherman said.

With new interest, the city applied for and received a state Outdoor Equity Grant for \$589,000 to set up the Santa Maria Outdoor Recreation Experience: a program dedicated to providing nature education and trips to nearby Central Coast sites, he said.

"We're excited for the new grant. It's not tailored around trails specifically, but provides the community the opportunity to learn, exercise, and enjoy nature," Smitherman said.

The program is part of Gov. Gavin Newsom's initiative, Outdoor Access for All, which aims to increase outdoor opportunities for Californians through focused investments in open space infrastructure, outdoor programming, and improvements to permit applications—with a priority placed on expanding access in underserved communities, according to Santa Maria officials.

Part of the application process included community input—which took hundreds of hours, with virtual town hall meetings and working with community partners to get surveys out to families and residents, Smitherman said.

"The survey results showed these people have not been too far out of the city limits," he said. "It provides opportunities to get people out in nature and have fun while they are out there."

The program's "catalyst" will be at Buena Vista Park for the city to incorporate activities and programs based in nature, like learning skills and techniques people can use in the great outdoors, the different

ecosystems in the area, and conservation and the importance of keeping green space, along with several trips, Smitherman explained.

Funding is the biggest obstacle Parks and Recreation faces when it comes to providing recreational opportunities, and this grant makes a big difference for the department, he added.

"We are working hard to raise funds—whether it's competitive grant writing or fundraising for these projects—but funding is the biggest challenge we face. Trying to make something accessible at no or low cost can be a challenge to hinder a project if you don't have money to continue," Smitherman said.

Thus far, Santa Maria's been lucky with seven capital funded projects for park revitalization and construction of new parks, but maintenance costs always remain a challenge.

"I can tell you 85 percent of the budget is staffing just to maintain our 28 parks—over 2,000 acres of park land—just to maintain the parks we had 15 years ago," he explained. "We see rising utility costs just like the public. Our water is very expensive to keep parks green while still being considerate of the environment and restrictions, so it can definitely be a challenge."

But staff continue to work hard in order to maintain the parks in the system, and Smitherman is hopeful the new Santa Maria Outdoor Recreation Experience program will encourage people to enjoy the park, as well as advocate for their recreation needs.

"Is it ever enough? That's a great question. I think that the community enjoys the park system and we want to continue to expand, but there's also maintenance and the cost of that as well," Smitherman said.

## Highlights

• The Santa Maria Public Library presents a new book club for 8- to 12-year-olds called Next Chapter Book Club, where participants will talk about the book and read the first chapter together. Free copies will be provided on a first-come, first-served basis, and no registration is required. The first book club meeting will be held in the Youth Services Altrusa Theater—421 S. McClelland St.—on June 23, at 3:30 p.m., and will feature *Willodeen* by Katherine Applegate. Questions may be directed to the Library's Youth Services Division at (805) 925-0994, Ext. 8564.

• Outdoor Supply Hardware opened 14 stores throughout the Central Coast and the Bay Area in its mission to serve residents and their home improvement needs. After three years of restrictions, Outdoor Supply recently reopened its doors in Santa Maria. The grand reopening was celebrated on June 11 with giveaways and prizes. Santa Maria's location is at 1950 S. Broadway St. Find store hours and services at [outdoorsupplyhardware.com](http://outdoorsupplyhardware.com).

Reach Staff Writer Taylor O'Connor at [toconnor@santamariasun.com](mailto:toconnor@santamariasun.com).

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**ALLEN, DIXIE ALICE**, 85, of Santa Maria passed away 6/12/2022 arrangements with Dudley-Hoffman Mortuary, Crematory & Memory Gardens

**ANGELIS, DANIEL MORRIS**, 68, of Santa Maria passed away 6/8/2022 arrangements with Magner-Maloney Funeral Home & Crematory

**BROOKESHIRE, TIMOTHY L.**, 89, of Santa Maria passed away 6/16/2022 arrangements with Dudley-Hoffman Mortuary, Crematory & Memory Gardens

**CANTU, RODRIGO JR.**, 54, of Nipomo passed away 6/18/2022 arrangements with Dudley-Hoffman Mortuary, Crematory & Memory Gardens

**CASAS, HUGO BARAJAS**, 58, of Santa Maria passed away 6/20/2022 arrangements with Magner-Maloney Funeral Home & Crematory

**COSTELLO CARAL JOHN**, 84, of Atascadero passed away 6/9/21 arrangements with Blue Sky Cremation Service

**FOLEY, JEFFREY MICHAEL**, 74, of Santa Maria passed away 6/16/2022 arrangements with Dudley-Hoffman Mortuary, Crematory & Memory Gardens

**GARCIA, MARIA ROBLES**, 65, of Santa Maria passed away 6/11/2022 arrangements with Dudley-Hoffman Mortuary, Crematory & Memory Gardens

**GODFREY, JAMES EDWARD**, 97, of Santa Maria passed away 6/14/2022 arrangements with Dudley-Hoffman Mortuary, Crematory & Memory Gardens

**HALL, JOYCE HUNTINGTON**, 87, of Santa Maria passed away 6/15/2022 arrangements with Dudley-Hoffman Mortuary, Crematory & Memory Gardens

**HEILMANN, LESTER FLOYD**, 79, of Atascadero passed away 6/13/2022 arrangements with Blue Sky Cremation Service

**KING, BOBBY**, 88, of Paso Robles passed away 6/14/2022 arrangements with Blue Sky Cremation Service

**LARA, NORMA JULIET**, 78, of Santa Maria passed away 6/15/2022 arrangements with Dudley-Hoffman Mortuary, Crematory & Memory Gardens

**MACK, RONALD KEITH SR.**, 81, of Santa Maria passed away 6/15/2022 arrangements with Dudley-Hoffman Mortuary, Crematory & Memory Gardens

**MEEKS, BETTY L.**, 91, of Paso Robles passed away 6/11/2022 arrangements with Blue Sky Cremation Service

**MENDOZA, VICTORIA M.**, 37, of Santa Margarita passed away 6/14/2022 arrangements with Chapel of the Roses

**MILLER, MARGARET**, 91, of Santa Maria passed away 6/17/2022 arrangements with Magner-Maloney Funeral Home & Crematory

**MONTGOMERY, NORMA**, 91, of Morro Bay passed away 6/12/2022 arrangements with Blue Sky Cremation Service

**MORRIS, IVA**, 72, of Paso Robles passed away 6/3/2022 arrangements with Blue Sky Cremation Service

**NATH, DAVID**, 70, of Arroyo Grande passed away 6/14/2022 arrangements with Marshall Spoo Sunset Funeral Chapel

**PARKER, BILLY**, 83, of Grover Beach passed away 6/14/2022 arrangements with Blue Sky Cremation Service

**PLUMLEE, CAROL R.**, 82, of Santa Maria passed away 6/14/2022 arrangements with Dudley-Hoffman Mortuary, Crematory & Memory Gardens

**PODUSKA, MICHAEL**, 71, of Morro Bay passed away 6/16/2022 arrangements with Blue Sky Cremation Service

**SCULLIN, GARY L.**, 81, of Santa Maria passed away 6/16/2022 arrangements with Magner-Maloney Funeral Home & Crematory

**SEXTON, JEANNINE**, 98, of Grover Beach passed away 6/13/2022 arrangements with Marshall Spoo Sunset Funeral Chapel

**SIGNORELLI, HENRI "PINKY"**, 80, of Santa Maria passed away 6/11/2022 arrangements with Dudley-Hoffman Mortuary, Crematory & Memory Gardens

**SMALL, GLENN WHITNEY**, 60, of Atascadero passed away 6/13/2022 arrangements with Blue Sky Cremation Service

**STEIL, DEBRA**, 69, of Arroyo Grande passed away 6/16/2022 arrangements with Marshall Spoo Sunset Funeral Chapel

**WESTERFIELD, JAMES "JIMMY"**, 68, of Santa Maria passed away 6/12/2022 arrangements with Magner-Maloney Funeral Home & Crematory

**WILLIAMS, TERESA "TERRI"**, 69, of Arroyo Grande passed away 6/14/2022 arrangements with Marshall Spoo Sunset Funeral Chapel

**WILMOTT, HELEN**, 92, of Arroyo Grande passed away 6/12/2022 arrangements with Marshall Spoo Sunset Funeral Chapel

**WOODRUFF, DENNIS PAUL**, 80, of Santa Maria passed away 6/13/2022 arrangements with Dudley-Hoffman Mortuary, Crematory & Memory Gardens

22nd Annual Best of Northern Santa Barbara County Readers Poll



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1. Best Santa Maria Restaurant
2. Best Nipomo Restaurant
3. Best Orcutt Restaurant
4. Best Lompoc Restaurant
5. Best Guadalupe Restaurant
6. Best Los Alamos Restaurant
7. Best Los Olivos Restaurant
8. Best Buellton Restaurant
9. Best Solvang Restaurant
10. Best Santa Ynez Restaurant
11. Best Restaurant. Period.
12. Best Breakfast
13. Best Weekend Brunch
14. Best Outdoor Dining

15. Best Cheap Eats
16. Best Restaurant to Impress
17. Best Place to Go On a First Date
18. Best Family Meal
19. Best Kid-Friendly Restaurant
20. Best Chinese Food
21. Best Italian Food
22. Best Japanese Food
23. Best Mediterranean Food
24. Best Authentic Mexican Food
25. Best Thai Food
26. Best Seafood
27. Best Sushi
28. Best Barbecue
29. Best Vegetarian Food

30. Best Food Truck
31. Best Farm/Produce Stand
32. Best Caterer
33. Best Breakfast Burrito
34. Best Salsa
35. Best Burrito
36. Best Taco
37. Best Carniceria
38. Best Burger
39. Best Sandwich
40. Best Steak
41. Best Tri-Tip
42. Best Wings
43. Best Pizza
44. Best Wood-Fired Pizza

Summer is in full swing, and it's time to get outside and show the world what Northern Santa Barbara County is made of.

Pull that backpack out of the shed, pack it full of snacks, and be sure to bring lots of layers to help the Sun tell stories about who blazed the trail to the top of the nearest peak.

We're asking you, dearest and most loyal readers, to pick your favorite businesses, leaders, restaurants, and community members to compete for a shot at earning a very special merit badge. They can be hunters, hikers, bikers, runners, walkers, and/or experts at taking in the view. As long as you believe they've earned that patch proclaiming them a trailblazing winner in the Best of Northern Santa Barbara County Readers Poll—and we won't accept anything less!

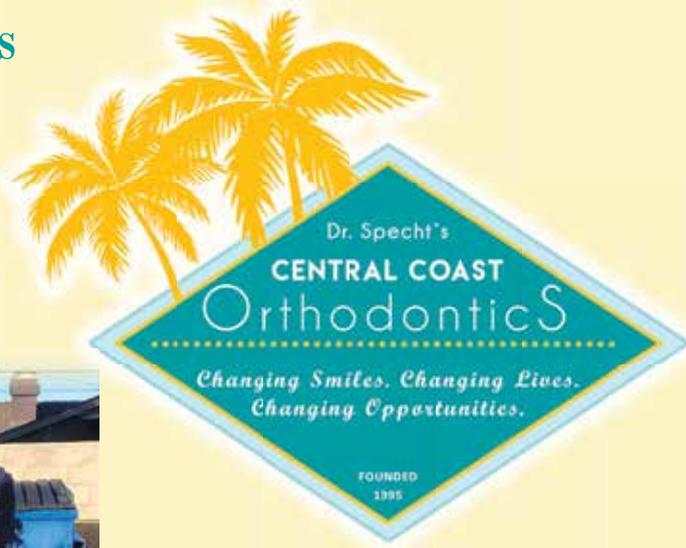
Ballots are due on Tuesday, July 5, by 5 p.m. We will announce the winners on Aug. 18!

