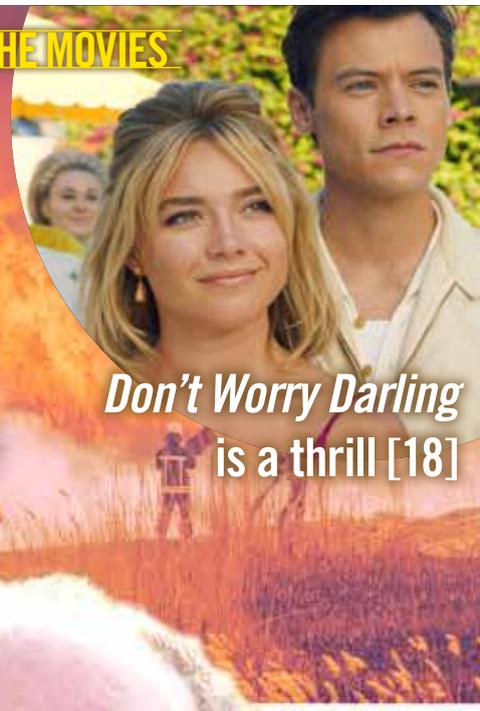


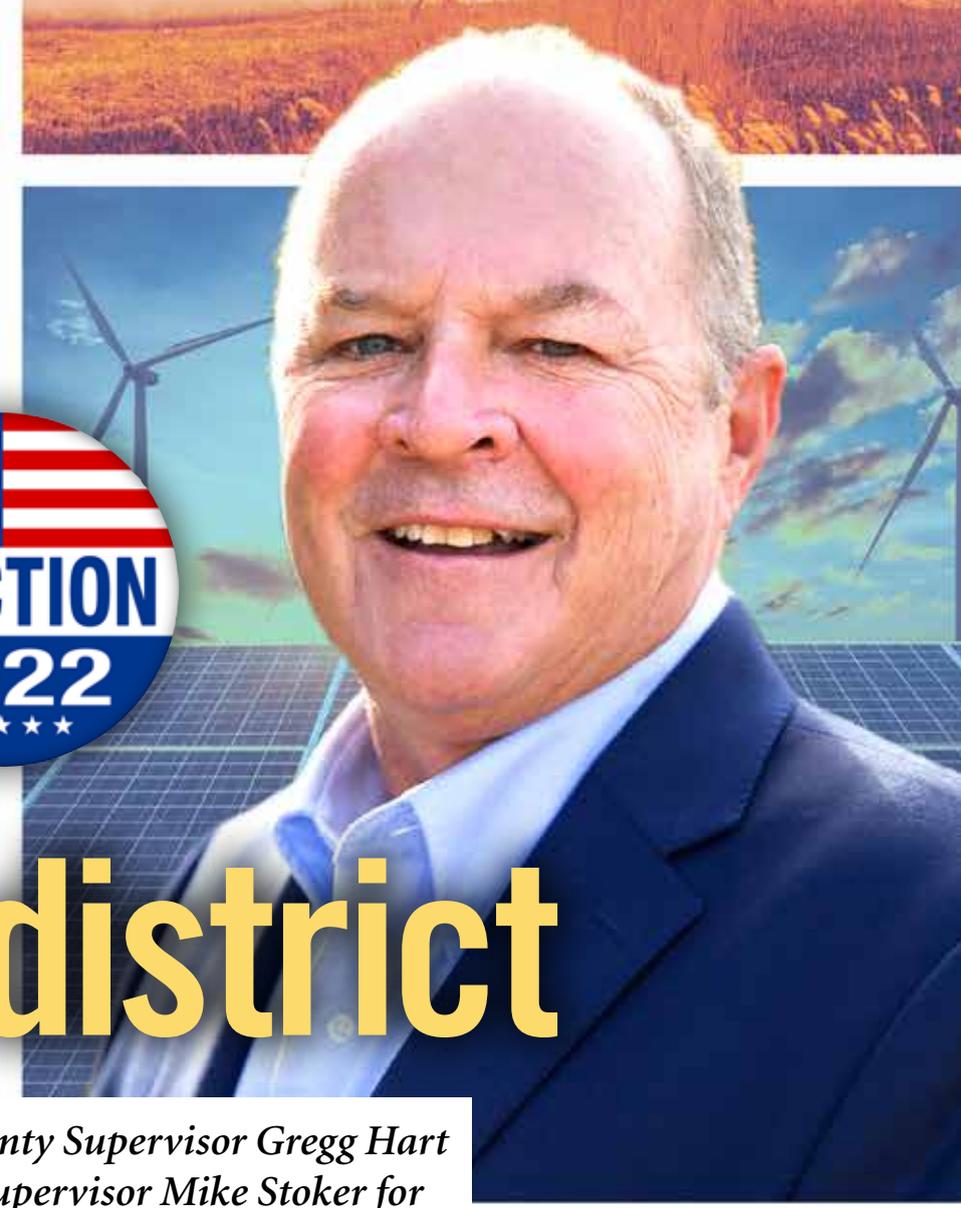
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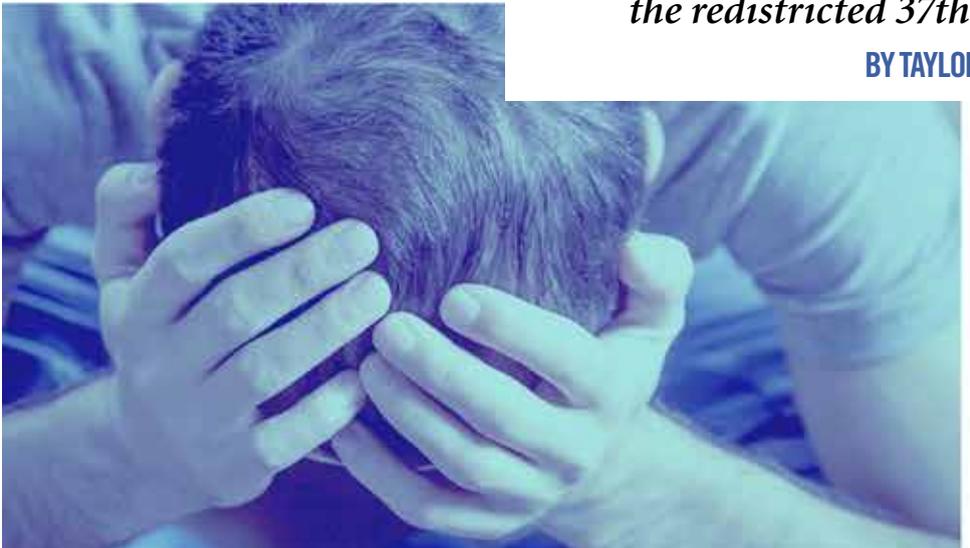


Don't Worry Darling
is a thrill [18]



A new district

Sitting Santa Barbara County Supervisor Gregg Hart is running against past Supervisor Mike Stoker for the redistricted 37th Assembly District [6]
BY TAYLOR O'CONNOR



NEWS Lompoc settles wastewater lawsuit [4]

ARTS The Flower City Ballroom [16]

EATS Campo del Sol in Solvang [19]

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SEPTEMBER 29 - OCTOBER 6, 2022 VOL. 23 NO. 31

Redistricting broke up representation on the Central Coast, putting northern Santa Barbara County and southern SLO County in a new Assembly district. Sitting Santa Barbara County 2nd District Supervisor Gregg Hart faces off against former county supe Mike Stoker to represent that district, pitting liberal values against conservative ones. Staff Writer Taylor O'Connor spoke with both about issues affecting the Central Coast and how they would impact them if they win in November [6].

You can also read about the settlement over Lompoc's wastewater woes [4]; a remodeled ballroom in the heart of Santa Barbara County [16]; and a new Mexican restaurant in Solvang [19].

Camillia Lanham
editor



BORN TO RUN: Gregg Hart (left) and Mike Stoker (right) are hoping to nab the seat to represent the new Assembly District 37, which runs from Santa Barbara County into southern SLO County.

Cover photos courtesy of Gregg Hart's campaign, Mike Stoker's campaign, and Adobe/Deposit Photos > Cover design by Alex Zuniga

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Plant Knowledge Among the Chumash People

A PowerPoint presentation by Jan Timbrook, Ph.D., renowned anthropologist and ethnobiologist who specializes in the indigenous Chumash. She was the Curator of Ethnography for the Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History for 45 years.

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Jan Timbrook

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- Homelessness. Our state needs to address this growing issue and come up with creative solutions.
- Mental health programs. We need more investments in programs to address staffing shortages and growing needs.
- Climate change. I'd like to see initiatives like clean energy and wind farms move forward.
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Political Watch

• U.S. Rep. **Salud Carbajal** (D-Santa Barbara) voted with a bipartisan majority of the U.S. House of Representatives to advance a collection of bills that would improve federal support for local law enforcement and other first responders, create new grant programs to help curb gun crime and solve gun crimes, and improve public safety on the Central Coast, according to a Sept. 22 statement from the congressman's office. The Invest to Protect Act—co-sponsored by Carbajal—would create a new grant program for police departments with fewer than 125 officers, which includes every police department on the Central Coast between Ventura and San Luis Obispo. This ensures departments with fewer administrative staff do not have to compete with large metropolitan areas for grants that can help cover the cost of hiring, training, retaining, or equipping law enforcement professionals. The House also passed the Mental Health Justice Act, which would create a new grant program to train and dispatch mental health professionals to emergencies involving behavioral health issues, enabling law enforcement to focus on crime response and prevention and other threats to public safety. "Central Coast law enforcement officers work hard every day to protect our communities, combat gun violence, and keep our families safe," Carbajal said in the statement. "Supporting our law enforcement officers while they're protecting our communities also means ensuring we don't ask them to handle situations that they aren't trained or equipped to handle, especially when it takes them away from their other sworn duties."

• U.S. Sens. **Alex Padilla** (D-California) and **Marsha Blackburn** (R-Tennessee) introduced the bipartisan American Music Fairness Act to ensure artists and music creators receive fair compensation for the use of their songs on AM/FM radio, according to a Sept. 22 statement from Padilla's office. This legislation would bring corporate radio broadcasters in line with all other music streaming platforms—which already pay artists for their music. Identical legislation has already been introduced and received a hearing in the House, setting Congress up for action this fall, according to Padilla's office. Currently, the United States is the only democratic country in the world where artists aren't compensated for the use of their music on AM/FM radio, college radio stations, and noncommercial stations. By requiring broadcast radio corporations to pay performance royalties, the American Music Fairness Act would close an antiquated loophole that has allowed corporate broadcasters to forgo compensating artists for the use of their music for decades. "For too long, our laws have unfairly denied artists the right to receive fair compensation for their hard work and talent on AM/FM broadcasts," Padilla said in the statement. "California's artists have played a pivotal role in enriching and diversifying our country's music scene. That is why passing the American Music Fairness Act is so important. It's time we treat our musical artists with the dignity and respect they deserve for the music they produce and we enjoy every day."

• Gov. **Gavin Newsom** went to Climate Week NYC where he met with climate leaders and showcased California's climate goals on a global level, according to a Sept. 21 statement from the governor's office. Recently, California enacted some of the nation's most aggressive climate measures in history, as Newsom signed a package of legislation to cut pollution, protect residents from big polluters, and accelerate the state's transition to clean energy—an "essential" piece of the California Climate Commitment with a record \$54 billion investment in climate action. "In partnership with the Legislature, we just passed the most bold, most comprehensive, and most significant climate policy of any jurisdiction anywhere in the world—Big Oil lost, and they're not used to losing," Newsom said in a statement. "Later is too late to act—lifestyles, places, and traditions are being destroyed—and California is leading the world in our efforts to combat climate change." During his time at Climate Week, Newsom met with Australian Minister of Climate Change and Energy **Chris Bowen**, former U.S. Secretary of State **Hillary Clinton**, Patagonia CEO **Ryan Gellert**, and Scotland's Minister for Environment and Land Reform **Máiri McAllan** to discuss the future of clean energy investments and potential partnerships. ○



TOXIC WATER: Lompoc city officials reported discharging toxic pollutants from its wastewater facility into San Miguelito Creek and the Santa Ynez River bed more than 3,000 times throughout 20 years.

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Lompoc pays \$260,000 to address toxic wastewater problem

The Environmental Defense Center (EDC) sued the city of Lompoc after it reported discharging toxic pollutants into San Miguelito Creek and the Santa Ynez River more than 3,000 times over a 20 year period, EDC Senior Attorney Alicia Roessler told the *Sun*.

Lompoc recently agreed to pay a little more than a quarter million dollars to environmental organizations and improve wastewater toxicity monitoring in a legal agreement to settle the 2021 lawsuit, she said.

"The primary issue they had with discharges was toxicity," Roessler said. "These violations are self-reported by the city. This is their own data, and they knew their violations."

Every agency like Lompoc's wastewater treatment facility has to follow the Clean Water Act, which regulates discharging pollutants into U.S. waters and requires facilities to have a permit, to report violations that impact water quality, and to conduct follow-up testing if toxic discharges are detected—all things the city failed to do, she explained.

"Our interest in taking these lawsuits is to get them to pay attention to monitoring and follow their permit. They were not taking it seriously, repeating some poor behavior, and not following permit guidelines," Roessler said.

