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SUN



AT THE MOVIES

Amsterdam: funny and fascinating [26]



Rising rural losses

Crime is increasing on farms in North County, and a lack of rural law enforcement leaves farmers searching for resolution [7]

BY TAYLOR O'CONNOR

NEWS An ordinance fining party-hosting parents [4]

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As rural areas of Santa Barbara County deal with a dramatic post-pandemic increase in crimes like theft and vandalism, the Board of Supervisors and Sheriff's Office point fingers at who's to blame for a lack of law enforcement in nonurban areas. Facing more than \$2 million in losses and property damage, a group of farmers started meeting regularly with the county and other stakeholders to try to find a way to reduce rural crime. Staff Writer Taylor O'Connor speaks with farmers and the county about the issue [7].

You can also read about why Santa Maria wants to fine parents who host underage drinking [4]; the woman behind *Spirit Rangers* on Netflix [24]; and a place to dance salsa, drink mojitos, and eat tacos [28].

Camillia Lanham
editor

Cover photo courtesy of Lacy Litten > Cover design by Alex Zuniga



VANDALISM AND THEFT: Farmers in Santa Barbara County have dealt with more than \$2 million in loss and damage from crimes committed in rural areas over the last two and a half years.

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Political Watch

• **Santa Barbara County Registrar of Voters** announced that official vote-by-mail ballots will be mailed to all county registered voters by Oct. 10. Registered voters are asked to check their mailboxes for their ballot and related voter information guides, which should be received within the next five to 10 days, according to a Santa Barbara County statement. The vote by mail packet will contain the voter's official ballot and voting and ballot return instructions. Ballot return envelopes will come with a unique barcode that allows the Elections Office staff to verify the signature of the voter on the envelope with the voter's registration record. This may be the signature on the voter registration card submitted by the voter or the signature on the voter's driver's license if they registered to vote at the DMV. It is important that the voter verifies that their name is printed on the envelope, signs the envelope, and encloses the ballot in the return envelope. If a voter receives a ballot for a person who is no longer living at the address, mark the box on the bottom left corner of the outgoing envelope and return the packet, or write "no longer at this address," on the outside envelope and return it to a mail carrier. Ballots may be returned by mail postmarked by Election Day (Nov. 8), or returned in-person to one of the three county election offices, to an official drop box, or to any polling place on Election Day. A list of polling places and official drop box locations can be found at sbcvote.com by clicking on the Nov. 8, 2022, "general election" link under "current activities."

• **U.S. Rep. Salud Carbajal** (D-Santa Barbara) and Rep. **Ruben Gallego** (D-Arizona) introduced the Fight for the American Dream Act legislation that creates a pathway for participants of the Deferred Action for Childhood Act (DACA) program to join and serve the United States military, according to an Oct. 4 statement from Carbajal's office. Currently, DACA recipients are barred from joining the U.S. military. Secondly, the act creates a pathway to citizenship for DACA recipients who are honorably discharged. "When my parents brought me to this country as a young child, I was granted the opportunity to get a good education, serve my country in the military, and call the nation I volunteered to protect my permanent home. America's DACA recipients, young Americans who know no other country to call home and work every day to support that home, deserve that same opportunity," Carbajal said in a statement. "I'm proud to join my colleague and fellow veteran Congressman Gallego to introduce this common-sense and straightforward bill to give our DACA recipients a clear pathway to serving their nation and the security to call that nation home in the course of their service."

• **U.S. Sen. Alex Padilla** (D-California) joined a bicameral group of nearly 100 legislators calling on U.S. Secretary of Education **Miguel Cardona** to extend the limited Public Service Loan Forgiveness (PSLF) waiver deadline until July 1, 2023, in order to ensure all public servants with federal student loans are able to benefit from the historic waiver until the Department of Education's new loan forgiveness regulations take effect, according to a statement from the senator's office. Since the waiver was announced last October, more than 189,000 public servants have had their student loans forgiven through the program, and roughly 1 million recipients have received an average of one additional year of waiver credit. According to the Student Borrower Protection Center's estimates, only 15 percent of the 9 million public service workers with student debt have filed paperwork to track their qualifying payments under PSLF. "To date, the waiver has been overwhelmingly successful in reducing barriers for borrowers to receive PSLF relief, as the waiver accounts for almost all (91 percent) of the borrowers who have received forgiveness through the PSLF program through July 31, 2022," wrote the lawmakers. "The limited waiver [has] also [been] a lifeline for Federal Family Education Loan borrowers who—for the first time—have seen their payments acknowledged in the PSLF program." ○

SCREENSHOT FROM SANTA MARIA CITY COUNCIL'S OCT. 4 MEETING



FIGHTING BACK: Edwin Weaver, executive director of Fighting Back Santa Maria Valley, spoke at the Santa Maria City Council's Oct. 4 meeting in support of a proposed social host ordinance, designed to impose fines on the hosts of gatherings where alcohol and marijuana are consumed by or served to underage youth.

Santa Maria officials consider ordinance to reduce underage drinking, smoking

The developers behind a proposed ordinance in Santa Maria are hoping to dispel some stereotypes about underage drinking and smoking, while aiming to better prevent both activities.

During a survey of high school juniors in schools throughout Santa Maria in 2020, 29 to 30 percent of the survey respondents reported using alcohol and marijuana, and 40 to 45 percent of those students said the substances were obtained during a social gathering.

The survey was conducted by Fighting Back Santa Maria Valley, and its results prompted the nonprofit to propose adding new language to Santa Maria's municipal code.

"A lot of our young people are not getting their alcohol and marijuana from some nefarious drug dealer on the corner. They're getting it from somebody in their home or at a family member or extended family member's party," Executive Director Edwin Weaver said. "A lot of them say they get it from their family, in their home, or at a party."

The proposed "social host ordinance," drafted by Santa Maria city staff with input from Fighting Back Santa Maria Valley, would impose a civil fine—ranging between \$100 and \$500—on persons responsible for hosting gatherings where alcohol and marijuana are consumed by or served to underage youth. The ordinance's first reading met with unanimous approval from members of the Santa Maria City Council on Oct. 4.

The term "social host" in the ordinance refers to any person, regardless of age, responsible for creating, causing, or permitting the consumption of alcohol, illegal drugs, or marijuana at a residence, business, or other gathering location, according to the staff report.

The report also states that more than 150 cities in California have implemented similar ordinances.

"We've researched other ordinances throughout the state and landed on the language that we're using," said Weaver, who added that one of the most important aspects of the ordinance is the education component, specifically for parents

and guardians who allow underage drinking and smoking in their homes.

"It's not to punish parents. ... We're not hoping that a bunch of tickets get written. ... It's really to be able to start a conversation with parents," Weaver said. "You're not doing them [youth] any favors by saying, 'Oh, well ... I want them to drink in my own home, so they'll be safe.' That's actually not true over the long term. ... Young people who start drinking at the age of 15 are four times more likely to develop an alcohol dependence than those that wait until they're 21."

In an email to the *Sun*, Santa Maria Police Chief Marc Schneider described the social host ordinance as a platform for underage drinking and smoking prevention and a "tool for education, to support parents, and police officers," as violations of the regulation would be treated as enforceable, finable infractions.

—Caleb Wiseblood

Santa Maria high school district employees rally for better wages

More than 70 percent of Santa Maria Joint Union High School District's classified employees make below the average living wage of \$25 an hour in Santa Barbara County, district crisis intervention consultant Tami Contreras said.

"The issue at the present moment is wanting to be able to negotiate for our members—who are 460 classified employees in our district—a salary that can keep up with inflation as well as to be able to have a living wage to be able to afford to continue to be living in the community we serve," she said.

Contreras has worked at Delta High School for 17 years and is the California School Employees Association Chapter 455 union president, representing classified employees like bus drivers, food service workers, IT department employees, and security services. Over the past 18 months, Contreras said she and her fellow members have been hit hard with rising costs due to inflation.

In response, the Santa Maria chapter of the association organized a rally for Oct. 11—after the *Sun* went to press—to advocate for higher wages, Contreras said.

"We are wanting for our people, to be able to afford the basic necessities without having to rely on second jobs or public assistance in order to survive in this community during the climate of rising inflation," she said.

The union hopes the rally will allow the district and the union to come back to the table and renegotiate salaries. The effort is supported by other classified employee chapters, Santa Maria-Bonita School District, Orcutt Union School District, Guadalupe School District, and the San Luis Obispo County Office of Education, Contreras said.

In her time as a district employee, Contreras noted that there has never been an effort at this scale to get higher salaries, but it's important to do for employee attraction and retention.

"Right now the district is having difficulty in filling all of the needed and necessary additions like special education aides, and those are essential positions in our district," she said. "But, because our salaries are so low, the district is using and contracting out services because those contractors are paying more for instructional aides on an hourly basis."

Classified employees also filled in a lot of shoes during the pandemic by delivering meals to students, giving IT help in school parking lots, and providing crucial behavioral health help.

"All of us are here to help educate our students and give them the best education possible. When we are not able to fill those positions, that hurts our students," she said. "Part of that inability to fill those positions—as well as the turnover of classified positions—is reflective of the salaries they are offering."

If the union does not agree to meet with the district to begin negotiations, Contreras said her group would approach the next board of education meeting (Nov. 8) "en masse" to publicly advocate for their needs.

"When we're talking about educating our future, it's imperative we get high quality personnel in our district that are skilled and dedicated and [can] live here in the community," she said.

The Santa Maria Joint Union High School District didn't get back to the *Sun's* request for comment before deadline.

—Taylor O'Connor

Santa Ynez Valley homicide victim's family demands justice

The Santa Barbara County Sheriff's Office identified 72-year-old Terry Wilson from Santa Ynez as the victim of a homicide that occurred near Santa Ynez Valley High School, Public Information Officer Raquel Zick told the *Sun*.

Sheriff's deputies responded to a call for an "unknown type of emergency" on Oct. 8 at approximately 3:56 a.m. and found Wilson on the scene, but he was beyond life-saving measures and declared deceased on the scene, Zick said in a statement. Sheriff's deputies later identified Lancaster resident Rylen Quinn Svane-Morris as a suspect.

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NEWS from page 4

“Several hours after the murder, it was discovered that a vehicle, a blue 2014 Chrysler Town and Country minivan with California license plate 7GJW053, was stolen from a residence in the area where the murder occurred,” Zick said. “Based on the proximity, detectives believe Svane-Morris stole the Chrysler minivan after committing the murder.”

The suspect is white, 5-foot-11, with light brown hair and blue eyes. He should be considered dangerous, and people should immediately call 911 if he’s seen, she added. Wilson’s daughter, Jennie Wilson, previously dated Svane-Morris, and he along with the stolen vehicle remained outstanding as of Oct. 10.

Jennie said she filed several restraining orders against Svane-Morris due to abuse, but he managed to avoid being served and followed her to Santa Ynez. On Oct. 3—four days before Wilson’s death—Svane-Morris showed up at her father’s house, and she said he attempted to strangle her and was arrested by law enforcement.

“They let him out on Wednesday [Oct. 5], and he literally came home and killed my dad. ... If they hadn’t let him out, I would still be having coffee with my dad,” Jennie said. “On Friday night, it could’ve been me.”

Jennie had just moved back home after her mother passed away from multiple sclerosis in August, she said. That Oct. 7 night, she and her dad had stayed up late taking care of two foster kittens and she decided it was time to go to bed. When she went to her room, she said she noticed that the shower was running.

“He just came and got in my shower, that’s how entitled he is. I went into the room and told my dad he’s in the shower. My dad saw him try to strangle me on Monday. They got into a scuffle and he killed him,” she said. “This guy’s a monster. Who does that? He was saying, ‘I’ll fucking kill you, old man.’ It was horrible, it was sickening.”

He then fled the scene in his boxers, she said, adding that it took 30 minutes for an ambulance to arrive.

“This is insane that this happened, and it’s insane that nobody advocated for me, so clearly I need to do something [for myself] and for other women,” she said. “I’m so embarrassed of the law enforcement system that I want to move to Canada.”

Although there are two detectives on the case now, Jennie said she doesn’t have faith in the legal system after seeing it fail to protect her and her family prior to her father’s death.

“I’m going to raise hell if they stop looking for him. They owe me and my dad at this point. I have a sister and a brother. I have a child. He took away my child’s grandfather, my siblings’ dad,” she said. “We were just talking about his new adventure, the new chapter of his life, and it was taken. I just keep thinking about all the things we were talking about that we were going to do, and now we can’t.”

The Santa Barbara County Jail said it couldn’t verify whether Svane-Morris was booked into the jail on Oct. 3 and released, and the LA County Superior Court—which includes Lancaster—told the *Sun* that restraining orders are normally confidential to protect people’s privacy. ○

—Taylor O’Connor

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Damage done

A spike in rural crime causes farmers, local leaders, and law enforcement to seek creative solutions

BY TAYLOR O'CONNOR

Cut chains and trampled fences. Tractors with missing wheels and broken windshields. Stolen drip tape. Missing ATVs. Throughout Santa Barbara County, property crime is hitting agricultural businesses and farms hard.

"Our losses have been up to \$70,000," Hampton Farming Company partner Jim Stollberg said. "I know a lot of other growers have had much higher losses and more problems depending on their location."

The destroyed and stolen equipment makes it difficult for employees to do their job without the tools they depend on, and the company loses money because that all needs to be replaced, Stollberg said. Farmers file criminal reports to the Santa Barbara County Sheriff's Office, but are finding no resolutions.

