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Luckiest Girl: brave and powerful [22]

# SUN



SANTA MARIA CITY HALL

## Time for change

As City Councilmember Etta Waterfield heads toward retirement, Maribel Aguilera-Hernandez and Carol Karamitsos vie for her seat [6]

BY TAYLOR O'CONNOR

**NEWS** What's happening with Santa Maria animal services [4]

**ARTS** Local author releases eighth murder mystery [20]

**EATS** A beer above the rest in Lompoc [24]

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# Contents

OCTOBER 20 - OCTOBER 27, 2022 VOL. 23 NO. 34

**H**omelessness, affordable housing, and economic development are top campaign priorities for Santa Maria City Council candidates. With Etta Waterfield not running to retain her seat on Nov. 8, two new faces stepped in to try to take her spot: current city Planning Commissioner Maribel Aguilera-Hernandez and Santa Maria Joint Union High School District board member Carol Karamitsos. Staff Writer Taylor O'Connor speaks with both about their proposed solutions and what they will do if elected [6].

You can also read about why Santa Maria is mulling a contract with the local Humane Society [4]; a Santa Maria novelist's take on a Hollywood detective story [20]; and COLD Coast Brewing winning a national award [24].

Camillia Lanham  
editor



**ONE OUT, ONE IN:** Two candidates battle over the Santa Maria City Hall seat that 4th District City Councilmember Etta Waterfield is vacating at the end of her term.

Cover photo by Caleb Wiseblood > Cover design by Alex Zuniga

## NEWS

News Briefs .....	4
Political Watch .....	4
Spotlight .....	8

## ARTS

Arts Briefs .....	20
-------------------	----

## MOVIES

Reviews .....	22
---------------	----

## OPINION

Web Poll .....	10
Modern World .....	10
Canary .....	12

## CLASSIFIEDS, HOME, AND REAL ESTATE

.....	26
-------	----

## EVENTS CALENDAR

Hot Stuff .....	13
-----------------	----

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## Political Watch

• U.S. Rep. **Salud Carbajal** (D-Santa Barbara) announced that California will receive more than \$5 billion from programs funded by the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law to strengthen roads and bridges and build out a statewide network of electric vehicle charging stations, according to an Oct. 13 statement from the congressman's office. "Through my work on the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, I helped craft the largest investment in fixing our roads, freeways, and bridges since the creation of the Interstate Highway System—and this week California is seeing those investments reach our state to make much-needed repairs, cut commute times, lower car repair costs, and reduce pollution while supporting good-paying, union jobs," Carbajal said in the statement. "I will continue partnering with our state and local leaders to put these game-changing investments to work along with the billions California will be receiving to expand internet connectivity, reduce carbon emissions, and improve our public transit and clean water infrastructure up and down our Central Coast." The **Federal Highway Administration** is providing the state with \$5.74 million for bridge repairs—including \$85 million for off-system bridges that are not part of the federal highway system. Carbajal specifically pushed for increased funding to revitalize and repair off-system funding, as this can go to counties and other local entities that own bridges in need of repairs, according to Carbajal's office.

• The Santa Maria Valley Chamber of Commerce welcomed two new chairpersons: **Jason Buchanan**, chair of Business and Roundtable, and **Claudia Ortiz**, chair of the Hispanic Business Committee, according to the chamber. Both individuals are longtime residents of the Santa Maria Valley. "I was approached by Glenn Morris about two years ago to join the roundtable and have found it to be an incredible opportunity for local business members to communicate and strategize with the government agencies in our area. The roundtable brings a direct pathway for the two sides to collaborate and find ways to push our policies, economy, and community forward," Buchanan said in a statement. "My goals for this fiscal year are to continue to build my business and increasingly support the local businesses that require sound insurance advice, especially in a time when many businesses may be financially struggling." Buchanan serves as an employee benefits and commercial insurance advisor for HUB International's Santa Maria office. Ortiz is a branch manager and business development officer for First Bank in Santa Maria. "As the chair of the Hispanic Business Committee, my goal is to bring together a group of individuals interested and invested in expanding resources to support the success of local Hispanic businesses," Ortiz said in the statement. "I invite those interested in becoming involved to join us for our regular monthly meetings."

• U.S. Sen. **Alex Padilla** (D-California) announced the inclusion of the Emergency Aircraft Act in this year's National Defense Authorization Act for fiscal year 2023, according to an Oct. 12 statement from the senator's office. The amendment would remove the current cap on how many excess planes the **Department of Defense** can transfer to other federal agencies, and allows aircraft transfers to states for emergency response and wildfire suppression purposes. Currently, the Department of Defense is allowed to transfer excess aircraft to federal agencies for wildfire suppression, but they are arbitrarily capped at transferring only seven aircraft total to each agency, and they cannot transfer them to states, according to Padilla's office. "As we grapple with increasingly catastrophic wildfires in California and across so many states in the West, I applaud the inclusion of our bill in this year's [National Defense Authorization Act] to increase our ability to put out wildfires more quickly," Padilla said in a statement. "This legislation will expand the tools at our disposal by securing excess military aircraft to augment state and federal aerial firefighting fleets. This federal support is necessary to improve suppression efforts and get fires under control quickly, support search and rescue efforts, and keep our communities safe." ○

## Potential Santa Maria animal services contract sparks controversy

Santa Maria residents called out Santa Barbara Humane's leadership issues, euthanasia policies, and mismanagement during the Oct. 18 City Council meeting as reasons the city shouldn't contract with the nonprofit for its animal services.

The comments came after the nonprofit responded to a city request for proposal (RFP) to provide future animal services to the city. Earlier this year, Santa Barbara County Animal Services told the city its costs would increase by about 30 percent (from \$860,000 per year to a little more than \$1 million) in the next five-year contract, so the city decided to look at other options, Public Information Officer Mark van de Kamp said. Applicants—including Santa Barbara Humane—had until Oct. 10 to apply, and the city will announce its choice on Oct. 24.

