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Sun

AT THE MOVIES



Elvis: Fabulous [22]



Waiting for wheels

The nonprofit delivering meals and more to Santa Ynez Valley's seniors struggles with increased demand and inflation [6]

BY TAYLOR O'CONNOR

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By the end of the pandemic, the organization providing the Santa Ynez Valley's Meals on Wheels had more than doubled the number of meals it was cooking, serving up, and delivering daily. The Buellton Senior Center expanded the services it was providing to the community and change its name to reflect that. Now called Santa Ynez Valley Community Outreach, the nonprofit is struggling to keep up with rising costs and demand and has asked the county for help. Staff Writer Taylor O'Connor speaks with both to learn more about what's needed [6].

You can also read about the local reaction to the Supreme Court's *Roe v. Wade* decision [4]; a Lompoc artist who takes us to the beach for a breather [20]; and the local wine featured on a new AMC show [23].

Camillia Lanham
editor



LEFTOVERS: Santa Ynez Valley Community Outreach tries to include extra produce or groceries with the meals it serves to seniors.

Cover photo courtesy of Santa Ynez Valley Community Outreach > Cover design by Alex Zuniga

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Political Watch

• U.S. Sen. **Alex Padilla** (D-California) recently introduced legislation to help the homelessness and growing substance abuse crises, according to the senator's office. The Coordinating Substance Use and Homelessness Care Act of 2022 would create a grant program under the **U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development** (HUD) to support culturally competent, trauma-informed substance use disorder and homelessness services. "With over half a million people in our country experiencing homelessness, and about 1 in 5 of them having substance abuse or mental health disorders, we must work to better coordinate resources for this vulnerable population," Padilla said in a statement. The legislation would establish a HUD grant program to award five-year of up to \$500,000 grants to eligible entities to improve services. Activities can include appointing a coordinator to oversee the overlap in services, improving systems infrastructure, improving technologies, helping with Medicaid enrollment, and increasing the availability of naloxone. The bill was previously introduced in the U.S. House of Representatives by Congresswoman **Madeleine Dean** (D-Pennsylvania), who also wanted to see more support systems in place after her own experience. "My son's experience battling substance use disorder helped me further understand the importance of reducing barriers and streamlining critical supportive services to prevent relapse and strengthen the recovery journey. I look forward to working with Sen. Padilla on this crucial legislation," Dean said in a statement.

• President **Joe Biden** signed a gun safety package into law on June 26 that included a proposal put forward by U.S. Rep. **Salud Carbajal** (D-Santa Barbara), which will expand the use of "red flag" laws, according to the congressman's office. The Bipartisan Safer Communities Act includes multiple provisions to reduce gun deaths and keep communities safe, including putting \$750 million aside for states to create and administer red flag laws and other measures that can keep guns out of the hands of those who are deemed to be a threat to themselves or others. Other pieces in the legislation include adding convicted domestic violence abusers in dating relationships to the national background check system, banning gun trafficking, enhancing background checks for those under 21 years old, and funding anti-violence community initiatives. "These measures will make a real difference in keeping our communities safe. Better implementation of red flag laws, which have been shown to work in California and elsewhere, will complement the strengthened background check and purchase oversight included in this measure," Carbajal said in a statement. "There is still work to be done, but I am confident that it will not be another 30 years before Congress can make additional progress to curb gun deaths and protect our children."

• After the **U.S. Supreme Court's** decision to overturn *Roe v. Wade*, Gov. **Gavin Newsom**, Oregon Gov. **Kate Brown**, and Washington state Gov. **Jay Inslee** launched a new, multi-state commitment to defend access to reproductive health care and protect patients and providers, according to Newsom's office. "The Supreme Court has made it clear—they want to strip women of their liberty and let Republican states replace it with mandated birth because the right to choose an abortion is not 'deeply rooted in history,'" Newsom said in a statement. Newsom also proposed a \$125 million reproductive health care package to expand access for women and help prepare for the influx of women seeking reproductive care from other states. The state **Legislature** has also introduced a constitutional amendment to enshrine abortion rights in the state constitution. "They want to turn back the clock to a time when women had no right to make decisions about their own bodies, when women had to seek care in the shadows and at great danger, when women were not treated as equal citizens under the law. This is another devastating step toward erasing the rights and liberties Americans have fought for on battlefields, in courthouses, and in capitols. This is not the America we know—and it's not the California way," Newsom said. ○

'Vote,' local pro-choice advocates say in wake of *Roe v. Wade* decision

It felt like a "gut punch" when Pam Gates heard that the U.S. Supreme Court overturned *Roe v. Wade*—a 1973 ruling that said women had the constitutional right to an abortion—after 50 years of standing.

"Now it's [about asking] 'Where do we go from here? How do we unite? How do we protect what rights we have in California?'" the longtime community activist and volunteer for the Santa Maria Valley Women's March said.

The Women's March hosted a vigil after the decision was announced on June 24. People protested in the streets, and individuals shared their own experiences with abortions, Gates told the *Sun* on June 26.

"People actually felt the need to share some stories, and we ended up having an open mic for 45 minutes and sat with all the stories told. It reinforces the understanding that this is not a frivolous decision. It impacts the woman's and man's life," she said. "The depth of anger and all the other emotions shows to me that people are getting [the] need to pay attention, to vote, and to understand all the candidates."

California voters will have a lot of important decisions to make in November, and people need to educate themselves on all candidates' priorities and goals, Gates said. Along with selecting representatives at all levels, voters will also see a state Constitutional amendment to explicitly protect a person's right to an abortion added to their ballots, according to Gov. Gavin Newsom's office.

In addition, Newsom signed an executive order on June 27 to further protect women coming to California from states that have restricted abortion access. The order prevents state agencies and departments from sharing any information—including medical records and patient data—in response to inquiries from states with restricted access.

Luz Reyes-Martín, Planned Parenthood of California Central Coast's vice president of community engagement, said these actions are crucial because many California abortion laws still reference the constitutional right to privacy and *Roe v. Wade*.

"There was quite a lot of work on the state side to meet this moment and have California as the reproductive freedom state. We [at Planned Parenthood] are going to do everything we can to care for people who need access to abortion care," Reyes-Martín said.

The state formed the California Future of Abortion Council after several waves of anti-abortion laws were passed in other states. The council includes representation from many reproductive rights groups—such as Planned Parenthood—physicians, and legal scholars who met between September and December 2021 to discuss state abortion access, she explained.

"They released a report with over 40 recommendations to prepare and double down to ensure access in California," Reyes-Martín said. "From December to now, that has turned into budget requests and legislation that's moved through the Legislature."

At the local level, Planned Parenthood hired more staff and opened new Central Coast locations in preparation for an anticipated influx in patients from out-of-state after Texas passed SB 8—an abortion ban after six weeks of pregnancy.



ANGER AND ACTIVISM: Several Santa Maria residents attended the Santa Maria Valley Women's March vigil to protest and hear stories from fellow community members.

Although she didn't have data or numbers to share, she did say that Central Coast locations have seen an increase in out-of-state patients since then and are expecting numbers to grow.

"The way you can try to think about it is: We are putting this on 24 states to take on the health care needs of 26 other states. We expect 26 states will be poised to move very quickly," she explained. "We are now talking about 36 million women and more people who can become pregnant who are very quickly finding themselves in a state where they can't access care."

For people looking to get involved, Reyes-Martín suggested people volunteer at their local Planned Parenthood, the Santa Maria Valley Women's March, and donate to abortion funds, along with voting in the general election.

"We have a very involved and active electorate on the Central Coast but we had a low turnout [during primaries], and we have a big election coming in November," Reyes-Martín said. "It's so important to vote in every election, every race, every time."

—Taylor O'Connor

Lompoc reluctantly renews animal services contract with county

Without ample time to explore alternative options, most members of the Lompoc City Council felt obligated to accept a new five-year contract with the city's current animal services provider, Santa Barbara County.

The City Council's decision to sign the contract on June 21 wasn't unanimous, and all five members expressed their mutual frustration with continuing the partnership.

"I think we're being blackmailed with substandard services, and we don't have anything else to lean on unless we go around and do our homework there," Councilmember Victor Vega said during the City Council's June 21 meeting. "We're going to continue with substandard services because we don't have the facilities or the infrastructure, or even have any kind of agreements with other service providers."

During its May 17 meeting, the council questioned the projected annual rates included in the county's multi-year proposal. The estimated cost for county-provided animal services during the 2022-23 fiscal year is \$347,260, which is

expected to increase 1.6 to 4.1 percent each year over the next five years.

Without an operational animal shelter in Lompoc, Councilmember Dirk Starbuck argued that the city shouldn't have to pay "roughly \$30,000 a month" for animal services that residents have to drive to Santa Maria for.

City staff was directed to return with information on alternative animal service options. Erin Keller, Lompoc's Senior Administrative Analyst, discussed alternatives during the June 21 meeting, but explained that each route would take about one to two years for the city to transition into.

Councilmember Gilda Cordova used air quotes to express her frustration with the options presented and criticized city staff for not looking into the issue sooner.

"I don't look at these options as options because we're given these 'options' on the last meeting in June when we are a week and a half away from having to make a decision on this and having to sign a five-year contract," Cordova said. "My position on this is I'm more frustrated about the conversation than the lack of services from the county, because we spent the first half of

the year on minimal council agendas, not much was being presented to the council, and yet we're told today that we need to make a decision and provide direction."

Before voting on whether or not to accept the county's five-year contract, Lompoc City Attorney Jeff Malawy warned council members that if the city doesn't "enter into the agreement with the county, then we're not going to have the animal services that are required by law starting on July 1."

"We're caught over a barrel to sign this and not lose service that we do have, but I think it's important that we not lose service while we figure this out," Mayor Jenelle Osborne said. "I disagree with how the county has handled this and I disagree with the service level we're getting, but I think what we have been provided tonight is a window. ... We know that we have five years to come up with another plan. Hopefully, we can do it within a year or two."

The Lompoc City Council agreed to accept the new contract, after a 4-1 vote, with Cordova dissenting.

—Caleb Wiseblood

Candidates announce Santa Maria City Council campaigns

After living in Santa Maria for 38 years and serving as an elected city official for eight, Etta Waterfield's stepping down from from her seat on the Santa Maria City Council to retire and move to Montana.

City Planning Commissioner Maribel Aguilera-Hernandez is running to take her place as a candidate for the 4th District seat in the upcoming November elections, Waterfield said.

"Maribel is a very commonsense planning commissioner who understands the issues of Santa Maria, and she will be an excellent replacement," she added.

Aguilera-Hernandez said she's spent her entire professional career serving Santa Maria. Prior to her eight years as a planning commissioner, she worked for the North County Rape Crisis Center, Future Leaders of America, and the Legal Aid Foundation—where she worked as an attorney later in her career.

"Through my various positions, I just became more interested in the local issues and then I was



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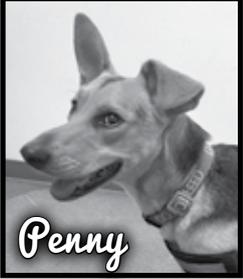
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NEWS

NEWS from page 4

asked to be on the Planning Commission where I learned more. I think [City Council] is the next step to serving my community," she said.

The Santa Maria native was scheduled to announce her campaign on June 30 at Rotary Centennial Park, and told the *Sun* her priorities included public safety, youth programs, economic development, and housing.

"I think that Santa Maria's been seen as a small city and treated that way for a long time. But we have 110,000 residents—which is the size of Ventura. We need to start treating our problems like big city problems and we need to start attacking our issues that way," Aguilera-Hernandez said.