Of the 3,000 violations, the court found the city still liable for 86 due to the statute of limitations' five-year span, she added. Along with paying the \$260,000 to the Rose Foundation for Communities and the Environment, legal documents said Lompoc will have to report any future violations to the EDC within 30 days and pay an additional \$3,000 per violation to the foundation.

According to Lompoc Public Information Officer Samantha Scroggin, these discharges came from inaccurate city testing—resulting in false positives—and none of the discharges caused environmental harm.

"Lompoc Mayor Jenelle Osborne said although it is unfortunate that city tests were inaccurate and showed false positives for pollutant exceedances, the city publicly self-reported each

such 'violation' over the years as required by law, which constituted binding admissions in court," Scroggin said in a statement. "The city felt it best to resolve the case by making payments to fund programs to improve the environmental quality of the San Miguelito Creek and Santa Ynez River rather than proceed to trial and have any fines go to the U.S. Treasury."

Roessler said she found that response questionable since the city used a test approved by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). She added that officials never tried to use a different test, and the issue is documented with 20 years of data.

"You can't argue false testing when you are the ones who used the test, and you used an EPA-approved test. They wouldn't pay three-quarters of a million dollars if it were a testing issue. If it were a testing issue, we would still be in court," Roessler said.

The remaining concern, she said, is what's causing the city's water toxicity in the first place.

"The city was not doing follow-up monitoring; it had violations and had a responsibility to follow up and monitor it. Until recently, when we filed our suit, they started doing some monitoring," Roessler said. "With the suit, we hope they can get to the bottom of what's causing the city's toxicity in discharges."

—Taylor O'Connor

Santa Maria greenlights new parking bans, renames one street

Parking overnight will no longer be an option on four streets in Santa Maria, thanks to a new ruling from city officials.

Members of the Santa Maria City Council recently agreed on a \$21,600 budget to add "no stopping zones" to Furukawa Way, Hanson Way, Kameo Street, and White Court.

Approved during the City Council's Sept. 20 meeting, the resolution was recommended by city staff after receiving complaints from multiple businesses about vehicles parking long-term in the area.

Mark Zarate, a representative of one of the complaining businesses, spoke at the Sept. 20 meeting and described the circumstances he's

become used to during the work week.

"RVs parking down the road and cars in general interfere with access to get in and out of the businesses in the area," Zarate said. "I was hoping this 'no stopping zone' will go through tonight."

According to the staff report, staff conducted a poll with members of several "negatively impacted" businesses in May to address their complaints, which attributed "an increase in vandalism and littering" in the area to recreational vehicles and other oversized vehicles parked overnight on the four streets. Illegal dumping of liquid and solid waste from vehicle owners was also noted by the businesses.

The consensus of the poll was a request to establish "no stopping zones" on each street, to be in effect from midnight to 4 a.m. The request was granted in a 5-0 vote from the Santa Maria City Council at the Sept. 20 meeting.

Another street-related request heard during the same meeting also met with unanimous approval from council members. Hickok Drive will be renamed Dan Blough Drive, to honor the late Santa Maria resident, Daniel Dean Blough.

The street is located in the Betteravia Plaza subdivision, currently under construction. The plaza development was the last project Blough, a local contractor, land developer, and former Santa Barbara County Planning Commissioner, oversaw before his passing in February at age 68.

Steve Zimmerman, landowner of Betteravia Plaza, pitched the name change to honor Blough's memory, and will pay for the new street name signs and other fees associated with the renaming, according to a staff report.

Santa Maria City Councilmember Etta Waterfield described Blough as a valued mentor during the Sept. 20 meeting, shortly before the renaming was approved in a 5-0 vote.

"One of the reasons why I'm here is because of Dan," Waterfield said. "He taught me so much. ... I've always been blessed with my positions in Santa Maria, and I always had a wealth of incredible people that taught me and nurtured me."

Mayor Alice Patino added that "Santa Maria is more of a beautiful city because of Dan."

"Anything he did was in the best interest of Santa Maria, and I was very proud to say he was a friend," Patino said.

—Caleb Wiseblood

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NEWS from page 4

Chumash advocate for new state sports betting bill

Two gambling propositions on California's ballot this November created a more than \$400 million campaign showdown—the most expensive in U.S. history, according to NPR—and united more than 60 state Native American tribes against one of the measures.

The two propositions, 26 and 27, both focus on sports betting expansion in the state, but Proposition 27 would legalize online sports gambling, and Proposition 26 would allow Native American tribes to operate on-site sports betting and racetracks, Santa Ynez Band of Chumash Indians Chairman Kenneth Kahn told the *Sun*.

"Our position is Proposition 27 is a massive expansion of gambling in California. We are concerned about addicted gambling and youth gambling [with] devices available at home," Kahn said. "The key difference between the two propositions is Prop. 27 is pushed by out-of-state corporations. Ninety percent of that money will be taken out of the state. Tribes will only see a fraction of the overall [profit]."

The California Legislative Analyst's Office said Proposition 27 would direct 85 percent of the tax revenue it generates to local entities to address homelessness and 15 percent will help tribes, but Kahn wasn't sure how that would play out.

"The fact they are trying to solve homelessness with gambling could create more homelessness," he said. "Eight-and-a-half cents of what will be collected will be allocated for homelessness and that leaves about one-and-a-half cents for regulation and for tribes on the dollar."

This isn't the first time sports wagering and

this debate approached California, Kahn added. In 2020, the state Senate proposed legislation that would have legalized online sports betting and had similar supporters like FanDuel and DraftKings among other large sports gambling names, but the bill failed.

"This time, it was an approach to regulate the industry, and as technology gets better we will probably be pushing more and more into online platforms whether it's poker, sports betting, or other types of gambling," Kahn said. "But our perspective is we are not there yet, and our No. 1 objective is to protect families, especially in their own homes."

The Santa Ynez Band of Chumash, along with several other tribes, is pushing for Proposition 26—which would allow for federally recognized tribes operating casinos to add in-person sports betting and horse racing—because the industry supports 125,000 jobs and tribal governments receive other revenue along with a \$20 billion statewide economic impact and a \$3.5 billion tax impact.

"All of that stays in the state, and that's important to us because that provides jobs in our communities. Tribes use that money to pay for education, general welfare, and health care," he said.

If both bills pass after elections, it would be up to the courts to decide how they are regulated and how the state would regulate them simultaneously, Kahn said.

The *Sun* reached out to both state Sen. Monique Limón (D-Santa Barbara) and Assemblymember Jordan Cunningham (R-San Luis Obispo) to discuss the issue, but neither responded before the *Sun*'s deadline. ○

—Taylor O'Connor



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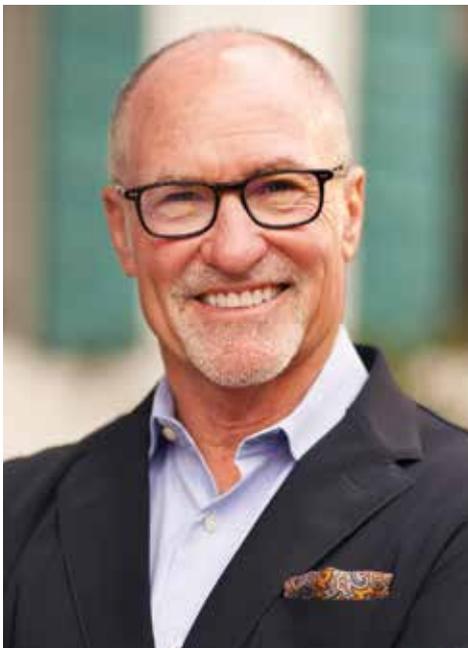
BY TAYLOR O'CONNOR

Second District Santa Barbara County Supervisor Gregg Hart will face off against environmental attorney and previous county Supervisor Mike Stoker for a seat in the state Assembly to represent California's 37th District.

After redistricting, the new 37th District now encompasses all of Santa Barbara County and southern San Luis Obispo County, prompting both candidates to run for office. During the primary elections, Hart led in Santa Barbara County with 57 percent of the vote, and Stoker had 39 percent. However, in San Luis Obispo County, Stoker led with 55 percent, and Hart got 40 percent, according to election data from both counties.

As the November general election approaches, the *Sun* sent a list of questions to each candidate to learn more about their priorities if elected and how they will work to address their constituents' concerns.

PHOTO COURTESY OF GREGG HART'S CAMPAIGN



A LOCAL OFFICIAL: Gregg Hart, who's running for Assembly, grew up in Santa Barbara, served on its City Council for four terms, and in 2018, he was elected to the county Board of Supervisors where he serves today.

Editor's note: This Q-and-A was edited for clarity and brevity. Find the full version online at santamariasun.com.

Sun: You highlighted resolving homelessness as one of your top priorities. How do you propose the state goes about fixing the issue?

Mike Stoker: Inflation, rising energy and grocery costs, and sky-high taxes have put our most vulnerable population in an untenable position. Those who are homeless due solely to economic misfortune need a state government that fights inflation and allows small businesses to create jobs and create prosperity. As your next assemblyman, I will fight inflation and stand up for small businesses. The new Care Court will go a long way toward addressing our state's mental health and homelessness crisis—two problems that are intertwined. But the state's job is not done. We must provide cities with the funds they need to build shelters and comply under the terrible *Boise* ruling, and bring back drug courts. With drug courts, the justice system was able to provide a critical stick in order to compel addicts into treatment. By addressing the state's mental health and drug crises, we can start to reduce our state's homeless population. Finally, I believe one of the biggest mistakes Gov. [Ronald] Reagan made was closing down our mental hospitals. Two-thirds of the homeless are in need of medical attention to deal with underlying mental health issues. We need to open mental health clinics that offer inpatient and outpatient services. Once a homeless individual receives

Fighting to represent

Candidates for the 37th Assembly District race describe what they will do if elected

inpatient help and is provided appropriate medications to treat them for their condition, they can be treated on an outpatient basis. We pass billions of dollars in bonds that do very little for improving our quality of life. I will lead an effort to place a bond on the ballot that will fund mental health clinics.

Gregg Hart: In order to effectively address California's homelessness crisis, the state must support policies that prevent people from falling into homelessness, provide supportive services that help people get their lives back on track, and develop a stable funding stream for the creation of supportive housing units. I have led partnerships that have brought together the public, nonprofit, and private sectors to establish new services and bring people indoors. For example, I have worked closely with DignityMoves, a nonprofit organization that will be building small housing units at multiple locations around the county for individuals who want to get off the street and into a private space of their own. In return, the client agrees to participate in supportive services such as counseling and job training. This is a successful model program operated locally by Good Samaritan Shelter that can be replicated through the county of Santa Barbara and as an affordable and effective model program for the state of California.

Sun: How does affordable housing fit into the dialogue of resolving homelessness, and what will you do to make it easier to develop in our communities? How will you provide incentives to encourage development?

MS: Our state's housing crisis is a supply crisis. Prices are high because demand is high and supply is low. We need to build more housing units all over the state, period. As a state lawmaker, I will push for policies that get the state out of the way and allow homebuilders to do what they do best: build housing. And I will author legislation making it much easier for mobile-home proponents to have their projects approved at the city and county level.

GH: I am an advocate for policies to increase the supply of housing that is affordable for people of all income levels, including low- and middle-income earners. I believe the people who work in our community should be able to afford to live here. I will address this issue by making sure the state works collaboratively with cities and counties to meet the unique housing needs of individual communities. In Sacramento, I plan to advocate for an expansion of state funding for affordable housing construction, and the preservation of existing housing stock. Additionally, I believe the requirements to include affordable housing in a market-rate housing project should be amended to both increase the percentage of affordable units assigned within the project, and require those units to remain affordable in perpetuity.

Sun: As mental health provider shortages persist in communities like Santa Barbara and San Luis Obispo counties, what will you do to increase access to affordable mental health care?

MS: We have a severe medical personnel

shortage on the Central Coast—mental health professionals, included. The best way to attract doctors and mental health professionals to the Central Coast is to make the Central Coast more affordable. These medical professionals can practice medicine or therapy anywhere in the country—if the cost of living here on the Central Coast is uncompetitive, we won't attract the numbers of doctors and medical professionals we need.

GH: As county supervisor, I have met with California Department of Public Health officials to call for more resources to increase access to mental health care and keep our community members safe. I also dedicate a significant amount of my time on mental health care issues, having served on the boards of the county Behavioral Wellness Commission, Psychiatric Health Facility, and Mental Wellness Center. Staffing shortages persist in practically every medical discipline. We have to do more as a society to encourage students to enter into these fields and when they have made that decision, provide them the proper incentives to pursue a career in mental health care.

Sun: Extreme forest fires are one way we are seeing climate change's effect on our community. What are your thoughts on forest management and prescribed burns as a solution to help protect our residents? If not this, then what is the solution?

MS: I strongly support controlled burns, which is a scientifically proven way to clear dangerous underbrush and limit catastrophic wildfires. We need more controlled burns across the state, and we need a new state department of highly trained and competent professionals whose only job is prescribed burns. Right now, that job falls to Cal Fire. While I believe that Cal Fire is the best wildfire fighting organization on the planet, [its] job and mission is to extinguish fires, not set and control them. Setting up a specific state department solely responsible for implementing fire suppression tactics would be a great investment in public safety and cutting emissions.

GH: I support a full range of appropriate forest management techniques as effective actions that can properly manage our state and federal public lands. I agree that prescribed burns are perhaps the best and most cost-effective ways to minimize significant wildfires. The county's Fire Department does an excellent job coordinating prescribed burns that reduce brush and chaparral, and ultimately protect areas around our populated regions.