BEST OF NSBC BALLOT continued on next page

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BEST OF NSBC BALLOT continued from previous page

- 45. Best Charcuterie Board

---

- 46. Best Salad

---

- 47. Best Ice Cream or Frozen Yogurt

---

- 48. Best Doughnut

---

- 49. Best Dessert

---

- 50. Best Panaderia

---

- 51. Best Bakery

---

- 52. Best Grocery Store

---

- 53. Best Vitamin Store

---

- 54. Best Natural Food Store

---

- 55. Best Hispanic Market

---

## Liquid Connections

- 56. Best Place for a Cup of Coffee

---

- 57. Best Juice Place

---

- 58. Best Winery for Red Wine

---

- 59. Best Winery for White Wine

---

- 60. Best Winery for Sparkling Wine

---

- 61. Best Dog-Friendly Winery

---

- 62. Best Tasting Room

---

- 63. Best Tasting Transportation

---

- 64. Best Brewery

---

- 65. Best Dive Bar

---

- 66. Best Michelada

---

- 67. Best Margarita

---

- 68. Best Place for a Beer

---

## Arts and Entertainment

- 69. Best Community Event (specify city)

---

- 70. Best Theater Group

---

- 71. Best DJ

---

- 72. Best Local Band or Musician

---

- 73. Best Place to Catch a Band

---

- 74. Best Photographer

---

- 75. Best Kids Arts Program

---

- 76. Best Music School

---

- 77. Best Local Artist

---

- 78. Best Place to View Art

---

- 79. Best Tattoo Shop

---

- 80. Best Bookstore

---

- 81. Best Museum

---

- 82. Best Media Personality

---

- 83. Best Place for a Big Bash

---

- 84. Best Place to Have a Kids Party

---

- 85. Best Place to Shop for a Quinceañera

---

- 86. Best Car Show

---

## Burning Cash

- 87. Best Antique Shop

---

- 88. Best Thrift Store

---

- 89. Best Home Decor

---

- 90. Best Furniture Store

---

- 91. Best Mattress Store

---

- 92. Best Solar Company

---

- 93. Best Hardware Store

---

- 94. Best Used Car Dealer

---

- 95. Best New Car Dealer

---

- 96. Best Car Wash

---

- 97. Best Car Audio/Security

---

- 98. Best Tire Store

---

- 99. Best Oil Change

---

- 100. Best Flower Shop

---

- 101. Best Local Nursery/Garden Store

---

- 102. Best Eyewear Store

---

- 103. Best Jewelry Store

---

- 104. Best Place to Buy Kids Clothes

---

- 105. Best Women's Clothing Store

---

- 106. Best Place to Pamper Your Pet

---

- 107. Best Pet Supply Store

---

- 108. Best Veterinarian

---

- 109. Best Place for Gifts

---

- 110. Best Carpet/Flooring Company

---

- 111. Best Place to Fill Up Your Car

---

- 112. Best Feed Supply Store

---

## About Town

- 113. Best New Company of 2021

---

- 114. Best Cleaning Service

---

- 115. Best General Contractor

---

- 116. Best Home Painting Service

---

- 117. Best Landscape Design Company

---

- 118. Best Yard Maintenance Service

---

- 119. Best Moving Company

---

- 120. Best Pest Control Service

---

- 121. Best Tree Trimming Service

---

- 122. Best Window Cleaning Service

---

- 123. Best Auto Maintenance/Repair

---

- 124. Best CPA

---

- 125. Best Lawyer

---

- 126. Best Local Bank/Credit Union

---

- 127. Best Mortgage Company

---

- 128. Best Plumber

---

- 129. Best Insurance Agent

---

- 130. Best Real Estate Company

---

- 131. Best Real Estate Agent

---

- 132. Best Customer Service

---

- 133. Best Electrician

---

- 134. Best Senior Living Community

---

- 135. Best Charter School

---

## Feeling Good

- 136. Best Hair Salon

---

- 137. Best Barber Shop

---

- 138. Best Nail Salon

---

- 139. Best Place for Skin Care

---

- 140. Best Place to Get a Massage

---

- 141. Best Health Club/Gym

---

- 142. Best Yoga Studio

---

- 143. Best Martial Arts Studio

---

- 144. Best Alternative Healer

---

- 145. Best Cannabis Dispensary

---

- 146. Best Cannabis Delivery Service

---

- 147. Best Tanning Salon

---

- 148. Best Acupuncturist

---

- 149. Best Chiropractor

---

- 150. Best Doctor

---

- 151. Best Lasik Surgery

---

- 152. Best Dentist

---

- 153. Best Orthodontist

---

- 154. Best OB-GYN

---

- 155. Best Pediatrician

---

## Get Out

- 156. Best Hike or Bike Trail

---

- 157. Best Bike Shop

---

- 158. Best Hotel or Resort

---

- 159. Best Golf Course

---

- 160. Best Staycation

---

- 161. Best Dog Park

---

- 162. Best Day Trip

---

- 163. Best Place to Put Up Visiting Family

---

## Getting Hitched

- 164. Best Wedding Venue

---

- 165. Best Wedding/Event Planner

---

- 166. Best Place to Buy a Wedding Ring

---

- 167. Best Limo Service

---

- 168. Best Wedding Caterer

---

- 169. Best Place for Wedding Flowers

---

- 170. Best Wedding Band

---

- 171. Best Tuxedo Rental

---

- 172. Best Place to Buy a Wedding Dress

---

- 173. Best Place for a Wedding Reception

---

## Community Watch

- 174. Best Nonprofit

---

- 175. Best Environmental Watchdog

---

- 176. Best Eco-Friendly Business

---

- 177. Best Man or Woman Behind the Badge

---

- 178. Best Radio Station

---

- 179. Best News Source

---

- 180. Best Social Media Influencer

---

- 181. Best Place to Volunteer

---

- 182. Best Take-It-To-The-Man Local Activist

---

- 183. What did we miss? Suggestions?

---

Vote online at [www.santamariasun.com](http://www.santamariasun.com) or drop your physical ballot by our office or mail it to:

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Ballots must be in our office by Tuesday, July 5, at 5 p.m., to be eligible for inclusion in poll results.

**THE RULES:** One ballot per person. No more than two ballots may be submitted per envelope or in person at one time. No photocopies can be accepted. To prevent ballot-box stuffing (also known as cheating), all ballots must have at least 25 categories completed and must include the name and address of the voter, for verification purposes only. All information is kept in complete confidence. Ballots must be in our office by Tuesday, July 5, at 5 p.m. Winners will be announced in our Aug. 18 special publication. All entries become the property of the Sun.

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**BOOK ADS BY:** July 7  
**PUBLICATION DATE:** July 14  
**FAIR DATES:** July 13-17

Your amusement-filled guide to the Santa Barbara County Fair

# 55 FICTION

**BOOK ADS BY:** July 21  
**PUBLICATION DATE:** July 28

Winners of our annual short story contest. Enter by July 5.

# BEST OF NSBC Sun

**BOOK ADS BY:** August 11  
**PUBLICATION DATE:** August 18

Results of our annual Best of Northern Santa Barbara County readers poll

**AUTUMN ARTS** September 22  
**BREAST CANCER/DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AWARENESS** October 6  
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- 10% Portraits. I love people!
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11 Votes

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VERIFIED

## A medical miracle

Political causes shouldn't hold sway over medical classifications

BY JOHN DONEGAN

Sometimes important advances in science can come from a most improbable source: politics. Who would have thought that the political process could contribute so much to advance science?

Recently, the publishers of an established and renowned medical reference work, the Merck Manual, found themselves in the politically uncomfortable position of being cited by the Florida Department of Health as an authority for their guidelines recommending against the medical gender transitioning of children and adolescents suffering from gender dysphoria. Florida, as you may be aware, has been in the spotlight for legislation prohibiting instructing 6-year-olds in public schools on gender identity or sexual orientation, dubbed the "don't say gay" law by the media.

Unlike most businesses, which find themselves in the hot seat for some ideological transgression, Merck did not limit itself to the usual declarations of support or to displays of contrition and self-flagellation to placate the offended, nor did they establish a new office of "diversity, equity, and inclusion." Instead, showing real audacity and moxie, they actually changed the science and updated their manual to conform to the currently politically acceptable thinking!

The revised edition of the Merck Manual now replaces the term of "gender dysphoria" with the more-approving term of "gender incongruence," declaring repeatedly that now "it is not considered a disorder," and goes on to recognize other recently discovered "genders" such as "genderqueer," "nonbinary," and "agender," dropping the association of gender with biological sex that medicine has previously recognized. Merck then advised Florida to revise its guidelines to reflect their newly evolved thinking.

Some negative types might complain that revising scientifically accepted biological classifications and afflictions ought to be based on something a little more authoritative than just adopting the jargon generated by

the latest political cause. But me, well, I'm a "glass is half full" kind of guy and see this as a wonderful development! Whoever would have suspected that we could instantly cure medical ailments by merely changing our perception of the affliction and declaring that it is not really a problem after all? Imagine all the death and suffering that could have been avoided by a timely pronouncement of a new medical finding? Or the tedious and expensive research that could have been avoided by just revising the medical texts? And, of course, all the countless hours of employment lost to illness, when just a few curative words to malingering employees would put them back on the job.

Imagine the possibilities when medical advances are only limited by our vocabularies. Being able to tell a hospitalized patient on his death bed, "Good news, Mr. Smith! Your health insurance company just discovered that your cancer isn't really a problem after all. Get out of here!" and then being able to watch the patient bound out of bed and run home to his family, or off to the golf course. What could be easier? I hope the Nobel committee is paying attention.

Of course, we can expect some pushback from our self-interested scientific and medical communities, who will undoubtedly counter with "the science must be respected" or some other such nonsense. They will likely insist that only peer-reviewed studies and observed, tested, and repeatable empirical evidence are credible, instead of "discoveries" by social scientists responding to the fashionable thinking. And of course this will be awkward for liberals who have long criticized conservatives for refusing to "respect the science" in areas such as COVID-19 and climate change. A few liberals may suffer semantic whiplash from having to abruptly reverse their debate arguments to try and maintain consistency when switching between subjects, such as from evolution to gender dysphoria.

### Speak up!

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



Of course, these naysayers can be countered by just emphasizing the word "science" in "social science," insisting that it is not just a "valid" science, but a sort of transcendent "super science." The empirical evidence needed to support any scientific theory will now be based upon how well it is accepted on Twitter and other social media, and the number of likes and retweets. Why should the conclusions of a bunch of geeky science nerds in dorky white lab coats prevail over the vast wisdom of the Twittersphere?

Possibly the more scholarly and less interesting areas of science may suffer from neglect on social media, and less-captivating topics like, say, "anomalous mutations in subtropical slime mold colonies" overlooked when they have to compete with more "juicy" topics such as speculation on the extraterrestrial origin of Marilyn Manson and his unexplained appearance in Roswell, New Mexico. Some may grumble that it was a good thing that Jonas Salk was not dependent upon the internet and social media for his research. Ignore them.

We live in a time of unlimited possibilities! Not only can we now use a mere declaration to change to a multitude of different genders, or to a different race as Rachel Dolezal demonstrated, but our afflictions can now be banished by decree.

"Paging Dr. Orwell, paging Dr. Orwell . . ." ○

*John Donegan is a retired attorney in Pismo Beach who feels that the pen is more therapeutic than the scalpel or syringe. Send a response for publication to [letters@santamariasun.com](mailto:letters@santamariasun.com).*

## LETTERS

**Editor's note:** The commentary above ran in *New Times* on June 9, and the letter below was printed in *New Times* June 16. Being the sister publication of said newspaper, we have the ability to now run both at the same time.

### Ignorance isn't bliss

John Donegan is fortunate that, as far as I know, there are no state laws that make it a crime to be ignorant. Else, he'd be in danger of being incarcerated.

His diatribe ("A medical miracle," *New Times*, June 9) about Merck's decision to update its legendary "manual" to reflect 21st century thinking by replacing "gender dysphoria" with "gender incongruence" is his latest contribution to the "Best of 1970 political thought."

After all, it's been almost 50 years since the American Psychiatric Association stopped calling homosexuality a mental illness. (Likewise for the other "LGBTQ" categories.) Now Donegan emerges to inform us that Merck's failure to get that half-century-old memo was a good thing, not a sign of Merck's ignorance.

In response to Merck's joining the current century, Donegan spins his intellectual top all the way around to conclude that the manual's change is a harbinger that the "Twittersphere" will become the basis for scientific thought.

Never mind that studies show that half of transgender teens report a suicide attempt during their lifetime; the percentage is 30 percent for transgender females.

It is no reach at all to conclude that such self-hating is a response to bullying and discrimination practiced by people who, like Donegan, consider one's being transgender an "affliction," rather than a reflection of who the person really is.

On a more frighteningly transparent psychological level, it remains an ongoing mystery that Donegan, and the bulk of conservatives who share his beliefs, fail to realize that their backward "if you're not like me, you're sick" thinking reflects their own fear that they too may be "different." Deep inside, they're terrified.

Ain't that a hoot and a half?

Will Powers  
SLO

# No mama drama

Benign, boring budget hearings usually snooze themselves into oblivion, but every now and then a little heat enters the building—as it did during the June 14 Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors hearing.

What was the fight over? Extra dollars. Unallocated money. Up for grabs and ready for takers!

County staff recommended that the board put that \$400,000 away for a rainy day, but 5th District Supervisor Steve Lavagnino had a more noble plan: Give \$200,000 of it to Growing Grounds Farm in Santa Maria.

And that little request opened a “can of worms,” which 1st District Supervisor Das Williams did his damndest to yank the lid completely off of. I guess he couldn’t get too crazy earlier that day, since his daughter was sitting on his lap at the dais (And I just don’t know how I feel about that, really: Is it unprofessional? Yes. Is it kind of cool to see a dad bearing the brunt of lost child care? Yes.)—so he waited to pounce.

