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AT THE MOVIES



Three Thousand Years is surreal [26]



Covering a murder trial

Orcutt resident and Your Own Backyard podcaster Chris Lambert reports on the case against Paul Flores for Kristin Smart's death [6]

BY PETER JOHNSON

NEWS A teenager goes missing in Nipomo [4]

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SEPTEMBER 8 - SEPTEMBER 15, 2022 VOL. 23 NO. 28

Your Own Backyard podcaster Chris Lambert has been watching the trials against Paul Flores and his father, Reuben Flores, for murder and accessory to murder charges in the disappearance and death of Kristin Smart in 1996. Orcutt resident Lambert makes the trek up to Monterey County every week to keep an eye on the courtroom drama and report out the results for podcast listeners. Assistant Editor Peter Johnson from the Sun's sister paper, New Times, speaks with Lambert about what he thinks, how he's doing, and the trials' progress [6].

You can also read about a missing teen from Nipomo [4]; patching canvas pieces into paintings [24]; and how to find upscale tropical fare in a beach city near you [28].

Camillia Lanham
editor



CASE CHRONICLES: Your Own Backyard host Chris Lambert is publishing weekly podcast updates about the ongoing Kristin Smart murder trial.

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Political Watch

• U.S. Rep. **Salud Carbajal** (D-Santa Barbara) issued a statement on Sept. 1 after the California Legislature passed a measure that would provide financial support to extend the lifespan of the Diablo Canyon nuclear power plant for five years. “One only needs to step outside this week to be reminded of the critical need for California to be equipped to handle the increasing impacts of the climate crisis, including ensuring our power grid is prepared to deal with increased demand and that we do not move backwards in our fight to decarbonize our energy sources,” Carbajal said in the statement. “But the right decision in a crisis, if made without adequate outreach and thought, can still be a wrong one. That is why, from the first suggestions of this extension in April, I have made it clear that consistent outreach to the Central Coast on the safety and environmental concerns was necessary to accompany this proposed extension.” In April, Carbajal said that the decisions about Diablo Canyon’s future should not just be up to Sacramento’s officials, but include stakeholders’ voices—like environmental groups, Pacific Gas and Electric, nuclear safety advocates, and plant employees—and make sure the plant’s expansion doesn’t hinder future renewable projects in the area, according to Carbajal’s office. “I believe the shorter-term extension approved by the Legislature will help meet one of my top concerns: ensuring that this move does not jeopardize future renewable energy projects like our offshore wind lease in Morro Bay nor the proposed Chumash Heritage National Marine Sanctuary.”

• U.S. Sen. **Alex Padilla** (D-California) visited the San Diego border region and joined local nongovernmental and advocacy organizations to discuss their work to protect and welcome asylum seekers and how the federal government can support their efforts, according to an Aug. 31 statement from the senator’s office. During his visit, Padilla reiterated his commitment to protecting asylum rights and to create more legal pathways for migrants to safely arrive into the United States. In addition, Padilla visited the San Ysidro port of entry, the Otay Mesa East Port of Entry Project, toured the Otay Mesa detention center, and met with California state agencies and officials. “As we work to rebuild a more fair, orderly, and humane immigration system, the federal government must strengthen our partnership and support the work of local NGOs and advocacy groups along our border communities,” Padilla said in a statement. “I’m grateful for the opportunity to learn more about the important work happening on the ground along the California-Mexico border. I remain committed to restoring the lawful processing of asylum seekers at the border and creating legal pathways for migrants to arrive safely, in keeping with America’s most deeply held values as a nation of immigrants.”

• California and the Western United States began experiencing extreme heat, bringing temperatures across the state 10 to 20 degrees hotter than normal—which drives up energy demand and strains power generation equipment, according to a Sept. 1 statement from Gov. **Gavin Newsom**’s office. As of Sept. 1, two new fires have started that threaten transmission lines that supply power to millions of homes. Extreme heat warnings extended through Labor Day weekend until Sept. 7. Newsom issued an emergency proclamation and prompted large energy users and residents to temporarily reduce their consumption while calling energy production to increase, according to the governor’s office. These efforts allowed the state to avoid power outages, but with triple-digit temperatures hitting most of the West, the power grid operator is again expecting high demand—primarily from air conditioning use and needs voluntary conservation steps again. The **California Independent System Operator** encouraged Californians to pre-cool their homes before 4 p.m., then turn up thermostats to 78 degrees and avoid using major appliances from 4 p.m. to 9 p.m. ○

PHOTO COURTESY OF LOS PADRES FORESTWATCH



PERMANENTLY CLOSED: The U.S. Bureau of Land Management will close 11 idle wells in the Carrizo Plain after settling a 2020 lawsuit filed by the Los Padres ForestWatch and the Center for Biological Diversity.

Second oil well agreement in a month signals shift for Carrizo Plain

Eleven dormant oil wells inside Carrizo Plain National Monument will be permanently closed thanks to an agreement between a federal land agency and two environmental nonprofits.

The Aug. 15 settlement came about after Los Padres ForestWatch and the Center for Biological Diversity filed a 2020 lawsuit against the Bureau of Land Management for approving an E&B Natural Resources permit for a new oil well in the monument, and approved the repair or replacement of a run-down oil pipeline, according to Los Padres ForestWatch.

“The lawsuit said the proposed fossil fuel extraction would harm, threaten, and endanger wildlife and scenic views, violating the monument’s resource management plan, the Federal Land Policy and Management Act, and the National Environmental Policy Act,” representatives from the nonprofit said in a statement. “It was the first new oil well approved in the Carrizo Plain National Monument since it was established in 2001.”

Pursuant to the agreement, the bureau will move forward with remediation of 11 idle wells in the monument, federal officials told the *Sun* in an email. As part of the settlement agreement, E&B is no longer authorized to drill a new well. E&B could not be reached before the *Sun*’s deadline.

The Carrizo Plain lawsuit follows a recent agreement between the Bureau of Land Management and several environmental agencies that suspended new oil and gas drilling across more than 1 million acres within an eight-county area, ForestWatch Executive Director Jeff Kuyper said.

“They are completely different lawsuits filed at different times, and filed by different groups, but they are all part of this effort that we’re seeing in the state of California, and at the federal level, too, that recognizes that our reliance on fossil fuels has to change and we have to start looking at alternatives,” Kuyper said.

Nine active oil wells remain on the monument, and 24 others no longer produce oil, Kuyper said. The California Department of Conservation’s Well Finder confirmed that nine active oil wells and 29 idle wells belong to E&B. There are about 31 idle wells in Carrizo Plain total, according to the Well Finder. Once the bureau closes the first 11, Kuyper said he hopes to achieve a similar outcome for the others to restore the landscape.

“I would hope there’s a way to accomplish that without having to file a lawsuit. We’re just going to continue to talk with the bureau and oil company to see how we can best facilitate that. This agreement kick-starts the process of looking at all these wells that have just been sitting motionless inside the boundary for decades,” he added.

Now, the bureau has one year to complete an environmental impact report and formally approve the project—which it will announce to the public for people to weigh in on the project, Center for Biological Diversity Senior Scientist Ileene Anderson said.

“We’ll be part of the public process like anybody else out there. We will be reviewing the analysis when it’s available, making sure it will happen within the settlement agreement,” Anderson said.

Make a public comment by visiting the bureau’s Bakersfield district’s e-planning webpage, which announces any projects happening. After its final approval, the bureau has five years to restore the surrounding land to its natural condition.

“We’ve been concerned about the affects of fossil fuels with regards to climate change for literally decades,” Anderson said. “[Bureau of Land Management] lands have a lot of oil production on them, but so do some private lands, too. Oil and gas should be kept in the ground [to protect] the species and humans we care about.”

—Taylor O’Connor

Nipomo searches for missing teenager

A 19-year-old woman from Nipomo named Shawna Seybold has been missing for more than a week, and her family wants the San Luis Obispo County Sheriff’s Office to raise the case to an at-risk situation.

“I had a boy tell me he saw her get on the bus by the Nipomo High School bus stop. It’s so far because I feel she’s at-risk, she’s had a lot of depression and stuff like that. We’re trying to see if the private investigator will call the doctor to release the information that can put her ‘at risk,’” Seybold’s mother, Kalina Seybold, told the *Sun*.

On Aug. 27, Shawna left her grandparents’ house at 11 a.m. with possibly only her photo I.D. and some cash that she had in her wallet. Kalina and her family were camping at Lopez Lake and last spoke to Shawna the previous morning.

“A neighbor of ours found some footage that shows her walking out the house, walking out the door, and walking up Amber Way and down Glenhaven,” Kalina said.

Described to be 5-foot-10.5 at 150 pounds,

Shawna was last seen with dark, short auburn hair, transitional prescription glasses, wearing clothes with anime designs, and carrying a small gray backpack.

“Shawna Seybold was reported missing to the Sheriff’s Office on Sunday Aug. 28, 2022. She is not considered to be at risk; she is considered a voluntary missing person,” said Grace Norris, the crime prevention specialist at the Sheriff’s Office. “Sheriff’s Office detectives are actively investigating and are in contact with Shawna’s family. If anyone has information on Shawna’s whereabouts they are asked to contact the Sheriff’s Office Detective Division at (805) 781-4500.”

The Missing Person Investigation guidelines report issued in 2021 by the California Commission on Peace Officer Standards and Training defined “at risk” as inclusive but not limited to the missing person being in need of medical attention, has no pattern of running away or disappearing, or is mentally impaired, including cognitively impaired or developmentally disabled.

“Officers should assume the missing person is in immediate danger or at risk until the facts contradict that assumption,” the report stated. “Officers and investigators approaching the initial investigation in a less than serious manner may undermine the missing person’s investigation. They are more likely to miss critical information and overlook important evidence that might have otherwise been a key component to the quick and safe recovery of the missing person.”

Kalina said that she has reason to believe Shawna’s is an at-risk situation. Shawna once abruptly left home before, though she visited a friend’s house and returned the following day.

“As far as mental development-wise, she was born three and a half months early, so I feel like she’s behind in mentally developing,” she said.

The Seybolds’ friends, family, and neighbors put up signs across town and are sharing missing person alerts on social media. Kalina said that Shawna spent a lot of time gaming online and is worried that she might have met someone that way.

“I don’t know whom she talks to; there’s so much bad things on the internet. She possibly could have been talking to someone and then decided to meet them. I just worry because there’s human trafficking—I don’t know,” she said.

Recently, Nipomo witnessed a case of human trafficking where perpetrators initially made contact with the survivor through social media. However, law enforcement was successful in putting a stop to it.

Since the beginning of the year, the South County town has reported an increasing number of missing person complaints.

From Jan. 1 to Sept. 6 this year, SLO County tallied 146 missing person incidents, with 18 clustered in Nipomo, according to the Sheriff’s Office crime map. As a heat map, the hottest zone appears to be the South County region spanning Arroyo Grande, Pismo Beach, and Nipomo. Comparatively for the same time period last year, the county reported 110 missing person incidents, with 11 in Nipomo.

“I actually did grow up in Nipomo. I remember when Nipomo was such a quiet town,” Kalina said. “You could just run out on the streets and now you can’t even let your kids out anywhere anymore.”

—Bulbul Rajagopal

Solvang’s new marketing consultant aims to broaden social media presence

Facebook, Instagram, and Pinterest users are the anticipated targets of a new marketing effort to promote yearly happenings in Solvang.

The Abbi Agency, a marketing management consultant hired by the city in July, recently proposed dedicating 75 percent of Solvang’s paid media budget to social media advertising alone. While winning

NEWS from page 4

approval from members of Solvang's Tourism Advisory Committee, the proposal prompted a conversation on a shift in targeted demographics from past advertising campaigns.

Connie Anderson, vice president of client strategy at the Abbi Agency, led a presentation on the proposal during the Tourism Advisory Committee's Sept. 1 meeting.

"As far as target audience goes, there was a big overriding theme of trying to reach a younger audience," Anderson said, commenting on responses from members of the committee, collected via a 23-question survey on the group's future objectives.

The Abbi Agency used the survey results to draft a marketing and media plan, which includes goals to increase Solvang's revenue partly by increasing awareness of the city through "an emphasis in social media engagement," Anderson described during the Sept. 1 presentation.

Anderson said that the target audience of social media advertising for Solvang-based events, including Julefest, should be ages 26 to 40. Less than a year ago, Tourism Advisory Committee member Tracy Beard argued that "the right target base" for Julefest is "over 45 years old."

"They do not look on their phones, they do not look on their Instagrams," Beard said, during a Solvang City Council meeting in November 2021, while speaking in favor of a television advertising campaign for Julefest.

During the Sept. 1 meeting, Beard didn't argue against the demographic shift, but questioned one example of the Abbi Agency's current Instagram efforts.

"Why are we doing OstrichLand? Is it that big of a deal? It's in Buellton," Beard said, referring to a

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recent Instagram reel posted by the city's account that promotes Ostrichland USA.

Anderson said that the Buellton destination was listed on Solvang's website as a nearby attraction, prior to the

Instagram post, and that the reel received "quite a bit of views and engagement."

Comments on social media presence and the city's marketing demographic continued after Anderson's presentation, during the Tourism Advisory Committee's only other agenda item for its Sept. 1 meeting: Julefest 2022.

In August, Beard and fellow Tourism Advisory Committee member Kim Jensen were appointed to lead a subcommittee solely dedicated to organizing this year's Julefest program. One of the event organizers who attended the Sept. 1 meeting to speak about early Julefest preparation was Gena Lugli, producer of the Solvang Nativity Pageant.

Lugli said she appreciated the Abbi Agency's goal to reach younger audiences through social media, but argued that "here in the valley, I feel like we're still attracting an older, more traditional crowd as well."