"We are reviewing the proposal that we received. I haven't reviewed it, but I know we have a team that will be doing so," van de Kamp said. "Also there has been publicity about the departure of staff from Santa Barbara Humane earlier this year. The [Santa Barbara] *Independent* released a letter where there were accusations made about the leadership. We are aware of that, and it will be taken into consideration when looking at the RFP."

The contract with Animal Services runs through June 30, 2027, but there's a termination clause that could allow either party to terminate it within 60 days, he added. Euthanasia, animal release, and staff turnover rates will also be considered when looking at the proposals—something Linda Greco said she hopes the city will take a close look at with Santa Barbara Humane's RFP.

"I would really like to have the city slow down a bit with the contract and look between the lines to find what's not written, but will be a reality," Greco, the Santa Barbara County Animal Care Foundation president and co-founder, said.

Santa Barbara Humane is an organization that "uses euthanasia loosely," Greco said, and she's concerned with countywide euthanasia rates jumping up and its 92 percent adoption and release rate dropping.

"The other side of it is whether or not Santa Barbara Humane is equipped to handle that many animals and what their euthanasia policy is going to be with it. What is the live release of those animals going to look like?" she asked.

The county works with strays, rescues, and turn-ins, and organizations like the Animal Care Foundation help pay for medical and behavioral intervention in order to get animals ready for adoption, she said. If Santa Maria parts ways with county Animal Services, there's the potential to lose surrounding supports and partnerships.

"How is Santa Barbara Humane going to do that? I don't see them taking a lesser-priced contract and [raising] money to fill the voids that it's taken other organizations years to put in place," she said.

Santa Barbara Humane's CEO Kerri Burns said that Santa Maria would benefit from having its own facility, and that the nonprofit plans on providing access to veterinary care, and pathways to adoption and foster programs to contribute to the animals' overall success, if it gets chosen.

Euthanasia decisions are made by an eight-to-10 person team to discuss all other viable options first, she added.

"Our leadership team [combined] has close to 100 years of animal experience," Burns said. "We want to be able to, at the end of the day, to meet the needs of the Santa Maria community at the highest level."

A Santa Barbara County employee told the *Sun* that they believe Santa Barbara Humane could do a good job managing the city's animal services, and its leaders wouldn't have applied if they didn't believe the organization was capable of managing the city's demand for services.



**DOUBLE-SIDED ISSUE:** While many people don't want to see Santa Barbara Humane take over Santa Maria's animal services, overcrowding and management remain issues at the county level, too.

"There were some heated and emotional [claims] from people that I've seen or heard that animals are put to sleep without trying to save them, potentially even for space issues. That couldn't be further from the truth," the employee, who requested anonymity out of concern for their job, said.

The county's Santa Maria shelter isn't ceasing its services either, they added. Santa Barbara County Animal Services will continue to operate and serve the city's unincorporated areas, Buellton, and Lompoc, but it also has its own challenges to overcome.

"Over the last six months, six out of the eight members of the [Animal Services] leadership team have resigned," the employee said. "That speaks to a critical issue of the Public Health Department management above when you are losing that many key players to the organization."

County Public Health—which oversees Animal Services—could not verify the number of resignations, but said via email that there have been changes with staffing at the Public Health Department including the departure of the Animal Services director in May 2022.

High staff turnover rates, kennel overcrowding, and mismanagement have made it difficult to operate the shelter properly, and there are days where staff can't even clean the dog shelters properly, the employee said.

"I think it would be important for [residents] to know what's happening inside the county shelter right now and how the taxpayers' dollars are spent, when many of my coworkers have left the organization because of the mismanagement," the employee said.

—Taylor O'Connor

## County greenlights 60-acre cannabis cultivation near Orcutt

After two hours of deliberation, one Santa Barbara County planning commissioner stood firm about denying a local grower's cannabis permit, which would have otherwise been approved unanimously.

"We've succeeded in extending our one case to the same length as three others," Planning Commissioner C. Michael Cooney said near the end of the Planning Commission's Oct. 12 meeting. "I think we better get to a decision on this and do our best."

The sole item on the meeting's agenda was for the Planning Commission to consider granting farmer Gary Teixeira a conditional use permit for a 60.4-acre outdoor cannabis cultivation operation at 4301 Dominion Road in the Santa Maria and Orcutt area, according to the staff report.

Before the permit was approved in a 4-1 vote, Cooney voiced his doubts about the project, starting

with odor abatement. After Cooney questioned staff about anticipating odor complaints from residential neighbors to Teixeira's property, Planning Commissioner John Parke said he doesn't think that will be a glaring problem, based on his site visit.

"I look to the left, there's the applicant's own berry farm—he's the neighbor. Behind him is Greka Oil, OK. We're going to protect them from noxious odors from cannabis?" Parke said. "Then, to the right, is a Chevron property that's very large. ... It's a depositing site for contaminated soil. So it's not as if this property is surrounded by immediate neighbors that are concerned about the possible noxiousness of odors."

Teixeira joined the meeting via Zoom and commented on a landscaping condition of the permit that he believes will anger nearby farmers in the area, and requested to be omitted. The condition required that the cannabis cultivation be hidden from public view with vegetative screening, which would attract birds and other animals to the area, the applicant argued.

"We have no intention of making any of our neighbors mad," Teixeira said. "I still grow blueberries on the other partial and grapes we're putting in, and it's not beneficial to any of my neighbors or myself to have more planting of trees in an ag area when we're trying to keep the birds, the deer, the coyotes away from our fields."

Speaking from his own experience dealing with unwanted birds as a farmer, Planning Commissioner Larry Ferini said he supported Teixeira's request.