But it was a strange pounce, one that included an accusation that Lavagnino was making an assumption that other districts didn’t have the same needs. That’s an interesting statement, considering that the nonprofit Growing Grounds Farm isn’t even in Lavagnino’s district.

“I think we have to think about whether partial funding for this group this year is worth opening up Pandora’s box,” Williams said, adding that other nonprofits that wanted funding and were turned away will be back “in mass” next year.

He then referred to “the old days,” where people apparently put “knives to the jugular” for the last slivers of funding.

That’s kind of aggressive.

“If it’s something you’re not comfortable with, I’d rather you just say no,” Lavagnino said.

Later adding: “Then don’t vote for it. ... It’s real easy.”

And then, after waylaying this seemingly simple request, Williams made a motion to give Growing Grounds the requested \$200,000 and divvy up the remaining money among the districts for other project needs. What?

So confusing. Almost as confusing as Solvang City Council’s struggle to maintain normal operating procedures during a recent meeting. The June 13 hearing about water and wastewater rates went off the rails a little, when City Councilmember Mark Infanti couldn’t hold his responses in until after the public comment period was over—interrupting to give his 50 cents to the audience.

He mansplained why water and wastewater rates are increasing to the meeting’s attendees, who apparently didn’t understand that the city’s aging infrastructure needed maintenance and repair funding. Nor did they understand that saving water doesn’t mean that water costs won’t increase.

“It’s kind of like property taxes. The property taxes are necessary to run your city and run the county and the state,” Infanti said. “These are necessary to run the water and wastewater departments.”

Infanti then said he conserves water, but not with the expectation that his bill will decrease.

But when members of the audience thought it was their turn to respond—since the hearing was still in the public comment period phase—Mayor Charlie Uhrig said “not right now.”

“I need you to sit down, we need to keep moving,” Uhrig said before closing the public comment period.

That’s not fair! In fact, it seems downright out of order. ○

The Canary only speaks during this column. Send comments to [canary@santamariasun.com](mailto:canary@santamariasun.com).



## SPECIAL DAYS

- Wed July 13** **5 Before 5**  
*All Admissions \$5.00 before 5pm*  
*Hours: 3pm-10pm*
- Thur July 14** **5 Before 5**  
*All Admissions \$5.00 before 5pm*  
*Hours: 3pm-10pm*
- Fri July 15** **Agriculture & Cattlemen’s Day**  
*Sponsored by Gold Coast Toyota Dealers*  
*Free Admission for Youth (6-11)*  
*Hours: 12pm-10pm*
- Sat July 16** **Military & Law Enforcement Day**  
*Sponsored by Mechanics Bank*  
*Hours: 12pm-10pm*
- Sun July 17** **Fiesta Day**  
*Sponsored by Telemundo*  
*Hours: 12pm-10pm*

## ATTRACTIONS

- \* Cook’s Racing Pigs
- \* Petting Zoo (brought to you by Community Bank of Santa Maria)
- \* Helm & Sons Amusement Carnival
- \* Chef Landry’s Cajun Comedy Show
- \* The SUN Extreme Sports Zone
- \* Kiddie Kave (Separate Ticket Required)
- \* Raw Hide Train (brought to you by Jacks All American Plumbing)
- \* Skip Banks, The Balloon Man
- \* Tyzen, The Comedian Hypnotist

## TICKETS

### PRE-SALE TICKETS

On sale June 10 - July 10 at: Santa Maria Fairpark, Farm Supply, & La Miramar Stores & Online

Adults (12-61).....	\$13
Seniors (62+).....	\$10
Youth (6-11).....	\$10
One Day Unlimited Ride Carnival Wristbands.....	\$30 (Available Online Only)

### ON-SITE TICKETS

Adults (12-61).....	\$15
Seniors (62+).....	\$12
Youth (6-11).....	\$12
Kids 5 and under are always free	
One Day Unlimited Ride Carnival Wristbands.....	\$40

## MICHELOB ULTRA MINETTI ARENA

- Fri & Sat July 15-16** **The Raha FMX Motocross Show**  
*(Separate Ticket Required)*
- Sun July 17** **Fiesta Day Hispanic Concert**  
*(Separate Ticket Required)*



## ONLINE TICKETS

[www.SantaMariaFairpark.com](http://www.SantaMariaFairpark.com)



Santa Maria Fairpark | 805.925.8824 | 937 South Thornburg Street, Santa Maria  
[SantaMariaFairpark.com](http://SantaMariaFairpark.com)



# Sun News Wire

Sign up for the Santa Maria Sun’s weekly newsletter and get your current local news FREE every Thursday in your inbox.

Select the SIGNUP button at the top right of our homepage at [santamariasun.com](http://santamariasun.com)





# Don't waste a drop!

## Let's save together.

## ¡No pierdas ni una gota! Ahorremos juntos.

CITY OF SANTA MARIA  
**Utilities Department**  
(805) 925-0951 ext. 7270 ■ [www.cityofsantamaria.org](http://www.cityofsantamaria.org)

# WE SEE YOU



North County Rape Crisis and Child Protection Center  
 24-Hour Support Line (805)736-7273  
[www.sbcountyrapecrisis.org](http://www.sbcountyrapecrisis.org)

**KNOW MORE | DO MORE | NO MORE!**

Sexual violence violates a person's trust, autonomy, and safety. The LGBTQIA+ community faces higher risks for marginalization, poverty, and stigma, which increase the risk of sexual assault. Sexual assault crimes are used as a tool to gain power, humiliate, and control another person. It is often used as a form of hate crime against the LGBTQIA+ community. Sexual violence can be used as a weapon against people who identify as or are thought to be LGBTQIA+. These hate-motivated crimes can include sexual harassment, sexual assault, rape, or other forms of sexual violence. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), lesbian, gay and bisexual people experience sexual violence at similar or higher rates than straight people.

The CDC's National Intimate Partner and Sexual Violence Survey indicates that 44% of lesbians and 61% of bisexual women experience rape, physical violence, or stalking by an intimate partner, compared to 35% of straight women. The survey also indicates that 26% of gay men and 37% of bisexual men experience rape, physical violence, or stalking by an intimate partner, compared to 29% of straight men. Furthermore, within the LGBTQIA+ community, transgender people and bisexual women face the most alarming rates of sexual violence. Among both of these populations, sexual violence begins early, often during childhood.

Sexual violence in the LGBTQIA+ community is an epidemic and needs to stop. If you or someone you know needs help, we are allies and are here to help. Our Center is safe. Our Center is confidential. To get help call (805)736-7273 or you may email anonymously [office@ncrccpc.org](mailto:office@ncrccpc.org).





# CommUnify

## Did you know...

**1 in 5 people** in Santa Barbara County live at, near, or below the California Poverty Measurement of \$35,600 annually for a family of four. \*

\* Public Policy Institute of California report, Poverty: Just the Facts, July 2021



For 55 years,  
**CommUnify** has helped  
Santa Barbara County's  
most vulnerable  
residents achieve  
economic security,  
become self-sufficient,  
and retain their dignity.

Empowering Sustainable Independence

**[www.CommUnifySB.org](http://www.CommUnifySB.org)**



All statistics are for our mid and north county clients during 2021

# CommUnify is...

## Uniting Our Community Against Poverty

Since 1967, CommUnify (formerly Community Action Commission), has worked to improve the lives of Santa Barbara County's residents who have the greatest need. For thousands of people each year, CommUnify represents the difference between living in uncertainty and living in stability. CommUnify is a nonprofit organization, with a true north and south county commitment, sustained by individual giving, foundation funding, and government grants.

### We empower our low-income neighbors to:

- Access education and career opportunities
- Remain safely in their homes
- Become self-sufficient
- Improve financial literacy
- Learn parenting and life skills
- Obtain mental health and behavioral wellness support
- Create a better future

*“Head Start is not just for children. It serves multiple generations: children, parents, and guardians.”*

**LORRAINE NEENAN,**  
DIRECTOR OF  
CHILDREN'S SERVICES

**7,387**  
calls and texts were answered  
by our 2-1-1 Helpline

Santa Barbara County  
**2-1-1**  
Get Connected. Get Answers.

**900+**  
youth participated  
in our programs

**733**  
children and families  
served by Head Start and  
Early Head Start

**777**  
households received  
assistance with energy bills  
and energy efficiency  
upgrades

**211**  
seniors received  
meals or home repairs  
at low or no cost

**65,328**  
meals provided  
to children ages  
3 months to  
5 years old



**We are Countywide**

<b>24</b> Head Start and Early Head Start campuses	<b>17</b> programs serving children, adolescents, families, and seniors
<b>800</b> state and local partners	<b>300+</b> people employed



*“Being retired and living on a limited income, your Utility Assistance program was a blessing in my time of need. Thank you for being there for me!”*

**B. FRANKLIN,** RETIREE

# Poverty is a complex issue...

And having a safety net is critical. If you, or someone you know, need our help, please contact us through the 2-1-1 Helpline, (800) 400-1572; TTY (805)-919-1148. It's free, confidential, and available 24/7 in 150 languages.

**CommUnify is good for the whole community, not just the people we serve.**



## Our 17 Programs:

- California State Preschool Program
- Early Head Start (ages 0-3)
- Head Start (ages 3-5)
- Adolescent Family Life Planning (AFLP)
- California Student Opportunity and Access Program (Cal-SOAP)
- Economic Empowerment Program
- Family Self-Sufficiency Program
- Family Wellness Behavioral Health Services
- Health and Life Skills for Teens / Salud y Vida
- Los Compadres and Las Comadres Youth Mentoring
- New Heights for Transition Aged Youth
- Rental Payment Assistance
- South Coast Youth Safety Partnership
- Seniors Safe at Home
- Utility Payment Assistance
- Weatherization and Energy Services
- 2-1-1 Helpline for Santa Barbara County

**We can't do this vital work without your support.**

For more information on how you can support CommUnify, please contact: [development@communifysb.org](mailto:development@communifysb.org) or call (805) 964-8857, ext. 3

[www.CommUnifySB.org](http://www.CommUnifySB.org)



## Our Offices

### North County

201 W. Chapel St.  
Santa Maria, CA 93458

### Mid-County

120 W. Chestnut St.  
Lompoc, CA 93436

### Central Administration and South County

5638 Hollister Ave., Suite 230  
Goleta, CA 93117



**MISSION STATEMENT:** In partnership with the community, we provide education and supportive services to residents of Santa Barbara County, resulting in improved economic security and self-sufficiency.

# HOT STUFF

JUNE 23 – JUNE 30  
2022

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



## MIGHTIER THAN THE GOURD

Local artist Kathy Badrak is hosting a gourd workshop, *Weaving a Web*, at the Wildling Museum of Art and Nature in Solvang (pictured) on Sunday, June 26, from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Participants of the class will create their own colorful gourd bowl with a web design at its center. Admission is \$70, which includes all materials needed. Pre-registration is required, as the class is limited to 12 participants. Visit [wildlingmuseum.org](http://wildlingmuseum.org) for more info. The museum is located at 1511 Mission Drive, unit B, Solvang.

—Caleb Wiseblood

FILE PHOTO COURTESY OF THE WILDLING MUSEUM OF ART AND NATURE

## 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. Through Sept. 18 Elverhoj Museum of History and Art, 1624 Elverhoj Way, Solvang, 805-686-1211, [elverhoj.org](http://elverhoj.org).

#### LAUGH THERAPY AT MAVERICK SALOON

Laugh Therapy presents another evening of hilariously healing humorists. Headlining the show is Last Comic Standing's Jay London, whose dry wit and deadpan delivery will leave you howling. Featuring Courtney Rainwater and Chris Williams. Arrive early for preferred seating. **June 29**, 8-10 p.m. \$15. 773-401-2998. Maverick Saloon, 3687 Sagunto St., Santa Ynez, [mavericksaloon.org](http://mavericksaloon.org).

### LOMPOC/VANDENBERG

#### COASTAL COLLECTION: SHARON HEDMAN

**(FEATURED ARTIST)** The Lompoc Valley Art Association's Cypress Gallery will be featuring Coastal Collection, an artist show by Sharon Hedman. A reception, open to the public, will be held on July 10, from 3 to 5 p.m. Thursdays-Sundays, 11 a.m.-4 p.m. through July 24 Free. 805-736-3743. [lompcart.org](http://lompcart.org). Cypress Gallery, 119 E Cypress Ave., Lompoc.

#### EXPRESSIONS IN ART: FEATURED ARTIST LEE HILL

The Lompoc Valley Art Association's Cypress Gallery will be featuring Expressions in Art, an artist show by Lee Hill. Check out the show and meet the artist at his reception on June 12, from 1 to 3 p.m. Open to the public. Through June 26 Free. 805-737-1129. [lompcart.org](http://lompcart.org). Cypress Gallery, 119 E Cypress Ave., Lompoc.