If elected, she'd like to see the police department's 10 percent vacancy rate decrease, work with community members to hear their safety-related concerns, continue to develop the youth programs already in place, and get more housing in the city to further economic development.

"We need to attract developers to come and build housing in order to address the shortage [by] making it easier to go through the housing process. Sitting on the Planning Commission, we hear from the developers [that] the process can be quite rigorous," Aguilera-Hernandez explained.

Housing's also a top campaign priority for 3rd District City Councilmember Gloria Soto—whose running for reelection this year. However, her approach focuses on affordable housing, not just increased development.

"I envision our community to be one that has plentiful affordable housing units and I'd like for us as a local

government to look into increasing our rental assistance program," Soto said. "I'm continuing my efforts on seeing we, as a city, implement an affordable inclusionary housing ordinance."

She explained that she's seen other communities use this ordinance to ensure that a set percentage of new development is under fair market value to help people find affordable homes.

"We can't talk about unaffordability without talking about living wage jobs. To continue my efforts on living wages, I will be championing a community workforce agreement program, [which] will allow us to create economic development opportunities for residents and businesses in the city," Soto added.

The agreement program will ensure with any development project that the company hires local residents at a "prevailing wage," she explained.

Along with housing and economics, Soto's other priorities include supporting local businesses at the city level, and providing affordable child care by setting aside 5 percent of the city's general fund to pay for more programs.

"My platform stems from my concerns and the concerns my residents share with me," Soto said. "I want to make sure we continue to push our local government in creating and expanding safety nets for those who are most vulnerable. When our most vulnerable thrive, all of Santa Maria thrives."

Residents in both the 3rd and 4th Districts

can still decide to run for City Council during the city's nomination period beginning July 18 and ending Aug. 12. Visit cityofsantamaria.org for more information. ○

-Taylor O'Connor

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Meals losing wheels

Inflation and increased demand impacts a Santa Ynez Valley-based food service program serving seniors and families in need

BY TAYLOR O'CONNOR

Stacy McNabb cooks 400 meals a day. Five days a week, she plans, prepares, and plates food that will get loaded into cars, and make its way to the doors of people—primarily seniors—who are in need or live below the poverty line.

"Sometimes we're the only people seniors see. We are their lifelines," McNabb said. "If we didn't feed them, they probably wouldn't eat."

McNabb works as a chef for Santa Ynez Valley Community Outreach's—formerly known as the Buellton Senior Center—Meals on Wheels program. She orders the food, creates the menus, and ensures it's nutritionally balanced for vulnerable, community members.

"I'm doing a lot of work, and it's stressful," she said. "I'm a chef and made more money working elsewhere, [but] I took a large cut in pay to do this because I believe in this. It feels good to give back to the community, because if we don't who will?"

Before the pandemic, McNabb and her staff made 195 to 200 meals a day. Then the virus came, forcing seniors to stay in their homes and causing Meals on Wheels demand to spike.

"It's been really difficult because we are short-staffed—with one part-timer, one full-timer, and myself—and putting out 400 meals a day," McNabb said.

Santa Ynez Valley Community Outreach is now feeling the sting of supply chain issues, increased demand, and spiking inflation, Chief Executive Officer Pam Gnekow said. To continue serving the community, Gnekow's searching for funding opportunities to remain afloat, and approached the county Board of Supervisors during the June 14 budget hearings to request county aid.

"I am asking for \$65,000 to keep our program going," she said at the hearing. "We are working with other organizations and leaving that [option] open, but for us to be able to continue we are going to be needing some emergency funding."

Since then, Gnekow told the *Sun*, 3rd District Supervisor Joan Hartmann's been very cooperative and helpful, and the nonprofit's been able to establish other collaborations to help keep the organization going, but her worries remain.

Since the pandemic, Gnekow's organization increased its services—with a community farmer's market, free shuttle service, and continued the Meals on Wheels program—prompting her to change the organization's name to Santa Ynez Valley Community Outreach to better encapsulate its mission.

"We've just been doing so much more since COVID. [We haven't] shut our doors one day; we've increased everything we were doing and participated in a lot of different programs," she said. "It became a crazy time and we almost

doubled our amount of Meals on Wheels we were doing."

Even though the organization uses bulk pricing through a food provider, works with the Santa Barbara County Food Bank,

and creates meal plans using leftover food and donations, rising costs still hit the nonprofit hard, Gnekow said.

"Our food prices are going nuts. Ground beef has gone up in a month from \$1.29 a pound, to \$4.79 a pound. We were spending \$200 a day on milk, now we're spending \$600 a day," Gnekow said.

She's seeing not only a food costs increase, but food service necessities like gloves have gone up in price, too—from 96 cents to \$1.80 a case. The team goes through three cases a month and orders three different sizes, causing prices to almost triple, she explained.

living below the poverty line and on scholarship to cover meal costs. In the last two weeks, alone, they've added 12 new clients, Gnekow said.

That growth may continue because of the silver tsunami—an increase in California's senior population. According to state data, Santa Barbara County is expected to have an 118.8 percent increase in residents aged 60 and older between the years 2010 and 2060, and a 270.4 percent increase in those 85 and older.

Areas like Los Alamos, Buellton, and Solvang in central Santa Barbara County are relatively remote areas, making it difficult to get to bigger cities with more resources. Congregate living options remain limited, or full, increasing reliance on Santa Ynez Valley Community Outreach so people can stay in their homes, Gnekow said.

"It's our job to figure out this crisis. We can't wait. It has to be right now," she said. "We have to fight for our seniors and do what we have to do to protect them."

Gnekow recently met with Allan Hancock College to establish an internship program to help mitigate employment costs. Plus, the

nonprofit will be moving into Buellton's old library location to have more space for Meals on Wheels and community outreach's programming—including food distribution and domestic violence survivor intakes.

Supervisor Hartmann told the *Sun* that the county is looking to allocate about \$35,000 to the program, consistent with other Meals on Wheels programs. Normally, supervisors don't allocate funding directly to nonprofits, but they made an exception this year after they decided on June 14 to divvy up unallocated budget funds between the districts.

"They're in a really difficult position right now, and they can clearly document who they are serving. They are a county safety net for people who need meals delivered, so we are planning to allocate some money that was divided up during that budget meeting," Hartmann said.

The decision will eventually come back to the board as an agenda item, and assuming the rest of the board agrees, it will allocate some funds to Santa Ynez Valley Community Outreach, she explained.

In addition, the county Department of Social Services will be conducting a Meals on Wheels survey to identify the county's Meals on Wheels programs, gaps, and continued need. The report is set to be released in August, and should help identify where more funding could come from.

Hartmann said she wishes she had more solutions to help Santa Ynez Valley Community Outreach, but the county government can only do so much to prevent things like rising costs, she said.

"There are forces beyond our control, but the counties are responsible for providing safety nets. We are at the end of the road, but we are responsible for dealing with the fallout," she said. "It's a social lifeline, and they pivoted and took on more clients. It's really filling both basic needs and also making contact with isolated seniors [throughout] COVID. It's really remarkable what they do." ○

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



PHOTO COURTESY OF SANTA YNEZ VALLEY COMMUNITY OUTREACH

FOOD FOR ALL: Along with the Meals on Wheels program, Santa Ynez Valley Community Outreach also provides a farmer's market 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

"When you look at a budget we made last year, it has no relevance to right now. You can't even compare that budget to what reality is right now," Gnekow added.

Inflation's skyrocketed to a record-breaking 8.6 percent—the highest it's been since 1981—affecting food costs along with the other "very obvious, hit yourself in the face," increase in gasoline prices, she added. Gas prices have reached an average \$6 per gallon in California, and \$4.88 across the United States.

"Almost every program we have depends on gas. Our Meals on Wheels drivers are volunteers who are impacted if they continue to volunteer and deliver. The same thing goes for our hourly employees who drive from Lompoc or Santa Maria to get here," Gnekow continued.

Thankfully, one donor gave the organization gas vouchers and created a program to pay for the volunteers' gas so the organization won't have to worry about losing anyone, she said. But, it doesn't limit the fact that there's still 402 mouths to feed—with 85 percent of them (350)



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A new group

COVID-19 vaccines will soon be available for the county's youngest population

BY TAYLOR O'CONNOR

The Centers for Disease Control and the U.S. Food and Drug Administration recently approved COVID-19 vaccines for the youngest group thus far—children from 6 months old to 5 years old.

Santa Barbara County Health Officer Henning Ansong said he was really excited that the vaccines were finally approved for little kids.

"It may be a misunderstanding that kids don't get sick. It's an oversimplification, and unfortunately some kids [can get] very ill with COVID," Ansong said.

In California, about 2 million children got sick, 200,000 were hospitalized, and 200 died due to the virus, he estimated.

"Any child death is one too many," Ansong said. "It's not a mild illness. It may be for most [children], but there are definitely significant risks. The protections for these high risks are absolutely crucial."

The county received 1,400 initial doses that will be distributed to various providers in northern Santa Barbara County—including at Dignity Health, county-affiliated health care centers, and private pediatric practices. The Walgreens on Broadway in Santa Maria will also vaccinate children, but only for ages 3 and older. Ansong recommended families contact their primary care provider first to see if they have vaccines available.

Doses will look different for this group, Ansong explained, with lower amounts administered per dosage compared to older age groups.

"Moderna has a higher dose than the Pfizer vaccine," he said. "For those little kids under 5, they will receive 25 percent of the [Moderna]

dose for adults; Pfizer is 10 percent."

Kids getting the Moderna vaccine will receive two shots with a three week time period in between—much like the vaccine schedule for adults. With a lower dose, Pfizer has a three-dose requirement—the second dose administered in three weeks, and then the third after an additional four, Ansong explained.

"In the end, they are both very effective, and the Moderna vaccine didn't show higher side effect or reaction rates. I would be very hard-pressed to recommend one over the other," he said. "Side effects are similar to routine vaccines for children like arm ache, headaches, or a slight fever. It seems to be really well tolerated. [With] a new vaccine, there's a system in place to report potential side effects after vaccination, and we encourage every parent and every doctor to report that diligently."

However, he emphasized that the virus itself is a greater risk than the vaccine.

"We have about 28,000 children in this age bracket in Santa Barbara County. That's a significant amount of the population. If they are eligible for the vaccine—and therefore more likely to be immune—it will help the whole population overall," he said.

Having more virus immunity helps equip all county residents for any future waves of the virus and its mutations.

"It's hard to predict, but having seen that the virus learns how to evade immunity quickly, it's very conceivable that they [children] will need repeated shots. But the sequence or time frame is very unknown at this point. Since we are looking at a new disease, we

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FILE PHOTO FROM ADOBE STOCK

DECISIONS TO MAKE: Parents can now decide to get their infants and toddlers vaccinated, and choose between a two-dose Moderna vaccine, or a three-dose Pfizer vaccine.

don't know yet," Ansong added.

Concerned parents should consult their child's pediatrician or other care providers to learn more about the vaccine or visit the county's public health website at publichealthsb.org, where information will get frequently updated.

Highlights:

- The Lompoc Valley Chamber of Commerce and Visitors Bureau invites the community to celebrate Santa Barbara County's newest Legal Aid Foundation location—which will hold a ribbon cutting ceremony on June 30 at 102 E. Ocean Ave. The nonprofit law firm provides free legal assistance to low-income and other vulnerable residents in Lompoc and Santa Barbara County. Its vision is to support a community where low-income people are empowered to thrive and all residents have meaningful access to the civil justice system. For more information, call the Lompoc Chamber

at (805) 736-4567. To learn more about the foundation, visit lafsb.org.

