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AT THE MOVIES



Spiderhead is uninspired [22]

Sun

The price of housing

A project that could build more than 1,200 residential units in Nipomo proposes cutting down 4,000 oak trees to do it [6]

BY PETER JOHNSON



NEWS Main Jail escape attempt scuttled [4]

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JULY 14 - JULY 21, 2022 VOL. 23 NO. 20

The largest housing development proposed in SLO County in the last 25 years would cut down about 4,000 oak trees on Nipomo ranchland to make way for much-needed housing. Called the Dana Reserve project, the proposal's draft environmental impact report is currently taking public comment and heads to the Planning Commission on July 14 for a study session. While some area residents support the project's 1,200-plus units as an answer to the housing shortage, others question whether we need to cut so many oak trees down to build. Assistant Editor Peter Johnson from the Sun's sister paper, *New Times*, speaks with the county and stakeholders [6].

You can also read about an attempted escape from Santa Barbara County's Main Jail [4]; PCPA's *Sound of Music* [20]; and a taste of Baja California that touched down in Pismo Beach [24].

Camillia Lanham
editor



CHOP OR NOT? A project proposed in Nipomo would cut down thousands of oak trees to make way for about 1,200 homes.

Cover photo from Adobe Stock > Cover design by Alex Zuniga

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Safe Sleep ABCs

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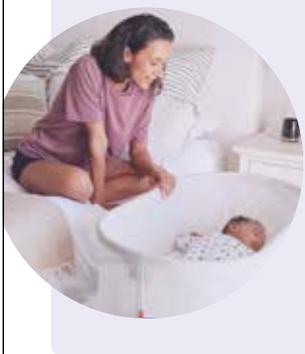
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Political Watch

• U.S. Sen. **Alex Padilla** (D-California) hosted a virtual roundtable discussion with community leaders on addressing gun violence in communities across California, according to a July 7 statement from Padilla's office. The conversation follows the **Bipartisan Safer Communities Act's** passage—which **President Joe Biden** signed into law in June. "The Bipartisan Safer Communities Act is a meaningful and necessary first step towards ending gun violence in America. Today, I spoke with those who know this issue the best and their message is clear: Our work is far from over," Padilla said in a statement. "Californians and all Americans deserve to live free from the persistent threat of gun violence, and we must continue fighting to secure that future." **Everytown for Gun Safety**, **Giffords Law Center to Prevent Gun Violence**, and the **California Wellness Foundation** joined the roundtable on how the legislation will help support local, community-based efforts to make communities safer. "The passage and enactment of the Bipartisan Safer Communities Act marks the first significant federal gun safety law in nearly three decades. As the conversation today showed, the key to ensuring the law is as effective as possible at reducing gun violence is engaging with key stakeholders, especially community organizations," **Yasmin Fletcher Braithwaite** from Giffords Law Center to Prevent Gun Violence said in a statement.

• U.S. Rep. **Salud Carbajal** (D-Santa Barbara) applauded the **Biden-Harris administration's** announcement to restrict new offshore oil drilling on the California coast for the next five years, according to a July 1 statement from Carbajal's office. However, the proposal—which is now open for public comment—includes plans for new offshore leases off the coast of the Gulf of Mexico and Alaska, something Carbajal said he opposes. "The Central Coast knows the devastation that oil spills can bring to our community, our wildlife, and our local economies," Carbajal said in the statement. "I'm disappointed, however, that similar limitations are not in place for other U.S. coastlines like the Gulf Coast. Oil spills pose too great a risk, and while I understand the pressing need to bring down gas prices for Central Coast families, leases approved even tomorrow will do nothing to bring down the price at the pump for years and years to come. And as Big Oil continues to underutilize current leases that they've held for years, there is no reason to continue putting our coastlines and marine life at risk."

• In the wake of escalating violence, California awarded \$30.3 million to 12 organizations to address hate crimes by providing services to survivors and facilitating prevention measures, according to a July 7 statement from Gov. **Gavin Newsom's** Office. A recent report from the **California attorney general** shows that hate crimes increased by 89 percent over the past decade. In particular, the report noted that anti-Asian hate crimes increased by 177 percent in 2021. "It comes as no surprise that as the flames of hatred and bigotry have been stoked in our society, acts of cowardice and violence have increased at an alarming rate. In California, we are investing millions to prevent this hate from taking hold in our communities. We simply will not tolerate intolerance," Newsom said in a statement. This increases the \$14.3 million in grants given to 80 organizations for prevention intervention services in March. The grants will provide direct mental health and wellness services, legal assistance, case management, and prevention services to deepen understanding and empathy through youth development. ○



NEW DELIVERY: Eight community nonprofits and churches visit the Santa Maria Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints on July 12 to pick up nonperishable food, which will be distributed further to individuals in need.

Forty tons of food delivered to Santa Maria nonprofits

Peanut butter, canned beef, shelf-stable milk, refried beans, and soup will make their way throughout the Santa Maria Valley by the truckload for distribution among several community nonprofits.

The national chapter of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints donated 80,000 pounds of nonperishable food and other items in order to help Santa Maria-area residents, local church communications director Ann Harris said.

"The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints has an extensive welfare system of farms, canneries, and [it] produces a lot of food," Harris said. "From time to time, they have an accumulation of surplus, and when that happens they distribute at the request of local church members."

On July 12, two semitrucks full of food arrived from Salt Lake City to the Santa Maria church. Food was given to local nonprofits and churches—including the Foodbank of Santa Barbara County, Good Samaritan Shelter, and Catholic Charities—to then be distributed among community members, Harris said.

"Nobody wants anyone to go hungry; we're just making sure everyone in our community has food to eat," she said. "People on fixed incomes are struggling, and I don't think the need has ever been greater than it is right now."

Foodbank of Santa Barbara County Senior Communications Manager Judith Smith-Meyer said that the organization saw a 30 percent increase in new people coming in for help because of rising costs.

"Increases in utilities, gas prices, and food prices are making it harder for more people than it's typically hard for to put food on the table," Smith-Meyer said.

The food bank's average number of individuals served per month is 118,682, Smith-Meyer explained to the *Sun* via email. In May, the organization saw a spike of 150,000 people, each receiving an average of 95 pounds per visit—34 pounds of fresh produce, and 61 pounds of non-produce items.

"There's a direct impact [on the food bank] in gas prices. We truck food between North and South County to make sure we have enough resources in place. We take them to distributions and deliver to community agencies," she said. "Inflation is definitely affecting the food bank as well, but we are agile and experienced so we are adjusting to serve

the community."

The Foodbank of Santa Barbara County received more than 38,000 pounds of the Latter-day Saints donation—which will help provide the community with "volume and variety" in goods like detergents and shampoo, not just standard grocery items, Smith-Meyer said.

After picking up everything, the food bank will divide its items between its Santa Barbara and Santa Maria warehouses to make sure the teams are equipped to distribute further, Smith-Meyer said.

"We work with around 300 partners, programs and agencies [that] can place orders with the food bank through an online system with our inventory. The agencies can log into the system and request what they would like to pick up," she added.

The partnership with the Church of Latter-day Saints is crucial to the food bank's work, Smith-Meyer said.

"They [the church] are important because they help us serve more members of the community and a greater variety of needs than we normally would in the other channels in place," Smith-Meyer said. "This partnership has dramatically increased the capacity to serve and the variety we are able to deliver."

—Taylor O'Connor

County Main Jail experiences second inmate escape this year

Two K-9 teams and Santa Barbara County Air Support assisted in the arrest of an inmate who escaped from the county Main Jail on July 6—the second escape the jail's seen in 2022 so far.

The jail's first escape occurred on March 27 when 23-year-old Joshua Camarillo-Sanchez—a Santa Maria resident—got out of jail with the help of an accomplice waiting in a getaway car. He was found three days later in a San Luis Obispo motel, according to a March report from the Sheriff's Office.

In July, Santa Barbara resident Nicholas Erickson—booked into the jail on June 18 on suspicion of burglary, vandalism, vehicle theft, loitering, obstruction, grand theft, and committing a crime while released on bail—escaped, placing the Main Jail into an immediate lockdown and alerting nearby patrols to secure the area, according to the Sheriff's Office.

"County Air Support responded to the area with Air 50, a Cessna 206 airplane, and coordinated

the search with deputies on the ground," officials said in a statement. "While they were searching, a resident in the 4600 block of Sierra Madre reported seeing a suspicious subject in the area."

Deputies closed in and Air Support tracked Erickson working his way through brush toward Oak Glen Drive in Santa Barbara. Sheriff's Deputy Phillip Farley and his K-9, Odin, found Erickson—who didn't surrender and attempted to flee, officials continued.

"Deputy Farley deployed K-9 Odin who tumbled down a hill and fell from an 8-by-10-foot drop onto a sidewalk before apprehending Erickson," according to Sheriff's officials.

Erickson was re-arrested and booked in connection with additional charges of escape, obstruction, and harming a police dog. County Deputy District Attorney Heather Trapnell told the *Sun* that Erickson is in the arraignment stage with his next hearing on July 20.

"He has a whole new charge because escape is a crime in and of itself. If convicted, he would serve additional time," she said. "We [at the District Attorney's Office] don't have any role in security in the jail, but if someone does escape we will pursue those charges to ensure there's additional punishment for that."

Sheriff's Office Public Information Officer Raquel Zick told the *Sun* via email that custody staff are conducting a thorough and ongoing investigation into the escape.

"The method of escape and details that compromise jail security are not available for release," she said.

Zick didn't respond with more information regarding previous jail escapes and historical statistics before the *Sun's* deadline.

—Taylor O'Connor

Buellton seeks public input on upcoming mixed-use development

For a Buellton City Council meeting with only one item on the agenda, public attendance was abnormally high on July 7.

"What strikes me is we have council meetings and nobody comes. ... It sure is nice to have people here," Mayor Holly Sierra said during the meeting. "The minutes will show that this room was packed to the gills."

NEWS from page 4

The July 7 hearing was scheduled as a special joint meeting between the Buellton City Council and the Buellton Planning Commission to provide recommendations and collect public input on an upcoming mixed-use development in town.

The meeting began with an intro from City Manager Scott Wolfe, who described the gathering as “an opportunity for the Planning Commission, the City Council, and the public to weigh in on matters that they feel should be addressed in any forthcoming specific plan document” for the project, known as Campus 36—a 17-acre development set to include industrial businesses and residential housing, with 116 dwelling units.

In anticipation of several speakers coming forward during public comment, Wolfe said that it “won’t be helpful to get up in front of the body tonight and say, ‘I think we should deny this project,’ because that is not a potential action this evening.”

“The purpose of tonight’s meeting is not to make a decision on this project. There will be no decision made on this project tonight; it cannot happen,” said Wolfe, who added that there will be at least three more public hearings on the item before the Campus 36 specific plan is finalized or considered for approval.

City Planner Irma Tucker led a presentation on recommended requests for the project’s applicants to fulfill in the specific plan, such as studies on anticipated water usage, potential impacts on local wildlife, and traffic.

During public comment, a handful of speakers stepped forward and offered additional requests for what they would like to see in the specific plan, including economic impact

on the city and the expected monthly income of eligible renters at Campus 36. Many speakers were residents of Rancho de Maria, a neighborhood near the development site.

After public comment, Planning Commission Chair Patty Hammel expressed concern over the amount of cars the Campus 36 project will bring to Buellton.

“I know the applicant is devising a plan for the proposed project to have bike-share and car-share available, but I’m thinking as people are moving in from maybe UCSB or other areas to live and work here, they’re going to have cars, so we need to account for those cars,” Hammel said. “I think maybe we should overestimate instead of underestimate.”

Buellton Vice Mayor David King said he agrees with Hammel and wants the applicant to provide “some kind of verifiable proof” that Campus 36 won’t have a negative traffic impact on Industrial Way or Highway 246.

“I’m very concerned about how many cars are going to be associated with this project. If you have two cars per unit, that’s 232 cars. Where are you going to put all those cars?” King said. “This is not *The Jetsons*, we’re not flying cars to our house, and those cars are gonna have to be somewhere.”

Wolfe said that the item will be brought back to the Buellton City Council for further consideration at the beginning of August, and at least two more occasions after that.

“At this point, we don’t have a firm project.

We have a concept plan and an application for a specific plan,” Wolfe said. “There will be many opportunities for the public to comment on this in the future.”

—Caleb Wiseblood

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Sun

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HOUSING, HOUSING, HOUSING: The 1,289-unit Dana Reserve project released its draft environmental impact report on June 15. On July 14, it will be the subject of an informational study session at the SLO County Planning Commission.

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Measuring impacts

Dana Reserve environmental impact report details project's footprint on Nipomo oak-studded ranchland

BY PETER JOHNSON

The largest proposed housing development in San Luis Obispo County in 25 years would cut down close to 4,000 oak trees, disrupt protected plant and wildlife species, and strain local traffic, among other impacts, according to a draft environmental impact report (EIR) released last month for the Dana Reserve in Nipomo.

