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2022 NEW, TIMES MUSIC AWARDS
NTMA
14TH ANNUAL PRESENTED BY *New Times*
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AT THE MOVIES



Nope: Sci-fi thriller is a big yes [22]

SUN



Real connection

Santa Maria nonprofits and schools create earlier support services to address youth trauma, reduce violence [8]



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EATS Locals fill Empty Bowls for a cause [24]

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Local students will be returning to campus later this month for the 2022-23 school year, and they'll be met with a few changes. In our annual Education Today issue, we delve into those changes on the statewide and local levels. Staff Writer Taylor O'Connor talks with officials about how local school districts and community nonprofits are digging deeper into the problem of youth violence, working to meet kids in their trauma and support them earlier in school [8], and *New Times* Staff Writer Bulbul Rajagopal talks with district officials and parents about the new school start times, mandated by state law [10].

You can also read about the most recent county crop report and the disparity between profits and wages [4]; a new sci-fi book by an Orcutt author [20]; and who filled the Empty Bowls for the Foodbank's annual fundraiser [24].

Andrea Rooks
associate editor



REACHING KIDS: Local schools and nonprofits are working together to help younger students through trauma in order to prevent community violence.

Cover photo courtesy of CommUnity > Cover design by Alex Zuniga

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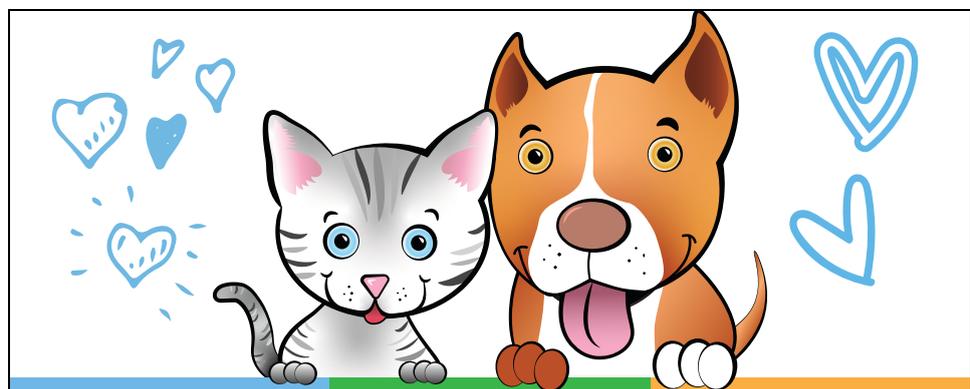
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Political Watch

• U.S. Rep. **Salud Carbajal** (D-Santa Barbara) helped send key pieces of the Inflation Action Plan to President **Joe Biden** to become law, including provisions to invest in U.S. manufacturing of semiconductors—which will help lower costs of household items and create technology jobs, according to a July 28 statement from the congressman's office. The bipartisan Chips and Science Act passed the House 473 to 187 on July 28 and invests \$52 billion in domestic chip production, strengthens research and development through the National Science Foundation, and supports regional tech hubs to create jobs. "Semiconductors are critical pieces of a wide range of goods that Americans rely on every day—and as inflation has struck the price of cars, appliances, and other goods, it's important to recognize a key reason for such dramatic price increases: We aren't making these chips in America anymore," Carbajal said in a statement. "Now, we've become reliant on almost 90 percent of our semiconductors from foreign sources, putting our supply chains and national security at constant risk—as well as forcing additional costs on American families who need these goods when supply chains have failed. That's why the Chips and Science Act was a part of my Inflation Action Plan—lowering costs for these goods can't happen if their central components have to come from far-off nations."

• As the United States grapples with increasingly severe wildfires and natural disasters, U.S. Sens. **Alex Padilla** (D-California) and **Kevin Cramer** (R-North Dakota) introduced legislation to make states—including California and North Dakota—eligible to receive excess planes from the Department of Defense (DOD) to increase wildfire suppression and emergency response capabilities, according to a July 28 statement from Padilla's office. Currently, the department has a program to transfer excess aircraft to federal agencies for wildfire suppression, but they are arbitrarily capped at transferring only seven aircraft total to each agency. "After years of increasingly catastrophic wildfires in California, it has become clear that the federal government must do more to support suppression efforts to get fires under control quickly, as well as support search and rescue efforts to keep our communities safe," Padilla said in a statement. "This common-sense bill will increase the tools at our disposal, including by allowing states—like California—to secure excess military aircraft to augment our aerial firefighting fleet."

• Gov. **Gavin Newsom** pushed California to move faster to reach its climate goals, setting ambitious new targets for renewable energy, clean energy, clean buildings, carbon removal, and clean fuels in the transportation sector, according to a July 22 statement from the governor's office. In a letter to the **chair of the California Air Resources Board**, Newsom called for the state to ensure that the 2022 Climate Change Scoping Plan provides a path to achieve both the 2030 climate goal and state carbon neutrality no later than 2045—requesting that the final plan incorporate new efforts to advance offshore wind, clean fuels, climate-friendly homes, and addressing methane leaks. The governor also announced that he will work with the Legislature to enshrine carbon neutrality into state law, increase the state's ambition to achieve its 2030 climate goals, and accelerate clean energy targets while supporting carbon sequestration from natural and working lands and advancing safe and equitable engineered carbon removal. "California communities experience the devastating impacts of climate change every day. We need to supercharge our efforts to significantly reduce harmful carbon pollution. The state's draft carbon neutrality road map doesn't go far enough or fast enough," Newsom said in a statement. "That's why I'm pushing state agencies to adopt more aggressive actions, from offshore wind to climate-friendly homes, and to make sure we never build another fossil fuel power plant in California again." ○



ON STRIKE: Despite Santa Barbara County having a strong economic year in the ag industry, several farmworkers haven't seen increases in wages and have been going on strike for improvements since 2020. Pictured is a protest at West Coast Berry Farms that went from July 2 to 3, 2021.

Agriculture industry's economic increase presents continued wage issues

Strawberries, wine grapes, and cauliflower along with several other fruits and veggies made big bucks for Santa Barbara County last year, rounding out to about \$1.9 billion, according to the county's 2021 agricultural production report.

The 2021 gross production value surpassed 2020's by about \$98 million (a 5 percent increase) with strawberries valued at \$8.49 million, and wine grapes at \$1.05 million, according to the report. But labor concerns press on in the ag industry, Mesa Vineyard Management manager Kevin Merrill said. "We're still hoping that Congress can do something to get us a decent farmworker, guest worker program than the H-2A program that we use. We need that desperately industrywide," Merrill said.

The ag industry overall experienced several strikes from farmworkers who demanded increased pay for their work, but Merrill said his company hasn't seen that happen yet.

"A lot of that's driven by the organizations that believe farmworkers aren't treated right. [Majority] of growers in Santa Barbara County do their very best to take care of their workers and their workforce and provide the wages they can afford," he continued. "I think the workers understand, we feel the same pain they do. We do our best to compensate them, but the market can only do so much. It's a tough balance."

Central Coast Alliance United for a Sustainable Economy (CAUSE) Associate Organizing Director Zulema Aleman said that she understands there are things employers can't control—like climate change restrictions and a fluctuating economy—but balancing employee needs with company needs should be a priority.

"To hear the ag industry is having a great year and [made] so much money and be proud of that [while farmworkers] are living in horrible conditions and not getting opportunities is really disheartening because employers aren't doing much," Aleman said.

For example, farmworkers in the strawberry industry earn \$1.80 to \$2.10 for picking nine baskets, meanwhile strawberries run from \$3 to \$5 per basket in grocery stores, she highlighted.

"They don't have money to pay for rent, day care, groceries, or to pay for the things they have to pay for their families. They're living and sharing

a one-bedroom with their entire family," Aleman continued. "Wanting funds to be able to afford what they need to afford and not have to make decisions to pay for rent, school stuff, or groceries isn't wild to ask."

Policy advocates will conduct community outreach to inform workers about their rights and lawful wages according to the state because the California department of labor provides funding for them to produce information and materials, but they never lead the strikes themselves, Aleman explained.

"We actually call these wildcat strikes because we are doing our normal day, I'm grabbing a cup of coffee and I'll have 10 missed calls from all these farmworkers saying, 'We went on strike today,'" she noted. "Farmworkers are very smart, talented individuals who are capable of assessing their lives. They communicate with one another, and just as we've seen across the nation with Starbucks and unions for better work conditions, it's what's happening here. We will always support that and be something the community can lean on."

—Taylor O'Connor

County Planning Commission weighs in on Solvang garage dispute

Solvang resident Jordan Sideris' plan to build a detached garage on his property caused a stir among some of his neighbors, one of whom filed an appeal to the Santa Barbara County Planning Commission shortly after the project's approval.

The appellant, Janeen Beller, discussed her concerns during the Planning Commission's July 27 meeting. Beller's backyard is adjacent to Sideris' backyard, where the applicant plans to build a 5,000-square-foot garage with a height of about 28 feet.

"There's nothing beautiful about a steel industrial building that blocks a view of almost 30 feet into the sky," Beller said. "The garage is more than double the size of any house in our area. ... A garage of that size could fit over two dozen cars."

Sideris received a land use permit for the proposed garage at the end of March. Beller submitted her appeal to the Santa Barbara County Planning Commission at the beginning of April, with signatures from 18 households.

"Twelve parties have now removed themselves from the appeal after discussing the project further with the applicant," Santa Barbara County planner

Tina Mitchell mentioned, which Sideris himself expanded on.

"I spent a lot of time over the last two months making contact and sharing my plans with households that had signed the appeal to hear their concerns," Sideris said during the meeting. "Every household I shared my plans with removed their name from the appeal. ... There were two households remaining that I could not make contact with, trying via phone and in person."

Sideris described himself as a car enthusiast and collector and said he plans to use the garage to store his various motor vehicles. Beller said she's in favor of Sideris cleaning up "the junkyard that his yard has become with multiple broken-down cars," but not the garage proposal.

"Mr. Sideris' newly apparent wish to clean up his yard after all of these years is a very welcome and appreciated change," Beller said. "We only want to make sure that the project proposed for this cleanup doesn't create a new problem that will be harder to remedy."

Santa Barbara County Planning Commissioner John Parke said that although he's generally in favor of approving the project and denying the appeal, he wouldn't feel comfortable making a decision before visiting the site in person. Parke supervises the 3rd District, where the applicant's home is located.

"I was not approached by either side for a site visit," Parke said. "One problem we have here is that we have an applicant and appellants who are very nice people that do not appear to be terribly sophisticated in the field of land use planning, and that's why we haven't had requests for site visits."

Parke motioned for a continuance on the item. His fellow planning commissioners agreed after a 5-0 vote. The appeal will be revisited during the Planning Commission's Sept. 28 meeting.

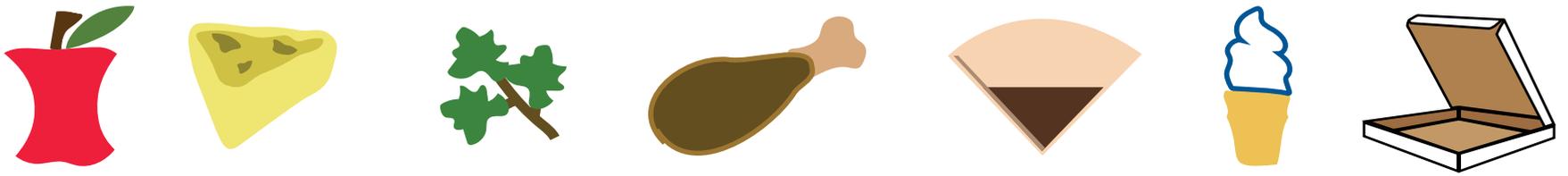
—Caleb Wisblood

New Santa Maria-Bonita superintendent focuses on community relationship building

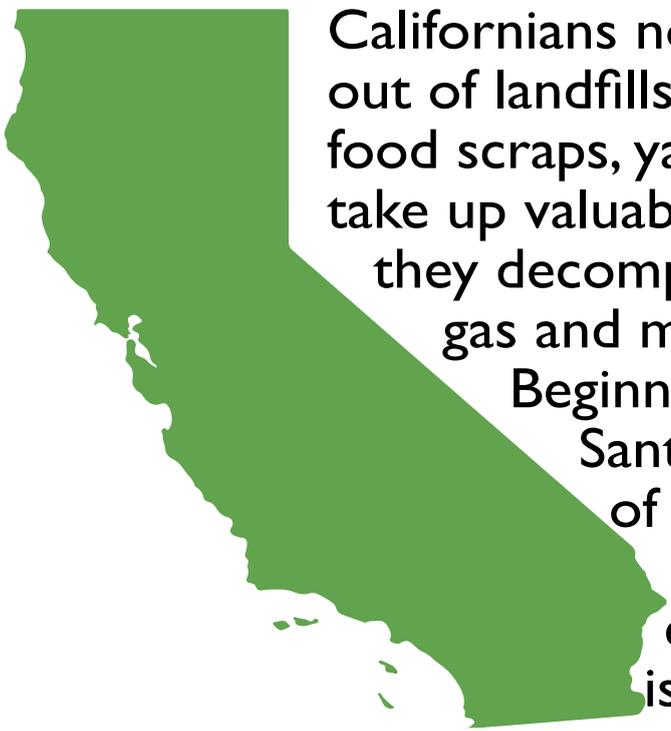
Darren McDuffie was selected as the Santa Maria-Bonita School District's new superintendent, closing the months-long search after Luke Ontiveros announced his retirement for the end of December 2021.