"As a grower, birds are horrible. ... The reason they've become horrible is there's no control for birds," Ferini said. "You can't shoot them, or you'll harm your crop, or you'll scare your employees, or I don't even know, it might even be illegal to shoot them."

"The concern that birds can spread is the one we've all heard of, of course—salmonella. That's the big food safety concern," added Ferini, who described enforcing the vegetative screening in this case as "encouraging a food safety violation."

"If something ever happened, I don't want that liability on me," he said.

Cooney described his view as a "rare disagreement" with Ferini, and said that the applicant should be responsible for finding a solution to meet the screening requirement without jeopardizing the area's crops.

Ferini said he's never come across a plant-based landscape screening that doesn't attract birds and motioned to approve the permit without the screening condition, which passed in a 4-1 vote, with Cooney dissenting.

—Caleb Wiseblood

NEWS from page 4

## Sheriff's Office overtime costs soaring to historic levels

The Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors voted unanimously to create Sheriff's Office hiring incentive programs, redirect funds and personnel to alleviate jail staffing challenges, and develop additional hiring data in order to address overtime spending and staffing shortages at the sheriff's department.

Although incentives like bonuses were not supported by Sheriff Bill Brown, the supervisors agreed that it was time to think outside of the box in order to fill positions.

The sheriff's department currently has a 10 percent vacancy rate and is projected to have overtime costs in both law enforcement and jail custody branches reaching more than \$17 million by the end of 2022—a historic rate for the Sheriff's Office—according to county documents.

"With fewer staff overall, existing staff are required to work overtime to maintain fixed post levels required. This is not a new issue, although reasons for the vacancies have varied year to year," a staff report said.

The department has been struggling to recruit and retain staff mainly because of internal challenges, competition with other counties, and public sentiment regarding law enforcement, the staff report said.

Brown said the report emphasizes the significant challenges the department, like other law enforcement agencies, is having with attracting and hiring candidates.

"We have seen a national narrative, a false narrative, that's

emerged in the wake of the George Floyd tragedy driven by people in the media and people who are agenda-driven to create this false notion that American policing is somehow overtly brutal, inherently racist, and hopelessly broken," Brown said.

Second District Supervisor Gregg Hart said that this kind of rhetoric is not going to solve the issue of staffing shortages, but it will take creative solutions and the office to try something different in order to hire people.

"I'm not getting a sense of urgency," Hart said. "We are hearing that rural crime is up and we want to be able to respond to that, and yet we have the highest number of vacancies recorded, the highest number of overtime recorded."

He said it seemed like the Sheriff's Office and the county have been repeating themselves in order to improve recruitment, and he emphasized the importance of trying something new like incentives.

"I was surprised you had concerns with the incentive structure, but not using that tool means that's a tool that's not available. It's different from what we've been doing," Hart said.

Justin Shroeder, representative for the sheriff's union, said that incentives were a great idea, but offered words of caution.

"It's a tough one because of course we want to incentivize that, but we have to incentivize our folks to stay as well. So if we are going to do new-hiring incentives we should do retention incentives as well," Shroeder said during public comment.

The supervisors seemed interested in exploring this option as well but still wanted to encourage the Sheriff's Office to try the incentive program, and if it doesn't work, they can come back to the board for further discussion. O

—Taylor O'Connor

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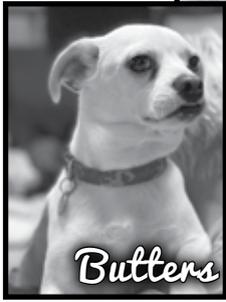
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Bunny Maxim  
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(805) 878-0807**A new face**Santa Maria's 4th District candidates  
Maribel Aguilera-Hernandez  
and Carol Karamitsos  
discuss their top priorities

BY TAYLOR O'CONNOR

**A**fter serving as an elected official for eight years, Santa Maria 4th District City Councilmember Etta Waterfield is stepping away from her role and moving to Montana to retire.

Attorney and city Planning Commissioner Maribel Aguilera-Hernandez is facing off against obstetrics and gynecologist and Santa Maria Joint Union High School District board President Carol Karamitsos for the open seat—which represents an area that starts between Orcutt Road and Highway 101 and runs north from Santa Maria Way to the Santa Maria River.

Priorities for each candidate include increasing youth opportunities and education, enhancing public safety, reducing homelessness, and increasing affordable housing for the city's overall economic development.

Aguilera-Hernandez said many of her priorities will work hand in hand—for instance, she said that increasing youth recreational opportunities will lead to reduced crime rates and violence in the city.

“When you engage the youth, you engage the parents, the younger siblings, and therefore, I would hope entire families in Santa Maria would become engaged so we can prevent the youth from joining gangs and therefore assist in prevention of gang violence in our city,” she said.

In order to enhance the city Recreation and Parks Department, Aguilera-Hernandez said she wants to start by asking youth what activities they'd like to see in the city through surveys, social media outreach, and partnerships with school districts and youth organizations like Future Leaders of America and the YMCA.

“When children reach seventh grade, junior high, the need to belong to a group is much greater. They are more prone to fall into peer pressure,” she said. “We want them to have the opportunity at that point to belong to a group that engages in positive activities and not feel pressured to engage in negative behavior simply to belong to a group and feel accepted.”

Along with creating more recreational opportunities, Aguilera-Hernandez said she wants to develop the use of technology and a police department cadet program to enhance the city's Police Department and increase its retention rates.

“There's no reason why we can't be safer with the use of technology,” she said. “Technology is so advanced, we can put up cameras and [use] communication devices to be able to communicate in real time.”

There are currently 24 vacancies in the city's Police Department with about 16 to 19 officers patrolling at one time, Aguilera-Hernandez said. The city has a Police Explorer program for high school students who want to be police officers, but there's nothing available to them between ages 18 (when the explorer program ends) and 21, which is when the police academy begins.