The 1,289 single- and multi-family units envisioned as part of the Dana Reserve project are being welcomed by SLO County and some community groups as a much-needed injection of housing supply into the local market, while critics are calling it overly ambitious and environmentally destructive.

First proposed by local development firm NKT Commercial in 2020, Dana Reserve looks to build on a 288-acre site south of Willow Road and west of Highway 101 known as Cañada Ranch. The property has been slated for development for more than a decade, but prior plans never materialized.

While past plans for Cañada Ranch concentrated on commercial uses to address Nipomo's jobs/housing imbalance, the Dana Reserve focuses on housing—its hundreds of proposed single- and multi-family units would span 10 neighborhoods and include a park, hiking and equestrian trails, and some commercial development.

According to SLO County Planning Manager Airlin Singewald, the local and statewide housing shortage caused planners and NKT Commercial to pivot away from the ranch's prior top development priorities of "open spaces uses within the oak woodlands" and "an industrial park for employment," in favor of a denser, residentially focused project.

If approved, Dana Reserve would be the largest housing project to come to unincorporated SLO County since Nipomo's last major development, Monarch Dunes, and its 1,320 units were approved in 1998, according to Singewald.

Dana Reserve's draft EIR—which is open for public comment through Aug. 1 and will be the subject of an informational study session at a July 14 SLO County Planning Commission meeting—highlights seven "significant,

unavoidable" impact areas from the project: in growth, population, transportation, land use, greenhouse gas emissions, biological resources, and air quality.

According to the EIR, Dana Reserve

would cause the removal of about 75 acres of coast live oak woodland and oak forest on the ranch—close to 4,000 individual trees and about 76 percent of the oaks on the site. The woodland—which covers about 40 percent of the entire project area—"provides important native habitat for plants and wildlife" and "contributes significantly to ... the region's overall biological diversity," supporting eight special-status plants and four special-status nesting birds.

NKT Commercial proposes to mitigate that loss of trees and habitat by dedicating a 388-acre, off-site parcel 2 miles east of the project for permanent conservation and saving about 20 acres of woodland/forest on the Cañada Ranch site. It also proposes to plant "anywhere from 1,500 to 3,000 oak trees" as mitigation. NKT will also have to earn a specific permit from SLO County to remove the trees as part of the county's 5-year-old oak woodland ordinance.

But the EIR emphasizes that the project's off-site conservation property does not contain the same special-status species that thrive on Cañada Ranch and adds that some mitigation efforts may not succeed. The EIR concludes that the project would cause "a significant net loss of oak trees and acreage of oak woodlands in the county."

Other impacts identified in the EIR are tied to the population growth that would follow the development. The EIR states that the size and scope of Dana Reserve is not "specifically projected or planned for in local and regional county planning documents" and would "induce substantial unplanned population growth in the Nipomo area." The ensuing impacts from that include higher levels of traffic, greenhouse gas emissions, a loss of rural visual character, and an exacerbation of the community's jobs/housing imbalance.

One issue that's not considered a significant and unavoidable impact is water supply. The Dana Reserve, if approved, would get annexed into the Nipomo Community Services District (CSD) territory, and the district would provide the project with water and wastewater services.

According to the EIR, the Nipomo CSD has sufficient water supply to serve the project: It has between 538 and 1,205 acre-feet per year of available water to serve areas outside of its current

service boundary. Dana Reserve at full build-out would demand 387 acre-feet per year. According to a NKT Commercial presentation made to the Nipomo CSD in 2020, by the fiscal year 2025-26, the CSD will be "contractually required to increase the purchase of water from Santa Maria by an additional 700 acre-feet." The developer argues that Dana Reserve's eventual residents will help share the burden of those costs for all ratepayers.

NKT Commercial owner Nick Tompkins was not available for comment for this story. Public opinion on the project runs the gamut, with some residents and community groups applauding the addition of housing and others calling it too large and impactful.

Peoples' Self-Help Housing, a nonprofit affordable housing developer that plans to partner with NKT to make one of the project's 10 neighborhoods all-affordable, wrote in a 2021 comment letter that the project "meets the most critical needs for the community."

Arroyo Grande resident Angie Mello also wrote to support the project, saying, "We need affordable family housing to both buy and rent. The Dana Reserve does this." Mello praised the project's hiking and biking trails, traffic improvements, and proposed integration of a satellite Cuesta College campus on-site.

"I am 100 percent positive that we need to do everything possible to make the Dana Reserve a reality," Mello wrote.

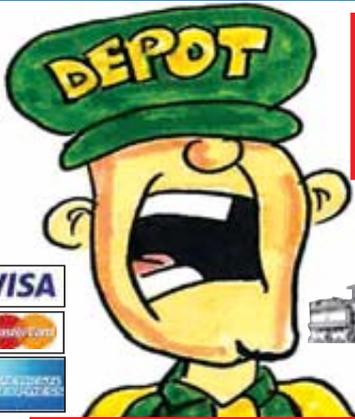
But other local groups and residents registered their opposition to the project. In letters submitted last year ahead of the EIR, several environmental and civic groups, including ECOSLO, the League of Women Voters of SLO County, and the Coastal San Luis Resource Conservation District (RCD) expressed concerns about the project's scope and its possible impact on wildlife, oak trees, and water.

Neil Havlik, a retired natural resources manager for the city of SLO, told the Sun following the release of the EIR that he's highly skeptical of the mitigation measures proposed for the loss of the oak forest. He said that the off-site parcel offered for conservation is "a totally different environment" than Cañada Ranch, and noted "we're still left with a net loss of all of those oak trees."

"I'm very concerned as a natural resources person. It saddens me to see [the project is] moving along as it is," Havlik said, adding that he supports a downsized project that integrates the oak woodland. "Do a smaller project and leave the oak trees alone." ○

Reach Assistant Editor Peter Johnson from the Sun's sister paper at pjohnson@newtimeslo.com.

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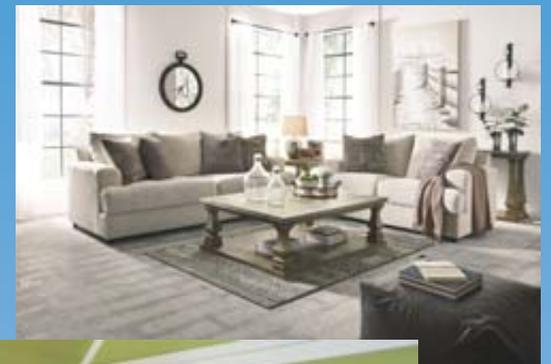
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Solvang-based nonprofit gym hosts Junior Olympic weightlifting competition

BY TAYLOR O'CONNOR

Lyne Castellanos, a Solvang math teacher, wasn't super athletic until her daughter went to college and started boxing. Now, the 65-year-old holds several world records in powerlifting, won female athlete of the year in 2017, and runs a nonprofit gym with her daughter as a way to give back to the community.

"We work with kids and we want to ensure their success as responsible and giving community members by working in three areas: the gym, the classroom, and the community," the executive director of Youth Empowered Sports Club said.

The gym, which is located in an old outlet mall, has a powerlifting room, a tutoring center, an arts enrichment room, a wrestling room, and a boxing and martial arts space. Through its programs, the gym offers several training and tutoring opportunities for 85 to 100 children ages 6 and older guided by volunteer coaches and teachers, Castellanos said.

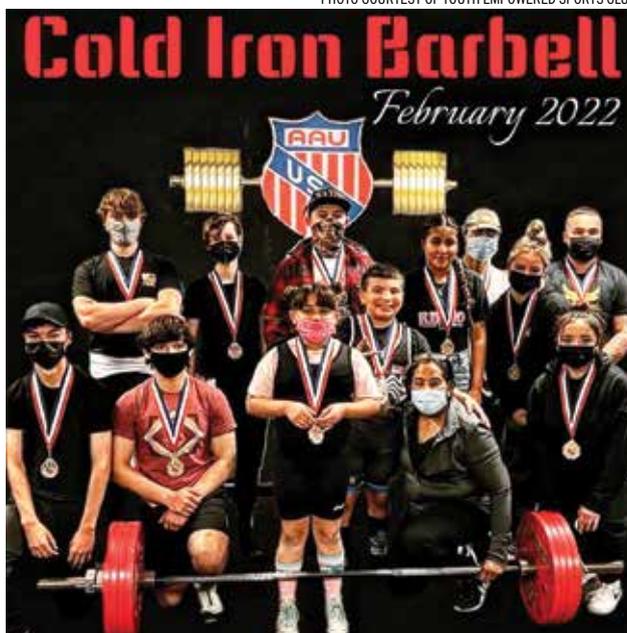
"We have a great group of volunteers who help. We have a team leadership program where our [junior high and high schoolers] are teaching boxing classes or in the wrestling room," she added. "We have people who go away for college and come back to help because somebody helped them when they were 12 years old [and] they are in a position to give their time and expertise."

For the gym's powerlifting team, Cold Iron Lifting, Castellanos partnered with Amateur Athletic Union (AAU)—a sports organization that hosts several competitions to help develop fitness programs like powerlifting.

"There are a number of different organizations you can lift with, but we chose AAU because they are family-oriented and have success both on and off the playing field. Their motto is 'sports for all forever,' and that fits us," she said.

This year, the Cold Iron Lifting team will be hosting AAU's Junior Olympic Games on July 23 and 24. Although she doesn't have numbers yet, Castellanos said she's been receiving entries every day and is hoping

PHOTO COURTESY OF YOUTH EMPOWERED SPORTS CLUB



FOR EVERYONE: Youth Empowered Sports Club junior powerlifting team, Cold Iron Lifting, competed at a February 2022 event. Now, they will host a Junior Olympics event June 23 and 24.

for 30 to 40 competitors. July 23 will be the Olympic weight lifting competition featuring squats, bench press, and deadlift, she said.

"I anticipate it will be a high-energy event, a feel of community," she said.

July 24 will have a more relaxed feel to it with odd events—competitors will carry heavy weights for a long distance or see how many times they can deadlift in a minute. All events will be monitored by trained referees, and safety will be the top priority, Castellanos said.

She said she hopes people come to the event to see powerlifters of all ages and genders compete. Oftentimes, people hold a certain image of the powerlifting community that isn't always accurate.

"We are atypical. We are not what people are going to think when

they think of powerlifting," she said. "When I thought of powerlifting, I thought of big, giant, muscle-bound men, [but] it's actually a sport for everyone."

For example, Castellanos added that she works with a lot of women who start off very nervous in the gym, but with guidance and community support they are able to accomplish great feats like deadlifting a bar for the first time.

"I find it's a really good tool for confidence building for students as well as adults," she said. "The powerlifting community is very supportive of people. It's never been anything negative, each person wants everyone to do their best."

Confidence-building plays a major role at the gym because it carries over into other areas of life, like academics or in careers. But the most important aspect of the gym is the sense of community, she said.

"I think, particularly now in this time where our world is, we need to build community or rebuild community. People need connection, and our gym is a place for everybody," Castellanos said. "We are really warm and cozy and comforting, but also hard work gets done here."

For more information on donating to or volunteering for Empowered Sports Club, email youthempowereddsy@gmail.com.

Highlight

• Starting July 1, Guadalupe's public transportation service—the Guadalupe Flyer—changed its transit service operation. Instead of one bus route between Santa Maria and throughout Guadalupe every 75 minutes, transit is now split into two routes. The Flyer Express route will run every hour between Santa Maria's Transit Center at the top of the hour and the Guadalupe Amtrak station at the bottom of the hour. The Flyer's local route will run every half hour at stops throughout the city and meet up with the Express route at the Amtrak station. Two stops were added: one in the Pasadera development and the other at West Main and Montez Court. Free transfers will be available between these two routes. For more information, visit smoothinc.org.

Staff Writer Taylor O'Connor can be reached at toconnor@santamariasun.com.