"In all of our cases they found the equipment largely destroyed usually or taken apart and parted out, and they haven't prosecuted somebody," he said. "Even if they've found them, they can't hold them. They are being released, and consequences are so low they really have no reason to [not] go and find another location and they continue on with the thefts."

Since 2020, rural crime has increased by more than 60 percent and the total property losses or damages are worth more than \$2 million, according to the Sheriff's Office. Through July 2022, the department reported 143 crime incidents and losses of more than \$500,000. To combat this issue, Stollberg and several other farmers approached the county Board of Supervisors during its Sept. 20 meeting and reached out to law enforcement agencies with the hope of finding creative solutions.

"Our goal as an agricultural community is to try to understand what we can do to help law enforcement and prosecutors to get these people off the streets," Stollberg said. "That was part of why we went to the Board of Supervisors, to let them know this is an important problem we are having so they can enact more resources, more money to prevent the continuation of this."

Sheriff's Office staffing difficulties and low retention rates and a California law reducing jail sentences have been cited as a few of the barriers to achieving any resolutions, but the agencies and community members have continued to meet in

order to keep the conversation going. "It's costing us a lot of money, and a big part of a solution is getting the services we need from the people in charge and trying to identify those things and be helpful," Stollberg said.

The Sheriff's Office already costs the county a lot of money, according to county supervisors, and giving

the department a funding increase to create a rural crime unit—which was suggested on Sept. 20 during public comment—wasn't an option.

"The Board of Supervisors allocates \$178.5 million to the sheriff's department, and they are not able to spend it all because they have not been able to hire enough officers," 1st District Supervisor Das Williams told the Sun. "It's weird for people to ask the taxpayers to pay more money when it's already been allocated; there's just not enough hiring going on."

As of Sept. 28, the Sheriff's Office had 47 funded positions available and 91 funded vacancies, and the board has already earmarked an additional \$2 million for the department to hire more people than what's allocated in the budget, Williams said.

"They have made some progress, but I'm looking at the third quarter projected variants, and at this point hiring is still not, you know, robust enough. They are projected to use about \$5 million less than what we've given them," he said.

Instead, Williams said he's worked with the County Executive Office and the Human Resources Department to see how they can attract more people to these jobs and keep them filled—like looking at affordable housing projects, overtime at the Sheriff's Office, and preventing deputy burnout. After hearing public comment, the board agreed that the discussion should return as an agenda item, but Williams couldn't give a date as to when that would happen.

"The important thing for people to know is the Board of Supervisors cannot control the sheriff's department, all we do is write the checks," he said. "The sheriff has, within his authority, the ability to have a rural crime unit and allocate millions of dollars for the people necessary to staff that or any unit he so chooses to do."

The Sheriff's Office currently has one dedicated

rural crime investigator who covers the entire county and conducts all of the investigations—primarily in North County, which experiences the greatest impact of these crimes, Undersheriff Craig Bonner said.

"The real challenge is that it's rural. There aren't a lot of people around to notice crimes occurring and to call us to come to the area to intervene," Bonner said. "It's a lot of reporting after the fact and investigating."

A 2020 California law change that reduces certain crimes from felonies to misdemeanors in order to keep people out of jail makes it incredibly challenging to hold people accountable for rural crimes, Bonner said—and it's caused a dramatic spike since the pandemic.

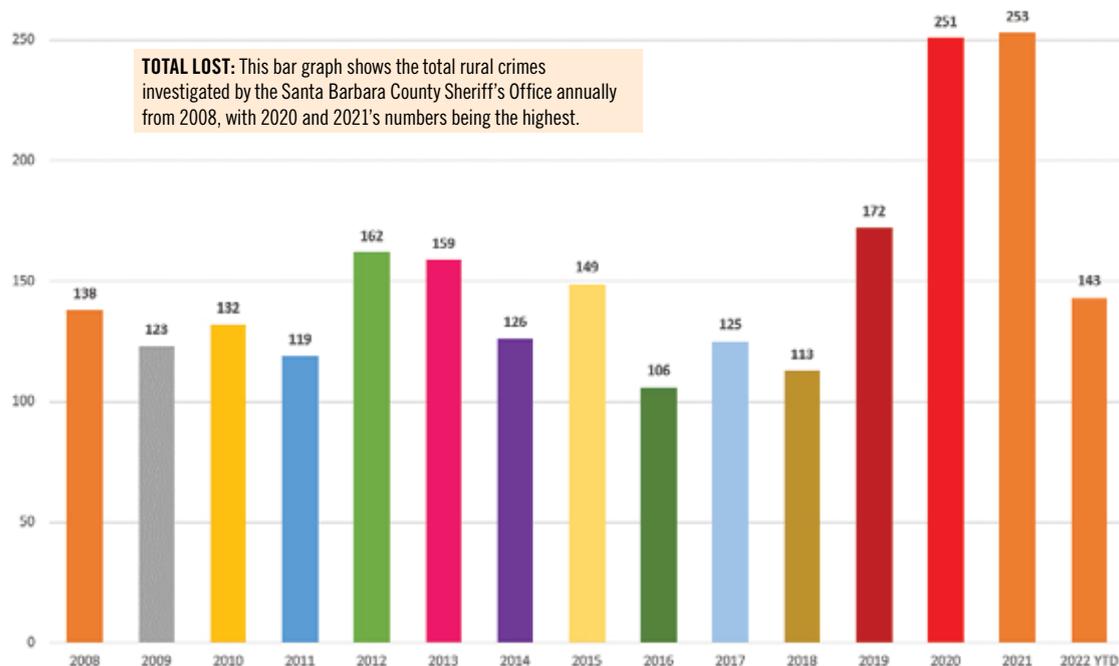
pointedly, we are looking at putting together a task force that involves our folks, the Santa Maria Police Department, and the District Attorney's Office to really put a focus on these crimes."

About 40 farmers and agricultural business owners have been meeting with the Sheriff's Office, the Board of Supervisors, and the Santa Maria City Council to keep this issue a top priority for local leadership, said Facts from Farmers founder Lacy Litten.

"[Conversations] have been slow but productive," Litten said. "I mean obviously rural crime has been in ag for a long time, and we haven't necessarily asked for help either—which is a little our fault—but now we really need help, and like anything, it takes time."

DATA FROM THE SHERIFF'S OFFICE

Rural Crimes Investigated Annually



TOTAL LOST: This bar graph shows the total rural crimes investigated by the Santa Barbara County Sheriff's Office annually from 2008, with 2020 and 2021's numbers being the highest.

"Even as an overall society, as we are coming out of COVID ... what we are not seeing is a drop in rural crime," he said. "It's remaining."

In 2019, there were 172 rural crime incidents reported to the Sheriff's Office, but by 2021 that number increased to 253, and the property lost or damaged jumped to about \$1.1 million in 2021 from 2019's \$480,798, according to Sheriff's Office rural crime data.

Numbers through July of 2022 are more than halfway there with 143 incidents reported and \$538,498 in property loss or damages.

"We're looking at a number of different projects from the use of license plate readers to putting out specialized patrols to try and mitigate the impacts of this," Bonner added. "More

Members of Facts from Farmers, a nonprofit that works to increase trust among farmers and the community, have heard both the supervisors' reasoning behind funding restrictions and law enforcement's staffing issues. But, she said, at the end of the day it's only pointing fingers and not resolving farmers' problems.

"That's all fine, but how can we bring all of our brains together and creatively find a solution that would alleviate this issue?" Litten said. "We aren't going to solve it 100 percent, we know that. But at this point we'd be happy to get down to a \$500,000 loss." ○

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

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PROJECT KICKOFF: Santa Barbara County representatives—including 3rd District Supervisor Joan Hartmann, right—Santa Ynez Valley residents, and community leaders celebrated the beginning of the Refugio Trail Restoration Project on Sept. 27 with a groundbreaking ceremony.

Trail revitalization

Santa Ynez Valley's Refugio Trail Restoration Project works to connect communities and promote safety

BY TAYLOR O'CONNOR

Small townships and rural settings like those in the Santa Ynez Valley used to have trails to connect the areas and make it easy for people to get around. As time went on, the trails in the valley became overgrown with trees and shrubs, or they intersected with private property, shifting communities to rely on cars, Joan Hartmann said. “The lifestyle used to be you could get around easily. We don’t have many sidewalks outside the cities; the only incorporated cities [in the Santa Ynez Valley] are Buelton and Solvang,” Hartman, the Santa Barbara County 3rd District supervisor, said. “As roads have widened and more and more cars are used, there’s lost space for other ways of getting around.”

Three years ago, Santa Ynez Valley community members began asking the county to create trail restoration projects. As a result, Hartmann and the county partnered with the Santa Barbara Bucket Brigade to initiate the Refugio Trail Restoration Project, an element in the Santa Ynez Community Plan to improve the local trail and provide an alternative to driving.

The project—which broke ground during a ceremony on Sept. 27—features trails connecting Santa Ynez Valley Union High School and Samantha Drive along Refugio Road, and the county secured \$250,000 in funding to complete the project as part of the Safe Routes to School program, she said.

“Kids should have the opportunity to walk or bike to school. It’s crowded with cars just [to] have them drop off one or two children. Kids lose out having to be chauffeured everywhere,” Hartmann said.

Restoring this trail could also save lives, she added. During the groundbreaking ceremony, a Chumash representative brought attention to the two people who died near the area—one an adult who got hit by a car while running, and the other a 14-year-old girl who died the day before her birthday.

“We really need to reclaim this area so we can be safe,” Hartmann said.

Thus far, she noted that community members have been enthusiastic about the trail restoration, even property owners who have some of the trail on their land.

“Our Public Works Department, in particular the deputy director, went door to door with his team to talk to the landowners and talk[ed] about pulling back,” she said. “Technically it’s the county’s right of way and it’s public land. People [would] get mad at us we [if] didn’t protect this public asset.”

The Refugio Trail restoration is just the beginning of trail enhancement in the valley, Hartmann said. There are many other trail ideas for along the Santa Ynez River and along the railway up to Los Alamos, plus a wine trail and paths between Santa Ynez to Los Olivos—some of which are included in the Recreation Master Plan.

“I am passionate about trails,” Hartmann said. “I just think people are healthiest when they are out and moving. Communities are strongest when people are encountering each other. It’s almost like religion to me.”

Highlight

- Cottage Health and the Santa Barbara County Public Health Department are partnering to improve the well-being of county residents. To better understand the needs and strengths of the entire community, the collaborative is asking residents to participate in a Community Needs Health Assessment, which includes a survey of more than 2,000 households. Residents will be randomly selected to participate and receive an invitation to take the survey by mail, text, email, or phone call. Participants will receive a \$5 gift card in appreciation for their time, and all responses will be confidential. The survey can be found at cottagehealth.org/communitysurvey, and it needs to be complete by Oct. 14.

- The Santa Maria Public Library is celebrating Filipino American History and encourages anyone to visit any branch to pick up a Filipino American history pack for kids ages 6 to 12. Packs include supplies to create a Filipino jeepney 3D paper craft, a yummy snack, and resources to learn about the rich history of Filipino Americans and impacts made here on the Central Coast. The library is

located at 421 South McClelland St. Questions can be directed to (805) 925-0994, Ext. 8564. ○

Staff Writer Taylor O'Connor wrote this week's Spotlight. Reach her at toconnor@santamariasun.com.

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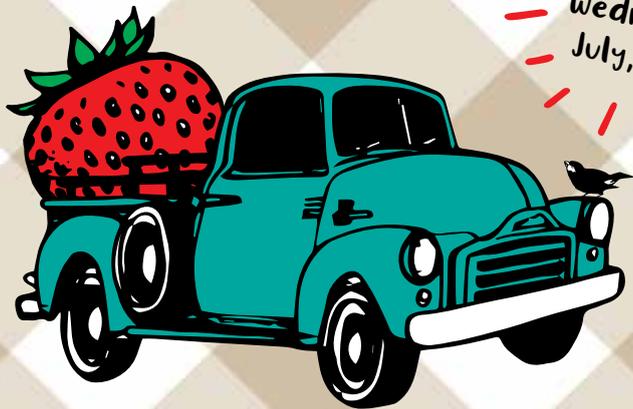
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This week's online poll 10/13 - 10/20

What should be done to help resolve rural crime?

- The Sheriff's Office needs to hire more deputies dedicated to rural crime.
- Farmers should use more cameras, locks, or other security measures.
- Give more county funding to the Sheriff's Office for a rural crime unit.
- I don't live in a rural area, and I don't care.