A cadet program could streamline the path for young adults joining the academy, fill open positions, and help address other ongoing issues like property and rural crime. The cadet program and technology projects could be funded through Measure U, a sales tax supporting essential city services.

By partnering with Santa Barbara County, Aguilera-Hernandez said she also hopes to enhance the city Police Department's response to mental

health calls by adding a mental health worker to respond to crisis calls, specifically when working with people who are homeless, and connect them to local shelters or mental health services.

“It's inhumane to leave a person on the street who is suffering from mental health [issues], drug addiction, or lack of housing,” she said. “We need to come together as a community and look for solutions to help the most vulnerable population.”



Streamlining affordable housing projects' development process and supporting projects at the City Council level can also help address the homelessness issue, Aguilera-Hernandez added.

Addressing these issues, she said, could improve overall quality of life and help the city grow economically. Eventually, Aguilera-Hernandez said, she'd like to see more businesses like Amazon, Sony, or other large companies open offices in Santa Maria to help the downtown development project and diversify available jobs in the city.

“There is a looming, pending, expected downturn of the economy. It's important to diversify our economy and the different types of businesses in Santa Maria so our local economy can weather future economic downturns,” she said. “We need to look at that long-term and have those discussions as to how we can attract different industries to Santa Maria, such as tech companies, so we can have higher paying jobs for the residents of Santa Maria.”

Karamitsos also wants to see the city grow, and she believes affordable housing is the first step to make that happen.

“That will take some very careful planning and a multi-tiered approach to gathering quantitative data and then matching that with qualitative data to ensure the city planning process takes care of those needs,” Karamitsos said. “It's highly complex, and cities across the world are struggling with meeting the same need.”

Although she didn't have specific revenue ideas for funding affordable housing projects, she suggested finding ways to increase the amount of revenue received from taxes like sales tax, she said. Along with increasing affordable housing, she'd like to build greater capacity in the arts, music, entertainment, and recreation industries to boost the city's economy, she said.

“Santa Maria is in between San Luis Obispo and Santa Barbara; we are the gateway to wineries,” she said. “Our climate is very mild so we could partner with the Pacific Conservatory Theater to build venues for arts and entertainment.”

Enhancing the entertainment industry would also support existing restaurants, hotels, gas stations, and other retail services in the community, she said. Karamitsos added that she's hoping to include more entertainment facilities in the 2023 city general plan and give incentives at the council level in order to pursue this type of development.

Greater access to educational opportunities and medical residency programs in the city will also ensure Santa Maria's development and its residents' success, she said.

“I'm a huge supporter of access to education for everyone. A lot of our high school students get into college, but they can't afford to go because they can't afford the housing piece to it,” she said. “I would really love to see the feasibility of having a Cal State here regionally, a Cal State that's accessible for Santa Maria and Lompoc Valleys so students could still live at home but attend a Cal State.”

Though the college itself wouldn't be within the city limits or within the City Council's jurisdiction, Karamitsos discussed the possibility of working with the Cal State system and U.S. Rep. Salud Carbajal for development.

As for other education avenues, Karamitsos

PHOTO COURTESY OF MARIBEL AGUILERA-HERNANDEZ

**RUNNING FOR ELECTION:** Outside of running for Santa Maria City Council, Maribel Aguilera-Hernandez served on the city Planning Commission for eight years and as an attorney for the North County Rape Crisis Center, Future Leaders of America, and the Legal Aid Foundation.

PHOTO COURTESY OF MARIAN REGIONAL MEDICAL CENTER

**SWITCHING GEARS:** City Council candidate Carol Karamitsos works as an OB-GYN hospitalist at Marian Regional Medical Center, as an OB-GYN for Santa Barbara County Public Health Women's Clinic, and has served on the Santa Maria Joint Union High School District's board for 16 years.

added she'd like to see a fourth high school developed in the city. Since she's been on the Santa Maria Joint Union High School District's board, she said there's been a need to build another site to increase capacity.

“We've done some great things in modernizing school sites but we now have upward of 3,000 students at the sites and they're very crowded,” she said. “The city could help by earmarking schools in their planning. That's where the school districts and city can work closely in identifying physical spaces.”

Karamitsos acknowledged that she doesn't have all of the answers, but she said she does enjoy looking at complex problems and systems and reaching common goals in a fair way to make sure everyone feels engaged.

“I feel like I could easily step into the role as a City Council member and a policymaker setting direction, interfacing with the rest of the departments and the city manager to make sure the needs and goals of the community have been realized,” Karamitsos said. ▽

Staff Writer Taylor O'Connor can be reached at [toconnor@santamariasun.com](mailto:toconnor@santamariasun.com).

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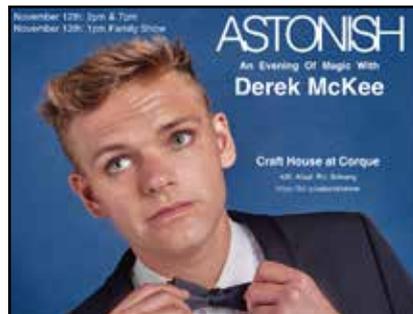


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## NEWS

# Scientific roots

*Agriculture education nonprofit connects science and farming through immersive experiences*

BY TAYLOR O'CONNOR

Kids learn about the water cycle, soil, and plants in their science classes at school, but there's something about seeing it in real time that enhances the experience and understanding, Seth Wilmoth said.

Wilmoth is the education program director for Students for Eco-Education and Agriculture (SEEAG)—a Ventura County-born education nonprofit that teaches kids the importance of the agricultural sector through four hands-on, immersive programs, he explained.

"Farm Lab is one of these programs. It's a third grade program where kids get to experience the sciences behind farming, taste, explore, and immerse themselves into what ag farming is," Wilmoth said.

Through a partnership with Allan Hancock College, the nonprofit was able to expand its reach into Santa Barbara County and provide its first Farm Lab field trip to 52 Battles Elementary School students, he said.