Part of the Nativity Pageant's \$30,000 budget will include the cost of printed programs, which Lugli feels will be beneficial to attendees who don't want to rely on their cellphones to access a digital program.

—Caleb Wiseblood

Correction

• The Sun incorrectly noted the status of the Santa Maria Joint Union High School District's logo change in the Sept. 1 article "Santa Maria residents have more drive to change city logo after new Caltrans policy." The District changed its logo in June 2022. ○

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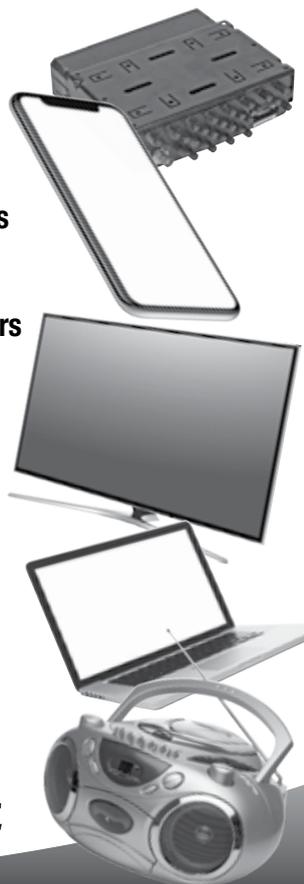
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Courtroom notes

Your Own Backyard creator Chris Lambert shares his impressions of the Kristin Smart murder trial

BY PETER JOHNSON

More than 25 years after Kristin Smart's disappearance, the murder trial for her alleged killer, Paul Flores, and his father, an alleged accessory, finally started in July.

In opening arguments, SLO County prosecutor Chris Peuvrelle laid out the case to two Monterey County juries: that Paul raped and killed Smart in his Cal Poly dorm room in 1996, and that Ruben Flores, his dad, helped conceal her body under his Arroyo Grande deck.

The trial was moved to Salinas and the court isn't allowing any video or audio recordings of it. Chris Lambert—whose *Your Own Backyard* podcast is credited with renewing interest in the case—is there every day providing hourly updates on social media as well as weekly podcasts. He's staying in a one bedroom, one bath guesthouse a few miles north of Salinas that a podcast fan offered up during the trial.

The *Sun* caught up with the Orcutt native by phone on Aug. 9 during an unexpected day away from court. One of the jurors called out sick, something Lambert said might happen a lot with 40 jurors (two jury pools) involved in the trial.

Editor's note: This interview was edited for length and clarity. Read the full Q-and-A online at santamariasun.com.

Sun: Are you traveling to and from Salinas or are you staying there full time?

Chris Lambert: I'm leaving [Salinas] typically on Friday evenings. I get home and my entire Saturday and Sunday is spent writing and then recording and editing the podcast update. And then Sunday evening, I get back on the road to come up here. It's chaos. I'm totally not sleeping enough. Because they only let five journalists a day into the courtroom, I have to be there early.

Sun: What're your thoughts on the media restrictions that have been put on this trial?

CL: Personally, I don't know enough about stuff like this. This is my first trial experience. It seemed unusual to me but it wasn't until I started talking to other reporters that they were like, no this is, like, way outside the bounds. And the weirdness I have noticed is that the courthouse staff is super cagey about answering any questions.

Sun: Have you heard an explanation for that?

CL: No. But I think it's a combination of the fact that Monterey County hasn't dealt with a huge case like this before—the Rex Krebs trial in 2001 was the last—and the other thing is because the defense has insisted that Paul is being wrongfully accused because he's a victim of publicity, they're trying to restrict every possible way for the defense to say, "See, the media is making this a circus." So I think they're going over the top to try to prevent that.

Sun: Can you describe the courtroom itself? Is it pretty small?

CL: It is. The entire left side of the courtroom is all the jurors. The audience is all crowded into the right side of the courtroom. There are five to six pews and we're just the back three rows. The rest of the media is only able to come up on certain days,

so sometimes they all come up at once, and some days it's just me.

Sun: What's your opinion on the [SLO County prosecutor's] performance thus far? What's his strategy been?

CL: So far they've seemed to be going in [chronological] order. I guess the strategy is, because it's a circumstantial case, to remove any doubt that this is the person responsible. The next steps will be the science, like the cadaver dog stuff, the soil science, to show there's also no doubt that a human died in Paul's dorm room and a human was buried under his dad's deck. So, do you believe these were all coincidences? I think the [SLO County District Attorney's] Office is doing as good of a job as they can with the case that they've got. I think the defense is making it kind of easy for them, with the way they're doing things. They seem like they're not really organized.

Sun: On that subject, your reporting suggests that the defense's cross examinations are not going over very well with the judge and jury.

CL: That would be my take on it, and I'm clearly not an impartial source, but I've been talking to members of the public who attend, and every time there's a break in the trial, they're like, "What's going on in there? What a mess!" [The defense] tends to question Kristin's behavior a lot, which I don't think goes over well with jurors. There's a lot of victim shaming going on and their main strategy is to suggest well, this girl was so wild, who knows what happened? But what I think their biggest detriment is they have not provided or even suggested an alternative explanation. It's just everything—well maybe she went to be a model, maybe she got pregnant and ran away, or maybe someone else killed her. And you're like wait, it can't be all of those things. I know from a legal standpoint they don't have to prove what happened to her, but the way they're going about it is so scattered.

Sun: How would you describe the emotional ups and downs? How do the two families seem to be doing?

CL: It gets super emotional. Last week there were actually a couple of jurors who started crying during the testimony. And other times it's really tense, and somebody will say something and jurors will laugh. I think the judge is doing a great job so far. She's lighthearted with the jurors, but she's also firm when she needs to be. No members of the Flores family have been present. Susan [Paul's mom] came for the opening statements and then she left once testimony started. For the Smart family, there's been times that particularly Kristin's mom just needs to leave the room. There's stuff that's just too much.

Sun: In pre-trial, the judge ruled to allow women from the LA area who said they were raped by Paul more recently to testify in the trial. They had been excluded from the preliminary hearings. How significant is that development?

CL: I think it's so significant. The analogy I made is if you loaned someone a red jacket, and then they told you they'd lost it and you were like, I kind of feel like this guy still has my red jacket. And then years go by and you've never been able to find it, but then you go to his house and you find a closet full of other peoples' red jackets. You're like, I still haven't found mine, but this guy is obsessed with red jackets, so what are the chances he didn't take mine? That's what we've got here. We haven't found Kristin but this guy's pattern is to either drug or follow drunk women, separate them from their friends under the guise of taking them home, and instead take them to his place to rape them.

Sun: The defense recently filed another (unsuccessful) subpoena to try to gain access to all of your podcast notes and sources. Were you surprised?

CL: Somebody told me that just because it was dismissed in the prelim, it doesn't mean they



TRIED FOR MURDER: Paul Flores is on trial in a Monterey County courtroom for the 1996 homicide of Kristin Smart.

couldn't try again. So I wasn't surprised. I fought it and got it quashed. There's still the possibility they could try again. I'm not willing to turn that stuff over. They're trying to poke holes in the witnesses' credibility and they want to do it through me, and I think that's improper.

Sun: How are you managing to take handwritten notes of the entire trial and turn those into weekly podcasts? How are the new episodes different from the original ones?

CL: I've had a lot of handwriting practice. I think I go through five or six legal pads a week. I wanted the podcast episodes to be new, but also the same. I really wanted to emphasize—and it's funny because some people don't seem to understand—that these are not documentary episodes. These are just me reading my notes. And I've already gotten two or three bad reviews saying, "I hate these trial episodes, they're just so boring," and it's like, OK, it just can't possibly be documentary quality once a week. That's just not feasible. I'm trying to do a pretty straight blow-by-blow so you can follow what happened in the courtroom. I'm trying to provide commentary where it feels necessary while not judging too much.

Sun: During the trial, do you ever reflect on all that's led up to this point, and how improbable it seemed in 2019 that this case would get here?

CL: I guess I feel like I'm mostly in a brain fog, but there are few times when I'm sitting in the courtroom and that lifts for a bit and I'm like, whoa, this is happening. It's been very surreal for me. This didn't seem like it was ever going to happen. And the defense attorneys have said a number of times that my podcast was "designed to convict Paul Flores." And I know that's just smear, but it couldn't be further from the truth. Who ever saw Paul Flores being convicted? That was not my goal. I didn't see it happening. And honestly once it's done, I think we're all just going to be relieved that it's over, regardless of the outcome. ○

Assistant Editor Peter Johnson, from the *Sun's* sister paper *New Times*, can be reached at pjohnson@newtimeslo.com.

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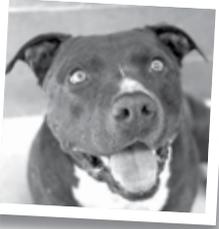
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MULTIPLE EFFORTS: Santa Barbara County is working toward cleaning up transit corridors—including rail corridors—and connecting people with housing services during a 100-day challenge from the state.

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Housing goals

Santa Barbara County sets goals for homeless encampment cleanups as part of a statewide challenge

BY TAYLOR O'CONNOR

Santa Barbara County is participating in Gov. Gavin Newsom's 100-day challenge to reduce homelessness as part of the state's \$2.5 million California Encampment Resolution grant to move people indoors and reduce fire danger and car accidents involving pedestrians.

Encampments along transit corridors are the county's focus during the 100 days because of the dangers that occur when people reside in those areas, said Lucille Boss, the county's encampment response coordinator.

"The reason we picked the transit corridor is because it's affecting safety," Boss said. "It's really dangerous for everybody."

People living in the transit corridors can be hit by cars or impacted by trains passing through, she explained. Boss is working with Caltrans, city housing authorities, Good Samaritan Shelter, and other partners for the 100-day challenge to identify people residing in these areas and move them toward safer housing.

"It requires really frequent and robust engagement in encampments," Boss said. "If you start to build rapport with them and [by] having a conversation with somebody, and talking about their needs, you are going to progress to build a relationship with somebody."

Pre-existing relationships make it easier to get people to take a next step toward housing, whether it's finding an apartment, getting a spot in a shelter, or gathering all necessary documentation, she added.

Through mapping software and data collection, the county estimates that there are about 200 people living along transit corridors. For the challenge, Boss and her team want 40 percent of those individuals document-ready, 60 percent enrolled with a homeless service provider and assigned a housing navigator, 20 people in emergency or temporary shelter, and 20 people in permanent housing. As of Aug. 3, the county had three individuals housed, and the team has until Oct. 14 to reach its goals, Boss said.

"If this works, then that means 20 people are no longer living in dangerous areas along transit corridors, and an additional 20 are in shelters and moving toward housing. The other 40 percent are ideally document-ready [and] on a path to housing," she added. "It's how we

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solve homelessness, by getting to know people, building that relationship, connecting them to services, getting

them their documents, and getting them housing-ready."

Housing options remain a challenge even though the county has rapid rehousing funds, landlord incentives, and incoming housing vouchers, Boss noted.

"An ongoing concern is we need the community to engage, especially to find rental spaces—whether it's a room in a shared unit or in an apartment," she said. "If we have no rental subsidies, it would be very unlikely we could get someone into permanent housing."

People moving out of homelessness often don't have items like a bed, a sofa, dining table, or even dish soap. Boss encouraged community members to donate items or gift cards that the housing authority could use to purchase those items so when people move in, their homes aren't empty.

"Having those items or gift cards to Target or any of those places to buy inexpensive but quality household goods is very helpful. They can contact the city housing authority," she said. "They're collecting all the items, but not limited to [the] housing authority—they're sharing donations with other rental authorities as well."

To coordinate a donation drop-off, contact Alice Villarreal Redit aredit@hacsb.org (805) 897-1036.