Sun: As California transitions to clean energy, how will you ensure this transition doesn't hurt those working in the oil and gas industry, and that the community can afford the clean energy options?

MS: We need an all-of-the-above approach to hitting our climate goals, but we're not anywhere near getting rid of all oil and gas in California. During the latest heatwave, more than 60 percent of our grid was powered by California natural gas and imported power.

We are nowhere close to having a grid that is capable of running 24/7 without natural gas. My opponent wants an energy grid that is solely reliant on renewable and sustainable energy sources. He opposes all other sources of energy, including natural gas—which is safe, clean and cheap. That approach, which has also been adopted by the majority in the Legislature, will only lead to greater shortages and higher energy bills. We need to cut emissions, and we need to do it in a way that is economically feasible for consumers and the workforce.

GH: California must provide national leadership by setting realistic goals and benchmarks to address climate change. I believe any plan should include a variety of energy generation options, and not be limited to a single approach as the only answer to this very complex issue. I do not favor fracking or the use of energy intensive cyclic steam injection and other forms of oil drilling

PHOTO COURTESY OF MIKE STOKER'S CAMPAIGN



CHANGING DIRECTIONS: Mike Stoker, running against Gregg Hart for Assembly, served as a county supervisor from 1986 to 2004 representing the 2nd and 5th Districts. Outside of public service, Stoker serves as an attorney specializing in agriculture, labor, and environmental law.

that increase greenhouse gas emissions and potentially threaten water supplies. As we transition to a clean energy future in California, the state must do everything possible to ensure workers have new union jobs to replace the jobs that are at risk as the fossil fuel industry contracts. We need to use these new energy and infrastructure projects to support working families with good-paying union jobs. While this gets talked about a lot at all levels of government—the “just transition” to renewable energy—it's time to recognize the direct connection between the need for clean energy directly along with the need to support working families that depend upon energy jobs.

Sun: What policies or actions will you propose regarding the water shortage, specifically for the agricultural sector in our counties?

MS: Similar to our energy problems, we need an all-of-the-above approach to increasing our state's water storage. We need more reservoirs, higher dams, more rainwater capture and water reclamation projects, and—perhaps most importantly—more desal plants up and down the coast. We have a water delivery system that was designed for 20 million people that is now serving 40 million-plus people. When initially designed, 100 percent of the water transported from Northern California was transferred south for residential, commercial, and agricultural purposes. Today, even in years of

ASSEMBLY RACE continued page 7

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ASSEMBLY RACE from page 6
severe drought, up to 30 percent of that water is diverted to the Pacific Ocean to purportedly protect some endangered species like the Delta smelt. My opponent supports that diversion. I do not. And we have not built a new reservoir since the '60s when our governor was Pat Brown, Gov. Jerry Brown's father. I have been advocating for over three decades to build new reservoirs. My opponent and the extreme environmental left—which support[s] my opponent—have opposed all those proposed reservoirs.

GH: California's water quality and water supplies are both critical elements of our state's infrastructure that must be preserved, expanded, and financially supported with significant new investment. I will work with my colleagues in the Legislature, local governments, and the agriculture community to identify new investments that are necessary to maintain and modernize our state's deteriorating infrastructure systems that were originally constructed many decades ago. These systems require modernization to meet the needs of the 21st century and must respect the environment and ensure high-quality, reliable water supplies to all California residents, including our vital agriculture industry.

Sun: The Sun recently reported on a record-breaking year of opioid-related deaths ("Reversing death," Sept. 15). What actions will you take in order to ensure workers, like behavioral health professionals, law enforcement, and paramedics, have the resources they need when combating this crisis?

MS: The opioid epidemic has claimed far too many lives. If we're going to stop drug overdoses, we need to get dealers and users off the street. Dealers need to be thrown in jail, and users need to be compelled to enter treatment via drug courts. The coddling of criminals and drug abusers needs to end. Also, there is a direct relationship between open borders, which my opponent supports, and the flow of drugs into the United States. We need to have secure borders. Since President Biden became president, more than 5 million people have illegally crossed our border.

GH: The Sun's recent article was an excellent example of highlighting how local government[s] can bring together community organizations and government disciplines to address an emerging and dangerous crisis. Our multi-jurisdictional program, initiated by Santa Barbara County Sheriff Bill Brown, ensures our partners have the tools they need to address this emergency. There is not a single solution to this issue; we must address this crisis with multiple approaches, including state legislation like AB1598, and identifying new funding sources to support local programs that offer a range of services such as residential treatment, intensive outpatient treatment, and aftercare. Unfortunately, this crisis will not be solved overnight. We must work together as a community to find solutions and care options that work, are effective, have long-term staying power, and will hopefully save lives and minimize the devastating impact on families. ○

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



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www.sbcountyrapecrisis.org

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LAW ENFORCEMENT SKILLS: Along with receiving training led by a senior deputy, Santa Barbara County Sheriff's Explorers are able to put their skills to the test at statewide competitions against others in similar programs.

The future sheriff's in town

A Santa Barbara County law enforcement program for youth offers new scholarships

BY TAYLOR O'CONNOR

The Santa Barbara County Sheriff's Benevolent Posse was founded to help the Sheriff's Office maintain efficiency, improve morale and effectiveness, and help come up with solutions to the issues surrounding law enforcement.

As board Chairman Richard Kline explained, the 501(c)3 nonprofit raises funds to supplement equipment and training for the office. Thus far, the posse has raised money for personal protection equipment, protective vests, night vision goggles, specialized weapons, and dogs for the K-9 unit, Kline said. A couple of years ago, the group founded the Sheriff's Explorers, a program to help youth in the community find a career and receive their education in order to be "successful citizens."

"The Sheriff's Explorer program takes young people, eighth grade through the age of 20, who are interested in potential careers in law enforcement," he said. "It's an excellent program that gives a wide variety of skills in leadership, communication, public speaking, career planning, and of course areas directly related to law enforcement."

Youth enrolled in the program attend meetings once a month where they receive education and training on law enforcement's code of ethics, the criminal justice system, basic patrol procedures, traffic, daily physical fitness, crime scene investigation, and fingerprinting, Kline said.

"Annually, they'll compete in competitions in areas [throughout] California," he added. "Members are placed in the roles of law enforcement officers in a controlled environment to put their training and knowledge to a test in a variety of scenario-based simulations, giving them a hands-on experience of what a career in law enforcement might entail."

Along with getting law enforcement experience, this year, board member Richard Berti gave a \$100,000 endowment to create a scholarship program in perpetuity, which will fund two scholarships for \$2,500 each, Kline said.

"We would love to give more than two scholarships, but ... the goal is to annually give 4 to 6 percent of the endowment as scholarships, and that will allow the endowment to exist in perpetuity and allow the scholarships to exist," he said.

The Benevolent Posse partnered with the Scholarship Foundation of Santa Barbara—which has an existing, "robust" screening process—in order to select the most qualified candidates, Kline said.

"Each year, the scholarship foundation—in cooperation with the Sheriff's Office and the senior deputy that manages the explorer program—will select the individuals who will receive the

scholarship," he explained "It will be based on academic performance, based on their dedication to the program, and a variety of other factors that will be reviewed and selected for those who will be most appropriate to receive the support."

Financial need will also play a significant factor in the selection process, but the emphasis is on academic performance, commitment to the Explorer program, and future goals, Kline added.

"I know it's fully open to anyone interested and adds individuals throughout the year. It does require a commitment of attending at least monthly meetings and being engaged in the program," he said. "It's just a terrific opportunity for them to be a part of a program put on by seasoned deputies and to learn from their experience."

Those interested in joining can email Senior Deputy Dave Robertson at dar3049@sbsheriff.org. Visit sbsheriffsposse.org to learn more about the Sheriff's Benevolent Posse or to contribute to the scholarship program.

Highlights

- The Marian Regional Medical Center Foundation announced that the ninth annual Day of Hope event raised \$344,720 in support of local cancer patients at Mission Hope Cancer Center. This year's total exceeds last year's \$316,000. The foundation recognized several community members and teams for their exceptional fundraising efforts. There are two categories of teams—Company Teams embrace their company name and the company's team effort to fundraise for the cause, whereas Friends and Family Teams are led by an individual or a family. First place company team the Rugged Radios raised \$57,350, and the first place friends and family team Passion for Color raised \$25,030.

- Lompoc Parks and Recreation announced that the Lompoc Aquatic Center will host a Dunkin for Pumpkins event on Oct. 23. Starting at 10 a.m., this event will transform the aquatic center's activity pool into a floating pumpkin patch, where the public is invited to swim and pick a floating pumpkin. Participants can decorate their pumpkins at a decoration station on the patio from 11 a.m. until noon. Pre-registration is required. General admission including a pumpkin is \$14, \$6 without. Children 6 and under must be within an adult's reach at all times. Registration can be completed online at apm.activecommunities.com/lompocrecreation. ○

Taylor O'Connor wrote this week's Spotlight. She can be reached at toconnor@santamariasun.com.

DEATH NOTICES

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

ALVES, WOODY RAY, 83, of San Luis Obispo passed away 9/11/2022 arrangements with Reis Family Mortuary & Crematory

ANDRES, GLENDA SUMAJIT, 54, of Santa Maria passed away 9/19/2022 arrangements with Dudley-Hoffman Mortuary, Crematory & Memory Gardens

ASHTON, CHUCK JR., 83, of Grover Beach passed away 9/15/2022 arrangements with Marshall Spoo Sunset Funeral Chapel

BAUMERT, DAVID JOSEPH, 61, of Santa Margarita passed away 9/15/2022 arrangements with Marshall Spoo Sunset Funeral Chapel

BECHTLE, J. DIANE, 82, of Santa Maria passed away 9/14/2022 arrangements with Marshall Spoo Sunset Funeral Chapel

BURTON, RICHARD LANE, 88, of Atascadero passed away 9/20/2022 arrangements with Chapel of the Roses

CLASON, JACK SR., 68, of Santa Maria passed away 9/16/2022 arrangements with Dudley-Hoffman Mortuary, Crematory & Memory Gardens

COFFMAN, FAYE LAVERNE, 101, of Arroyo Grande passed away 9/10/2022 arrangements with Marshall Spoo Sunset Funeral Chapel

DOWNS, VIRGINIA MAE, 97, of Templeton passed away 9/19/2022 arrangements with Chapel of the Roses

ECKERT, SHIRLEY, 85, of Santa Maria passed away 9/20/2022 arrangements with Dudley-Hoffman Mortuary, Crematory & Memory Gardens

ENTERLINE, CHARLOTTE ANN, 90, of Santa Maria passed away 9/24/2022 arrangements with Magner-Maloney Funeral Home & Crematory

FORSMAN, ERIK SEGURD II, 79, of San Luis Obispo passed away 9/19/2022 arrangements with Chapel of the Roses

GATTEN, DONNA MARIE, 74, of Santa Maria passed away 9/17/2022 arrangements with Dudley-Hoffman Mortuary, Crematory & Memory Gardens

GEORGIO, HELEN M., 97, of Santa Maria passed away 9/22/2022 arrangements with Dudley-Hoffman Mortuary, Crematory & Memory Gardens

GIORDANO, MARCELLA, 80, of Atascadero passed away 9/17/2022 arrangements with Blue Sky Cremation Service

GOTCHAL, IRENE, 80, of Santa Maria passed away 9/20/2022 arrangements with Dudley-Hoffman Mortuary, Crematory & Memory Gardens

HAMMOND, ZELLE NORA, 87, of Atascadero passed away 9/24/2022 arrangements with Chapel of the Roses

HEIKKINEN, DONALD, 94, of Paso Robles passed away 9/17/2022 arrangements with Blue Sky Cremation Service

HERROD, DAVID, 67, of Santa Margarita passed away 9/16/2022 arrangements with Blue Sky Cremation Service

IBSEN, HOWARD L., 89, of Orcutt passed away 9/21/2022 arrangements with Dudley-Hoffman Mortuary, Crematory & Memory Gardens

KRUP, ROBERTA "BOBBIE" LEE, 79, of Arroyo Grande passed away 9/14/2022 arrangements with Marshall Spoo Sunset Funeral Chapel

LEDESMA, ROBERT ANTHONY, 64, of Santa Maria passed away 9/17/2022 arrangements with Dudley-Hoffman Mortuary, Crematory & Memory Gardens

OWNBY, MARILYN ANN, 76, of Santa Maria passed away 9/20/2022 arrangements with Dudley-Hoffman Mortuary, Crematory & Memory Gardens

PENDLETON, KIM BRADY, 69, of Nipomo passed away 9/14/2022 arrangements with Marshall Spoo Sunset Funeral Chapel

ROBLES, BETTY JEAN, 90, of Guadalupe passed away 9/26/2022 arrangements with Magner-Maloney Funeral Home & Crematory

SAMPSON, HARRY, 85, of Atascadero passed away 9/15/2022 arrangements with Blue Sky Cremation Service

SANCHEZ, MARGARITA, 86, of Santa Maria passed away 9/18/2022 arrangements with Dudley-Hoffman Mortuary, Crematory & Memory Gardens

STUART, MARY M., 98, of San Luis Obispo passed away 8/25/2022 arrangements with Los Osos Valley Mortuary

VAN ECK, MITCHEL THOMAS, 62, of Grover Beach passed away 9/19/2022 arrangements with Marshall Spoo Sunset Funeral Chapel

WILLIMAN, LINDA D., 79, of Santa Maria passed away 9/18/2022 arrangements with Dudley-Hoffman Mortuary, Crematory & Memory Gardens

YAMATANI, TAKASHI, 96, of Santa Maria passed away 9/18/2022 arrangements with Dudley-Hoffman Mortuary, Crematory & Memory Gardens

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- 12% I'm making sure to keep my distance from others until this blows over.
- 0% I'm scheduled to get my own vaccine soon!
- 0% I'm not traveling internationally or going near any animals.