The field trips are usually broken up into two parts: First, the SEEAG team will come to the school one to two weeks before the outing to give students an introduction to the trip and their potential discussion. When they arrive at the farm, kids get divided into three groups to rotate between stations where they learn about soil, water, and plants and insects.

"For soil—which is a good place to start—we first break down why we're learning about soil and why we care, and then get the students to intuitively ask why it matters," Wilmoth said.

SEEAG educators talk about what makes up healthy soil and then have students go on a scavenger hunt where they pour water onto the land to feel it and understand its components, he said.

"It's a cool activity where students get their hands on soil, texture it with water, and be able to identify it," Wilmoth said. "It seems like they are working and playing with dirt, but they are actually acting like a soil scientist in the field. It's one of the best ways to recognize if you have a more sandy or clay soil."

Students then rotate to the water station to learn about the water cycle, groundwater, and its importance to California farmers.

"We are teaching how water pertains to a farm as far as sourcing. We are not just getting water from lakes and trees, but groundwater—which is 75 percent of the water we use in Ventura and Santa Barbara County," he said.

In order to demonstrate how groundwater works, students get to build their own mini farm that they get to decorate and personalize, which is built above a mini clear box of water. Every student is given a lotion pump that acts as a well and aquifer, Wilmoth said. Each time a student presses the pump, they are able to see the water pulled out of the box and into their farm.

"This is a good way to see it on a small scale, and they

get to have fun building a farm box that's their own—but what's cool is it would reflect on what an actual farm would be doing consistently as far as water usage," Wilmoth added.

During the early October field trip to Hancock's student vineyard, students got to see an example of drip irrigation and were able to understand the scale of distributing water, he said.

The final station discusses the six parts of a plant—roots, stems, leaves, flower, fruits, and seeds—and the differences between a fruit and a vegetable. They follow up this discussion with a trip through the garden where kids are asked to find certain types of vegetables or fruits. Kids then get to learn about the insects that either harm or benefit plants on the farm, he said.

"We touch on spraying and pesticides and how they are parts of agriculture, but our message is there are a lot of other ways we can do this by using nature doing its natural thing to target these things," Wilmoth said. "It's a form of sharing organic pest control and highlighting the cool relationships we see on a smaller scale with insects,

PHOTO COURTESY OF SEEAG



**NEW EXPERIENCES:** Fifty-two third graders from Battles Elementary School in Santa Maria participated in SEEAG's Farm Lab program earlier this year, making them the first students served by the nonprofit in Santa Barbara County.

organisms, and worms."

Although this year's programming is at capacity, Wilmoth said he hopes SEEAG will grow and be able to offer more to the Santa Barbara County communities.

"I know I didn't have a field trip like this," he said. "There's nothing like going and experiencing an outdoor, educational experience and get such a positive relationship between the sciences and the people behind it so we can support this industry."

## Highlight

• The Patch at Los Flores Ranch Park—6245 Dominion Road—returns for a fifth season with hundreds of pumpkins and various seasonal activities for the whole family to enjoy. The Patch is open every Friday through Sunday from 10 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. through October. Each weekend will feature specialized programming, including carnival day, margarita social, free crafts, live music, costume day, and a not-so-spooky night hike. The program is run in partnership with Betteravia Farms, the Santa Maria Recreation and Parks Department, and People for Leisure and Youth Inc. For more information visit [thepatchesantamaria.com/eventdetails](http://thepatchesantamaria.com/eventdetails).

## Promote!

Send business and nonprofit information to [spotlight@santamariasun.com](mailto:spotlight@santamariasun.com).



Staff Writer Taylor O'Connor wrote this week's Spotlight. You can reach her at [toconnor@santamariasun.com](mailto:toconnor@santamariasun.com).

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

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

**BERTRAM, CONNIE LYNN DOWNING**, 66, of Ojai, Ca passed away 10/11/2022 arrangements with Dudley-Hoffman Mortuary, Crematory & Memory Gardens

**BLACKBURN, JO-ANN**, 89, of Arroyo Grande, passed away 10/6/2022 arrangements with Marshall-Spoo Sunset Funeral Chapel

**BRADLEY, CHARLES**, 71, of Beaverton, OR passed away 10/9/2022 arrangements with Blue Sky Cremation Service

**BURNES, GLENNA IONA**, 92, of Santa Maria passed away 10/9/2022 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

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

**GARAVITO, JOHN M.**, 86, of Santa Maria passed away 10/14/2022 arrangements with Dudley-Hoffman Mortuary, Crematory & Memory Gardens

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- 29% Farmers should use more cameras, locks, or other security measures.
- 14% Give more county funding to the Sheriff's Office for a rural crime unit.
- 14% I don't live in a rural area, and I don't care.

28 Votes

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# Osborne's got it

### The current Lompoc mayor's civility, resourcefulness will keep this city on track for improvements

BY RON FINK

Lompoc Mayor Jenelle Osborne is seeking reelection for a third term in office; why should you choose her instead of her opponent?

If you have witnessed many of the City Council meetings in the past couple of years, you will have noted a change in the tone of meetings. As mayor, Osborne is responsible for the orderly flow of the meeting in accordance with the Robert's Rules of Order.

What does that mean? Well, she isn't a dictator, so it means that she recognizes each of the council members and allows them time to make their case for or against a proposal. When her opponent was present in the past as a council member, he always tried to dominate the discussion and frequently filibustered the process with misleading information.

Mayor Osborne has sought to unite the council, and when individual council members wish to make changes to staff proposals, she tries to negotiate those changes into the final resolution or the final decision. This change has resulted in numerous 5-0 votes primarily because one person didn't force his/her will on the others.

During her current term the city has faced some challenges—three of the most visible challenges are: the appearance of the city, what to do with the growing homeless population, and the condition of city facilities and parks.