**LOMPOC MOVIES IN THE PARK** Movies will be shown on a giant inflatable screen in the old section of Ryon Park. **June 24**, 8 p.m. [cityoflompc.com](http://cityoflompc.com). Ryon Park, 800 W. Ocean Ave., Lompoc.

**SUMMER READING CHALLENGE** Through July 31 Lompoc Public Library, 501 E. North Ave., Lompoc, 805-875-8786.

### SANTA MARIA VALLEY/LOS ALAMOS

**THE 39 STEPS** This comedy is a mix of Hitchcock, juicy spy novels, and a dash of Monty Python. **June 24-July 10** [my805tix.com](http://my805tix.com). Santa Maria Civic Theatre, 1660 N. McClelland St., Santa Maria.

**ADULT SUMMER READING PROGRAM** A summer camp-themed reading adventure. Read or listen to books, participate in weekly activities, and earn raffle tickets, and fantastic prize baskets. Register at the library. Through July 30. 805-925-0994. [cityofsantamaria.org/city-government/departments/library](http://cityofsantamaria.org/city-government/departments/library). Santa Maria Public Library, 421 S. McClelland St., Santa Maria.

#### DANCE CLASSES: EVERYBODY CAN DANCE

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

#### DIY FRIENDSHIP BRACELET

An adult summer camp. Learn how to make a unique and colorful friendship bracelet using metal chain and embroidery thread. All materials are provided. Registration is required. **June 25**, 11 a.m.-noon. 805-925-0994. [cityofsantamaria.org](http://cityofsantamaria.org). Santa Maria Public Library, 421 S. 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. 8 a.m.-10 p.m. 805-922-0663. Santa Maria Airport, 3249 Terminal Dr., Santa Maria.

**MILO SAMPSON 1946: A MUSICAL** A one-act radio-stage production of a noir murder mystery, with ten original songs. Fridays-Sundays, 7:30-8:30 p.m. through July 17 \$27.50. 805-344-1144. Los Alamos Theatre Group, 515 Bell Street, Los Alamos, [latgstore.square.site](http://latgstore.square.site).

#### 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.

**NEXT CHAPTER BOOK CLUB** Each month will feature a new chapter book. Talk about last month's book, and then read the first chapter of the new book together. Copies of the book will be provided on a first come, first served basis. Designed for youth, ages 8 through 12. **June 23**, 3:30 p.m. 805-925-0994. [engagedpatrons.org](http://engagedpatrons.org). Santa Maria Public Library (Altrusa Theater), 421 S. McClelland St., 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.

#### THE SOUND OF MUSIC

Music by Richard Rodgers. Lyrics by Oscar Hammerstein II. Book by Howard Lindsay and Russel Crouse. **June 30-July 31** Marian Theatre, 800 S. College Dr., Santa Maria, [pcpa.org](http://pcpa.org).

#### TEEN MANGA DRAWING

Join former *Simpsons* and *King of the Hill* artist Carlos Nieto III as he teaches how to create and modify an anime character from scratch, no matter what your drawing level is. All materials are provided. **June 24**, 5 p.m. 805-925-0994. [engagedpatrons.org](http://engagedpatrons.org). Shepard Hall Art Gallery - Santa Maria Public Library, 421 South McClelland St., Santa Maria.

#### WINE AND DESIGN CLASSES

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

#### YOUTH ARTS ALIVE: FREE ARTS CLASSES FOR KIDS

Youth Arts Alive is holding free arts classes to Santa Maria youth ages 8 to 18. Classes are held for three weeks in June and July. Includes classes in art, dance, drum, singing, poetry, guitar/ukulele, theater, screen printing, and pottery. Mondays-Fridays, through July 1 \$20 refundable deposit. [youthartsalive.org/register-here](http://youthartsalive.org/register-here). Minami Community Center, 600 W. Enos Drive, Santa Maria.

SUBMIT YOUR EVENTS

New Times and the Sun now share their community listings for a complete Central Coast calendar running from SLO County through northern Santa Barbara County. Submit events online by logging in with your Google, Facebook, or Twitter account at [newtimeslo.com](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).

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### SOUTH COAST SLO COUNTY

**BUTCH CASSIDY AND THE SUNBURNT KID** This gut-busting parody follows the adventures of Butch and Sundance as they change the course of history in the Old West. En route to Bolivia, the two outlaws find the perfect hideout in a town where nothing ever happens: Oceano. Wednesdays-Saturdays, 7 p.m., Saturdays, Sundays, 2 p.m. and Sundays, 6 p.m. through Aug. 6 \$30-\$36. 805-489-2499. [americanmelodrama.com](http://americanmelodrama.com). Great American Melodrama, 1863 Front St., Oceano.

**FLEX PERFORMING ARTS RECITAL** The students of Flex Performing Arts present a showcase of dance, musical theater, and acting. This event is recommended for all ages. **June 25**, 6-9 p.m. and **June 26**, 4:30-7:30 p.m. \$35 (senior and child discounts available). 805-489-9444. [clarkcenter.org/](http://clarkcenter.org/). Clark Center for the Performing Arts, 487 Fair Oaks Ave., Arroyo Grande.

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

**OPEN STUDIO FOR ADULTS** Call to reserve. All materials included. Tuesdays, 6-9 p.m. and Wednesdays, 12:30-3:30 p.m. \$35. 805-668-2125. [lila.community](http://lila.community/). Guests can come in and decide what materials they would like to work with and create freely. Share your creative process with others and see how your work will flourish. Tuesdays, 6-9 p.m. & Wednesdays, 12:30-3:30 p.m. \$40. 805-668-2125. [lila.community/](http://lila.community/). LiLA Creative Community, 1147 East Grand Ave. suite 101, Arroyo Grande.

**UNSTOPPABLE: FLEX PERFORMING ARTS SHOWCASE** A dance and music spectacular featuring the students of FLEX Performing Arts. **June 25**, 6-9 p.m. and **June 26**, 4:30-7:30 p.m. \$25. 805-489-9444. [clarkcenter.org/](http://clarkcenter.org/). Clark Center for the Performing Arts, 487 Fair Oaks Ave., Arroyo Grande.

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

### SAN LUIS OBISPO

**ACTOR'S EDGE: ACTING CLASSES** Actor's Edge offers film and television acting training in San Luis Obispo, plus exposure to Los Angeles talent agents. All

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ages and skill levels welcome. Classes available in SLO, LA, and on zoom. \$210 per month. actoredge.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. Citywide, San Luis Obispo.

**ART EXHIBIT: OUT OF THE BLUE** The GROUP, a collective group of talented women who share a passion for creative expression, join Art Central's Gallery this June and July in a dynamic exhibit, Out of the Blue. Meet the artists and mingle on June 4, from 2 to 4 p.m. Mondays-Saturdays, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. and Sundays, 12-4 p.m. through Aug. 1. 805-747-4200. artcentralslo.com/portfolio/out-of-the-blue/. Art Central, 1329 Monterey St., San Luis Obispo.

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

**ARTISTS AT SLO GALLERY** Feast your eyes on amazing works by exceptional California artists. The ever-changing display of fine art includes paintings, photography, and sculpture representing a wide variety of styles from abstract to realism. Thursdays-Sundays, 11 a.m.-5 p.m. through Oct. 2. 805-926-5050. slogallery.com. SLO Gallery, 1019 Broad Street, San Luis Obispo.

**BISQUEWARE PAINTING** Paint a mug, platter, or figurine. All materials provided, and many options to choose from. No class fee, just pay for item and firing. For large parties, please call in advance. Mondays, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. through Sept. 5 \$10-\$65. 805-896-6197. Anam Cre Pottery Studio, 1243 Monterey St., San Luis Obispo, anamcre.com.

**CAMILLE HOFFMAN: SEE AND MISSED** Artist Camille Hoffman uses materials collected from childhood and her everyday life to craft imaginary landscapes that are grounded in accumulation, rehabilitation, personal narrative, and historical critique. Through Aug. 22 sloma.org. San Luis Obispo Museum of Art, 1010 Broad St., San Luis Obispo, 543-8562.

**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. hmcceramics.com/. Online, See website, San Luis Obispo.

**THE CIRCUS VARGAS EXPRESS** Enjoy acts from world-class performers, aerialists, acrobats, and comedic characters. **June 24-July 11** 877-468-3861. circusvargas.com. Madonna Inn Expo Center, 100 Madonna Rd., San Luis Obispo.

**DISCOVERING ITALIC CALLIGRAPHY WITH MARY LOU JOHNSON** Learn the basics of Italic Script using a Pilot Parallel Pen. Upper and lower case letters will be reviewed and demonstrated. We'll explore the versatility of the Pilot Pens featuring a broad edge. **June 25**, 12-4 p.m. \$35 (must bring pen and pay \$5 material fee). 805-747-4200. artcentralslo.com/workshops-events/. Art Central, 1329 Monterey St., San Luis Obispo.

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

**KIDS IMPROV CLASS** Six week sessions for ages 9 to 12; a fun opportunity to learn about self-expression and gain confidence in a positive, uplifting small group setting. Classes led by credentialed, experienced theater teachers. Thursdays, 4-5:30 p.m. through July 14 \$225 for all six weeks. 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. **June 27**, 2-5 p.m. Free. themondayclubslslo.org/RAR. The Monday Club, 1815 Monterey St., San Luis Obispo, 805-541-0594.

**NEW ARTIST RIKI SCHUMACHER AT ART CENTRAL GALLERY** Schumacher's work is pensive and introspective, inspiring one to take a solitary walk

on a cloudy day. Wander in to reflect on her "delicious, wistful landscapes." Mondays-Saturdays, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. and Sundays, 12-4 p.m. Free. 805-747-4200. artcentralslo.com/gallery-artists/. Art Central, 1329 Monterey St., San Luis Obispo.

**OPEN STUDIOS ART TOUR: APPLICATIONS OPEN** The SLO County Arts Council is seeking artists to join this year's event, scheduled to be held in October. Through Oct. 16 artsobispo.org/osat. Countywide, SLO County.

**SLO GALLERY: NEW COLLECTIONS** SLO Gallery proudly features fine crafts, paintings, photography, and sculpture by top artists from California's Central Coast. Visit to see a variety of exceptional works of art. Thursdays-Sundays, 11 a.m.-5 p.m. through June 30 Free. 805-926-5050. slogallery.com. SLO Gallery, 1019 Broad Street, San Luis Obispo.

**VIRGINIA MACK: BEGINNING WATERCOLOR** This is a watercolor class designed to let you jump in and try out this engaging medium through experimentation. It's designed for beginners and those with watercolor experience who wish to expand their knowledge of painting in watercolors. To enroll please contact Mack via email: vbmack@charter.net Wednesdays, 1:30-3:30 p.m. \$35. 805-747-4200. artcentralslo.com/workshops-events/. Art Central, 1329 Monterey St., San Luis Obispo.

**VIRGINIA MACK: WATERCOLOR WORKSHOP (INTERMEDIATE TO ADVANCED)** This is a class for those who love imagining ways to further their visual expressions. Explore composition, intention, and process. To register, contact Virginia Mack, at vbmack@charter.net Wednesdays, 10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. through June 29 \$35. 805-747-4200. artcentralslo.com/workshops-events/. Art Central, 1329 Monterey St., San Luis Obispo.

**XANADU** SLO REP presents this rollerskating musical comedy. Featuring a fabulous pop/rock score by Jeff Lynne and John Farrar. Thursdays-Saturdays, 7-9 p.m., Saturdays, 2-4 p.m. and Sundays, 2-4 p.m. through July 3 \$20-\$40. 805-786-2440. slorep.org/shows/xanadu/. San Luis Obispo Repertory Theatre, 888 Morro St., San Luis Obispo.

**NORTH SLO COUNTY**

**ART AND ABOUT PASO** Join us for Art and About Paso, 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 Saturday of every month, 5-9 p.m. Free. 805-544-9251. artsobispo.org/art-and-about. Participating locations, Paso Robles, City-wide.

**BRUSH, NEEDLE, CAMERA, KILN ART EXHIBITION** The Atascadero Art Association's annual Brush, Needle, Camera, Kiln art showcase is back. Hosted at The ARTery on Traffic Way, this exhibition features a diverse display of art styles, themes, and media. View the work in person during business hours or online. Through June 30 Free. 805-464-0533. the1artery.com/gallery. The ARTery, 5890 Traffic Way, Atascadero.

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

**FARMSTEAD** In this unique exhibition, FARMstead artists show work characterized by our local agriculture. This show features pieces inspired by farm animals, equipment products, and the people that work in this industry. **June 29-Aug. 28** 805-238-9800. studiosonthePark.org/. Studios on the Park, 1130 Pine St., Paso Robles.