McDuffie told the *Sun* he was working in San Bernardino County's Rialto Unified School District

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NEWS from page 4

as its lead strategic agent for deputy superintendent and was looking for an opportunity to grow in a district.

"Ultimately [my goal] is to build a new reality for our students' success and growth," McDuffie said. "What I need to do, as far as priorities are concerned, is just listening and getting to know the community. It's key to learn about what makes this community unique and special. To be able to take that and work for the future for our students, and what we want it to be."

One area McDuffie said he wants to continue improving is the social and emotional aspect in classrooms after COVID-19's lasting impact on student socialization.

"There was a social and emotional toll that we've all suffered as a result. Now coming back and being aware [of] our social and emotional health and to be able to build those relationships with our students because we are whole beings, not just academic beings," he continued.

The transition has been going well for him so far, he added, as he met with community leaders, principals, and office staff so he could learn more about Santa Maria itself. He plans to continue making connections with faculty and the community and to lead from those relationships.

"I really lead with three things in mind: the power of words [and] how we can inspire a community and students and staff with our words, how we need to make sure we use them in an uplifting manner," McDuffie explained. "Kindness, and it's about how we treat each other, and how that comes back to make us better and stronger in a community. And the power of building a relationship—and

those are the foundations of everything we do."

José Segura, president and CEO of the district's teachers union—Santa Maria Elementary Education Association (SMEEA)—said he's "cautiously optimistic" for McDuffie's appointment.

"I'm an optimistic person by nature; I think change is great, and I look forward to what a new hire in the district can bring. I don't want to be blind to the reality of the circumstances in which we work, [but] I hope he can bring something positive and not more chaos and drama in our district," Segura said.

There's been tension and difficulties between the school board and the Santa Maria Elementary Education Association for the past five years regarding teachers' contract negotiations and school board decision-making, he said. During the initial superintendent search, SMEEA was also concerned that the board wouldn't take the association's input, according to previous Sun reporting.

But the superintendent and union president met to discuss priorities, and Segura said he feels hopeful that McDuffie can help move the district forward and build better relationships all around.

"I would really like to see him bring calm and order to our district. I'm excited about the background he has when it comes to strategies and [how] he's open to diversity and lots of different voices in how we operate as a school district," Segura continued. "You need to be able to reach out and be engaging with employees,

management, and the community in general for the best education experience as possible, and McDuffie's diverse background is going to allow that." ○

—Taylor O'Connor

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SONG ENTRY BY GENRE

(please check one box per song title to indicate song genre)

SONG TITLE #1 _____

Name of performing artist(s) EXACTLY as it should appear on CD (band name, stage name, etc.) _____

- Rock/Alternative
- County/Americana/Folk
- R&B/Blues
- Hip-Hop/Rap
- Open
- Youth

SONG TITLE #2 _____

Name of performing artist(s) EXACTLY as it should appear on CD (band name, stage name, etc.) _____

- Rock/Alternative
- County/Americana/Folk
- R&B/Blues
- Hip-Hop/Rap
- Open
- Youth

SONG TITLE #3 _____

Name of performing artist(s) EXACTLY as it should appear on CD (band name, stage name, etc.) _____

- Rock/Alternative
- County/Americana/Folk
- R&B/Blues
- Hip-Hop/Rap
- Open
- Youth

SONG TITLE #4 _____

Name of performing artist(s) EXACTLY as it should appear on CD (band name, stage name, etc.) _____

- Rock/Alternative
- County/Americana/Folk
- R&B/Blues
- Hip-Hop/Rap
- Open
- Youth

SONG TITLE #5 _____

Name of performing artist(s) EXACTLY as it should appear on CD (band name, stage name, etc.) _____

- Rock/Alternative
- County/Americana/Folk
- R&B/Blues
- Hip-Hop/Rap
- Open
- Youth

SONG TITLE #6 _____

Name of performing artist(s) EXACTLY as it should appear on CD (band name, stage name, etc.) _____

- Rock/Alternative
- County/Americana/Folk
- R&B/Blues
- Hip-Hop/Rap
- Open
- Youth

SONG TITLE #7 _____

Name of performing artist(s) EXACTLY as it should appear on CD (band name, stage name, etc.) _____

- Rock/Alternative
- County/Americana/Folk
- R&B/Blues
- Hip-Hop/Rap
- Open
- Youth

SONG TITLE #8 _____

Name of performing artist(s) EXACTLY as it should appear on CD (band name, stage name, etc.) _____

- Rock/Alternative
- County/Americana/Folk
- R&B/Blues
- Hip-Hop/Rap
- Open
- Youth

2

SONGWRITER CATEGORY ENTRY

Upload (or include) a .doc file of lyrics with your entry.

Song Title #1 _____

Song Title #2 _____

Song Title #3 _____

3

BEST ALBUM ENTRY (only 1 total)

Album Title _____

4

TOTAL NUMBER OF ENTRIES _____ x \$20 = _____
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I certify that I am the writer or co-writer of the song(s) or lyrics submitted. I also certify that I have read, understood, and accept the rules and regulations of the New Times Music Awards. If entrant is under 18 years old, the signature of a parent or guardian is required.

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Email: _____

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GENERAL RULES

- Entries must be received by 5 p.m. on Monday, Aug. 8, 2022, to be considered for the 2022 New Times Music Awards (NTMAs).
- \$20 entry fee for each song, songwriter, and album entry.
- Participants may enter a maximum of 13 songs (10 genre category, 3 songwriting category) and 1 album.
- **ONLINE ENTRIES ARE PREFERRED.** Fill out the entry form, upload songs, and pay for your entries with a credit card at NewTimesSLO.com. Best Album entries need to be entered in person or by mail.
- If you wish to pay with cash or check, you may drop off your entries at either the *New Times* or *Sun* offices. Bring your music entries on a CD or USB drive along with your completed entry form. Checks should be made payable to "New Times."
- All entrants must reside primarily in San Luis Obispo County or Northern Santa Barbara County.

- All entrants must be able to play at the showcase event at SLO Brew Rock in San Luis Obispo on Friday, Nov. 4.
- All entrants under 18 years of age must select the Youth category and must have a parent or guardian sign the entry form.
- By entering the contest, all entrants give permission to New Times Media Group to reproduce submissions on compact disc and on the web. All entries remain the property of performers.
- New Times Music Awards is not responsible for lost, damaged, incomplete, or late entries.
- The top 3 songs in each category need to provide high-quality versions of their songs (16 Bit, 44.1 Sample Rate).
- Songs may have multiple co-writers, but please designate one contact name only on entry form.
- Winners will be chosen by a select panel of judges.

- Songs will be judged on overall performance.
- Live performers will share the 'Back Line.'
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- The New Times Music Awards Showcase and Competition is an all-ages show. Performers agree to eliminate explicit lyrics during their performance.

GENRE CATEGORIES

- The Youth category is for anyone entering music who is under the age of 18.
- The Open genre includes reggae, world beat, jazz, classical, new age, electronic, etc.
- Each song submission must have a genre selected. If nothing is selected, the song will go into the Open genre.

- If judges determine a song to be a better fit with a different genre category than what was originally submitted, they reserve the right to recategorize it.

SONGWRITER CATEGORY

- You may enter up to 3 songs in the Songwriting genre, which is being judged separately.
- Upload (or include) a .doc file of lyrics with your entry.

ALBUM CATEGORY

- **Albums must have been released between July 1, 2021 and Aug. 8, 2022 to be eligible.** Please deliver a hard copy to either the *New Times* or *Sun* office along with a completed entry form by 5 p.m. on Monday, Aug. 8, 2022 for consideration. The entire presentation will be judged, including quality of songs, sound, and packaging.
- Only 1 album per entrant total.



Securing families

Santa Maria government and nonprofits collaborate on a new program to reduce youth violence

BY TAYLOR O'CONNOR

Santa Maria had 121 shootings in 2021—26 of which resulted in injuries, and five were fatal—and six murders, according to the Santa Maria Police Department.

Early intervention with school-aged children is one route to try and prevent that kind of community violence, said Brian Zimmerman, Santa Maria-Bonita School District's director of pupil services. Some kids are exposed to gang involvement or begin to exhibit violent behavior at young ages, he added.

"A lot of times you'll see a change in attitude," Zimmerman said. "Study habits change, attendance goes south, they start to have conflicts with other kids. They'd start to write things like '805 West Park' in their notebooks. Their dress would change, you can see this transition."

To counter this, the school district partners with the Santa Maria Police Department and Santa Barbara County Probation Office for teacher training on how to look for signs. The district also collaborates with community nonprofits for extra programming and services to try and prevent students from moving in that direction, he added.

To grow this effort, Santa Maria-Bonita and several other community entities will begin Secure Families—a \$2.5 million, three-year California Violence Intervention and Prevention (CalVIP) grant program that will provide a comprehensive, trauma-informed, and family-centered collaboration to reduce youth violence in the city. It will identify and work with fifth through eighth graders who may need extra programming in order to address "the root causes of violence," according to a program statement.

"I think it's going to be a great complement to the other programs we have for students but looking at [those] who need that extra level of [family] support for the overall success of the student moving forward," Zimmerman added.

Once students are identified by the school district, the county probation office, or the Santa Maria Police Department, students will get referred to nonprofits like CommUnify, Fighting Back Santa Maria Valley, or Family Service Agency to address their needs through mental health services, mentorship, or extra family support, said CommUnify Executive Director Patricia Keelean.

"In general, this is about building relationships with the youth and their parents. As we begin to talk with that youth and gain their trust, we will explore what their interests are and engaging them

in a conversation to have a better understanding of what their needs are," Keelean said.

Before applying for the grant, all the agencies involved sat down to brainstorm what they felt would be the best way to address the needs in the community, and what each organization could bring to the table in order to create a strong, wrap-around services approach, Keelean said.

"We really did look at what the needs were in Santa Maria. A couple of things close to the top: One is that these youth need consistent connection to positive adult role models, addressing that through the mentoring component," she explained.

Fighting Back Santa Maria Valley will offer its mentorship program to help students navigate life and conduct themselves in the community, Fighting Back's Executive Director Edwin Weaver said.

The mentoring program is based on a rites-of-passage curriculum called El Joven Noble, a comprehensive, indigenous-based youth leadership development program to help young people understand who they are in their community, Weaver explained.

"The mentors will be conducting circles, which will be using the Joven Noble curriculum, where they will be learning culturally responsive ways of conducting themselves in the community, and what it means to be a man or a woman," he said.

Fighting Back has been using the curriculum for five years and works hard at the high school level to reduce violence by teaching restorative conflict resolution skills. Weaver added that he's excited to start working at the junior high level and grateful for the new collaboration.

"There's a window here where a lot of young people find themselves struggling, and that window is at the junior high level. They're without a lot of outside supports in place for them. As far as preventing young people from going down a path to a tragic end, this is a great time to do that before things are too far down the road," Weaver said.

Although Weaver's hopeful this program will be successful, he said he's concerned about continued funding once the three-year program ends.

"The governor tried to cut the [grant] out of the budget, and I was thankful that



COLLABORATION: Community law enforcement agencies and the Santa Maria-Bonita School District will identify students in need of extra support and direct them to nonprofits that can provide mentorship, family case management, or counseling sessions.

[Assemblymember] Jordan Cunningham invited me to speak at the state in Sacramento at a hearing to keep this [grant] funded. My hope is that our new assemblyman will continue to fight for this funding, and we will continue to apply for it," Weaver said.

Continued funding remains a concern for Seth Miller, CommUnify's family and youth program director. After three years, the CalVIP grant could possibly be renewed, but it depends on what the qualifying criteria are. CommUnify and its partners would need outside support if they wish to continue outside the grant's lifespan, he explained.