17 Votes

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

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A more connected valley

New bike path in the Santa Ynez Valley fosters stronger community

BY JOAN HARTMANN

My first day of first grade is still vividly etched in my memory—the day I rode my bike to school for the very first time. I grew impatient as my dad reviewed the lessons of my bike safety class. I was just eager to take off. It meant independence; freedom; self-reliance. I was going to power “my own self” for an exhilarating morning ride. I was going to prove that I could pedal those 2-plus miles all by myself (only learning later that my dad followed me by car the entire way). In those days, concerns about health, exercise, and too much screen time were still years in the future. I just knew that it was a grand adventure.

Nowadays, too few children ever have that experience. In the Santa Ynez Valley, outside of Buellton and Solvang, we have few sidewalks or safe, delineated paths for those on foot, bike, or horseback. Despite living in a beautiful rural, small-town area, to get around safely, most of us resort to car, adding to congestion, pollution, and the pitfalls of the sedentary life. This reliance on cars and absence of trails deprives children of a significant rite of passage and the opportunity to be more active and self-sufficient.

A coalition led by local community members is bent on changing this, starting with trails along Refugio Road from the high school north to Samantha Drive. This trail corridor is identified in the Santa Ynez Community Plan, and the idea of restoring it was suggested by local neighbors and parents. Last year, the Board of Supervisors allocated funds for this project. After several public meetings, county officials knocked on doors to inform adjacent residents about the path and discuss how best to clear vegetation and remove encroachments from the public right of way. Public Works staff will soon begin needed preparation work (pruning, retaining walls, curb ramps). On the west will be a formal, stabilized-earth path for walkers and cyclists, and on the east an informal path with wood chips for equestrians

eager to get to the river and beyond. For more detail, see sbco.mysocialpinpoint.com/refugiotrail.

On Sept. 27, we plan to celebrate the groundbreaking for a demonstration section of the trail by the high school. It will showcase the material and design for the rest of the path, which will depend on active community engagement to construct. On the first two Saturdays of October (Oct. 1 and Oct. 8) from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., we will be holding community workdays to complete the first section of the trail—I invite you to join us at these work days. More information is available at the website mentioned above.

Abe Powell, the co-founder and director of the Santa Barbara Bucket Brigade, has been working with us, sharing lessons from highly successful community trail projects elsewhere in the county. One of Bucket Brigade’s central lessons is that when people come together to work on community improvement projects, they form bonds that foster greater community connection and resilience. Research bears him out.

While we all understand the importance of close relationships, only recently have scholars started looking at “the strength of weak ties”—to people we greet on our morning walk, the checker at the grocery store, the kind person who calls about our missing cat. These casual acquaintances are “consequential strangers” who might not seem to matter, but really do. They expand our world, give us a sense of being connected to something bigger, and impart a sense of belonging. As our circles of acquaintances expand and intersect, so does the sense of community cohesion. Studies show that people with more weak-tie interactions than average report feeling happier, more trusting, more connected.

Connectedness translates into greater resilience—the ability to withstand stress. Classic studies of Chicago’s notorious July 1995 heat disaster first illustrated this.

Speak up!
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One neighborhood, Little Village, with a dense population, a busy main street, and vibrant public spaces had a much lower death rate than another, North Lawndale, characterized by dispersion and decay. Seniors from a different neighborhood, where they met weekly at the local library, fared far better than seniors from a similar neighborhood but without community meeting space and programs. Connected people look out for themselves and for others—the strength of weak ties.

How we design and use public space in our communities can foster or deter these kinds of interactions. We have allocated more space and resources to cars (roads, parking lots, and garages), which insulate and isolate us, than to parks, trails, and plazas where we can people-watch, mix, and mingle. It’s time to rebalance.

So, let’s join together to restore the Refugio Road trail, creating more community connectedness right here in our valley. I expect that this will be a first of many projects to create an expanding network of trails that will, in turn, create an expanding network of social interactions. One day I hope to see walking “school buses” and bike trains growing longer, neighbors waving as children wend their way toward our schools. More and more children will get the chance to know the great sense of liberation that many of their parents enjoyed and revel in a more convivial, supportive community that looks out for them. ○

Joan Hartmann is the Santa Barbara County 3rd District supervisor. Send a reply to the editor at clanham@santamariasun.com, or send a letter for publication to letters@santamariasun.com.

LETTERS

Give us a better school bond; A2022 deserves a no vote

Lightning does strike more than once in the same place. Once again, the Lompoc Unified School District (LUSD) has placed a bond measure on the ballot, this time for \$125 million with levies projected to be 6 cents/\$100 of assessed valuation of your property, i.e., \$240 per \$400,000 property value. The past election seasons have seen three bond proposals for \$65 million to \$79 million, all of which were defeated by the voters, after the LUSD spent thousands of our dollars to sell them to us. Measure A2022 would be another tax in addition to the present Measure N bonds being paid for now by us taxpayers until 2032.

- In 2002 the voters were generous and passed:
- Measure N—LUSD school bond—\$38 million.
 - Measure E—the hospital bond—\$83 million.
 - Measure I—the Allan Hancock school bond—\$138 million.
 - The Lompoc pool bond—\$20 million.
 - The Lompoc flood zone assessment—ongoing.
- So Lompoc property taxpayers are presently paying on five bonds.

These new bond proposals are clearly a way around Proposition 13. The yearly increase in our taxes could be way more than the 2 percent limited by Proposition 13.

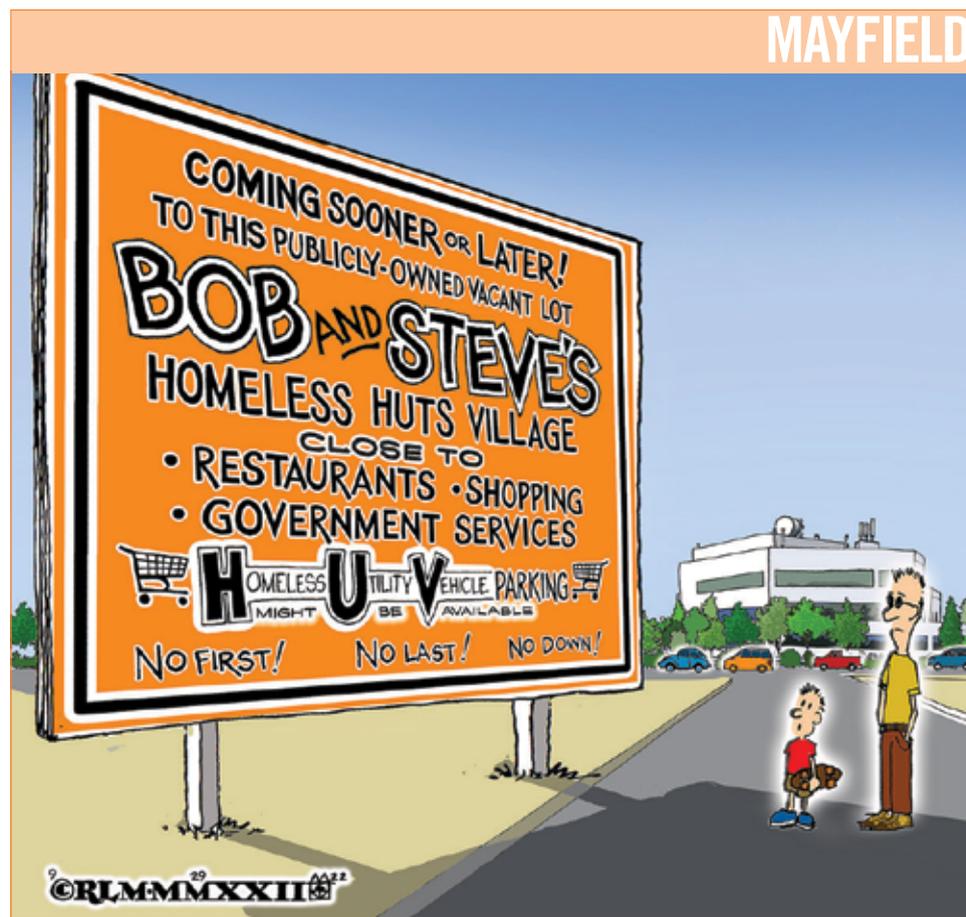
We seniors are overtaxed and cannot pay more taxes on our homes. We supported the past taxes, but not anymore. We are on fixed incomes. We recommended a smaller bond with a clear program, but what we have gotten four times is an overwhelming bond price and an unbelievable slush list of projects for just about anything.

The LUSD is mismanaged. They know they need maintenance, but instead they put all of their funds into benefits while the students get no new facilities.

As a member of the Measure N bond oversight board, we saw firsthand the deterioration that is the result of mismanagement. “Oversight boards” have no power to change or control anything.

Vote *no* now.

Justin Ruhge
Lompoc



No stopping

Seems like the **Santa Maria City Council** is setting itself up for a game of Whac-A-Mole with unhoused residents living in vehicles.

Councilmembers unanimously approved closing four streets in the city to parking from midnight to 4 a.m. in an effort to get those unsightly RVs, overstuffed cars, and SUVs that neighborhood businesses have been complaining about to skedaddle, move it along, you've got no home to go to but you can't stay on **Furukawa Way, Hanson Way, Kameo Street, or White Court.**

Mark Zarate, who spoke on behalf of one of the complaining businesses, told the City Council on Sept. 20 that RVs and cars interfere with access to businesses in the area. A city staff report noted, an increase in vandalism and littering in the area and the illegal dumping of solid waste from vehicles.

That means poop on the streets, and we definitely can't have that.

But these RVs aren't just going to disappear. The owners will find other places to park their homes. And what's the city going to do? Implement "no stopping zones" on streets across the city from midnight to 4 a.m.?

It's untenable. So what's the solution?

They have to exist somewhere. We can't just chase unhoused residents from place to place to place to place. Can we?

If you ask **Mike Stoker**, who's running for the state **Assembly's 37th District**, fighting inflation will help. How's he going to fight inflation? He didn't elaborate. It might have something to do with Proposition 13, though. But he also said

addressing the mental health and drug crises will fix homelessness too. He believes we need mental hospitals to stick them in!

"One of the biggest mistakes Gov. [Ronald] Reagan made was closing down our mental hospitals," he said.

That's quite a throwback! I'm pretty sure he did that because some of the treatment that patients were receiving was less than savory. But never mind that,

Stoker wants to lead a bond measure effort to fund mental health clinics.

"We pass billions of dollars in bonds that do very little for improving our quality of life," he opined.

So why not pass another one?

Stoker's opponent, current **2nd District Santa Barbara County**

Supervisor Gregg Hart, believes the

"state must support policies that prevent people from falling into homelessness." OK. Care to provide details?

He may not have elaborated on preventing homelessness, but he did advocate for putting people into small housing units at multiple locations around the county and providing services to them, which he said could be a model for the state.

Rumor has it one such location is going in next to the **Santa Barbara County Government Center** off Betteravia. How do we think people are going to feel about that? Not good, if **Ross Mayfield's** cartoon this week (page 10) is any indication.