In 2017 the former council majority, led by her opponent, began eviscerating the municipal code enforcement program by the elimination of funding for a code enforcement officer and all administrative support. Then in 2019 they changed a long-standing city policy to allow the release of the names of people

reporting most noncompliant conditions if a member of the public requested the information.

This led to a deterioration of neighborhoods, commercial properties, and the city in general; Osborne recently proposed a change to eliminate the public release of names of complainants and restore funding for a senior code enforcement officer and supporting administrative staff.

These measures passed on a 5-0 vote, which included two council members who had previously supported elimination of the program.

Resolving the "homeless problem" is a far more complex issue. Even though the blight created by their camps and endless piles of trash is a direct impact on the city, it is the county that is responsible for providing housing and health/welfare services.

Through her positive relationship with the Board of Supervisors and the Santa Barbara County Association of Governments, Osborne has been able to convince them to invest funding to improve the availability of those services to help reduce the number of people in Lompoc who are homeless.

But it seems that as more homeless are housed and taken care of, Lompoc still feels the increase of an expanding need; it's a never-ending struggle that's been going on for at least 40 years. But the mayor's willingness to advocate for the city and request that a balance of these services be administered across the county, and not just in Lompoc, is reducing the burden on our community. While homelessness will never be eliminated, its impacts can be reduced.

On her campaign website, Osborne says, "The city of Lompoc was incorporated 134 years ago. Some of our streets, water, and sewage lines, even our parks, are almost as old. We have over 200 acres of public parks in need of repair and improvement." So you see, this is a tough nut to crack.

She goes on. "There is one area that government can create jobs: by building, supporting, and expanding parks and infrastructure. Along with supporting and modernizing our infrastructure, supporting public parks by keeping and improving our existing parks will improve

our quality of life. Doing these things means investing in ourselves and our community."

The solution here is funding; during her tenure, grants have been received to upgrade some of the parks. For example, a significant renovation of a children's play/exercise area at Beatty Park was accomplished with a California Proposition 68 grant. This improvement not only benefitted Lompoc but also established the first all-inclusive playground in Santa Barbara County.

This early success has led to additional "shovel-ready" projects to be submitted for various funding sources. Her willingness to work with her political counterparts, set aside partisan politics, and to build relationships with these decision makers has garnered Lompoc nearly \$1.3 million in federal appropriations for Pioneer Park and another to renovate the skate park.

During the last two years, she used her time on Santa Barbara County Association of Governments to shift the discussion of the long-awaited Robinson Bridge on Highway 246 retrofit from all talk to budget approval, and work is beginning on the first phase of the project.

While we can't say for certain what will happen during the next two years, you can be certain that Mayor Osborne will continue her positive influence in improving our city. Currently four of the five Santa Barbara County supervisors endorse her reelection bid.

What's Mayor Jenelle Osborne got that her opponent doesn't? She is a principled politician, has a strong ethical core, is a consensus builder, and has been an excellent ambassador for our city at regional, statewide, and federal venues. She is the best choice for Lompoc. ○

Ron Fink writes to the Sun from Lompoc. Send a letter for publication to [letters@santamariasun.com](mailto:letters@santamariasun.com).

**Speak up!**  
Send us your views and opinion to [letters@santamariasun.com](mailto:letters@santamariasun.com).



## THIS MODERN WORLD

by TOM TOMORROW

## LETTERS

### Reelect Judy Frost to county board of education

In today's super-charged political climate, I strongly support leaders in education and public life who are quiet, effective leaders getting difficult jobs done. I join the many Santa Maria Valley community members and leaders who are grateful to Judy Frost for her tireless, low-key, renowned track record, working for causes that matter, and getting the difficult jobs done. Judy chairs the county board of education, an elected position, and on Nov. 8 she is on the ballot for reelection in District 5. I ask you to join your friends, neighbors, and myself in supporting Judy.

What is so remarkable is Judy's consistent and highly successful low-key leadership style. For nearly 20 years, in many venues, Judy's quiet, nonpartisan servant-leader approach has always put the interest of children, families, and community good first and has been a model for effective leadership. This comes at a time when our public space is filled with rancor, distortions, and personal attacks rather than working together for the common good. Instead of raising her fist in the air dramatically, with trumpets blaring, Judy has chosen to follow the working style advocated by Abraham Lincoln, "The quieter you listen the more you can hear."

And listen she does. Her track record—spanning decades in the Santa Maria Valley, in so many public service arenas, including education, health care, the arts, philanthropy, and many more—demonstrates the effectiveness of her approach.

Albert Schweitzer once said, "The three most important ways to lead people are: by example, by example, by example." Judy leads by example, and she is a role model for young and old alike. Reelect Judy to the Santa Barbara County board of education so she can continue to provide her vision, caring, skill, and "can do" attitude on behalf of children and families.

Bill Cirone  
retired, Santa Barbara County superintendent schools



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## Vegetative state

In a race that will determine who takes **Etta Waterfield's** (I hope Montana doesn't send her back!) seat on the **Santa Maria City Council**, we've got one candidate with very specific ideas about city issues and one candidate with somewhat specific ideas about education. Are they running for the same office?

I guess you'll have to ask them. But if you read this week's story about the **4th District** race, it's pretty clear which of the two candidates is best prepared for the job. **Maribel Aguilar-Hernandez** and **Carol Karamitsos** speak for themselves.

Current Planning Commissioner Aguilar-Hernandez spoke about how she believes the city can fill Santa Maria Police Department vacancies and reduce youth violence, how the city could partner with Santa Barbara County to better respond to mental health crisis calls, and her desire to streamline the affordable housing development process and see large corporations bring jobs to town.

Karamitsos wasn't keen on giving out specific policy ideas, although she *did* say the city needed a new high school, which I'm pretty sure is under the purview of her current seat on the **Santa Maria Joint Union School District** board and not the City Council.