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22ND ANNUAL READERS POLL

BEST
2022
OF NO. SANTA BARBARA COUNTY

Sun



Trailblazer

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ANDERSON, SUSANNE WILCH, 71, of Nipomo passed away 7/8/2022 arrangements with Dudley-Hoffman Mortuary, Crematory & Memory Gardens

ANDERSON, JAMES JAY, 70, of San Luis Obispo passed away 7/1/2022 arrangements with Los Osos Valley Mortuary & Memorial Park

AZEVEDO, JOSEPHINE, 91, of Morro Bay passed away 7/6/2022 arrangements with Chapel of the Roses

BOWEN, MONICA LYNN, 70, of Santa Maria passed away 7/6/2022 arrangements with Dudley-Hoffman Mortuary, Crematory & Memory Gardens

BROWN, SISTER THERESA, 89, of Santa Maria passed away 7/10/2022 arrangements with Magner-Maloney Funeral Home & Crematory

BURNETT, CLAUDIA A., 80, of Atascadero passed away 7/1/2022 arrangements with Los Osos Valley Mortuary & Memorial Park

DUTY, ZOE J., 90, of Atascadero passed away 7/5/2022 arrangements with Chapel of the Roses

DYER, ALAN ENOS, 79, of Los Osos passed away 6/27/2022 arrangements with Los Osos Valley Mortuary & Memorial Park

GARDEMANN, FLORINE, 91, of Atascadero passed away 6/27/2022 arrangements with Chapel of the Roses

HOUSTON, MARSHA ANN, 80, of Los Osos passed away 7/6/2022 arrangements with Los Osos Valley Mortuary & Memorial Park

IENSTINE, ROBERT LEE, 75, of Santa Maria passed away 7/7/2022 arrangements with Dudley-Hoffman Mortuary, Crematory & Memory Gardens

KAHLER, MARIE JENNIE, 85, of Lompoc passed away 7/7/2022 arrangements with Starbuck-Lind Mortuary

KRALL, BRUNHILDE, 91, of Santa Maria passed away 7/6/2022 arrangements with Magner-Maloney Funeral Home & Crematory

MESSENGER, KRIS "TOM", 72, of Los Osos passed away 6/17/2022 arrangements with Marshall Spoo Sunset Funeral Chapel

MILLER, GARY LYNN, 68, of Paso Robles passed away 6/24/2022 arrangements with Chapel of the Roses

MOORE, RUTH MARIA, 65, of Templeton passed away 6/27/2022 arrangements with Chapel of the Roses

MORALES, MERCED, 87, of Lompoc passed away 6/26/2022 arrangements with Starbuck-Lind Mortuary

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PELTIER, NANCY MAE, 90, of Atascadero passed away 6/10/2022 arrangements with Wheeler-Smith Mortuary

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QUAID, ALBERT PERRY, 85, of Santa Maria passed away 7/10/2022 arrangements with Dudley-Hoffman Mortuary, Crematory & Memory Gardens

ROBERTSON, GENE, 65, of Santa Maria passed away 7/2/2022 arrangements with Dudley-Hoffman Mortuary, Crematory & Memory Gardens

SANCHEZ, ERLINDA DEQUITO, 81, of Santa Maria passed away 7/9/2022 arrangements with Dudley-Hoffman Mortuary, Crematory & Memory Gardens

SCHMAELING, JOYCE, 95, of Atascadero passed away 7/4/2022 arrangements with Chapel of the Roses

SKY, SAM REBEL, 50, of Arroyo Grande passed away 6/29/2022 arrangements with Marshall Spoo Sunset Funeral Chapel

STANFORD, ROBERTA IRENE, 96, of Santa Maria passed away 7/8/2022 arrangements with Dudley-Hoffman Mortuary, Crematory & Memory Gardens

VIDAL, NANCY (MOODY), 74, of Santa Maria passed away 6/29/2022 arrangements with Dudley-Hoffman Mortuary, Crematory & Memory Gardens

WILLIAMS, RECTOR "LEE", 89, of Lompoc passed away 6/9/2022 arrangements with Starbuck-Lind Mortuary

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55 FICTION

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PUBLICATION DATE: July 28

Winners of our annual short story contest

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AUTUMN ARTS

BOOK ADS BY: Sept 15

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What do you think of the new red flag laws going into place?

- 50% They are long overdue and should have been in place long ago.
- 28% They infringe on Second Amendment rights and shouldn't have passed.
- 14% They won't help with protections as much as people think.
- 8% They are a great step forward toward gun control and will promote safer communities.

14 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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Sign of the times?

Is the Lompoc crime rate increase connected to nonprescription drug use or something else?

BY RON FINK

In 2016, the Lompoc City Council approved the unlimited manufacturing; sale; and, with few restrictions, the use of cannabis in the city. At the time, the police chief testified that he anticipated an increase in crime if this new policy was enacted; a City Council majority ignored his warnings.

But by ignoring the warning of the police chief when they approved the sale and manufacture/processing of cannabis without any limits, they may have contributed to an uptick in crime even though the 2020 census counts only showed a marginal increase.

Since the approval of the sale and manufacturing of cannabis, the predictions of the police chief seem to have come true. In 2018 I wrote in the Sun that the city of Lompoc was in decline. For one measure of how far our city has slipped, we need only to look at crime statistics.

Even though our police officers and their leadership work hard to investigate crimes and arrest suspects, they can't overcome political changes that make their job more difficult.

And you cannot overlook the fact that decades of neglect by past City Councils allowed Lompoc Police Department staffing and deployment to stay the same even as the population grew for nearly three decades. Other neighboring jurisdictions' increased staffing as their populations grew.

Crime prevention is as much a part of physical security as it is of creating laws that allow officers to interdict potential criminals before a crime occurs. Even though local politicians are not responsible for changes in California law, the state

Legislature and governor are.

I have written often of a phenomenon known as the "broken windows theory" in policing, which evolved from a theory proposed by James

Q. Wilson and George Kelling in 1982 that used broken windows as a metaphor for disorder within neighborhoods.

Expanding on the theory, they write, "If the first broken window in a building is not repaired, the people who like breaking windows will assume that no one cares about the building and more windows will be broken. Soon the building will have no windows." The real-time result is that if you let minor crimes such as shoplifting, car theft, or vagrancy go unchecked, there will be a subsequent increase in other more serious crimes.

The state and some local politicians of today seem to be tossing rocks at those windows at an alarming rate. For example, the governor recently signed a law repealing a loitering law that targeted street prostitution, and he has previously directed the release of thousands of convicted felons. Soon there will be no windows left, only the chaos of unchecked homelessness, shoplifting, public intoxication, nonprescription drug use, assaults, robberies, and other criminal activity that is seemingly beyond the reach of law enforcement because of political policy decisions.

Seasoned police officers have told me that an increase in crime may also be because 76 percent of available multi-family units in

Lompoc are occupied by low-income families compared to less than 7 percent in other neighboring jurisdictions; we lack an effective mental health care system; certain laws decriminalized violent

offenses; the probation department lacks enforcement; the county District Attorney criminal filing policies are lax; certain laws restrict and prohibit how law enforcement deals with juvenile offenders; and certain laws that were enacted under the guise of "police reform." Then consider the struggle and challenge of hiring police officers, further exacerbated by retention challenges.

The rise in crime may also be attributed to a complex mix of issues: the other issues are nonprescription drug use, absentee fathers, rampant and unchecked homelessness, rise in gang friction, and—the largest contributor—underfunding the police department.

According to the California attorney general website, between 2011 and 2020 the following crimes occurred in Lompoc.

Even though our police officers and their leadership work hard to investigate crimes and arrest suspects, they can't overcome political changes that make their job more difficult.

In 2016 there were no murders, and since 2011 the highest number in one year had been three. In 2019 there were seven murders in the city, and in 2020 there were four. Midway through this year there have already been five homicides. The use of guns in assaults has also increased: In 2011 there were 17 shootings; in 2019 there were 65; and in 2020 there were 73 assaults using a gun.

In 2016 there were 19 robberies; in 2017 there were 37; in 2018 there were 32; in 2019 there were 32; and in 2020 there were 27. In 2016 there were 130 auto thefts; 151 in 2017; 144 in 2018; 236 in 2019; and 231 in 2020.

The overall crime rate in 2016 was about equal to the national rate; however, in 2019 it was nearly double the national average. Only after the state of California reduced the penalties for many so-called "victimless crimes" did the numbers somewhat recede; the violations are still occurring, real people are still impacted but the stats went down—there, problem solved.

So, what does this have to do with the unlimited manufacturing, sale, and, with some restrictions, the use of cannabis in our city? Well, it takes money to buy these products; it takes more money to legally manufacture and sell the same products.

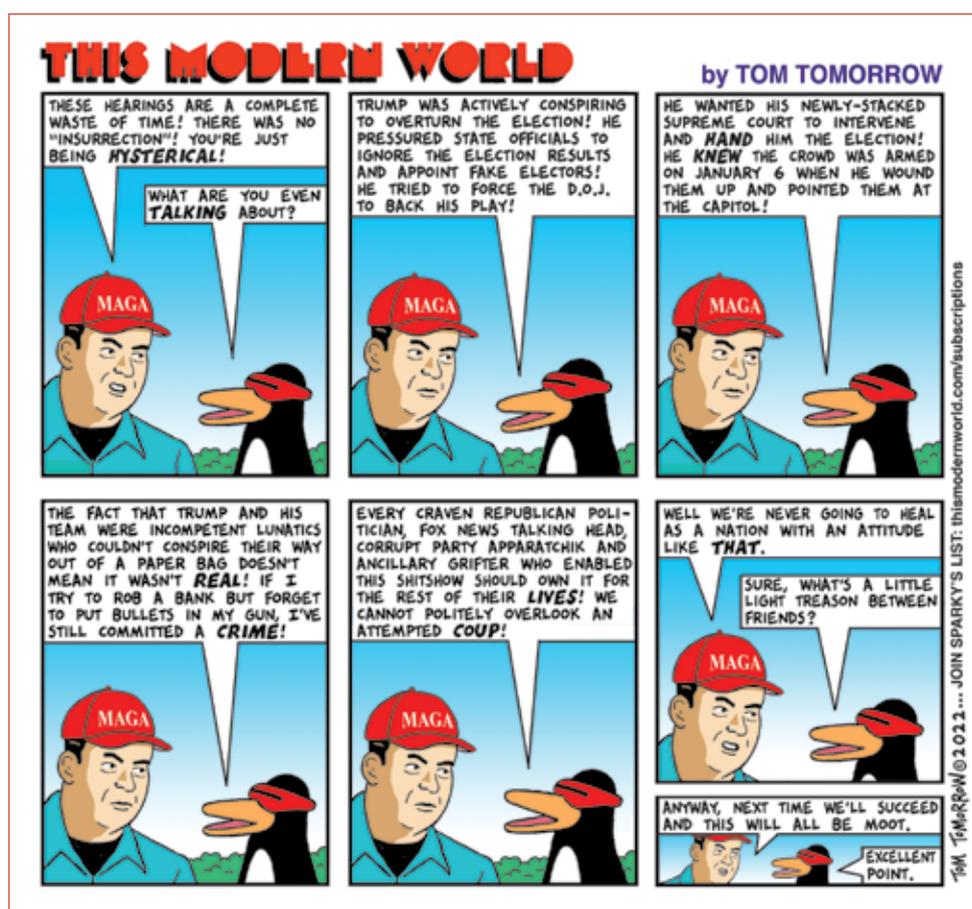
This opens an opportunity for street dealers to flourish since they don't have to worry about permits; regulatory oversight; or paying fees, taxes, or anything else. They just set up shop in an alley or on a street corner and hope that rival competition doesn't pass by and shoot them.

Because of the stronger varieties of cannabis available on the legal and especially the illegal market, it also creates an increased paranoia among users; prior to legalization it was somewhere below 5 percent THC, and because of plant biological improvements it is now at nearly 95 percent THC. And as the user moves on to regular use, it creates a desire for ever stronger drugs to achieve the desired high.

Based on the information I have provided, you can make up your own mind. Were past Lompoc City Council members complicit in the increase in criminal activity or is it just a sign of the times? ○

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

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

Fly away

We need housing! Should we cut down 4,000-plus oak trees to make that happen?

That's a tough question. There has to be a way to both build and not totally destroy, right? Maybe.

The largest residential development proposed in **SLO County** in a quarter of a century could make its way into **Nipomo** in the future—bringing more than 1,200 new housing units to an area that arguably might not be able to handle the population influx. And the developer, **NKT Commercial**, seems to think the best way to do it is to level oak woodland and oak forest on 228 acres of land west of **Highway 101** and south of **Willow Road**.



The environmental document accompanying the **Dana Reserve** project said the 75 acres of coast live oak woodland and oak forest slated for potential destruction—or about 40 percent of the project area—“contributes significantly to ... the region’s overall biological diversity.”

Well, don't worry, everyone! The project also wants to make up for killing that habitat by preserving 388 acres of habitat somewhere else that really isn't that similar. But wait! The project also wants to preserve 20 acres of woodland and plant new oak trees. Problem solved!

Wrong. Nothing can make up for the loss of untouched habitat, for the loss of trees that are older than I am. Planting new trees along freshly paved streets doesn't fix that loss.

“We're still left with a net loss of all of those oak trees,” said **Neil Havlik**, who worked as the city of SLO's natural resource manager for many years. “Do a smaller project and leave the oak trees alone.”

Will a smaller project give us the housing injection we need?

“We need affordable family housing to both buy and rent,” **Arroyo Grande resident Angie Mello** said in a letter she wrote to the county supporting the project. “I am 100 percent positive that we need to do everything possible to make the Dana Reserve a reality.”

I'm 100 percent positive we need to do a better job of figuring out how to build without destroying the natural environment we all enjoy as part of living on the Central Coast. Not that the project shouldn't move forward. We absolutely need housing. Can't we do it better?