Maybe the city can create a "no stopping zone" all around the government center to prevent the riffraff—including county officials—from clogging up the streets with their solid waste. They can always park somewhere else. ☹️

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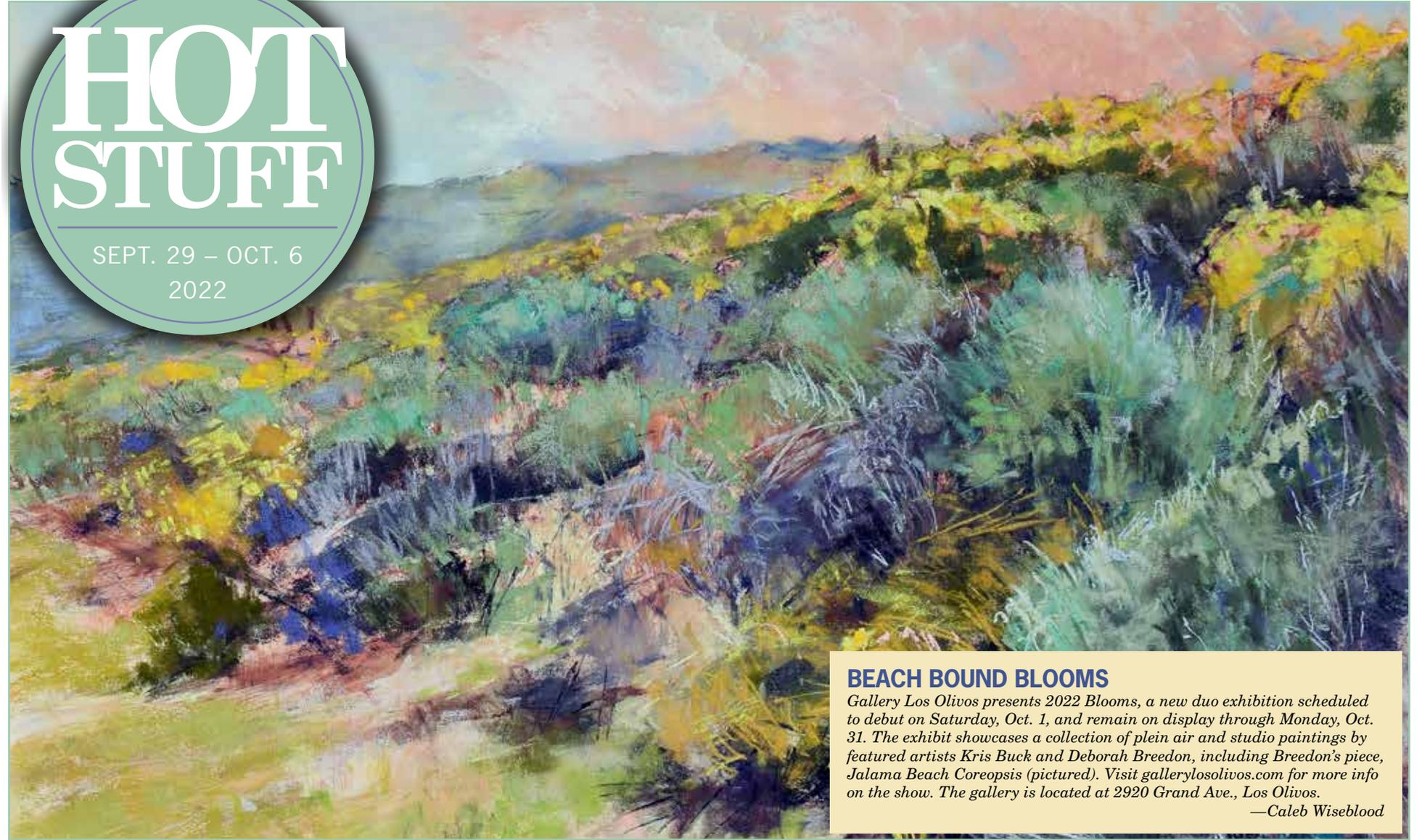
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HOT STUFF

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BEACH BOUND BLOOMS

Gallery Los Olivos presents 2022 Blooms, a new duo exhibition scheduled to debut on Saturday, Oct. 1, and remain on display through Monday, Oct. 31. The exhibit showcases a collection of plein air and studio paintings by featured artists Kris Buck and Deborah Breedon, including Breedon's piece, *Jalama Beach Coreopsis* (pictured). Visit gallerylosolivos.com for more info on the show. The gallery is located at 2920 Grand Ave., Los Olivos.

—Caleb Wiseblood

COURTESY IMAGE BY DEBORAH BREEDON

ARTS

SANTA YNEZ VALLEY

2022 BLOOMS A collection of plein air and studio paintings by award-winning pastel artists Deborah Breedon and Kris Buck. **Oct. 1-31** Gallery Los Olivos, 2920 Grand Ave., Los Olivos, 805-688-7517, gallerylosolivos.com.

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. Through March 23, 2023, 11 a.m.-5 p.m. Wildling Museum of Art and Nature, 1511-B Mission Dr., Solvang, 805-688-1082, wildlingmuseum.org.

OPENING RECEPTION: WILDLIFE ON THE EDGE A public reception to celebrate this exhibit's debut at the museum. **Oct. 9**, 3-5 p.m. Free. Wildling Museum of Art and Nature, 1511-B Mission Dr., Solvang, 805-688-1082, wildlingmuseum.org.

SYV SCARECROW FESTIVAL 2022 Participating businesses and organizations throughout the Santa Ynez Valley will showcase their unique scarecrow creations. **Oct. 1-31** syvscarescrows.com/. Downtown Solvang.

THEME AND VARIATION With Neil Andersson and Vicki Andersen. Through Sept. 30 Gallery Los Olivos, 2920 Grand Ave., Los Olivos, 805-688-7517, gallerylosolivos.com.

WILDLIFE ON THE EDGE: HILARY BAKER New and recent acrylic paintings from Baker's Predators series alongside a new series of animal portraits on birch wood. From a group of common pigeons to an elusive cougar, Baker's subjects make themselves at home in urban locales. **Oct. 8-March 6** Wildling Museum of Art and Nature, 1511-B Mission Dr., Solvang, 805-688-1082, wildlingmuseum.org.

LOMPOC/VANDENBERG

STAND-UP COMEDY NIGHT AT FLOWER CITY BALLROOM With Chris Flail, Eddie Molina, Eric Lopez, Elaine Chaney, and host Greg Hernandez. **Sept. 30**, 8 p.m. my805tix.com. Flower City Ballroom, 110 W. Ocean Ave., Lompoc.

SANTA MARIA VALLEY/LOS ALAMOS

BALLROOM, LATIN, AND SWING DANCE CLASSES Social ballroom, Latin, and swing lessons for all ages on Tuesdays and Wednesdays. Beginner and advance classes. Tuesdays, Wednesdays, 7-9 p.m. \$45-\$55. 805-928-7799. kleindancesarts.com. KleinDance Arts, 3558 Skyway Drive, suite A, Santa Maria.

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

DELIVER US FROM MAMA OCT presents this Jones, Hope, and Wooten comedy. The story revolves around an adventure-filled, ridiculous, high-octane, cross-country road trip. **Oct. 7-23** my805tix.com. KleinDance Arts, 3558 Skyway Drive, suite A, Santa Maria, 805-928-7799.

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

LYNNAE LANE: THE MIRACLE OF SPRING AND SUNSATIONAL SUMMER Lane's exhibit debuted at the airport in early August and will remain on display until the end of September. valleygallery.org/. 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.

SANTA MARIA PUBLIC LIBRARY: BOOK CLUB OVER THE PHONE A teleconference book discussion group, meets on the first Tuesday of each month. For more information email jgaytan@cityofsantamaria.org. First Tuesday of every month, 2-3 p.m. 805-925-0994. cityofsantamaria.org/city-government/departments/library. Santa Maria Public Library, 421 S. McClelland St., Santa Maria.

STEPHANIE PALOMAREZ: FEATURED ARTIST Part of the Valley Art Gallery's artist showcase series at the Santa Maria Airport. **Oct. 3-Dec. 5** valleygallery.org/. Santa Maria Airport, 3249 Terminal Dr., Santa Maria.

SUBMIT YOUR EVENTS

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

TIPPING POINT The exhibition demonstrates how the existential threat of climate change impacts the work of six artists whose focus is environmental decline. Through Oct. 25 hancockcollege.edu/gallery. Ann Foxworthy Gallery, 800 S. College Dr., Santa Maria, 805-922-6966 Ext. 3652.

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.

VALLEY READS BOOK CLUB First Tuesday of every month, 2 p.m. Free. 805-925-0994. cityofsantamaria.org/city-government/departments/library. The book for the month of October is *One Hundred Years of Solitude* by Gabriel Garcia Márquez. This classic novel traces the chronicle of a fictional family over a century. **Oct. 8**, 2 p.m. Free. 805-925-0994. cityofsantamaria.org/city-government/departments/library. Santa Maria Public Library, 421 S. McClelland St., Santa Maria.

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

YOUTH ART TIME Get creative with an afternoon of art. Youth create a masterpiece while exploring different media. Each lesson focuses on an artist, their process, and a different element of art. For children in grades 1-6. **Oct. 4**, 4 p.m. engagedpatrons.org. Santa Maria Public Library (Altrusa Theater), 421 S. McClelland St., Santa Maria, 805-925-0994.

SOUTH COAST SLO COUNTY

SCARY POPPINS When their father decides they need some minding, the Peabody children come up with a scheme to get a new, "practically perfect" nanny just like the one they read about in their book. Much to their

shock, they get her demented sister, Scary. Wednesdays-Saturdays, 7-9:30 p.m., Saturdays, 2-4:30 p.m. and Sundays, 6-8:30 p.m. through Nov. 6 \$30-\$36. 805-489-2499. americanmelodrama.com/. Great American Melodrama, 1863 Front St., Oceano.

CHANGING SEASONS: QUILT AUCTION, BOUTIQUE, AND BAKE SALE Presented by the Olde Towne Quilters of Nipomo. Quilt sizes range from baby to twin. **Oct. 8**, 11 a.m.-3 p.m. Free. 916-847-7934. Nipomo Community Presbyterian Church, 1235 N Thompson Rd., Arroyo Grande, nipomopresbyterian.org.

FASHIONS FOR A PURPOSE: FASHION SHOW EVENT A benefit for domestic violence awareness and safe dating awareness. Features fashions by First Class and Baguette About It. **Oct. 8**, 10 a.m.-2 p.m. my805tix.com. DANA Adobe Cultural Center, 671 S. Oakglen Ave., Nipomo, 805-929-5679.

G. RAPPAPORT: ARTS OBISPO OPEN STUDIOS ART TOUR Enjoy some artsy conversation, original art, scarves, greeting cards, and demonstration. Perfect place to get holiday gifts and art that will move you. **Oct. 8**, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. and **Oct. 9**, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Free to visit; art available for purchase. 805-295-6690. grappaport.com. G. Rappaport, 138 Clydell Ct., Pismo Beach.

THE LITTLE MERMAID The Panto Company USA brings their award-winning adaptation of Hans Christian Andersen's story to the US. **Oct. 1**, 3 & 7 p.m. Clark Center for the Performing Arts, 487 Fair Oaks Ave., Arroyo Grande, 805-489-9444, clarkcenter.org.

MIXED MEDIA (ADULTS) Each week, attendees will combine two or more media in several pieces, while working with watercolor, acrylic, ink, pastels, charcoal as well as various printmaking techniques in the course of a month. Enjoy discovering new ways to work with traditional and nontraditional materials. Mondays, 1-3 p.m. \$35. 805-668-2125. lila.community. LiLA Creative Community, 1147 East Grand Ave. suite 101, Arroyo Grande.

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

MIXED MEDIA WORKSHOP (AGES 7-12) Come explore mixed media with an emphasis on the Elements

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of Art and the Principles of Design. Each week, students will have the opportunity to use various media. Tuesdays, 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 (AGES 7-12) Guests can explore a variety of media and techniques while focusing on their own subject matter. Whether they come with a project in mind, or find their way as they play, this class offers a chance for independent learning in a supportive environment. Thursdays, 3:45-4:45 p.m. \$25. 805-668-2125. lila.community/all-workshops/open-studio. 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.

PASSIFLORA MOSAICS WORKSHOPS Check website or call for workshop offerings and more details. **Oct. 8-9** 805-440-3054. passifloramosaics.com/workshops/. Passiflora Mosaics, 330 N. 10th St., Grover Beach.

PLAY, EXPLORE, CREATE (AGES 5-7) Young artists will play at various stations, exploring games, and mixed media. There will be a new activity each week. Wonderful opportunities for drawing, painting, and sculpture. Tuesdays, 9-10 a.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.

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. \$210 per month. actorsedge.com. Online, See website, San Luis Obispo.

ADVANCED ACTING IMPROV CLASS Taught by Peter Kremidas. Learn about your own strengths and weaknesses, how to improve upon both, and how we psychologically approach performance in general and improv in particular. Through Oct. 16 \$225 for all six weeks. 805-858-8255. centralcoastcomedytheater.com/classes. Central Coast Comedy Theater Training Center, 2078 Parker Street, Suite 200, 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.

ARTS ABOUT SLO Join us for Art About SLO, a self-guided art walk that gives the community an opportunity to experience visual, literary, and performing art in galleries and other venues. Visit site for an updated map of locations. Events will not occur on major holidays. First Friday of every month, 5-8 p.m. Free. 805-544-9251. artsobispo.org/art-and-about. 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. Free. 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. ongoing 805-835-5893. hmcruceceramics.com/. Online, See website, San Luis Obispo.

CERTAIN MATTER: A GROUP EXHIBITION OF MATERIAL ABSTRACTION Featuring artists Linda Sormin, Christopher Pate, Connie Martin, John Trevino, Sarah Mikenis, David McDonald, Amy Vensel, Alexis Arnold, and Gareth Zook, all working in a variety of media where the material serves as both object and subject. Mondays-Fridays, 11 a.m.-4 p.m. through Oct. 14 Free. 805-546-3202. cuesta.edu/student/campuslife/artgallery/index.html. Harold J. Miossi Gallery, Highway 1, San Luis Obispo.

COLLEEN GNOS: OPEN STUDIOS ART TOUR Colleen Gnos invites you to visit her studio (#59). Explore her new painted passions, which range from hula landscapes, ocean scenes, mermaids, murals, to musicians. Saturdays, Sundays, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. through Oct. 16 Free admission. 805-441-8277. colleengnos.com. Gnos Art Studio, 141 Suburban Road, Unit C4, San Luis Obispo.

THE GIANT WORLD OF THE SHORT STORY WORKSHOP CLASS Through reading some of the greats' short stories and writing our own ideas and scenes, attendees will explore the potent and accessible craft of shorter fiction. Compressed narratives, where everything is essential from the first sentence, are fertile ground for well-honed themes and characters. Thursdays, 6-7:30 p.m. through Nov. 3 \$85. 805-540-8282. cuesta.edu/communityprograms/community-education/writing_publishing/giant-world.html. Cuesta College Community Programs, Building 4100 Cuesta College Road, San Luis obispo.