Highlight

• The Santa Maria Public Library announced Toddler Time—a high-energy learning experience made for toddlers. Toddlers learn and grow through stories, movement, and music. Toddler Time is for children ages 1 through 3 with caregivers and will be held in the Youth Services Altrusa Theater. Sign up for one of two six-week time slots. The first session will be held Tuesdays at 10 a.m. from Sept. 6 through Oct. 11. The second session will be Thursdays at 10 a.m. Sept. 8 through Oct. 13. The library is located at 421 South McClelland St. Call (805) 925-0994 for more info. ○

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

Sun News Wire

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DEATH NOTICES

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

AVILA, ALBERT L., 86, of Nipomo passed away 8/26/2022 arrangements with Dudley-Hoffman Mortuary, Crematory & Memory Gardens

BEHLEN, DEAN, 60, of San Miguel passed away 8/25/2022 arrangements with Blue Sky Cremation Service

BLAIS, MARIE, 88, of Paso Robles passed away 8/28/2022 arrangements with Blue Sky Cremation Service

CEMENTINA, DENNIS, 69, of Atascadero passed away 8/29/2022 arrangements with Blue Sky Cremation Service

CONGER, SHIRLEY J., 91, of Los Osos passed away 8/25/2022 arrangements with Los Osos Valley Mortuary & Memorial Park

CUNNINGHAM, DOLORES U., 92, of Santa Maria passed away 8/29/2022 arrangements with Magner-Maloney Funeral Home & Crematory

DECHANT, RAMON FRANCIS, 91, of Santa Maria passed away 8/25/2022 arrangements with Dudley-Hoffman Mortuary, Crematory & Memory Gardens

DICKSON, KENNETH P., 87, of Lompoc, passed away 8/19/2022 arrangements with Starbuck-Lind Mortuary

DOWNES, PAULA M., 63, of Paso Robles passed away 8/13/2022 arrangements with Chapel of the Roses

ENRIQUEZ, GEORGE, 82, of Santa Maria passed away 8/25/2022 arrangements with Magner-Maloney Funeral Home & Crematory

FLEMING, JEFFREY BRYAN, 58, of Arroyo Grande passed away 8/6/2022 arrangements with Lady Family Mortuary

FLETCHER, DONALD E., 90, of Santa Maria passed away 8/30/2022 arrangements with Magner-Maloney Funeral Home & Crematory

GOODES, WILLIAM, 81, of Paso Robles passed away 8/27/2022 arrangements with Blue Sky Cremation Service

GOREHAM, RALPH C., 92, of Santa Maria passed away 8/25/2022 arrangements with Dudley-Hoffman Mortuary, Crematory & Memory Gardens

JENSEN, ALICE, 78, of Santa Maria passed away 8/28/2022 arrangements with Magner-Maloney Funeral Home & Crematory

JULIAN, RONALD, 75, of Atascadero passed away 8/28/2022 arrangements with Chapel of the Roses

MELERO, MARIA MANUELA, 95, of Santa Maria passed away 9/1/2022 arrangements with Dudley-Hoffman Mortuary, Crematory & Memory Gardens

MODER, MICHAEL RICHARD, 86, of Nipomo passed away 8/15/2022 arrangements with Lady Family Mortuary

MORENO, MIKKE ANTONIO, 30, of Lompoc passed away 8/16/2022 arrangements with Starbuck-Lind Mortuary

OHMS, MARILYN LOUISE, 58, of Templeton passed away 8/15/2022 arrangements with Chapel of the Roses

PERRY-SMITH, GLORIA, 91, of San Luis Obispo passed away 9/1/2022 arrangements with Marshall Spoo Sunset Funeral Chapel

SCARBROUGH, ALIENE JOYCE, 85, of Atascadero passed away 8/29/2022 arrangements with Los Osos Valley Mortuary & Memorial Park

SILVEIRA, PHYLLIS L., 94, of Grover Beach passed away 8/27/2022 arrangements with Marshall Spoo Sunset Funeral Chapel

SMITH, CHARLES "CHUCK", 85, of Arroyo Grande passed away 8/25/2022 arrangements with Marshall Spoo Sunset Funeral Chapel

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TORRES, EVA, 75, of Santa Maria passed away 8/28/2022 arrangements with Dudley-Hoffman Mortuary, Crematory & Memory Gardens

TYNON, JOSEPH RICHARD, 74, of Santa Maria passed away 8/28/2022 arrangements with Dudley-Hoffman Mortuary, Crematory & Memory Gardens

WEST, SUZANNE, 65, of Parkfield passed away 8/18/2022 arrangements with Chapel of the Roses

WHITE, RAYMOND ACCIE, 91, of Santa Maria passed away 8/27/2022 arrangements with Dudley-Hoffman Mortuary, Crematory & Memory Gardens

YOUNG, YVONNE, 67, of Lompoc passed away 8/21/2022 arrangements with Starbuck-Lind Mortuary

UPCOMING SPECIAL PUBLICATIONS

AUTUMN ARTS

BOOK ADS BY: Sept 15
PUBLICATION DATE: Sept 22

Annual pull-out guide to everything arts-related over the coming months

MENUS

BOOK FEATURES BY: Sept 22
BOOK ADS BY: Sept 29
PUBLICATION DATE: October

The Central Coast guide to all things food and drink

AWARENESS

BOOK ADS BY: Sept 30
PUBLICATION DATE: Oct 6

This publication brings awareness to domestic violence and breast cancer

NEW TIMES MUSIC AWARDS November 4
HOLIDAY GUIDE November 17
LAST-MINUTE GIFT GUIDE December 8

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What do you think of Santa Maria's ship logo?

- 74% It's a disaster, and we need to change it for better representation.
- 18% I love it and can't picture anything else for our community.
- 4% I think we should change the logo, but I don't know if that will ever happen.
- 4% I don't live in Santa Maria and don't care.

50 Votes

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Don't buy it

Is Lompoc mayor candidate Jim Mosby really paying attention?

BY RON FINK

Former Lompoc City Councilman Jim Mosby is someone who thinks highly of himself. Apparently, voters in the council district he lives in didn't think so highly of him when they rejected him in a landslide election to represent them as their councilman.

Now he is running for mayor; maybe he thinks if he misrepresents his past record on issues that are important to voters, they'll buy it.

In a recent Sun report, he said, "I've been paying attention and I'm invested in this community, and I see it drastically stepping backwards. We need to stop making excuses and come up with solutions. The last four years, we heard many excuses from the mayor and why things can't get done. I'm a person who is solutions-driven; I know how to get it done." ("Jim Mosby runs against Jenelle Osborne for Lompoc mayor," Aug. 25)

Next, he said, "The safety of the public is definitely a priority. We need to not just say that public safety is a priority, we need to prove it and adjust the budget to show that. It's also safety in recreation fields; our soccer fields are in horrible state and conditions," he explained.

Once again, we can look to the public record; in 2017 when he was a council member, he presented a 12-point budget manifesto that "included reshuffling, reducing, or eliminating certain staff positions, returning some executive salaries back to 2014 levels, reducing some departmental budgets to 2015 levels, and eliminating the economic development department altogether."

Somehow, he feels that he is more qualified to run a

city than any of the city staff professionals with decades of experience in these matters.

Taking a step backward, he also championed budget cuts to "provide the savings if the fire marshal was moved back as one of the three battalion chiefs."

The position of fire marshal had been created by a unanimous vote of the City Council when they approved the Fire Department master plan a few years before that. He couldn't comprehend that the two functions (fire marshal and operations battalion chief) are totally different and require different skill sets to perform their duties. Both jobs require the full attention and energy of the person doing them.

The fire marshal has some serious public safety responsibilities, which include reviewing new construction plans, physical inspection of properties, preparation of technical reports describing the conditions found, preparing legal documents when the owners fail to comply, investigating the cause of fires, and testifying in court, to name a few.

In September 2018 the city manager recommended three tax measures for the November 2018 ballot: a half-cent sales tax increase, a 2 percent increase in hotel taxes to 12 percent, and a 6 percent utility user's tax. During a budget update that year, 20 vacant positions, half of them in public safety, were "frozen," meaning that the police and fire departments couldn't fill much-needed positions. In the next budget cycle, another \$1.2 million would have to be cut.

Mosby, then a mayoral candidate, had a chance to participate in a solution, but he declared that any effort to increase taxes is dead on arrival as far as he is concerned. And it was as he who led an effort to make sure it didn't reach voters on the ballot. Thus there were fewer police officers and firefighters available.

Two years later, he changed his mind and supported putting a 1 percent tax measure to a vote. The intent of the measure and how it was presented to Lompoc voters was that if approved, revenues from the measure starting in the following fiscal year would

be used to fund current public safety needs.

After the measure passed, despite Mosby's insistence that it wouldn't, he then led what amounted to a bait-and-switch. Mosby convinced a council majority to instead fast track a paydown of the CalPERS public safety retirement debt incurred over several decades.

City residents saw no tangible improvements or revenue for staff improvements in public safety or any other general fund programs until a later infusion of COVID-19 relief revenue allowed some one-time infrastructure improvements.

Does this convince you that he really thinks "the safety of the public is definitely a priority"? To me it doesn't because he led an effort that reduced funding for police and fire budgets in favor of an accelerated paydown of retirement debt. He says one thing but does another.

He also told the Sun that "the Public Works director said we need \$5 million to improve the drivability and walkability of the streets. We need to focus revenues toward these critical areas before they completely fall apart."

If he was "paying attention" to a Feb. 15, 2022, Public Works staff report to the City Council on the matter, he would have known that "that one-time expenditure of approximately \$65 million to raise the city's overall system-wide pavement condition index average to 70 is in addition to an annual expenditure of approximately \$8 million each year thereafter, to maintain the PCI of 70 (good), using industry standard methods."

Mayoral candidate Jim Mosby has consistently misrepresented his own public policy history, has been consistently proven wrong on budget issues, and failed to consider the impact of his decisions on the safety of the public. He should not be your choice for elective office. ○

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

Speak up!

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LETTERS

Oceano community is being overburdened

Long-term and affordable residential rentals are being eradicated from SLO County, especially from the coastal zone. We must preserve those we still have. Oceano has a few left on Pier Avenue. However, their tenants are being disproportionately impacted by State Parks' visitors.

Tenants must suffer beach visitors in need of parking unlawfully using their private parking spaces or blocking their driveways and mail boxes. The most obnoxious and aggressive are State Parks' patrons, beach drivers and campers stopping on their way to the beach to deflate their tires and on their way back to inflate them. Many of them are not friendly to locals, especially those who complain about their presence.

Friends of Oceano Dunes, a lobby for beach driving and off-roading, has been under investigation for illegal fundraising. In a recent public statement, their president called those locals the "enemy." I fear that eventually Friends of Oceano Dunes will turn violent. Many of us have already been threatened and harassed.

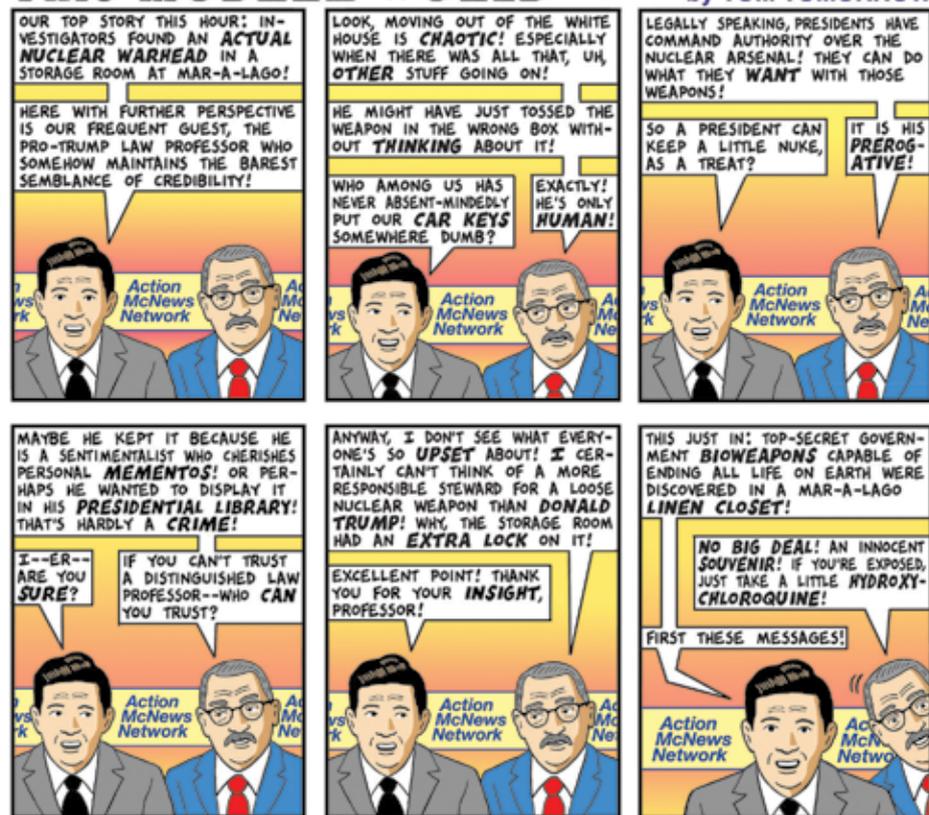
To worsen things, State Parks is closing the beach entrance at Grand Avenue for two months, in the middle of summer. Over a thousand vehicles a day will crowd Pier Avenue, the only access to the beach. We do not oppose this construction project. We want State Parks to reduce the number of vehicles allowed onto the beach through Oceano by at least half during this construction period. The Oceano beach community is being overburdened and submerged.

Please give us a break!

Lucia Casalnuovo
Oceano

THIS MODERN WORLD

by TOM TOMORROW



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Front Row: Makiko Karp, Kayla Gardener, Xo Gallo, Renee Waddle, Ashly Mock



Paige Trego, Carol Wallace, Jen Haskell,
Xo Gallo, Michele Picarelli - Hair



Michele Picarelli, Ashly Mock, Makiko Karp,
not pictured Celeste Valladarez - Massage



Michele Picarelli, Kayla Gardener, Renee
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Insta-fest

As the temperature gauge heads ever higher this September, Solvang is already planning for a white Christmas with Julefest in its sparkling, shimmery sights.

The big question is: TV advertising or not? And that, my friends, apparently depends on who the city of Danish lights is trying to attract. If you ask **Connie Anderson**, the vice president of client strategy at the **Abbi Agency**—Solvang's latest and greatest contracted marketing company—the city's **Tourism Advisory Committee** wants to “reach a younger audience.” So, the agency proposed spending 75 percent of the city's media budget on social media advertising.

For those of you who are older than 45, that means **Facebook**, **Instagram**, and **Pinterest**. **Tourism Advisory Committee Member Tracy Beard** believes you over-the-hill folks “do not look on their phones, do not look on their Instagrams,” but apparently you watch a lot of television with long-ass commercial breaks rather than streaming services on all of your tech devices.

Umm, Tracy, they do look on their phones. And they do the boredom scroll, flicking their fingers past all of those paid social media advertisements that pertain to everything they've ever said, everything anyone they've been around has ever said, and any place they've ever been with their phone. Because phones are creepy.

And you know when they're doing all of that scrolling, Tracy? While television shows—which, who even watches actual TV anymore?—are on an ad break.

That \$36,000 the city of Solvang spent to air two

30-second commercials on California television stations before Julefest last year would probably go a lot further on social media, where the city can target folks who are *likely* to come on down to Dane-town for a visit.

Tracy was also extremely miffed that the **Abbi Agency** dared to promote **Ostrichland USA** in a reel on the city's Instagram account. (For those who are 45-plus with flip phones stuck in TV-land, a reel is a video. But, you already knew that!)