Enter your choice online at:
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Sun

DEATH NOTICES

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

AJER, RICHARD DOUGLAS, 68, of Nipomo passed away 10/3/2022 arrangements with Chapel of the Roses

ALEJANDRE, HERIBERTO "EDDIE", 54, of Santa Maria passed away 10/8/2022 arrangements with Dudley-Hoffman Mortuary, Crematory & Memory Gardens

AMSBAUGH (NEE DREW) JUDITH, 89, of Santa Maria. Formerly of Menlo Park passed away 6/30/2022 arrangements with the Neptune Society

ANDERSON, PATRICK ALLEN JR., 26, of Lompoc passed away 10/5/2022 arrangements with Starbuck - Lind Mortuary

BINNEY, ESPERANZA C., 84, of Santa Maria passed away 10/2/2022 arrangements with Dudley-Hoffman Mortuary, Crematory & Memory Gardens

CAMPING, PATRICIA, 72, of Paso Robles passed away 10/5/2022 arrangements with Blue Sky Cremation Service

CUNNINGHAM, JOHN RICHARD, 74, of Santa Maria passed away 10/3/2022 arrangements with Dudley-Hoffman Mortuary, Crematory & Memory Gardens

DIAMOND, VICTOR DIAMOND, 89, of Santa Maria passed away 10/6/2022 arrangements with Dudley-Hoffman Mortuary, Crematory & Memory Gardens

FAIRFIELD, MARY JANE, 88, of Santa Maria passed away 10/9/2022 arrangements with Dudley-Hoffman Mortuary, Crematory & Memory Gardens

FLORES, EDNA REBECA, 53, of Santa Maria passed away 10/6/2022 arrangements with Dudley-Hoffman Mortuary, Crematory & Memory Gardens

GRIFFITH, MARY JOSEPHINE, 68, of Paso Robles passed away 10/5/2022 arrangements with Chapel of the Roses

HAFFNER, BEVERLY JEAN, 81, of Nipomo passed away 10/6/2022 arrangements with Los Osos Valley Nortuary & Memorial Oae

HARLOW, LOIS MARLAINE, 88, of Santa Maria passed away 9/30/2022 arrangements with Dudley-Hoffman Mortuary, Crematory & Memory Gardens

HERZOG, PRISCILLA, 66, of Atascadero passed away 10/3/2022 arrangements with Blue Sky Cremation Service

HUBBARD, PAMELA JOAN, 77, of Santa Maria passed away 9/30/2022 arrangements with Dudley-Hoffman Mortuary, Crematory & Memory Gardens

MARTINEZ- YANEZ, YESENIA, 41, of Santa Maria passed away 10/7/2022 arrangements with Dudley-Hoffman Mortuary, Crematory & Memory Gardens

MCDONALD, JOHN THOMAS, 73, of Santa Maria passed away 10/2/2022 arrangements with Dudley-Hoffman Mortuary, Crematory & Memory Gardens

MCFADDEN, KATHRYN MARIE, 82, of Nipomo passed away 10/3/2022 arrangements with Magner-Maloney Funeral Home & Crematory

MELENA, PATRICIA L., 91, of Santa Maria passed away 10/8/2022 arrangements with Magner-Maloney Funeral Home & Crematory

NYE, EDWINA B., of Templeton arrangements with Chapel of the Roses

QUEZADA, MARIA DE LOURDES, 40, of Santa Maria passed away 10/1/2022 arrangements with Dudley-Hoffman Mortuary, Crematory & Memory Gardens

RARLIFF, WILLIAM, 90, of Bakersfield, passed away 10/7/2022 arrangements with Chapel of the Roses

RIEBOW, DONALD E., 96, of Pismo Beach passed away 9/18/2022 arrangements with Los Osos Valley Nortuary & Memorial Oae

RIMELAN, JOSEPH, 61, of Atascadero passed away 10/2/2022 arrangements with Blue Sky Cremation Service

RODRIGUES, DIANA MARIE, 71, of Buellton passed away 10/4/2022 arrangements with Magner-Maloney Funeral Home & Crematory

ROINESTAD, JADINE MARIA, 84, of Santa Maria passed away 10/3/2022 arrangements with Dudley-Hoffman Mortuary, Crematory & Memory Gardens

TANYAG, PAZ V., 78, of Santa Maria passed away 10/4/2022 arrangements with Dudley-Hoffman Mortuary, Crematory & Memory Gardens

THOMPSON, ZONK, 71, of Atascadero passed away 10/8/2022 arrangements with Chapel of the Roses

VIEIRA, DAVID MANUEL, 69, of Grover Beach passed away 10/6/2022 arrangements with Marshall -Spoo Sunset Funeral Chapel

VIEL, MAURINE, 92, of Paso Robles passed away 9/30/2022 arrangements with Blue Sky Cremation Service

WITZEL, DOROTHY LUCILLE, 73, of Santa Maria passed away 10/3/2022 arrangements with Dudley-Hoffman Mortuary, Crematory & Memory Gardens

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Online Poll

Should Twitchell Dam operators prioritize the health of the Santa Maria River's steelhead trout during scheduled water releases?

- 63% No, the dam's No. 1 priority should be conserving rainy season water for groundwater recharge.
- 18% Yes, environmentalists have argued for years that Twitchell Dam operators are ignoring endangered species laws.
- 13% Can't talk now, gone fishing!
- 6% Maybe, I need to know how much water would be released in the winter and spring to support the trout population.

16 Votes

Vote online at www.santamariasun.com.

Listen to ag

It's in the best interest of our representatives to engage with and respond to the people who grow your food

BY LACY LITTEN

There were two general topics of conversation during public comment at the Board of Supervisors meeting on Tuesday, Sept. 20. One was National Voter Registration Day, and the other was rural crime.

Supervisor Steve Lavagnino made a comment about how roughly 6,000 of the 28,000 registered voters in his district of 90,000 showed up to vote in the last election, and that possible reasons for such a weak turnout is that people are fed up with their government, they feel their voice doesn't matter, or they have disengaged and given up.

I think it's a little of all three.

There are two pieces of advice that I regularly receive when I engage with elected officials:

1. Tell your story.
2. The squeaky wheel gets the grease.

When I started working in agriculture, a mantra one of my mentors used to say was, "Produce never sleeps." He was/is right. Time is money, and time away from our farms impacts our efficiency and productivity. Sure, we can go to a supervisors meeting every now and then, but we cannot participate to the extent that some other community members who may be retired or paid to engage in the political process are able to. But that doesn't make our issues any less relevant or important than theirs.

There are some supervisors who have been more receptive to agricultural issues than others. When the four speakers at the meeting addressed rural crime, it was clear which supervisors

are in touch with the needs of our county's largest economic driver and which are not. One supervisor visibly squirmed in his chair and verbally dismissed the notion that agriculture may be suffering. That response is exactly why people choose not to attend board of supervisors meetings. It is why people do not engage with the political process. You vulnerably, passionately, and courageously plead for help only to be told or shown through body language that your problems are not relevant to their agenda.

I have also been advised that certain topics need to be addressed to the supervisors with care. "Be subservient," I was told. That advice is exactly why people are fed up with their government: It is the very opposite of democracy. Yes, you may catch more flies with honey than you do with vinegar, but supervisors are elected to serve us, not the other way around. If they cannot put aside their personal feelings to manage the business at hand, then that isn't leadership at all. And quite frankly, if they can't handle being in the hot seat, then they're in the wrong profession.

Fact is: Rural crime is up 86 percent. Theft and vandalism have cost one local farm upwards of \$200,000 over the past year. Expenses like these add up and can affect a grower's profitability for that season.

Agriculture has been accused of not "sharing the wealth" enough with their workers. Perhaps it may be true, or not—however, we are involuntarily contributing to the livelihoods of criminals and houseless who continue to help themselves to our equipment, our materials, and our properties. The costs to repair and/or replace what is damaged or stolen comes out of our bottom line, which ultimately inhibits investment into additional resources for our workforce. Contrary to popular belief, not all farms make a profit each year.

If our community would like to continue reaping the rewards of a prosperous agricultural industry, it might be in the best interest of our representatives to engage with and listen to the people who feed us all. At the very least, they should show respect to the people who do show up and participate in the political

process, regardless of whether they agree with the views presented. We all pay their salaries, not just the ones who voted them into office. ○

Lacy Litten is the founder and president of Facts from Farmers, a nonprofit committed to building a community of trust and transparency among farmers and consumers. Send a letter for publication to letters@santamariasun.com.

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LETTERS

It's 2022, not 1492

Bravo, Mr. Fina! Some might say that you are the means to costing Santa Maria taxpayers \$75,000 and your inferred collaboration with the Santa Ynez Band of Chumash Indians. This article ("Sailing away?" Sept. 1) also declares your efforts to "approach" the Santa Maria City Council and our local high school district. All of this cost and effort to remedy your personal annoyance of a trademarked logo of a ship. Bravo, Mr. Fina!

The article portrays your interpretation of this logo promotes the lingering effects of colonization. So much so that you've successfully engaged the Caltrans Office of Race and Equity, at unknown taxpayer expense, to open an investigation of how people are being affected by images, monuments, or logos on public roadways that may be sensitive to certain groups in the community. Bravo, Mr. Fina!

Here's an idea to investigate, Mr. Fina. *Make more good.* All of us can do this—myself included. It's culturally acceptable to effortlessly complain, criticize, and condemn. Yet we all at one time or another feel better and help others when we are respectfully acknowledged, appreciated, and accepted.

Let's recognize and agree our world has problems. For every problem that we want removed, let's find two solutions to replace it. Most people embrace improvement. Let's make more good.

Mr. Fina, if you believe that a rendering of a ship, the name of a city, or any of its private and public organizations are connected to the historical records or legacy of Christopher Columbus and his 1492 migration to the New World facilitating numerous accounts of poor choices associated with colonization—that's your choice. However, wouldn't you also be speaking about the very fiber of our community?

Anyone from Philadelphia, "the city of brotherly love," should recognize the many benefits of migration. Like Philadelphia, Santa Maria has a heritage of embracing migration. Our regional culture and economy are enriched from the irreplaceable contributions of migrant workers from around the world. I'm not speaking of just the agricultural impact. The economic engines of both the Santa Ynez Band of Chumash Indians as well as Vandenberg Space Force Base exceed the economic impacts of the city of Santa Maria.

The Santa Maria Valley enjoys a community of workers in manufacturing, tech, the arts, commerce, education, health, as well as agriculture who are not native to this region. Migration works!

In the end, Mr. Fina—we are not preoccupied with or persuaded by the contrived impacts of anyone or of imagined colonialism. It's a ship—not our identity. It's a place—not our family. It's 2022—not 1492.

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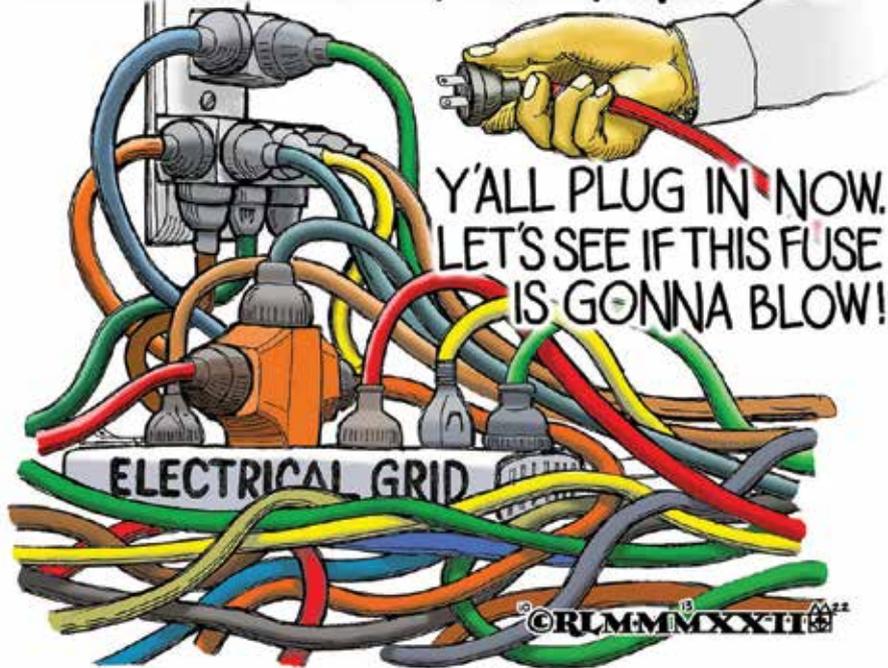
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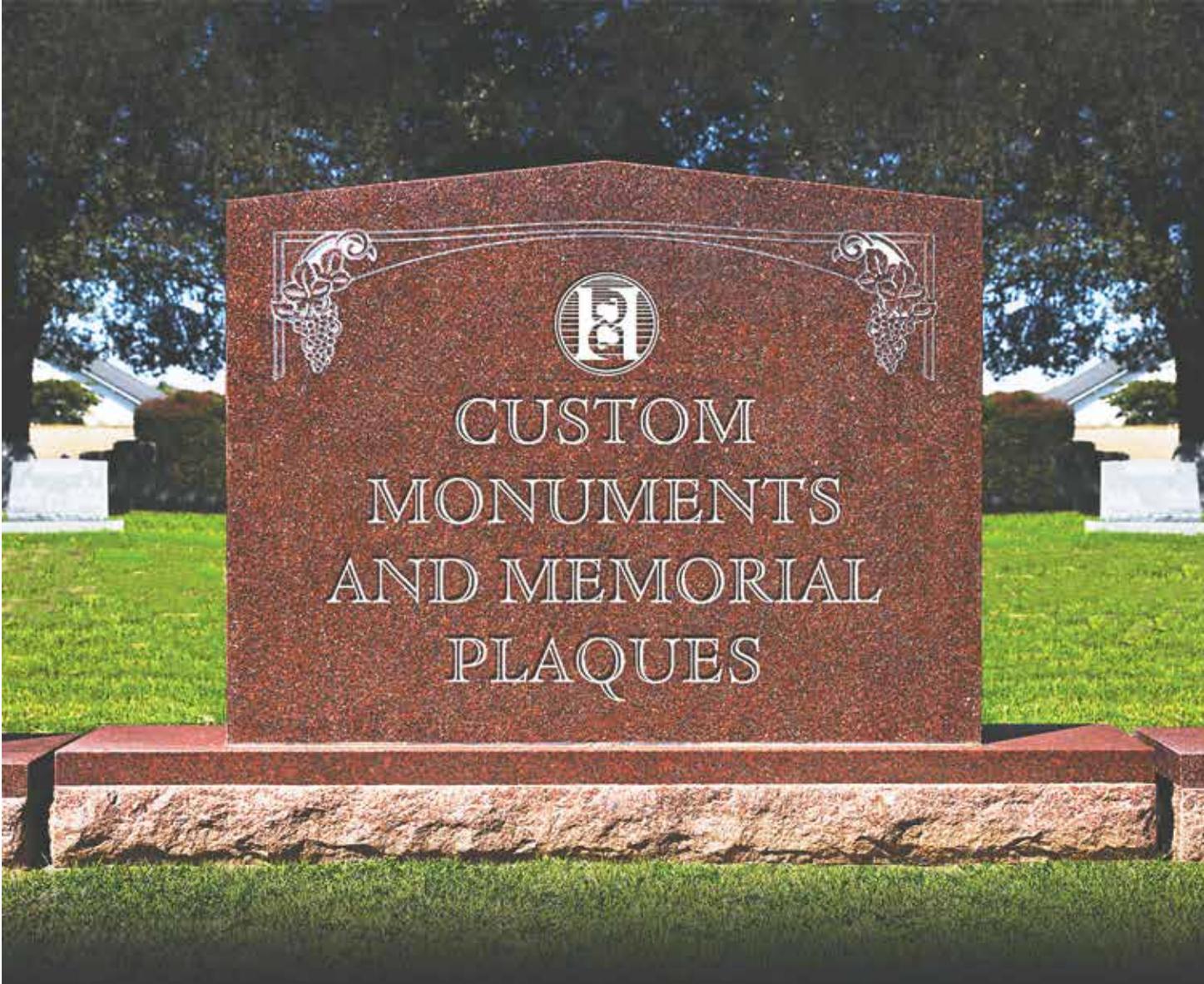
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Second Lieutenant James K. Kunkle who went through P-38 training in Santa Maria was awarded The Distinguished Service Cross during WWII.