In Buellton, officials are more concerned about new cars than old oak trees when it comes to residential development proposals. Ugh. The traffic that much-needed new housing units bring with them, amirite? **Buellton Vice Mayor David King** wants proof that a new development won't have a negative traffic impact on **Industrial Way**—because people need somewhere to park before they drink, you know?

“I'm very concerned about how many cars are going to be associated with this project,” King said at a July 7 hearing for a mixed-use development known as **Campus 36**. “This is not *The Jetsons*; we're not flying cars to our house, and those cars are gonna have to be somewhere.”

Well, we *might* be flying cars to our houses in the future, Mr. King! And if that's the case, maybe we'll have levitating houses by then, too, and the oak trees can stay put. And all we'll have to mitigate is the ruined viewshed of the people flying down Highway 101. ○

The Canary will take traffic impacts over environmental ones. Send flying cars to canary@santamariasun.com.

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JULY 14 – JULY 21
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!

VIBRANT VIEWS

Gallery Los Olivos will hold its latest duo exhibition, *Summer Refresh*, through Sunday, July 31. This exhibit highlights a collection of colorful paintings created by local artists and longtime collaborators Terri Taber and Carol Talley. To find out more about the showcase, call (805) 688-7517 or visit gallerylosolivos.com. The gallery is located at 2920 Grand Ave., Los Olivos.

—Caleb Wiseblood

COURTESY IMAGE BY TERRI TABER

ARTS

SANTA YNEZ VALLEY

FIRE AND ICE: OUR CHANGING LANDSCAPE

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

GREENLAND: LAND OF THE MIDNIGHT SUN

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

LOMPOC/VANDENBERG

CHRISTMAS IN JULY CRAFT SHOW AND BOUTIQUE

This event will feature hand-crafted items only. You will find crocheted and knitted items, handmade leather and wood-turned items, jewelry, table runners, aprons, etc. Also includes a bake sale. **July 23**, 9 a.m.-3 p.m. Free admission. 805-245-8161. Valley of Flowers Half-Century Club, 341 No. N St., Lompoc.

COASTAL COLLECTION: SHARON HEDMAN (FEATURED ARTIST)

The Lompoc Valley Art Association's Cypress Gallery will be featuring Coastal Collection, an artist show by Sharon Hedman. A reception, open to the public, will be held on July 10, from 3 to 5 p.m. Thursdays-Sundays, 11 a.m.-4 p.m. through July 24 Free. 805-736-3743. lompocart.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 23**, 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

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.

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

LOCAL AND FEATURED ARTIST EXHIBITS Valley Art Gallery, located in the SM Airport, exhibits local and featured artist work. New exhibits are mounted the first Tuesday of even-numbered months. Wide variety of art available for purchase. ongoing, 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.

NEXT CHAPTER BOOK CLUB Each month features a new chapter book. Talk about last month's book, and then read the first chapter of the new book together. Copies of the book will be provided on a first come, first served basis. Designed for youth, 8 to 12 years of age. **July 21**, 3:30 p.m. 805-925-0994. engagedpatrons.org. Santa Maria Public Library (Altrusa Theater), 421 S. McClelland St., Santa Maria.

OCEAN CAMP: TRAVELING LANTERN THEATRE COMPANY

Attend this lively fish-fact-filled voyage to the bottom of the sea, through an interactive program and performance. **July 14**, 2 p.m. 805-925-0994. engagedpatrons.org. Santa Maria Public Library (Altrusa Theater), 421 S. McClelland St., Santa Maria.

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

PYJAMA DRAMA Includes stories and songs for families with children ages 18 months through 3 years old. Presented by Pyjama Drama, in a three-part series. **July 18**, noon 805-925-0994. engagedpatrons.org. Santa Maria Public Library (Altrusa Theater), 421 S. McClelland St., Santa Maria.

REALLY A VILLAIN STORY TIME Join us for a special story time by reading off the beaten path. Stories presented by Villains from A Wish Your Heart Makes. **July 22**, 11 a.m. 805-925-0994. engagedpatrons.org. Santa Maria Public Library (Altrusa Theater), 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. Through July 31 Marian Theatre, 800 S. College Dr., Santa Maria, pcpa.org.

SUMMER CRAFT ADVENTURE Celebrate summer with the Santa Maria Public Library. Come to the Altrusa Theatre to complete a fun and adventurous craft. **July 19**, 1 p.m. 805-925-0994. engagedpatrons.org. Santa Maria Public Library (Altrusa Theater), 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 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 29 \$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. 805-

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

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

OPEN STUDIO FOR ADULTS Call to reserve. All materials included. Tuesdays, 6-9 p.m. and Wednesdays, 12:30-3:30 p.m. \$35. 805-668-2125. lila.community/. Lila Creative Community, 1147 East Grand Ave. suite 101, Arroyo Grande.

SAN LUIS OBISPO

36TH ANNUAL CENTRAL COAST RENAISSANCE FESTIVAL Here you'll find legendary characters like William Shakespeare, Sir Walter Raleigh, Sir Francis Drake, and a host of famous Dukes, Earls, Lords, and Ladies. **July 16-17** my805tix.com. Laguna Lake Park, 504 Madonna Rd., San Luis Obispo.

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

ALL LEVELS POTTERY CLASSES Anam Cre is a pottery studio in SLO that offers a variety of classes. This specific class is open to any level. Teachers are present for questions, but the class feels more like an open studio time for potters. Thursdays, 6-8 p.m. \$40. Anam Cre Pottery Studio, 1243 Monterey St., San Luis Obispo, 805-896-6197, anamcre.com.

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.

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. 805-747-4200. artcentralslo.com/gallery-artists/. Art Central, 1329 Monterey St., San Luis Obispo.

ARTISTS AT SLO GALLERY Feast your eyes on

ARTS continued page 13

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 12
 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 Free. 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.

BLUE AND YELLOW MAKE GREEN: CHILDREN'S ART CLASS Students will learn how to mix colors using acrylic paints, the basics on color matching, and what contrasting colors are and how they relate to each other. For ages 5 to 11.

July 17, 2:30-3:30 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.

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

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

CHILDREN'S CLASS: BEGINNING DRAWING This 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.

CYRANO DE BERGERAC CCSF presents this outdoor production, described as Shakespearean in its epic passion and lush language. A romantic swashbuckling tale of love, honor, friendship, and panache. A timeless story that celebrates love and the humorous and heartbreaking ways we try to express it. Fridays, 7:30-10 p.m. and Saturdays, Sundays, 6-8:30 p.m. through Aug. 14 \$12-\$20. centralcoastshakespeare.org/. Filippini Ranch, 1850 Calle Joaquin, San Luis Obispo.

DATE NIGHT POTTERY Looking for a fun date night? Head to Anam Cre Pottery Studio and play with clay. Couples will learn how to throw a pot on the wheel and make a cheeseboard. Fridays, Saturdays, 6-8 p.m. \$140. Anam Cre Pottery Studio, 1243 Monterey St., San Luis Obispo, 805-896-6197, anamcre.com.

DISCOVERING ITALIC CALLIGRAPHY WITH MARY LOU JOHNSON Learn the basics of Italic Script using a Pilot Parallel Pen. Upper and lower case letters will be reviewed and demonstrated. We'll explore the versatility of the Pilot Pens featuring a broad edge. **July 16**, 12-4 p.m. \$35 (must bring pen and pay \$5 material fee). 805-747-4200. artcentralslo.com/workshops-events/. Art Central, 1329 Monterey St., San Luis Obispo.

DRAWING IN DEPTH: YOUNG ADULT ART CLASS Focus on using one-point and two-point perspective to make the artworks look more 3-dimensional. Students will be using graphite and charcoal in this lesson. For ages 11 to 16. **July 21**, 10:30 a.m.-noon Check website for price. 805-747-4200. artcentralslo.com/workshops-events/. Art Central, 1329 Monterey St., San Luis Obispo.

FUN FRAMES WITH THE FAMILY: FAMILY ART CLASS Bring in a picture of your child or family and we'll create a colorful frame to match. More details on website. To sign-up, email spencerpoulter@yahoo.com **July 21**, 3-4 p.m. \$30 per pair. 805-747-4200. artcentralslo.com/workshops-events/. Art Central, 1329 Monterey St., San Luis Obispo.

FUN WITH PAPER: ABSTRACT COLLAGE (CHILDREN'S CLASS) Using acrylic paints and various collage materials, students will layer to construct a balanced colorful painting. Gloves will be provided to all students. All skill levels welcome. For ages 5 to 11. **July 21**, 1-2 p.m. Check website for price. 805-747-4200. artcentralslo.com/workshops-events/. Art Central, 1329 Monterey St., San Luis Obispo.

ARTS IMPROV 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

PHOTO COURTESY OF THE CENTRAL COAST RENAISSANCE FESTIVAL



RENAISSANCE ROYALTY

The 36th annual Central Coast Renaissance Festival will be held on Saturday, July 16, and Sunday, July 17, at Laguna Lake Park in San Luis Obispo. Guests of the fest can expect to enjoy live entertainment hosted by a variety of costumed characters. Tickets to the two-day event are available in advance at my805tix.com. Visit crenfaire.com for more info. Laguna Lake Park is located at 503 Madonna Road, San Luis Obispo.

—C.W.

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.

LITTLE SPARKLE LAVENDER: CHILDREN'S ART CLASS Join Meagan Robbins in this step by step tutorial to learn how to paint lavender flowers. Learn some easy acrylic techniques to add some texture into your painting (using items you probably have in your kitchen). **July 14**, 2:30-3:30 p.m. \$25. 805-747-4200. mcrobbinsstudios.as.me/schedule.php. Art Central, 1329 Monterey St., San Luis Obispo.

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

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. Third 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.

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

SLO COMEDY UNDERGROUND Headlining is the talented UCSB Alum, Corde Snell, featuring El Gordo Mamon, with SLO Comedy Underground's David Uhlfelder. **July 21**, 6-9 p.m. \$10 online and \$15 at the door. 805-215-3669. slopublicmarket.com. SLO Public Market, Bonetti Ranch, San Luis Obispo.

SUMMER CAMP FOR YOUTH (AGES 9-12 YEARS) For ages 9 to 12 years. A fun five-day collaborative exploration of comedy, performance, and teamwork culminating in a show for family and friends. **July 18-23**, 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m. \$225 for all 5 days of camp. centralcoastcomedytheater.com. Central Coast Comedy

14th Annual New Times Music Awards



ATTENTION LOCAL SINGERS, SONGWRITERS, MUSICIANS, & BANDS ...

CALL FOR ENTRIES!

Entries for the 2022 NTMA competition will be accepted

THURSDAY JULY 21 THRU MONDAY AUGUST 8

SAVE THE DATE

The NTMAs will be held **Friday, Nov. 4, 2022** @ SLO Brew Rock

NewTimesSLO.com



Visit the California

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Full Steam Ahead!

FRONTIER STAGE

FREE WITH PAID FAIR ADMISSION | *SHOWS START AT 8:00 PM

**MISS CMSF
PAGEANT**

JULY 20 *7:00

**SHEENA
EASTON**

JULY 21

LED ZEPPELIN 2

TRIBUTE

JULY 22

MATT STELL

JULY 23

LOS PARRAS

JULY 24

**MADDIE
& TAE**

JULY 25

MAC POWELL

JULY 26

FOGHAT

JULY 27

**DANTE MARSH
& THE VIBE SETTERS**

JULY 28

**AL JARDINE
& THE WILSON SISTERS**

JULY 29

HIGH VOLTAGE

AC/DC TRIBUTE

JULY 30

NIKO MOON

JULY 31

MISSION SQUARE STAGE

FREE WITH PAID FAIR ADMISSION
SHOWS START AT 7:00 PM

**SPANKY PAUL
BAND**

JULY 20

**MONTE MILLS
& THE LUCKY HORSESHOE
BAND**

JULY 21

ROUTE 66

JULY 22

**UNFINISHED
BUSINESS**

JULY 23

**ATTILA VIOLA & THE
BAKERSFIELD BOYS**

JULY 24

**EARLS OF
TUESDAY**

JULY 25

**CARBON
CITY LIGHTS**

JULY 26

**KENNY
TAYLOR**

JULY 27

**ERIN & THE
EARTHQUAKES**

JULY 28

THE TAPROOTS

JULY 29

DOC OLIVER

JULY 30

DEJA-VU

JULY 31



JULY 20-31, 2022

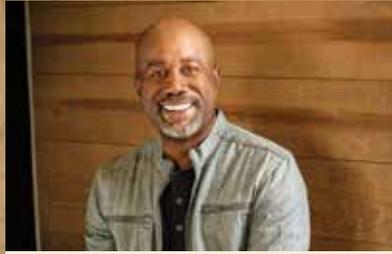
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JOURNEY

WITH DANTE MARSH & THE VIBE SETTERS

JULY 20



DARIUS RUCKER

WITH CAYLEE HAMMACK

JULY 21



OLD DOMINION

WITH RYAN GRIFFIN

JULY 22



SANTANA

(NO OPENING ACT)

JULY 23



DAN + SHAY

WITH CARLY PEARCE

JULY 24



SKID ROW & WARRANT

QUIET RIOT & KIP WINGER
UNPLUGGED

JULY 25



LYNYRD SKYNYRD

WITH THE CADILLAC THREE

JULY 26



LOS TIGRES DEL NORTE

(NO OPENING ACT)

JULY 27



KANE BROWN

WITH THE JOSH DAY BAND

JULY 28



AN EVENING OF MUSIC & WINE

JOHN FOGERTY

JULY 29



COUNTRY RODEO FINALS

JULY 30



TRACTOR PULL & FREESTYLE MOTOCROSS

JULY 31

DON'T MISS!