**GLASS GARDEN STAKE** Add a colorful fused glass flower to your garden by using a variety of pre-cut glass. A metal stick can be glued to the back of the fired piece, or it can be hung as a sun catcher. All materials included. **June 24**, 10 a.m.-noon \$35. 805-464-2633. glassheadstudio.com. Glasshead Studio, 8793 Plata Lane, Suite H, Atascadero.

**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. Studios on the Park, 1130 Pine St., Paso Robles, 805-238-9800.

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

**THREE-YEAR ANNIVERSARY AND FUSED GLASS PENDANT DROP-IN WORKSHOP** Time to celebrate three years in business with an Open House and a chance for guests to create a fused glass pendant. Drinks and light snacks provided. **June 29**, 3-7 p.m. \$25 per pendant. 805-464-2633. glassheadstudio.com. Glasshead Studio, 8793 Plata Lane, Suite H, Atascadero.

**NORTH COAST SLO COUNTY**

**36TH ANNUAL INTERNATIONAL EXHIBITION OF PASTELS USA** This juried event is a collective of exceptional pastel artworks, featuring some of the finest

ARTS continued page 21



**(805) 776-8700**  
*We make finding transportation easy.*

**Getting from A to B is so much easier when you know your options!**

Know How to Go is a free program that provides a dedicated Mobility Options Specialist to help you understand your transportation options in San Luis Obispo County.



Know to Go! is a program of the San Luis Obispo Council of Governments. (SLOCOG).

**Hesitant to ride the bus on your own?**

The Mobility Options Specialist can help seniors and people with disabilities learn how to travel independently using public transportation, and can offer individual and group instruction for:

- Seniors • Veterans**
- People with Disabilities**
- Caregivers • Health Providers**
- Social Service Agencies**



Learn about our county's senior and veteran shuttles, bus services, transit passes, discounted fares, and other specialized services by reaching out to **(805) 776-8700** or **TravelTrainer@slocog.org** today!



ALL TICKETS. ONE PLACE.

**ON SALE NOW!**



**AVOCADO & MARGARITA FOOD & DRINK FESTIVAL**

**September 9-11, 2022**

Tidelands Park, Morro Bay Embarcadero

Presented by:  
**MORRO BAY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE**

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.

ARTS from page 20  
contemporary artists in the world. **June 30-Aug. 8** Art Center Morro Bay, 835 Main St., Morro Bay, 805-772-2504, artcentermorrobay.org.

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

**BROKEN NATURE** This exhibition addresses the critical state of the environment due to the impact of human presence, by thinking locally and globally, and confronting global warming, drought, wildfires, climate change, and more. Through June 27 Art Center Morro Bay, 835 Main St., Morro Bay, 805-772-2504, artcentermorrobay.org.

**FINE ART PAINTING BY JI LI** Ji is impressed and inspired by Central Coast scenery. She paints landscapes, seascapes, birds, flowers, and more. Her work ranges from the realistic to the abstract in her preferred mediums of watercolor, pastel, and acrylic. Through June 29 Free. 805-772-1068. galleryatmarinasquare.com. Gallery at Marina Square, 601 Embarcadero suite 10, Morro Bay.

**FOREVER STOKED PAINT PARTY** Join us at the gallery, for a few hours to travel on a creative paint journey guided by a member of the fun loving FS crew. You will receive as much or as little instruction as you prefer. No artistic experience is necessary. Saturdays, 7-9 p.m. \$45. 805-772-9095. Forever Stoked, 1164 Quintana Rd., Morro Bay.

**GALLERY AT MARINA SQUARE PRESENTS FINE ART CRAFTS BY STEVIE CHUN** Stevie is a self-taught artist and, while exploring different mediums, she found her love for watercolor. Her work has been displayed in group shows around Southern California. Stevie creates jewelry, paintings, stickers, and more. Opening reception on June 11, from 5 to 7 p.m. Through June 29 Free. 805-772-1068. galleryatmarinasquare.com. Gallery at Marina Square, 601 Embarcadero suite 10, Morro Bay.

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

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

**MOSAICS FOR ALL SKILL LEVELS** Learn how simple, easy, and fun it is to create a custom mosaic under the guidance of Joan Martin Fee. Everything is included to complete your project from garden rock to wall art to a cute cast iron turtle. Preregistration required. **June 25**, 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Various. 805-286-5993. CreativeMeTime.com. Art Center Morro Bay, 835 Main St., Morro Bay.

**NEEDLE FELTING BY DEBBIE GEDAYLOO** Debbie Gedayloo is a self-taught fiber artist. "It is a wonderful to sit with the fibers and create every day and the added level of joy experienced by sharing with others heightens the creative process." Through June 29 Free. 805-772-1068. galleryatmarinasquare.com. Gallery at Marina Square, 601 Embarcadero suite 10, Morro Bay.

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

**THE PLEIN AIR TEAM** Acrylic artist, Nancy Lynn, and husband, watercolorist, Robert Fleming, have an ongoing show of originals and giclee prints of

Morro Bay and local birds. 805-772-9955. Seven Sisters Gallery, 601 Embarcadero Ste. 8, Morro Bay, sevensistersgalleryca.com.

**THE REBOOT (STORYTELLING REIMAGINED)** Enjoy a live show of entertaining, true personal stories around a different theme each month performed in an enchanted garden theater under the stars. The event offers "story gold for folks who delight in all things well told." Fourth Friday of every month, 7-9:15 p.m. through Oct. 28 Free. 805-772-9225. Top Dog Coffee Bar, 857 Main St., Morro Bay.

**SOCIAL SECURITY** This fast-paced, light-hearted comedy reminds us all we're never too old to redefine ourselves. Through July 10 my805tix.com. By The Sea Productions, 545 Shasta Ave., Morro Bay, 805-776-3287.

**SUCCULENTS AND DRIFTWOOD** Learn how easy it is to create with succulents. Choose from two sizes of round wreaths or make a garden sign using reclaimed wood, driftwood, and succulents. Care instructions are provided so your succulent projects thrive for a very long time. Preregistration required. **June 26**, 10 a.m.-noon Various. 805-286-5993. CreativeMeTime.com. Art Center Morro Bay, 835 Main St., Morro Bay.

PHOTO COURTESY OF THE OCEANO DEPOT ASSOCIATION



**HOT STUFF**  
JUNE 23 - JUNE 30  
2022

**SUIT UP**

The Oceano Train Depot's current WWII exhibition will remain on display through the end of June. The showcase features a collection of rare WWII memorabilia, including authentic military uniforms and equipment, acquired by local historian Mark Weedon. For more info on the exhibit, call (805) 489-5446 or email hguiton@aol.com. The Oceano Train Depot is located at 1650 Front St., Oceano.

—C.W.

**CULTURE & LIFESTYLE**

**SANTA YNEZ VALLEY**

**OLD SANTA YNEZ DAY AND RODEO** Celebratory events will be held in town. Historical Museum will offer free admission during Old Santa Ynez Day. Two-day rodeo held at corner of Meadowvale Road and Highway 246. **June 25** and **June 26** syvrodeo.com. Santa Ynez Valley Historical Museum, 3596 Sagunto St., Santa Ynez, 805-688-7889.

**SYV PRIDE** New Santa Barbara County nonprofit, SYV Pride, will host the first Pride celebration to grace the Santa Ynez Valley's various wine country towns. A multi-day event. Expect parties, a parade and festival, DJs, and Drag Brunch. Through June 26 Varies. 510-996-2212. syvpride.org/. Downtown Solvang, Citywide, Solvang.

**SANTA MARIA VALLEY/LOS ALAMOS**

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

**CENTRAL COAST AQUARIUM TIDEPOLS ON TOUR** The aquarium will bring Tidepools on Tour in mobile aquarium tanks. Live animals include crabs, sea stars, sea snails, and more. Come learn about life under water, off the beaten path. Space is limited. **June 30**, 2-4 p.m. 805-925-0994. engagedpatrons.org. Santa Maria Public Library (Altrusa Theater), 421 S. McClelland St., Santa Maria.

**CULTURE & LIFESTYLE** continued page 22

**DON'T LET YOUR FOOD GO TO WASTE!**



**HERE ARE SOME OF OUR FAVORITE TIPS:**

- **Know the expiration date!**
- **Put the foods with the shortest shelf life front and center and cook with those first.**
- **Freeze! Freezing our food can extend its shelf life by several days or even months.**
- **Don't forget about leftovers and food scraps. Try out a new recipe, and get creative with what you have.**

**Test your skills! Find these key food-waste prevention words:**

MEAL-PREP	DONATE	SHARE
BEST-BEFORE	FRUIT	VEGETABLE
EXPIRATION	SELL-BY	SHOPPING-LIST
PLAN	BULK	LEFTOVERS
FOODBANK	FREEZE	USE-BY

F N M E A L P R E P O K U Y R  
 Q P R N S I H H D O N A T E O  
 L S H A R E K R M B E R V R T  
 F Z T F R U I T S E E H E O E  
 X O B X N P K E W S J A G L X  
 R O O H I X O F A T V T E J P  
 T B G D T J R B R B M Y T C I  
 N U S E B Y A M C E W N A X R  
 P L A N Y A N J M F E F B Y A  
 I K R M R I N U L O M Z L G T  
 Y S U U O V E K V R S K E B I  
 L E F T O V E R S E K Z S X O  
 L X E V B H R S E L L B Y F N  
 K Y R S R E S R J O R Y P Q C  
 E S H O P P I N G L I S T Q J

**FOR MORE WASTE REDUCTION TIPS VISIT: www.LessIsMore.org**



**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.

**GOOD MORNING STORY TIME** Story time is designed to build literacy skills and school readiness, all while having a great time. This fun story time will have songs and stories. Tuesdays, Thursdays, 10 a.m. through Aug. 4 805-925-0994. engagedpatrons.org. Santa Maria Public Library (Altrusa Theater), 421 S. McClelland St., Santa Maria.

**NATIVE AMERICAN STORYTELLING** An exciting event with Native American storyteller Alan Salazar. Learn about the history of the Chumash culture and make a special craft. All ages welcome. **June 27**, 4 p.m. Free. 805-925-0994. cityofsantamaria.org/city-government/departments/library. Santa Maria Public Library, 421 S. McClelland St., Santa Maria.

**PRESCHOOL YOGA STORY TIME** Drop in for a morning of yoga with stories and breathing exercises. Children are introduced to mindfulness and will learn exercises to help regulate emotions. Space and supplies are limited. Yoga mats will be provided. Open to children ages 3 to 5 with caregivers. **June 24**, 11 a.m. 805-925-0994. engagedpatrons.org. Santa Maria Public Library (Altrusa Theater), 421 S. McClelland St., Santa Maria.

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

**STORY TIME FOR FAMILIES** Songs, activities, and stories in English and Spanish. Story time is designed to build literacy skills and school readiness, all while having a great time. Wednesdays, 3:30 p.m. through Aug. 3 805-925-0994. engagedpatrons.org. Santa Maria Public Library (Altrusa Theater), 421 S. McClelland St., Santa Maria.

**TECH HELP SATURDAYS** Schedule a one-on-one appointment for instruction on technology topics like setting-up new devices, installing apps, privacy best practices, and enjoying library e-resources at home. **June 25**, 11 a.m.-1 p.m. Free. 805-925-0994. cityofsantamaria.org. Santa Maria Public Library, 421 S. McClelland St., Santa Maria.

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

### SOUTH COAST SLO COUNTY

**ADULT AND KID CAMP AND RIDE** Offerings include horse boarding/people camping, trail riding, and a lot more. **June 23**, 9 a.m.-10 p.m., **June 24**, 9 a.m.-10 p.m. and **June 25**, 9 a.m.-10 p.m. \$25 per corral per night. 805-481-1665. facebook.com/groups/blackbearriders. Black Bear Equestrian Center, Lopez Drive, Arroyo Grande.

**ARROYO GRANDE'S CIVIL WAR GENERATION** Nearly sixty Civil War veterans are buried in Arroyo Grande. This tour, which repeats each Sunday in June, details their wartime experiences. Four fought at Gettysburg, one earned a Medal of Honor in 1864. Sundays, 2-3 p.m. through June 26 \$15. 805-546-3132. cuesta.edu/communityprograms. Arroyo Grande District Cemetery, 895 El Camino Real, Arroyo Grande.

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

**CENTRAL CORE WEEKEND WELLNESS FITNESS RETREAT: RESET AND RECHARGE** Take part in invigorating Pilates workouts, plus reset and recharge with healthy foods, smoothies and juices, hikes, an orchard tour, hot springs, and a multi-course dinner. The small event is open to everyone and all fitness levels. You don't need to be a member of Central Core studio. **June 25**, 10 a.m.-6 p.m. and **June 26**, 10 a.m.-1 p.m. \$325. 805-295-9505. centralcore.fitness. Central Core, 1160 Price Street, Pismo Beach.