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OPINION

The bottom rung

What is the impact of new California laws meant to reduce the number of people in local jails and state prisons? Is it an increase in crime?

If you ask law enforcement, they say yes. If you ask some **North Santa Barbara County** farmers, they also say yes. And the reason they say yes is correlation: Since the end of the COVID-19 pandemic (is it *really* over?), rural crime has increased significantly in the county. Since 2020, rural crime—thefts, vandalism, etc.—has increased by more than 60 percent, and property damages and loss total more than \$2 million.



That's a lot for an industry that struggles to break even and feeds people. And this county's farmers are at their wits' end, watching tractors, ATVs, drip tape, and more disappear and seeing no one prosecuted for the crimes.

"Even if they find they've found them, they can't hold them. They are being released, and consequences are so low they really have no reason to [not] go and find another location and they continue with the thefts," **Hampton Farming Company's Jim Stollberg** said.

But rural crime is nothing new. It's always been an issue, and it's not been an issue that's been seriously addressed in the county. In fact, farmers say they would be happy to just see they're losses total only \$500,000 a year.

The Sheriff's Office only has one person assigned to rural crime. Could it be because it's mainly a North County issue? We all know those Santa Barbara-based folks don't really see much beyond the Santa Ynez Valley line.

According to county **1st District Supervisor Das Williams**, the Sheriff's Office is projected to use about \$5 million less than what it received in budget allocations this year.

"The sheriff has, within his authority, the ability to have a rural crime unit and allocate millions of dollars for the people necessary to staff that or any unit he so choose to do," Williams said.

Is a rural crime unit on the table?

Not exactly. I think rural crime is on the bottom rung of priorities for the Sheriff's Office. It's not as sexy as busting "illegal" pot operations, you know? We've got to put that money where the politics are!

Undersheriff Craig Bonner said the department is looking at license plate readers and putting out specialized patrols. Looking at? That sounds like the very least the county's law enforcement agency could do. But really, there's this task force they're putting together with the **Santa Maria Police Department** and the county **District Attorney's Office** to "really put a focus on these crimes." Oh goody. A task force.

It's kind of sad that the industry that arguably impacts our county the most has basically one Sheriff's Office deputy assigned to it.

"Obviously rural crime has been in ag for a long time, and we haven't necessarily asked for help either," said Lacy Litten from a local farmers group called Facts from Farmers. "But now we really need help."

Call me crazy, but people shouldn't have to ask for help when it comes to the crimes committed against them. Farmers shouldn't have to ask law enforcement for help. It should already be given. ☪

The canary is ready to go on patrol. Really. Send thoughts to canary@santamariasun.com.

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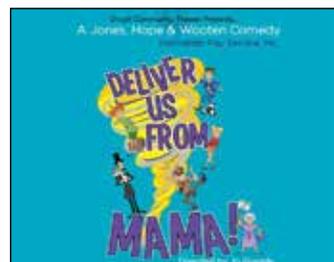
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You Had To Be There:
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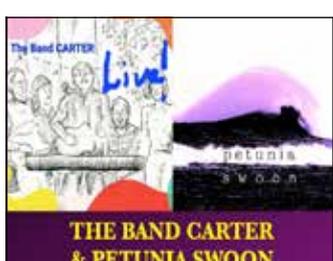
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 Vyanna Wellness, Cambria



The Band Carter
and Petunia Swoon
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 Flower City Ballroom, Lompoc



Kiwanis of Santa Maria Valley:
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 Mussell Senior Center, Santa Maria



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OCT. 13 – OCT. 20
2022



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—Caleb Wiseblood

FILE COURTESY PHOTO BY JOEL BARGER

ARTS

SANTA YNEZ VALLEY

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

DAY IN THE COUNTRY Los Olivos' most popular festival is back. Join for a weekend of fun with a Fun Run, small-town parade, 100 vendors, shopping, food, live music, wine and beer tent, and "everything you love about our small town." **Oct. 15**, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Free. losolivosca.com/day-in-the-country/. Downtown Los Olivos, Grand Ave., Los Olivos, 805-688-9049.

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.

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

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. Through March 6, 2023 Wildling Museum of Art and Nature, 1511-B Mission Dr., Solvang, 805-688-1082, wildlingmuseum.org.

SANTA MARIA VALLEY/LOS ALAMOS

AUTUMN CRAFT EXPERIENCE

Experience autumn with crafts at the Santa Maria Public Library. Leaves, paint, colors, and artists will be part of the experience. **Oct. 22**, 11 a.m. Santa Maria Public Library (Altrusa Theater), 421 S. McClelland St., Santa Maria, 805-925-0994.

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.

CORAZON DEL PUEBLO OPEN HOUSE Celebrate the grand opening of the new community center. After the attack at the organization's previous center back in

January, the group has relocated, and is excited to share this new space with the community. **Oct. 14**, 5-8 p.m. Free. 209-312-8653. Corazon del Pueblo Office, 201 E Main St., suite M, Santa Maria, corazondelpueblo.org.

CRAFTWORKS: PAINTED GARDENING POT Design and paint your own gardening pot. This workshop will supply all the materials needed to create a one-of-a-kind gardening pot. The Orcutt branch library will have a limited number of take-home painted gardening pot kits through Oct. 15, available on a first-come, first-served basis. **Oct. 15**, 10:30 a.m. Free. 805-925-0994. Santa Maria Public Library, 421 S. McClelland St., Santa Maria.

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

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

JOURNALING FOR TEENS AND TWEENS

Create a personal journal while learning about all the different ways people journal. Create and customize an original journal. **Oct. 20**, 4 p.m. 805-925-0994. engagedpatrons.org. Santa Maria Public Library (Altrusa Theater), 421 S. McClelland St., Santa Maria.

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

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

NEXT CHAPTER BOOK CLUB AT GUADALUPE LIBRARY Each season will feature a new chapter book. Talk about last season's book and read the first chapter of the new book together. Copies of the book will be provided on a first come, first served basis. **Oct. 19**, 4 p.m. 805-343-1405. engagedpatrons.org. Guadalupe Library, 4719 W. Main St., Ste D, Guadalupe.

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

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.

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 SEW MUCH FUN CLUB Youth will learn to sew, and practice sewing skills at the library. Together, learn the basics of a machine and sewing by hand, or practice skills with the club. Materials will be provided. October project is a zippered bag. Youth may bring their own fabric. **Oct. 19**, 4 p.m. 805-925-0994. engagedpatrons.org. Santa Maria Public Library (Altrusa Theater), 421 S. McClelland St., Santa Maria.

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.

CCQ STITCHIN' SISTERS Central Coast Quilters Fall Boutique with quilts, art wall hangings, table runners and so much more. Everything is handmade. Many proceeds go to giving quilts back to our community to give a hand up, to people in need. **Oct. 21**, 4-7 p.m. and **Oct. 22**, 9 a.m.-3 p.m. Free. 949-433-6348. Arroyo Grande Community Center, 211 Vernon St., Arroyo Grande.

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. 15**, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. and **Oct. 16**, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Free; art available for purchase. 805-295-6690. grappaport.com. G. Rappaport, 138 Clydell Ct., Pismo Beach.

INDIE AUTHOR BOOK FAIRE Monarch Books is hosting its very first Indie Author Book Faire, a wonderful opportunity to meet several local authors. The authors will share briefly about their books and then have time to mingle, sell, and sign. **Oct. 23**, 3-5 p.m. Free. 805-668-6300. monarchbooks805.com/events. Monarch Books, 201 E. Branch St., Arroyo Grande.

MEET THE AUTHOR: POETRY NIGHT Features a Q-and-A with area poets Kevin Patrick Sullivan, Patti Sullivan, and Bonnie Young. Collectively, they are authors, teachers, poet laureates, an artist, a grandma, editors, and a curator of poetry reading events. **Oct. 18**, 6:30-8 p.m. Free to attend. 805-481-4131. groverbeachlibrary.org. Grover Beach Community Library, 240 N 9th St., Grover Beach.

PRIDE AND PREJUDICE Presented by the AGHS drama dept. **Oct. 20-28** Clark Center for the Performing Arts, 487 Fair Oaks Ave., Arroyo Grande, 805-489-9444, clarkcenter.org.

SECOND ANNUAL VENDOR VILLAGE MARKETPLACE A fundraiser to support the Kristin Smart Scholarship Fund, Justice for Kristin, and the Smart family. Features more than 50 local vendors. **Oct. 22**, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. 805-459-4880. Kennedy Club Fitness, 1299 James Way, Arroyo Grande.

SAN LUIS OBISPO

ART EXPLORATION FOR KIDS In this class series, students learn about drawing and acrylic painting. In each class, students will recreate a famous piece of art from

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DOMESTIC VIOLENCE
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Together We Can

End Domestic Violence



October Is Domestic Violence Action Month

This October join Domestic Violence Solutions as we mourn for those whose lives were taken by domestic violence, celebrate the tremendous work advocates have been doing over the year, and connect with a true sense of unity. We need **your** help to end domestic violence!

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About Domestic Violence Solutions

Domestic Violence Solutions for Santa Barbara County's mission is to provide **safety, shelter, and support** for individuals and families affected by domestic violence and collaborate with community partners to raise awareness regarding the cause, prevalence, and impact.

Domestic Violence Solutions is the only full-service provider of **24-hour emergency shelter and services** for survivors of domestic violence.

24-HOUR CRISIS & INFORMATION LINE

805-964-5245

ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE

411 E. Canon Perdido St. #12
Santa Barbara, CA 93101
805-963-4458

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OUR COMMUNITY IMPACT IN 2022

Provided **139 children** with immediate safety at our emergency shelter.

Our extraordinary advocates answered over **4,000** calls to our 24/7 crisis line.



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TO OUR PASSIONATE
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history. For kids ages 5-11. Check website for a list of the artists to be covered. **Oct. 13**, 2-3 p.m. \$28 per session; \$100 for 5 classes; \$180 for 10 classes. 805-747-4200. artcentralslo.com/workshops-events/. Art Central, 1329 Monterey St., San Luis Obispo.