NEW! LA CANTINA

LIVE BAND! LIVE DJ! TONS OF DANCING!

FRONTIER TOWN



DRAGON KNIGHTS STILT WALKERS SHOW

DAILY SHOWS



WATCH LIVE! TINY HOME BUILD

STOCKYARD

Theater Training Center, 2078 Parker Street, Suite 200, San Luis Obispo, 803-487-4401.

TEEN IMPROV, STAND-UP, AND SKETCH

COMEDY SUMMER CAMP A five-day camp with a focus on learning the art of improv comedy, stand-up, and sketch. Students will learn improv games, write their own comedy material for sketch and stand-up, then perform live in a show. **July 18-23**, 2-4 p.m. \$225 for all five days of camp. centralcoastcomedytheater.com. Central Coast Comedy Theater Training Center, 2078 Parker Street, Suite 200, San Luis Obispo, 803-487-4401.

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: vmack@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.

WATERCOLORS AND GOLD: ADULT ART CLASS

Enjoy making original and creative cards with organic floral designs. **July 17**, 12:15-2:15 p.m. \$30 per student or \$50 for two students. 805-747-4200. artcentralslo.com/workshops-events/. Art Central, 1329 Monterey St., San Luis Obispo.

NORTH SLO COUNTY

ART AND WINE SATURDAY Travel the Pleasant Valley Wine Trail and explore local art while tasting delicious wines. At each stop you will find a featured artist or an art related activity. **July 16**, 11 a.m.-5 p.m. my805tix.com. Pleasant Valley Wine Trail, San Miguel Hills, San Miguel.

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 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.

LADIES ENCHANTED EVENING Enjoy a special evening creating a fused glass plate while drinking a bubbly beverage awaiting your turn for a personal intuitive card reading by Tiffany, owner of Oracle Atascadero. Readings will be conducted in the private loft area upstairs. All materials included. **July 16**, 5-7 p.m. \$150. 805-464-2633. glassheadstudio.com. Glasshead Studio, 8793 Plata Lane, Suite H, Atascadero.

PAINT AND SIP CLASS Joining forces with the talents

of Art Social, the winery will offer classes twice a month for you to sip and get creative on the vineyard. Friday classes held at 7 p.m. Sunday classes held at noon. **July 15** my805tix.com. Cass Winery And Vineyard, 7350 Linne Rd., Paso Robles, 805-239-1730.

PAINT AND SIP WITH ARTSOCIAL 805 Join ArtSocial805 for some painting fun on the patio at 15c in Templeton. \$45 admission includes everything you need to complete your very own summer masterpiece, plus a glass of bubbles. **July 16**, 11 a.m.-1 p.m. \$45. 903-368-2496. artsocial805.com. 15 Degrees C Wine Shop and Bar, 624 S Main St., unit 101, Templeton.

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

YOUTH ART CAMP A camping-themed art camp. Participants will paint, print, create and explore the wild side of art with camping-themed projects. S'mores and other fun awaits. Ages 7 to 17 welcome. Tuesdays-Thursdays, 10 a.m.-noon through Aug. 19 \$100. 903-368-2496. artsocial805.com. Studios on the Park, 1130 Pine St., Paso Robles.

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. Through Aug. 8 Art Center Morro Bay, 835 Main St., Morro Bay, 805-772-2504, artcentermorrobay.org.

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

CAMBRIA CENTER FOR THE ARTS 2022 JURIED SHOW The juror for this show is Franceska Alexander, MFA. She's the author of "Gallery Ready: A Creative Blueprint for Visual Artists." Through Aug. 28, 11 a.m. cambriaarts.org/gallery-exhibits/. Cambria Center for the Arts, 1350 Main St., Cambria.

COMEDY NIGHT A stand-up show how with You Had To Be There Comedy. All food and drinks will be provided by True Earth Market and Deli. There will be 5 different professional comedians and national touring acts coming up to make the happy tears. **July 16**, 7-9 p.m. \$20. eventbrite.com. Vyana Wellness Collective, 4090 Burton Dr #6, Cambria, (805) 235-8785.

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

WINE WALK

Alma Rosa Winery hosts Peace of Mind: 10,000 Steps in the Right Direction on Saturday, July 23, from 9 a.m. to noon. Proceeds of this annual fundraising walk will go to causes that support mental health community services and research and treatment for anxiety and depression. Admission to attend the event is \$55. Visit almarosawinery.com for more info. The walk is held at the Alma Rosa Estate, located at 7250 Santa Rosa Road, Buellton. —C.W.



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. Through 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. Through 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." Through 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.

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

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

MOSAICS FOR ALL LEVELS What will you create using all of the colorful supplies Joan Martin Fee brings for you to play with? How about a stepping stone, a garden rock, wine

bottle wall art, a heart, or something else? **July 24** Various. 805-286-5993. CreativeMeTime.com. 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.

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

SUCCULENT AND DRIFTWOOD PLANTERS Learn how easy it is to create with succulents. Choose from two sizes of round wreaths or decorate a piece of recycled wood with driftwood then add succulents or create an adorable layered driftwood planter. Care instructions are provided. **July 23**, 10 a.m.-noon Various. 805-286-5993. CreativeMeTime.com. Art Center Morro Bay, 835 Main St., Morro Bay.

CULTURE & LIFESTYLE

SANTA YNEZ VALLEY

2022 PEACE OF MIND: 10,000 STEPS IN THE RIGHT DIRECTION An annual fundraising walk to support mental health community services, research, and treatment for anxiety and depression. **July 23**, 9 a.m.-

CULTURE & LIFESTYLE continued page 18

Santa Maria VALLEY WINE TROLLEY
Cheers to you!
Every FRIDAY, SATURDAY and SUNDAY
May 20 - October 16, 2022
10:30am - 6:30pm*
Including Memorial Day and Labor Day
Cost \$15/per ticket pre-sale
Transportation only
Trolley route takes approx. 60 mins.

For additional ticketing locations and blackout dates visit:
SantaMariaValley.com/winetrolley

Begins:
Wednesday
July, 20th

OLD TOWN ORCUTT FARMERS MARKET

S. Marcum Street off Clark Ave { next to Naughty Oak }

4:30 - 7:30pm

3rd Wednesday of the month * June thru November



vs. MLB Academy Barons JULY 14
vs. Conejo Oaks
FRIDAY, JULY 15
 Sinsheimer Park, San Luis Obispo



Camp Cass: Paint & Sip
Class with Art Social
FRIDAY, JULY 15
 Cass Winery, Paso Robles



Women Investing in Real Estate
(Wiire) SLO Luncheon
FRIDAY, JULY 15
 Granada Hotel & Bistro, SLO



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



Donate to Resonance -
30-Voice A Cappella Choir
2022 SEASON
 San Luis Obispo



Art and Wine Saturday
SATURDAY, JULY 16
 Pleasant Valley Wine Trail,
 San Miguel



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



vs. Arroyo Seco Saints JULY 16
vs. Santa Barbara Foresters
SUNDAY, JULY 17
 Sinsheimer Park, San Luis Obispo



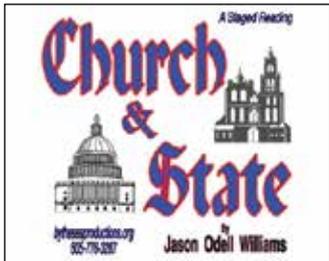
Point San Luis Lighthouse Tours
In-Person WED & SAT
Virtual ON DEMAND
 Avila Beach



Santa Maria Civic Theatre
2022-2023 Season Pass
2022-2023 SEASON
 Santa Maria Civic Theatre



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



Olive Oil Class
SUNDAY, JULY 24
 Cass Winery,
 Paso Robles



vs. MLB Academy Barons
TUES & WED, JULY 26 & 27
 Sinsheimer Park,
 San Luis Obispo



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



Central Coast Ska Festival: Western
Standard Time Ska Orchestra
FRIDAY, JULY 29
 The Siren El Chorro, SLO



Songwriters at Play: Tribute to
James Taylor and Carole King
FRIDAY, JULY 29
 Unity of Santa Maria



vs. Orange County Riptide
FRI & SAT, JULY 29 & 30
 Sinsheimer Park,
 San Luis Obispo



Guadalupe-Nipomo Dunes Center
Bee's Knees at The Barn
SATURDAY, JULY 30
 Guadalupe



SLO Funny Comedy Show
SATURDAY, JULY 30
 Veterans Memorial Building,
 Morro Bay



vs. Arroyo Seco Saints
SUNDAY, JULY 31
 Sinsheimer Park,
 San Luis Obispo



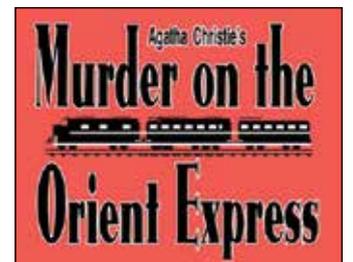
Pilates at the Lighthouse
SUNDAY, JULY 31
 Point San Luis Lighthouse,
 Avila Beach



Encanto SLO Vacation Bible Camp
MON, AUG. 1-FRI, AUG. 5
 St. Stephen's Episcopal Church,
 San Luis Obispo



Zongo Yachting Cup
THURS., AUG. 4-SUN., AUG. 7
 Morro Bay Yacht Club to San
 Luis Yacht Club of Avila Beach



By the Sea Productions:
Murder on the Orient Express
FRI., AUG. 5-SUN., SEPT. 4
 545 Shasta Ave, Morro Bay

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noon \$55. 805-0688-9090. almarasawinery.com. Alma Rosa Estate, 7250 Santa Rosa Road, Buellton.

YOGA IN THE VINEYARD Grab your yoga mat and join us for an invigorating yoga session. After class, enjoy a glass of wine as you relax among the vines and take in the gorgeous San Rafael Mountain views. **July 24**, 10-11 a.m. \$35. 805-688-9339. zacamesa.com/upcoming-events/. Zaca Mesa Winery, 6905 Foxen Canyon Road, Los Olivos.

SANTA MARIA VALLEY/LOS ALAMOS

2022 SANTA BARBARA COUNTY FAIR This year's fair theme is "A Salute to Agriculture." Through July 17 santamariafairpark.com. Santa Maria Fairpark, 937 S. Thornburg St., Santa Maria.

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

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

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 21**, 10:30 a.m. 805-925-0994. engagedpatrons.org. 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 15**, 11:30 a.m. and **July 16**, 11:30 a.m. 805-925-0994. engagedpatrons.org. Santa Maria Public Library (Altrusa Theater), 421 S. McClelland St., Santa Maria.

POKÉMON CLUB Join other Pokémon trainers at this popular Pokémon Club. Learn how to play the Pokémon Trading Card Game, watch the show, and participate in other fun activities. Bring a deck from home to battle or borrow one of the Librarians'. **July 16**, 11 a.m. 805-925-0994. engagedpatrons.org. Santa Maria Public Library (Altrusa Theater), 421 S. McClelland St., Santa Maria.

PRESCHOOL YOGA STORY TIME Drop in for a morning of yoga with stories and breathing exercises. Children are introduced to mindfulness and will learn exercises to help regulate emotions. Space and supplies are limited. Borrow a yoga mat or bring your own. Open to children ages 3 to 5 with caregivers. **July 15**, 11 a.m. 805-925-0994. engagedpatrons.org. Santa Maria Public Library, 421 S. McClelland St., Santa Maria.

SANTA MARIA COIN CLUB: MONTHLY MEETING Coin collectors of all ages invited. Bring coins for free appraisals. Third Wednesday of every month, 7 p.m. Yearly membership: \$20-\$25. 805-937-3158. Elwin Mussell Senior Center, 510 Park Ave., Santa Maria.

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

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

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, 421 S. McClelland St., Santa Maria.

A TEDDY BEAR PICNIC Attend a Teddy Bear Picnic with the family, and follow along with an interactive performance by Pyjama Drama. **July 16**, 2 p.m. 805-925-0994. engagedpatrons.org. Santa Maria Public Library (Altrusa Theater), 421 S. McClelland St., Santa Maria.