"In terms of success, our goal is to see a 50 percent reduction in shootings in Santa Maria by calendar year 2025, and we want to see a 50 percent reduction in campus violence by the same year. Those are the big ones; there are some minor ones like enrollment and see 50 percent of the families of the youth engaged in the program," Miller said.

Citing the collaboration's background research, Miller said that things like treating families over time can cause a reduction in student-involved crime. However, having a direct cause-and-effect relationship between Secure Families and violence reduction remains a research task for the team, he said.

"I don't think there's ever been a full, wrap-around service that's been offered specifically to address violence. Oftentimes, violence prevention looks at law enforcement or it looks at gun acts, addressing those sorts of things," Miller added. "This is intended to address underlying issues of trauma of families that causes more trauma and more violence that exists generationally and impacts youth so heavily within our community."

Cognitive therapy can also help address violent behavior. Through Family Service Agency and the Santa Maria Youth and Family Center, individual students and their families can receive 20-week counseling sessions for further mental health support, Deputy Chief Executive Officer Steve DeLira said.

"It helps and teaches families to recognize thinking errors or thinking problems, and allows them to evaluate situations moving forward. We are teaching people to think of the situations, decisions, and possible outcomes," DeLira said. "It develops your critical thinking skills that will better assist you in outcomes."

The gap in peer-to-peer socialization caused by the pandemic has heightened classroom disruptions, he added. Children are physically fighting over disagreements now—where they may not have in the past—and there's a heightened anxiety among students, which can also manifest in outbursts, he said.

"We [will] eventually meet our target and we will see an impact in the reduction of violence," DeLira said. "Whenever a child is healing, then those around them can begin to heal as well."

Once a child leaves the program, that doesn't mean support stops. They are allowed to continue receiving help through the network of nonprofits in place through Secure Families, and will have continued guidance as they transition out of the program, he said.

"Santa Maria has needed a program like this for quite some time," DeLira said. "Everybody wants a safer community to raise our children in." ○

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

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Less of a yawn

School districts in Santa Barbara and San Luis Obispo counties prepare for school days with a later start

BY BULBUL RAJAGOPAL

Kids across Santa Barbara and San Luis Obispo counties are set to get a few extra minutes of shuteye when the school year begins later this month, and they have Senate Bill 328 to thank for it.

Approved by Gov. Gavin Newsom in October 2019, the bill required the school day for California middle and high schools, including charter schools, to start no earlier than 8 and 8:30 a.m., respectively. The new start time was supposed to be implemented by July 1, 2022, but some schools on the Central Coast took the initiative sooner.

“We did do it a year ahead because we had already changed our bell schedule and had been on distance learning, and had a deregulated student schedule with COVID,” said Erin Haley, the assistant superintendent of the Paso Robles Joint Unified School District. “So we knew this was coming in the 2022-2023 school year, and so we thought, ‘We’re going to implement it early and that way we can have consistency and we already know it’s the direction that we’re going.’ It’s been quite positive actually.”

The Paso Robles school district also staggered start times across elementary, middle, and high schools, with classes beginning at 8, 8:15, and 8:30 a.m., respectively.

“It is very nice for families who have kids in multiple grade levels because they can get across town. It’s sometimes tricky when the start times are too close together because parents have to drop them off early,” Haley said.

SB 328 received approval based on several studies that showed students—especially teenagers—performed better academically and had higher attendance and improved overall health at schools that started later, which offered them more time to sleep.

“I think students like the later start. It’s true that teenagers require a lot of sleep, and it does provide that opportunity,” Haley said. “What we do notice though is that it shifts the entire day. So, kids who play sports, or who have as activities, such as dance, cheer, band, are all shifted later in the afternoon. Kids are now getting out at 3:30 p.m. instead of 3 p.m.”

There are other impacts of SB 328 beyond a school day that ends later than usual. Students belonging to the agricultural communities of SLO and Santa Barbara counties may have more of an adjustment period when it comes to drop-offs and pickups, especially if their families start work early. But Haley informed the *Sun* that the Paso Robles school district anticipated this potential setback.

The district offers on-site tutoring programs run by volunteering teachers. Some teachers can choose to teach during the zero-period slot (before first period), and a handful of sport and extracurricular practices take place during this time to avoid staying later after classes. Students who need to be dropped off earlier can use the library, which opens before school starts. Moreover, the district’s campuses offer breakfasts to students.

“I think communication is key and understanding the why



BE PREPARED: Lompoc Unified School District schools, including Lompoc High (pictured), are preparing to welcome students back to campus on Aug. 15. While schools across the state are gearing up for new start times, Lompoc is among a few Central Coast districts that implemented the later start times last school year.

around decisions that are made and making sure that we can support all kids,” Haley said. “So if there are kids who need to be dropped off earlier, we should continue to provide a safe space for them as well. That is the role of public schools, and I’m really proud of the work that Paso Robles has done in extending our support for academic and social and emotional supports.”

“I think there are opportunities we can look at to support kids before the late start time.”

Many Paso Robles parents are happy with the new schedule too. One such parent is Karen Hoye Grandoli, who appreciated the time change but said it came with a learning curve.

“For my high schooler it was better. He got to sleep a little longer which was good because his after-school sport practices were 6 to 8 [p.m.]. They don’t even practice at the high school for soccer,” she said. “By the time he got home and had dinner, shower, time to relax and finish homework it was late. He also has a part-time job on days when he didn’t practice or have games.”

“A lot of people complained the month or so before school started, then everyone seemed to have it figured out,” she continued. “I do believe the science that teens’ natural circadian rhythm makes them more productive this way.”

But not everyone thinks the late start helps with sleep. A delayed end to the school day cuts into time for homework and rest once kids leave their campus. One mother of a teenager in Atascadero High School (AHS), who requested to remain anonymous, told the *Sun* that her daughter struggled with school days ending at 3:45 p.m.

“My daughter didn’t like getting out late. She was exhausted and felt like she didn’t have enough time to get her homework done. She lost a lot of sleep, but she also had a heavy workload. AHS also changed from block schedule [longer class periods that meet fewer times per week] to seven classes a day, with very short break and lunch times. She said most students prefer block schedule,” she said.

Atascadero and Paso Robles are some of the first school districts in SLO County to make the switch to a later start time. In Santa Barbara County, the Lompoc Unified School District also changed its schedules last year.

Bree Valla, deputy superintendent of the Lompoc school district, told the *Sun* that the late start time went into place to smooth the transition process from online to in-person learning once schools reopened last year during the pandemic.

“Students were used to being able to roll out of bed and directly log on to their computer,” Valla laughed. “Their sleeping habits have definitely changed. So, being able to start a little bit later is attributed to get to school on time, focus, not miss out on learning. I think our staff are grateful that that part of the change is done. So, this year, they [students and staff] know what to expect as opposed to having another change thrown on them.”

One of the changes the Lompoc school staff dealt with was the new start time’s effect on school bus timings and routes. The busing schedule was one of the first elements the district designed when considering an early implementation of SB 328. The main knot to untangle was that many of the district’s buses transport both elementary and high school students.

“In some ways, it’s made it a little easier to have staggered start times between our elementary and secondary schools because we can drop off the elementary and go start our secondary pickups,” Valla said. “It has made the afternoons a little bit more complicated because now they all kinda get out closer to the same time. But luckily, we have very creative transportation staff and bus drivers who step up and do whatever is needed to get it done.”

Like Haley in Paso Robles, Valla credited effective communication as the solution to navigate the schedule, especially for the other school districts that will experience the new time this year.

“Make sure you do your absolute best to make sure your website is updated. The frustrating thing with Google is people can search and unknowingly pull up old bell schedules,” Valla said. “People have a lot to do to get kids ready to come back to school. Often, this is one of the last things they think about, so constant repetition so that they remember things are a little different this year.” ○

Reach New Times Staff Writer Bulbul Rajagopal at brajagopal@newtimeslo.com.

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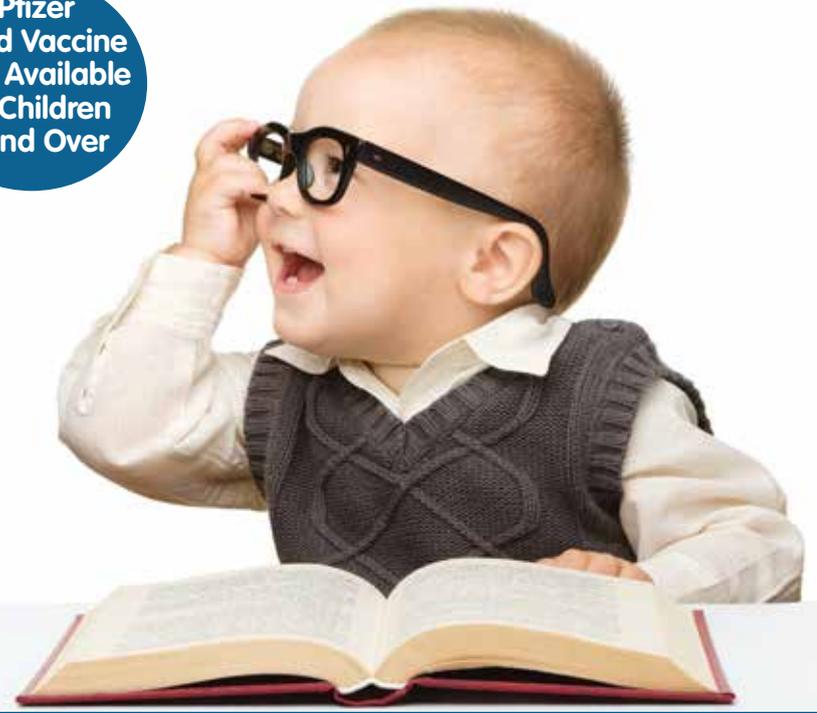
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ADDED SPACE: This rendering shows what Orcutt Academy High School's new multi-use facility will look like once it's complete—which should be by winter 2023 or spring 2024.

A sense of identity

Orcutt Union School District is building a multi-use facility at Orcutt Academy High School

BY TAYLOR O'CONNOR

For years, students at Orcutt Academy High School didn't get to experience the echoing creaks of people clambering up and down the bleachers of their own gym for home games or rallies. Instead, they'd go to neighboring schools in the Orcutt Union School District for sports games, pep rallies, and gym class, said Superintendent Holly Edds.

"For sporting events, students would have to find their own transportation, and it would impact other sites with sporting event schedules. Practice schedules are all impacted at the schools when we don't have enough facilities," Edds said.

The district wanted to make a change for its students and presented Orcutt residents with Measure G—a property tax that would create a \$60 million bond to address the district's facilities master plan. The measure passed in 2016, allowing Orcutt Union to enhance security and safety, replace portable classrooms, and add new facilities. About \$9 million is funding the creation of a new multi-use facility at the high school—which broke ground on Aug. 1, she said.

"There was not a real home for the theater program [or for sporting events]; it was another priority. It's just about giving them a space for sporting events, for school events, for rallies, for theater performances," Edds continued. "There was just a real need for them to have their own space."

The pandemic heightened the need for social interaction as students came back to in-person learning after more than a year of isolation. Edds said she thinks this addition to Orcutt Academy High School will continue the district's added emphasis on student-to-student connections.

"It gives them another place to hold that and interact with one another and feel connected to their school and faculty and to each other. It's going to have a positive impact," Edds continued.

The multi-use facility will feature a full-size basketball court, two locker rooms, an attached classroom, an indoor stage, and an outdoor stage.

It will also have its own parking lot for student parking and events parking at one end, Edds explained.

"All of our campuses are [also] open for community members to request. We have activities with local sports teams and groups. When facilities are available, we make them available for other groups to use them as well," she added.

Edds said she's worried about supply chain issues and escalating costs of construction—which will be a challenge as this project and other Measure G initiatives move forward—but there shouldn't be too many added issues because it's new construction as opposed to a renovation.

"There are always unforeseen costs, and our hope is to keep the costs down as much as we possibly can; we try to anticipate costs. We intentionally chose the location of the building because we don't think we'll run into things like underground utilities," Edds said.

The project should be complete by winter 2023 or spring 2024, which will help give Orcutt Academy students a sense of belonging, she continued.

"It provides them with a sense of identity to have our theater program. To have a space where they can leave things set up instead of having to take it down. To have a space where more community members can attend," Edds said. "To be able to have rallies in their own gym, a facility where the entire student body can be present."

"We're excited to provide that for them and elevate the sense of identity they currently have."