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

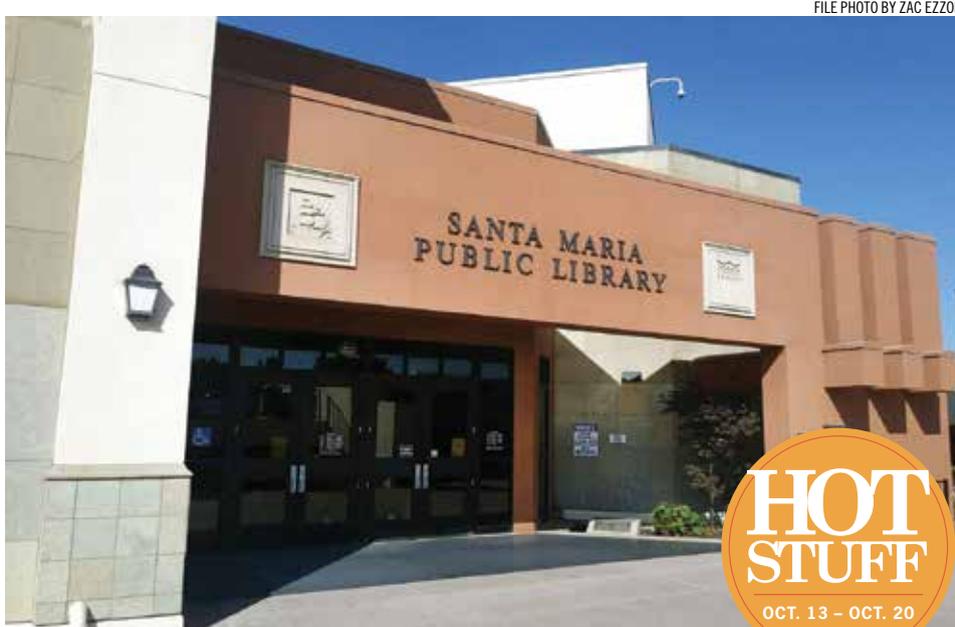
ARTISTIC DELIGHTS AT SLO GALLERY Surround yourself with exceptional works of art Thursdays through Sundays, and during SLO Arts Council's Art after Dark on the first Friday of each month. Experience art at its finest by Central Coast artists. Thursdays-Sundays, through Dec. 2 Free. 818-762-6782. slogallery.com/. SLO Gallery, 1019 Broad Street, San Luis Obispo.

THE BAD PLUS LIVE For the past two decades, The Bad Plus have played with spirit and adventure, making their own rules with a bold sense of creativity and intent. The Bad Plus has won critical acclaim and a legion of fans worldwide with their unique originals. **Oct. 13**, 7:30-9 p.m. \$40. 805-756-6556. Performing Arts Center, 1 Grand Ave., San Luis Obispo, pacslo.org.

BEGINNING DRAWING FOR KIDS WITH SPENCER COLLINS This class is designed to teach young students the important basic building blocks of drawing. Students learn about various drawing techniques and materials such as graphite, charcoal, and paint pens. For kids ages 8-13. Thursdays, 3:30-5 p.m. through Dec. 29 \$28 per session; \$100 for 5 classes; \$180 for 10 classes. 805-747-4200. artcentralslo.com/workshops-events/. Art Central, 1329 Monterey St., San Luis Obispo.

BONESTELL STUDIOS: OPEN STUDIOS ART TOUR Visit Bonestell Studios (#20-#21) during the free Open Studios Art Tour. Explore indoor and outdoor art spaces with new art and timeless favorites by Ann and Jay Bonestell, including mixed media, sculpture, and more. **Oct. 15**, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. and **Oct. 16**, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Free admission. 805-528-4265. bonestellstudios.com. Bonestell Studios, 2008 Ferrell, Los Osos.

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.



JOT THIS DOWN

The Santa Maria Public Library hosts Journaling for Teens and Tweens on Thursday, Oct. 20, at 4 p.m. Participants of this youth workshop will create and customize a personal journal while learning about different stylistic approaches to journaling. To find out more about the class, call (805) 925-0994 or email librarychildren@cityofsantamaria.org. The library is located at 421 S. McClelland St., Santa Maria.

—C.W.

CHRISTINA MCPHEE: LISTENING A solo exhibition of paintings and video by San Luis Obispo-based artist Christina McPhee. Through Nov. 18 Free. 614-607-2268. ososcontemporary.com/pages/listening-christina-mcphee. Osos Contemporary, 967 Osos St., 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.

COMEDY NIGHT Professional comedy show featuring

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

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

DOTTY HAWTHORNE: SLO COUNTY ARTS OPEN STUDIO TOUR (PRIVATE STUDIO) Dotty's painting studio will be open both weekends. Join to view pastel

and oil paintings, prints and cards of recent work, as well as paintings from Dottie's past 5 years in the Pacific Northwest. **Oct. 15**, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. and **Oct. 16**, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Free. 805-703-0455. Dotty Hawthorne, 3462 Gregory Court, San Luis Obispo, dottyhawthorne.com.

JUST ADD WATER Come experience the detailed and expressive work of six accomplished local watercolorists in this upcoming show. Artist reception on Oct. 29, from 2 to 4 p.m. Through Nov. 28 805-878-6404. Art Central, 1329 Monterey St., San Luis Obispo, artcentralslo.wordpress.com.

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

MALPASO DANCE COMPANY In the ten years since its establishment in 2012, Malpasos Dance Company has become one of the most sought after Cuban dance companies with a growing international profile. **Oct. 18**, 7:30-9 p.m. \$30-\$60. 805-756-6556. calpolyarts.org. Performing Arts Center, 1 Grand Ave., San Luis Obispo.

MICHELLE WOLF Wolf has quickly become one of the most influential voices in the comedy landscape with the Village Voice calling her "the voice comedy needs right now" and The Daily Beast declaring, "Michelle Wolf is the future of stand-up comedy." **Oct. 21**, 8-9:30 p.m. \$45-\$65. 805-756-6556. Performing Arts Center, 1 Grand Ave., San Luis Obispo, pacslo.org.

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

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

NICOLE IRENE ANDERSON: BREAKING POINT

ARTS continued page 20

CAL POLY FOOTBALL
MUSTANG FAMILY WEEKEND
SATURDAY, OCT. 22 AT 5 PM
VS
SPANOS STADIUM
CAL POLY COWBELLS FOR
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TYLER HENRY

OCTOBER 21 + 22 | TWO NIGHTS | 8PM



LYLE LOVETT + JOHN HIATT

NOVEMBER 12 | SATURDAY | 8PM



DAUGHTRY

NOVEMBER 18 | FRIDAY | 8PM



LOS TIGRES DEL NORTE

DECEMBER 2 | FRIDAY | 8PM

Management reserves the right to change or cancel promotions and events at any time without notice. Must be 21 or older. Gambling problem? Call 1.800.GAMBLER.

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SEPTEMBER 22 - NOVEMBER 12



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ARTS from page 19

Anderson creates paintings and drawings that share a collective uneasiness and human vulnerability reflective of our current times. Through Oct. 31 San Luis Obispo Museum of Art, 1010 Broad St., San Luis Obispo, 543-8562, sloma.org/.

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

OPEN STUDIOS ART TOUR 2022 A countywide exhibition of local artists' work and processes. Participants self-guide their tours by selecting studios listed in the catalog. Visit website for complete map of participating artists and studios. Through Oct. 16, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Free. slcountyarts.org/osat. ARTS Obispo Open Studios Art Tour, SLO County, Countywide, 805-544-9251.

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

RED Journey into the mind of abstract expressionist Mark Rothko for whom paintings are 'pulsating' life forces and art is intended to stop the heart. Presented in collaboration with San Luis Obispo Museum of Art. Thursdays-Saturdays, 7-9 p.m. and Saturdays, Sundays, 2-4 p.m. through Oct. 30 \$20-\$28. 805-786-2440. slorep.org/shows/red/. San Luis Obispo Repertory Theatre, 888 Morro St., San Luis Obispo.

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

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

SECRET STANDUP COMEDY Professional standup comedians are taking over Hoagies for the night and turning it into a comedy club. **Oct. 13**, 8 p.m. my805tix.com. Hoagies SLO, 1234 Monterey St. #120, San Luis Obispo, 805-439-3318.

TANGO SUNDAYS FOR OCTOBER A class to learn the basics, followed by social dancing/practica from 7 to 9 p.m. (practice what you've learned with more experienced dancers). Sponsored by SLO Dance at the Odd Fellows Hall. Sundays, 6-9 p.m. through Oct. 30 \$10. 805-710-4388. Odd Fellows Hall, 520 Dana St., San Luis Obispo.

VICKY HOFFMAN: OPEN STUDIO ART TOUR #4 Artist statement: "I find beauty in the strangest places. It can be as simple as cobwebs threaded along the fence, a dead branch blown across my lawn, or a tidy, colorful display of macarons." **Oct. 15**, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. and **Oct. 16**, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Free. 310-993-1732. ARTS Obispo Open Studios Art Tour, SLO County, Countywide.

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. ongoingpartnersincaring.org. Santa Maria, Citywide, Santa Maria.

BUILD BEDS WITH LOWE'S AND SLEEP IN HEAVENLY PEACE Come build beds for local children in need with the Northern Santa Barbara County Chapter of Sleep in Heavenly Peace. No experience necessary. Ages 12 and older may participate (12-17 with parent). Donations of new twin bed-in-a-bag, comforters, sheets, mattress protectors, and pillows gladly accepted. **Oct. 15**, 9 a.m.-1 p.m. 805-423-1180. shpbeds.org. Lowe's Home Improvement, 935 Betteravia Road, Santa Maria.

CHUCKWAGON BARBECUE Enjoy the last barbecue event of the season, in partnership with In Good Company, Nolita Hall, Ventura Spirits, and Tehachapi Grains. The chefs will be serving up speciality dishes including smoked lamb chili, chili honey ribs, pasta salad, house salad, and more. **Oct. 16**, 11 a.m.-4 p.m. \$30. 661-766-2825. cuyamabuckhorn.com. Cuyama Buckhorn, 4923 Primero St., New Cuyama.

CULTURE & LIFESTYLE continued page 21

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

HAUNTED HILLS Elks Recreation, Inc., in collaboration with the City of 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. These frightful nights are not for the faint of heart. **Oct. 14**, 7:30-9:30 p.m., **Oct. 15**, 7:30-9:30 p.m. and **Oct. 21**, 7:30-9:30 p.m. \$55. 805-925-4125. elksrec.com/p/events/haunted-hills. Elks Event Center, 4040 Highway 101, Santa Maria.

KIWANIS BINGOFEST Each ticket includes lunch for two, four Bingo cards, and 20 chances to win a great prize. The last number drawn wins the \$500 Grand Prize. Only 75 tickets will be sold. **Oct. 16**, noon my805tix.com. Elwin Mussell Senior Center, 510 Park Ave., Santa Maria.

PAWS TO READ Reading to dogs is a wonderful way for children to gain confidence while reading aloud. These dogs absolutely love all kinds of books and are excellent listeners. For ages 6 to 12. Register for a 15-minute time. **Oct. 18**, 3:30 p.m. 805-925-0994. engagedpatrons.org. Santa Maria Public Library (Altrusa Theater), 421 S. McClelland St., Santa Maria.

PRESCHOOL YOGA STORY TIME Enjoy a morning of yoga with stories and breathing exercises. Children are introduced to mindfulness and will learn exercises to help regulate emotions. Space and supplies are limited. Yoga mats will be provided or bring one from home. For ages 3-5 with caregivers. Registration required. **Oct. 21**, 11 a.m. 805-925-0994. engagedpatrons.org. Santa Maria Public Library (Altrusa Theater), 421 S. McClelland St., Santa Maria.

SANTA MARIA COIN CLUB: MONTHLY MEETING

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



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

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

STAR WARS READS WEEK Celebrate Star Wars READS week with different activities each day in the youth services area. Visit the youth services desk to pick up a Star Wars activity. Activities include booklists, take home programs, scavenger hunts, photo opportunities and free books for youth while supplies last. Every 4 days, noon Santa Maria Public Library (Altrusa Theater), 421 S. McClelland St., Santa Maria, 805-925-0994.

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. 15**, 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 ANIME CLUB Teens who are interested in anime or manga are invited to Anime Club. Hang out with other fans, eat Japanese snacks, and do fun activities. New members are always welcome. **Oct. 21**, 4 p.m. 805-925-0994. engagedpatrons.org. Shepard Hall Art Gallery - Santa Maria Public Library, 421 South McClelland St., Santa Maria.

TEEN BOLT Teens, come hang out, enjoy some snacks, and help shape the future of the library. Discussions during BOLT will help determine teen program themes, and BOLT members will have the opportunity to help plan and run teen programs. **Oct. 14**, 4 p.m. 805-925-0994. engagedpatrons.org. Santa Maria Public Library (Altrusa Theater), 421 S. McClelland St., Santa Maria.

TODDLER TIME High-energy learning experience made for toddlers. Toddlers learn and grow through stories, movement, and music. 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.

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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

AVILA BEACH CHILDREN'S FAIR Kids create a product or service, develop a brand, build a marketing strategy, and then open for customers at this one-day marketplace. The children are responsible for the setup, sales, and interacting with customers. The kids keep all the money they make from their sales. **Oct. 15**, 10 a.m.-1 p.m. Free. 805-471-2440. childrensbusinessfair.org/avila-beach. Avila Beach Community Center, 191 San Miguel St., Avila Beach.

DOCUMENT SHREDDING EVENT The Arroyo Grand Lions Club will hold this event. A shredding truck will be onsite to securely dispose of confidential documents. Bring boxes or bags of old sensitive documents to be shredded. Contact chairperson if more than 15 boxes: tonymanuel@verizon.net. **Oct. 15**, 9 a.m.-noon \$5 per banker box or bag. 805-878-3443. Lemos Feed & Pet Supply, 120 Traffic Way, Arroyo Grande.

PINK RIBBON EVENT Raffle tickets available for event held on Oct. 20, from 1 to 4 p.m. Enjoy a cupcake with the chance to win a raffle basket. Partnered with American Cancer Society. Through Oct. 20 805-773-2100. Century 21 Pismo Beach, 1404 S. Dolliver St., Pismo Beach.