“Is it that big of a deal? It's in Buellton,” Tracy said during the committee's Sept. 1 meeting.

Yeah. Buellton is so far away!

Umm, Tracy, it's 2.6 miles away from downtown Solvang. Have you ever been there? Visitors can actually feed a bunch of giant birds running around, laying giant eggs, and sticking their heads in the dirt. It's a big deal. It's social media gold.

The post she questioned got more engagement than any of the other recent posts by a great order of magnitude.

At least the **Abbi Agency** understands social media, even if you don't. Wait. Are you older than 45 and stuck in the dark ages? Or are you suggesting that Solvang should also ignore all of the wineries around it that aren't in city limits? Ignore the outdoor adventures, too? There are really only so many pictures of danishes and the downtown windmill to populate a feed with. People want to explore more, baby. They want action, adventure, and diverse things they don't get to see at home.

They want to be wined and dined, and to take photos of cool sights just right to make their friends jealous. Things like ostriches. ○

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(11am-4pm) Ryon Memorial Park

SANTA MARIA- Wednesday, September 14, 2022
(4pm-6pm) Good Samaritan Shelter

SANTA BARBARA- Monday, September 26, 2022
(4pm-7pm) Santa Barbara Sunken Gardens

More information:

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Chuck Madson 805-757-3487



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BOOKS BY THE BEACH

The Grover Beach Community Library hosts its Big Library Book Sale on Saturday, Sept. 10, from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. Books will be sold by the inch throughout the day, while a special \$2 bag sale will be offered between 1:30 and 3 p.m. Discounts on books will be offered to teachers (ID required). Call (805) 481-4131 or visit groverbeachlibrary.org for more info. The library is located at 240 N. 9th St., Grover Beach. —Caleb Wiseblood

PHOTO COURTESY OF THE GROVER BEACH COMMUNITY LIBRARY

ARTS

SANTA YNEZ VALLEY

DUNES: VISIONS OF SAND, LIGHT, AND SHADOW Traverse the sand dunes with Central Coast photographer Bob Canepa in the Wildling Museum's new Valley Oak Gallery exhibition. Receptions: Sept. 11 and Oct. 9. **Sept. 11-March 23**, 11 a.m.-5 p.m. Wildling Museum of Art and Nature, 1511-B Mission Dr., Solvang, 805-688-1082, wildlingmuseum.org.

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.

SOLVANG FESTIVAL THEATER: NATIVE GARDENS Gardens and cultures clash, turning friendly neighbors into feuding enemies in this hilarious comedy of good intentions and bad manners. **Sept. 9-17** Solvang Festival Theater, 420 2nd St., Solvang, 805-686-1789.

LOMPOC/VANDENBERG

PIECEWORK: PATCHWORK PAINTINGS BY ELIZABETH MONKS HACK Features artworks by Elizabeth Monks Hack, comprised of oil and mixed media on sewn canvas, a new direction for the artist. Reception on Sept. 11. Through Sept. 25. 805-737-1129. lompoart.org. Cypress Gallery, 119 E Cypress Ave., Lompoc.

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.

GREASE: THE MUSICAL Presented by SMCT. Through Sept. 11 my805tix.com. Santa Maria Civic Theatre, 1660 N. McClelland St., Santa Maria.

LOCAL AND FEATURED ARTIST EXHIBITS Valley Art Gallery, located in the SM Airport, exhibits local and featured artist work. New exhibits are mounted the first

Tuesday of even-numbered months. Wide variety of art available for purchase. , 8 a.m.-10 p.m. 805-922-0663. Santa Maria Airport, 3249 Terminal Dr., Santa Maria.

MUSIC LESSONS AT COELHO ACADEMY Learn to play piano, drums, guitar, base, ukulele, or violin, or take vocal lessons. 805-925-0464. coelhomusic.com. Coelho Academy of Music, 325 E. Betteravia Rd., Santa Maria.

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. Mondays, Wednesdays, 10:30-11:30 a.m. cityofsantamaria.org/register. Elwin Mussell Senior Center, 510 Park Ave., 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

BIG LIBRARY BOOK SALE Books are sold by the inch. The \$2 bag sale begins at 1:30 p.m. Teachers get a discount with ID. For more information, send an email to admin@groverbeachlibrary.org. In case of rain, check website for latest updates. **Sept. 10**, 8 a.m.-3 p.m. Free. 805-481-4131. GroverBeachLibrary.org. Grover Beach Community Library, 240 N 9th St., Grover Beach.

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

MIXED MEDIA FOR AGES 5-7 Each week students will have the opportunity to explore and combine various mediums like pastels with tempera, watercolors and collage, or clay and wood and so much more. Mondays, 3:30-4:45 p.m. \$25. 805-668-2125. lila.community/. LiIA Creative Community, 1147 East Grand Ave. suite 101, Arroyo Grande.

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

OPEN STUDIO FOR TEENS Are you looking for an art studio to share your creative ideas with other teens? Whether it's painting, drawing, sewing, weaving, or building with clay, you will find the right supplies to work independently or collaborate with others. Find support and encouragement in the group. Fridays, 3:45-5 p.m. \$25. 805-668-2125. lila.community/. LiIA Creative Community, 1147 East Grand Ave. suite 101, Arroyo Grande.

PLAY, EXPLORE, CREATE 1 (AGES 3 AND 4) Enjoy the opportunity to explore drawing, painting, collage, sculpture, and mixed media. Each week a new adventure awaits. Thursdays, 2-3 p.m. and Fridays, 9-10 a.m. \$25. 805-668-2125. lila.community/. LiIA 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.

ALYSSA MONKS: BE PERFECTLY STILL, A RETROSPECTIVE Alyssa Monks layers spaces and moments in her paintings. She flips background and foreground using semi-transparent filters of glass, vinyl, steam, water and or foliage over shallow spaces. The tension in her paintings is created by the composition and the surface quality itself. Through Nov. 13 Free. 805-543-8562. http://sloma.org. San Luis Obispo Museum of Art, 1010 Broad St., San Luis Obispo.

AROUND THE WORLD IN 80 DAYS Hold onto your seats for the original amazing race. Danger, romance, and comic surprises abound in this whirlwind show from SLO Rep. Thursdays-Saturdays, 7-9 p.m. and Saturdays, Sundays, 2-4 p.m. through Sept. 25 Starts at \$20. 805-786-2440. slorep.org/shows/around-the-world-in-80-days/. San Luis Obispo Repertory Theatre, 888 Morro St., San Luis Obispo.

ARTIST RIKI SCHUMACHER AT ART CENTRAL GALLERY Schumacher's work is pensive and introspective, inspiring one to take a solitary walk on a cloudy day. Wander in to reflect on her "delicious, wistful landscapes." Mondays-Saturdays, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. and Sundays, 12-4 p.m. 805-747-4200. artcentralslo.com/gallery-artists/. Art Central, 1329 Monterey St., San Luis Obispo.

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

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

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 CLASS FOR TEENS A great way to learn acting skills, develop confidence, and have fun in a positive environment. Tuesdays, 4 p.m. through Oct. 18 \$225 for all 6 weeks. 805-858-8255. centralcoastcomedytheater.com/classes. Central Coast Comedy Theater Training Center, 2078 Parker Street, Suite 200, San Luis Obispo.

LEARN TO WEAVE MONDAYS An opportunity to

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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Farm Day

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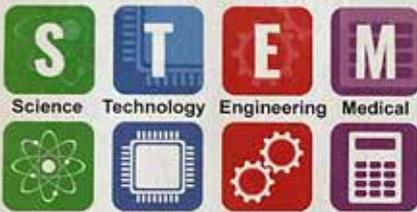


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When you hear the words: **abused, neglected, abandoned** it can be tempting to think – *I'm glad that's not happening to children, I know.*

But local children are hurting.

We deal with stories that can break your heart at **Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) for Children**. I can tell you that the stories are worse now than ever in the 15 years and nine months I have been involved with CASA of Santa Barbara County.

There has always been the prevalence of drugs in the lives of parents, bringing far too many children into the foster care system. Now, with the plague of Fentanyl taking over as the cheap and accessible drug, the cases are more tragic than ever. A tiny drop of Fentanyl can kill a child. It's impossible to keep children safe when the addiction has moved to drugs like this. **It is a crisis.**

It's always been heartbreaking to hear stories of physical abuse. It is worse than in past years. Sometimes, these are compounded by the parents drug addiction or struggles with mental health issues. While it's possible to feel compassion for the struggles of the parents, there is an urgency that children not suffer from physical abuse. **It is a crisis.**

Neglect and abandonment make up the majority of the cases CASA serves. Negligence can happen when drug addiction has become the center of someone's life, to the point that they can no longer adequately care for their children. Trust me – it's not that they don't love their children. But the addiction can be stronger, and children need help growing up in safe environments. Sometimes, families can't be there for them. Some children are abandoned as safe surrenders and cared for by our hospitals and our first responders until they can be placed in adoptive homes. Older children are abandoned too. Imagine the heartbreak of a six-year-old when a parent decides they just can't be a parent anymore. **It is a crisis.**

Sexual abuse has been a factor in approximately 10% of child abuse cases in our county for years. It sounds like a small

percentage, until you realize this is 10% of 700 cases, and there may be as many as 70 children who have suffered this horror. Think of that – Seventy children whose very childhood has been stolen. **It is a crisis.**

I have walked into my office to see staff members in tears because they had just read another report of a child who had been trafficked. A child whose mother has sold her into prostitution to pay for drugs and other things. A child who is pregnant at 12, and no one knows which of the "friends" of their parent is responsible. **It is a crisis.**

Please – I invite you to get angry with me, with us. Get angry for the children whose childhoods have been stolen.

I know these are words that are not easy to read. It's awful to realize that children in our community are experiencing abuse or neglect or being abandoned.

I hope you feel repulsed. Disgusted that these kinds of things happen in our community.

And then I hope you will take action. Because there is HOPE.

CASA Volunteers are in the business of bringing HOPE to children. The CASA program exists to recruit, train, supervise, and support community volunteers who step forward to serve children. They bring hope into some of the darkest situations and do it as servants of the community. Children have no choice when child abuse or neglect brings them uncertainty and new surroundings, but YOU have a choice. You can choose that today is the day you will bring HOPE to a child in need.

Is this time for you to step forward as a volunteer?

Maybe you know a volunteer, and this is your reminder to thank them for their service.

If you don't see yourself as a volunteer, are you willing to support

the work that CASA and our amazing volunteers do in your community?

However you decide to get involved, I want you to know that we have a problem in our community, and it will not fix itself. We don't have the ultimate answers to how to rid our society of the crisis of child abuse and neglect. But we are on the front line, fighting to ensure that every child who has experienced abuse or neglect will have a caring adult to fight alongside them. Someone who will fight for their safety. Someone to find a way to bring a piece of their childhood back to them.

We are looking for caring, consistent adults to volunteer and help children through their journey, advocating for them in the court and the community. We will train you. We will support you.

Will you step forward in hope for a child?

Join us today. Our children can't wait.

Yours in advocacy,



Kim Colby Davis, Executive Director



CHILDREN ARE IN CRISIS



Then, Gracie got suspended at school for fighting.

Desperate to find a way to help this child, CASA Donna investigated therapeutic horse-riding classes. She was able to push to get the paperwork all signed and submitted, and Gracie had her first session scheduled.

Then it happened – the bright smile CASA Donna had been waiting for.

Gracie was in awe of the horses and treated them gently, with compassion, and care. Quite remarkable for a child who has only known violence. She looked so comfortable on top of the horse and had a giant smile on her face. It was obvious that this was just what Gracie needed. CASA Donna's smile may have been even bigger, seeing the outcome of her persistence and

dedication to helping Gracie find hope through the chaos that had taken over her life.

With hope, comes resilience.

With hope, comes healing.

With hope, comes a brighter future.

Gracie's time in the foster care system is far from over. Her parents are working to reunify with her but that comes with so many challenges. Now, though, Gracie has new tools and an outlet to work through her past trauma. CASA Donna is committed to Gracie's safety and will advocate for her needs as they come. Right now, she is simply happy to see Gracie smiling.

To learn more about becoming a CASA volunteer, visit SBCASA.ORG or call/text 805-868-8890.

MEET GRACIE

Some children make you work extremely hard for a smile, a laugh, or a glimmer of happiness.

8-year-old Gracie is one of those kids – and no one would blame her after hearing what she has been through. From an early age, she witnessed countless instances of domestic violence. Her parents had a tumultuous relationship aggravated by drug and alcohol use. Gracie was seven years old when the court determined that she was not safe in her home and placed her in a safe foster home while her parents had the chance to recover from addiction and learn new parenting and partnership skills.

CASA volunteer Donna started advocating for Gracie right away, but quickly noticed that she was the most stoic child she had ever met. With more than 10 years as a CASA volunteer, she had never had to work so hard for a smile. It became a challenge – what is going to help this child feel the happiness she deserves? What is going to help this child be a child?

CASA Donna got Gracie a brand-new backpack and matching water bottle for back to school thanks to some CASA donors – Gracie said “thank you” quietly and moved on.



YOUR SUPPORT IS NEEDED NOW MORE THAN EVER



Become a CASA volunteer!

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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 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.

MUSICAL IMPROV CLASS A fun, positive way to get performance experience with an upbeat group of encouraging people. No previous experience required. A six-week program. Mondays, 6-8 p.m. through Oct. 17 \$225. 805-858-8255. centralcoastcomedytheater.com/classes. Central Coast Comedy Theater Training Center, 2078 Parker Street, Suite 200, San Luis Obispo.

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.

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.

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.