Highlight

- Teachers, health care workers, military, and first responders can get a day of family fun this summer with free admission to Boomers Santa Maria. "These front-line workers have been through it all over the last few years," Boomers Parks CEO Tim Murphy said in a statement. "We hope that Boomers Parks can help lighten the load for these valuable members of our society and create some special memories for their families." Boomers Parks—a family entertainment center featuring mini golf and go-karts—will provide all-day access passes with \$10 in arcade value to these workers and discounted tickets for up to six of their guests depending on the schedule. Teachers will receive discounts from Aug. 3 to Sept. 5, military and first responders from Sept. 1 to Oct. 31, and health care workers from Aug. 17 to Oct. 16. Every person should bring a work photo ID and another valid photo ID. To learn more, visit boomersparks.com. ○

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

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BAKER, ERIC VANCE, 32, of Madera, Ca passed away 7/17/2022 arrangements with Dudley-Hoffman Mortuary, Crematory & Memory Gardens

CARPIO, BRYAN ALEXANDER ESPARZA, 15, of Santa Maria passed away 7/21/2022 arrangements with Dudley-Hoffman Mortuary, Crematory & Memory Gardens

CARRENO, JACOB ALEXANDER, 20, of Nipomo passed away 7/26/2022 arrangements with Dudley-Hoffman Mortuary, Crematory & Memory Gardens

CHEVOYA, LON, 63, of Nipomo passed away 7/23/2022 arrangements with Marshall Spoo Sunset Funeral Chapel

CLARK, GARY W., 82, of Nipomo passed away 7/22/2022 arrangements with Los Osos Valley Mortuary & Memorial Park

DICKEY, RICHARD GUY, 84, of Nipomo passed away 7/25/2022 arrangements with Dudley-Hoffman Mortuary, Crematory & Memory Gardens

FREBERG, CHARLOTTE JOAN, 92, of Arroyo Grande passed away 7/27/2022 arrangements with Los Osos Valley Mortuary & Memorial Park

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Conservatives and guns

Trust is the issue when it comes to legislating weapons and the right to bear arms

BY JOHN DONEGAN

Why won't conservatives agree to what you anti-gun liberals see as "common sense" gun restrictions? In a word: trust.

Some of the proposals aren't that bad, but with your visceral loathing of all guns and gun owners, and your insistence on blaming gun violence on everything but the shooter, we don't trust you to act rationally and honestly on the subject. You still wouldn't be satisfied if we acquiesced to your demands. Your party is controlled by anti-gun extremists, and the claims that you are not interested in banning all guns are unconvincing.

June was a busy month in the gun-control battle. The U.S. Supreme Court rendered a decision striking down New York's law for issuing concealed-carry permits, and then Congress passed legislation regulating firearms.

Despite the florid hyperbole of Democrats, the Supreme Court ruling will make little functional difference. It merely holds that New York may not act arbitrarily in denying permit applications. This is already the law applied in 41 states, with only nine states (including California) allowing authorities complete discretion as to who will be granted a permit. Gun crimes by those with permits are rare.

You may be surprised to learn that many of us conservatives are not all that upset about the new legislation. Banning "straw man" purchases and closing the "boyfriend loophole" are fine with me. Extending background checks into juvenile criminal and mental health records is a good idea. Extending the waiting period from three to 10 days is a nuisance but not the end of the world. The funding of mental health programs seems like just another instance of ineffectual and wasteful Democratic spending just for the

fun of it, but what's new about that?

"Red flag" laws, taking guns away from the dangerously insane, can be either good or bad, depending upon how they are implemented. The devil is in the details. It is pretty easy to see how these could be abused and used maliciously by an estranged spouse, feuding neighbor, or a workplace rival. A gun owner might be unjustifiably forced into years of a Kafkaesque struggle to recover his guns from a bureaucracy ideologically inclined to oppose him, merely upon an unsupported allegation. Any "red flag" seizure should be supported by evidence of actual conduct, like serious threats, assaultive behavior, or mental health commitment; be proven by credible sources; and allow for immediate and independent judicial review without cost or the requirement of an attorney. Criminal penalties should be applied for misuse of the process.

Many other proposals are problematic. For example, requiring a high-tech device to limit the use of a gun to only the owner? I suggest that you visualize needing a gun during a home break-in and being put on hold by tech support.

A ban on what you call "assault rifles" would only be cosmetic, as these function just like other rifles long used for hunting or target shooting, and other guns are just as deadly. Truly automatic assault rifles have been illegal for the last 100 years or so. You're just emotionally reacting to the scary military look and image of the gun. The Uvalde, Texas, shooter would have killed as many people with a typical handgun. It never makes sense to allow people who do not understand a subject to regulate it.

Even if all those regulations were enacted, you would still not be satisfied. The carnage in Chicago, Los Angeles, Baltimore, and elsewhere would continue unabated using the illegally possessed guns already in

existence, and each new atrocity would move you to demand that even more onerous restrictions be imposed upon the law-abiding gun owner. And, even if the entire country banned all guns, seeing the ease with which massive amounts of fentanyl and immigrants illegally enter our borders, it is easy to see a lot of guns being smuggled in to satisfy criminal demand.

The recent revelation that the California Department of Justice, headed by a Democratic attorney general, released the personal information of thousands of concealed-carry permit holders has done nothing to increase our trust. Whether this was intentional or merely negligent, it is hard to see giving even more power to untrustworthy authorities.

We are frustrated by the refusal of anti-gun liberals to confront the true cause of gun violence: the shooters. Liberals refuse to effectively enforce laws already in place, yet demand even more laws. Far more people are killed each year in "catch and release" Chicago alone, including children, than die in the more spectacular mass shootings. Liberals refuse to acknowledge the greater carnage because it would require questioning their bizarre criminal justice agenda and their distaste for imprisoning criminals.

If you want to end the current impasse, you'll need to first abandon your efforts to ban all guns and learn to deal rationally and honestly with the issue. But I doubt that you are capable of that. ○

John Donegan is a retired attorney in Pismo Beach who says he'll stop writing when you pry the keyboard out of his cold, dead hands. Send a response for publication to letters@santamariasun.com.

WRITE NOW! We want to know what you think about everything. Send your 250-word letter to Sun Letters, 2450 Skyway Drive, suite A, Santa Maria, CA 93455. You can also fax it (1-805-347-9889) or e-mail it (letters@santamariasun.com). All letters must include a name, address, and phone number for verification purposes; may be edited for space or clarity; and will be posted to santamariasun.com.

Speak up!

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



MAYFIELD



LETTERS

Hold insurrectionists accountable!

If we've learned anything from the Jan. 6 hearings so far, it's that Trump and his allies will go to any lengths to gain and stay in power. The hearings have proven that they planned, promoted, and paid for a months-long criminal conspiracy to overturn the election they knew they lost—and which ultimately ended in a violent attack on our country.

They must be held accountable in the courts—and we must hold them accountable at the ballot box.

Right now, more than 100 right-wing extremists have won Republican primaries across the country, pushing the Big Lie that the 2020 election was stolen. All Americans should be alarmed by these victories. Should these candidates win during the general election, they'll continue their criminal conspiracy to overturn our elections.

Casting doubt about our elections and working to overturn them when you don't win is how we start the quick slide into fascism. Stopping this threat is about protecting the freedom to vote, to have our votes decide elections, and to rely on elections to keep our leaders in check.

This year, it's up to us to do our civic duty and cast a ballot for democracy champions at all levels of government in the midterms on Nov. 8. It's never been more important to exercise our freedom to vote while we still have it.

Carlos Arnold
Santa Maria

Cropped out

It's been a great year for local ag, according to Santa Barbara County's recently released agricultural production report:

There was a 5 percent increase in the gross production value in 2021. That means ag was a \$1.9 billion industry in the county that year, bringing in \$98 million more than 2020.

Sounds like big raises all around, right? I mean, usually when the company you work for has a great year and brings in more money, that wealth gets shared with the workers. Right?

Wrong! At least according to local organizations looking out for the farmworkers who pick those juicy cash crops.

Mesa Vineyard Management manager Kevin Merrill said that the federal government could do a lot more to enable ag companies to hire and adequately pay the workers they need.

"We're still hoping that Congress can do something to get us a decent farmworker, guest worker program than the H-2A program that we use. We need that desperately industrywide," Merrill said.

Meanwhile, workers are striking, and farmworker organizations are speaking out.

"A lot of that's driven by the organizations that believe farmworkers aren't treated right," Merrill said. "I think the workers understand, we feel the same pain they do. We do our best to compensate them, but the market can only do so much. It's a tough balance."

Balance, schmalance! Show them the money, says Zulema Aleman, with Central Coast Alliance United for a Sustainable Economy (CAUSE).



"To hear the ag industry is having a great year and [made] so much money and be proud of that [while farmworkers] are living in horrible conditions and not getting opportunities is really disheartening because employers aren't doing much," Aleman said.

Workers are having an impossible time balancing their family's budget, she said. They shouldn't have to choose between paying rent or buying school supplies or groceries. Those are not either/or things. Those are both/and things.

It "isn't too wild to ask" for funds to pay for such necessities, Aleman said.

So share the wealth already, ag industry!

Turns out, a Solvang resident's been asking some wild questions about her neighbor lately, which the Santa Barbara County Planning Commission is actually entertaining.

Janeen Beller officially appealed her neighbor's garage after the plans received approval. When you hear the word, "garage," what do you think of? A view-eclipsing, industrial-sized structure? Probably not. A 5,000-square-foot "steel industrial building" is significantly larger than your average place to park your average car.

Well, turns out Jordan Sideris doesn't have your average car. He's got a collection of them. So he needs to build a parking structure "more than double the size of any house in our area," as Beller belled at a recent Planning Commission meeting.

Commissioners heard her and now are trying to balance her neighborly concerns with Sideris' right to build a structure that fits within the current code.

Balance, schmalance? Stay tuned for the Sept. 28 meeting! ○

The Canary Schmanary is unbalanced. Send a balance beam to canary@santamariasun.com.

22nd Annual Best of Northern Santa Barbara County Readers Poll

Results will be published on August 18



To be a part of the publication, book your ad by Thursday, August 11

Contact us for more info: 805-347-1968 or advertising@santamariasun.com



SUbingDOKU on YouTube

Column	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I
Row 1						3			6
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What's Your Take?

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

This week's online poll 8/4 - 8/11

What do you think about the changed start time for schools?

- I think it's great and it will give kids extra, much-needed sleep.
- It will help kids be well rested for school, but I'm concerned about later after-school programming.
- It completely messes with my work schedule and my morning commute.
- I don't have kids so I don't care.

Enter your choice online at: SantaMariaSun.com

HOT STUFF

AUG. 4 – AUG. 11
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!

A RIVER RUNS THROUGH IT

Gallery Los Olivos presents *Romance of the Landscape*, a new duo exhibition, which debuted at the beginning of August and is scheduled to run through the end of the month. This exhibit highlights river, mountain, vineyard, and ocean scenes by local artists Sheryl Knight and Linda Mutti. Call (805) 688-7517 or visit gallerylosolivos.com for more info. The gallery is located at 2920 Grand Ave., Los Olivos.

—Caleb Wiseblood

COURTESY IMAGE BY SHERYL KNIGHT

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.

ROMANCE OF THE LANDSCAPE This August brings visitors to Gallery Los Olivos a familiar breath of beauty with new paintings from local artists Sheryl Knight and Linda Mutti. The two accomplished painters will once again transport art lovers to colorful landscapes and the beloved scenery of California. Mondays-Sundays, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. through Aug. 31. gallerylosolivos.com. Gallery Los Olivos, 2920 Grand Ave., Los Olivos, 805-688-7517.

SOLVANG FESTIVAL THEATER: INTO THE WOODS

Book by James Lapine. Music and Lyrics by Stephen Sondheim **Aug. 11-Sept. 4** Solvang Festival Theater, 420 2nd St., Solvang, 805-686-1789.

SANTA MARIA VALLEY/LOS ALAMOS

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.

JUST PASSING

A drama-comedy with music. Three siblings of a dysfunctional family meet for their mother's funeral along with other family members. Presented by OCT. **Aug. 12-14** my805tix.com. Minerva Club, 127 W. Boone, Santa Maria.

LOCAL AND FEATURED ARTIST EXHIBITS

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

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

MUSIC, SIGN, & PLAY Learn baby sign language to communicate more effectively with your child. Attend three-part series. Program content will progressively increase. For parents or caregivers with babies 0-3 years, presented by Baby Signs. **Aug. 13**, 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 Mussell Senior Center, 510 Park Ave., Santa Maria.