TEEN ANIME CLUB If you're a teen who is into anime or manga, come to Anime Club. Hang out with other fans, eat Japanese snacks, and do fun activities. New members are always welcome. **July 15**, 4-5:30 p.m. 805-925-0994. engagedpatrons.org. Shepard Hall Art Gallery - Santa Maria Public Library, 421 South McClelland St., Santa Maria.

TEEN SMASH BROS. TOURNAMENT The winner will receive an awesome prize. Controllers will be supplied, and light snacks will be provided. **July 22**, 4 p.m. 805-925-0994. engagedpatrons.org. Shepard Hall Art Gallery - Santa Maria Public Library, 421 South 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. unwindstantamaria.com.

WILD CHILD BUBBLE ADVENTURES Ever wondered what it would be like inside of a giant bubble? Take a journey

off the beaten path into a world of bubbles. Explore the fun and science behind what makes bubbles so intriguing during this bubble adventure. **July 23**, noon 805-925-0994. engagedpatrons.org. Santa Maria Public Library (Altrusa Theater), 421 S. McClelland St., Santa Maria.

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.

MEET THE AUTHOR: RAYMOND H. MCDONALD Pismo Beach singer/songwriter Raymond H. McDonald, who wrote "Merle Haggard was a Friend of Mine" as a tribute to his lifelong friend. This memoir chronicles the life of a humble man from humble beginnings in California. RSVP to nansbooks@aol.com. Light refreshments offered. **July 19**, 6:30-8 p.m. Free to attend. 805-481-4131. Grover Beach Community Library, 240 N 9th St., Grover Beach.

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

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

SAN LUIS OBISPO

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

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

CAMP SHORESHIM 2022 The JCC-Federation of San Luis Obispo is thrilled to host its 11th summer of Camp Shoreshim. Experience this summer's camp theme, Gemilut Chasadim, which is Hebrew for "acts of loving kindness." **July 22**, 9 a.m.-3:30 p.m. \$295. 805-426-5465. jccslo.com/camp-shoreshim.html. JCC-Federation of SLO Property, 875 Laureate Lane, San Luis Obispo.

CENTRAL COAST POLYAMORY (VIRTUALLY VIA ZOOM) Hosting a discussion group featuring different topics relating to ethical non-monogamy every month. Virtually meet via Zoom. Third Wednesday of every month, 6:30-8:30 p.m. Free. galacc.org/events/. Online, See website, San Luis Obispo.

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

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

SIERRA CLUB SENIOR SAUNTER AT LAGUNA LAKE PARK Easy sociable 2-mile loop walk for views of the lake and 5 morros. Bring optional nature poem to read aloud. Meet in parking lot at end of entrance road to Laguna Lake Park in SLO (near the dog park). **July 17**, 2-3:30 p.m. Free. 805-549-0355. Laguna Lake Park, 504 Madonna Rd., 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.

SLO RAM MONTHLY LUNCHEONS San Luis Obispo

Retired Active Men (SLO RAM) is a group of retirees that get together just for fun, fellowship, and to enjoy programs which enhance the enjoyment, dignity and independence of retirement. Third Tuesday of every month retiredactivemen.org/. Madonna Inn Garden Room, 100 Madonna Road, San Luis Obispo.

SLOCA SUMMER CAMP SESSION 1 Summer Camps are open to the entire San Luis Obispo community, whether or not you attend SLOCA. Here are the camps happening this week: Wonder Around the World (preschool-kindergarten), and Theater Camp (grades 1-8). Through July 15, 8:30 a.m.-3 p.m. \$375. 805-548-8700. sloclassical.org/summercamp/. SLO Classical Academy, 165 Grand Ave., San Luis Obispo.

SLOCA SUMMER CAMP SESSION 2 Who's ready for summer? These Summer Camps are open to the entire San Luis Obispo community, whether or not they attend SLOCA. **July 18-22**, 8:30 a.m.-3 p.m. \$375. 805-548-8700. sloclassical.org/summercamp/. SLO Classical Academy, 165 Grand Ave., San Luis Obispo.

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

SUPER REC SATURDAYS Features a fun obstacle course, diving boards, activities and music. Dress up for the Superhero Parade happening at 12:30 p.m. each day **July 16**, 12-8 p.m. slocity.org. SLO Swim Center, 900 Southwood Dr., San Luis Obispo.

NORTH SLO COUNTY

CALIFORNIA MID-STATE FAIR Check site for concerts and more info on the fair. **July 20-31** Paso Robles Event Center, 2198 Riverside Ave., Paso Robles.

FOOD & DRINK

SANTA YNEZ VALLEY

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

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

LOMPOC/VANDENBERG

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

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

SANTA MARIA VALLEY/LOS ALAMOS

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

OLD TOWN ORCUTT FARMERS MARKET Third Wednesday of every month, 4:30-7:30 p.m. through Nov. 1 Historic Old Town Orcutt, S. Broadway and Union Ave., Orcutt.

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

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

MUSIC

SANTA YNEZ VALLEY

FLANNEL 101 LIVE Playing '90s covers. **July 16**, 9 p.m. Maverick Saloon, 3687 Sagunto St., Santa Ynez, 805-686-4785, mavericksaloon.org.

KEITH COX: LIVE MUSIC AT ZACA MESA WINERY Come on out and enjoy live music by Keith Cox. Enjoy the weekend with delicious wines and groovy

music. Choose from one of the venue's four wine tasting flights or select from the by-the-glass and full bottle list. **July 17**, 12-3 p.m. Free. 805-688-9339. zacamesa.com/upcoming-events/. Zaca Mesa Winery, 6905 Foxen Canyon Road, Los Olivos.

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.

MAT KEARNEY LIVE ON STAGE See Mat Kearney perform live on stage in the newly renovated Solvang Festival Theater at this grand re-opening concert on July 16. The venue's newly improved sound, atmosphere, and overall Mat Kearney vibes will be the talk of the town. **July 16**, 7-9 p.m. \$77-\$127. Solvang Festival Theater, 420 2nd St., Solvang, 805-686-1789.

THE MOLLY RINGWALD PROJECT LIVE '80s covers. **July 15**, 9 p.m. \$10. Maverick Saloon, 3687 Sagunto St., Santa Ynez, 805-686-4785, mavericksaloon.org.

PAUL KENT LIVE July 15, 4-6 p.m. and **July 16**, 2-6 p.m. Brick Barn Wine Estate, 795 W. Hwy 246, Buellton, 805-686-1208, brickbarnwineestate.com.

PAUL KENT TRIO LIVE July 16, 2-6 p.m. Brick Barn Wine Estate, 795 W. Hwy 246, Buellton, 805-686-1208, brickbarnwineestate.com.

SONGWRITERS AT PLAY FEATURES HAYLEY LYNN, BLAIR BORAX, STEVE KEY Songwriters at Play founder Steve Key shares the stage with Portland OR-based performers Hayley Lynn and Blair Borax. They will play in-the-round, Nashville style, swapping songs and stories. **July 21**, 7:30-9:30 p.m. \$10. 805-204-6821. stevekey.com/events. Lost Chord Guitars, 1576 Copenhagen Dr., Solvang.

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

CELEBRATING SUMMER WITH NATHALIA MUSIC Sing and dance along during a bilingual family musical experience in English and Spanish. **July 20**, 4:30 p.m. 805-925-0994. engagedpatrons.org. Shepard Hall Art Gallery - Santa Maria Public Library, 421 South 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.

SOUTH COAST SLO COUNTY

TIPSY GYPSIES: LIVE AT THE LIGHTHOUSE Enjoy some of the Central Coast's very finest musical talent performing on the area's most spectacular stage, perched high atop the blue Pacific Ocean. **July 23**, 2-5:30 p.m. my805tix.com. Point San Luis Lighthouse, 1 Lighthouse Rd., Avila Beach.

SAN LUIS OBISPO

DAMON CASTILLO BAND LIVE: CONCERTS IN THE PLAZA Concerts in the Plaza, presented by Sunset Honda and hosted by Downtown SLO, is the largest free concert series on the Central Coast. All concerts are free to the public. **July 15**, 4:30-7:30 p.m. downtownslo.com/events/ concerts. Mission Plaza, Downtown, San Luis Obispo.

EMILY WELLS LIVE Forging a bridge between pop and chamber music, composer, producer, and video artist Emily Wells builds songs from vocals, synths, drums, piano, string, and wind instruments. **July 21**, 9-10:30 p.m. \$20 in advance; \$25 at the door. 805-781-3009. festivalmozaic.org. SLO Brew Rock, 855 Aerovista Pl., San Luis Obispo.

FESTIVAL MOZAIC SERIES Check website for summer programming hosted by Festival Mozaic. **July 23-30** festivalmozaic.org. SLO County, Countywide, San Luis Obispo.

FOREVER GREEN LIVE AT BAILEYANA Enjoy an evening of live music and world class wines. **July 15**, 5-7 p.m. 805-269-8200. Baileyana, 5828 Orcutt Rd., San Luis Obispo, baileyana.com.

LIVE MUSIC WITH ADRIAN LIBERTINI Join us at SLO Public Market to listen to some country and rock music by one of Central California's music artists, Adrian Libertini. **July 15**, 6-9 p.m. 805-215-3669. slopublicmarket.com/ events. SLO Public Market, Bonetti Ranch, San Luis Obispo.

LIVE MUSIC WITH BOOGIE BIKE Boogie Bike will be performing in the courtyard. **July 16**, 1-4 p.m. 805-215-3669. slopublicmarket.com. SLO Public Market, Bonetti Ranch, San Luis Obispo. ○

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





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MARIACHI DIVAS

RAMANA VIEIRA

THE MOLLY RINGWALD PROJECT

THE TIPSY GYPSIES

LEWIS & ROSE

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RODNEY CARRINGTON

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OCTOBER 1 | SATURDAY | 8PM

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Arts Briefs

Solvang Festival Theater celebrates grand reopening after renovation project

PHOTO COURTESY OF SOLVANG THEATERFEST



On Saturday, July 16, Solvang Theaterfest will host a special celebration to commemorate the completion of renovations at the Solvang Festival Theater. The 10-month renovation project began in September 2021 and included new seating and several structural and electrical enhancements to the outdoor theater.

The project's budget was \$5.3 million, according to a press release. To finance the project, Solvang Theaterfest received more than 600 donations from individuals, businesses, and foundations.

"This project elevates an already magical venue to a remarkable new level, now and for generations to come," Ann Foxworthy-Lewellen, board vice chair of Solvang Theaterfest, said in a statement.

The July 16 event will include a concert with prolific singer-songwriter Mat Kearney, who will perform at the newly renovated theater starting at 7 p.m. This Nashville-based musician has toured with John Mayer and other notable artists throughout his career.

Future programming at the Solvang Festival Theater includes the Pacific Conservatory Theatre's upcoming production of *Into the Woods*, which is scheduled to run in August and September. Visit pcpa.org for show times and additional info.

Tickets to the Solvang Festival Theater's grand reopening celebration and concert start at \$77. Visit solvangtheaterfest.org for more info on the event. The theater is located at 420 2nd St., Solvang.

Orcutt author releases debut sci-fi novel, *Explorer's End*

Explorer's End, a new novel by Orcutt resident H.W. Portland, was released at the end of June and is currently available locally at Gavin's Books and through various book outlets, including Amazon. An eBook version of the novel will be released on Thursday, July 14.

IMAGE COURTESY OF H.W. PORTLAND

Described as a science fiction adventure, *Explorer's End* follows an unlikely hero who is determined to discover the origin of the galaxy and "protect it at all costs," according to press materials. The hero's quest escalates into a race against an old enemy to a remote planet, where they believe they will find artifacts from a long lost civilization.

Explorer's End marks the debut novel by Portland, a Central Coast local who lives in Orcutt with his wife and two daughters. Portland has spent the last two decades working in the technology industry. For more info on the local author, visit hwportland.com.

Find a copy of *Explorer's End* at Gavin's Books, located at 230 Betteravia Road, suite K, Santa Maria. Call (805) 922-4282 or visit gavinsbooks.com for more details. ○

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

COURTESY PHOTOS BY LUIS ESCOBAR, REFLECTIONS PHOTOGRAPHY STUDIO



Showtime!

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



WHEN THE DOG BITES, WHEN THE BEE STINGS: The ensemble cast of PCPA's *The Sound of Music* includes Emily Trask (right), as postulant nun Maria, who is dispatched to serve as a governess for a household with seven children (Sierra Anastasi, Nicolas Lo, Sophia Robertson, Alex Robertson, Joss Robertson, Kiera McGehee, and Camila Papincak, left to right).

The hills are alive

PCPA breathes fresh life into Rodgers and Hammerstein's *The Sound of Music*

BY CALEB WISEBLOOD

A bland thumbs up gesture wouldn't do the Pacific Conservatory Theatre's (PCPA) latest offering justice, nor would any star rating under five, for that matter. If only I had 16—going on 17—stars or thumbs to help illustrate my scoring.