- The Lompoc Parks and Recreation department invited the community to its Fourth of July Family Fun Day, a free event that will be held from noon to 4 p.m. at Ryon Park (800 W. Ocean Ave.). A patriotic bike parade kicks off the event starting at the Lompoc Veterans Memorial Building—100 E. Locust Ave.—and ending at Ryon Park. Community members are invited to the celebration's picnic in the park with live music, food trucks, inflatables, and face-painting. Fireworks aren't allowed at the event; pets must be on a leash; and smoking, vaping, and alcohol consumption won't be permitted.

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

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DEATH NOTICES

For Obituary info call (805) 347-1968 or email obituaries@newtimeslo.com

ADAMS, CALLIE LORETTA, 88, of Lompoc passed away 5/4/2022 arrangements with Starbuck-Lind Mortuary

ANALLA, NICK LONNIE, 73, of Atascadero passed away 6/9/2022 arrangements with Chapel of the Roses

ARMSTRONG, AMOS B., 90, of Santa Maria passed away 6/22/2022 arrangements with Dudley-Hoffman Mortuary, Crematory & Memory Gardens

BAKER, ELAINE JEAN, 83, of Murrieta passed away 6/8/2022 arrangements with Los Osos Valley Mortuary & Memorial Park

BATTISTELLA, ELYSE, 99, of Santa Maria passed away 6/22/2022 arrangements with Magner-Maloney Funeral Home & Crematory

BEYER, EDGAR, 91, of Atascadero passed away 6/20/2022 arrangements with Los Osos Valley Mortuary & Memorial Park

COSTELLO, CARAL JOHN, 84, of Atascadero passed away 6/9/2022 arrangements with Blue Sky Cremation Service

DAVIS, MARY CAROLYN, 99, of Lompoc passed away 6/9/2022 arrangements with Starbuck-Lind Mortuary

DIGIROLAMO, MERI, 75, of Arroyo Grande passed away 6/21/2022 arrangements with Marshall Spoo Sunset Funeral Chapel

DOLENGEWILZ, WILLIAM, 68, of Nipomo passed away 6/24/2022 arrangements with Marshall Spoo Sunset Funeral Chapel

EMERSON, LADONNA, 68, of Lompoc passed away 6/14/2022 arrangements with Starbuck-Lind Mortuary

EPPERLY, JOSHUA, 50, of Oceano passed away 6/6/2022 arrangements with Marshall Spoo Sunset Funeral Chapel

FLORES, DANIEL JOE JR., 38, of Atascadero passed away 2/7/2022 arrangements with Chapel of the Roses

HILLARD, PATRICIA MARIE, 68, of Santa Maria passed away 6/25/2022 arrangements with Magner-Maloney Funeral Home & Crematory

HUNT, CHARLES R., 83, of Santa Maria passed away 6/27/2022 arrangements with Dudley-Hoffman Mortuary, Crematory & Memory Gardens

LARSEN, PATRICK IVAN, 71, of Lompoc passed away 6/13/2022 arrangements with Starbuck-Lind Mortuary

LERMA, MICHAEL, 55, of Arroyo Grande passed away 6/21/2022 arrangements with Marshall Spoo Sunset Funeral Chapel

LUJAN, JOSEPH RAY, 43, of Lompoc passed away 6/12/2022 arrangements with Starbuck-Lind Mortuary

MANALO, JULIANO LUCAS JR., 80, of Santa Maria passed away 6/24/2022 arrangements with Magner-Maloney Funeral Home & Crematory

MARITZEN, EVETTE JOY, 59, of Los Osos passed away 6/14/2022 arrangements with Los Osos Valley Mortuary & Memorial Park

MARKS, GAIL, 68, of Nipomo passed away 6/17/2022 arrangements with Marshall Spoo Sunset Funeral Chapel

MARTINEZ, RUBEN, 66, of Nipomo passed away 6/4/2022 arrangements with Blue Sky Cremation Service

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

MOREAU, BARBARA MAY, 89, of Santa Maria passed away 6/19/2022 arrangements with Dudley-Hoffman Mortuary, Crematory & Memory Gardens

NAVA, TERESA M., 75, of Santa Maria passed away 6/22/2022 arrangements with Dudley-Hoffman Mortuary, Crematory & Memory Gardens

OSMAN, KATHERINE, 63, of Morro Bay passed away 6/20/2022 arrangements with Blue Sky Cremation Service

PAYNE, PHILIP WALLACE, 95, of Lompoc passed away 6/12/2022 arrangements with Starbuck-Lind Mortuary

POWELL, JOAN ALICIA, 90, of Los Osos passed away 6/15/2022 arrangements with Los Osos Valley Mortuary & Memorial Park

ROSS, MELISSA DIANE, 59, of Lompoc passed away 6/2/2022 arrangements with Starbuck-Lind Mortuary

SANGER, JOHN E., 94, of Santa Maria passed away 6/26/2022 arrangements with Dudley-Hoffman Mortuary, Crematory & Memory Gardens

SMITH, GARI DELL, 71, of Los Osos passed away 5/30/2022 arrangements with Los Osos Valley Mortuary & Memorial Park

SRADT, LOIS ALEXANDER, 90, of Bend, Oregon passed away 5/27/2022 arrangements with Los Osos Valley Mortuary & Memorial Park

THIEL, HANS OTTO II, 74, of Atascadero passed away 6/18/2022 arrangements with Chapel of the Roses

TORNATZKY, LOUIS GEORGE, 82, of Los Osos passed away 5/29/2022 arrangements with Los Osos Valley Mortuary & Memorial Park

TRIMBLE, MARY, 65, of Atascadero passed away 6/19/2022 arrangements with Chapel of the Roses

WEST, HOWARD EDWIN, 89, of San Luis Obispo passed away 6/12/2022 arrangements with Los Osos Valley Mortuary & Memorial Park

UPCOMING SPECIAL PUBLICATIONS

SANTA BARBARA COUNTY FAIR



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



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

MENUS October 20

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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

Have a Happy & Safe 4th of July!



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Jessica Prather, C.N.P.

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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
- 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

Burning Cash

- 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
- 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

About Town

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
- 156. Best Hike or Bike Trail
- 157. Best Bike Shop
- 158. Best Hotel or Resort
- 159. Best Golf Course
- 160. Best Staycation

Get Out

- 161. Best Dog Park
- 162. Best Day Trip
- 163. Best Place to Put Up Visiting Family
- 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 or drop your physical ballot by our office or mail it to:

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2646 Industrial Parkway #200, Santa Maria, CA 93455

Name _____
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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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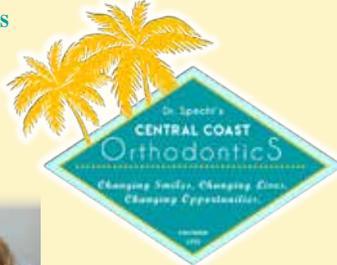
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Online Poll

Do you think the county Board of Supervisors did a good job with this year's budget?

- 37% Yes, and they made the right decision regarding future district projects.
- 37% I don't pay attention to budget stuff, and I don't care.
- 13% No, I don't think the budget suits the county's needs well.
- 13% Meh. I think the budget was fine before they made room for extra projects.

8 Votes

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

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Hidden victims

Recreational nonprescription drug use is not a victimless activity

BY RON FINK

Many people, specifically social libertarians and those who advocate for the legalization of recreational drugs claim that personal drug use is a "victimless crime." Well, a recent crime in Lompoc and others around the nation, including recent mass shootings where recreational drug use was a contributing factor, rebut that theory.

Others have criticized police officers and demanded that they be replaced by social workers. They theorize that by doing this there would be fewer arrests and altercations resulting in injuries to suspects who resist officers.

On Saturday, June 12, a Lompoc man, Joe Garcia Jr. was allegedly fighting with his father in the central part of old town Lompoc. As the police were responding, a second caller reported that the victim was being beaten. Police asked Garcia Jr. to open the door so they could check on the older man.

"Joe did not comply, and the door was forced opened," Lompoc police Sgt. Jorge Magana said. "Upon forcing the door, we immediately saw the father was set on fire and was actively burning."

While some officers placed the suspect in custody, others extinguished the fire, began life saving efforts, and called for medical aid.

On June 14, Garcia pleaded "not guilty" to attempted murder and aggravated mayhem during his arraignment hearing and is currently being held on \$1 million bail; the court has ordered a mental competency evaluation.

His father later died from the injuries.

The suspect in this case is widely known to law enforcement and the community at-large. He is and was a strong proponent for the legalization of cannabis and spoke forcefully at several Lompoc City Council meetings claiming to represent the

cannabis industry. His involvement in the industry later proved to be a gross overrepresentation on his part.

He even threatened elected officials with physical harm because they seemed to be opposed to legalizing cannabis based on conflicting studies concerning

the health issues of prolonged use of products containing THC. Many well-researched studies indicate that higher THC content in cannabis today may contribute to paranoia and other negative symptoms, a fact that was downplayed during state and local hearings to legalize cannabis sale and use.

Garcia Jr. also publicly acknowledged a long-term history of using cannabis long before it was legalized. On social media he has admitted to using other drugs as well. Recently he claimed that he was the target of an effort by an "organized crime network" to control his Twitter account.

During public hearings and on social media, Garcia Jr. has also stated that cannabis is not a gateway drug, but his behaviors and seeming move on to stronger drugs seem to prove otherwise. It is well-established that this is also the case with tens-of-thousands of other individuals throughout the country.

Now to the bigger question, is nonprescription drug use really a victimless crime?

To his father who was the victim of his alleged physical violence the answer is obviously no. To the police officers, firefighters, and medics responding to this horrific crime scene the answer is also no.

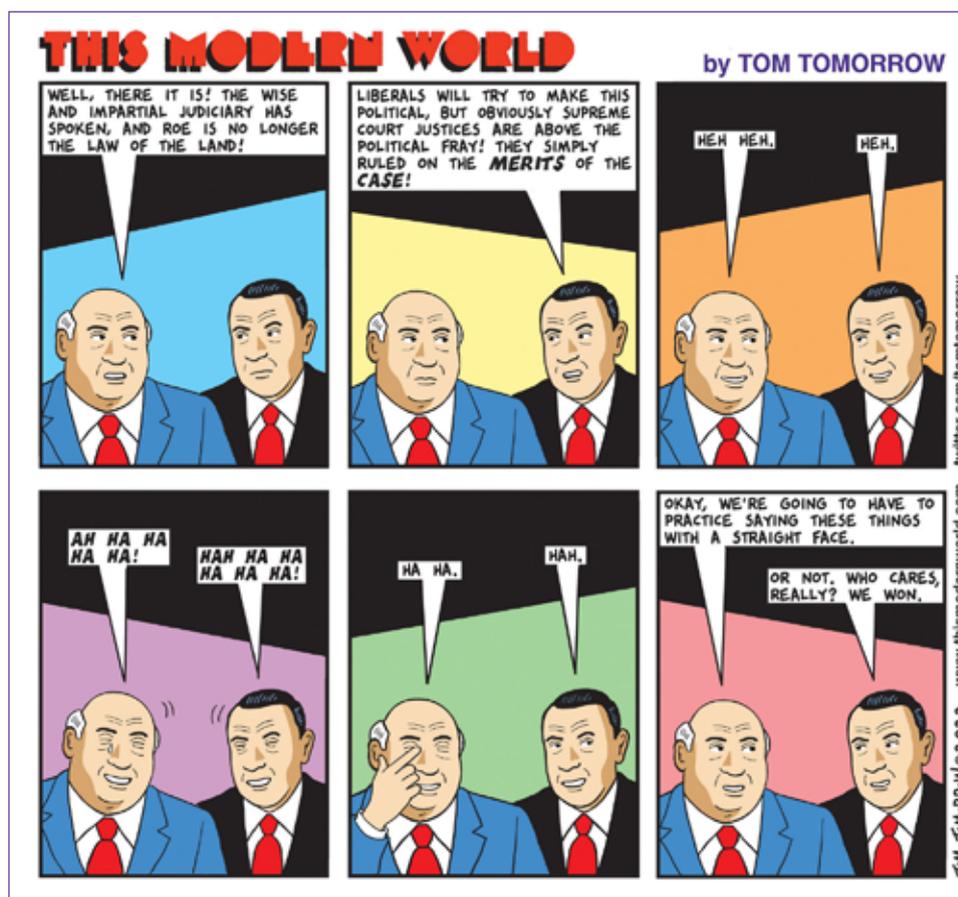
Our first responders confront the direct result of recreational drug use almost daily in Lompoc and elsewhere across the nation. Many are juveniles, unconscious from overuse; unconscious and unresponsive adults who have overdosed; and some adults and juveniles who are beyond help.