SAN LUIS OBISPO

ATTRACTING BIRDS WITH NATIVE PLANTS Learn how to attract birds to your yard using native plants. Peggy Burhenn, Master Gardener and certified California Naturalist, will explain the connection between birds and native plants, which plants are best to attract birds, and the best time to plant. **Oct. 20**, 6:45-7:45 p.m. Free. lovgardenclub.org. Online, See website, San Luis Obispo.

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

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

CAL POLY FOOTBALL VS. EASTERN WASHINGTON It's Mustang Family Weekend and the Mustangs are taking on Eastern Washington. The first 4,000 fans will receive a Cal Poly cowbell. **Oct. 22**, 5 p.m. gopoly.com/. Alex G. Spanos Stadium, 1 Grand Ave., San Luis Obispo, 805-756-7297.

CAL POLY MEN'S SOCCER VS. SAC STATE Come support the Mustangs as they face Sac State in a Big West Conference Clash. **Oct. 19**, 7-9 p.m. 805-756-4849. gopoly.com. Alex G. Spanos Stadium, 1 Grand Ave., San Luis Obispo.

CAL POLY WOMEN'S SOCCER VS. LBSU The Mustangs take on Long Beach State in a Big West Conference match-up at Spanos Stadium. **Oct. 20**, 7 p.m. 805-756-4849. gopoly.com/. Alex G. Spanos Stadium, 1 Grand Ave., San Luis Obispo.

CELEBRATE COMMUNITY FUN RUN AND FESTIVAL Presented by BHE Renewables. Supporters of Lumina Alliance (formerly RISE and Stand Strong) will gather together for this family-friendly event at Mission Plaza. Lumina Alliance supports those impacted by sexual and intimate partner violence. **Oct. 15**, 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Ranges from free to up to \$20. CelebrateCommunitySLO.org. Mission Plaza, Downtown, San Luis Obispo.

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

FALL INTO FASHION: FASHION SHOW AND LUNCHEON A fashion show fundraiser with a delicious lunch, silent auction, and plenty of door prizes. DAVE HOVDE, KSBY-TV Dave Hovde, KSBY meteorologist, will present fall fashions exclusively from Poppy's of Morro Bay as local musicians serenade guests on the baby grand piano. Advance ticket sales only. **Oct. 23**, 12-3 p.m. \$60. 805-771-8364. Madonna Inn Ballroom, 100 Madonna Rd, San Luis Obispo.

THE GRIEF RECOVERY CLASS AND WORKSHOP: CUESTA COLLEGE COMMUNITY EDUCATIONAL SERIES (ONLINE) The Grief Recovery Method is a

step-by-step process, an "action program" for unlocking and respecting the emotional experience of our grief, for all types of losses and heartbreaks. This is a seven-week online program. Tuesdays, 6-8 p.m. through Oct. 25 \$150 book. 714-273-9014. cuesta.edu/communityprograms/community-education/special_interest/grief-recovery.html. Online, See website, San Luis Obispo.

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

LEARN TO SQUARE DANCE: A NEW DANCER CLASS Have fun dancing to a wide variety of music. No experience necessary. No dress code. Partners welcome (no partner needed). 12 weeks of instruction begins Sept. 15. Thursdays, 7:30-9:30 p.m. through Dec. 15 \$50 for the entire class. 805-221-5437. squaredancecentralcoast.com. SLO Guild Hall, 2880 Broad St., San Luis Obispo.

MORRO COAST AUDUBON OCTOBER COMMUNITY EVENT A virtual Community Program, titled Planting Native Plants to Attract and Support Birds. Presenter: Peggy Burhenn, Master Gardener. **Oct. 17**, 7-8:30 p.m. Free. 714-292-7505. morrocoastaudubon.org. Online, See website, San Luis Obispo.

OCTOBER: DATING AND DOMESTIC VIOLENCE ACTION MONTH In all of our relationships, we deserve respect, equity, honesty, bodily autonomy, independence, boundaries, healing, joy, and so much more. Visit site for full list of events. Through Oct. 25 safer.calpoly.edu/DVAM. Locations throughout SLO County, Call or visit website for event info, San Luis Obispo.

THE PACE OF NATURE RETREAT AND WORKSHOP This retreat focuses on nature as a protective and compensatory experience that can mitigate effects of toxic stress, and how to use nature connection to relieve symptoms of depression, anxiety, and overall brain health for yourself and the children in your life. **Oct. 15**, 9 a.m. my805tix.com. San Luis Obispo Botanical Garden, 3450 Dairy Creek Rd., San Luis Obispo, 805-541-1400.

REPAIR CAFÉ Handy volunteers fix broken items for free. Volunteers repair bikes, clothing and textiles, small appliances, computers/devices, furniture, and tools. **Oct. 23**, 1-4 p.m. repaircafe5cities.org. iFixit, 1330 Monterey St., San Luis Obispo, 805-464-0573.

SLO BOTANICAL GARDEN PRESENTS SHAMANIC MORNING RITUAL Yoga and meditation instructor and Aurora Adventures founder Dawn Feuerberg, will lead a Shamanic Morning Ritual. **Oct. 19**, 8-9 a.m. \$65 for members; \$75 for non-members. San Luis Obispo Botanical Garden, 3450 Dairy Creek Rd., San Luis Obispo, 8055411400.

SOCIAL MEDIA FOR SMALL BUSINESS Running your small business' social media can be daunting, but it doesn't have to be impossible. Develop effective social media strategies for your small business that will help you reach and connect with your digital audience. **Oct. 18**, 6 a.m.-8 p.m. \$97. eventbrite.com. Online, See website, San Luis Obispo.

FOOD & DRINK

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 AT COSTA DE ORO Featured vendors in the series include Cali Coast Tacos, Cubanissimo, Danny's Pizza Co., Chef Ricks, and more. Call venue for monthly schedules. Fridays 805-922-1468. costadeorowines.com. Costa De Oro Winery, 1331 S. Nicholson Ave., Santa Maria.

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



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2022

TAKE FLIGHT

Arroyo Grande Public Art will host a ribbon cutting and grand opening of a butterfly garden at 800 Branch St., Arroyo Grande, on Friday, Oct. 21, at 5 p.m. The garden includes a sculpture, titled *A Moment Between Friends*, created by artist Dave Doust. To find out more about the event, visit agpublicart.org.

—C.W.

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

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

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

SAN LUIS OBISPO

10TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION Celebrate 10 years of craft spirits, cocktails, and good times. Features live music, a raffle, and more. **Oct. 15**, 5 p.m. \$45. my805tix.com. Krobar Craft Distillery, 10 Higuera St., San Luis Obispo.

MUSIC

SANTA YNEZ VALLEY

ADRIAN GALYSH LIVE ON THE PATIO **Oct. 15**, 1-5 p.m. Maverick Saloon, 3687 Sagunto St., Santa Ynez, 805-686-4785, mavericksaloon.org.

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

ROBERT CRAY BAND LIVE Robert Cray has been bridging the lines between blues, soul, and R&B for four decades. The winner of five Grammy Awards and the Americana Music Lifetime Achievement Award for Performance, Cray was inducted into the Blues Hall of Fame in 2011. **Oct. 14**, 8-10 p.m. Starting at \$55. 805-686-1789. Solvang Festival Theater, 420 2nd St., Solvang.

SANTA YNEZ VALLEY CONCERT SERIES: 42ND SEASON The SYV Concert Series' 2022-23 season includes five upcoming concerts, between October and May. Through May 13, 2023 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

CARTER AND PETUNIA SWOON LIVE All ages welcome. Features indie pop and future folk music. **Oct. 15**, 8 p.m. my805tix.com. Flower City Ballroom, 110 W. Ocean Ave., Lompoc.

COUNTRY NIGHT All ages welcome. Food, drink, beer, wine, and cocktails available. **Oct. 13**, 8 p.m. my805tix.com/. Flower City Ballroom, 110 W. Ocean Ave., Lompoc.

ELECTRIC ELECTRIC: EDM NIGHT With DJs Frank the Tank and Johnny Blaze. For ages 18 and over. **Oct. 14**, 8 p.m. 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.

THE MIGHTY CASH CATS LIVE With the Linda Ronstadt Experience and DJ Daisy Van Tassel. **Oct. 22**, 7 p.m. my805tix.com. Flower City Ballroom, 110 W. Ocean Ave., Lompoc.

SUPPRESSED INTENTIONS With guests Pentacaustic and Cool Homer Jack. **Oct. 21**, 8 p.m. my805tix.com. Flower City Ballroom, 110 W. Ocean Ave., Lompoc.

SANTA MARIA VALLEY/LOS ALAMOS

DARREN SULLIVAN LIVE AND ACOUSTIC Darren Sullivan plays live and acoustic with his new album. He will cover many alt-country versions of folk, blues and traditional bluegrass Americana, while drawing from his previous eight albums of original material. **Oct. 21**, 7-9 p.m. Free. 805-934-2771. Cubanissimo Cuban Coffee House, 4869 S. Bradley Rd., #118, Orcutt.

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 COSTA DE ORO Featured acts in the ongoing series include Glamour Shots, Teresa Pico, Juan Marquez, Sweet Leaf, Russ Douglas, The Paisley Brothers, and The Regulars. Call venue for schedule. **Oct. 14**, **Oct. 16** and **Oct. 23** 805-922-1468. costadeorowines.com. Costa De Oro Winery, 1331 S. Nicholson Ave., Santa Maria.

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

SANTA MARIA PHILHARMONIC: SOCIETY AT THE LIBRARY Santa Maria Philharmonic Society presents this music program. **Oct. 23**, 3-4 p.m. Free. 805-925-0412. smphilharmonic.org/events-concerts/. Shepard Hall Art Gallery - Santa Maria Public Library, 421 South McClelland St., Santa Maria.

SOUTH COAST SLO COUNTY

ANAM CARA: DYNAMIC CELTIC QUARTET Come enjoy the great wine and ambience of Puffer's and hear the dynamic music of Anam Cara: Angela Wood, David Foster Evans, Tracy Morgan, and Taj Williams performing Celtic favorites to Disco dance tunes. **Oct. 22**, 7-10 p.m. \$5 at the door. 805-710-3309. Puffers of Pismo, 781 Price St., Pismo Beach, puffersonpismo.com.

BILLY FOPPIANO LIVE The guitar wiz Billy Foppiano will perform live on the patio with great food and several beers on tap. **Oct. 13**, 5-8 p.m. Free entry. Cape Cod Eatery and Taphouse, 1127 Shell Beach Road, Pismo Beach, 805-295-6919.

FOREVER GREEN LIVE AT LAETITIA Forever Green is an electronic/acoustic twin sister duo of multi-instrumentalist singer-songwriters. Their sound is described as ethereal and entertaining; both exciting and soothing. **Oct. 15**, 12-3 p.m. Free. 805-481-1772. laetitiamusic.com/music-food-series. Laetitia Vineyard & Winery, 453 Laetitia Vineyard Drive, Arroyo Grande.

PETTY FEVER A high energy, multi-award winning Tom Petty tribute band. **Oct. 22**, 7:30 p.m. Clark Center for the Performing Arts, 487 Fair Oaks Ave., Arroyo Grande, 805-489-9444, clarkcenter.org.

SAN LUIS OBISPO

ANDPLAY DUO: COLLABORATING WITH TECHNOLOGY The New York-based duo Maya Bennardo, violin, and Hannah Levinson, viola, will present a talk and concert with three pieces they commissioned showcasing three different ways of incorporating technology into performance by Bethany Younge, Lester St. Louis, and David Bird. **Oct. 20**, 7:30 p.m. Free. 805-756-2406. music.calpoly.edu/calendar/. Cal Poly Davidson Music Center, Room 218, Cal Poly, San Luis Obispo.

BEST IN SLO: LIVE MUSIC SHOWCASE Features live music from three featured acts. All ages welcome. **Oct. 14**, 4:30 p.m. my805tix.com. Trinity Hall, 6565 Edna Road, San Luis Obispo.

CUESTA CHOIRS CONCERT: LIFE JOURNEYS Features the Cuesta Chamber Singers and Voce. Enjoy these award-winning student vocal ensembles presenting a concert in three parts: Community, Journey, and Renewal, with an aim to soothe, inspire, heal, and to get you out of your seat dancing. **Oct. 14**, 7:30 p.m. \$15; \$10 for students with ID. tickets.cuesta.edu. Cuesta College Cultural and Performing Arts Center, Highway 1, San Luis Obispo.

MORCHEEBA With Eaglin. All ages welcome. **Oct. 13**, 8 p.m. The Fremont Theater, 1035 Monterey St., San Luis Obispo, 805-546-8600, fremontslo.com.