PLEIN AIR PAINTERS OF THE CENTRAL COAST A self-directed fun group of dynamic artists who enjoy painting and sketching outdoors. Artists meet on site at various locations. Weekly plein air destinations are provided by Kirsti Wothe via email (mrswothe@yahoo.com). Wednesdays, 9 a.m.-noon SLO County, Various locations, San Luis Obispo.

SCENE WRITING CLASS The scene writing class will be led by experienced writer and teacher, Brian Danilo, and is a great foundational class for writing stories, books, screenplays, etc. Tuesdays, 6-8 p.m. through Oct. 18 \$225 (for all 6 weeks). 805-858-8255. centralcoastcomedytheater.com/classes. Central Coast Comedy Theater Training Center, 2078 Parker Street, Suite 200, San Luis Obispo.



MANY HATS

The Riptide Big Band will perform during the Santa Maria Valley Senior Club's next dance concert, The Way You Wear Your Hat, which takes place on Sunday, Sept. 11, between 1:30 and 4 p.m., at the Elwin Mussell Senior Center. Admission to the event is free, thanks to funding from the Community Foundation of SLO County. Visit riptidebb.com for more info. The Elwin Mussell Senior Center is located at 510 Park Ave., Santa Maria.

—C.W.

SCULPTURE CLASS WITH ROD PEREZ This weekly sculpture drop-in class gives an opportunity for potters to take on new projects and learn new techniques relating to sculptural work. Additionally, every first Friday of the month, a new project will be taught by Rod Perez for beginners. Fridays, 10 a.m.-noon \$40. anamcre.com. Anam Cre Pottery Studio, 1243 Monterey St., San Luis Obispo, 805-896-6197.

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 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.

THROWING BIG POTTERY SERIES This class will be guided by Brian Cully, and centers on how to throw big pots. If you have a desire to improve your ceramic throwing, come join this fun three-week series. Wednesdays, 5:30-7:30 p.m. through Sept. 28 \$160.

anamcre.com. Anam Cre Pottery Studio, 1243 Monterey St., San Luis Obispo, 805-896-6197.

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

WATERCOLORS AND GOLD WITH SPENCER COLLINS Use cards and watercolor paints to create organic floral designs. The final portion of this class will introduce embellishing by using gold leaf to enhance the overall design. For ages 16 and up. **Sept. 8, 12-2 p.m.** \$30 per student or \$50 for two students. 805-747-4200. artcentralslo.com/workshops-events/. Art Central, 1329 Monterey St., San Luis Obispo.

YOUTH ART SESSIONS Segment 1: Intro to Art Basics. During this segment, students will learn the basic principles of art. Students will have an opportunity to experiment with the color wheel, blending and color mixing, working with Play-Doh, weaving, shading and printing. For grades K-4. Mondays, 11 a.m.-2:30 p.m. through Oct. 3 \$100. Art Central, 1329 Monterey St., San Luis Obispo, 805-747-4200, artcentralslo.wordpress.com.

NORTH COAST SLO COUNTY

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

FINE ART ASSEMBLAGES AND BOOKS BY ARDELLA SWANBERG This featured craft artist was raised in Garden Grove, California, lived in many locations, and relocated to the Central Coast 25 years ago. Through Sept. 29, 11 a.m.-5 p.m. Free. 805-772-1068. galleryatmarinasquare.com. Gallery at Marina Square, 601 Embarcadero suite 10, Morro Bay.

ARTS continued page 20

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FINE ART PAINTINGS BY NANCY JENSEN Nancy Jensen celebrates the simple joys of living on the central coast of California with her small and magical watercolor paintings that each strive to capture the joy of living on the Central Coast. Through Sept. 29, 11 a.m.-5 p.m. Free. 805-772-1068. galleryatmarinasquare.com. Gallery at Marina Square, 601 Embarcadero suite 10, Morro Bay.

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

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

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

ON AND OFF THE WALL Features art by Central Coast Sculptors, The Painters Group, and artists throughout California. This unthemed, juried exhibition includes a variety of painting and sculpting mediums. Mondays-Sundays, 12-4 p.m. through Sept. 19 Free. 805-772-2504. artcentermorrobay.org. Art Center Morro Bay, 835 Main St., Morro Bay.

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

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

WILD SEACOAST: A GROUP PHOTOGRAPHY SHOW Presenting photography by Alice Cahill, Dominic Hartman, Michael Johnston, Karen Peterson, Cathy Russ, and Gregory Siragusa. These wonderful artists will be showcasing their amazing photographs of the wild animals, horses, seals, otters, whales, birds, and the night sky. Through Sept. 29, 11 a.m.-5 p.m. Free. 805-772-1068. galleryatmarinasquare.com. Gallery at Marina Square, 601 Embarcadero suite 10, Morro Bay.

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

BILINGUAL STORY TIME: HORA DE CUENTOS Songs, activities, and stories in English and Spanish. Story time is designed to build literacy skills and school readiness. Mondays, 4-4:30 p.m. through Oct. 10 805-925-0994. engagedpatrons.org. Santa Maria Public Library (Altrusa Theater), 421 S. McClelland St., Santa Maria.

BOUNCING BABY STORY TIME Explore pre-literacy skills through music, movement, and visual stimulation and promote a healthy bond between baby and caregiver. Learn, connect, and grow with other babies and their caregivers. Wednesdays, 10 a.m. through Oct. 12 805-925-0994. engagedpatrons.org. Santa Maria Public Library (Altrusa Theater), 421 S. McClelland St., Santa Maria.

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

FILE PHOTO COURTESY OF THE SANTA MARIA MODEL A CLUB



HOT STUFF
SEPT. 8 - SEPT. 15
2022

TEMPLE OF VROOM
The Santa Maria chapter of the Model A Ford Club hosts its annual car show on Saturday, Sept. 10, between 9 a.m. and 3 p.m., at the Orcutt Union Plaza. The family-friendly event features various models of cars, as well as craft vendors and raffle opportunities. Visit santamariamodelaclub.com for more info. The Orcutt Union Plaza is located at 201 S. Broadway, Orcutt.
—C.W.

FOURTH ANNUAL SANTA BARBARA COUNTY FARM DAY: MEET ALL THE HANDS THAT FEED YOU A free, once-a-year opportunity to meet the hands that feed you. The public will experience a day of agricultural activities, farm tours, giveaways, and onsite farmer's markets, plus hear from the local farmers who grow the food they eat. **Sept. 17**, 10 a.m.-3 p.m. Free. 805-901-0213. santabarbaracountyfarmday.com. Farms throughout Santa Maria Valley, Multiple venues, Santa Maria.

LEGO CLUB AND PACK Meet with other Lego fans and build together or check out a Lego pack to take home. **Sept. 14**, 4-5 p.m. 805-925-0994. engagedpatrons.org. Santa Maria Public Library (Altrusa Theater), 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. Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, and Math themes will be explored through stories and discovered through hands-on activities. For ages 3 to 5. **Sept. 9**, 11 a.m. 805-925-0994. engagedpatrons.org. Santa Maria Public Library (Altrusa Theater), 421 S. McClelland St., Santa Maria.

CULTURE & LIFESTYLE

SANTA YNEZ VALLEY

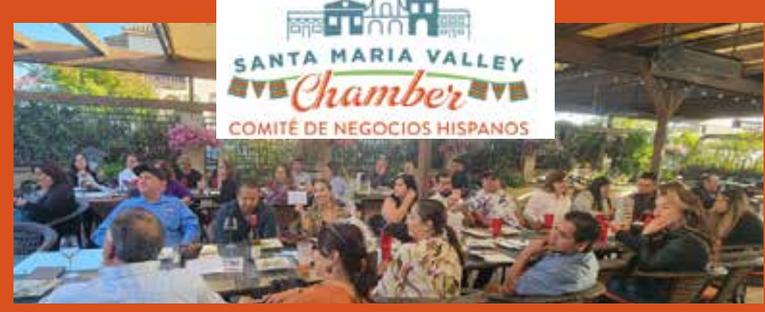
SOLVANG DANISH DAYS California's premier Danish heritage festival, Solvang Danish Days, returns this year with a three-day, in-person event line-up. Celebrate Solvang's unique heritage with authentic Danish food, music, folk dancing, parades, entertainment, and family-friendly experiences throughout Solvang village. **Sept. 16-18**, 8:30 a.m.-9 p.m. Varies. 877-327-2656. solvangdanishdays.org/. Citywide, Downtown Solvang.

LOMPOC/VANDBERG

BUILD BEDS WITH SLEEP IN HEAVENLY PEACE Come build beds for local children in need with the Northern Santa Barbara County Chapter of Sleep in Heavenly Peace. No experience necessary. Ages 12 and older may participate (12-17 with parent). Donations of new twin beds-in-a-bag, comforters, sheets, mattress protectors, and pillows gladly accepted. **Sept. 10**, 9 a.m.-1 p.m. 805-423-1180. The Home Depot, 1701 E Ocean Ave., Lompoc.

PRECHOOL ART TIME Assist your preschooler in creating a masterpiece at the library. **Sept. 12**, 11 a.m. 805-925-0994. engagedpatrons.org. Santa Maria Public Library, 421 S. McClelland St., Santa Maria.

CULTURE & LIFESTYLE continued page 21



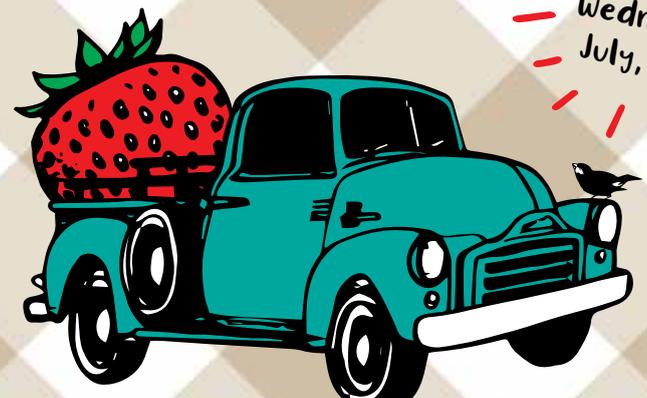
HISPANIC BUSINESS MIXER!

SEPTEMBER 15, 2022 | 5:00pm-7:30pm
TOYOTA OF SANTA MARIA
1643 S. BRADLEY RD., SANTA MAIRA

Connect & network with Santa Maria Hispanic businesses and learn about local business assistance resources! Free to attend & all are welcome (this event will be primarily in Spanish).

For more information, contact David Hernandez:
805-868-7278 - David@santamaria.com.

Begins:
Wednesday
July, 20th



OLD TOWN ORCUTT FARMERS MARKET

S. Marcum Street off Clark Ave {next to Naughty Oak}
4:30 - 7:30pm
3rd Wednesday of the month * June thru November



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OPEN: Mon-Fri 9am-6pm - Sat 9am-1pm

JDX Pharmacy is a full-service pharmacy that offers medications and other medical equipment to all of Santa Maria, CA. Our friendly and knowledgeable staff is always ready to assist you with all your medical supply needs. We offer same-day service for your convenience.

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PRESCHOOL STORY TIME Story time is designed to build literacy skills and school readiness, all while having a great time. For ages 3-6 with caregivers. Mondays, 10 a.m. through Oct. 10. 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.

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

TEACHER TEA Local teachers and educators are invited to Teacher Tea to select free supplies, learn about library resources for students, and to tour the youth areas in the library. Light refreshments will be provided. **Sept. 10**, 9-11 a.m. 805-925-0994. engagedpatrons.org. Santa Maria Public Library (Altrusa Theater), 421 S. McClelland St., Santa Maria.

TECH HELP SATURDAY Schedule a one-on-one appointment for instruction on technology topics like setting up new devices, installing apps, best privacy practices, and enjoying library e-resources at home. Registration is required. Call the library to schedule. **Sept. 17**, 11 a.m.-1 p.m. Free. 805-925-0994. cityofsantamaria.org. Santa Maria Public Library, 421 S. McClelland St., Santa Maria.

TEEN BOLT (BOARD OF LIBRARY TEENS) Teens, come hang out, enjoy some snacks, and help shape the future of your library. Discussions during BOLT will help determine teen program themes, and BOLT members will have the opportunity to help plan and run teen programs. **Sept. 9**, 4 p.m. 805-925-0994. engagedpatrons.org. Santa Maria Public Library (Altrusa Theater), 421 S. McClelland St., Santa Maria.

TODDLER TIME High-energy learning experience made for toddlers. Toddlers learn and grow through stories, movement, and music. Sign up for one six-week time slot. For ages 1-3 with caregivers. Registration is required Tuesdays, 10 a.m. through Oct. 11 805-925-0994. engagedpatrons.org. High-energy learning experience made for toddlers. Toddlers learn and grow through stories, movement, and music. Registration is required. Thursdays, 10 a.m. through Oct. 13 805-925-0994. engagedpatrons.org. Santa Maria Public Library (Altrusa Theater), 421 S. McClelland St., Santa Maria.

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

SOUTH COAST SLO COUNTY

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

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

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF WATCH AND CLOCK COLLECTORS, CHPT. 52 Come join a friendly meeting of watch and clock collectors. Members bring watches and clocks to show, plus there are discussions of all things horological. Second Sunday of every month, 1:30-3 p.m. 805-547-1715. new.nawcc.org/index.php/chapter-52-los-padres. Central Coast Senior Center, 1580 Railroad St., Oceano.

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-Thursdays, 5:30-6:30 p.m. Sliding scale. 559-905-9274. theartofsilence.net. Online, See website, San Luis Obispo.

BREATHE WRX (ONLINE) Yoga Breathing is a safe and fast way to relieve stress, boost digestion, balance your energy, and improve sleep. No experience of any kind is needed. Please RSVP. **Sept. 13**, 6-7 p.m. Free. 805-235-7978. gratefulbodyhealthcoaching.com. Online, See website, San Luis Obispo.