It is impossible to "unsee" these horrific scenes:

Firefighters wear heavy and special fabric turnout gear, a breathing apparatus, and a helmet to protect them from physical danger. Police officers and sheriff's office deputies wear a vest and carry a gun, baton,

Speak up!

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



taser, and more. These are tools of the trade, but these items do not protect the hearts, souls, and minds of those who respond to emergencies.

The cumulative impact on these men and women is often hidden in the short term but can be harmful to their physical and mental health as the years wear on. This phenomenon is commonly referred to as post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD).

The next time someone claims that recreational drug use is a victimless crime, think first of the parents who watch their children become hopelessly addicted to recreational drugs and then first responders who regularly deal with the irresponsible actions of drug users.

It really aggravates me when poorly informed people criticize how police officers handle in-progress calls for help. And if you think that a social worker could have handled the Garcia family dispute, you clearly don't understand what is happening on the street. ○

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

LETTERS

Is our voting system reliable?

I have always voted in person at my local voting precinct in Lompoc, except during the pandemic when I mistakenly thought it would have long lines. It did not. Both times, we had mail-in ballots sent to all registered voters in the county. In addition, two booklets were sent to all, including a sample ballot and a booklet with resumés of candidates. So on June 7, I visited my usual voter poll precinct to vote in person after four years. I asked if they needed my new DMV Real ID card and they said no. They asked me to sign my name on a computer screen like you do at restaurants and CVS, so I did and it came out a big scribble. No one could tell just who I was. I received my ballot, filled it out and placed it in a box that was wired closed. My ballot was handled in a piece of brown butcher paper. I was told the ballots would be counted in Lompoc, then shipped with police escort to the county Elections Office in Goleta.

Having taken part in many election campaigns, my experience with registered voter lists is that they are out of date. So, it's a big waste in costs of mail-in ballots. Instead of sending three pieces of data, a cost savings would be had by eliminating the mail-in ballots or the other two booklets and send just one of something.

Mail-in ballots are slow to read. Each envelope has to be checked to see if the signatures match one on file. So the mail-in system is slower and more expensive than the venerable precinct system. Faster results are possible. At the precinct poll, you sign next to your name in the old system, and your ballot is ready to be counted when you drop it in the box.

The voting system has been watered down and needs change:

- You should have to ID yourself and show that you are the one voting.
- You should have to appear at the precinct to vote unless you have requested an absentee ballot before vote day.
- You should have to sign your name on the voter log book, not on a wobbly computer screen.
- All vote ballot forms should be placed in sleeves until deposited in the vote box.
- Voting should only take place on election day, between 6 a.m. and 8 p.m.
- We should require voter registration updates every two years.

Reliable voting is what voting is all about. Let's do everything we can to make its so, now again. Only 30 percent of voters voted in this last election. Is this why?

Justin M. Ruhge
Lompoc

Vote.

I can't exactly get mad at Santa Barbara County voters for not feeling motivated to make their voices heard on June 7. Most of the candidates were running unopposed, and unless you felt strongly that the 16-year reign of Sheriff Bill Brown needed to end or that Superintendent of Schools Susan Salcido needed to be unseated by a crazy right-winger, what was there to motivate you?

Oh wait, almost every elected office in state administration had several candidates vying for it on June 7. Those people will eventually decide state policy on everything from debt to insurance rules. But I guess that would have meant a lot of reading for voters!

Poor voters. Having to educate themselves about things they don't pay attention to.

The Supreme Court of the United States decided the mid-term elections needed a little bit of spice! So *Roe v. Wade* no longer stands. Now, one-issue voters will flood into the general election, right? Maybe?

And although we may feel "safe"—like a women's right to privacy, health care, and reproductive rights are protected—in California, maybe it's time to start paying attention.

Because California still has a lot of work to do to entomb those protections into its constitution, according to pro-choice advocates. We need more than court rulings, executive orders, and vaguely worded laws. We need legislation.

If the recent years of national political turmoil have taught you anything, it should be that your vote *actually* matters. It determines the way health care is administered to the public at the federal, state, and local levels. It determines who makes the decisions that impact your life—the lives of your friends, family, and fellow Americans—and it determines what decisions elected officials make.

Apathy isn't the answer folks! If anything, we need more commonsense solutions, grassroots action, and hope.

Hah! Just kidding. We need *actual* solutions, and it's going to take way more than feigned grassroots action, such as those form letters people send to newspapers and elected officials. And hope is the thing that you hang onto while you push through the hard work of collaborating with others who you may not see eye-to-eye with, of negotiating with people who you need to find common ground with, of volunteering to do more than hold a sign in front of city hall.

It's going to take an elongated attention span—one that lasts longer than the anger-inducing event of the moment. It's going to take education about how our system actually works. Change is a long game.

Which the Lompoc City Council can frustratingly attest to. After asking its staff in May to look into what the city could do to not contract with Santa Barbara County for animal services, city staff recently told the council that any changes would take at least a year to put into place.

"My position on this is I'm more frustrated with the conversation than the lack of services from the county," Councilmember Gilda Cordova said during the June 21 meeting.

Meanwhile, Mayor Jenelle Osborne looked at the positive side after describing the city as being "caught over a barrel." "What we have been provided tonight is a window," she said. Hopefully it's enough time to make the changes necessary for city residents. ○

The canary sees a window for the pro-choice movement. Send sign ideas to canary@santamariasun.com.

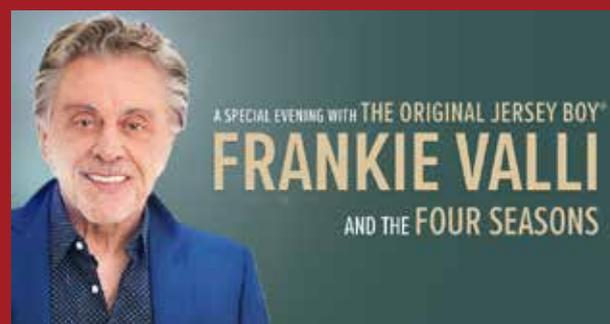


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FRANKIE VALLI

AUGUST 19 | FRIDAY | 8PM



RODNEY CARRINGTON

AUGUST 12 | FRIDAY | 8PM



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JUNE 30 – JULY 7
2022

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



THE HILLS ARE ALIVE

George Walker and Emily Trask star as Capt. von Trapp and Maria, respectively, in the Pacific Conservatory Theatre's (PCPA) production of The Sound of Music, which will run through Sunday, July 31. Tickets to the show range from \$33.50 to \$50. Performances are held at the Marian Theatre, located at 800 S. College Drive, Santa Maria. To find out more, call the PCPA box office at (805) 922-8313 or visit pcpa.org.
—Caleb Wiseblood

COURTESY PHOTO BY LUIS ESCOBAR, REFLECTIONS PHOTOGRAPHY STUDIO

805-489-2499. americanmelodrama.com. Great American Melodrama, 1863 Front St., Oceano.

SAN LUIS OBISPO

ART AFTER DARK AT ODD FELLOWS Recent work from nine new artists: James Ary, Thom Brajkovich, Noah Erenberg, Barry Frantz, Chantelle Goldthwaite, Peggy Koteen, Peggy Penny, Matt Prine, Madelyn Ropner, Joey Salazar, and Christian Valentine. **July 1**, 5-9 p.m. 805-550-8055. Odd Fellows Hall, 520 Dana St., San Luis Obispo.

ART AFTER DARK AT SLO GALLERY Experience a variety of paintings, sculpture, photography and more by gifted California artists. Located in the historic downtown district. **July 1**, 5-8 p.m. Free. 805-926-5050. slogallery.com/. SLO Gallery, 1019 Broad Street, 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. 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.

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.

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

CHILDREN'S CLASS: BEGINNING DRAWING This

ARTS continued page 17

ARTS

SANTA YNEZ VALLEY

4TH OF JULY SOLVANG 2022 The Santa Ynez Valley Rotary club is proud to present the annual 4th of July Festival and Fireworks Show in Solvang. **July 4**, 2-10 p.m. \$15; free for children ages 12 and under. syvrotary.org. Old Mission Santa Ines, 1760 Mission Drive, Solvang.

CALIFORNIA COUNTRY DANCE 101 Dance classes from 5 to 8 p.m. Dance with DJ starts at 8 p.m. Features free water and soda. **July 1**, 5-10 p.m. \$10 for dance walk-ins (paid class students get in for free). my805tix.com. Veterans Memorial Building, 1745 Mission Dr., Solvang.

FIRE AND ICE: OUR CHANGING LANDSCAPE Features a wide diversity of artwork, including video installations, photography, paintings, mixed media, and more, illustrating aspects of fire and ice. Through Sept. 26 Wildling Museum of Art and Nature, 1511-B Mission Dr., Solvang, 805-688-1082, 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 Elverhoy Way, Solvang, 805-686-1211, elverhoj.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. 805-736-3743. 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. **July 9**, 8 p.m. cityoflompop.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. Through July 10 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 Free. 805-925-0994. 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.

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.

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

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

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

departments/library. Santa Maria Public Library, 421 S. McClelland St., Santa Maria.

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.

VALLEY READS BOOK CLUB First Tuesday of every month, 2 p.m. Free. 805-925-0994. cityofsantamaria.org/city-government/departments/library. Santa Maria Public Library, 421 S. McClelland St., Santa Maria.

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

YOUTH ART TIME Get creative with an afternoon of art. Create a masterpiece while exploring different mediums. Each lesson focuses on an artist, their process, and a different element of art. This program is for children grades 1 through 6. **July 5**, 4 p.m. 805-925-0994. engagedpatrons.org. Santa Maria Public Library (Altrusa Theater), 421 S. McClelland St., Santa Maria.

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. Minami Community Center, 600 W. Enos Drive, Santa Maria.

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.

SUBMIT YOUR EVENTS

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

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ARTS from page 16
 will be a two-part class. Part one (July 10) will focus on creating shapes, shading images, and focus on drawing animals. In part two (July 17), students will learn the basics of how to draw a face. To sign-up, contact Spencer at spencerpoulter@yahoo.com Sundays, 1-2 p.m. through July 17 \$25 per student or \$40 for two students. 805-747-4200. artcentralslo.com/workshops-events/. Art Central, 1329 Monterey St., San Luis Obispo.