TWINKLE TIME Twinkle Time presents Peruvian pop and Harajuku-style music, fashion, and dance to educate, entertain, and energize children and families. This project was made possible in part by the Institute of Museum and Library Services. **Aug. 13**, 11 a.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.

SOUTH COAST SLO COUNTY

BUBBLES AND BRUSHES Join the venue for beautiful morning to sip bubbles and paint together. Karyn Blaney of Artsocial 805 will lead each workshop. Tickets include a glass of bubbles and all materials needed to paint. Additional wine will be available for purchase. **Aug. 7**, 10 a.m.-noon \$60. Laetitia Vineyard, 453 Laetitia Vineyard Drive, Arroyo Grande, 805-481-1772.

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. and Saturdays, Sundays, 2 p.m. through Aug. 6 \$30-\$36. 805-489-2499. americanmelodrama.com. Great American Melodrama, 1863 Front St., Oceano.

LIVE COMEDY SHOW AT THE SECRET GARDEN

Join us for laughs, drinks, and tacos at this comedy show. **Aug. 9**, 5:45 p.m. my805tix.com. Sycamore Mineral Springs Resort, 1215 Avila Beach Dr., Avila Beach.

MIXED MEDIA FOR AGES 5-6 AND 7-12

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

OPEN STUDIO FOR ADULTS

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

SAND IN OUR SHORTS: A NIGHT OF SKETCH COMEDY AND SONG

This two-act vaudeville review is jam packed with enough sketches and songs to split your sides. Drawing on the grand tradition of vaudeville and variety shows, this is a compilation of some of the venue's favorite comedy "shorts," new and old. Wednesdays-Saturdays, 7 p.m., Saturdays, Sundays, 2 p.m. and Sundays, 6 p.m. through Sept. 17 \$30-\$36. 805-489-2499. americanmelodrama.com. Great American Melodrama, 1863 Front St., Oceano.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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.

IMPROV 101 COMEDY CLASS Taught by experienced instructor, Sabrina Pratt, in a casual, positive and fun setting. These classes focus on learning the fundamentals of improvising with an ensemble. **Aug. 4**, 6-8 p.m. \$225. 805-858-8255. centralcoastcomedytheater.com/shows. Central Coast Comedy Theater Training Center, 2078 Parker Street, Suite 200, San Luis Obispo.

INTERMEDIATE OIL PAINTING: ADULT ART CLASS This class is for students who may have tried oil painting in the past but are looking to advance their skill levels. Color theory and proportion study will be a focus in the class. Mondays, 2-5 p.m. \$30 per student or \$75 for 3 classes. 805-747-4200. artcentralslo.com/workshops-events/. Art Central, 1329 Monterey St., San Luis Obispo.

INTRO TO DRAWING: CHILDREN'S ART CLASS Students will focus on creating shapes and shading images, with an emphasis on lighting and tone, with graphite pencils. **Aug. 4**, 2:30-3:30 p.m. \$25 per student or \$40 for 2 students. 805-747-4200. artcentralslo.com/workshops-events/. Students will learn the basics of how to draw animals and faces. To sign-up, contact Spencer at spencerpoulter@yahoo.com **Aug. 14**, 1-2 p.m. \$25 per student or \$40 for 2 students. 805-747-4200. artcentralslo.com/workshops-events/. Art Central, 1329 Monterey St., San Luis Obispo.

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

NEAL MENDOZA: PRETTY RUBBISH In his exhibition, "Pretty Rubbish", Neil Mendoza gives form to environmental issues. His mixed media work uses absurdity as a reaction to the path of growing consumption that society is following at the expense of a sustainable future. ongoing, 11 a.m.-5 p.m. Free. 805-543-8562. sloma.org. San Luis Obispo Museum of Art, 1010 Broad St., San Luis Obispo.

NEIL MENDOZA In his exhibition, "Pretty Rubbish", Neil Mendoza gives form to environmental issues. His mixed media work uses absurdity as a reaction to the path of growing consumption that society is following at the expense of a sustainable future. Thursdays, 11 a.m. through Aug. 18. 805-543-8562. sloma.org. San Luis Obispo Museum of Art, 1010 Broad St., San Luis Obispo.

OPEN MIC COMEDY Sign-ups at 6:30 p.m. Hosted by Aidan Candelario. Mondays, 7-9 p.m. Free. 805-540-8300. saintsbarrel.com/event-calendar. Saints Barrel Wine Bar, 1021 Higuerra St., San Luis Obispo.

PAINTING PLANETS AND STARS: CHILDREN'S ART CLASS This class will demonstrate layering colors using watercolor paints. Students will paint planets using various colors and learn different brush techniques to create the stars. **Aug. 4**, 1-2 p.m. \$25 per student or \$40 for 2 students. 805-747-4200. artcentralslo.com/workshops-events/. Art Central, 1329 Monterey St., San Luis Obispo.

PAINTING SUNFLOWERS: CHILDREN'S ART CLASS Students will learn how to create a beautiful sunflower using acrylic paints. Learn the basics of color mixing. A great class for young students just being introduced to the color wheel. **Aug. 7**, 2:30-3:30 p.m. \$25 per student or \$40 for 2 students. 805-747-4200. artcentralslo.com/workshops-events/. Art Central, 1329 Monterey St., San Luis Obispo.

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

SECOND SATURDAYS FREE ART EVENT SLOMA's Second Saturdays program features art-making activities that complement the Museum's current exhibitions. It's completely free and open to the public, on the lawn

outside SLOMA's Mission Plaza double doors. Second Saturday of every month, 11 a.m.-1 p.m. through Dec. 10 Free. 805-543-8562. sloma.org/events/second-saturdays/. San Luis Obispo Museum of Art, 1010 Broad St., San Luis Obispo.

SLO DANCE ARGENTINE TANGO CLASS AND PRACTICA Please come and join us for a Basic Argentine Tango class every Sunday in August, from 6 to 7 p.m., followed by a practica from 7 to 9 p.m. Sundays, 6-9 p.m. through Aug. 28 \$10. 805-710-4388. Odd Fellows Hall, 520 Dana St., San Luis Obispo.

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

STEEL MAGNOLIAS SLO REP presents this beloved comedy about six Louisiana women who gather under the hairdryers of their local beauty salon to share gossip, laughter, and the bond of friendship. Running Thursdays-Saturdays, 7-9 p.m. and Saturdays, Sundays, 2-4 p.m. through Aug. 14 \$20-\$38. 805-786-2440. slorep.org/. SLO REP kicks off the 2022-23 season with this funny and tenderhearted favorite. Laugh out loud, cry in spite of yourself, and fall in love with the characters that are "as delicate as magnolias but as tough as steel." Thursdays-Saturdays, 7-9 p.m. and Saturdays, Sundays, 2-4 p.m. through Aug. 14 \$20-\$38. 805-786-2440. slorep.org/shows/steel-magnolias/. San Luis Obispo Repertory Theatre, 888 Morro St., San Luis Obispo.

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

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

CULTURE & LIFESTYLE

SANTA MARIA VALLEY/LOS ALAMOS

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

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

BOUNCING BABY STORY TIME Learn, connect, and grow with other babies up to 1 year old and their caregivers. Celebrate National Breastfeeding Month with WIC. Receive a gift bag and entry into a drawing for breastfeeding supplies and books. Expecting families welcome. **Aug. 5**, noon 805-925-0994. engagedpatrons.org. Santa Maria Public Library (Altrusa Theater), 421 S. McClelland St., Santa Maria.

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

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

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

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

HIROSHIMA REMEMBRANCE DAY Aug. 6 is Hiroshima Day, in memory of those affected by the atomic bomb dropping during World War II. Find out about Hiroshima Day and its significance, enjoy a storytelling of 'Sadako and the Thousand Cranes', and learn how to make Origami paper cranes. **Aug. 6**, 11 a.m. Free. 805-925-0994. cityofsantamaria.org/city-government/departments/library. Santa Maria Public Library, 421 S. McClelland St., Santa Maria.

LET'S BLOW OFF SOME STEAM Curious preschoolers and caregivers, come to a special story time filled with exploration and discovery, designed for

preschoolers ages 3 to 5. **Aug. 12**, 11 a.m. 805-925-0994. engagedpatrons.org. Santa Maria Public Library (Altrusa Theater), 421 S. McClelland St., Santa Maria.

NEXT CHAPTER BOOK CLUB Each month will feature a new chapter book. Talk about last month's book, then read the first chapter of the new book together. Copies of the book provided on a first come, first served basis. For youth, 8 through 12 years of age. **Aug. 11**, 3:30 p.m. 805-925-0994. engagedpatrons.org. Santa Maria Public Library (Altrusa Theater), 421 S. McClelland St., Santa Maria.

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

PRESCHOOL ACTIVITY TIME A fun morning of crafts, experiments, and other activities which build kindergarten readiness skills. Activities focus on strengthening fine motor skills, identifying of shapes, colors, textures, and more. For children ages 3 to 5 with caregivers. **Aug. 8**, 11 a.m. 805-925-0994. engagedpatrons.org. Santa Maria Public Library (Altrusa Theater), 421 S. McClelland St., Santa Maria.

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

TECH HELP SATURDAYS Schedule a one-on-one appointment for instruction on technology topics like setting-up new devices, installing apps, privacy best practices, and enjoying library e-resources at home. Registration is required. **Aug. 6**, 11 a.m. Free. 805-925-0994. cityofsantamaria.org. Santa Maria Public Library, 421 S. McClelland St., Santa Maria.

TEEN AFTER HOURS LIBRARY CAMPOUT When the library closes, the fun begins. Enjoy pizza, a s'mores contest, scary stories, and more. Registration and a parental permission slip are required to attend. **Aug. 5**, 5:30-8:30 p.m. 805-925-0994. engagedpatrons.org. Santa Maria Public Library (Altrusa Theater), 421 S. McClelland St., Santa Maria.

TEEN GAMING Teens, bring your friends for a Friday afternoon of gaming. Play against your friends or sit back and watch the action on our large screen. Light snacks will be provided. **Aug. 12**, 4-5:45 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, unwind santamaria.com.

YOUTH ENDLESS SUMMER PACK Create a suncatcher with repurposed materials, go on a nature scavenger hunt, and create your own bubble solution and bubble wand. Enjoy the last bit of summer with these activities, a booklist, and more. While supplies last (pick-up starts Aug. 6). **Aug. 6** 805-925-0994. engagedpatrons.org. Santa Maria Public Library, 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.

COASTAL DUNES CWC SPEAKER California Writers Club-Coastal Dunes meets monthly at the Nipomo Library. Author and sports reporter Andrew Luria is guest speaker at Aug. 6 meeting. Topic: "For the Love of the Game: A 14-Year Journey From Idea To Debut Novel." Free online and in person. **Aug. 6**, 10 a.m.-1 p.m. Free. coastaldunescwc.com. Nipomo Library, 918 W. Tefft, Nipomo, 929-3994.

EXPLORATION DISCOVERY CENTER'S FIRST ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION A very low-key event and no speeches are required. Enjoy celebrating with us without any work commitments, except to have fun with us. Features balloons and cupcakes. **Aug. 6**, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. 805-473-1421. Exploration Discovery Center, 867 Ramona Ave., Grover 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.

MASTER GARDNER VICTORY WORKSHOP SERIES Come learn the basics of how to grow your own food with your local UC Master Gardeners. Find out how to

CULTURE & LIFESTYLE continued page 18



Aug 27-28, 2022

at Ramona Garden Park and surrounding streets

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THE YOUNG DUBLINERS

MARIACHI DIVAS

RAMANA VIEIRA

THE MOLLY RINGWALD PROJECT

THE TIPSYPY GYPSIES

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start your garden quickly and easily in a container, in the backyard, or at a community garden. Discount for OCSO residents. Sundays, 1-4 p.m. through Aug. 28 \$55 for the series or \$15 per class. 805-781-5939. Oceano Train Depot, 1650 Front St., Oceano.

SANCTUARY TOUR DAY Meet the rescued residents up close and hear their stories of triumph from volunteers who work with them weekly. Residents include goats, miniature horses, sheep, potbelly pigs, mini donkeys, chickens, ducks, and turkeys. **Aug. 7, 12-2 p.m.** \$10. 805-704-7327. greenerpasturesanctuary.org. Greener Pastures Farm Sanctuary, 2148 S. Halcyon Rd., Arroyo Grande.

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

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, 5citieswimschool.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 calhopecoconnect.org. Transitions Mental Health Warehouse, 784 High Street, San Luis Obispo, 805-270-3346.