I walked into the Marian Theatre confident that I would enjoy PCPA's new iteration of *The Sound of Music*, but I couldn't have anticipated the excessive amount of times an audible "aww" escaped my lips during the Saturday night performance. The material is iconic. The songs are endorphin-inducing. But none of that matters without a good cast, and PCPA's ensemble checks that box in spades.

Emily Trask, as plucky postulant nun Maria, embodies the "drop of golden sun" lyric she sings during "Do-Re-Mi." Her radiant, steadfast enthusiasm is consistently infectious throughout the show, set in 1938 Austria. When Maria is dispatched to serve as a governess for a large household, the family's strict patriarch, Captain von Trapp, doesn't respond warmly to her free-spirited demeanor—immediately, at least.

The widowed captain, played by the always engaging George Walker, treats his home like a military vessel. He often uses a whistle to summon his servants or call upon his seven children. I'm not going to beat around the bush. These kids steal the show every chance they get.

From youngest to oldest, the von

Trapp children are Gretl (Camila Papincak), Marta (Kiera McGehee), Kurt (Alex Robertson), Brigitta (Joss Robertson), Louisa (Sophia Robertson), Friedrich (Nicolas Lo), and Liesl (Sierra Anastasi). The fastest way to tell if it's the right time for a quiet, respectful dash to the restroom during the show is simply to check whether these youngsters are on stage. If they are, stay in your seat. You won't want to miss a moment of "My Favorite Things," "The Lonely Goatherd," and other tunes in their lineup.

The youthful troop's rendition of "So Long, Farewell" is especially joyous. I dare you to maintain a smileless poker face during the youngest von Trapp's adorable delivery of "the sun has gone to bed and so must I." It's simply impossible.

As Maria grows closer to the von Trapp family (both the children and their father), the postulant fears that she has fallen in love with the captain, who is engaged to another woman, Elsa von Schraeder (Christen Celaya). Maria flees back to the nunnery

Abness road

The Pacific Conservatory Theatre (PCPA) presents its production of *The Sound of Music* through July 31, at the Marian Theatre, located at Allan Hancock College in Santa Maria. Admission ranges from \$15 to \$46.

Visit pcpa.org or facebook.com/pacificconservatorytheatre for tickets and show times. For more info, call the PCPA box office at (805) 922-8313.

without notice, but Mother Abbess (Lexi Rhoades) encourages her to follow her heart during one of the musical's most powerful and moving songs, "Climb Ev'ry Mountain."

"Climb every mountain, ford every stream, follow every rainbow, till you find your dream," Rhoades sings. "A dream that will need all the love you can give, every day of your life, for as long as you live."

Maria returns to the family, of course, just in time for the von Trapp children to show off their singing prowess in a local music festival. The event takes place shortly after Nazi Germany's historic annexation of Austria. The invasion provides a tense, unsettling backdrop for the musical's surprising high-stakes final act.

The show's director, Kitty Balay, described *The Sound of Music* at its core as "a beautiful story that's full of heart and gorgeous music—one of the things that PCPA does best." Balay recalled the theater's ill-fated plans to originally premiere the show during the spring of 2020.

"We started designing this production three years ago before we had ever heard of COVID. Then just like the rest of the world—it all had to stop," Balay said in a statement. "What a perfect show to bring families back together. The sound of singing and laughter of the von Trapp children will delight audiences of all ages, while the deeper themes of love, loyalty, and personal integrity make it absolutely timeless." ○

Arts Editor Caleb Wiseblood could use some tea, jam, and bread right about now. Send notes to cwiseblood@santamariasun.com.



CAPTAIN OF THE GUITAR: Captain von Trapp (George Walker) lends his vocals and guitar playing to "Edelweiss," which the von Trapp family performs at a music festival during the show's final act.



CLIMB EV'RY MOUNTAIN: As Maria (Emily Trask, right) grows closer to the von Trapp children and their widowed father, the postulant fears that she has fallen in love with the family's patriarch. After Maria flees the house and heads back to her nunnery, Mother Abbess (Lexi Rhoades, left) encourages her to follow her heart and return to the family.



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Love is a drug?

Two prison inmates (Miles Teller and Jurnee Smollett) form a strong bond during their sentences at an experimental penitentiary, run by a suave drug developer (Chris Hemsworth), in this sci-fi thriller. (107 min.)

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

Caleb: Regardless of how long or short its source material—a sci-fi tale originally published in *The New Yorker*—is, *Spiderhead* feels more like a *Black Mirror* episode stretched too thin than a feature-length thriller. I haven't read George Saunders' "Escape from Spiderhead," so I'm not sure how different it is from Netflix's adaptation. Hypothetically, if *Spiderhead* is a direct, word-for-word realization of Saunders' work, then I doubt I would enjoy reading it any more than watching the film, which starts with an exciting premise but had me feeling lukewarm by the end. The movie opens on an island where a state penitentiary is located. But the property's exterior looks more like a James Bond villain's lair or somewhere Tony Stark would be comfortable living than a traditional prison. The interior is just as bougie, and the jail is managed by Steve Jobs-types rather than burly guards or a hardened

SPIDERHEAD

What's it rated? **R**
 What's it worth, Bulbul? **Skip it**
 What's it worth, Caleb? **Stream it**
 Where's it showing? **Netflix**

warden. The man in charge is Steve Abnesti, a business-casual hipster played with the right amount of charm and intentional cringeiness by Chris Hemsworth. Abnesti obviously wants to be liked by his inferiors and the inmates of the prison, but there's a corporate coldheartedness lurking beneath his polite demeanor. We learn that the island is somewhere convicts can volunteer to go and shorten their prison sentences by taking part in daily drug experiments. One of the drugs Abnesti tests out on inmate Jeff (Miles Teller) is a real-world love potion. These tests start to complicate genuine feelings that Jeff develops for another inmate, Lizzy (Jurnee Smollett). Their tangled relationship might be the most redeeming aspect of the movie—maybe *Spiderhead* would have been a more appropriate title?

Bulbul: The movie could have definitely explored its own title better. Saunders' *Escape from Spiderhead* reveals that the "spiderhead" is the prison facility's control room where the drug experiments are monitored. All the other rooms, like the prisoners' bedrooms, common area, kitchen, and so on, stretch out from the control room like spider legs. Saunders doesn't give much detail to this story, though, and it intentionally reads like a collection of hurried

journal entries. But Netflix's *Spiderhead* doesn't translate as well. The premise itself is intriguing but we have Saunders to thank for that. The movie almost uses that as a crutch and gives us a mediocre and bloated screenplay. Not every piece of writing needs to be blown up on the

big screen with big-budget names. I'd be happier to watch Hemsworth reprise Thor again, and I was definitely happier watching Teller in *Top Gun: Maverick* (yes, *New Times* loves this movie, in case you missed it). While the story is wacky, it might have waited too long for the Hollywood treatment. We're all too used to mind-warping storylines thanks to shows like *Black Mirror* and *Bandersnatch*. So *Spiderhead* really needed to pull out all the stops to be truly memorable. Maybe it would have been a hit if it had premiered soon after *The New Yorker* published the story in 2010. Who knows?

Caleb: I'm glad you brought up *Top Gun: Maverick* because Teller isn't the only link between the most shirtless movie of 2022 and *Spiderhead*. Both films share the same filmmaker at the helm, Joseph Kosinski (*Tron: Legacy*, *Oblivion*, *Only the Brave*). I'm always intrigued when directors are able to put out two films in the same year. The most impressive example has to be Steven Spielberg's pair of 1993 releases, *Jurassic Park* and *Schindler's List*. When did he find time to sleep? I haven't seen *Top Gun: Maverick* yet, but I've heard great things. And I love *Tron: Legacy* to death. Maybe Kosinski should stick to his strengths—revisiting solo blockbusters from the '80s that never branched out into franchises. *Footloose*,



GET OUT OF JAIL FREE CARD? To shorten his prison sentence, inmate Jeff (Miles Teller, right) volunteers to take part in daily drug experiments on a mysterious island, in the new Netflix thriller, *Spiderhead*.

Flashdance, *E.T.*—the world is your oyster, Joseph! **Bulbul:** Agreed, but I'm absolutely OK with *E.T.* never getting a sequel. *Spiderhead* did get it right with Hemsworth as its villain though. He brings Abnesti to life and shows us just how ruthless and punchable he is. I wish the movie explored more of Lizzy's tragic story that landed her in the facility. Crafted to be Jeff's love interest, Smollett's character doesn't exist in Saunders' version. They do have effective on-screen chemistry. But like most of the other elements, *Spiderhead* has wasted potential that leaves you wondering about a film that's best to forget. ○

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

PHOTO COURTESY OF 20TH TELEVISION, FOX 21 TELEVISION STUDIOS, AND FRESH BACON MEDIA

TV & Film Reviews

THE OLD MAN

What's it rated? **TV-MA**
 When? **2022**
 Where's it showing? **Hulu**

Developed by Robert Levine and Jonathan E. Steinberg based on Thomas Perry's 2017 novel of the same name, *The Old Man* is the perfect showcase for Jeff Bridges, the 72-year-old heartthrob whose charisma hasn't diminished with age. His Dan Chase is a man with secrets, and the series goes back and forth in time to the young Dan Chase (Bill Heck) working as a field operative in the Middle East, where he disobeys orders.

After the death of his beloved wife, Chase is living a quiet life in Upstate New York with his two dogs. He keeps in contact with his daughter, Emily Chase (Alia Shawkat), who understands her father's past and knows the potential danger he could be in if found out. In the first episode, the unthinkable happens, and Chase is on the run.

Propulsive and action-packed, this is a terrific series about a changed man who has to reach back into his past to revive his deadly skills. When Chase is hand-to-hand fighting to stay alive, the audience feels his vulnerability. The series also stars



LOOKS CAN BE DECEIVING: Jeff Bridges stars as Dan Chase, an aging, on-the-run ex-CIA operative who quit the game to raise a family. Now his past is catching up to him, and he's soon facing old adversaries, in the FX series *The Old Man*, currently streaming on Hulu.

John Lithgow as Raymond Waters, Chase's former handler, who has his own secrets to protect. This is compelling stuff. (eight approximately one-hour episodes)

—Glen Starkey

BINGEABLE

THE TERMINAL LIST

What's it rated? **TV-MA**
 When? **2022**
 Where's it showing? **Amazon Prime**

Navy SEAL Lt. Cmdr. James Reece (Chris Pratt) is haunted by his past. He lost his entire platoon on a covert mission gone wrong, leaving him with feelings of culpability and grief. As new evidence about the failed mission comes to light, he begins to realize there's a conspiracy afoot that endangers him and his family, wife Lauren (Riley Keough) and daughter Lucy (Arlo Mertz).

Though a bit bloated at more than seven hours, the series will satisfy action junkies as we watch Reece—now struggling with a brain tumor caused by an experimental drug given to him without consent—methodically use his training to hold those responsible accountable—people like businessman Steve Horn (Jai Courtney), who's trying to sell the company that made the drug before the truth comes out about its side effects.

Reece has his close friend and former SEAL Ben Edwards (Taylor Kitsch) and former military pilot Liz Riley (Tyner Rushing) on his side, but the conspiracy reaches into the military and maybe even to the U.S. government itself and Secretary Hartley (Jeanne Tripplehorn).



DON'T GET ON HIS BAD SIDE: Former Navy SEAL James Reece (Chris Pratt) discovers he has a brain tumor from an experimental drug designed to prevent PTSD. He's on a mission to eliminate the people responsible before it's too late, in *The Terminal List* on Amazon Prime.

Reece will need all his deadly skills to bring the truth to light. (eight 55-min. episodes) ○

—Glen Starkey

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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 at clanham@newtimeslo.com.

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If you were affected by the 2015 Santa Barbara Oil Spill, you may be entitled to a payment from a class action settlement

A Federal Court authorized this Notice.

Para una notificación en español, visite: www.PlainsOilSpillSettlement.com
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A Settlement has been reached in the class action lawsuit called *Andrews et al. v. Plains All American Pipeline, L.P. et al.*, No. 2:15-cv-04113 (PSG:JEM) (C.D. Cal.).

What is this about?

The lawsuit claims that Plains All American Pipeline L.P. and Plains Pipeline L.P. ("Plains" or "Defendants") caused an underground pipeline to rupture, resulting in an oil spill along the coast in Santa Barbara County on May 19, 2015. The Settlement is on behalf of members of the Fisher Class and Property Class previously certified by this Court. Plaintiffs for the Fisher Class allege the spill caused long term harm to commercial fishing in the affected class blocks, including significant financial losses. Plaintiffs for the Property Class allege that owners and lessees were unable to use and enjoy their properties as a result of the spill because oil washed up onto their properties and onto beaches adjacent to their properties. Plains denies any claims of wrongdoing and disputes all claims. The Settlement, if approved by the Court, will resolve all remaining claims in the class action litigation pending in the United States District Court for the Central District of California. The Fisher Class Settlement is \$184 million, and the Property Class Settlement is \$46 million, inclusive of attorneys' fees and costs.