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

COMEDY NIGHT Professional comedy show featuring local and touring comics. Hosted by Aidan Candelario. First Thursday of every month, 7-9 p.m. \$5. 805-540-8300. Bang the Drum Brewery, 1150 Laurel Lane, suite 130, San Luis Obispo, bangthedrumbrewery.com.

music, art, poetry, and delicious food. Tickets are limited. **July 9**, 5-10 p.m. \$30-\$49. my805tix.com. Bliss Cafe, 778 Higuera Street Suite D, San Luis Obispo, 805-547-0108.

MIX IT UP Ardella (Jo) Swanberg's specialty is watercolor but she is interested in how other media interact. So in this class, she proposes to "mix it up." Each media has unique characteristics. Some play well with others and some don't. First Tuesday of every month, 1:30-4:30 p.m. \$40. 805-747-4200. artcentralslo.com/workshops-events/. Art Central, 1329 Monterey St., San Luis Obispo.

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.

FILE PHOTO COURTESY OF JUDY LINDQUIST



HOME OF THE RAVE

The Tribute to America Dance takes place at the Elwin Mussell Senior Center in Santa Maria on Sunday, July 10, from 1:30 to 4 p.m. Live music will be provided by the Riptide Big Band and accompanying vocalists Bob Nations and Mitch Latting during the event. Admission is free, thanks to funding from the Community Foundation of SLO County. For more info, visit riptidebb.com. The venue is located at 510 Park Ave., Santa Maria.

—C.W.

INTRO TO DRAWING: ADULT ART CLASS In this class, we will focus on creating shapes and shading images, with a focus on lighting and tone. You will learn the differences between charcoals and how to properly use erasers depending on the medium. To sign-up, contact Spencer at spencerpoulter@yahoo.com **July 10**, 1-3 p.m. \$30. 805-747-4200. artcentralslo.com/workshops-events/. Art Central, 1329 Monterey St., San Luis Obispo.

INTRODUCTION TO DRAWING: CHILDREN'S ART CLASS This class we will focus on creating shapes and shading images, with a focus on lighting and tone. Students will be using graphite pencils in this class. They will learn between pencils different "hardness" and why that makes a difference. Email Spencer to enroll: spencerpoulter@yahoo.com. **July 7**, 1-2 p.m. \$25 per student or \$40 for two students. 805-747-4200. artcentralslo.com/workshops-events/. Art Central, 1329 Monterey St., San Luis Obispo.

JULY KIDS ART CAMP Calling all kids (ages 5 and up) to join this camp. Anam Cre is hosting a garden-themed summer camp. Kids will create crafts, including: flower sculptures, painting pots, tie-dye, and more. Snacks provided. Tuesdays, 1:30-4:30 p.m. through July 26 \$250. anamcre.com. Anam Cre Pottery Studio, 1243 Monterey St., San Luis Obispo, 805-896-6197.

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/.

MELTED: SUMMER EDITION A magical evening of

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.

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

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.

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. 805-544-9251. artsobispo.org/art-and-about. City-wide, Paso Robles,.

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.

FACES OF FREEDOM Come experience the 'Faces of Freedom' mural on the giant jigsaw puzzle of the United States of America. A 15-foot spectacular display of color

ARTS continued page 18

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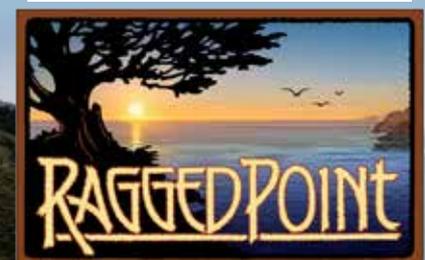
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- 4th of July
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- 7/09 Next Life
- 7/10 Earls of Tuesday
- 7/16 Charlie Baker
- 7/17 Jill Knight
- 7/23 Noach Tangeras
- 7/24 Jill Knight



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and vibrancy. Fridays, Saturdays, 10 a.m.-9 p.m. through July 31 Free. 310-621-7543. Deprise Brescia Art Gallery, 829 10th St., Paso Robles.

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. Through Aug. 28 805-238-9800. studiosonthepark.org/. Studios on the Park, 1130 Pine St., Paso Robles.

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY Come celebrate Deprise Brescia Art Gallery's two-year anniversary during Art and About. Also celebrate 45th anniversary of glass artist Kelly Johnson and her husband Leonard with cake, wine, and more. 10 percent discount for military and first responders (with ID). **July 2**, 5-9 p.m. 310-621-7543. Deprise Brescia Art Gallery, 829 10th St., Paso Robles.

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

NORTH COAST SLO COUNTY

36TH ANNUAL INTERNATIONAL EXHIBITION OF PASTELS USA This juried event is a collective of exceptional pastel artworks, featuring some of the finest contemporary artists in the world. **June 30-Aug. 8** Art Center Morro Bay, 835 Main St., Morro Bay, 805-772-2504. artcentermorrobay.org.

CAMBRIA: THE MUSICAL Cambria Center for the Arts Theatre presents this musical by Ed and Linda Hughes. This delightful, comedic romp is based on a true story of Cambria's history. Full of catchy songs and hysterical dialogue. **July 1**, 7 p.m., **July 2**, 7 p.m., **July 3**, 2 p.m., **July 8**, 7 p.m., **July 9**, 7 p.m. and **July 10**, 2 p.m. \$30. 805-927-8190. cambriaarts.org/theatre-season/. Cambria Center for the Arts Theatre, 1350 Main St., Cambria.

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

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

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

DONALD ARCHER'S FIGURATIVE PAINTINGS Archer's figurative paintings will be up at Cambria Library through June 30. Tuesdays-Saturdays 805-927-4336. slolibrary.org. Cambria Library, 1043 Main St., Cambria.

FINE ART ASSEMBLAGES BY STEVE DAYTON The assemblages are made by taking small hand-built familiar objects and motifs and placing them in box frames to create absurd scenes that include absurd and humorous titles. **June 30-July 29**, 11 a.m.-5 p.m. Free. 805-772-1068. galleryatmarinasquare.com. Gallery at Marina Square, 601 Embarcadero suite 10, Morro Bay.

FINE ART PAINTINGS BY HOPE MYERS Hope is an award-winning watercolorist, collage painter, and jewelry crafter. She has been creating her artwork on the Central Coast for more than 30 years. Opening reception: July 9. **June 30-July 29**, 11 a.m.-5 p.m. Free. 805-772-1068. galleryatmarinasquare.com. Gallery at Marina Square, 601 Embarcadero suite 10, Morro Bay.

FINE ART PHOTOGRAPHY BY GREGORY SIRAGUSA In Greg's own words: "Photography is an opportunity to marvel at all the beauty in the world. Birds, sunsets, mountains, oceans, each offers a journey into the sublime." **June 30-July 29**, 11 a.m.-5 p.m. 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.

JULY RECEPTION: GALLERY AT MARINA SQUARE Gallery at Marina Square presents an opening reception for its monthly Featured Artists for July. Painter Judy Rath, Photographer Gregory Siragusa, and Featured Craft Artist Steve Dayton will be showing their amazing work all month. **July 9**, 5-7 p.m. 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



EXPRESS YOURSELF

Circus Vargas presents its 2022 production, The Circus Vargas Express, at the Madonna Inn in San Luis Obispo through Sunday, July 10. The show features acts from world-class performers, aerialists, acrobats, and comedic characters. For tickets and more info, call (877) 468-3861 or visit circusvargas.com. The Madonna Inn is located at 100 Madonna Road, San Luis Obispo.

—C.W.

copper and sea glass. ongoing 805-772-9955. Seven Sisters Gallery, 601 Embarcadero Ste. 8, Morro Bay, sevensistersgalleryca.com.

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

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

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

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

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.

CULTURE & LIFESTYLE

SANTA MARIA VALLEY/LOS ALAMOS

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

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

BOUNCING BABY STORY TIME Explore pre-literacy skills through music, movement, and visual stimulation. **July 1**, noon 805-925-0994. engagedpatrons.org. Santa Maria Public Library (Altrusa Theater), 421 S. McClelland St., 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.

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

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.

GUIDED HIKE AT POINT SAL WITH THE GUADALUPE-NIPOMO DUNES CENTER Beautiful wildlife, flora, and stunning views of the coastline await those that attend. This will be a dog-friendly hike, please feel free to bring along your furry friend. **July 10**, 9 a.m.-noon \$5 donation encouraged. my805tix.com. Point Sal State Beach, Brown Road, Guadalupe.

JEDI TRAINING Learn or test Jedi skills and talents with Jedi Masters from A Wish Your Heart Makes. Explore Jedi training, Jedi orders, and learn what it takes to be a Jedi. **July 2**, 2 p.m. 805-925-0994. engagedpatrons.org. Santa Maria Public Library (Altrusa Theater), 421 S. McClelland St., Santa Maria.

KIDS RAINBOW YOGA Classes includes yoga, dancing, singing, puppets, and more. Please arrive 15 minutes early to register. Saturdays, 9-10 a.m. and Saturdays, 9-10 a.m. through July 9 805-268-5403. Klein Dance Arts, 3558 Skyway Drive, Santa Maria.

LET'S BLOW OFF SOME STEAM Curious preschoolers and caregivers, come to a special story time filled with exploration and discovery, designed for preschoolers ages 3 to 5. Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, and Math themes will be explored through stories and hands-on activities. Space and supplies are limited. **July 8**, 11 a.m. 805-925-0994. engagedpatrons.org. Santa Maria Public Library (Altrusa Theater), 421 S. McClelland St., Santa Maria.

MUSIC, SIGN, AND PLAY Learn baby sign language to communicate more effectively with your child. Attend three-part series. Program content will progressively increase. For parents or caregivers with babies 0-3 years of age, presented by Baby Signs. **July 9**, 2 p.m. 805-925-0994. engagedpatrons.org. Santa Maria Public Library (Altrusa Theater), 421 S. McClelland St., Santa Maria.

PAWS TO READ Reading to dogs is a wonderful way for children to gain confidence while reading out loud. These dogs absolutely love all kinds of books and are excellent listeners. No one pays attention to a child reading quite like dogs do. **July 7**, 10:30 a.m. 805-925-0994. engagedpatrons.org. Santa Maria Public Library (Altrusa Theater), 421 S. McClelland St., Santa Maria.

PRINCESS STORY TIME Start off the day with a special story time, with stories presented by the Princes and Princesses from A Wish Your Heart Makes. **June 30**, 2 p.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. Second 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.

TEEN GAMING Teens bring your friends for a Friday afternoon of gaming. Play against your friends or sit back and watch the action on our large screen. Light snacks will be provided. **July 1**, 4 p.m. 805-925-0994. engagedpatrons.org. Santa Maria Public Library (Altrusa Theater), 421 S. McClelland St., Santa Maria.

TEEN STRANGER THINGS ESCAPE ROOM Can you help Eleven escape the Upside Down? Bring friends and try to solve the clues to this *Stranger Things* puzzle before time runs out. Prizes will be awarded to the team with the best time, and Elle's favorite food will be served. **July 8**, 4-5:30 p.m. 805-925-0994. engagedpatrons.org. Santa Maria Public Library (Altrusa Theater), 421 S. McClelland St., Santa Maria.

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

SOUTH COAST SLO COUNTY

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.

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.