CCL STATE CHAMPIONSHIP TOURNAMENT Adult tickets are valid for the whole day and kids 12 and under receive free entry. **Aug. 4-6** my805tix.com. Sinsheimer Park, 900 Southwood Dr., San Luis Obispo, 805-781-7222.

DIY HOME ENERGY SAVINGS TOOLKIT DEMO 3C-REN has partnered with the San Luis Obispo Library to bring you the Home Energy Savings DIY Toolkit. The event will cover the tools, equipment, and a guide to help you save energy using the kit's free items. **Aug. 9, 3-4 p.m.** Free. 805-781-5989. eventbrite.com. San Luis Obispo Library, 995 Palm St., San Luis Obispo.

ENCANTO SLO VACATION BIBLE

CAMP For kids ages 5 to 13. Enjoy a full week of camp with a Disney's Encanto theme. Cooking classes, theater, art, music, sports, and lots of other fun activities await. Through Aug. 5 my805tix.com. St. Stephen's Episcopal Church, 1344 Nipomo St., San Luis Obispo.

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

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

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

TECH BREW MEETUP Tech Brew is a free networking event where people interested in technology can hang out in an informal environment with a small TEDtalk-like presentation from an interesting speaker. Learn more online. Second Monday of every month, 5-7 p.m. 805-323-6706. meetup.com/softec/. StoryLabs, 102 Cross St, Suite 220, San Luis Obispo.

WILSHIRE: SUMMER OF SERVICE Do you want to support seniors in our community? Make a difference this summer through one of our volunteer programs. Mondays-Fridays. through Aug. 31 wilshirecommunityservices.org/. Wilshire Community Services, 285 South St., suite J, San Luis Obispo, 805-547-7025.



FILE PHOTO COURTESY OF WAYNE MILLS

HOT STUFF
AUG. 4 - AUG. 11
2022

TREASURES UNTOLD

The Orcutt Mineral Society hosts its 54th annual Rainbow of Gems Show and Sale at Nipomo High School, Friday, Aug. 5, through Sunday, Aug. 7. The event runs from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Friday and Saturday and from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Sunday. Admission to the event is free. Visit omsinc.org for more info. Nipomo High School is located at 525 N. Thompson Ave., Nipomo.

—C.W.

FOOD & DRINK

SANTA YNEZ VALLEY

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

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

STANDING SUN: CELLAR CLUB Visit site for Cellar Club details and more info. Mondays-Thursdays, 11 a.m.-5

p.m. 805-691-9413. standingsunwines.com. Standing Sun Wines, 92 2nd St., Unit D, Buelton, 805-691-9413.

LOMPOC/VANDENBERG

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

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

SANTA MARIA VALLEY/LOS ALAMOS

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

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

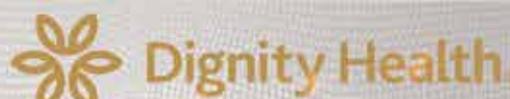
SIMPLY SOURDOUGH First Thursday of every month Oasis Center, 420 Soares Ave., Orcutt, 805-937-9750.

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

SOUTH COAST SLO COUNTY

INTERNATIONAL BEER DAY AT THE SECRET GARDEN The first 50 guests receive a complimentary Sycamore Pint Glass with purchase. **Aug. 5, 10 a.m.-8 p.m.** my805tix.com. Sycamore Mineral Springs Resort, 1215 Avila Beach Dr., Avila Beach.

HOT STUFF continued page 19

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MUSIC

SANTA YNEZ VALLEY

JIMI NELSON BAND LIVE Aug. 6, 8:30-11:30 p.m. Maverick Saloon, 3687 Sagunto St., Santa Ynez, 805-686-4785, mavericksaloon.org.

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.

MUSIC IN THE GARDEN

Weekly concerts in the Solvang Theater Garden includes SitarSon, Just Dave Band, Blue Breeze Band, Modern Cocktail Society, The Molly Ringwald Project, and Mambo Soul Band.

Aug. 7, 3-5 p.m. \$40. 805-686-1789. Solvang Festival Theater, 420 2nd St., 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

DRUM TIKI WITH CAMERON TUMMEL A hands-on interactive musical event with drums and percussion. Instruments are provided and everyone plays. Designed for youth and families, this project was made possible in part by the Institute of Museum and Library Services. Registration is required. **Aug. 4, 1 & 4 p.m.** 805-925-0994. engagedpatrons.org. Santa Maria Public Library (Altrusa Theater), 421 S. McClelland St., Santa Maria.

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

LET'S ROCK WITH RIPTIDE Featuring Riptide Big Band, with vocalists Bob Nations, Mitch Latting, and Judy Lindquist. Grant funding by Community Foundation of San Luis Obispo County. '60s attire encouraged. **Aug. 14, 1:30-4 p.m.** Free. 775-813-5186. RiptideBB.com. Elwin Mussell Senior Center, 510 Park Ave., Santa Maria.

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.

THE MOLLY RINGWALD PROJECT: FUNDRAISING CONCERT Features live music, food, wine, and more. Proceeds benefit the Oasis Center. Doors open at 6 p.m. **Aug. 6, 7 p.m.** oasisorcutt.org. Presqu'ile Winery, 5391 Presqu'ile Dr., Santa Maria, 805-937-8110.

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

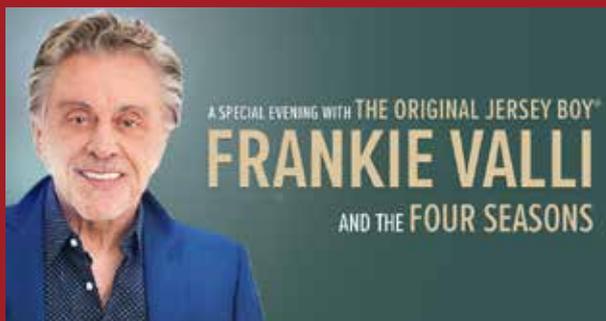
SAN LUIS OBISPO

ART AND SOUL FAIR A live art and music fair. Features local vendors and music by Bobby Cratedigs, Rafa The Unknown, Amairany Hennessy, Madeline Allen, Orcutt Hill, Niko CochiSe, and Ezra Henderson. The fair will be filmed for Madeline Allen's upcoming music video, "Phase Me." **Aug. 6, 1-5 p.m.** Free. 805-547-0108. Bliss Cafe, 778 Higuera St., San Luis Obispo.

BLACK SHEEP BRASS BAND LIVE 9-piece funk outfit Black Sheep Brass Band comes down from the Bay for a dance party for the ages. DJ Malik follows with full DJ set. **Aug. 6, 7:30-11 p.m.** \$15-\$17. 805-888-7940. forthefolksmusic.com. Bang the Drum Brewery, 1150 Laurel Lane, suite 130, San Luis Obispo.

LIVE MUSIC WITH WAVE BREAKERS Come on out to SLO Public Market to enjoy some of the top hits from the '50s through the '80s by the Wavebreakers. Grab a drink and a bite to eat and enjoy the show in the courtyard. **Aug. 6, 12-3 p.m.** 805-215-3669. slopublicmarket.com/events. SLO Public Market, Bonetti Ranch, San Luis Obispo.

NEW TIMES MUSIC AWARDS 2022 (ENTRIES) All entries must be received by 5 p.m. on Aug. 8 to be considered for the 2022 New Times Music Awards (NTMAs). All entrants must reside primarily in San Luis Obispo County or Northern Santa Barbara County. Visit site for more details. Through Aug. 8 \$20 entry fee for each song, songwriter, and album entry. newtimeslo.com. New Times, 1010 Marsh St., San Luis Obispo, 805-546-8208. ○

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Arts Briefs

Mid-State Fair selected Pioneer Valley High School student to sing the national anthem

PHOTO COURTESY OF KENNY KLEIN



Pioneer Valley High School senior Makai Copado was selected to sing the national anthem during the Mid-State Fair's Live to Rock concert in Paso Robles at the end of July. The multi-act show featured performances from Skid Row, Warrant, Quiet Riot, and Kip Winger.

"This is a very big accomplishment for me, and I couldn't be more ecstatic," Copado said in press materials from the Santa Maria Joint Union High School District. "I had seen a post on Instagram about how spots were open for local singers, and I decided that it would be a great opportunity for me to audition. So, I sent a video."

Copado recently played the role of Danny Zuko in a local production of *Grease*, which featured students from Pioneer Valley High School, Ernest Righetti High School, and Santa Maria High School.

Entry period for New Times Music Awards closes Aug. 8

Local bands, singers, and songwriters are welcome to compete in the 2022 New Times Music Awards. The entry period closes on Monday, Aug. 8, at 5 p.m. Participants can enter their songs online at newtimeslo.com. All entrants must reside primarily in San Luis Obispo County or Santa Barbara County.

The competition's awards showcase, which will feature performances from finalists, will be held on Friday, Nov. 4, at SLO Brew Rock, located at 855 Aerovista Lane, San Luis Obispo.

Dana Adobe's Heritage Day features crafts, live music, dance demos, and more

On Saturday, Aug. 6, the Dana Adobe and Cultural Center in Nipomo will host Heritage Day, which includes a variety of family-friendly programs between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m. Activities at the event include crafting, tortilla making, dance demonstrations, and more.

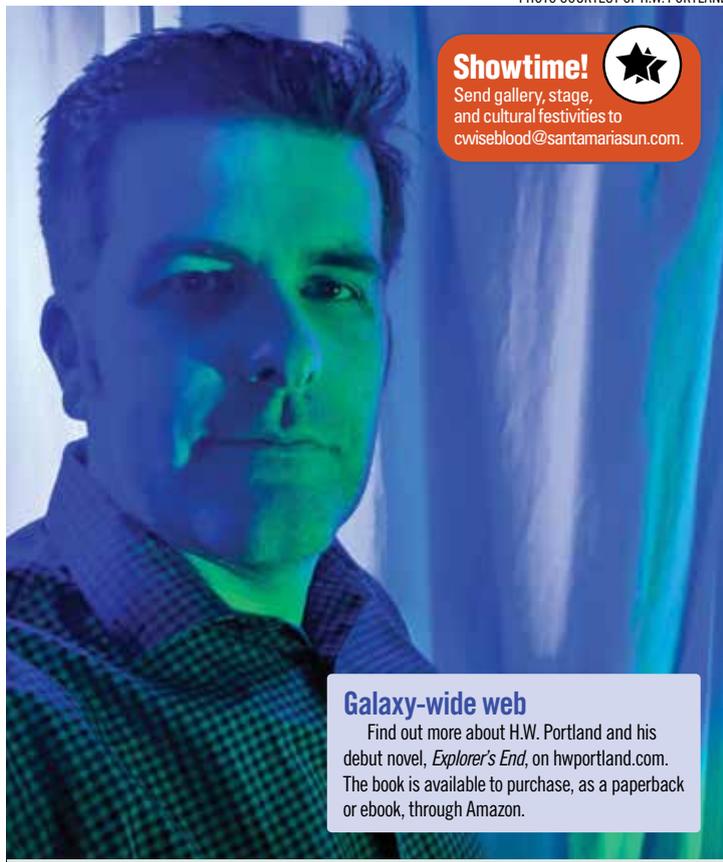
Attendees of Heritage Day can also expect to enjoy live music, tours, and historical reenactments that tap into "what rancho living was like 200 years ago here on the Central Coast," according to the venue. The organization is dedicated to engaging visitors with stories of California's rancho era history and providing resources to foster environmental stewardship and cultural understanding.

Tickets to the event are \$10 for adults and \$3 for children ages 6 to 17. Admission is free for ages 5 and younger. For tickets and more info, call the Dana Adobe office at (805) 929-5679, visit danaadobe.org, or send an email to events@danaadobe.org.

The Dana Adobe and Cultural Center is located at 671 S. Oakglen Ave., Nipomo. The venue is a registered historical site and is considered the oldest home in San Luis Obispo County. The center is open daily from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. ○

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

PHOTO COURTESY OF H.W. PORTLAND



Showtime!

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



Galaxy-wide web

Find out more about H.W. Portland and his debut novel, *Explorer's End*, on hwportland.com. The book is available to purchase, as a paperback or ebook, through Amazon.

A NEW CHAPTER: "When COVID came along, I made a personal vow that I would emerge from that disaster with something tangible to show," said *Explorer's End* author H.W. Portland, who has enjoyed writing since childhood. "Settling down and getting back to an old passion from my youth, creative writing, felt like a great way to ride through COVID."

Only the beginning

Local sci-fi author H.W. Portland explores the final frontier in first novel, *Explorer's End*

BY CALEB WISEBLOOD

Trekkies and wookiee worshipers are among the target audience of Orcutt local H.W. Portland's debut sci-fi novel, *Explorer's End*.