TODD SNIDER LIVE All ages welcome. **Oct. 18**, 8 p.m. The Fremont Theater, 1035 Monterey St., San Luis Obispo, 805-546-8600, fremontslo.com. ○

Spread the word!
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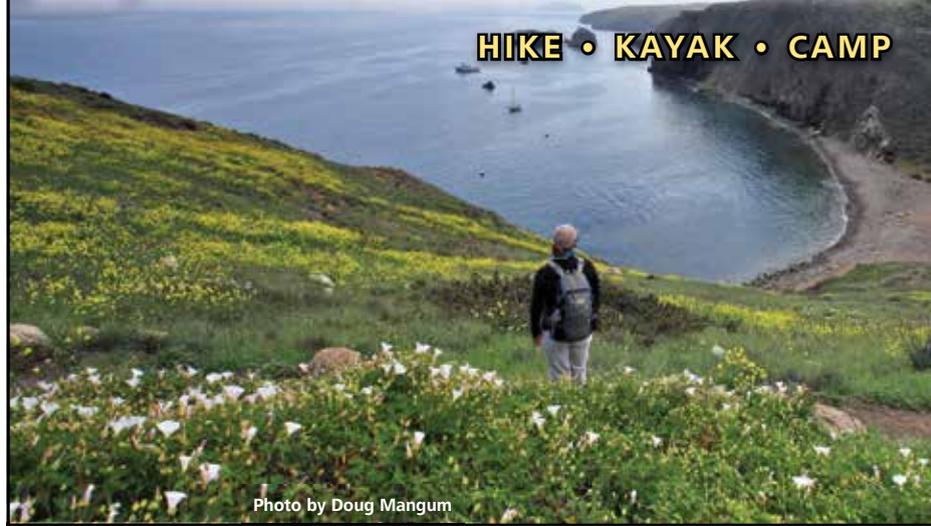


Photo by Doug Mangum

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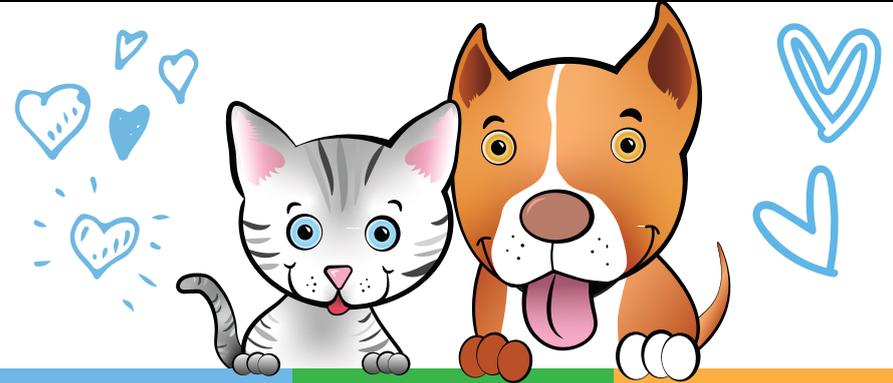
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Arts Briefs

Elks Event Center presents Ice Cube live in concert

IMAGE COURTESY OF 805CONCERTS

WELCOME TO THE 805



805Concerts is bringing iconic rap artist Ice Cube to Santa Maria for a live show. The prolific musician has been booked to headline a concert at the Elks Event Center on Saturday, Oct. 22.

Event promoter Pablo Ramos said he is expecting more than 4,000 people to attend the show, according to a release from 805Concerts. Ramos described the social media buzz for the concert as “on fire.”

“People are talking about it. This is the most feedback I’ve received for any concert I’ve promoted,” Ramos stated. “Our social media—I can’t even keep up with it because there are so many notifications now. It’s unbelievable.”

Local radio personality Jessica Carroll described the amount of listeners’ reactions to the Ice Cube announcement as “immense,” according to the release.

“People are really excited for this show, and I have no doubt that it’s going to sell out. . . . I think this is very exciting to have an artist like this come to our area,” Carroll said in a statement. “We’re used to having to drive to LA or San Francisco or San Jose. We get our couple weeks during the year during the fair to only have to drive an hour, but to do it where we can drive 10 to 15 minutes and see an artist of this caliber, it’s a really big deal.”

The Oct. 22 concert marks the second event in Santa Maria organized by 805Concerts, which hosted the 805 Funk and Soul Festival at the Santa Maria Fairpark in August. Additional acts slated to perform at the show, headlined by Ice Cube, will be announced prior to the concert.

Tickets to the show range from \$40 to \$150 and are available in advance at 805concerts.com. The Elks Event Center is located at 4040 Highway 101, Santa Maria.

Grossman Gallery brings inaugural Tiny Art Show to Lompoc

The inaugural Tiny Art Show is on display at the Grossman Gallery, located inside the Lompoc Public Library, through the end of October. An artist reception for the exhibit will take place on Saturday, Oct. 15, from 4 to 5 p.m., with complimentary refreshments for guests.

The Tiny Art Show includes 93 small artworks submitted by Lompoc residents of various ages. To find out more about the exhibit and the upcoming artist reception, call (805) 875-8775 or visit cityoflompoc.com/library. The Lompoc Public Library is located at 501 E. North Ave., Lompoc.

NTMA Readers’ Choice Award voting closes Oct. 17

The voting deadline for the 2022 New Times Music Awards’ (NTMA) Readers’ Choice Award is Monday, Oct. 17, at 5 p.m. Visit the NTMA tab on newtimeslo.com to rank the competition’s various song entries.

The Readers’ Choice Award winner will be announced during the NTMA Showcase event on Friday, Nov. 4, at the SLO Brew Rock Event Center, located at 855 Aerovista Lane, San Luis Obispo. Visit my805tix.com for tickets to this year’s event in advance. This annual competition is designed to showcase music from local artists throughout the Central Coast. ○

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

Show and tell

Santa Ynez Chumash tribal member helms *Spirit Rangers*, a new animated Netflix series

BY CALEB WISEBLOOD

Getting “slimed” is a rite of passage for newbies at Nickelodeon Studios, former intern Karissa Valencia revealed.

Like many millennials, Valencia—who grew up on the Santa Ynez Reservation—remembers seeing people getting drenched in Nickelodeon’s iconic green ooze on *Slime Time Live* as a kid.

“They did slime the interns. I just opted out. I was like, ‘I’m OK,’” said Valencia, who managed to avoid the slime hazing part of her “Nick-ternship” at the studio. “My ‘90s heart was so happy just being there. . . . It was a huge deal, I watched everything under the sun on Nickelodeon.”

Valencia said it felt surreal to be in the same office space as the late *Spongebob Squarepants* creator Stephen Hillenburg and other animation legends. Before the LA-based internship, Valencia was a grad student at Syracuse University in New York, where she studied television, radio, and film with the intention of becoming a screenwriter for animated projects.

“I’ve always loved animation. I feel like animation is just a place where you can be anything and do anything, and that really excites me as a storyteller,” Valencia said. “It was a space I always wanted to land in at some point.”

Valencia’s writing credits now include several episodes of Disney’s *Vampirina*, a children’s show about an 8-year-old vampire and her family’s bed and breakfast for ghouls and goblins. *Vampirina* was created by Chris Nee, who was the first person to get a glimpse of Valencia’s two-page treatment for a show of her own, *Spirit Rangers*.

Nee was seeking content for a

Netflix project at the time, and Valencia’s pitch for a preschool series about three Native American junior park rangers fit the bill. Valencia and Nee serve as executive producers on *Spirit Rangers*, which debuted on Netflix on Indigenous Peoples’ Day, observed on Oct. 10 this year.

Valencia described the show—which marks the writer’s first outing as creator and showrunner—as a love letter to Indigenous youth and a celebration of the rich heritage of Native American storytelling, with elements inspired by tribal stories she grew up hearing.

The show follows three siblings, Kodi, Summer, and Eddy Skycedar, who share a unique ability—they’re able to transform into “spirit rangers,” which allows them to take on the perspectives of animals while seeking to protect the land and spirits of the national park their family calls home.

An avid *Sailor Moon* fan growing up, Valencia said that the transformation sequences in *Spirit Rangers* were partly inspired by similar scenes found in the popular ‘90s anime series. Another childhood fave of Valencia’s was *Rugrats*, which shares a common cast member with *Spirit Rangers*.

“I’m so happy to say we have Cree Summer on the show. She voiced Susie in *Rugrats* and now she’s voicing Lizard for us,” Valencia said of the performer, who’s lent her voice to *Tiny Toon Adventures*, *Batman Beyond*, and countless other kids programs in the past. “She’s like a voiceover

powerhouse, she’s done everything. . . . It’s been really cool to have my animation heroes now be working on *Spirit Rangers*.”

Valencia currently lives in LA but returns to the Santa Ynez Valley often to visit her father and other family members.

“I do have family on the reservation still, which is always fun to visit,” Valencia said. “One of my favorite times to go back is to see Grass Mountain when those poppies are in bloom. It’s just so beautiful; I love to see that.”

One of Valencia’s favorite bookstores is located in the valley as well, and she hopes to see some upcoming picture



BEHIND THE SCENES: Santa Ynez Chumash tribal member Karissa Valencia is the creator, showrunner, and executive producer of *Spirit Rangers*, a new preschool series that recently premiered on Netflix.

Showtime!

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

books based on *Spirit Rangers* and published by Random House on its shelves in the future.

“I love the Book Loft in Solvang,” Valencia said. “I’m hoping some *Spirit Rangers* books will get there someday.” ○

Arts Editor Caleb Wiseblood wants to know what you’re streaming. Send comments to cwiseblood@santamariasun.com.



FAMILY VALUES: *Spirit Rangers* follows three junior park rangers, Kodi, Summer, and Eddy, seen here embracing their mother, the head ranger at Xus National Park, a fictionalized national park inspired by various parks in California.



TERRIFIC TRIO: Kodi, Summer, and Eddy take on new perspectives as a grizzly bear cub, a red-tailed hawk, and a turtle, respectively, to help protect a national park, in the new fantasy-adventure preschool series, *Spirit Rangers*.

2022 NEW TIMES MUSIC AWARDS

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...AWKWARD SILENCE "Breakout Room"

BLYTHE BERG "Witching Hour"

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DEAD MAGIC "Here Comes the Wave"

DEREK SENN "Texas Legislators"

DEREK SENN "The Big Five-O"

EDAWG805 "Beethoven"

11EVAN "i know who changed"

TRAPPED LIKE RATS "Anger Flares"

HA KEEM & VINCENT ANGELO "Blood Line"

JACQUI BOMBEN "Keep It Down"

JODY MULGREW "Phony Gibson (Waiting Around)"

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Fragile freedom

Writer-director David O. Russell (*The Silver Linings Playbook*, *American Hustle*) presents *Amsterdam*, the story of three friends—Burt Berendsen (Christian Bale), Valerie Voze (Margot Robbie), and Harold Woodman (John David Washington)—who in 1933 are drawn into the mysterious murder of General Bill Meekins (Ed Begley Jr.) and its connection to a fascist plot to rule America. (134 min.)

Glen: A move toward authoritarianism, a plan to overturn an election, a greedy power grab orchestrated by the über rich, a nation in the grasp of economic uncertainty—there's something familiar afoot in David O. Russell's visually dazzling and monumentally complicated comedic thriller that's based on the tiniest shred of historical truth that just so happens to mirror our situation today. What the film's actually about, to me anyway, is friendship, freedom, and maintaining honor in dishonorable company. Burt and Harold meet during the Great War when General Meekins, looking for a nonracist white officer to lead a platoon of Black men into the Meuse-Argonne offensive, puts the men together, forging a life-long bond. Both wounded, they end up in the care of Valerie, a nurse who enjoys making art out of the shrapnel she removes from soldiers' bodies. They're an

AMSTERDAM

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

odd trio that enjoys a few blissful months in free-spirited Amsterdam before eventually returning to the U.S. and all its hang-ups, rules, and responsibilities. Their bond will serve them well as they're drawn into political intrigue.

Anna: The friendship between the three is straight-up charming. While Harold seems to be the straight man of the group, Burt is quirky and strange, as is Valerie, but both are so easy to fall in love with. And fall in love they do: Harold and Valerie have an instant romantic spark, but instead of Burt becoming a third wheel, the couple makes a pact with him that wherever they go he goes. As dizzily romantic as it all sounds, life soon gets in the way, and while Harold and Burt still have each other, Valerie is lost in the wind. When the tragic death of Meekins' daughter Liz (Taylor Swift) brings heat on the pair, they must hunt for a socialite to vouch for them. All the while a military veteran fundraiser event is being planned, and suddenly Valerie appears and joins up in an effort to clear their names. I thought this movie was so much fun. Bale and Robbie are especially brilliant. I can't believe this isn't rated higher with Rotten Tomatoes and IMDb. This is one I have no doubt I'll watch again.

Glen: Most of the complaints seem to concern the convoluted plot (I'd call it "intricate" and "nuanced") and the slow pace (I'd call it "patient"). Yes, there's a lot going on—racism,



FRIENDS OF LIFE: Burt Berendsen (Christian Bale), Valerie Voze (Margot Robbie), and Harold Woodman (John David Washington) find themselves thrust into a political mystery about a greedy power grab amid the Great Depression, in *Amsterdam*, screening in local theaters.

misogyny, antisemitism—and a lot of characters, but this is an incredible ensemble cast delivering amazing performances and managing to cover all the ambitious ideas Russell has packed into the story. Robbie goes all in as Valerie, whose wildly free spirit is cruelly tamped down by her rich family and in particular her brother Tom (Rami Malek) and sister-in-law Libby (Anya Taylor-Joy). Bale's Burt Berendsen is a complicated man—a doctor who seeks to help damaged vets by repairing their outsides with prostheses and insides with a dizzying array of pharmaceuticals he tests on himself. Burt, like Harold, is a deeply moral man, but his white skin, unlike Harold, allows him to embrace his unconventionality. These are fascinating characters deftly brought to life. Ignore the bad reviews and judge this one for yourself.