NIPOMO 4TH OF JULY PARADE Parade travels through more than 12 miles of roads. **July 4**, 11 a.m.-4 p.m. 805-489-1257. Nipomo, Citywide, Nipomo.

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

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

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

SAN LUIS OBISPO

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

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

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. Free. 805-528-3194. Hope House Wellness Center, 1306 Nipomo St., 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.

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

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

CULTURE & LIFESTYLE continued page 19

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

REFUGIO RANCH JULY 4TH PIG ROAST Spend a casual afternoon with friends, live music from Chris Beland, wine specials, and lots of delicious eats. Ticket includes a hearty meal, one glass of RR wine, and live entertainment. **July 4**, 3 p.m. Refugio Ranch Tasting Room, 2990 Grand Ave., Los Olivos, 805-697-5289, refugioranch.com.

SECOND SATURDAY OPEN AIR MARKET: LOS OLIVOS A carefully curated open air artisan and farm market. Features great vintage finds, handwoven and hand dyed textiles, hand-spun yarn, organic body care products, and locally grown organic eats. Second Saturday of every month, 11 a.m.-4 p.m. Free. 805-722-4338. Sisters Gifts and Home, 349 Bell Street, Los Alamos.

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.

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

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

SOUTH COAST SLO COUNTY

AVILA BEACH DOGGIE PARADE AND PANCAKE BREAKFAST Start off your holiday celebration with a delicious pancake breakfast with your puppies in the garden of the Avila Beach Community Center, then come down to the Avila Beach Promenade for our annual Doggie Parade at 11 a.m. **July 4**, 8:30 a.m.-noon \$5-\$7. 805-627-1997. Avila Beach Community Center, 191 San Miguel St., Avila Beach, avilabeachcc.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.

Spread the word!

Send event information to calendar@santamariasun.com.



NORTH SLO COUNTY

4TH OF JULY BASH Play some patriotic games, enjoy the photo booth, try your hand at the dunk tank to dunk the CASS Team, and more. **July 4**, 2-7 p.m. my805tix.com. Cass Winery and Vineyard, 7350 Linne Rd., Paso Robles, 805-239-1730.

SANTA YNEZ VALLEY

ABOUT TIME LIVE Live on the patio. **July 3**, 12-4 p.m. Maverick Saloon, 3687 Sagunto St., Santa Ynez, 805-686-4785, mavericksaloon.org.

ADRIAN GALYSH LIVE **July 1**, 2-6 p.m. Brick Barn Wine Estate, 795 W. Hwy 246, Buellton, 805-686-1208, brickbarnwineestate.com.

BRIAN BLACK LIVE Live on the patio. **July 9**, 1-5 p.m. Maverick Saloon, 3687 Sagunto St., Santa Ynez, 805-686-4785, mavericksaloon.org.

CADILLAC ANGELS LIVE Live on the patio. **July 10**, 12-4 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.

JOHN LYLE LIVE **July 8**, 4-6 p.m. Brick Barn Wine Estate, 795 W. Hwy 246, Buellton, 805-686-1208, brickbarnwineestate.com.

LIVE BRAZILIAN MUSIC Come and enjoy Brazilian music, live every Saturday night this summer. Saturdays, 5:45-8 p.m. through Sept. 10 Aly's Grill from Brazil, 205 E. Highway 246, Buellton, 805-697-7944.

LIVE MUSIC SUNDAYS Sundays, 2-6 p.m. Brick Barn Wine Estate, 795 W. Hwy 246, Buellton, 805-686-1208, brickbarnwineestate.com.

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

PARADISE KINGS LIVE **July 8**, 8:30-11:30 p.m. Maverick Saloon, 3687 Sagunto St., Santa Ynez, 805-686-4785, mavericksaloon.org.

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

RANDY LEDUNE LIVE Live on the patio. **July 2**, 1-5 p.m. Maverick Saloon, 3687 Sagunto St., Santa Ynez, 805-686-4785, mavericksaloon.org.

THE ROBERT HEFT BAND LIVE **July 1**, 8:30-11:30 p.m. Maverick Saloon, 3687 Sagunto St., Santa Ynez, 805-686-4785, mavericksaloon.org.

THE SONS OF JOE SATTERLY LIVE **July 9**, 2-6 p.m. Brick Barn Wine Estate, 795 W. Hwy 246, Buellton, 805-686-1208, brickbarnwineestate.com.

WINE DOWN WEDNESDAYS Wednesdays, 4:30-5:30 p.m. Brick Barn Wine Estate, 795 W. Hwy 246, Buellton, 805-686-1208, brickbarnwineestate.com.

SANTA MARIA VALLEY/LOS ALAMOS

ANCIENT HOMELANDS: NATIVE MUSIC FROM NORTH, CENTRAL, AND SOUTH AMERICA Martin Espino will present a cultural, entertaining, and educational program featuring music from the Americas. Presented in English and Spanish for the whole family. This project was made possible in part by the Institute of Museum and Library Services. **July 9**, 11 a.m.-noon 805-925-0994. engagedpatrons.org. Santa Maria Public Library (Altrusa Theater), 421 S. McClelland St., Santa Maria.

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

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

SANTA MARIA PHILHARMONIC: FIRST FRIDAYS AT FOUR Featuring musicians from the Santa Maria Philharmonic, this monthly series of musical adventures are recorded in local settings and offered free to

the public. First Friday of every month Free. smphilharmonic.org. Soundcloud (Santa Maria Philharmonic), Online, Santa Maria.

TRIBUTE TO AMERICA DANCE Santa Maria Recreation and Parks and the Santa Maria Valley Senior Club presents Tribute to America dance featuring Riptide Big Band

and vocalists Bob Nations and Mitch Latting. Free thanks to grant funding from the Community Foundation of SLO County. Dress patriotic. **July 10**, 1:30-4 p.m. Free. 775 813-5186. RiptideBB.com. Elwin Mussell Senior Center, 510 Park Ave., Santa Maria.

NORTH SLO COUNTY

ATASCADERO 4TH OF JULY MUSIC FESTIVAL The artists Bremen Town, Brad Alvord, and the Way Out West Band will perform. **July 4**, 4-8 p.m. atascadero4thofjuly.org. Atascadero Lake Park, 9305 Pismo Ave., Atascadero. ○



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Join Our Team!

New Times in San Luis Obispo is looking for its next freelance arts writer, but we're not looking for just any art-ogling, content-wrangling someone.

Can you find the unassuming local artist who's about to blow a hole in the status quo? Do you know what it means to find the culture that matters to a community—the stuff that gives a population its heartbeat, its soul? That sweet spot where culture, politics, art, and society collide into a massive chaotic hurricane of beautiful expression?

If so, then that's exactly who we're looking for: an arts writer who can wrestle a story to the ground and fill it with the things that matter to San Luis Obispo County. It's not all about vineyards, rolling hills, and pounding surf brushed with light, ethereal watercolors (although that's definitely here). It's about that human element and where creativity lives. Can you find it?

Let us know if you've got what it takes. We dare you. Send résumé and clips to Camillia.Lanham@newtimeslo.com.

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Arts Briefs

Gallery Los Olivos holds new duo show, Summer Refresh

FILE PHOTOS COURTESY OF GALLERY LOS OLIVOS



Paintings by local artists Carol Talley (pictured, left) and Terri Taber (right) will be on display at Gallery Los Olivos throughout the month of July. The new duo exhibition is called Summer Refresh and features colorful depictions of water, sky, land, and other subjects, according to press materials.

Taber and Talley are longtime friends who often paint on location together and offer each other constructive feedback. Both artists are signature members of the Pastel Society of the West Coast and have been featured in multiple national and international pastel exhibits.

To find out more about Summer Refresh, call Gallery Los Olivos at (805) 688-7517 or visit gallerylosolivos.com. The gallery is open Thursday through Monday, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., and is located at 2920 Grand Ave., Los Olivos.

PCPA postpones production of *The Agitators* to October

The Pacific Conservatory Theatre (PCPA) originally planned to hold its production of *The Agitators* during this summer, but recently announced a postponement, "in response to ongoing pandemic impacts, labor shortages, and supply chain issues that continue to challenge PCPA," according to a release from the company.

The show has been rescheduled to premiere in October, while PCPA's current production of *The Sound of Music*, which opened on Thursday, June 30, will be held through the end of July as planned. The revised dates for *The Agitators* are Thursday, Oct. 13, through Sunday, Oct. 30.

"This delay will allow us the opportunity to continue to deliver the high-quality professional productions that our audience has come to expect at PCPA with the rich artistry that this wonderful play warrants," a statement from PCPA reads.

Patrons with previous tickets to the postponed production can call the PCPA box office at (805) 922-8313 for exchange options. For more info on PCPA's programming, visit pcpa.org.

Orcutt Mineral Society announces August dates for annual Rainbow of Gems Show

FILE PHOTO COURTESY OF WAYNE MILLS



The Orcutt Mineral Society will host its 54th annual Rainbow of Gems Show at Nipomo High School on Friday, Aug. 5, and Saturday, Aug. 6, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., and Sunday, Aug. 7, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. More than 40 vendors selling rocks, fossils, jewelry, and other items will be at the event, which also includes kids activities and prize giveaways.

Admission to the show is free. Visit omsinc.org for more info. Nipomo High School is located at 525 N. Thompson Ave., Nipomo. ○

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



BEACH BREEZE: One of local artist Sharon Hedman's favorite settings to paint is the beach. Hedman aims for her atmospheric, oceanic artworks to make viewers feel as if they're breathing in a coastal breeze or sinking their toes in the sand.

Coastal access

Cypress Gallery showcases seaside scenes from watercolor and acrylic painter Sharon Hedman

BY CALEB WISEBLOOD

Buying a Sharon Hedman painting can feel more like a job application than a standard purchase.

The Lompoc-based artist prefers that her prospective patrons meet at least one prerequisite.

"If it doesn't stir an emotion, make you feel something, don't buy it, please," said Hedman, who fears her work becoming "a piece of furniture to toss aside someday."

"Art does not have to match your couch," she said. "Art is meant to express a thought or feeling in the person viewing it, like a transfer of joy and peace from me to you."

One of Hedman's favorite settings to depict in her paintings is the beach. She hopes that her atmospheric artworks of this variety will make viewers feel as if they're breathing in an ocean breeze or sinking their toes in the sand.

Many of Hedman's seaside landscapes are currently on display in a new solo show, Coastal Collection, at the Cypress Gallery in Lompoc. The exhibition is slated to remain open through Sunday, July 24, and a special artist reception will be held on Sunday, July 10, from 3 to 5 p.m.

Hedman's paintings have previously been showcased at the South Side Coffee Co. in Lompoc and Pardon My French Bakery in Grover Beach, but Coastal Collection marks Hedman's debut exhibit at the Cypress Gallery.

The artist said she's been a fan of the gallery since she first moved to Lompoc in 1983, from Lancaster, Calif. After the move, Hedman became a frequent beach visitor. She compared her introduction to the Central Coast to discovering "a whole new world."

Showtime!

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



"I had seen the ocean as a child on family vacation, but being able to live near it, and experience it whenever I wanted, well, that was amazing," Hedman said. "Several years ago, I realized I was enthralled with the sound, colors, power, energy, and peace of the ocean and its elements—seaweed, shells, sand, and driftwood all just fascinated me."

Hedman's longtime passion for painting predates her affinity for the ocean. She has loved making art in one form or another for nearly as long as she can remember, which she credits to growing up in a household that encouraged creativity. Her mother was a musician and quilter, and her father was jewelry maker and business owner.