"I tell people, if you enjoy Indiana Jones, Star Trek, or Star Wars, you will enjoy *Explorer's End*," Portland said, before describing his film-friendly writing style.

"I write as if I am a film director using description and dialogue to direct the reader's attention in the same way a camera is used in film," the author explained. "I felt a special sense of pride when, without solicitation, my early readers told me the book felt very cinematic and that it reminded them of George Lucas and Steven Spielberg."

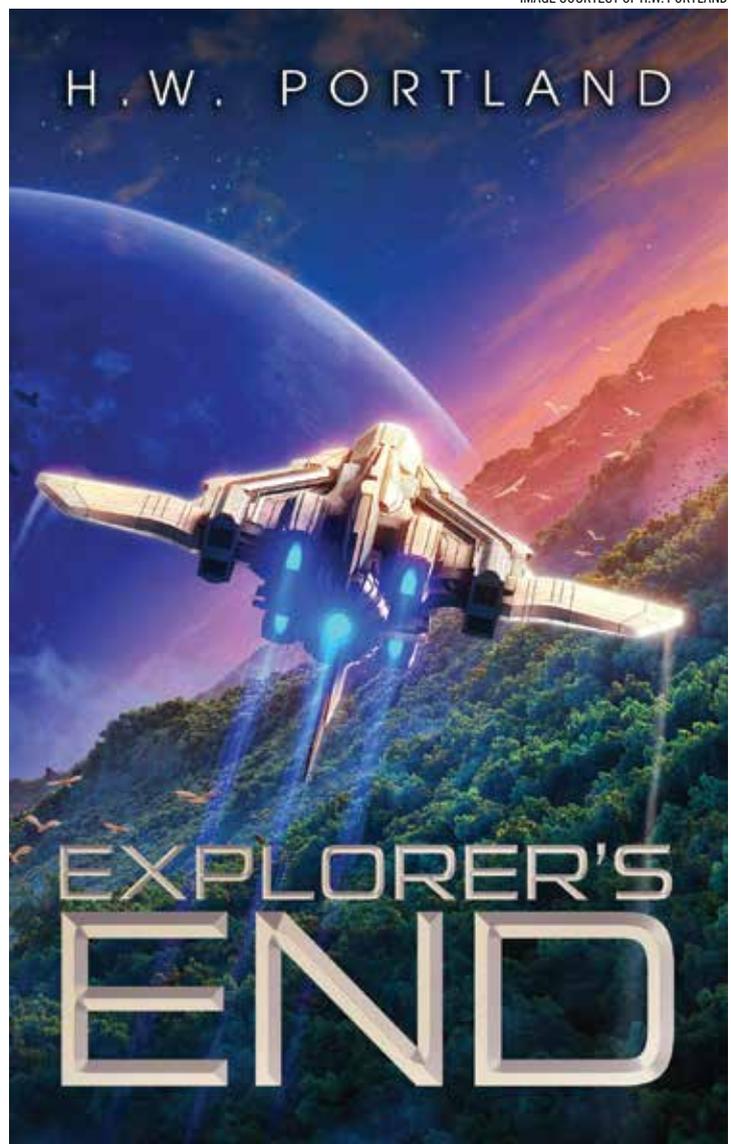
The plot of *Explorer's End* follows an unlikely hero on a quest to discover the origin of the galaxy, "and protect it at all costs," according to the book's synopsis. The novel was released, in both paperback and ebook editions, during the summer and is currently available to order through Amazon.

During a recent email interview, Portland gave the *Sun* some behind-the-scenes tidbits about his journey writing the book.

Sun: How would you describe a typical day in the life for you while writing *Explorer's End*? And about how long did it take you to complete the novel?

Portland: Once I had a detailed outline, it was very simple to write the novel. Every evening at about 10 p.m., I would turn down the lights, put on a candle, brew coffee, and spend two to three hours writing. I found that writing a chapter a night resulted in chapters that were just the right length for a casual reader. After about 30 days, I had a first draft, which I sat on for almost a year. I came back and read the draft with fresh eyes and it was something I was happy with.

Sun: Has writing always been a passion of yours? I read on your website that you've spent the past 20 years working in technology. I'm



GALAXY QUEST: The plot of *Explorer's End*, by Orcutt author H.W. Portland, follows an unlikely hero on a quest to discover the origin of the galaxy. The book's cover art was created by artist Elias Stern.

curious if you enjoyed writing as a hobby throughout your career or if writing is a more recent endeavor? **Portland:** I have been writing stories since first grade. In my teens, my creative focus turned towards making video games and writing software. By the time I was in my late twenties, I had stopped writing creatively and was putting all my time into my career. As my career moved along, I wrote less software and wrote more documents and presentations. Soon I was studying leaders in our organization and how they used narrative structure to communicate vision. When

COURTESY IMAGE BY RAVEN OSSE



INKLINGS IN INK: Each chapter of *Explorer's End* features a unique illustration by artist Raven Osse. This artwork depicts a creature from the planet of Helios, one of the book's settings.

COVID came along, I made a personal vow that I would emerge from that disaster with something tangible to show. Settling down and getting back to an old passion from my youth, creative writing, felt like a great way to ride through COVID. Now that we have emerged, I am proud that I do, in fact, have something to show for that period of time.

Sun: Is there a specific reason you decided to write a sci-fi novel? What attracted you to the genre versus other genres?

Portland: [Originally] I was working on a historical fiction and realized I was depleting all my energy on research and getting everything to plausibly mesh with a specific period and place. The narrative was taking back seat to historical accuracy, and I was spending months filling a research journal instead of a first draft. Science fiction, on the other hand, gives me much more room to build an interesting premise and narrative. As a writer, I establish the rules with the reader, the limits of the world, and as long as I can stay within those boundaries I myself have defined, I can sculpt an interesting story. ○

Arts Editor Caleb Wiseblood is a sculptor of articles. Send comments to cwiseblood@santamariasun.com.

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Film Yep!

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Writer-director Jordan Peele (*Get Out*, *Us*) helms this sci-fi mystery about the Haywood family, who owns a struggling horse ranch providing horses to the film industry. After witnessing strange UFO phenomenon in their remote inland valley, siblings OJ (Daniel Kaluuya) and Emerald (Keke Palmer) believe the solution to their financial woes is to capture video proof of alien life, enlisting Fry's Electronics worker Angel Torres (Brandon Perea) and eventually Hollywood renegade auteur Antlers Holst (Michael Wincott) to capture the footage. (130 min.)

which turned the show's mythos into exactly the sort of spectacle our characters are inviting into their lives. Creepy, at times bloody and gory, and often very funny, Peele's *Nope* proves he's adept at creating a unique brand of social commentary disguised as entertainment.

Anna: Peele's brand of horror is right up my alley, and while *Nope* didn't play psychologically as much as *Get Out* or *Us*, it did keep me in rapt attention. The setting is ripe for feelings of isolation and entrapment; the beautiful canyon soon starts to feel like a trap. After Otis Haywood Sr. (Keith David) dies following a bizarre phenomenon, OJ is undeniably lost. His grief has nowhere to go in his isolated life, even when his sister Emerald tries to draw him out. He's stoic and understated, a real cowboy. He wants to do good by his father's legacy, still scared to disappoint the man—even in death. Kaluuya is a true gem and Peele knows it; he cast him in leading roles here and in *Get Out*. What OJ starts to realize is that this isn't an alien ship cruising around looking for earthlings to beam up. There's much more to this complex creature. The tension is wound tight, but that doesn't mean there aren't laughs. This is a wonderfully well-rounded film that builds a world instead of a flat picture.

NOPE

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

Glen: The film opens with a biblical quote from Nahum 3:6, which reads, "I will pelt you with filth, I will treat you with contempt and make you a spectacle." Like all of Jordan Peele's "horror" films, the horror is merely the tip of the sociopolitical iceberg below. In this case, it's a story about our deep thirst for spectacle and the ridiculous lengths we'll go to get it. In addition to the Haywood family, the story also includes the Parks—former child actor Ricky "Jube" Parks (Steven Yeun) and his wife, Amber (Wrenn Schmidt)—who run a super tacky Wild West attraction in the same valley as the Haywoods' horse ranch. As part of the backstory, Jube was a survivor of a horrible animal attack on a TV show,

fund his "art." He wants to capture the shot to end all shots even if it means risking it all. Think death by selfie. He's soon at the ranch with a mechanical camera that alien technology can't short out. Everyone involved is hell-bent to exploit the alien for personal gain. I especially liked the parallelism between Jube's animal mauling backstory and OJ's discovery that looking the alien in the eye will make you its target. What is filmmaking other than looking straight into the eye of the spectacle before us? With Peele behind the camera, we can't look away.

Anna: I love the cut-tos of the animal-mauling backstory. It's a piece of the puzzle that at first glance doesn't seem to have much to do with the main storyline—until it does. I don't mind a



SPECTACLE CHASERS: (Left to right) Brother and sister OJ (Daniel Kaluuya) and Emerald (Keke Palmer) Haywood and video expert Angel Torres (Brandon Perea) try to capture a flying saucer on tape, knowing it will lead to fame and wealth, in *Nope*, screening in local theaters.

slasher flick, but this type of intelligent "horror" is something I'll watch time and time again. The acting and the directing are brilliant. Perea as Angel was great comic relief as the dismissive tech whiz turned obsessive team member. Palmer is also wonderful and funny as Emerald, who has no interest in ranch work but has no problem being the star of every show and hustling every way she can to make it in Hollywood. I encourage you to give *Nope* a chance—it will reel you in and keep you on the line from beginning to end. ○

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

Film & TV Reviews

THE GRAY MAN

What's it rated? **PG-13**
 When? **2022**
 Where's it showing? **Netflix**

New Flicks

Co-directors Anthony and Joe Russo helm this spy thriller about a convicted murderer recruited by the CIA as part of its covert Sierra project of trained assassins. Dubbed Sierra Six (Ryan Gosling), the icy killer under direction from his mentor Donald Fitzroy (Billy Bob Thornton) has been taking out bad guys for 18 years, but then Fitzroy retires and is replaced by Denny Carmichael (Regé-Jean Page), who doesn't seem to care about collateral damage, leading to a rift between him and Six.

When Six learns Carmichael is targeting other Sierra operatives, he faces off against Carmichael's most ruthless killer, Lloyd Hansen (Chris Evans), a morality-free psychopath. Meanwhile, CIA agent Dani Miranda (Ana de Armas) works to sort out whose side she should be on. Action and mayhem follow.

As action films go, there's clearly a lot of money at work in one spectacular set piece after another, and it's impossible to deny that Gosling and Evans are anything but supremely

PHOTO COURTESY OF AGBO, NETFLIX, AND ROTH FILM



MORAL MURDERER: Ryan Gosling stars as Sierra Six, a CIA assassin whose refusal to endanger a child during an assignment angers his new boss, in *The Gray Man*, streaming on Netflix.

watchable. There's even an emotional element from Six's abusive childhood and his need to protect Fitzroy's imperiled niece, Claire (Julia Butters), but something feels hollow here. Maybe things will improve in one of the inevitable sequels, which are teed up nicely. (122 min.)

—Glen

PIECES OF HER

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

BINGEABLE

Based on Karin Slaughter's book, *Pieces of Her* directed by Minkie Spiro follows Andy's (Bella Heathcote) quest to find out about her mother's (Toni Collette) murky past and discover the truth of where she came from. After mom Laura takes down a rogue gunman, she suddenly wants Andy to pack up and move away. Laura's reasons become slightly clearer when an intruder attempts to take her life, and Laura shoves Andy out the door with a destination and a mysterious blue suitcase full of cash.

The series attempts to intersperse clues to Laura's past with flashbacks of Laura as a rich young woman under her father's thumb turned renegade terrorist group member, who is head over heels for Nick (Joe Dempsie), the intense and driven leader. While hunting for clues, Andy has a confidant in Michael Vargas (Jacob Scipio), the FBI handler who's been following her every move. While she finds trust in him, she soon realizes her life has been built on lies.