Anna: It feels a little like the critics are crossing their arms and refusing to have fun. It's supposed to be whimsical. Burt's also trying to win back his wife, Beatrice (Andrea Riseborough), whose well-to-do family first sent Burt to war and now wants nothing to do with him. It may be that I have a soft spot for these actors. I find them all to be very good at what they do, and the supporting cast is also top notch. If the film suffers from a bit of silliness, I don't mind it. For me, *Amsterdam* is just the right dose of good medicine that I need in a fun and funny film. ○

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

Film Reviews

MONTANA STORY

What's it rated? **R**
 When? **2021**
 Where's it showing? **Showtime**

Cal's (Owen Teague) father is dying on their sprawling Montana ranch, and he's there to do the heartbreaking work of settling the estate. His father is bedridden, unable to talk, maybe even unable to have conscious thought anymore. Their relationship is complicated, but when Owen's sister, Erin (Haley Lu Richardson), shows up for a final goodbye, we learn that her relationship with her father isn't just complicated—it's broken. Cal has to sell off a bunch of stuff—including the old family horse named Mr. T—to get the ranch ready to be sold. When Erin hears this, she insists on bringing Mr. T home with her to upstate New York, where she works as a chef in a farm-to-table restaurant.

Sweepingly beautiful landscapes set the backdrop for this melancholy family drama. The siblings are trying to work out their own complicated feelings about each other as well as their father and the land they need to leave behind. Richardson and Teague handle these characters well. Cal is just trying to find



BIG SKY COUNTRY: Erin (Haley Lu Richardson) and her estranged brother, Cal (Owen Teague), are reunited when they return to the family ranch as their father nears death, dredging up old wounds, in *Montana Story* screening on Showtime.

peace, and Erin is a bundle of raw nerves. A quiet and reflective drama set in God's country, *Montana Story* is a subtle film about setting right the things from the past that still haunt us. (114 min.)

—Anna

New Flicks

LOU

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

Anna Foerster (*Underworld: Blood Wars*) directs this action crime drama about Vee (Ridley Asha Bateman), a kidnapped girl being pursued by her mother, Hannah (Jurnee Smollett), with the help of their mysterious neighbor, Lou (Allison Janney), who's more than the surly landlord and town curmudgeon she appears to be.

Trapped on a heavily wooded island in the Pacific Northwest, and facing a growing storm, the two women set out after the kidnapper and Vee through the forest, where they discover there may be more dangers than they realize. It's a fun little action mystery that will remind viewers of a female version of the Jeff Bridges TV series *The Old Man*, about a retired CIA operative who's forced to deal with old troubles.

Janney is typically terrific as Lou, a sardonic old woman who's beyond taking shit from anyone, even the town sheriff, Rankin (Matt Craven). As the pursuit continues, Lou's secrets are revealed, and Hannah is forced to come to terms with her own past and her connection to the kidnapper. Released Sept. 23 on Netflix, this one would



STRAINED: Hannah (Jurnee Smollett, right) has to put aside her animosity toward her mysterious neighbor, Lou (Allison Janney), when her daughter is kidnapped and the two women go in pursuit, in the new Netflix action film *Lou*.

have been great on the big screen. Its Vancouver setting and cinematography by Michael McDonough are impressive. (107 min.) ○

—Glen



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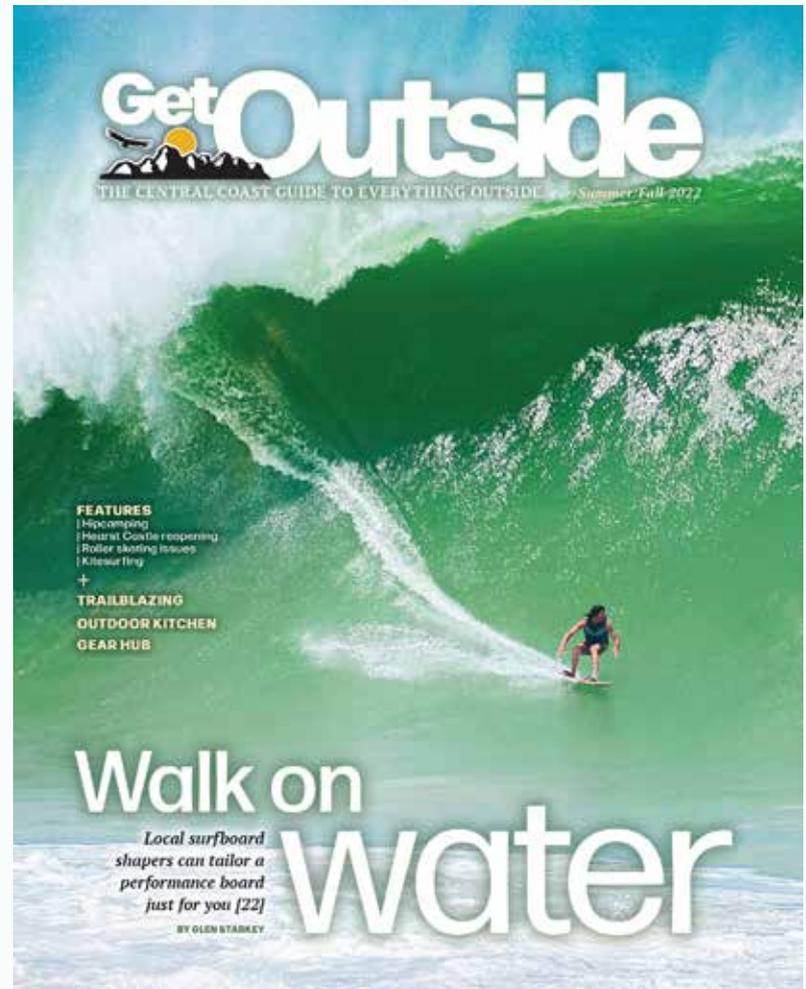
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TAKE THE HIGH ROAD: On the first and third Monday of every month at Zaca Creek in Buellton, follow the signs that point to the Buellhouse, where the venue hosts its Mojito Monday events.



BEST OF BOTH WORLDS: Participants of salsa dance sessions at Zaca Creek can slide over to the Buellhouse bar for some cocktails and bites during breaks before heading back to the dance floor located just steps away.



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CHANGE OF SCENERY: Dance instructors from Santa Maria studio Klein Dance Arts head down to Buellton twice a month to host salsa dance sessions at the Buellhouse at Zaca Creek. Ceviche, quesadillas, tacos, and cocktails are among the venue's food and drink offerings during the event.

Sweet and saucy

Zaca Creek is mixing cocktails with salsa dancing in Buellton

BY CALEB WISEBLOOD

There's a new way to shake off the Monday blues in the Santa Ynez Valley. Thanks to a partnership with Santa Maria-based dance company Klein Dance Arts, Zaca Creek in Buellton is hosting salsa dance sessions twice a month.

Each event in the Mojito Monday series is paired with a selection of tropical cocktails and bites for attendees to enjoy—either before, after, or in between learning some salsa moves on the dance floor.

Zaca Creek co-owner Joe Rushing was the first to propose a salsa dance program at the venue, said his daughter, Chelsea Rushing, in an email interview.

"When we were coming up with

ideas to bring to the community, he suggested it, and to our surprise, nothing like that was really available in the Santa Ynez Valley," said Chelsea, also a co-owner at Zaca Creek.

During her college years, Chelsea was an avid salsa dancer herself, she added.

"When I was an undergrad, I'd spend every Monday night dancing at a salsa club that my roommate taught lessons at, and my dad loved visiting and seeing the energy and great environment," Chelsea said.

The Zaca Creek staff strove to bring that same kind of energy to the Mojito Monday series, which kicked off in September. Salsa dance sessions are held in Zaca Creek's Buellhouse event space on the first and third Monday of every month. The next event in the series will

take place on Monday, Oct. 17.

Chelsea said that her father has been out of town often lately and missed the first few sessions, but she added that "my mom has not missed a lesson and plans to hit the dance floor with him from now on."

"[Joe] is very excited and can't wait to throw back a mojito and show off his dance moves," Chelsea said.

Although it's the only drink in the dance program's title, Zaca Creek's mojito is just one of several cocktails available for purchase during Mojito Monday, along with some sweet and savory food options.

"We also have a fantastic selection of mezcal, pisco, and cachaça, so it's giving people a chance to maybe have a pisco sour or a Brazilian caipirinha for a nice change of pace in their cocktail selections," said Chelsea. "As for the food, the zesty ceviche and magic-shell mole ice cream—complete with crispy churros—are also fantastic."

Quesadillas, tacos, chips with salsa and guacamole, and salads are among

the venue's other food options during Mojito Monday. Soft drinks, coffee, and other nonalcoholic beverages are also available for dance participants to purchase.

The salsa dance sessions at Mojito Monday are led by dance instructors from Klein Dance Arts, which was on Zaca Creek's radar while staff sought out a dance company to collaborate with for the program.

"We wanted to work with a local studio, and Klein Dance Arts kept coming up when we asked around for recommendations," Chelsea said. "Meeting them sealed the deal, and they're just terrific in a group setting. It was a fantastic match, and we couldn't be more thrilled with the collaboration."

One of the Mojito Monday instructors is Irene Kleinbauer, the founder of Klein Dance Arts, which was established in Santa Maria five years ago. A dancer since her youth, Kleinbauer has trained in salsa, ballet, modern, jazz, hip-hop, tap, and

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ballroom, among other styles.

Kleinbauer's favorite fuel during breaks in Mojito Monday dance sessions? A margarita and ceviche, according to the dance studio.

Zaca Creek's salsa dance program is scheduled to continue at the Buellhouse throughout October and November but will take a pause during December and January, before resuming in February, Chelsea said.

"After the holidays," she said, "it should be a great way to shake off those extra treats we all will have inevitably indulged in." ○

Send salsa and ceviche to Arts Editor Caleb Wiseblood at cwiseblood@santamariasun.com.

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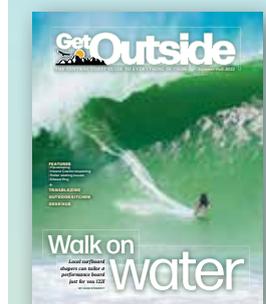
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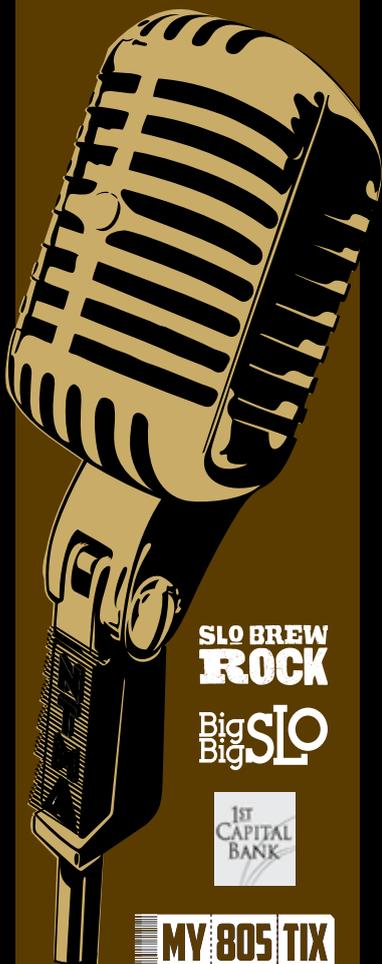
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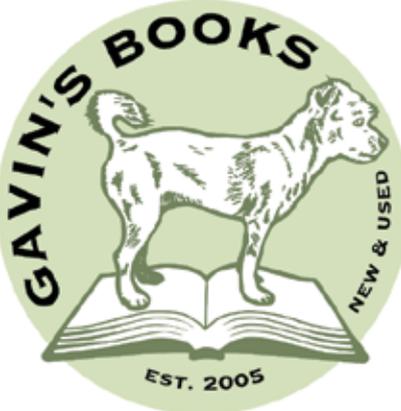


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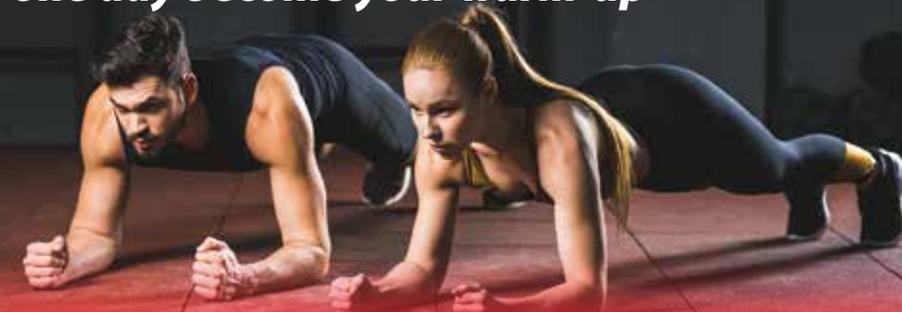
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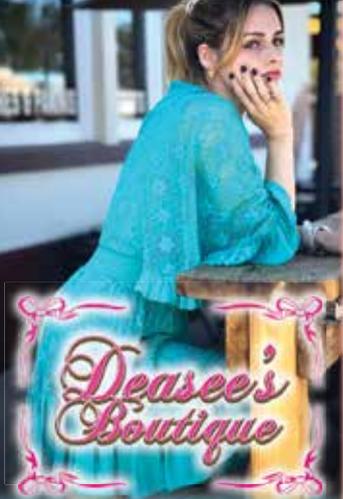
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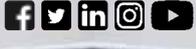
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