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

CAL POLY FOOTBALL VS. SAN DIEGO The Mustangs take on San Diego in the 2022 home opener at Spanos Stadium. It's Youth Day, so all kids ages 13 and under get in for free and the first 500 kids get a Cal Poly drawstring backpack. **Sept. 10**, 2 p.m. Free for kids. gopoly.com/. Alex G. Spanos Stadium, 1 Grand Ave., San Luis Obispo, 805-756-7297.

THE GRIEF RECOVERY METHOD WORKSHOP AND CLASS (ONLINE) The Grief Recovery Method, is the only "evidenced based" grief program in the world. It is a step-by-step process, an "action program" for unlocking and respecting the emotional experience of our grief, for all types of losses and heartbreaks. Email revdiann@yahoo.com for more info. Wednesdays, 9:30-11:30 a.m. through Oct. 26 \$150 includes book. 714-273-9014. griefrecoverymethod.com/grms/rev-diann-davison. Online, See website, San Luis Obispo.

HEALING DEPRESSION SUPPORT

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

HOW TO DEAL WITH HOUSEHOLD WASTE AND IMPROVE YOUR GARDEN Join the Los Osos Valley Garden Club via Zoom to learn about composting for beginners; what goes in the recycle and green waste bins; what goes to the hazardous waste facility; and how to start a worm farm. **Sept. 15**, 6:45-7:45 p.m. Free. lovgardenclub.org. Online, See website, San Luis Obispo.

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

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

QI GONG FITNESS ONLINE Qi Gong combines balance, posture, meditation and gentle physical training for optimum health. Register first for online class, Wednesdays, from 9:35 to 10:35 a.m. with instructor Gary West. For ages 18 and over. Wednesdays. through Dec. 7 \$67. 805-549-1222. slcusd.asapconnected.com. Online, See website, San Luis Obispo.

SLO LEZ B FRIENDS (VIRTUALLY VIA ZOOM) A good core group of friends who gather to discuss topics we love/ care about from movies, outings, music, or being new to the area. We come from all walks of life and most importantly support each other. Transgender and Nonbinary folks welcome. Third Friday of every month, 6:30-9 p.m. Free. sloqueer.groups.io/g/lezbfriends. Online, See website, San Luis Obispo.

SUNDAY EVENING RAP LGBTQ+ AA GROUP (VIRTUALLY VIA ZOOM) Alcoholics Anonymous is a voluntary, worldwide fellowship of folks from all walks of life who together, attain and maintain sobriety. Requirement for membership is a desire to stop drinking. Email aarapgroup@gmail.com for password access. Sundays, 7-8 p.m. galacc.org/events/. Online, See website, San Luis Obispo.

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.

TANGO SUNDAYS A Basics Argentine Tango class, held Sundays in September starting on Sept. 11 (no event on Labor Day weekend), followed by a practica (practice dancing what you've learned with others). Sundays, 6-9 p.m. through Sept. 25 \$10. 805-710-4388. Odd Fellows Hall, 520 Dana St., San Luis Obispo.

CULTURE & LIFESTYLE continued page 22

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Get one raffle ticket for \$10, 3 raffle tickets for \$25, and 15 raffle tickets for \$100.

The guitar will be raffled at the New Times Music Awards on November 4 at SLO Brew Rock.



Get tickets at My805Tix.com

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Central Coast bands, BBQ,
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patio from 12-4pm

SEPTEMBER

- 9/10 Shameless
- 9/11 Next Life
- 9/17 Earls of Tuesday
- 9/18 Roughhouse
- 9/24 Jump Jax
- 9/25 Cocktail Shorty

OCTOBER

- 10/1 Noah Tangeras
- 10/2 Joy Polloi



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www.raggedpointinn.com

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/](https://www.meetup.com/softec/). StoryLabs, 102 Cross St, Suite 220, San Luis Obispo.

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

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

UC CLIMATE STEWARDS CERTIFICATION COURSE This program is designed for anyone looking to play an active role in the statewide effort to advance rapid and equitable solutions to the climate crisis in their community. Participants meet weekly on Zoom for nine weeks with some weekend in-person field trips. Wednesdays, 6:30-8:30 p.m. through Nov. 9 \$225. cecsb.org/climate-stewards. Online, See website, San Luis Obispo.

WOMEN INVESTING IN REAL ESTATE (WIIRE) A collaboration of minds to help you start investing today. Third Friday of every month, noon my805tix.com. Granada Hotel and Bistro, 1126 Morro St., San Luis Obispo.

YOGA ON THE TERRACE An instructor for 15 years, Cheryl will guide guests through a series of Asana Poses, Breathwork and Full Body Meditation, to get you connected with your love for yourself in a fun and expressive class. Tuesdays, Thursdays, Saturdays, 8-9 a.m. through Sept. 17 \$10; \$8 for Members. slobg.org. 805-541-1400. San Luis Obispo Botanical Garden, 3450 Dairy Creek Rd., San Luis Obispo.

NORTH COAST SLO COUNTY

AXE THROWING Enjoy the art of axe throwing in a safe and fun environment. Kids ages 10 and older are welcome with an adult. No personal axes please. Fridays, 11:30 a.m.-

1 p.m. and Saturdays, 12-6 p.m. \$20. 805-528-4880. baysidemartialarts.com. Bayside Martial Arts, 1200 2nd St., Los Osos.

CENTRAL COAST WOOD CARVERS Learn the art of wood carving or wood burning. Join Central Coast Wood Carvers in Morro Bay at St. Timothy's. Open for beginners, intermediate, or advance. Learn a wide range of techniques and skills. Mask Required. Tuesdays, 9:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Free. St. Timothy's Catholic Church, 962 Piney Way, Morro Bay, 805-772-2840, sttimothymorrobay.org/index.html.

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. Free. 805-722-4338. Sisters Gifts and Home, 349 Bell Street, Los Alamos.

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

LOMPOC/VANDENBERG

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.



LEMON DROP THE MIC
Fine art paintings by Nancy Jensen will be on display at the Gallery at Marina Square in Morro Bay through Thursday, Sept. 29. Jensen's exhibit and other newly curated showcases at the venue will be celebrated at a joint reception on Saturday, Sept. 10, from 5 to 7 p.m. Call (805) 772-1068 or visit galleryatmarinasquare.com for more info. The gallery is located at 601 Embarcadero, suite 10, Morro Bay.

—C.W.

SANTA MARIA VALLEY/LOS ALAMOS

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

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

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

SAN LUIS OBISPO

ARGENTINE TANGO AND WINE Not a class; not a practica; no critiques. All levels welcome. Come dance, drink some wine, and have a great time. Cover includes

wine voucher. **Sept. 10**, 2-4 p.m. \$20. nexuslo.com/upcoming-events. Nexus SLO Ballroom D.C. (Inside the SLO Public Market), 3845 S. Higuera St. #B-1, San Luis Obispo, 805-904-7428.

NORTH COAST SLO COUNTY

AVOCADO AND MARGARITA FOOD AND DRINK FESTIVAL Morro Bay Chamber invites the public to enjoy margaritas, avocados, music, and the best views in SLO County. **Sept. 9**, 3-9 p.m., **Sept. 10**, 8 a.m.-6:30 p.m. and **Sept. 11**, 10 a.m.-3 p.m. \$25-\$175. 805-772-4467. avomargfest.com/. Tideland Park, 339 Embarcadero, Morro Bay.

MUSIC

SANTA YNEZ VALLEY

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 SitaraSon, Just Dave Band, Blue Breeze Band, Modern Cocktail Society, The

Molly Ringwald Project, and Mambo Soul Band. **Sept. 11**, 3-5 p.m. \$40. 805-686-1789. Solvang Festival Theater, 420 2nd St., Solvang.

SONGWRITERS AT PLAY FEATURES THE DAILY FARE AND JEFF BERKLEY Songwriters at Play features Nashville-based duo, The Daily Fare, and San Diego's Jeff Berkley. The Daily Fare's sound has been compared to First Aid Kit, The Milk Carton Kids, and The Civil Wars. Berkley plays in the duo Berkley Hart. **Sept. 9**, 8-11:30 p.m. \$10. 805-204-6821. stevekey.com/events. Lost Chord Guitars, 1576 Copenhagen Dr., Solvang.

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

MUSIC continued page 23

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LOMPOC/VANDENBERG

'80S NIGHT AND COSTUME CONTEST With DJ Neon Maniac. \$100 prize for winner of '80s costume contest. **Sept. 10**, 8 p.m. \$5. my805tix.com. Flower City Ballroom, 110 W. Ocean Ave., Lompoc.

BAILE LATINO WITH DJ BENZ JAMZ For ages 18 and over. Food, beer, and wine available for purchase. **Sept. 8**, 7 p.m. \$5. my805tix.com. Flower City Ballroom, 110 W. Ocean Ave., Lompoc.

COUNTRY NIGHT WITH DJ FRANK THE TANK **Sept. 15**, 7 p.m. my805tix.com. Flower City Ballroom, 110 W. Ocean Ave., Lompoc.

ECLECTIC ELECTRIC: EDM NIGHT With Seanathan and DJ Glen Coco. For ages 18 and over. **Sept. 9**, 7 p.m. my805tix.com. Flower City Ballroom, 110 W. Ocean Ave., Lompoc.



SANTA MARIA VALLEY/LOS ALAMOS

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

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

THE WAY YOU WEAR YOUR HAT Santa Maria Recreation and Parks and Santa Maria Valley Senior Club presents The Way You Wear Your Hat, featuring Riptide Big Band, and vocalists Bob Nations and Mitch Latting. Funded by Community Foundation of SLO County. Wear a hat. **Sept. 11**, 1:30-4 p.m. Free. 775-813-5186. RiptideBB.com. Elwin Mussell Senior Center, 510 Park Ave., Santa Maria.

SOUTH COAST SLO COUNTY

DAMON CASTILLO BAND: LIVE AT THE LIGHTHOUSE Enjoy some of the Central Coast's very finest musical talent performing on the area's most spectacular stage, perched high atop the blue Pacific Ocean. **Sept. 10**, 2-5:30 p.m. my805tix.com. Point San Luis Lighthouse, 1 Lighthouse Rd., Avila Beach.

SAN LUIS OBISPO

CAT POWER: COVERS TOUR All ages welcome. **Sept. 10**, 8 p.m. fremontslo.com. The Fremont Theater, 1035 Monterey St., San Luis Obispo, 805-546-8600.

CONTRA DANCE No partner needed, come solo or with a group of friends. Second Saturday of every month, 6:30-10 p.m. through Oct. 8 \$10. cccds.org. Odd Fellows Hall, 520 Dana St., San Luis Obispo.

DRUM CIRCLE SING-A-LONG Limited to 20 drummers. Learn African music through drumming and song. ongoing Spirits of Africa Gallery, 570 Higuera St., San Luis Obispo, spiritsofamericagallery.com/.

DUELING PIANOS Felix and Fingers are well known dueling pianos bring life to the party. Through the night they will take request of songs and will interact with crowd. Doors open at 5 p.m. for food and drinks. **Sept. 10**, 7-9:30 p.m. \$30. 805-541-1149. thesirenelchorro.com. Felix and Fingers are well known dueling pianos that bring life to the party. Throughout the night, they will take song requests and will interact with crowd. **Sept. 10**, 7-9:30 p.m. \$30. 805-541-1149. thesirenelchorro.com. The Siren at El Chorro, 2990 Dairy Creek Rd., San Luis Obispo.

EASTON EVERETT SOLO Enjoy some indie-acoustic, live music. Thursdays, 5:30-7:30 p.m. eastoneverett.com. Big Sky Cafe, 1121 Broad Street, San Luis Obispo, (805)545-5401.

LIVE MUSIC AT RAGTAG WINE CO. Enjoy live music by local favorites. Wine available by the flight, glass, or bottle. Thursdays-Saturdays, 6-9 p.m. Ragtag Wine Co., 779 Higuera St., San Luis Obispo, 805-439-0774, ragtagwineco.com.

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COURTESY IMAGES BY ELIZABETH MONKS HACK

Arts Briefs

Santa Maria Civic Theatre brings *Grease* to the stage

PHOTO COURTESY OF THE SANTA MARIA CIVIC THEATRE



The Santa Maria Civic Theatre presents its production of *Grease*, which premiered at the end of August. Performances of the show are scheduled to run through Sunday, Sept. 11. Tickets are available in advance at my805tix.com.

This classic musical is set in 1959 and follows several students at Rydell High School, including Danny Zuko (played by David Smith) and Sandy Dumbrowski (Alexa Martinez), who had a romantic fling over the summer, which they struggle to rekindle during the school year. The show is widely known for its iconic songs, including “Grease Lightnin’,” “Summer Nights,” and “We Go Together.”

Call the Santa Maria Civic Theatre’s box office at (805) 868-8520 or visit smct.org for more info on the production. The theater is located at 1660 N. McClelland St., Santa Maria.

Dana Adobe celebrates Captain’s Luau with live performances and storytelling

FILE PHOTO BY JAYSON MELLOM



The Dana Adobe and Cultural Center in Nipomo will hold the Captain’s Luau on Sunday, Sept. 17, starting at 5:30 p.m. The event includes live luau performances and programs that retell stories of Capt. William Goodwin Dana and his historical ties to Hawaii.

During his travels to Hawaii in the 1800s, Dana developed a relationship with King Kamehameha III, while the two often traded various valuables with one another. According to the Dana Adobe’s website, Kamehameha would periodically send barrels of pineapples to Dana’s rancho, even after the captain ceased his trade expeditions.