The series has faced criticism and only boasts middling reviews, but it's watchable and bingeable. Collette brings her

PHOTO COURTESY OF ENDEAVOR CONTENT AND MADE UP STORIES



GHOST FROM THE PAST: When Laura (Toni Collette, right) turns out to have a secret past, her daughter, Andy (Bella Heathcote), begins to question their life together as both become targets, in the Netflix TV series *Pieces of Her*.

usual magic to the screen; the storyline's sense of urgency propels the series. (eight approximately 52-min. episodes) ○

—Glen

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Santa Maria Civic Theatre



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THURS-SUN, AUGUST 4, 5, 6, 7
Morro Bay Yacht Club to San Luis Yacht Club of Avila Beach



International Beer Day
FRIDAY, AUGUST 5
Secret Garden at Sycamore Mineral Springs Resort & Spa



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



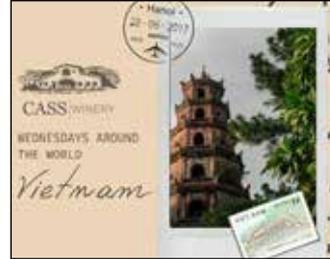
Tiny Porch Concerts: Taylor Ashton with The Dales
SUNDAY, AUGUST 7
Peter Strauss Ranch, Agoura Hills



Camp Cass: Paint & Sip Class with Art Social
SUN, AUG. 7 & FRI, AUG. 19
Cass Winery, Paso Robles



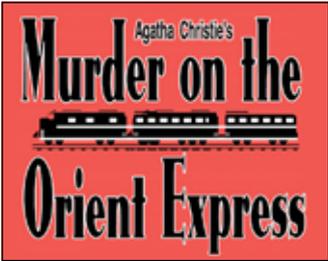
Live Comedy Show
TUESDAY, AUGUST 9
Secret Garden at Sycamore Mineral Springs Resort & Spa



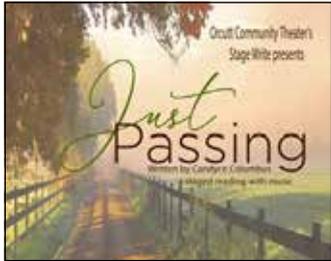
Wednesdays Around the World Dinner: Vietnam
WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 10
Cass Winery, Paso Robles



Wine 101 with Goddess of Wine
WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 10
Timshel Vineyards, Paso Robles



By the Sea Productions: Murder on the Orient Express
FRI, SAT, SUN, AUG. 12-SEPT. 4
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Orcutt Community Theater: Just Passing
FRI, SAT, SUN, AUG. 12, 13, 14
The Minerva Club, Santa Maria



Live at the Lighthouse: Dave Becker Quartet w/ Nicole Stromsoe
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Point San Luis Lighthouse



Resonance Presents: RETROSPECTIVE
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Mission San Luis Obispo, SLO



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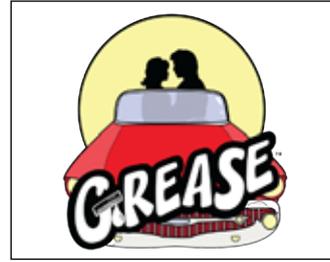
Cambria Concerts Unplugged: The Tippy Gypsies
SUNDAY, AUGUST 21
Camp Ocean Pines, Cambria



Tied + True Goods Knot & Sip: Macrame Workshop
SUNDAY, AUGUST 21
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SUPER BOWLS: For a \$25 donation, each attendee of Lompoc Empty Bowls was able to pick out their own handcrafted ceramic bowl from a large selection, before being led to a dining area where they were welcome to feast on several kinds of soup donated by local chefs and restaurants.

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THRILLS AND CHILLI: Soup options at the gathering included chicken tortilla, potato bacon, tomato basil, clam chowder, lentil, vegetable, and several more. Judith Smith-Meyer, senior communications manager at the Foodbank of Santa Barbara County, said her favorite offering was the chili (pictured).



COLORFUL CREATION: The handcrafted ceramic bowls at Lompoc Empty Bowls were created by members of local organizations, including the Vandenberg Spouses Club, Santa Ynez Valley Community Outreach, Allan Hancock College, and Lompoc Valley Middle School.

Fill in the blanks

Foodbank of Santa Barbara County holds first in-person Lompoc Empty Bowls fundraiser since 2019

BY CALEB WISEBLOOD

Four long tables full of handcrafted ceramic bowls stood near the entrance of the Dick DeWees Community and Senior Center on Wednesday, July 27. Many guests of this year's Lompoc Empty Bowls fundraiser circled the display more than once before making a selection.

"They're all painted by hand. Every bowl is one of a kind," said Judith Smith-Meyer, senior communications manager at the Foodbank of Santa Barbara County, while perusing the bowls.

Meanwhile, several others strolled around the four conjoined tables like a carousel.

For a \$25 donation, each attendee of Lompoc Empty Bowls was able to pick out their own bowl from the lot before

being led to a dining area where they were welcome to feast on several kinds of soup donated by local chefs and restaurants.

Soup options at the gathering included chicken tortilla, potato bacon, tomato basil, clam chowder, lentil, vegetable, and at least half a dozen more. The handcrafted bowls were created by members of local organizations, including the Vandenberg Spouses Club, Santa Ynez Valley Community Outreach, Allan Hancock College, and Lompoc Valley Middle School.

"We're super thrilled to be back," said Smith-Meyer, who added that the last time the Foodbank was able to host an in-person Empty Bowls event in Lompoc was 2019.

Before cancellation, the scheduled date for the Foodbank's 2020 event was just within a week of the pandemic shutdowns that March.

"The community is rejoicing to be able to come back together again. ... We had a full house at our first seating of 250 people," Smith-Meyer said around 12:30 p.m., about an hour after the first group of Empty Bowls attendees were seated.

A total of about 400 people attended the fundraiser, which

See you next fall

Visit foodbanksbc.org for more info on the Foodbank of Santa Barbara County, which plans to host its next iteration of Santa Maria Empty Bowls on Wednesday, Oct. 26, at the Santa Maria Fairpark, located at 937 S. Thornburg St., Santa Maria. The venue will hold three separate seatings (11 a.m., noon, and 1 p.m.).

raised an estimated total of \$60,000 through ticket sales, sponsorships, raffle and silent auction proceeds, and proceeds of a potted succulent sale at the event, Smith-Meyer said.

"We had only budgeted to raise \$45,000, so that is a thrill. The community came through with such robust support for our neighbors in need in Lompoc," she said. "The Foodbank is thrilled with the response. All the proceeds from this event stay in the city of Lompoc to support residents here who are facing hunger or food insecurity."

"Last year, the Foodbank distributed a million pounds of food in the city of Lompoc itself," Smith-Meyer added. "We served 16,000 local residents."

As for upcoming fundraisers, the Foodbank of Santa Barbara County plans to host its next iteration of Santa Maria Empty Bowls on Oct. 26 at the Santa Maria Fairpark.

The Empty Bowls concept originated in 1990 in Michigan before being adopted by countless food-related charities around the world, said Smith-Meyer, who described the program as a way to not only raise funds, but awareness as well, for "all those in our community who are dealing with the daily disaster of hunger."

"There are residents throughout Santa Barbara County who face that disaster every day," she said, before describing the ceramic bowls as helpful reminders of the event's purpose.

"Having your empty bowl at home with you after the event sort of keeps them [those in need] top of mind, and helps us remember that everybody in our community matters."



MY LITTLE PONY: No two bowls were alike at Lompoc Empty Bowls. The handcrafted ceramic bowls varied in size, color, and design. Some bowls had plant or animal—real or not—designs, like this unicorn bowl.

During this year's Lompoc Empty Bowls, soups were served by city and county officials, including Lompoc Mayor Jenelle Osborne and Santa Barbara County 3rd District Supervisor Joan Hartmann, and other volunteers. La Botte in Lompoc, AJ Spurs in Buellton, and Central Coast-based food trailer Surf Sisters Luncheonette were among the event's various soup donors.

Smith-Meyer's personal favorite offering at the fundraiser was the chili, she said.

"My favorite soup is actually chili, and it's prepared by our own Jamie Diggs, who works at the Foodbank. She's our partner services manager. She made a giant vat of chili to donate," said Smith-Meyer, who added that Diggs lives in Lompoc and is a 2021 Lompoc Valley Chamber of Commerce Award recipient.

"She's the Foodbank's strongest connection to the Lompoc community." ○

Arts Editor Caleb Wiseblood also loved the chili. Send your favorite chili toppings to cwiseblood@santamariasun.com.



BACK TO THE BENEFIT: "We're super thrilled to be back," said Foodbank of Santa Barbara County Senior Communications Manager Judith Smith-Meyer. She said the last time the Foodbank was able to host an in-person Empty Bowls event in Lompoc was 2019.



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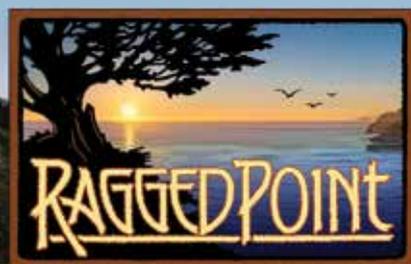


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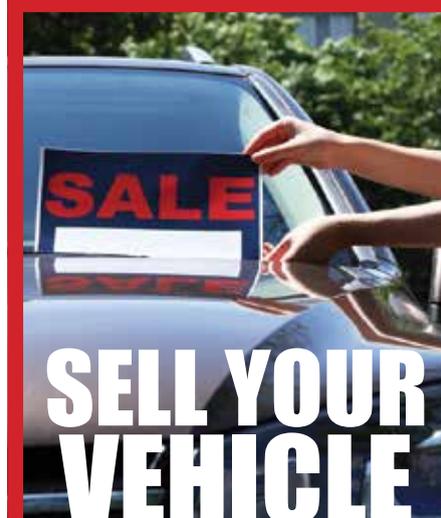


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- Being out and about and not stuck behind a desk all day?
- Occasional snow cones and pizza?
- Making a positive difference in a local economy?
- Supporting local, independent journalism?
- Working for the biggest media group on the Central Coast?
- Paychecks reflective of your hard work?
- Fresh bagels every Monday morning?
- Working with helpful people in a fun and positive environment?
- Receiving crucial, entry-level sales training and experience?

If you answered "yes," please contact Cindy at crucker@newtimeslo.com or give her a call at (805) 546-8208 ext 218



EMPLOYMENT OFFICE ASSISTANT

Primary Responsibilities:

The *New Times* San Luis Obispo office is looking for someone spectacular to join our administration team as a part-time office assistant.

The Office Assistant is our equivalent of a project ninja. Flexibility, attention to details, and great time management is key. This position has the responsibility of planning company events, assisting the sales team, and is the communication cornerstone as an internal representative of New Times Media Group (NTMG).

Relevant Skills & Experience:

- Proactive, self-starter, and self-motivated
- Ability to multi-task

- Extremely organized with high attention to detail
- Proficient at Microsoft Office
- Excellent time management skills
- Enthusiastic & friendly
- Calm under pressure
- Dependable and reliable
- Great interpersonal skills communication skills
- Project-oriented & goal oriented

Bonus Skills:

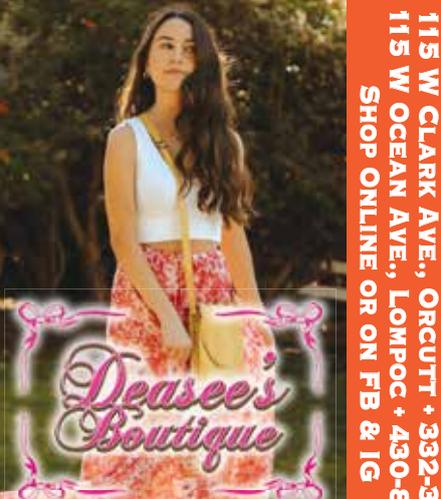
- Experience within the print industry

Please send your résumé and cover letter including why this part-time job works for you to Cindy Rucker at: crucker@newtimeslo.com



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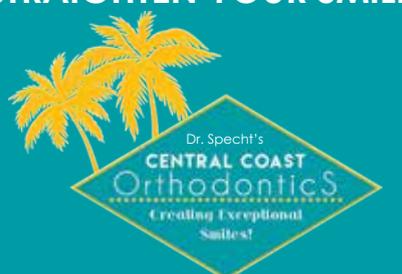
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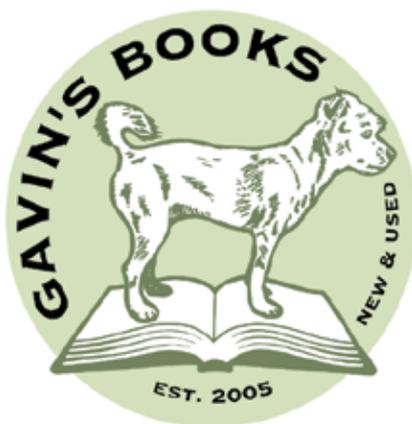
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