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.

FILE PHOTO BY CAMILLIA LANHAM



HOT STUFF
SEPT. 29 - OCT. 6
2022

CROW WITH THE FLOW

The 13th annual Solvang Scarecrow Festival, scheduled to kick off on Saturday, Oct. 1, will include scarecrow entries from businesses and organizations across the Santa Ynez Valley. Throughout the month of October, participants will showcase their own unique scarecrow creations outside their locations. The public will have the opportunity to vote for their favorite scarecrows in various award categories. Visit syscscarecrows.com to vote or find out more.

—C.W.

WALKING A CENTRAL COAST PASTORAL WITH PASTELS: AN INTERMEDIATE PASTEL WORKSHOP WITH JIM TYLER In this workshop, guests complete a larger, more complex painting over the course of two days. Learn the basics for using pastels, the different kinds of pastel and paper, and how to frame a pastel painting. **Sept. 30**, 10:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m. and **Oct. 1**, 10:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m. \$170. 805-747-4200. artcentralslo.com/workshops-events/. Art Central, 1329 Monterey St., San Luis Obispo.

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

SECOND SATURDAYS FREE ART EVENT SLOMA's Second Saturdays program features art-making activities that complement the Museum's current exhibitions. It's completely free and open to the public, on the lawn outside SLOMA's Mission Plaza double doors. Second Saturday of every month, 11 a.m.-1 p.m. through Dec. 10 Free. 805-543-8562. sloma.org/events/second-saturdays/. San Luis Obispo Museum of Art, 1010 Broad St., San Luis Obispo.

CULTURE & LIFESTYLE

SANTA MARIA VALLEY/LOS ALAMOS

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

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

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.

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

DOCENT-LED HIKE AT RANCHO GUADALUPE BEACH Just south of Guadalupe lies an extraordinary and unique nature preserve. Enjoy an adventurous hike on the dunes with leader Ray Segovia. **Oct. 8**, 9-11 a.m. my805tix.com. Rancho Guadalupe Beach, 6999 W. Main St., Guadalupe.

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

FILIPINO AMERICAN HISTORY PACK Pack pick-up begins on Oct. 8. Celebrate Filipino American history. Packs include supplies to create a paper craft, a yummy snack, and resources. **Oct. 8** 805-925-0994. engagedpatrons.org. Santa Maria Public Library, 421 S. McClelland St., Santa Maria.

FINAL BUNCO NIGHT OF THE YEAR Members play for \$10 and non-members play for \$15. **Sept. 29**, 5:30 p.m. American Legion Post 534, 145 W. Clark Ave., Orcutt.

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

HAUNTED HILLS Elks Recreation, in collaboration with the Santa Maria Recreation and Parks Department, creates spooky scenes, creepy sounds, and scary interactions with the Cowboys of Rodeos past during the month of October. **Oct. 1-29** elksrec.com. Elks Event Center, 4040 Highway 101, Santa Maria.

HISPANIC AND LATINX HERITAGE MONTH CELEBRATION Come to the library for a celebration of Latino Heritage Month. Participate in activities for all ages while learning more about the importance and history of this month. **Oct. 1**, 11 a.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. Come dressed for mess. For ages 3-5.

CULTURE & LIFESTYLE continued page 14

CLARK CENTER
FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS
2022-2023 SEASON
487 Fair Oaks Ave
Arroyo Grande, CA 93420

**IT'S GOOD TO GET OUT AGAIN!
~WE HAVE MISSED YOU~**

The Little Mermaid
SATURDAY
OCT 01
3pm & 7pm



Award-Winning
PETTY FEVER
pettyfever.com
TOM PETTY Tribute

SATURDAY
OCT 22
7:30pm



HEREDEROS
MARIACHI HERENCIA DE MEXICO
WITH SPECIAL GUEST
LUPITA INFANTE

SUNDAY
OCT 30
7:30pm



Get Your Tickets Today!
(805) 489-9444
www.clarkcenter.org

2022 SUMMER CONCERT SERIES

FEATURING
Central Coast bands,
BBQ, and beer on
our outdoor patio
from 12-4pm

OCTOBER

10/1 Noach Tangeras
10/2 Joy Polloi



Call for Reservations
805-927-4502
www.raggedpointinn.com

Registration is required. **Oct. 7**, 11 a.m. 805-925-0994. engagedpatrons.org. Santa Maria Public Library (Altrusa Theater), 421 S. McClelland St., Santa Maria.

PLANT KNOWLEDGE AMONG THE CHUMASH PEOPLE A presentation by Jan Timbrook, former curator of ethnography for the SB Museum of Natural History for 45 years. **Oct. 8**, 1 p.m. 805-614-0806. smnaturalhistory.org. The Santa Maria Natural History Museum, 412 S. McClelland St., Santa Maria.

POKÉMON CLUB Join other Pokémon trainers at the popular Pokémon Club. Learn how to play the Pokémon Trading Card game, watch Pokémon, and participate in other fun activities. Bring a deck from home to battle or use one from the library. **Oct. 8**, 11 a.m. 805-925-0994. engagedpatrons.org. Santa Maria Public Library (Altrusa Theater), 421 S. McClelland St., Santa Maria.

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. 10 805-925-0994. engagedpatrons.org. Story time is designed to build literacy skills and school readiness, all while having a great time. This fun story time will have songs, fingerplays, and stories. For ages 3-6 with caregivers. First Monday of every month, 10 a.m. through Dec. 5 805-925-0994. 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.

SENSORY BIN CREATION STATION Preschoolers and caregivers, learn how to create your own sensory bin. Sensory bins allow children to explore, discover, imagine, create, and learn while engaging their senses. For ages 3-5; adult assistance is required to assemble sensory bins. Registration is required. **Oct. 3**, 11 a.m. 805-925-0994. engagedpatrons.org. Santa Maria Public Library (Altrusa Theater), 421 S. McClelland St., Santa Maria.

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

TEEN GAMING Teens come hang out for a Friday afternoon of gaming. Play to win or sit back and watch the action on a large screen. Light snacks will be provided. **Oct. 7**, 4 p.m. 805-925-0994. engagedpatrons.org. Shepard Hall Art Gallery - Santa Maria Public Library, 421 South 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. Unwind Studio, 130 N. Broadway, suite B, Santa Maria, 805-748-2539, unwindstamaria.com.

WORLD SPACE WEEK YOUTH PACK Celebrate World Space Week, using science and imagination to create constellations and galaxies. Resources will be provided to view telescope images, create an original exoplanet name, and more. **Oct. 4-10** 805-925-0994. engagedpatrons.org. Santa Maria Public Library (Altrusa Theater), 421 S. McClelland St., Santa Maria.

YOUTH CODING AND CULTURE Explore coding, culture, and self-identity through a six-week coding series. Learn how to code, more about STEM careers, and explore self-identity through a computer science lens. For ages 10-14. Registration is required for this 6-week series. Thursdays, 4 p.m. through Nov. 10 805-925-0994. engagedpatrons.org. Santa Maria Public Library (Altrusa Theater), 421 S. McClelland St., Santa Maria.

SOUTH COAST SLO COUNTY

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



COLLECTIVE UNEASINESS

The San Luis Obispo Museum of Art presents *Breaking Point*, an exhibition of artworks by Nicole Irene Anderson, which is currently on display and scheduled to run through Monday, Oct. 31. Anderson's pieces, including *Bad Ones* (pictured), share "a collective uneasiness and human vulnerability reflective of our current times," according to press materials. Visit sloma.org for more info on the exhibit. The museum is located at 1010 Broad St., San Luis Obispo.

—C.W.

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.

SUNDAY SPEAKERS DANA's Sunday Speaker Series, with Wayne Mills. Topic: "The understanding of Rock and Fossils of the Central Coast." **Oct. 2**, 1 p.m. danaadobe.org. DANA Adobe Cultural Center, 671 S. Oakglan Ave., Nipomo, 805-929-5679.

SAN LUIS OBISPO

CAL POLY FOOTBALL VS. SACRAMENTO STATE It's Homecoming Weekend and a Greenout game, so wear green to cheer on the Mustangs. The first 1,500 fans get a free green shirt. **Oct. 1**, 5 p.m. gopoly.com/. Alex G. Spanos Stadium, 1 Grand Ave., San Luis Obispo, 805-756-7297.

LITERACY FOR LIFE TUTOR TRAINING This Tutor Training Workshop will take place via Zoom. If you are interested in attending the training but need help with using Zoom, please email assistant@literacyforlifeflo.org. **Oct. 1**, 10 a.m.-12:30 p.m. and **Oct. 8**, 10 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Free. 805-541-4219. literacyforlifeflo.org/become-a-tutor.php. Online, See website, San Luis Obispo.

SLO COUNTY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY 55TH ANNIVERSARY Call or visit site for more info, including location details. **Oct. 1** 805-235-3467. sloccs.org/. IOOF Hall, 520 Dana St., San Luis Obispo.

VIVA LOS MUSTANGS NIGHT Hosted by Cal Poly Men's Soccer. Be there for pregame festivities and a halftime presentation celebrating Latinx Heritage, before the Mustangs play against UC Irvine. **Oct. 2**, 5-7 p.m. 805-756-4849. Gopoly.com. Alex G. Spanos Stadium, 1 Grand Ave., San Luis Obispo.

FOOD & DRINK

SANTA YNEZ VALLEY

38TH ANNUAL SANTA BARBARA VINTNERS FESTIVAL Features wines from more than 50 vintners. **Oct. 8** sbvintnersweekend.com/. Old Mission Santa Ines, 1760 Mission Drive, Solvang.

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. standingunwines.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.

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/.

OKTOBERFEST MEAL Includes brats, German potato salad, and pickled cabbage. **Oct. 1**, 11:30 a.m. \$15. American Legion Post 534, 145 W. Clark Ave., Orcutt.

PANCAKE AND SAUSAGE BREAKFAST AND NAME YOUR PRICE RUMMAGE SALE Lots of great items. "Make us an offer we can't refuse." Open to the public. Everything must go. **Oct. 2**, 9 a.m.-noon \$12 for breakfast. American Legion Post 534, 145 W. Clark Ave., Orcutt.

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

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

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

SOUTH COAST SLO COUNTY

EMPTY BOWLS 2022 **Oct. 1** my805tix.com. Monarch Club, 1645 Trilogy Pkway., Nipomo.

PISMO BEACH FARMERS MARKET Features various vendors selling their goods. Wednesdays, 4-7 p.m. Pismo Beach Farmers Market, Pismo Pier, 805-773-4382.

MUSIC

SANTA YNEZ VALLEY

JEFFREY HALFORD AND THE HEALERS **Oct. 1**, 8 p.m. Lost Chord Guitars, 1576 Copenhagen Dr., Solvang, 805-331-4362.

JIMI NELSON BAND LIVE ON STAGE **Oct. 1**, 8:30 p.m. Maverick Saloon, 3687 Sagunto St., Santa Ynez, 805-686-4785, mavericksaloon.org.

JOHN BRANCY AND ROBERT CASSIDY: LOVE LESSONS Brancy and Cassidy have created an inspiring

MUSIC continued page 15

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program which will include Gustav Mahler's "Songs of the Wayfarer," Maurice Ravel's song cycle "Don Quichotte á Dulcinée," and other selections by Frank Bridge, Reynaldo Hahn, and some musical theater favorites. **Oct. 7, 7 p.m.** smitv.org/syv-concert-series.html. St. Mark's in the Valley Episcopal Church, 2901 Nojoqui Ave., Los Olivos.

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

SANTA YNEZ VALLEY CONCERT SERIES: 42ND SEASON The SYV Concert Series' 2022-23 season includes five upcoming concerts, between October and May. **Oct. 7-May 13** smitv.org/syv-concert-series.html. St. Mark's in the Valley Episcopal Church, 2901 Nojoqui Ave., Los Olivos.

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

LOMPOC/VANDENBERG

CONNECT THE COAST: ALBUM RELEASE PARTY

The 805's own Connect the Coast takes the stage. Joining them will be special guests Big Ray, FG Thrilla, Humor, Mathus47, and Solo Dolo. For ages 18 and over. **Oct. 8, 8 p.m.** my805tix.com. Flower City Ballroom, 110 W. Ocean Ave., Lompoc.

COUNTRY NIGHT WITH DJ BENZ JAMZ Come kick up your boots at this Country and Western night. **Sept. 29, 8 p.m.** my805tix.com. Flower City Ballroom, 110 W. Ocean Ave., Lompoc.

FALCON HEAVY LIVE A night of live classic rock with Falcon Heavy. All ages welcome. **Oct. 1, 8 p.m.** Free. my805tix.com. Flower City Ballroom, 110 W. Ocean Ave., Lompoc.

LOMPOC CONCERT ASSOCIATION: 2022-23 SEASON Visit website for full list of the Lompoc Concert Association's 2022-23 programming. Through March 18, 2023 lompoconcert.org. First United Methodist Church, 925 North F St., Lompoc.

UP YOUR GUTS AND MORE LIVE With Hostile Takedown, Plot, and Hexenghul. **Oct. 7, 8 p.m.** my805tix.com. Flower City Ballroom, 110 W. Ocean Ave., Lompoc.

YOUTH OPEN MIC NIGHT A fun, welcoming environment for first time performers and an opportunity for kids and teens to showcase their talent. Prizes awarded every month for Outstanding Performer. Last Friday of every month, 6-8 p.m. certain-sparks.com/. Certain Sparks Music, 107 S. H St., 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.