The Court has not decided whether Plaintiffs or Defendants should win this Litigation. The Settling Parties do not agree on whether Plaintiffs would have prevailed on any of their claims against Plains, or the amount of damages, if any, that would be recoverable if the Class prevailed on the claims alleged. Instead, both sides agreed to the Settlement after years of contested litigation, including at the motion to dismiss, class certification, and summary judgment stages. The Parties had also completed substantial discovery and were preparing for trial to commence on June 2, 2022.

Who is affected?

You are a **Fisher Class Member** if you are a person or business who owned or worked on a vessel that was in operation as of May 19, 2015 and that: (1) landed any commercial seafood in California Department of Fish & Wildlife ("CDFW") fishing blocks 654, 655, or 656; or (2) landed any commercial seafood, except groundfish or highly migratory species (as defined by the CDFW and the Pacific Fishery Management Council), in CDFW fishing blocks 651-656, 664-670, 678-686, 701-707, 718-726, 739-746, 760-765, or 806-809; from May 19, 2010 to May 19, 2015, inclusive; or if you are a person or business in operation as of May 19, 2015 who purchased such commercial seafood directly from the Commercial Fishers and re-sold it at the retail or wholesale level. You can find out if you are a Fisher Class Member by going to www.PlainsOilSpillSettlement.com.

You are a **Property Class Member** if you owned or leased residential beachfront property or property with a private easement to a beach where oil from the 2015 Santa Barbara oil spill washed up and the oiling was categorized as heavy, moderate, or light. You can find out if your property is included by going to www.PlainsOilSpillSettlement.com, where a list of properties Plaintiffs claim were impacted is posted.

What does the Settlement provide?

The Settlement, if approved, will result in the creation of two cash settlement funds of \$184,000,000 (the "Fisher Class Settlement Amount") and \$46,000,000 ("the Property Class Settlement Amount"), together with any interest earned thereon, the "Fisher Class Common Fund" and "Property Class Common Fund," respectively. Each of the common funds less (a) any Taxes and Tax Expenses; (b) any Notice and Administration Expenses; and (c) any attorneys' fees and costs and any service awards to Class Representatives in connection with their representation of the Class, awarded by the Court (the "Net Settlement Funds"), will be distributed to eligible Class Members pursuant to a proposed plan of distribution ("Plan of Distribution"). If you are entitled to relief under the Settlement, the Settlement Administrator will determine your portion of the Net Settlement Fund payable to you pursuant to the Court-approved Plan of Distribution.

Who represents the Class?

The Court has appointed Lief Cabraser Heimann Bernstein LLP, Keller Rohrback L.L.P., Cappello & Noel LLP, and Audet & Partners, LLP ("Class Counsel") to be the attorneys representing the Class. You will not be charged for these lawyers. Class Counsel will apply to the Court for an award of attorneys' fees in an amount not to exceed 33% of the total Settlement Amount (no more than \$60,720,000 from the Fisher Class Settlement Amount and \$15,180,000 from the Property Class Settlement Amount). In addition, Class Counsel will apply to the Court for reimbursement of their litigation expenses (in an amount not to exceed \$5.2 million from the Fisher Class Settlement Amount and \$1.3 million from the Property Class Settlement Amount). If you want to be represented by your own lawyer, you may hire one at your own expense.

What do I need to do to?

If you are a Class Member and you wish to get money from the Settlement, you are required to submit a Claim Form available at www.PlainsOilSpillSettlement.com, or by calling the toll-free number 1-844-202-9486 to request that a hard copy Claim Form be mailed to you. Your Claim Form and, if necessary, any required supporting documentation as set forth therein must be postmarked (if mailed) or submitted online to the address below on or before October 31, 2022.

Plains Oil Spill Settlement
 c/o JND Legal Administration
 P.O. Box 91450
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Email: info@PlainsOilSpillSettlement.com
www.PlainsOilSpillSettlement.com
 Telephone: 1-844-202-9486

If you are a Class Member you may object or tell the Court what you do not like about the Settlement. You will still be bound by the Settlement, and you may still file a claim. Objections must be served/mailed no later than August 19, 2022. Go to www.PlainsOilSpillSettlement.com for details on how to object to the Settlement. If you are a Class Member and you did not previously opt out of the Class or enter a separate settlement with Plains for which you signed a full release, you are a member of the Class and you will be bound by the release of claims as part of the Settlement. The Fisher Class was first certified on February 28, 2017, and later amended on November 22, 2019. The Property Class was certified on April 17, 2018. You previously had an opportunity to exclude yourself from the Fisher Class and the Property Class. If you did not exclude yourself then, you may not exclude yourself now.

What happens next?

The Court will hold a Final Approval Hearing on September 16, 2022, at 1:30 p.m. Pacific, before the Honorable Phillip S. Gutierrez at the United States District Court for the Central District of California, First Street Courthouse, 350 West 1st Street, Courtroom 6A, 6th Floor, Los Angeles, California 90012-4565. At the hearing the Court will determine whether: (1) the Settlement of \$184,000,000 for the Fisher Class and \$46,000,000 for the Property Class should be approved by the Court as fair, reasonable and adequate; (2) the Judgment as provided under the Settlement Agreement should be entered; (3) to award Class Counsel attorneys' fees and expenses out of the Fisher and Property Class Common Funds and, if so, in what amount; (4) to award Plaintiffs' service awards (Class Counsel is requesting \$15,000 for each of the 14 Class Representatives) in connection with their representation of the Classes out of the Fisher and Property Class Common Funds and, if so, in what amount; and (5) the Plans of Distribution should be approved by the Court.

How do I get more information?

For more details and to print the Settlement Agreement, go to www.PlainsOilSpillSettlement.com. You may also write with questions or notify the Settlement Administrator regarding address changes to *Plains Oil Spill Settlement* c/o JND Legal Administration, P.O. Box 91450, Seattle, WA 98111, email at info@PlainsOilSpillSettlement.com or call the Settlement Administrator at 1-844-202-9486.

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- We do need the housing, but I wish it were in a different area.
- I don't live in Nipomo, so I don't care.

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Beyond tacos

Pismo's new Pequín restaurant dishes up Mexican fare with Central Coast flair



CHURROS IN A CLOUD: The traditional Mexican pastry at Pequín is jazzed up with guava, chocolate rose, and dulce de leche dipping sauces. Other signature desserts include Kahlúa caramel flan and tres leches cinnamon roll bread pudding.

BY CHERISH WHYTE

Melding the bold flavors of his childhood with locally sourced ingredients, Pequín Coastal Cocina Executive Chef Frank Barajas, of Santa Maria, hopes his new restaurant will fill a void in the area for elevated, Mexican-inspired cuisine.

Launched on June 28 and replacing Somerset Grill at Vespera Resort on Pismo Beach, Pequín is named for one of Barajas' favorite childhood spices—a brilliant red chili pepper packing more heat than a jalapeño.

Introducing adventurous diners to the "Baja coastal" cuisine of his youth "has always been a dream of mine," Barajas said.

At Pequín, the culinary team will feature brunch and dinner options that bring "classic Mexican culinary techniques to the forefront using local ingredients and fresh flavors," he explained. "Sauces are not mounted with butter or thickened with flour. Proteins are seasoned and marinated in warm spices and citrus notes for a lighter touch."

Barajas said the inspiration for his dishes comes from the abundance of fresh fish and produce in California; traditional Mexican recipes from his parents, who were raised in Baja California and Michoacán; and "the street food I ate as a kid with

my father in Tijuana, Mexico, which is only 30 minutes from San Diego, where I grew up."

Barajas' standout entrees—sourced from Morro Bay fish markets and Central Coast ranchers—include seafood pozole verde and sea bass in banana leaves, roasted tri-tip steak with salsa pequin and avocado salsa verde, and, of course, tacos.

"Tacos in all shapes, flavors, and sizes are always a favorite," Barajas said. "There will be lots of special preparations offered throughout the year to showcase some of the creative ways we can elevate the simple hand-held dish."

The restaurant's swordfish al pastor tacos are already locally famous. The dish—complemented by crispy cheese, gooseberry salsa borracha, onion, cilantro, pineapple, and pop rock candy—earned Barajas top chef honors at the 16th annual Taste of Pismo competition last summer.

He also adores—and uniquely prepares—churros. Fried chicken and churros with white mole are served at brunch, while the dessert menu features



IT TAKES A TEAM: From left, restaurant kitchen lead Briz Lopez-Olmedo, executive sous chef Frank Hipolito, and executive chef Frank Barajas consult during Pequín's grand opening on June 28.

Bienvenidos

Pequín is located at the Vespera Resort on Pismo Beach at 147 Stimson Ave. Hours are daily from 7 a.m. to 4 p.m. for brunch, and from 5 to 9 p.m. for dinner. The bar is open 11 a.m. to 11 p.m.; until midnight on Friday and Saturday. Visit vesperapismo.com/dining for more details and reservations. Follow the eatery on Instagram and Facebook @pequincoastalcocina.

PHOTO BY CHERISH WHYTE



SEASIDE SIPS: The expansive, sun-drenched Blend Bar, adjacent to the Pequín dining room, features tequila-focused signature cocktails, local wine and draft beer, fruity nonalcoholic drinks, and signature roasted Mexican coffee options.

PHOTO BY CHERISH WHYTE



LOCAL AND LATIN BOUNTY: Pequín's seasonal menu showcases produce, seafood, and traditional ingredients from the Central Coast and Mexico. Grand opening samples included, from top, ahi tuna tostada, watermelon tomatillo salad, and dragon fruit ceviche.

the crisped pasties in a glass cloche filled with cinnamon vapor.

Ample vegetarian selections are inspired by local market produce. Among the chef's more popular options are watermelon tomatillo salad and dragon fruit ceviche with cucumber, Fresno chili, mango, red onion, avocado, and leche de tigre, or tiger's milk, a zesty marinade.

Rounding out the menu are rotating seasonal salsa selections as well as guacamole with traditional spices or a tasty alternative with strawberries and herbs.

Vespera Resort General Manager David Morneau, of Arroyo Grande, said he's honored and excited to

provide Barajas with "an outlet to cook what he loves and create dishes inspired by his 20-plus years of culinary experience."

Both Barajas and Morneau joined the Vespera Resort team last summer and are a formidable duo

EATS continued page 25



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DOGGONE DELICIOUS: Pequin's "Puppers" menu offers Brussels sprouts and carrots, beef patty, chicken breast, and peanut butter biscuit.

his creativity, sense of purpose, and passion for cooking amazing food."

Guests can enjoy Barajas' Baja coastal cuisine indoors or al fresco, with an ocean view and full bar. Signature cocktails range from the spicy mezcal-based Hot Lips and Honeydew Paloma to the Mango Collins and Brewjeria, a passion fruit beer mojito.

Menus for late-night bites and canine companions

are available as well. Live music is provided Saturdays and Sundays from 5 to 8 p.m., and special events, such as winemaker dinners, are offered throughout the year. On July 19, the resort will host a five-course winemaker dinner featuring Stephen Ross Wine Cellars.

Guests opting to stay overnight at the 124-room resort, an Autograph Collection Hotel, can also enjoy a second outdoor bar, poolside fare, and in-room dining, all of which are supervised by Barajas.

Long term, Barajas hopes his innovative menu turns heads and impresses palates for both locals and hotel guests.

"We welcome everyone into Pequin to give us a try," Morneau added, "and we hope everyone feels the passion our team has for this new concept." ○

Eats contributor Cherish Whyte's new favorite taco is Pequin's swordfish al pastor. Reach her at cwhyte@newtimeslo.com.

EATS from page 24

with vast culinary and hospitality experience.

Prior to relocating to the Central Coast, Barajas served as senior chef de cuisine at Sheraton San Diego Hotel & Marina and chef de cuisine at Monarch Beach Resort in Dana Point.

Other previous stints included sous chef at Hilton San Diego Bayfront, executive chef at The Villas at The Mirage Hotel and Casino in Las Vegas, and sous chef at Pala Casino Spa Resort, a Native American-owned property in San Diego County where he started his career.

He attended the culinary program at the now-closed Art Institute of California, San Diego.

Morneau, meanwhile, was formerly the director of rooms at the Ojai Valley Inn and served in the same capacity at The Radisson Blu Aqua Hotel in Chicago. He began his career at Fairmont Hotels & Resorts and eventually worked his way up the ranks to director of housekeeping at the Fairmont Pittsburgh.

Morneau was thrilled to join forces with Barajas given his experience "developing menus, assisting with branding, and developing a culinary team for luxury properties on the rise," he said.

"Frank is an exceptional person and chef," Morneau added. "He is very passionate about his role as executive chef for the resort and is a true culinarian. I admire

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