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

**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.



## GOAT A GO GO

*Greener Pastures Farm Sanctuary in Arroyo Grande hosts its next Sanctuary Tour Day on Sunday, July 3, from noon to 2 p.m. Visitors will have the chance to meet the sanctuary's animals up close. The sanctuary residents include goats, horses, sheep, pigs, chicken, ducks, turkeys, and other animals. Admission is \$10. Call (805) 704-7327 or visit greenerpasturesanctuary.org for more info. The venue is located at 2148 S. Halcyon Road, Arroyo Grande.*

—C.W.

**VAIRFEST 2022** Hosted by Central Coast CORSA. Includes Car Show, Benefit Raffle, and Peoples-Choice Awards. Net proceeds will be donated to Hospice SLO County. **June 25**, 9 a.m.-3 p.m. Free to spectators; \$22 to enter a car. 805-481-5757. centralcostcorsa.org. Heritage Square Park, 201 Nelson St., Arroyo Grande.

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

### SAN LUIS OBISPO

**AMERICAN HEART ASSOCIATION (AHA) HEARTSAVER ADULT CPR/AED TRAINING** Learn lifesaving skills during this class from instructor Marcy A. Mullen, MSEd, MPH, PHDc. Price includes 2-year certification. Some topics covered: signs/symptoms of life-threatening cardiac and/or respiratory emergency; risks and benefits of an automated external defibrillator; and more. **June 25**, 1-5 p.m. \$40. 805-964-0997. Unitarian Universalist Fellowship Hall, 2201 Lawton Ave., San Luis Obispo.

**BDSM 101** This monthly class from the Central Coast Kink Community provides a basic overview of kink, consent, rules, and information to help practitioners be successful and safe. Attendees must be 18+ years of age. Virtually meets via Zoom. Fourth Friday of every month, 6-8 p.m. No admission. galacc.org/events/. 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 calhopecoconnect.org. Transitions Mental Health Warehouse, 784 High Street, San Luis Obispo, 805-270-3346.

**HEALING DEPRESSION SUPPORT GROUP** A safe place for anyone suffering from the pain of depression. We do not criticize but do share our journey, feelings, and what works for us. We can meet in person or use Zoom if needed. Mondays, 6-7 p.m. 805-528-3194. Hope House Wellness Center, 1306 Nipomo St., San Luis Obispo.

**INTRO TO REDSTONE LOGIC IN MINECRAFT** 1-week coding camp. Live, online. For ages 11-18. Beginners welcome **June 27**, 10 a.m.-noon \$499. 800-213-2417. codewizardshq.com/summer/. Online, See website, San Luis Obispo.

**MONTHLY TRANS\* THERAPY GROUP** Join our therapist led group for local trans\* community members. Please email therapists@galacc.org for a screening interview prior to your first group. Offers in-person and video-conferencing options. Sponsored by GALA Pride and Diversity Center and Tranz Central Coast. Fourth Monday of every month, 5:30-7 p.m. through June 28 805-762-4598. galacc.org/events/#calendar. GALA Pride and Diversity Center, 1060 Palm Street, San Luis Obispo.

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

**SLO BLUES BASEBALL** The Blues will compete against some of the highest-caliber teams and most sought after players in the country. Visit site for full schedule. Through Aug. 6 bluesbaseball.com. Sinsheimer Park, 900 Southwood Dr., San Luis Obispo, 805-781-7222.

**SUMMER BREAK SPORTS CAMP** Participants will learn and play a variety of different traditional and non-traditional sports throughout the five-week camp. Sports will include but not limited to soccer, volleyball, t-ball, softball, basketball, orienteering and leball. Through Aug. 11 \$120 per week. slacity.org. Laguna Middle School, 11050 Los Osos Valley Rd., San Luis Obispo, 805-596-4055.

**SUMMER SKATE CLINICS** Four-day sessions designed to help beginner and intermediate skaters learn new skills and utilize skate park terrain in a safe and supervised environment. **June 27-30** \$90. slacity.org. San Luis Obispo Skate Park, 1050 Oak St., San Luis Obispo.

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

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

**TRANS\* YOUTH PEER SUPPORT GROUP** This group is a safe place for trans\* and gender non-conforming people, as well as those questioning, from ages of 11 to 18. A facilitated emotional support group to be heard, share your story, and hear stories that may sound surprisingly like your

own. Fourth Tuesday of every month, 6-8 p.m. Free. GALA Pride and Diversity Center, 1060 Palm Street, San Luis Obispo, 805-541-4252.

### NORTH COAST SLO COUNTY

**JULY 4 WEEKEND: WATERFRONT MARKET MORRO BAY** This event is free to the public, and family and pet friendly. Come and see what the Central Coast has to offer you: a one-of-a-kind unique gift that you would not find anywhere else. **July 2-4**, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Free. 805-402-9437. Giovanni's Fish Market, 1001 Front St., Morro Bay.

## FOOD & DRINK

### SANTA YNEZ VALLEY

**KALYRA: PURCHASES AND -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.

### LOMPOC/VANDENBERG

**FOOD TRUCK FRIDAY** Every Friday evening through the summer. Grab some food and come enjoy it at COLD Coast Brewing, Lompoc's newest family-friendly gathering hall. Fridays, 5:30-8 p.m. through Aug. 19 Free. COLD Coast Brewing Company, 118 W Ocean Ave, Lompoc, 805-819-0723, coldcoastbrewing.com.

**HEAD GAMES TRIVIA AND TACO TUESDAYS CLASH** Don't miss Head Games Trivia at COLD Coast Brewing Company every Tuesday night. Teams can be up to 6 members. Earn prizes and bragging rights. Kekas will be serving their delicious local fare. Fun for all ages. Tuesdays, 7-9 p.m. Free. 805-819-0723. coldcoastbrewing.com. COLD Coast Brewing Company, 118 W Ocean Ave, Lompoc.

### SANTA MARIA VALLEY/LOS ALAMOS

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

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

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

### SAN LUIS OBISPO

**END OF PRIDE MONTH PARTY** Enjoy craft cocktails, curated treats, and dancing the night away. Proceeds support the Gala Pride and Diversity Center. **June 30**, 8 p.m. my805tix.com. Highwater, 1127 Broad St., San Luis Obispo, 805-439-1259.

**SLOW MONEY: 10TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION** Slow Money SLO is a nonprofit dedicated to assisting the sustainable growth of local food and farm businesses. This event showcases some of those local producers. Open to the public. **June 30**, 5-7 p.m. my805tix.com. Octagon Barn Center, 4400 Octagon Way, San Luis Obispo, (805) 544-9096.

## MUSIC

### SANTA YNEZ VALLEY

**33 THUNDER LIVE June 24**, 8:30 p.m. Maverick Saloon, 3687 Sagunto St., Santa Ynez, 805-686-4785, mavericksaloon.org.

**CARMEN AND THE RENEGADE VIGILANTES LIVE July 2**, 8:30 p.m. Maverick Saloon, 3687 Sagunto St., Santa Ynez, 805-686-4785, mavericksaloon.org.

**CHRIS JOHNSON AND THE HOLLYWOOD HILLBILLIES LIVE June 25**, 7:30 p.m. Maverick Saloon, 3687 Sagunto St., Santa Ynez, 805-686-4785, mavericksaloon.org.

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

**LIVEWIRE LIVE June 25**, 3:30 p.m. Maverick Saloon, 3687 Sagunto St., Santa Ynez, 805-686-4785, mavericksaloon.org.

**LOWDOWN DUDES LIVE June 25**, 2-6 p.m. Brick Barn Wine Estate, 795 W. Hwy 246, Buellton, 805-686-1208, brickbarnwineestate.com.

**SOFIA GUERRA WITH THE TIME TRAVELERS BAND June 25**, 12-2 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.

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### SANTA MARIA VALLEY/LOS ALAMOS

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

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

### SOUTH COAST SLO COUNTY

**JILL KNIGHT TRIO: LIVE AT THE LIGHTHOUSE** Enjoy some of the Central Coast's very finest musical talent performing on the area's most spectacular stage, perched high atop the blue Pacific Ocean. **June 25**, 2:50-3:30 p.m. my805tix.com. Point San Luis Lighthouse, 1 Lighthouse Rd., Avila Beach.

**A SUMMER OF LOVE CELEBRATION** There will be a '60s sing along, a performance from The One Mighty Light Choir, and the Unity Ukes, as well as poetry, stories, and dancing. **June 26-27**, 12:30-2 p.m. Donations accepted. unity5cities.org. Victorian Garden, 789 Valley Rd., Arroyo Grande. ○

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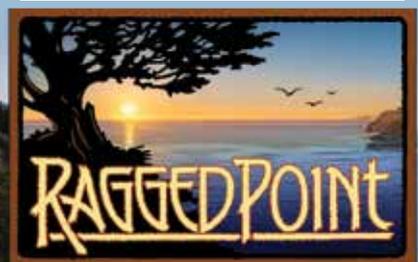
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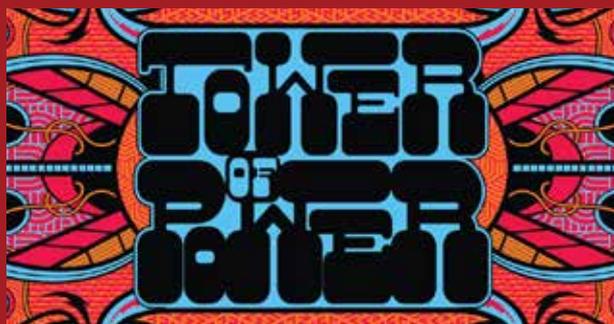
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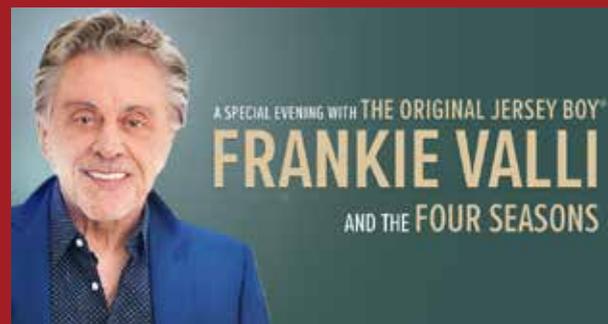
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## Arts Briefs

### Prolific artist Carlos Nieto III leads drawing workshop in Santa Maria

The Santa Maria Public Library will host its Teen Manga Drawing class in the Shepard Hall Art Gallery on Friday, June 24, starting at 5 p.m. Carlos Nieto III, who previously worked as a layout artist for *The Simpsons* and *King of the Hill*, will teach participants how to create and modify an anime character from scratch.

The upcoming class is open to teens with all levels of drawing experience. To find out more about the workshop, call (805) 925-0994 or email [librarychildren@cityofsantamaria.org](mailto:librarychildren@cityofsantamaria.org). Shepard Hall Art Gallery is located inside the Santa Public Library, at 421 S. McClelland St., Santa Maria.

### The Great American Melodrama presents a Western spoof, *Butch Cassidy and the Sunburnt Kid*

IMAGE COURTESY OF THE GREAT AMERICAN MELODRAMA



Thursday, June 23, marks the premiere of the Great American Melodrama's latest production, *Butch Cassidy and the Sunburnt Kid*, "a gut-busting parody filled with cowboys, jokes, and yokel locals," according to press materials.

Performances of the show are scheduled to run at the Oceano venue through Saturday, Aug. 6. The parody's plot follows protagonists Butch and Sundance, who find themselves hiding out in Oceano during their travels. The pair encounter several wacky characters during their stay, including Dr. Quien, Medicine Woman, and one of Butch's former rivals, Deadeye Dawson.

Each performance of *Butch Cassidy and the Sunburnt Kid* is followed by the Melodrama's newest iteration of its vaudeville revue, *Zoo Life*, which offers attendees "a behind-the-scenes look" at some animal residents of a local zoo.

Tickets to *Butch Cassidy and the Sunburnt Kid* are available at the door or online in advance at [americanmelodrama.com](http://americanmelodrama.com). Prices start at \$30. Discounts are available for seniors, students, and children. Performances of the show will be held Wednesday through Friday at 7 p.m. each evening, every Saturday at 2 and 7 p.m., and every Sunday at 6 p.m.

The Great American Melodrama's famous snack bar opens 30 minutes prior to show time, and reopens for two intermissions during each performance. Call (805) 489-2499 for more details. The Great American Melodrama is located at 1863 Front St., Oceano.

### Buttonwood Farm and Winery announces summer music lineup

Summer Sundays, a special weekly live music program, kicked off at Buttonwood Farm and Winery in June. Upcoming artists scheduled to perform include David Segall on Sunday, June 26, Shawn Jones on Sunday, July 10, and Will Breman on Sunday, July 17.