MOONDANCE With the Riptide Big Band and vocalists Bob Nations and Mitch Latting. Free entry thanks to a grant funded by the Community Foundation of SLO County. **Oct. 9, 1:30-4 p.m.** Free. 775-813-5186. riptidebb.com. Elwin Mussell Senior Center, 510 Park Ave., Santa Maria.

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

SOUTH COAST SLO COUNTY

NEW, IMPROVED CLIFFNOTES ROCK THE DELI IN AG VILLAGE The Cliffnotes, now new and improved (new bass player/background vocalist and hi-tech PA) return to cause a ruckus in the Village. **Sept. 30, 4:30 p.m.** Free. 805-489-9099. thecliffnotes.com. Branch Street Deli, 203 E. Branch St., Arroyo Grande.

THE CHARITIES: LIVE AT THE LIGHTHOUSE Enjoy some of the Central Coast's very finest musical talent. **Oct. 8, 2 p.m.** my805tix.com. Point San Luis Lighthouse, 1 Lighthouse Rd., Avila Beach.

SAN LUIS OBISPO

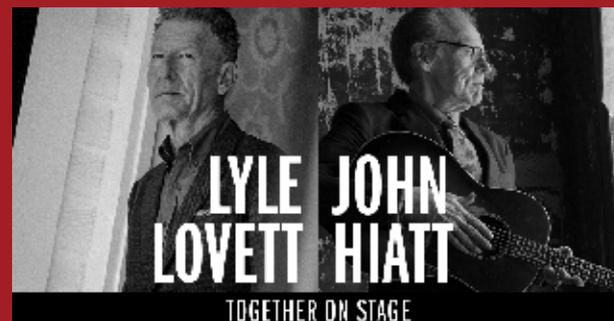
JONAH KIM: SONGS THAT MAKE US DANCE Jonah Kim on cello, in collaboration with Dominic Chelli, piano. From the San Francisco Ballet: Wei Wang, choreographer, Julia Rowe, ballet dancer. From SLO Movement Arts: Ryan Lawrence, choreographer. **Oct. 2, 2-4 p.m.** Starting at \$35. 805-781-3009. festivalmozaic.org. Cuesta College Cultural and Performing Arts Center, Highway 1, San Luis Obispo.

THROWBACK SATURDAYS Enjoy some rock 'n roll. Wine and beer available. **Oct. 1, 7-10 p.m.** Odd Fellows Hall, 520 Dana St., San Luis Obispo. ☉

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Arts Briefs

Orcutt Community Theater presents *Deliver Us From Mama*

Orcutt Community Theater's production of *Deliver Us From Mama* is scheduled to premiere at KleinDance Studios on Friday, Oct. 7, and run through Sunday, Oct. 23, with performances every Friday, Saturday, and Sunday during the show's run.

COURTESY PHOTO BY ALAN SUTTERFIELD



Twenty-five roles will be divided among nine actors, including Valerie Pallai (pictured, left) and Dan Bullard (right), in this two-act comedy. The plot centers on a mother and her two adult children during a "high-octane, cross-country road trip," according to press materials.

An airline strike has prevented the trio from flying from California to Alabama, so they drive instead. The family encounters a variety of zany, eccentric characters along their route, with stops in Mississippi, Louisiana, New Mexico, Texas, and other states during their travels.

Tickets to *Deliver Us From Mama* are \$15 and are available in advance at my805tix.com. Visit orcuttcommunitytheater.org for more info on the production. KleinDance Studios is located at 3558 Skyway Drive, Orcutt.

Hilary Baker brings animal-themed art exhibit to Solvang

The Wildling Museum of Art and Nature presents *Wildlife on the Edge*, an exhibition of animal-themed works by featured artist Hilary Baker (pictured), which is scheduled to debut on Saturday, Oct. 8, and remain on display through March 2023.

A public reception to celebrate the exhibit's premiere will be held on Sunday, Oct. 9, from 3 to 5 p.m.

Wildlife on the Edge showcases a collection of acrylic pieces from Baker's *Predators* series, alongside a separate series of animal portraits on birch wood. According to press materials from the Wildling Museum, Baker's subjects "make themselves at home in urban locales inspired by Los Angeles landmarks past and present."

Animal subjects in the exhibit include owls, foxes, bears, weasels, and opossums.

"It might be argued that these mostly nocturnal creatures serve as stand-ins for any city resident attempting to co-exist with a disappearing homeland," Baker said in a statement.

Baker will take part in a special gallery talk at the Wildling Museum on Sunday, Nov. 6, from 3 to 5 p.m. The Ojai-based artist will be signing copies of her 2021 book, *Hilary Baker: Predators and Other L.A. Stories*, at the event. The book includes photos of Baker's paintings and a collection of essays about her work.

For more info on *Wildlife on the Edge*, call (805) 688-1082 or visit wildlingmuseum.org. The Wildling Museum of Art and Nature is located at 1511 Mission Drive, unit B, Solvang. ○

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

FILE PHOTO COURTESY OF LORDE SANCTUS AND CONNECT THE COAST



COASTAL CONNECTION: On Oct. 8, local record label Connect the Coast, founded by hip-hop and rap artist Lorde Sanctus, will host an album release party and live show at the Flower City Ballroom.

Showtime!

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



offbeat. ... I've always wanted my own place where I could put on the kinds of shows that I wanted to, without having to deal with, shall we say, 'smaller minds' getting in the way," Balsamo said. "I also really enjoy bringing creative people together and fostering creativity in others, so I always wanted to have a central place where I could help others bring their visions to life."

The slate of upcoming events scheduled for the Flower City Ballroom is full of live concerts, DJ and dance nights, and stand-up comedy events. The full list can be found online at fcballroom.com, and tickets

to many of the venue's events are available in advance at my805tix.com.

"We have a lot in the works right now, and plan to bring a lot of good stuff into town," Balsamo said. "Our chief goal is to bring people together, set a positive vibe, and bring fun back to the world."

"After the last couple of years, we could all use a little more fun in our lives."

One of the next concerts on the Flower City Ballroom's docket will take place

Set the stage

Flower City Ballroom brings new entertainment opportunities to Lompoc

BY CALEB WISEBLOOD

Most live music and stand-up comedy events in Lompoc take place in taverns and tasting rooms. It's a norm Dominick Balsamo and his family set out to change when they developed the Flower City Ballroom.

"We are, in fact, the first major event center in Lompoc. There are other spaces here, but nothing that is anywhere near our size and scope," said Balsamo, who co-operates the new event venue with his parents, Dennis and Sandi. "There are a lot of local bars that put on shows around here, too, but they are a bit limited in what they can do in terms of age limits on shows."

Live entertainment for adults is easy to find in Lompoc's bar scene, but not so much for kids and teens, Balsamo said, without enough venues open to them.

"Your average local bar can't do an all-ages show. Because we sell hot food, we can do all-ages shows and still sell beer, wine, and mocktails," Balsamo said. "Some of our shows will be all-ages, some will be adults-only, and we are interested in doing teen-specific stuff as well. The kids don't have a lot of safe spaces that cater to them. We want to change that."

Located on Ocean Avenue in Lompoc, the Flower City Ballroom opened in late August, after three years of building restoration, construction work, and interior design.

"A lot of blood, sweat, and tears was put into this place," Balsamo said. "Ultimately, my goal is to make

the Flower City Ballroom a hub for the arts on the Central Coast, a place where up-and-coming artists and performers of all kinds can share the stage with more established performers, in a safe environment that fosters creativity."

Balsamo is a lifelong musician with a background in arts and event promotion, and he's "been playing with the idea of opening a venue of some kind for most of my life," the Central Coast local said.

"As an artist and a promoter, I like to put on shows that are a little



CURTAIN CALL: The Flower City Ballroom opened in Lompoc in August, after three years of building restoration, construction work, and interior design. Co-owner Dominick Balsamo said he hopes the event venue will serve as "a hub for the arts on the Central Coast."

Don't be late for the ball

Call (805) 586-3295 or visit fcballroom.com for more info on the Flower City Ballroom, located at 110 W. Ocean Ave., Lompoc. Tickets to several of the venue's events are available in advance at my805tix.com.

on Oct. 8, when local record label Connect the Coast will host an album release party and live show at the Lompoc venue, which Balsamo described as "a big honor."

"Those guys are super talented and really making waves in the industry," Balsamo said of the group, founded by hip-hop and rap artist Lorde Sanctus in 2018. "We've also got some heavier, louder rock shows for those who prefer that kind of thing."

On Oct. 29, the venue will host Rave from Beyond the Grave 2022, a Halloween-themed electronic dance music party with multiple DJs.

"Halloween and electronic dance music are two of my favorite things in the world, and I'm excited to be able to smash them together," Balsamo said. ○

Arts Editor Caleb Wiseblood is doing the *Monster Mash* at cwiseblood@santamariasun.com.

IMAGE COURTESY OF FLOWER CITY BALLROOM



GRAVE RAVE: On Oct. 29, the Flower City Ballroom will host a special Halloween-centric dance party, titled Rave From Beyond the Grave 2022.

PHOTO COURTESY OF FLOWER CITY BALLROOM



Country Night
with DJ Benz Jamz
THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 29
Flower City Ballroom, Lompoc



Stand-Up Comedy with Chris Flail, Eddie Molina, and more
FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 30
Flower City Ballroom, Lompoc



5 Cities Homeless Coalition: Annual Empty Bowls Fundraiser
SATURDAY, OCTOBER 1
Trilogy Monarch Activity Center, Nipomo



Falcon Heavy
SATURDAY, OCTOBER 1
Flower City Ballroom, Lompoc



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



Camp Cass: Paint & Sip Class with Art Social
SUNDAY, OCTOBER 2
Cass Winery, Paso Robles



SLO County Jazz Federation: 41k (Soul Jazz Quintet)
SUNDAY, OCTOBER 2
Mt. Carmel Lutheran Church, SLO



Melted presents: FoRest Retreat
THURS-SUN, OCTOBER 6-9
Wilde Big Sur Retreat Center, Big Sur



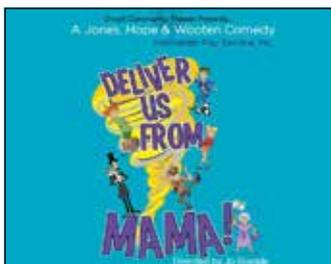
Up Your Guts, Hostile Takedown, Plot, and Hexenghul
FRIDAY, OCTOBER 7
Flower City Ballroom, Lompoc



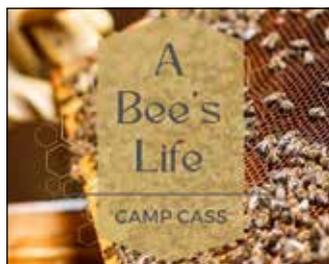
Open Studios Art Tour Kickoff Celebration
FRIDAY, OCTOBER 7
Bang the Drum Brewery, SLO



2022 Ted's Estate Beef Winemaker Dinner: Osso Buco
FRIDAY, OCTOBER 7
Cass Winery, Paso Robles



Orcutt Community Theatre: Deliver Us From Mama!
FRI., SAT., SUN., OCTOBER 7-23
KleinDance Arts, Santa Maria



Camp Cass: A Bee's Life Beekeeping Class
SATURDAY, OCTOBER 8
Cass Winery, Paso Robles



Fashions for a Purpose: Fashion Show Event
SATURDAY, OCTOBER 8
Dana Adobe Cultural Center, Nipomo



Connect the Coast: Album Release Party
SATURDAY, OCTOBER 8
Flower City Ballroom, Lompoc



Docent-Led Hike at Rancho Guadalupe Beach
SATURDAY, OCTOBER 8
Rancho Guadalupe Beach



Symphony of the Vines: Elegant Ensembles
SUNDAY, OCTOBER 9
Cass Winery, Paso Robles



"Best in SLO" Live Music Showcase
SUNDAY, OCTOBER 9
Trinity Hall Edna, San Luis Obispo



2022 Harvest Festival: Pig Roast
FRIDAY, OCTOBER 14
Cass Winery, Paso Robles



Eclectic Electric: EDM Night with DJs Frank the Tank & Johnny Blaze
FRIDAY, OCTOBER 14
Flower City Ballroom, Lompoc



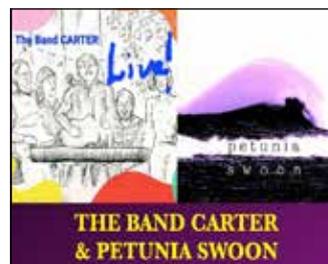
2022 Harvest Festival: Grape Stomp + Tacos
SATURDAY, OCTOBER 15
Cass Winery, Paso Robles



The Paramount Ranch Sonic Boom Music Festival
SATURDAY, OCTOBER 15
Paramount Ranch, Agoura Hills



Morro Bay Sings: Creedence Clearwater Revival
SATURDAY, OCTOBER 15
Morro Bay Community Center



The Band Carter and Petunia Swoon
SATURDAY, OCTOBER 15
Flower City Ballroom, Lompoc



Kiwanis of Santa Maria Valley: BingoFest
SUNDAY, OCTOBER 16
Mussell Senior Center, Santa Maria

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Exquisite escape

Editor's note: *New Times Staff Writer Bulbul Rajagopal and Arts Editor Caleb Wiseblood wrote Sun Screen this week while Glen and Anna Starkey took a break.*

Olivia Wilde (*Booksmart*) directs this mystery about Alice Chambers (Florence Pugh), a 1950s housewife living with her husband, Jack (Harry Styles), in a utopian experimental community. (122 min.)