Kamehameha’s gifts would inspire Dana to hold a big party at the rancho. The Dana Adobe continues to celebrate the tradition with the Captain’s Luau fundraiser. Guests of this year’s event can expect to enjoy Hawaiian food, catered by Zoe’s Hawaiian Barbecue and Catering. Dishes at the buffet dinner will include kalua pork, mac salad, and other items.

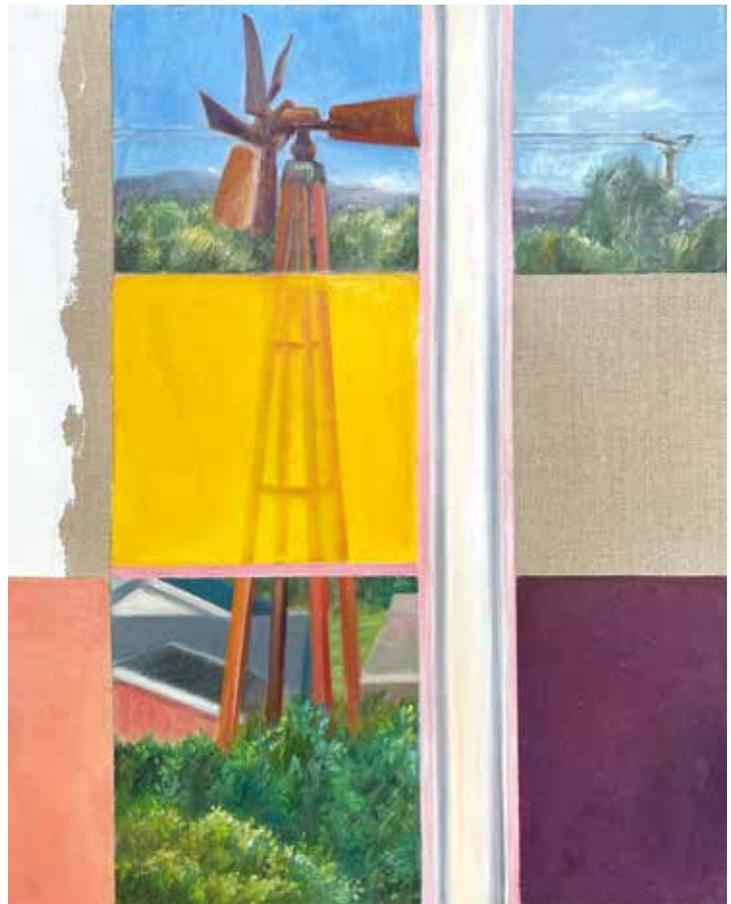
The event will also include a special raffle and live music from local ukulele performers. Admission to the fundraiser starts at \$100, which includes dinner for two and one raffle ticket. For large groups, there is a \$1,000 package that includes dinner for eight, eight raffle tickets, and one bottle of wine.

Call (805) 929-5679 or visit danaadobe.org to find out more about the Captain’s Luau and other programs hosted by the Dana Adobe and Cultural Center, which is open daily between 11 a.m. and 3 p.m. This local landmark is a registered historical site, located at 671 S. Oakglen Ave., Nipomo. ○

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



SKY HIGH: Lompoc-based artist Elizabeth Monks Hack depicts her home under a “menacing dark sky,” she described, in *Dark Sky at Easter*, a patchwork painting she completed during the spring of 2020.



WINDOW FRAME: Elizabeth Monks Hack often combines elements of contemporary realism and abstract imagery in her patchwork paintings, which include *North Window*.

An itch to patch

Lompoc artist brings passionate patchwork paintings to Cypress Gallery

BY CALEB WISEBLOOD

Easter typically brings to mind imagery of cheery eggs, fluffy bunnies, and marshmallow Peeps. But the closest thing viewers will find to springtime icons in *Dark Sky at Easter*, an oil painting by Lompoc local Elizabeth Monks Hack, is an eerie grouping of moonlit clouds and a darkened patch of calla lilies.

Hack described the patchwork piece, made with multiple fragments of canvas sewn together, as her jumping-off point into “a new realm of creativity.” And the painting’s gloomy title refers to one Easter Sunday in particular, she revealed via email.

“I painted it during the dark days of COVID, spring 2020,” Hack said. “I sewed large and small pieces of canvas together and waited for the ideas to materialize.”

The titular segment of the painting captures “a menacing dark sky in the east, but with a glimmer of hope in the hidden sun,” while another segment depicts a house, which Hack based on her own home, with a garden of lilies, she said.

Hack set out to illustrate themes of dusk, dawn, and the endearing cycles of both in another corner

Give piecework a chance

The Lompoc Valley Art Association presents *Piecework: An Exhibition of Patchwork Paintings*, featuring local artist Elizabeth Monks Hack, which will run through Sunday, Sept. 25, at the Cypress Gallery, located at 119 E. Cypress Ave., Lompoc.

The gallery is hosting a special reception to celebrate the exhibit on Sunday, Sept. 11, from 2 to 4 p.m. Visit lompcart.org for more info. To find out more about Hack’s artworks, visit elizabethmonkshack.com.

Showtime!

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



of the painting—just one of several of the artist’s works currently on display at the Cypress Gallery in Lompoc.

Piecework: An Exhibition

of Patchwork Paintings debuted at the gallery at the beginning of the month and is scheduled to remain on display through Sept. 25. The solo show features a collection of Hack’s oil and mixed media pieces created over the past several years, in order to demonstrate the evolution of her art style.

“My artwork in the early years was abstract. It had references to fabric and thread, and included sewn or embroidered elements,” Hack said. “When I first began to paint ‘realistically,’ my style was loose, big, and a little rough around the edges.”

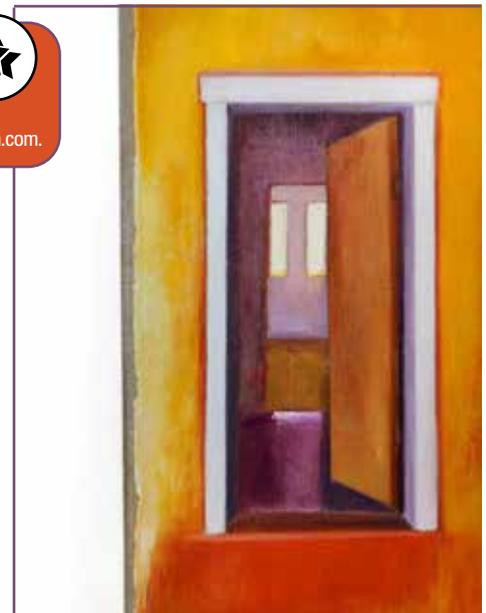
Hack’s sewn canvas pieces with abstract elements date back to the late 1980s, while her love of fabrics and sewing in general began during childhood.

“I have sewn clothing since I was a young girl and have always enjoyed the shapes and potential of flat pattern pieces,” said Hack, whose passion didn’t dwindle with adulthood. “I was a studio art major in college, but in my last year, I drifted into the costume department and designed costumes for a play.”

Soon after graduating from UC Irvine, Hack started her own successful clothing business. Although she no longer works in the fashion industry, Hack has retained her love of sewing. At the beginning of her foray into sewn canvas artworks, Hack said it felt “natural for me to see the creative potential of pieces of leftover canvas and fabric.”

Her process when it comes to patchwork art usually starts with simply shaping different pieces of canvas together, long before the local artist decides what kinds of subjects she wants to paint.

“For most of the pieces in this show, I first constructed the sewn compositions with abstract geometric shapes, and afterwards meditated on them



ROOM WITH A VIEW: *Third Room* is one of several patchwork paintings currently on display at the Cypress Gallery in Lompoc, as part of artist Elizabeth Monks Hack’s solo show, *Piecework*.

until a representational composition revealed itself,” said Hack, who referred back to *Dark Sky at Easter* as an example of her process. “Once I saw the shape of my house in the composition, I saw the whole piece.”

Two of Hack’s favorite artists are abstract expressionist Richard Diebenkorn and iconic genre painter Johannes Vermeer, both of whom she admires for the ways in which they depict shapes and planes. Their art makes her heart “skip a beat,” Hack said, and constantly inspires her own paintings.

“An ongoing consideration for me when composing a work of art is the contrast of three-dimensional form against the flat plane,” the Lompoc local said. “When I look at my old sketchbooks, and indeed most of my paintings, flat planes and geometric shapes figure prominently.” ○

Arts Editor Caleb Wiseblood is shaping up at cwiseblood@santamariasun.com.

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Longing for more

Editor's note: Arts Editor Caleb Wiseblood and New Times Staff Writer Bulbul Rajagopal wrote Sun Screen this week while Glen and Anna Starkey were out of town.

Director George Miller (*Mad Max*, *The Witches of Eastwick*, *Happy Feet*) helms this film adaptation of A.S. Byatt's short story collection *The Djinn in the Nightingale's Eye* about Alitheia (Tilda Swinton), a lonely scholar who on an Istanbul visit releases a Djinn (Idris Elba) who agrees to grant her three wishes in exchange for his freedom. (108 min.)

Caleb: Dancing penguins and dystopian drag racers are among the cinematic subjects George Miller has brought to life over the years. He's no stranger to shifting between R-rated thrillers and G-rated family fare, like *Babe: Pig in the City*. His latest film, *Three Thousand Years of Longing*, could have been titled *Genie in the City*. There's nothing family-friendly about it, and it definitely earns its R-rating, but its baseline premise—a modern-day love story between a genie and a human—sounds more like *Splash* than *Mad Max*. After being released from a glass bottle that entrapped him centuries ago, an unnamed Djinn (Idris Elba) tries to convince the bottle's new owner, Alitheia Binnie (Tilda Swinton), to make three wishes, which would secure the genie's freedom. But Binnie is hesitant, as she fears the potential consequences of even the smallest of wishes. As a professional narratologist, she's well versed in cautionary tales of "be careful what you wish for." To assure Binnie that he's not malicious or setting out to trick her, the Djinn retells stories of his past masters over the centuries, each of whom failed in one way or another to make their third and final wish, condemning the genie back to his bottle over and over again. These visually majestic flashback segments are the film's strongest scenes. As much as I love

both Elba and Swinton, I was far more intrigued with glimpses into the Djinn's past than the duo's uneasy romance. **Bulbul:** *Three Thousand Years of Longing* flexes Miller's zany storytelling prowess. The Djinn's past is expanded on over three mini stories. The accounts are linked by a thread that weaves the audience, Binnie, and the Djinn through the passage of time—the first starting from as early as the days of the Queen of Sheba. Those accounts are a lesson in narratives that enthrall the narratologist herself. I caught myself absolutely thrown into the striking imagery and writing, and it's no wonder too because Miller and his co-writer Augusta Gore adapted the film from *The Djinn in the Nightingale's Eye*, a short story collection written by English novelist A.S. Byatt that's heavily inspired by *One Thousand and One Nights*. The screenplay and imagery draw from Orientalism but we're rudely snapped back to reality when the plot switches back to present-day Turkey with Binnie. I found her character's implausibly quick romance with the Djinn shoehorned, and I don't think Elba and Swinton have onscreen romantic chemistry. The film could have taken its time to explore an otherwise intriguing idea: What more can a supposedly content person wish for?

THREE THOUSAND YEARS OF LONGING

What's it rated? **R**
 What's it worth, Bulbul? **Matinee**
 What's it worth, Caleb? **Matinee**
 Where's it showing? **Regal Edwards RPX Santa Maria, Regal Edwards Arroyo Grande, Fair Oaks**

Caleb: I definitely want to rewatch this someday for the visuals alone. There's so much going on in almost every frame of the film, so I'm sure there are a lot of hidden gems I missed. There were more than a few moments of surreal terror that made me wish this film took more of a horror/fairy tale route. Even before Binnie meets the Djinn, there are hints that she is somehow in tune with an undefined spiritual realm. There's a really eerie scene where she's leading a lecture on storytelling and she becomes distracted by a ghostly apparition. The Djinn has a similar moment with a contorting, demonic presence later in the film. I wanted more moments like that, but the film's overall atmosphere (perfectly paired with a haunting, ethereal score by Tom Holkenborg) felt wonderfully otherworldly enough to keep my spooky cravings at bay for the most part.

PHOTO COURTESY OF KENNEDY MILLER MITCHELL, KENNEDY MILLER PRODUCTIONS, AND METRO-GOLDWYN-MAYER



GENIE BABY: A narratologist (Tilda Swinton, right) awkwardly introduces some neighbors to her new romantic partner, a genie (Idris Elba, left) she recently freed from a glass bottle, in filmmaker George Miller's *Three Thousand Years of Longing*.

Bulbul: The film left me with a lot of unanswered questions, so after the high of the past world narrations wore off, I was dissatisfied with the final third. Maybe, Miller isn't giving us a highly packaged conclusion. Most of my questions center on Binnie and the Djinn's relationship, but my main question is why was she even the chosen one? The movie opens with a stunning shot that marks Binnie apart from a crowd thanks to her flaming red hair and bright pink coat amid a sea of dreary gray and brown coats. But what makes her special? Also, there is a very random shot of her in the train with a face mask on. So, this universe probably acknowledges that COVID-19 is real? Am I thinking too hard? Probably. Will I be rewatching? Definitely, once it streams somewhere. ○

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

TV & Film Reviews

ONLY MURDERS IN THE BUILDING (SEASON 2)

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

BINGEABLE

Our three favorite podcasting sleuths are back, and the Arconia is the site of yet another murder. This time it's the building busybody, Bunny Folger (Jayne Houdyshell), who is the unlucky victim, and Charles (Steve Martin), Oliver (Martin Short), and Mabel (Selena Gomez) are in the spotlight once again. There are secret passageways and stolen paintings, a parrot that won't shut up, and messy pasts that tie the characters together in all sorts of ways.