During kindergarten, Hedman's favorite activity was finger painting. She gradually switched from using human digits to traditional paint brushes over the years, and won her first art award for a painting she completed during fourth grade.

She continued to paint in her free time and took several art classes during high school. One of her instructors was contemporary artist Doug Oliver, a prolific painter widely known for his panoramic vista landscapes.

Learning about Oliver's artistic process helped Hedman find a style of her own, while embracing the old adage: learn the rules before you break them.



DIORAMIC DEBUT: Sharon Hedman's paintings have previously been showcased at the South Side Coffee Co. in Lompoc and Pardon My French Bakery in Grover Beach. Hedman's latest exhibit, Coastal Collection, marks her debut solo show at the Cypress Gallery.



SERENITY NOW: One reason the beach is a prominent subject in Sharon Hedman's paintings is because that's where she goes to find sanctuary when she needs it. "When a bit of adult life pitfalls started to creep in, I'd take every chance to get away to the ocean, where I could express the emotions I tried to keep inside," the artist said.

Water world

The Lompoc Valley Art Association presents Coastal Collection, a showcase of paintings by local artist Sharon Hedman, which will run through Sunday, July 24, at the Cypress Gallery, located at 119 E. Cypress Ave., Lompoc. The gallery is hosting a special reception to celebrate the exhibit on Sunday, July 10, from 3 to 5 p.m. Visit lompcart.org for more info.

"I learned the techniques taught, but liked making up my own compositions, mostly from my dreams and imagination," said Hedman, who described her early paintings as whimsical. "I liked to bring lightheartedness to my paintings."

Over the years, Hedman found painting to be a great stress reliever. One of the reasons the beach became a prominent subject in her paintings is because that's where Hedman goes to find sanctuary and serenity when she needs it, the artist explained.

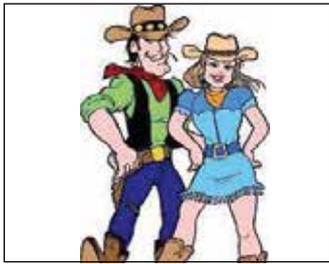
"When a bit of adult life pitfalls started to creep in, I'd take every chance to get away to the ocean, where I could express the emotions I tried to keep inside," said Hedman, who feels the freedom to shout and cry at Surf Beach and other beaches along the Central Coast when needed.

"My husband died in 2019. That was a very hard time, but having family, friends, a beach to visit, and art really kept me from going down that pit too far," Hedman said. "I am acutely aware that I have a very blessed life, but I worked hard for it, and it's not without its mountains and pitfalls along the way." ○

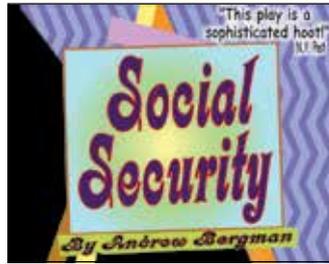
Arts Editor Caleb Wiseblood needs some beach sand to sink his toes into. Send comments to cwiseblood@santamariasun.com.



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



**California Country
Dance 101**
FRIDAY: JULY 1
Solvang Veterans Memorial Hall



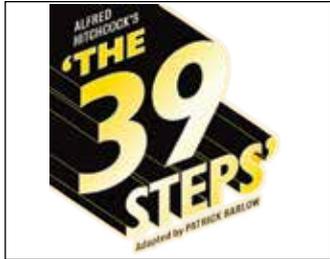
**By the Sea Productions:
Social Security**
FRI, SAT, SUN: JULY 1-3; JULY 8-10
545 Shasta Ave, Morro Bay



**vs. Conejo Oaks FRI, JULY 1
vs. SB Foresters SAT, JULY 2
vs. Arroyo Seco Saints JULY 3**
Sinsheimer Park, San Luis Obispo



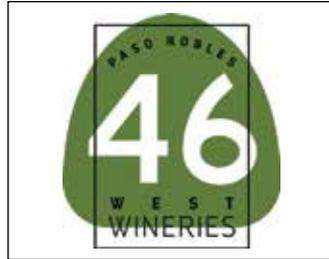
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2022-2023 Membership
2022-2023 SEASON**
Santa Maria Civic Theatre



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FRI, SAT, SUN: JULY 1-3; JULY 8-10
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2022 SEASON**
San Luis Obispo



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



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



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



**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. SB Foresters TUES, JULY 5
vs. Conejo Oaks WED, JULY 6
vs. Orange County Riptide JULY 7**
Sinsheimer Park, San Luis Obispo



**vs. Lincoln Potters JULY 8 & 9
vs. Walnut Creek Crawdads
SUNDAY, 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



**Guided Hike at
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SUNDAY, JULY 10
Guadalupe



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



**vs. MLB Academy Barons JULY 14
vs. Conejo Oaks FRI, JULY 15
vs. Arroyo Seco Saints JULY 16**
Sinsheimer Park, San Luis Obispo



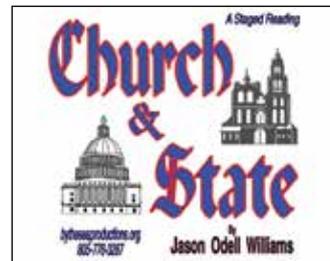
**36th Annual Central Coast
Renaissance Festival**
SAT & SUN, JULY 16 & 17
Laguna Lake Park, SLO



**Cambria Concerts Unplugged:
Zongo All-Stars**
SATURDAY, JULY 16
Camp Ocean Pines, Cambria



**Barrel Room Concert:
Back Pages Band**
SUNDAY, JULY 17
Cass Winery, Paso Robles



**By the Sea Productions:
Church & State**
FRI, SAT, SUN, JULY 22, 23, 24
545 Shasta Ave, Morro Bay



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Standard Time Ska Orchestra**
FRIDAY, JULY 29
The Siren El Chorro, SLO

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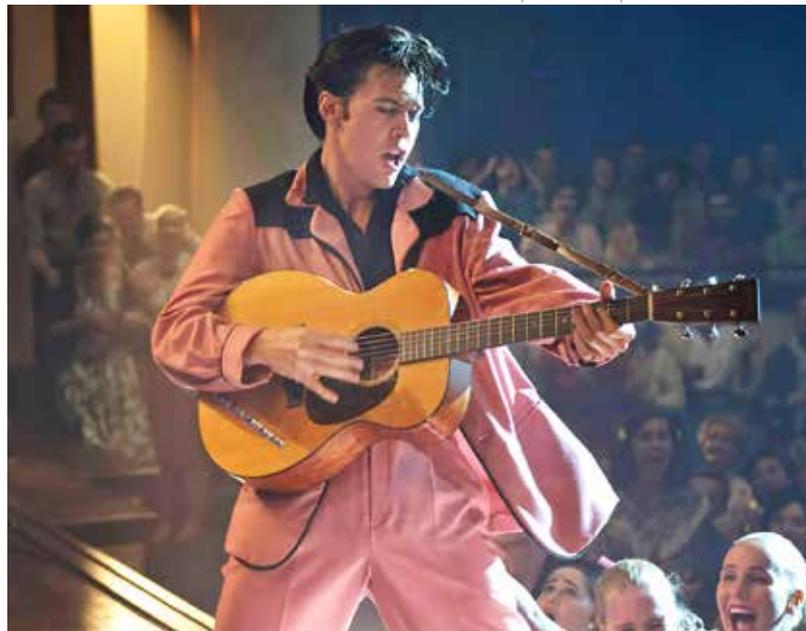
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The King

Co-writer/director Baz Luhrmann (*Romeo + Juliet*, *Moulin Rouge!*, *Australia*, *The Great Gatsby*) directs this biopic about famed rockstar Elvis Presley (Austin Butler) and his complicated relationships with manager Col. Tom Parker (Tom Hanks) and wife Priscilla (Olivia DeJonge). (159 min.)

Glen: Luhrmann is a dazzling director with an eye for spectacle, and he creates a kaleidoscope of sights and sounds that is absolutely mesmerizing. The story begins in 1997 with Col. Parker on his deathbed looking back on his time with Elvis. We meet a young Elvis (Chaydon Jay) growing up in poverty with his parents Vernon (Richard Roxburgh) and Gladys (Helen Thomson), and we see how he's inspired by Black music—both the lurid juke joint style and the spirit-filled gospel of roadside tent revivals. It's a stirring precursor to this story about a sideshow conman who strikes gold discovering an ahead-of-his-time country bumpkin with a golden voice and a preternatural understanding of how to sell a song. Butler is positively magnetic in the role of Elvis and shares the performer's youthful looks and swagger. The music is, of course, fantastic, and I love how Elvis's music melds into a hip-hop soundtrack. Many believe Elvis exploited Black music akin to cultural appropriation, but as this story tells it, Elvis was steeped in Black music traditions and was part of its scene. He changed popular music as we know it. This is amazingly entertaining.

Anna: Wowza, Luhrmann once again delivers a fantastical world on the big screen; this is just a total treat for the senses. While the storyline does stick with a lot of truths, Luhrmann takes artistic liberties with the way it winds together. Perhaps the villains are more villainous than they actually were and the saints more saintly, maybe



RAW SEXUALITY: Austin Butler takes on the role of Elvis Presley, in auteur Baz Luhrmann's spectacular musical biopic, *Elvis*, playing in local theaters.

Elvis's most peculiar traits and actions are ignored, but nonetheless we get a wonderful story—a wonderful tragedy. I give total props to Butler. This young actor has been on the small and big screen since he was a kid, but this role is going to launch him into a whole new level of roles. Luhrmann made the choice to use Butler's singing voice for the early years portrayed in the film and then blend his voice with Elvis's as the character got older, to match it with the real Elvis's voice in the years preceding his death at 42. This technique was a wonderful decision—I believed this character in the film and the voice we all know so well as one in the same.

Glen: True, the broad strokes of the story are accurate, but don't go in thinking you're watching reality. This is a glossy, sparkling version of the tragic story. Elvis's talent supported his mother and father, his wife and child, his hangers on—the so-called Memphis Mafia—and apparently Col. Parker's insatiable gambling addiction. He had a huge weight on his back to keep the moolah rolling in. The film's central haunting questions are whether Elvis would be the superstar he became without Parker, and whether Parker's manipulation and control over Elvis's career ultimately hurt or helped him. His drug use and untimely death made Elvis a legend, but his music and songs such as "Unchained Melody," "Suspicious Minds," and "In the Ghetto" made him an indelible pop music icon. I'm thoroughly wowed by both Elvis's talent and this highly entertaining and emotionally resonant film.

Anna: He wasn't just a voice. There was so much talent and a real sense of collaboration that made him the amazing star, showman, and musician that he was. The devil seems

to catch up with mega talents, especially those who have substance abuse problems, and Elvis was no exception. I do appreciate that while we did see his decline and how his addictions and lifestyle changed the man himself, it wasn't the film's focus and didn't take up a lot of time. Despite its nearly 3-hour runtime, the film goes by in a flash, mainly focusing on how Elvis the man became Elvis: The King of Rock and Roll. ○

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

ELVIS

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

TV & Film Reviews

LOVE ON THE SPECTRUM U.S.

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

BINGEABLE

Where's it showing? **Netflix**
 When Netflix released the U.K.'s *Love on the Spectrum* in 2019, audiences fell in love with the cast and their neurodivergent journeys to find love. This time around, the cast all live across the U.S., and I am happy to report that this group of hopefuls is just as charming, diverse, and heartwarming as their predecessors.