For issues that the city *can* control, Karamitsos couldn't give a straight answer.

When talking about homelessness, she said, "People experiencing homelessness is very challenging and become more complex because we have people who are experiencing homelessness for different reasons." No shit! Thanks for that info.

"We first need to know how many people are experiencing homelessness and why they are experiencing homelessness," she added. We have that data. We've been collecting it for many moons, Carol.

"I know they do the homelessness counts, but the hard thing about the data is when you put somebody into that category, what does that mean?" she asked.

Gosh. I think it means whatever the data category says it means. They have definitions. But I'm not sure, because I don't think I understand her statement. I'm not 100 percent sure she does either, but she does know that the city should be partnering with organizations like the **Pacific Conservatory Theater** to build more arts and entertainment venues so Santa Maria's restaurants get more business.

Interesting. So affordable housing? Gang violence? Why is she even running?

Those issues are complicated, you know?

Vote for Canary for Santa Maria City Council. I'm running for whatever seat is left over at the end of this election!

And I'm staying away from **Santa Barbara County Planning Commissioner Larry Ferini!** I had no idea he hated birds so much. Did you?

"As a grower birds are horrible," he said during a recent cannabis cultivation project hearing, lamenting that it might be illegal to shoot them. "The concern that birds can spread is the one we've all heard of, of course—salmonella. That's a big food safety concern."

For the record, you won't get salmonella from reading my column.

But why did birds come up in this little marijuana hearing? Well, the county requires a "vegetative screening" to shield the public and nosy neighbors from seeing this barely legal crop! And the property in question has blueberries, and the farmers around the property have other crops, and nobody wants the birds to come, and birds are attracted to vegetative barriers. Got it? And Ferini, apparently, got triggered. ☹️

*The Canary is horribly attracted to cannabis crops. Send comments to [canary@santamariasun.com](mailto:canary@santamariasun.com).*



# HOT STUFF

OCT. 20 – OCT. 27  
2022



PHOTO COURTESY OF THE SANTA MARIA RECREATION AND PARKS DEPARTMENT

## ARTS AND ALTARS

The Santa Maria Recreation and Parks Department will host a Día de Los Muertos festival on the McClelland Street corridor (400 through 600 S. McClelland St.) on Saturday, Oct. 29, from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Attendees are welcome to bring items that honor loved ones who've passed away to place at the event's community altar. The event also features live entertainment and youth activities. Call (805) 925-0951 or visit [cityofsantamaria.org](http://cityofsantamaria.org) for more info.  
—Caleb Wiseblood

## ARTS

### SANTA MARIA VALLEY/LOS ALAMOS

**ALLAN HANCOCK COLLEGE STUDENT POETRY READING** Students, faculty, staff, and community read original works, works from famous poets, and lyrics from favorite songs. **Oct. 20**, 1-3 p.m. Allan Hancock College, 800 S. College Drive, Santa Maria.

**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. Experience autumn with crafts at the Santa Maria Public Library. Leaves, paint, colors, and artists will be part of the experience. **Oct. 29**, 4 p.m. 805-925-0994. [engagedpatrons.org](http://engagedpatrons.org). Santa Maria Public Library (Altrusa Theater), 421 S. McClelland St., Santa Maria.

**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](http://kleindancesarts.com). KleinDance Arts, 3558 Skyway Drive, suite A, Santa Maria.

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

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

**JOURNALING FOR TEENS AND TWENS** 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](http://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. ongoing, 8 a.m.-10 p.m. Free. 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. [coelhomusic.com](http://coelhomusic.com). Coelho Academy of Music, 325 E. Betteravia Rd., Santa Maria.

**NEXT CHAPTER BOOK CLUB** 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. 26**, 4 p.m. 805-925-0994. [engagedpatrons.org](http://engagedpatrons.org). Orcutt Library, 175 S. Broadway, Orcutt.

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

**TEEN STUFFED ANIMAL TAXIDERMY** Teens, channel Dr. Frankenstein and create a custom monster. Supplies will be provided, and feel free to bring a plush pal for dismemberment. Light snacks will be provided. **Oct. 28**, 4 p.m. 805-925-0994. [engagedpatrons.org](http://engagedpatrons.org). Santa Maria Public Library (Altrusa Theater), 421 S. McClelland St., 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](http://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](http://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. [wineanddesign.com/orcutt](http://wineanddesign.com/orcutt). Wine and Design, 3420 Orcutt Road, suite 105, Orcutt.

### SANTA YNEZ VALLEY

**2022 BLOOMS** A collection of plein air and studio paintings by award-winning

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](http://newtimeslo.com). You may also email [calendar@newtimeslo.com](mailto: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](mailto:cwiseblood@newtimeslo.com).

pastel artists Deborah Breedon and Kris Buck. Through Oct. 31 805-688-7517. Gallery Los Olivos, 2920 Grand Ave., Los Olivos, [gallerylosolivos.com](http://gallerylosolivos.com).

**DUNES: VISIONS OF SAND, LIGHT, AND SHADOW** Traverse the sand dunes with Central Coast photographer Bob Canepa in the Wildling Museum's new Valley Oak Gallery exhibition. Receptions: Sept. 11 and Oct. 9. Through March 23, 2023, 11 a.m.-5 p.m. Wildling Museum of Art and Nature, 1511-B Mission Dr., Solvang, 805-688-1082, [wildlingmuseum.org](http://wildlingmuseum.org).

**LAUGH THERAPY-STAND UP COMEDY 2022** Features a handful of headliner comics. **Oct. 26**, 8-10 p.m. [my805tix.com](http://my805tix.com). Maverick Saloon, 3687 Sagunto St., Santa Ynez, 805-686-4785.