Only Murders in the Building enjoyed a well-loved first season that was a rollicking ride, sealing our three leads as friends forever. It's always a worry when a series starts off in such high regard because it often can't live up to itself the next time around. I'm happy to report that Martin, Short, Gomez, and the awesome actors all around them give us another top-tier season, and the list of guest stars is stellar. This show is all about reveals and twists and turns, so I

PHOTO COURTESY OF 20TH TELEVISION, AND 40 SHARE PRODUCTIONS



PODCAST DETECTIVES: Mabel Mora (Selena Gomez), Oliver Putnam (Martin Short), and Charles-Haden Savage (Steve Martin) work together to solve a new murder, in *Only Murders in the Building*, streaming its second season on Hulu.

don't want to give it all away. However, if you haven't watched, pay up your Hulu account and get on it! (10 30-min. episodes)

—Anna

SAMARITAN

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

New Flicks

Where's it showing? **Amazon Prime**

If you like the kind of action movie where the protagonist shoves a grenade into a bad guy's chest and deadpans, "Have a blast," you're in luck because 76-year-old Sylvester Stallone is out to prove he's still got what it takes to be an action star in *Samaritan*, streaming on Amazon Prime.

Based on a graphic novel series, the story revolves around 13-year-old latchkey kid Sam Cleary (Javon "Wanna" Walton), who believes his neighbor, Joe Smith (Stallone), is actually a superhero named Samaritan, who was thought to have died 20 years earlier in an epic battle with his evil twin brother, Nemesis. Sam needs a hero. His city is crime-ridden, and gang leader Cyrus (Pilou Asbæk) is determined to do what Nemesis couldn't 20 years ago—take out the city's electrical grid.

It's pretty cheesy, with overt lessons like this gem: "Good and bad live in everybody's heart, and it's up to you to make the right choice." Yep, it's a bit groan inducing, but Stallone looks like he's having fun, the film has a

PHOTO COURTESY OF BALBOA PRODUCTIONS AND METRO-GOLDWYN-MAYER



HERO: Sam Cleary (Javon 'Wanna' Walton, left) thinks his neighbor, Joe Smith (Sylvester Stallone), is actually a superhero, in *Samaritan*, streaming on Amazon Prime.

campy '80s vibe, and there are some fun, over-the-top action sequences. (102 min.) ○

—Glen

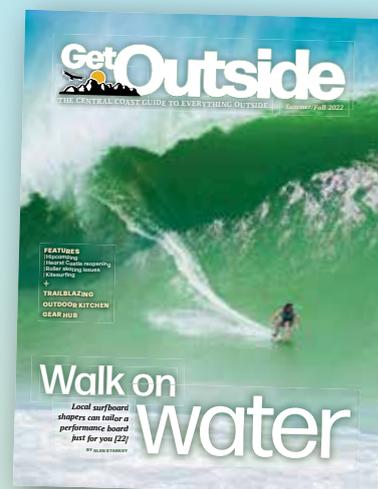
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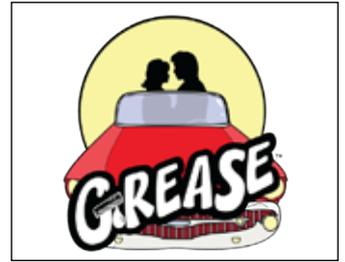
Eclectic Electric: EDM Night
w/ Seanathan & DJ Glen Coco
FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 9
Flower City Ballroom, Lompoc



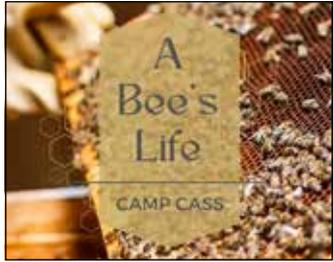
DAOU and Danior Dinner
at The Boatyard
FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 9
Morro Bay Boatyard, Morro Bay



Avocado Margarita
Food & Drink Festival
FRI, SAT, SUN, SEPT 9, 10, 11
Tidelands Park, Morro Bay



Santa Maria Civic Theatre:
Grease, The Musical
FRI, SAT, SUN, SEPT. 9, 10, 11
Santa Maria Civic Theatre



Camp Cass:
A Bee's Life
SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 10
Cass Winery, Paso Robles



Tiny Porch Concerts: The Coffin
Bros. w/ John Surge & Haymakers
SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 10
Peter Strauss Ranch, Agoura Hills



80s Night w/ DJ Neon Maniac
Costume Contest w/ \$100 Prize
SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 10
Flower City Ballroom, Lompoc



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



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Avila Beach



Symphony of the Vines:
Suite Treats
SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 11
Mission San Miguel Arcangel



SOIREE: Big Sirs of Swing -
Senior Dance at the Garden!
THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 15
SLO Botanical Garden



Country Night
w/ DJ Frank the Tank
THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 15
Flower City Ballroom, Lompoc



Camp Cass: Paint & Sip
Class with Art Social
FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 16
Cass Winery, Paso Robles



Metalachi - The world's ONLY
heavy metal mariachi band
FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 16
Flower City Ballroom, Lompoc



Docent-led Bird & Nature Walk
at Oso Flaco Lake
SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 17
Oso Flaco Lake, Arroyo Grande



5 Cities Homeless Coalition:
Empty Bowls Fundraiser
SAT., SEPT. 17, SEPT. 24, OCT. 1
Arroyo Grande, Pismo Beach, Nipomo



Downtown Paso Main St. Assoc:
Taste of Downtown Paso Robles
SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 17
12th & Park, Downtown Paso Robles



Redwings Horse Sanctuary
Block Party 2022
SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 18
Redwings Horse Sanctuary, Paso



2022 Fall Folk-n-Soak Music/Hot
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FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 23
Franklin Hot Springs, Paso Robles



Three Speckled Hens:
Antiques & Old Stuff Show
FRI, SAT, SUN, SEPT. 23, 24, 25
Paso Robles Event Center



Young Songwriters Showcase
w/ THE BAND CARTER
FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 23
Flower City Ballroom, Lompoc



Arroyo Grande Valley
Harvest Festival Dinner Dance
SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 24
Camp Arroyo Grande



SLO Funny Comedy Show
SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 24
Veterans Memorial Building,
Morro Bay



Skunk Puppy
SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 24
Flower City Ballroom,
Lompoc

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PHOTO COURTESY OF PONO PACIFIC KITCHEN



HAILING FROM HAWAII: Pono Pacific Kitchen receives a daily supply of ahi from Hawaii that chef Preston Tripp features in dishes like the furikake ahi crudo.



NUTTY FOR THE SEA: Pono's macademia-crusted mahi mahi with a Thai peanut vinaigrette, shoyu syrup, mango salsa, and forbidden rice is a fresh and filling tribute to Hawaii.

PHOTO COURTESY OF PONO PACIFIC KITCHEN

Taste the tropics

Pono Pacific Kitchen is the Central Coast's answer to elevated Hawaiian cuisine

BY BULBUL RAJAGOPAL

Hawaii-happy partners Preston Tripp and Ashlee Alewine felt compelled to bring an edible piece of the tropical Pacific Rim to the Central Coast.

An award-winning chef, Tripp conceptualized and whipped up dishes for restaurants from California to Oahu, Hawaii. Alewine's Central Coast roots brought the couple back to the Five Cities—the place where they first met and now run Pono Pacific Kitchen in Grover Beach.

"This has always been home for the most part for me. So moving back here seemed natural," said Alewine, who runs Pono's business side. "You'll notice on the menu the inspiration taken from everywhere he's [Tripp] lived, taken things from different restaurants that he has helped do menu consultations and creations with. I know there's not another Pacific Rim in SLO County."

The Pacific Rim spans the lands surrounding the Pacific Ocean that include countries from Asia, the Americas, and of course, Hawaii. Pono's menu reflects Tripp's riff on the Rim.

For starters, there's the special Pau Hana menu that hungry visitors can tuck into from 4 to 5:30 p.m. Wednesday through Sunday. Alewine calls it a casual dining experience at the bar and (dog-friendly) patio—Pono's "Hawaiian happy hour"—that serves up small plates different from the usual menu and knocks off \$2 from draft beers and wines by the glass. Dig into dishes like the Pono Papas Bravas, a crispy fingerling potato, shichimi, and kimchi aioli medley; the spicy tuna crispy rice cake; and buttery garlic chargrilled oysters with asiago.

"It's a hang out, relax, and take a breath after work, get to know your neighbors [event] where you sit on a gorgeous patio and hear the waves in the background," Alewine said.

The ocean sweeps across Pono's interiors too. Airy and sunny thanks to its open floor plan and big windows, the inside is resplendent with turquoise swatches, wood detailing, and cream and sunset orange accents. It echoes the serene meaning behind the word "pono"—living righteously and in perfect balance with all the elements around you.

While the Pau Hana offers a more laid-back atmosphere, Pono hasn't forgotten its original reason for being: a more upscale dining experience, according to Annie Steil, Pono's marketing

Share tasty tips!



Send tidbits on everything food and drink to cwiseblood@santamariasun.com.

Reserve the Rim

Cruise into Pono Pacific Kitchen on 228 W. Grand Ave. in Grover Beach starting at 4 p.m. or call (805) 202-8115 between noon and 6 p.m. to make a reservation. Check out the menu at ponopacifickitchen.com. Follow them on Instagram and Facebook @ponopacifickitchen.

and floor manager.

"There is a tremendous need for fine dining here, and that's something Ashlee and Preston noticed. They've lived in this area, worked in this area; we've all been in the restaurant and hospitality industry for a couple of years. Ashlee and Preston recognized the need and wanted to provide that for the community," Steil said.

The main menu includes fan favorites, like the fried chicken and caviar. Dive into crunchy deboned chicken resting atop a bed of fragrant garlic fried rice and drizzled with kimchi aioli. The elevated surf 'n' turf option includes briny pops of salmon roe placed in ruby red dollops over the chicken. It's Tripp's favorite item to cook.

Alewine and Steil are partial to the seafood. Alewine loves the macademia-crusted mahi mahi—a generous slab of golden-brown fish slathered in a Thai peanut vinaigrette and mango salsa, seated on black forbidden rice. It's fresh, light, and a true call of the tropics.

"My favorite is the misoyaki butterfish. It's a Central Coast catch, too. Butterfish is black cod. For the appetizer, there is a ton of love for the duck confit spring rolls. We probably sold 30 or 40 of those last night. The beef tartare with sea urchin is beyond incredible," Steil said recently.

Pono holds a coveted position when it comes to sourcing its *uni* (sea urchin). Working in the restaurant industry since he was 15, Tripp's networking skills landed his kitchen the chance to receive a daily supply of sea urchins from Santa Barbara. Alewine told the *Sun* that 95 percent of the sea urchins that are fished in Santa Barbara are shipped to Japan, making Pono part of the enviable 5 percent.

Tripp's connections also gained Pono another signature ingredient: ahi straight from Hawaii. But a lot of the restaurant's bounty comes from closer to home. They get bread from Grover Beach Sourdough next door. The team explores the Arroyo Grande Farmers Market on Wednesday mornings where they regularly purchase from Chavez Farms, Hayashi Farms, Righetti Ranch, and Harris Ranch. Alewine and Steil said they have an extensive wine program, too, where they feature local wines.

"We have a lot of [wines from] Santa Barbara, Santa Maria Valley, and Santa Ynez. Most people go Paso, and I was all, 'Let's do



BREEZY BLUE: While turquoise is reminiscent of Hawaii's tropical waters, Marketing and Floor Manager Annie Steil said that it's also co-owner Ashlee Alewine's favorite color.

something different.' We of course have a ton of Paso wines. But when developing the wine list, I thought, 'When I go tasting, where do I go? Edna Valley, Los Olivos, Santa Ynez.' So I kinda reflected that in my wine list," Alewine said.

While Tripp and his culinary team maneuver the food backstage, Alewine and Steil, who met 12 years ago as servers at The Cracked Crab in Pismo Beach, hold down the front of the house.

"We try to intentionally touch every single table and we try to introduce ourselves. You can't grow without feedback, and we love to put a face to the name," Alewine said. "Every day I walk in here, it just feels right. I feel like Preston, Annie, and I, we've been training our whole lives for this. This is what we were born to do." ○

New Times Staff Writer Bulbul Rajagopal is waiting for more fried chicken and caviar. Help her kill time at brajagopal@newtimeslo.com.

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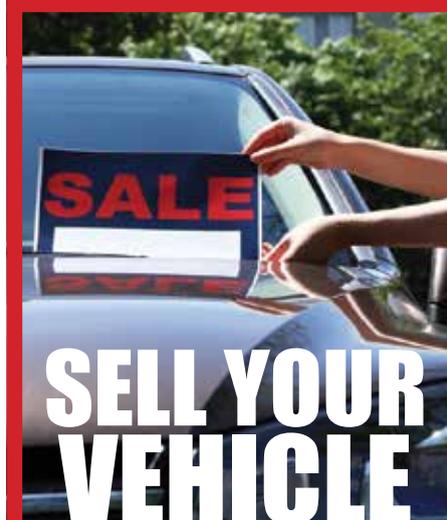
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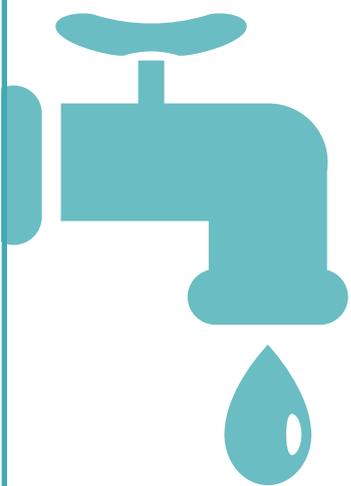
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