We meet Dani, a driven and ambitious woman who runs her own company teaching children with autism about animation production. She wants someone who shares both her passion and her drive for success, but finding someone who fits that mold perfectly isn't easy. Abbey is a 23-year-old who loves animals in general, but especially lions. When she gets set up with David to explore an animal park, the two are an instant match. Subodh is in his mid-30s and has never dated, and his Indian parents—who come from a tradition of arranged marriage—have no clue how to help him date, as they have never done it themselves! Coaches, therapists, and experts are called in to help



LOOKING FOR LOVE: Ambitious Dani Bowman (right) is high functioning but on the autism spectrum, and she's looking for love from another autistic person who's equally ambitious, but is Solomon Rooney (left) driven enough? Find out in the Netflix series *Love on the Spectrum U.S.*

some in the cast navigate what dating looks like, how to build conversations, and the nuances of dating life. The show follows six hopefuls, each as utterly endearing as the last. You can't help but root for everyone, and if you need a few feel-good hours, this is the series for you. (6 40-min. episodes)

—Anna

HUSTLE

What's it rated? **R**
 When? **2022**
 Where's it showing? **Netflix**

NEW FLICKS

Jeremiah Zager (*We the Animals*) directs Adam Sandler as Stanley Sugerman, a globetrotting but down-on-his-luck basketball scout for the Philadelphia '76ers who dreams of a coaching job that will keep him closer to home and his wife Teresa (Queen Latifah) and daughter Alex (Jordan Hull). Just as his dream comes true, team owner Rex Merrick (Robert Duvall) dies, and his son Vince (Ben Foster) sends Stanley back on the road.

What follows is a story about Stanley's desperate search for a potential NBA star that will get him home and coaching. He finds that potential star in Bo Cruz (Juancho Hernangomez), a tough Spanish streetballer and hustler who may or may not have the mental fortitude to make it in the pros.

Sandler is an inherent goofball and lowbrow comedy specialist, but he's too often dismissed as only that. In fact, he's a terrific actor given the right material. He broke out as a dramatic actor in *Punch-Drunk Love* (2002), proved his dramatic bonafides in *Reign Over Me* (2007), and cemented his status as a gifted actor with *Uncut Gems* (2019). This film is



GOLDEN TICKET: Basketball scout Stanley Sugerman (Adam Sandler, right) wants to get off the road and start coaching, but to do that he'll first need to train Spanish streetballer Bo Cruz (Juancho Hernangomez) into a viable NBA star, in *Hustle*, streaming on Netflix.

right up his alley—offering a mix of comedy and drama with a lot of heart. (117 min.) ○

—Glen

22nd Annual Best of Northern Santa Barbara County Readers Poll

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PHOTO COURTESY OF KYLE SCHANSINGER, AMC



PHOTO COURTESY OF BRIAN LORING

TELEVISION NOIR: *Cooper's Bar*, a new mini series on AMC, highlights a locally produced pinot noir, Cooper Jaxon, in several scenes. The show stars Lou Mustillo (left) and Rhea Seehorn (right).

GRAB A BOTTLE: The Loring Wine Company's 2020 Cooper Jaxon pinot noir is described as a blend of pinot noir barrels, with at least one barrel from each vineyard the winery sources fruit from, winery owner Brian Loring said.

Better call somm

New AMC series shines spotlight on Loring Wine Company's pinot noir

BY CALEB WISEBLOOD

Central Coast pinot noir was arguably the breakout star of 2004's *Sideways*. During a road trip to explore Santa Barbara County's wine country, Paul Giamatti's character, Miles, can't stop singing praises about the variety.

Nearly two decades later, a Lompoc-produced pinot noir is garnering some favorable attention in AMC's new mini series, *Cooper's Bar*. The show premiered at the end of May and follows an aspiring actor, Cooper, played by Lou Mustillo (*Mike & Molly*), who runs a tiki bar in his backyard.

Throughout the six-episode series, which also stars Rhea Seehorn (*Better Call Saul*), bar guests can be seen tasting the Loring Wine Company's 2020 Cooper Jaxon pinot noir.

"We didn't really know what to expect, so I was blown away to see how much the wine is shown in the episodes," said Brian Loring, co-owner of the winery. "Maybe I shouldn't have been surprised since it

In good company

Find out more about the Loring Wine Company at loringwinecompany.com. The winery's tasting room is located at 201 Industrial Way, suite B, Buellton. For more info on *Cooper's Bar*, visit amc.com.

is a guy's backyard bar, so of course bottles would be part of the decor."

The local vintner named the Cooper Jaxon wine after his nephew, Cooper—who Loring said was excited to hear that a show had been named after him as well.

Loring became involved with the show through its director and executive producer, Hannah Davis-Law. The filmmaker is a friend of Loring's tasting room manager, April Pharoah, who introduced Davis-Law to the wine.

"While they don't explicitly mention the wine by name, I think it's a fun detail that an observant viewer will appreciate," said Loring, commenting on the pinot noir's inclusion in the show, which feels more like a genuine nuance than awkward product placement.

"The characters do seem to predominantly drink Cooper Jaxon. So that's pretty cool," Loring said. "It also struck me that one of the goals of the main character is trying to stay authentic

EATS continued page 24



PHOTO COURTESY OF BRIAN LORING

SIBLING VINTNERS: Kimberly and Brian Loring are the co-owners of the Loring Wine Company, which produces about 5,000 cases of pinot noir and chardonnay each year, from vineyards ranging from Monterey to Santa Barbara.





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EATS

EATS from page 23

to himself, while attempting to create a TV show about the bar. And what's more authentic than a guy with a backyard bar wanting to have a wine with his name on the label?"

Before launching the Loring Wine Company in the early 2000s, Loring worked in the aerospace industry as a software designer for submarine missile and torpedo launch systems. But he had a background in wine that predated that career route.

"I worked in wine shops during high school and college, and along the way, developed a passion for wine," Loring said.

He was still working in software when he met and befriended Norman Beko, the owner of Cottonwood Canyon Winery in Santa Maria, during the mid-1990s. In 1999, Loring decided to buy three tons of pinot noir from Beko and dive right into the wine industry.

"That was the start of Loring Wine Company," Loring said. "My sister, Kimberly, started helping with the winery in 2001. Due to our critical success, we were able to quit our day jobs in 2006 and go full-time wine."

Loring and his sister co-own the company, which has a winery located in Lompoc and a tasting room in Buellton.

"We produce about 5,000 cases of pinot noir and chardonnay each year, from vineyards ranging from Monterey down to Santa Barbara," Loring said.

Loring's nephew—Kimberly's son, Cooper Jaxon



PHOTO COURTESY OF BRIAN LORING

BUELLTON BUNGALOW: Although the Loring Wine Company's winery is located in Lompoc, the company has a tasting room in Buellton, where guests can sample Cooper Jaxon pinot noir and other wines.

Loring—was born in 2015.

"We decided to make a special birth year wine for him," said Cooper's uncle, who described the resulting wine as a blend of pinot noir barrels, with at least one barrel from each vineyard the winery sources fruit from.

Loring also explained the inspiration behind the Cooper Jaxon label's unique design.

"I felt his name sounded like something from the Gold Rush days, so I asked our graphic designer buddy to come up with a label that was reminiscent of that era," Loring said. "Kimberly and I loved the result so much that we decided to continue Cooper Jaxon as a yearly bottling." 

Arts Editor Caleb Wisblood is on a barrel roll. Send comments to cwisblood@santamariasun.com.

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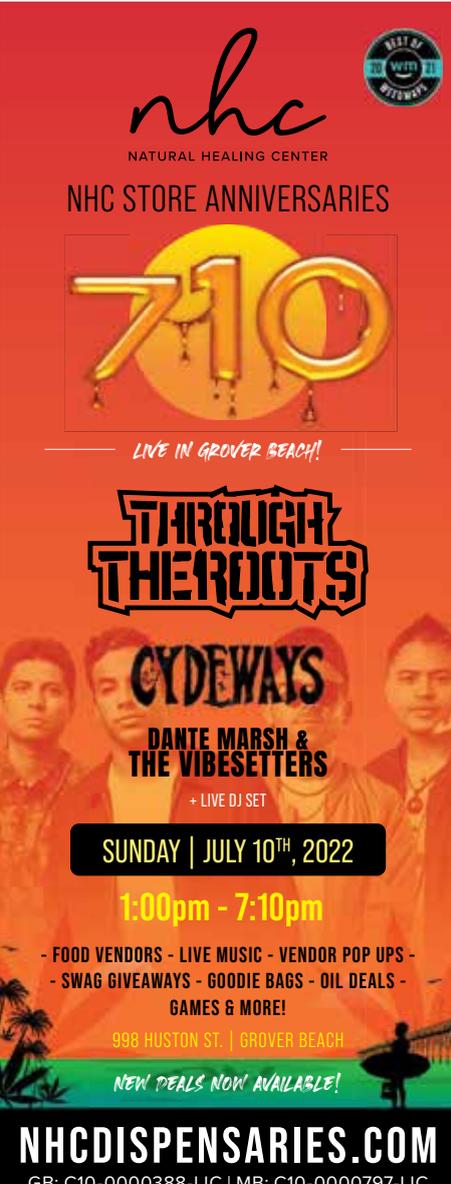
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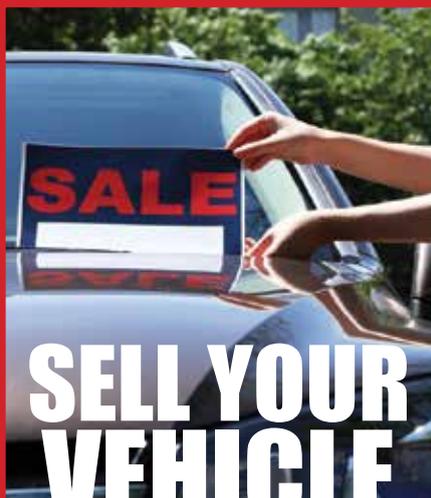
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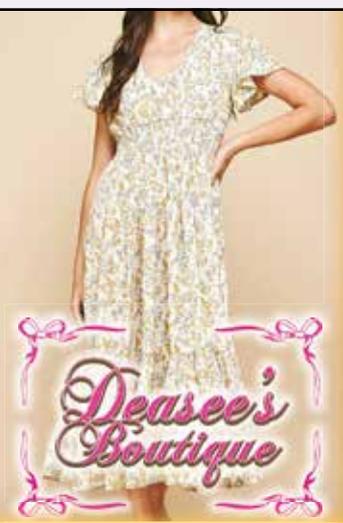
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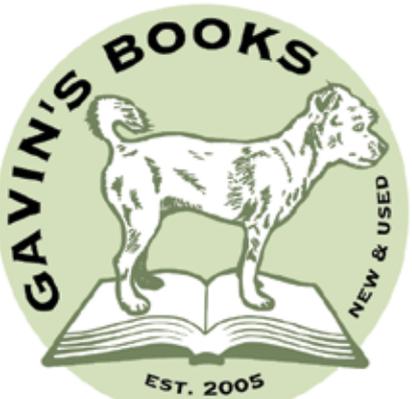
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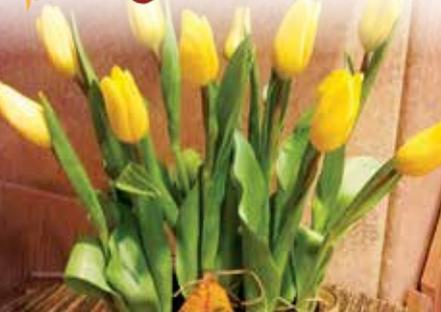
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