Visit [buttonwoodwinery.com](http://buttonwoodwinery.com) for more info on the music series. Buttonwood Farm is located at 1500 Alamo Pintado Road, Solvang. ☺

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

PHOTO COURTESY OF LIDA SIDERIS

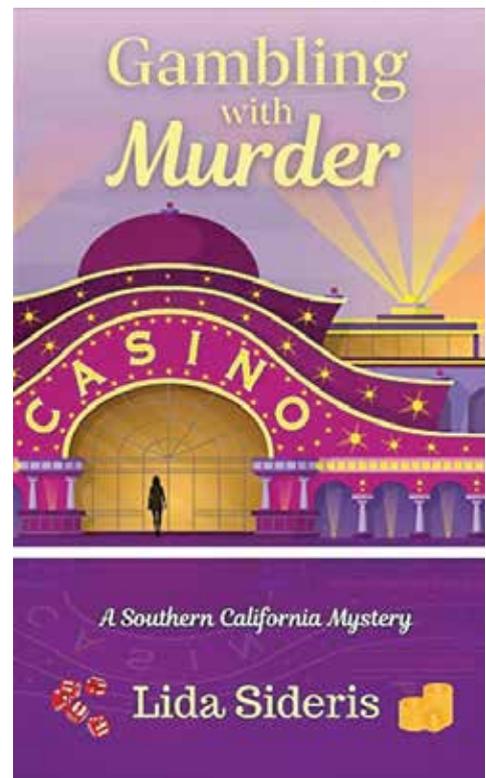


Showtime!

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



IMAGE COURTESY OF LIDA SIDERIS



**TAKE A CHANCE ON ME:** In Sideris' latest novel, *Gambling with Murder*, protagonist Corrie Locke investigates the disappearance of a retired politician, Dom Rosetti, in Santa Barbara. The book was released at the end of March.

## On thin dice

Local author Lida Sideris releases fifth mystery novel, *Gambling with Murder*

BY CALEB WISEBLOOD

While working full time as a lawyer, Lida Sideris relied on nights, weekends, and scattered pockets of spare time—usually in the form of 5 a.m. writing sessions—to finish her first novel.

Sideris released the passion project, *Murder and Other Unnatural Disasters*, in 2015. The book introduced readers to an adventurous protagonist, Corrie Locke, who, like Sideris, works as a lawyer by day.

But Locke doesn't spend her evenings writing prose. She moonlights as a private investigator.

"Corrie was entirely me in the first draft. I just kind of took a blueprint of myself and started writing—but it was so incredibly boring," Sideris said. "So I had to go back and I had to rewrite it so she wasn't me. I made her unpredictable. I made her have skills that I would never have, or wish I had."

Over the span of the next seven years, Sideris wrote four more books that follow Locke's tenacious heroics. *Gambling with Murder*, Sideris' newest entry in her ongoing mystery series, was released at the end of March.

While many aspects of Locke's character remain loosely based on Sideris' own traits, the Santa Ynez author gave her plucky heroine a very particular set of skills—as Liam Neeson's *Taken* character might call it—to make her the ultimate sleuth.

"She's smart, she's accomplished, she's fearless. There's pretty much nothing she can't do when it comes to catching a criminal or case cracking," said Sideris, who often appreciates the escapism of writing fiction. "And that was a lot of fun for me because on the page you can do that stuff, and no one's going to get hurt. It's a lot better than me going out there and attempting to do anything like that."

### Reading rooms

Lida Sideris' books are available locally at the Book Loft, located at 1680 Mission Drive, Solvang, and Barnes and Noble, located at 894 Marsh St., building G, San Luis Obispo. Visit [lidasideris.com](http://lidasideris.com) to find out more about the local author.

One of the skills Sideris gave Locke was a mastery of various weapons, including guns. Sideris had never shot a gun before, but she wanted to see what it felt like before attempting to describe the feeling in her debut novel.

"Most importantly, I wanted to know what it smelled like. I used that in the first book—it smelled like someone lit a thousand candles," said Sideris, who found the scent she was looking for at a local shooting range.

"I do sometimes try to do things myself, or at least try to visualize myself doing it to the extent that I can, so I get a feel for what she [Locke] might be doing," Sideris said. "I have tried lock-picking too, I can do that to a certain degree—not like her though."

During her latest adventure in *Gambling with Murder*, Locke investigates the disappearance of a retired politician, Dom Rosetti. In order to infiltrate Rosetti's residence within a posh retirement community for senior citizens in Santa Barbara, Locke employs her mother to go undercover and live among Rosetti's neighbors.

Sideris said the character is not based on her own mom but feels like an amalgamation of people she's met.

"Everybody is inspired by somebody," said Sideris, who teams Locke up with a handful of different sidekicks throughout the five books.

Some members of the author's supporting cast are based on friends and acquaintances, while others were inspired by celebrities or random individuals "I've just had a brush with," Sideris said.

Zachary Levi, the star of *Shazam!* and *Chuck*, checked both of those boxes.

"I happened to run into him accidentally in Westwood Village," Sideris, an avid *Chuck* fan, recalled. "I just saw him standing in line in front of a Starbucks."

Sideris later based Locke's best friend and love interest, Michael, on her impression of Levi.

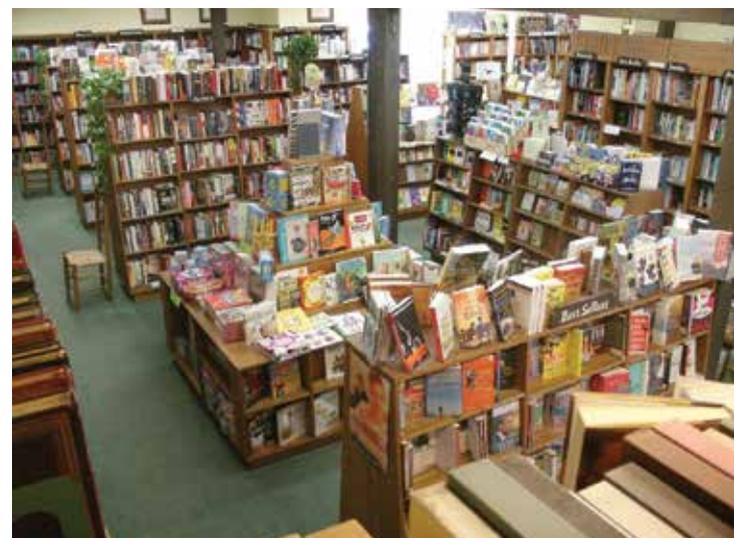
"He was so kind. He just seemed like a wonderful, wonderful person," Sideris said.

Although *Gambling with Murder* is the fifth in Sideris' series, the author said the book is accessible enough for readers to jump into without reading the previous entries.

"I don't think you need to read the rest of them, but you're welcome to," Sideris said. "I definitely write them as stand-alones." ○

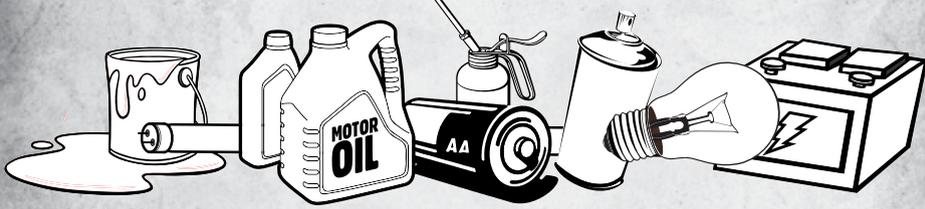
Arts Editor Caleb Wiseblood is always in line at Starbucks. Send comments to [cwiseblood@santamariasun.com](mailto:cwiseblood@santamariasun.com).

FILE PHOTO COURTESY OF THE BOOK LOFT



**LOFTY LIBRARY:** Central Coast locals can find copies of Lida Sideris' new novel, *Gambling with Murder*, at the Book Loft (pictured) in Solvang, as well as Barnes and Noble in downtown SLO.

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## The great beyond

**B**uzz Lightyear (voiced by Chris Evans), a tenacious space ranger, teams up with a ragtag team of rookies to defeat a vicious army of robots, led by the mysterious Zurg (voiced by James Brolin). (100 min.)

**Editor's note:** New Times Staff Writer Bulbul Rajagopal and Arts Editor Caleb Wiseblood filled in for regular reviewers Glen and Anna Starkey.

**Caleb:** The first frame of *Lightyear* casually informs the audience that we're about to watch a movie within a movie. The Buzz Lightyear we all know from *Toy Story* is a Tim Allen-voiced action figure based on the hero of a 1995 outer space spectacle—the one we're about to experience for ourselves, 27 years after its fictional release date. But *Lightyear* doesn't always feel like a product of the '90s, although it's littered with references to the era. My favorite nod is a shot of Buzz trying to fix a Nintendo-esque cartridge by blowing on it, which millennials will remember works every time. But the film's plot reminded me more of 2014's *Interstellar* than any sci-fi movie I grew up watching. *Lightyear* opens with its titular space ranger and a fleet of his peers stranded on a strange planet. The crew's main ship is severely damaged, and it needs an experimental hyperspace fuel in order to operate again. Buzz tasks himself with attempting to reach hyperspace speed with a smaller rocket several times, but at a cost. Each time Buzz returns from a failed attempt, all of his peers have aged about four years, while he doesn't age at all. Buzz is determined to continue the mission though, and gradually watches as his friends and neighbors grow decades older than him, with some heartbreaking results. If that sounds heavy for a Pixar movie, just remember how the opening 10 minutes of both *Finding Nemo* and *Up* made you feel.

**Bulbul:** I didn't have high hopes for this movie at all. I went in wondering who this movie was made for. The Toy Story movies

perfectly aligned with my growing-up years, and I thought *Lightyear* waited too long to come out to be a hit with people my age and older or with kids. But boy, am I glad to be wrong! The movie's packed with well-timed, smart jokes and just the right amount of nostalgia. Plus, if your kids are too young to grasp the greatness of *Top Gun: Maverick*, take them to watch this instead. Buzz Lightyear and Pete "Maverick" Mitchell could very well be two sides of the same coin. The '80s and '90s are back—what a great time to go to the movies again. Evans fits as the new voice of Buzz—he does have experience playing a do-gooder Marvel crusader, after all. We also get to see Buzz paired with a robotic cat (voiced by Peter Sohn), and a cobbled-together team of misfits voiced by Taika Waititi, Keke Palmer, and Dale Soules. They must find a way to work together, complete an ever-delayed mission, and get home. But will Buzz's pride, guilt, and disdain for rookies stand in their way? Big themes for a kids' movie, but there's that poignant Pixar touch.

### LIGHTYEAR

What's it rated? **PG**  
 What's it worth, Bulbul? **Full price**  
 What's it worth, Caleb? **Full price**  
 Where's it showing?  
**Regal Edwards Santa Maria & RPX, Movies Lumpoc, Regal Arroyo Grande**

**Caleb:** Evans does sound like he's having a lot of fun in the role. I'll personally always prefer Allen's voice as Buzz, but Evans was a great choice for this iteration of the iconic astronaut. Having said that, I can't imagine another actor trying to fill Tom Hanks' shoes—or should I say, boots—if Pixar decided to give Woody the *Lightyear* treatment. And why stop there? *Lightyear* could open the floodgates for an entire Toy Story cinematic universe. I would love to see Mr. Potato Head, Bo Peep, Rex, and Slink get their own stand-alone flicks someday. Until then, I'll have to make do with Buzz's solo outing, which I'm not complaining about. Like many Pixar films (I can't vouch for the few I've missed over the years), *Lightyear* is full of humor, heart, and childlike wonderment but never feels like it was only made with kids in mind. If I was stranded on a deserted planet, the Pixar movie I would want with me is *Monsters Inc.*, but *Lightyear* is a solid addition to the studio's pantheon.



**A DIFFERENT KIND OF BUZZ:** Chris Evans voices the iconic space ranger, Buzz Lightyear, in Pixar's latest animated adventure, *Lightyear*.