Caleb: The wait is finally over. After months of gossip surrounding on-set and off-set drama during its production, *Don't Worry Darling* is out, and we got to see it behind a row of Harry Styles fanatics on opening day. Nearly everything Styles says or does in the new thriller was met with an ooh or aah from the group. This would have been a bigger distraction if he wasn't off screen more often than the film's trailers suggest. The majority of times we see Styles' suit-and-tie-clad character, Jack, he's either leaving for work or coming back home to his wife, Alice, played by Florence Pugh, who spends most of her days at the house cleaning, cooking, questioning her own reality, and sinking deeper and deeper into a state of all-encompassing paranoia. Unexplainable hallucinations begin invading Alice's daily routine, and lingering, unanswered questions about Jack's "top-secret" job makes matters worse. The couple lives in a 1950s desert suburb, where nearly every

DON'T WORRY DARLING

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, Fair Oaks, Regal Edwards Arroyo Grande**

man in town, minus service workers, bus drivers, etc., is an engineer at the Victory Project, a manufacturer that specializes in the development of "progressive materials." Alice's *Truman Show*-esque quest to uncover the truth about the company and her own surroundings kept me on my toes long enough to give this surreal spectacle a solid thumbs up. Director Olivia Wilde's *Don't Worry Darling* is a Wilde ride, with enough unexpected twists and turns to outweigh its occasional flaws.

Bulbul: Ever wondered if San Luis Obispo has a thriving Harry Styles fan base? We found the answer to that question! Hoards of girls hooted every time the Brit popped up on-screen with a clunky American accent. My favorite moment was someone screaming, "Wish it were me!" when Styles shared a steamy makeout session with Pugh. Anyway, once I drowned out that background noise, I realized *Don't Worry*

Darling is a beautifully shot, West Coast version of *Stepford Wives*. Pugh and Styles are reminiscent of Nicole Kidman and Matthew Broderick, but with a twist I definitely didn't see coming. It's a searing look into gender politics and spousal control. How often have we heard someone romanticize the "good ol' days" like the 1950s? To me, *Don't Worry Darling* pokes holes in that yearning. Want to go back to the '50s? Don't forget about all the baggage that comes with the decade, which a frightening number of people are more than happy to embrace because it gives them the upper hand.

Caleb: With a critics' approval rating of 38 percent

PHOTO COURTESY OF NEW LINE CINEMA, NEW LINE PRODUCTIONS, AND VERTIGO ENTERTAINMENT



POWER COUPLE: Married life for Alice (Florence Pugh, left) and Jack (Harry Styles, right) is practically perfect, until Alice starts having disturbing "hallucinations," in the new thriller, *Don't Worry Darling*.

and audience score of 79 percent on Rotten Tomatoes, *Don't Worry Darling* seems to be polarizing viewers. Whether or not Styles' massive fanbase is responsible for boosting up the audience score, count me in as an unbiased supporter in that regard. I don't think I could name more than two of his songs, but as an actor, I previously liked his supporting role in Christopher Nolan's *Dunkirk*. The real star is Pugh, however, who is amazing in this film, and the biggest reason I recommend seeing it in theaters. Pugh's best work is still in *Midsommar*, but she gives a phenomenal performance here as a similar character to her role in the former, as someone trapped in a horrific, emotional spiral. Pugh and Styles have great chemistry, and Chris Pine is perfectly creepy as Jack's mysterious employer, Frank, the founder of the Victory Project.

My big complaint about Frank is he only speaks in off-putting metaphors and cult leader-isms, even in public at backyard barbecues and company functions. It's as if he wants people to suspect something sinister is going on.

Bulbul: I agree! If you've taken all the trouble to dupe a bunch of people into thinking their reality is enviable, maybe don't be outrageously on-the-nose about your secret evil scheme. It's the Achilles' heel of every movie villain, and it brought *Don't Worry Darling* to an abrupt end though there was plenty of room to keep going. The film has some loose threads that left me scratching my head at the end. Maybe, it's foreshadowing for a sequel, maybe it's high art, or maybe it's sheer laziness. I'm going with the latter. But,

before I could protest further about Styles' slipping accent (he completely forgets about it 20 minutes into the plot, by the way), *Don't Worry Darling* cleverly sidesteps that hole by making it a central part of the storyline. Still, the lead-up to this flick was so immersed in pop culture controversy that the aftertaste is underwhelming even though there are plenty of nail-biting moments. This could have been a thrilling addition to the Final Girl sub genre of movies, but misdirected marketing subjected *Don't Worry Darling* to the M. Night Shyamalan mistreatment, complete with the signature twist. ○

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

Film & TV Reviews

PINOCCHIO

What's it rated? **PG**
 When? **2022**
 Where's it showing? **Disney Plus**

New Flicks

Pinocchio is having a big year in 2022, first with this live-action version from Disney and coming later this year a stop-motion film by director Guillermo del Toro. This Disney remake stars Tom Hanks as Geppetto, Benjamin Evans Ainsworth as the voice of Pinocchio, and Joseph Gordon-Levitt as the voice of Jiminy Cricket.

Unfortunately, audiences aren't as charmed by this version as they were by the 1940s animated classic; it's bombing pretty hard according to online reviews. While I'm happy to see Hanks in anything, his charm couldn't save this film from falling flat. Personally, I found Gordon-Levitt's Jiminy Cricket voice to be grating; however, Ainsworth did a good job with his voicework. Ainsworth is one to watch. He played Miles in *The Haunting of Bly Manor* and apparently has a part in Netflix's very popular series *The Sandman*.

This version of *Pinocchio* is just fine to watch with the kids, though you may find yourself wandering from the room a few

PHOTO COURTESY OF WALT DISNEY PICTURES



HI-DIDDLE-DEE: Geppetto (Tom Hanks) admires his new creation, a puppet named Pinocchio (voiced by Benjamin Evans Ainsworth), who dreams of becoming a "real boy," in this new Robert Zemeckis-directed remake of *Pinocchio*, screening on Disney Plus.

scenes in. While I always found the donkey-morphing scenes in the animated film to be totally frightening, this movie stays away from scaring kids into honesty. Personally, I'd skip watching this inert version again and wait for the hopefully

more meaty and visually interesting del Toro film coming in December. (105 min.)

—Anna

THE PATIENT

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

BINGEABLE

Co-created by Joel Fields and Joseph Weisberg (*The Americans*), this dark drama focuses on therapist Alan Strauss (Steve Carell), who's abducted by his patient Sam Fortner (Domhnall Gleeson). Alan is chained to a wall in the downstairs of a remote suburban home, where Sam lives with his mother, Candace (Linda Emond), who knows of her son's proclivities but hopes Alan can help him.

Alan recently lost his wife, Beth (Laura Niemi), to cancer, and in flashbacks, we learn of Alan's family dynamics with his wife and kids. He's going through his own mental crisis as he struggles to unravel Sam's disturbed psyche and prevent him from killing again. It's a twisted setup, and Alan knows his life depends on his ability to help Sam.

People tend to think of Carell as a funnyman. After all, he brought the laughs to *Anchorman: The Legend of Ron Burgundy*

PHOTO COURTESY OF FX PRODUCTIONS



FIX ME OR ELSE: Therapist Alan Strauss (Steve Carell) is abducted by his patient Sam Fortner (Domhnall Gleeson), who reveals he's a serial killer and demands Alan curb his homicidal urges, in the FX series *The Patient*, streaming on Hulu.

and *The 40-Year-Old Virgin*, but he's got some stellar dramatic acting chops: Think *Foxcatcher* and *Little Miss Sunshine*. Here he's remarkable as Alan, who must remain composed even as he's terrified on the inside. I'm halfway through the 10-part series, and I'm completely hooked. New episodes come out every Tuesday through Oct. 25. (10 21- to 46-min. episodes) ○

—Glen

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Cantina clutch

New Solvang eatery combines Mexican cuisine favorites with ‘deep cuts’

BY CALEB WISEBLOOD

Parting between two places of work on a golf cart has become a daily occurrence for one pair of local restaurateurs. Luckily for business partners Anthony Carron and Steven Fretz, their new Mexican restaurant, Campo del Sol, is located just a few blocks away from their steakhouse, Coast Range, in downtown Solvang.

“We bought a golf cart and made it street legal,” which helps the duo split their time between the sibling eateries, Fretz said.

“We just zoom back and forth.” About a year after opening Coast Range, Fretz and Carron unveiled Campo del Sol in early September—only two weeks after getting the keys to the building, the former site of Solvang’s Succulent Cafe.

“We knew this place was kind of for sale. So I called up the owners. They were ready to retire,” Carron said. “So we made them an offer, and we bought the place, and flipped it in two weeks. Literally, we got it Aug. 15 and we opened Sept. 1.”

No major renovations were needed to transform the cafe into the concept Carron and Fretz envisioned for Campo del Sol. Carron described



COME TO PAPA: Pinches Papa’s flautas are served with chipotle salsa, guacamole, crema mexicana, lettuce, and cotija cheese at Campo del Sol, which opened in downtown Solvang in early September.

the site as turnkey, but added that redesigning the location’s decor inspired him to take an impromptu trip down south.

“We painted. We bought new furniture. We put up new signs. I did a midnight run to Tijuana and bought all the decorations,” Carron said with a laugh. “Then we ordered some new china, and that was it. We didn’t do any massive construction or anything.”

Fretz said that most of the menu at Campo del Sol is reflective of Carron’s vision for the restaurant, which offers both contemporary and traditional Mexican food with an emphasis on locally sourced, fresh, and artisanal ingredients.

“I attribute a lot of what this restaurant is to Anthony. He has a lot

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of family heritage from Mexico,” said Fretz, who first met Carron while both of them were working as chefs for the same company about 20 years ago. “He has his thumb on a lot of Mexican flavor profiles.”

One of Carron’s personal favorite entrees he was stoked about bringing to Campo del Sol is *carne en su jugo*, a recipe he learned from a close family member. It’s a soupy dish of braised



SEIZE THE SOUP OF THE DAY: One of co-owner Anthony Carron’s personal favorite entrees he was excited about bringing to Campo del Sol is *carne en su jugo*, a soupy dish of braised beef and bacon, with beans, radishes, cilantro, onions, and avocado.



HOUSE OF THE RISING SUN: Campo del Sol co-owner Anthony Carron acquired some decorations for the interior of his new restaurant venture in downtown Solvang during “a midnight run to Tijuana.” The new eatery is located at the former site of the Succulent Cafe.

beef and bacon, with beans, radishes, cilantro, and onions, Carron described.

“I learned it from my sister, who’s lived in Mexico for 20 years,” Carron said. “It’s a Mexican home cooking dish; it’s not something you really see in restaurants, so we’re excited to bring that here.”

“We’re trying to bring things that are popular there [in Mexico] that you don’t see a lot here,” Carron added. “We have chips and salsa, and margaritas, and sizzling fajitas, but we also have some deeper cuts from more traditional Mexican dishes that you wouldn’t

EATS continued page 20

Let the sunshine in
Call (805) 702-3466 or visit campodelsol.com for more info on Campo del Sol or to make a reservation at the new eatery, located at 1555 Mission Drive, Solvang. The restaurant celebrated its grand opening in early September. Regular hours are Thursday through Monday, from noon to 9 p.m.

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EATS from page 19

necessarily find at your run-of-the-mill Tex-Mex place."

Aguachile de callitos—a ceviche dish with fresh, thinly sliced New Jersey scallops, along with cuts of avocado, cucumber, cilantro, serrano, and pickled red onion—is another of Carron's personal favorites among the restaurant's diverse selection of entrees and appetizers, which includes enchiladas, quesadillas, flautas, and much more.

One of Fretz's favorite contributions to the menu is a tribute to something he believes most chefs are afraid to admit they love.

"Chefs are all, in my opinion—well, I'm not going to hold every chef to this because they'll lie to your face—but chefs in general, we grew up outlandishly poor being line cooks," Fretz said. "So we became accustomed to eating fast food, because it was cheap; it would fill you up."

Fretz's remark was a preamble to his explanation of the only item listed on Campo del Sol's menu within quotation marks, the "Mexican pizza," an ode to the popular Taco Bell item that recently resurfaced at the chain, after a two-year discontinuation.



PHOTO BY CALEB WISEBLOOD

CHEERS: Guests at Campo del Sol in downtown Solvang can enjoy margaritas at the bar, or at a table in the restaurant's cantina setting. There's also outdoor seating on a pet-friendly patio.

"I am probably the biggest Mexican pizza fan you'll ever meet," said Fretz, who befriended Rene Pesciotti, Taco Bell's corporate chef, at an earlier point in his career. "They just got it [the Mexican pizza] back on the menu, and I've had two every day for the last four days." ○

Arts Editor Caleb Wiseblood worked at a Taco Bell for four years and never got sick of the food. Send cinnamon twists to cwiseblood@santamariasun.com.

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Proposed forms of contract documents, including plans and specifications, are available at the offices of Good Samaritan Shelter located at 400 W Park, Santa Maria, California and/or can be located on our website at <https://goodsamaritanshelter.org/>.

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