**Bulbul:** *Lightyear* sure did seem like a hit with the crowd at the Downtown SLO theater. Kids, parents, and senior citizens alike laughed and cheered throughout. They even clapped at the end—it's definitely been a while since I've seen that, and I go to the movies a lot. Speaking of ends, don't get up and leave immediately. There's not one but two post-credits scenes. *Lightyear's* premise is fresh. It's pitched as the movie that launched little Andy's (from the Toy Story series) love for the space ranger and his toy counterpart. I can totally see why. I think every kid who enjoyed *Toy Story* wanted to be Andy in a way because he had talking toys. By watching *Lightyear*, you kinda get to be Andy for a bit because you get to imagine what he must have felt when he viewed it. If I were one of those kids in the movie theater, I'd totally pester my mom to get me a Buzz Lightyear action figure as soon as the lights went on. ○

*New Times Staff Writer Bulbul Rajagopal and Arts Editor Caleb Wiseblood wrote Sun Screen this week. Send comments to gstarkey@newtimesll.com.*

## Film & TV Reviews

### THE CAT RETURNS

What's it rated? **G** When? **2002**  
 Where's it showing? **Downtown Centre of SLO (Sunday, June 26, at 3 p.m.), Regal Edwards Santa Maria & RPX (Sunday, June 26, at 3 and 7 p.m.), HBO Max**

I think most fans of *The Princess Bride* will immediately recognize Cary Elwes' distinct voice at the start of *The Cat Returns*. Elwes plays the Baron, a gentlemanly, humanized cat who often sports a top hat, suit, and bowtie. As the film's title suggests, *The Cat Returns* is not the Baron's first rodeo in the land of Studio Ghibli—the brand responsible for *Princess Mononoke*, *Spirited Away*, and countless other classics. Elwes originated the role in *Whisper of the Heart* in 1995, which just happens to be my all-time favorite Ghibli film. During his first adventure in *Whisper of the Heart*, the Baron exists purely within the imagination of the film's human protagonist. But *The Cat Returns* provides the Baron with a fully realized world of his own, full of enchantment and other anthropomorphic felines, one of whom is brought to life by the deliciously devilish Tim Curry. In celebration of its 20th anniversary, *The Cat*



**THE CAT CAME BACK:** Cary Elwes voices the Baron, a walking, talking cat, in Studio Ghibli's 2002 animated fantasy, *The Cat Returns*.

**BLAST FROM THE PAST**

*Returns* is briefly screening in select theaters across the country. It's also currently available on HBO Max. (90 min)

—Caleb

### OBI-WAN KENOBI

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

### BINGEABLE

After *The Mandalorian* bowled over viewers, Disney seems to have found comfortable success with a set formula: last-of-his-kind aging warrior is forced to journey with a precocious child and learns lessons along the way. This trope is at the center of limited series *Obi-Wan Kenobi* too, and it works wonderfully. Set 10 years after *Star Wars: Revenge of the Sith*, Jedi Master Obi-Wan Kenobi struggles with the loss of his apprentice Anakin Skywalker who has become the ruthless Darth Vader. While Kenobi stakes out the planet Tatooine to watch over Luke Skywalker, he is assigned to rescue Anakin's daughter, Leia, after Jedi hunters kidnap her. It's easy to binge and a blast to watch, especially with Ewan McGregor and Hayden Christensen reprising their roles as Kenobi and Vader, respectively. The rest of the cast is a fun gallery too. Watch out for Benny Safdie (co-director of *Uncut Gems*), Flea (Red Hot Chili Peppers bassist), and a Zach Braff voiceover, among others. Vivien Lyra Blair delivers a charming punch as little Leia Skywalker. *Obi-Wan Kenobi* is a six-episode limited series that has



**HOMECOMING:** Ewan McGregor reprises his role as the titular Jedi master in *Obi-Wan Kenobi*, streaming on Disney Plus.

quickly won fans' approval, with many wondering if it'll return for a second season. There are no plans for more yet, unfortunately, but it's a welcome reprieve from the blandness that was *The Book of Boba Fett!* (six 36- to 53-min. episodes) ○

—Bulbul

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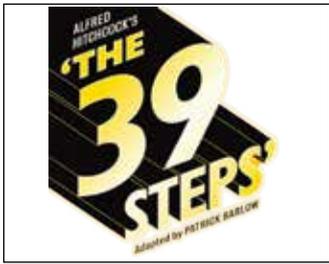
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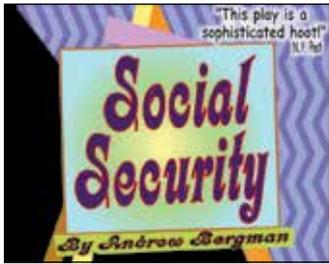
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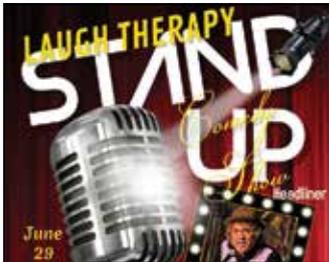
**SLO Funny Comedy Show**  
SATURDAY, JUNE 25  
Veterans Memorial Building,  
Morro Bay



**Live at the Lighthouse:**  
**Jill Knight Trio**  
SATURDAY, JUNE 25  
Point San Luis Lighthouse, Avila Beach



**Tied+True: Knot & Sip: Macramé  
Plant Hanger Workshop**  
SUNDAY, JUNE 26  
Timshel Vineyards, Paso Robles



**Laugh Therapy  
Stand-Up Comedy Show**  
WEDNESDAY, JUNE 29  
Maverick Saloon, Santa Ynez



**vs. Orange County Riptide** JUNE 29  
**vs. Conejo Oaks** FRI, JULY 1  
**vs. SB Foresters** SAT, JULY 2  
Sinsheimer Park, San Luis Obispo



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



**End of Pride Month Party  
at Highwater**  
THURSDAY, JUNE 30  
Highwater, San Luis Obispo



**Santa Maria Civic Theatre  
2022-2023 Membership**  
JULY 1, 2022-JUNE 30, 2023  
Santa Maria Civic Theatre



**46 West Wineries  
Block Party**  
SATURDAY, JULY 2  
Dark Star Cellars, Paso Robles



**Camp Cass: Paint & Sip  
with Art Social**  
SUN, JULY 3 & FRI, JULY 15  
Cass Winery, Paso Robles



**vs. Arroyo Seco Saints** JULY 3  
**vs. SB Foresters** JULY 5  
**vs. Conejo Oaks** JULY 6  
Sinsheimer Park, San Luis Obispo



**4th of July  
Pancake Breakfast**  
MONDAY, JULY 4  
Avila Beach Community Center



**4th of July  
Doggie Parade**  
MONDAY, JULY 4  
Avila Beach Promenade



**Cass Winery 4th of July Bash  
with Joy Bonner Band**  
MONDAY, JULY 4  
Cass Winery, Paso Robles



**vs. Orange County Riptide** JULY 7  
**vs. Lincoln Potters** JULY 8 & 9  
**vs. Walnut Creek Crawdads** JULY 10  
Sinsheimer Park, San Luis Obispo



**Live at the Lighthouse:  
Upside Ska**  
SATURDAY, JULY 9  
Point San Luis Lighthouse, Avila Beach



**Melted:  
Summer Edition**  
SATURDAY, JULY 9  
Bliss Restaurant, San Luis Obispo



**Tiny Porch Concerts: Rachel  
Baiman with Victoria Bailey**  
SUNDAY, JULY 10  
Peter Strauss Ranch, Agoura Hills



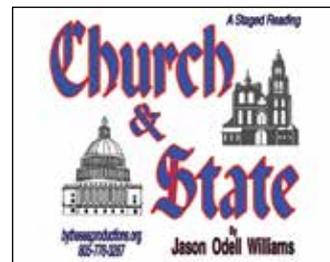
**Cambria Concerts Unplugged:  
Zongo All-Stars**  
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**Barrel Room Concert:  
Back Pages Band**  
SUNDAY, JULY 17  
Cass Winery, Paso Robles



**By the Sea Productions:  
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FRI, SAT, SUN, JULY 22, 23, 24  
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**POWER COUPLE:** Eric McDaniel (left)—who has worked on and off for Giovanni's since 1999—and his wife, Brittany Jones-McDaniel (right), became the new owners of the local pizzeria at the beginning of June.



**SUPER SALAD:** Alongside various pizza offerings, Giovanni's expansive menu features salads, sandwiches, pasta, and several kinds of appetizers, including Buffalo wings and jalapeño poppers.

# Pizza parlay

Longtime Giovanni's employee Eric McDaniel becomes the Orcutt pizzeria's new owner

**BY CALEB WISEBLOOD**

Eric McDaniel was 18 when he started his first job, working in the kitchen of Giovanni's Pizza in Orcutt. Could he have predicted owning the joint about two decades later?

"It kind of is a little bit of a dream come true," said McDaniel, who bought the pizzeria with his wife, Brittany Jones-McDaniel, in early June.

McDaniel has worked for the restaurant on and off over the past 23 years. He'd always been interested in owning his own pizza place someday, so he jumped at the chance to buy Giovanni's when he found out its former owners were selling.

"It's just fun. It's always been my favorite job. People love pizza," McDaniel said. "I've kind of always been here, in one form or another."

McDaniel was born in North Dakota and was 4 months old when his family moved to the Central Coast.

"This is home for me. I grew up over on Rice Ranch Road, basically down the street from Giovanni's," said McDaniel, who graduated from Righetti High

School in 1999, the same year he started working for the pizzeria.

McDaniel credits his brother, Chad, with getting him the job.

"My brother was one of the first employees when the place opened in '94," McDaniel said. "He started off as a dishwasher."

McDaniel said he initially felt both excited and anxious to work for his brother, who was a manager by the time the 18-year-old started.

"I didn't want to let him down," McDaniel said. "I was nervous, but also a little at ease because I kind of had him to fall back on, you know? And it wasn't like I didn't know anybody else. I already knew a handful of people because I would come in a lot with my brother."

McDaniel started in the kitchen and gradually took on several other duties at the restaurant over time.

"I slowly started picking up every little part of the job," said McDaniel, who would take orders at the front counter and even drive for deliveries when the pizzeria got super busy. "Even though I was a cook, I would kind of do whatever was needed, really."

McDaniel worked for Giovanni's for about five years before leaving to take on a full-time pre-wiring job with Dish Network. But he eventually returned to pick up part-time hours for extra money while still working full time for Dish, and later for DirecTV.

"It basically turned into a second

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full-time job because I just kept getting more and more hours," said McDaniel, who would pick up late shifts at the pizzeria five to six nights a week.

As the restaurant's new owner, McDaniel is excited to implement some ideas he's had brewing in his head for awhile.

"I've seen it [Giovanni's] through highs and lows, and I've seen what works and what doesn't work," McDaniel said. "I kind of feel like I have a pretty good idea of what the place needs and what people are looking for. And I'm hoping it all works out. So far, so good."

McDaniel is in the process of installing 12 TVs all around the dining area, to help get more of a sports theme going on at Giovanni's.

"I want to have TVs everywhere," McDaniel said. "No matter where you're sitting, you can always see a TV."

One thing that will remain a constant at the pizzeria is the food itself, McDaniel explained.

"The food's not changing. People love the food. I love the food. If anything, I've got some ideas I'll just add on," McDaniel said. "We used to have calzones, I want to bring calzones back. We used to have dessert pizzas, I want to bring dessert pizzas back."

"There are just a number of things I want to get back in which I know were good sellers." ○

*Arts Editor Caleb Wiseblood had his college graduation party at Giovanni's. Send pepperoni slices and arcade tokens to [cwiseblood@santamariasun.com](mailto:cwiseblood@santamariasun.com).*



**ORCUTT STAPLE:** Giovanni's Pizza opened in Orcutt in 1994, the same year new owner Eric McDaniel's brother, Chad, started working at the pizzeria. Five years later, McDaniel started working for the restaurant too.



**UNCUT GEM:** New owner Eric McDaniel has a handful of new ideas for Giovanni's, but one thing that will remain a constant at the restaurant, for the most part, is the food. "The food's not changing. People love the food. I love the food. If anything, I've got some ideas I'll just add on," he said.

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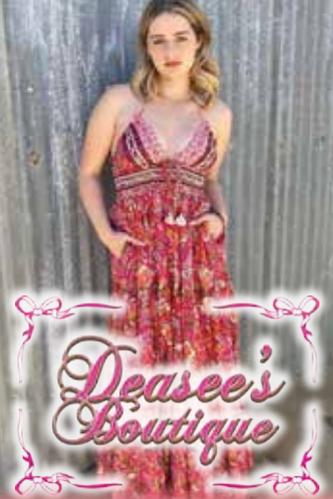
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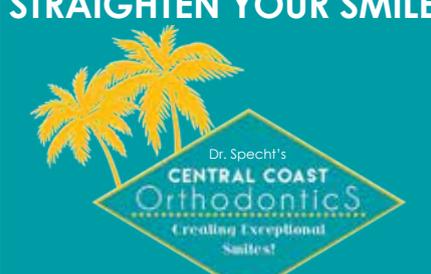
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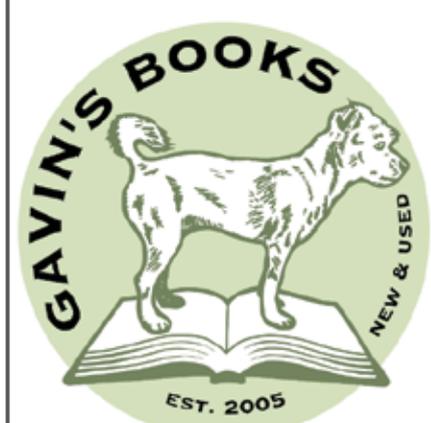
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