**SYV SCARECROW FESTIVAL 2022** Participating businesses and organizations throughout the Santa Ynez Valley will showcase their unique scarecrow creations. Through Oct. 31 [syvscarescrows.com/](http://syvscarescrows.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](http://wildlingmuseum.org).

### LOMPOC/VANDENBERG

**OLD TOWN LOMPOC TRICK OR TREAT** Kids 12 and under are welcome to trick or treat in Old Town Lompoc on H and I Streets at participating businesses. Enjoy some free activities for kids in Centennial Park. **Oct. 29**, 1-3 p.m. [explorelompoc.com](http://explorelompoc.com). Old Town Lompoc, H and I St., Lompoc.

**STAND-UP COMEDY AT THE WICKED SHAMROCK** You Had To Be There Comedy is coming to Lompoc bringing professional stand-up comedy. **Oct. 20**, 7 p.m. [my805tix.com](http://my805tix.com). Wicked Shamrock, 143 N. H St., Lompoc, 805-741-7145.

**TINY ART SHOW** Includes 93 small artworks submitted by Lompoc residents of various ages. Through Oct. 31 [cityoflompop.com/library](http://cityoflompop.com/library). Lompoc Public Library, 501 E. North Ave., Lompoc, 805-875-8786.

### 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/](http://americanmelodrama.com/). Great American Melodrama, 1863 Front St., Oceano.

**BE PART OF ART** There will be a different art activity each month. Bring the whole family to see the beauty in creating together and how easy it can be to bring art into your home. Last Saturday of every month, 1:30-3 p.m. Free. 805-668-2125. [lila.community/](http://lila.community/). LiIA Creative Community, 1147 East Grand Ave, Arroyo Grande.

**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.

**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](http://monarchbooks805.com/events). Monarch Books, 201 E. Branch St., Arroyo Grande.

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

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

**PRIDE AND PREJUDICE** Presented by the AGHS

ARTS continued page 14

## INDEX

Arts .....	13
Culture & Lifestyle.....	15
Food & Drink.....	16
Music .....	18

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**

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

**ALYSSA MONKS: BE PERFECTLY STILL, A**

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

**ARTIST RIKI SCHUMACHER AT ART CENTRAL**

**GALLERY** Schumacher's work is pensive and introspective, inspiring one to take a solitary walk on a cloudy day. Wander in to reflect on her "delicious, wistful landscapes." Mondays-Saturdays, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. and Sundays, 12-4 p.m. Free. 805-747-4200. [artcentralslo.com/gallery-artists/](http://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/](http://slogallery.com/). SLO Gallery, 1019 Broad Street, San Luis Obispo.

**CERAMIC LESSONS AND MORE**

Now offering private one-on-one and group lessons in the ceramic arts. Both hand building and wheel throwing options. Beginners welcomed. 805-835-5893. [hmcruceceramics.com/](http://hmcruceceramics.com/). Online, See website, San Luis Obispo.

**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-mcpee](http://ososcontemporary.com/pages/listening-christina-mcpee). Osos Contemporary, 967 Osos St., San Luis Obispo.

**DATE NIGHT POTTERY**

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

**THE GIANT WORLD OF THE SHORT STORY**

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

**INTERMEDIATE OIL PAINTING: ADULT ART**

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

**INTRO TO OIL PAINTING WITH SPENCER**

**COLLINS** The perfect class for those wanting to try oil painting for the first time. Guests discuss color theory, layering paint, and how to use various media. For ages 16 and over. Thursdays, 10 a.m.-1 p.m. \$30 per class or \$100 for 4 classes. 805-747-4200. [artcentralslo.com/workshops-events/](http://artcentralslo.com/workshops-events/). Art Central, 1329 Monterey St., San Luis Obispo.

**INTRO TO PRINTMAKING WITH TRICIA REICHERT**

**AND MARYANNE NUCCI** All ages are welcome and no prior experience is necessary to attend these workshops, just a desire to learn, explore and experiment. Please contact Tricia at [tricia@tricia-reichert.com](mailto:tricia@tricia-reichert.com) **Oct. 25**, 1-4:30 p.m. \$210 for 6 sessions. 805-747-4200. [artcentralslo.com/workshops-events/](http://artcentralslo.com/workshops-events/). Art Central, 1329 Monterey St., San Luis Obispo.

**INTRODUCTION TO OIL PAINTING**

The perfect class for those wanting to try oil painting for the first time. Hosts discuss color theory, layering paint, and how to use various media. Each student will create a dynamic



**AN ITCH TO STITCH**

The Central Coast Quilters hosts its fourth annual fall boutique event, *Stitchin' Sisters*, at the Arroyo Grande Community Center on Friday, Oct. 21, from 4 to 7 p.m., and Saturday, Oct. 22, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. The event includes a silent auction and a quilt raffle. Admission to attend is free. Visit [centralcoastquilters.org](http://centralcoastquilters.org) for more info. The Arroyo Grande Community Center is located at 211 Vernon St., Arroyo Grande.

—C.W.

landscape using a reference photo. Thursdays, 10 a.m.-1 p.m. through Dec. 29 \$100 for 4 classes. 805-747-4200. [artcentralslo.com/workshops-events/](http://artcentralslo.com/workshops-events/). Art Central, 1329 Monterey St., San Luis Obispo.

**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](http://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](http://patriciamartinartist.com).

**LIVE IMPROV COMEDY SHOW AT SLO PUBLIC**

**MARKET** Join the cast of Central Coast Comedy Theater for an unforgettable night of all improvised laughter, musical improv, short form games, and more all based on audience suggestions. Grab a drink and dinner. **Oct. 28**, 7-9 p.m. \$10. [centralcoastcomedytheater.com](http://centralcoastcomedytheater.com). SLO Public Market, 120 Tank Farm Road, San Luis Obispo.

**MICHELLE WOLF**

Wolf has quickly become one of the

ARTS continued page 15



# 21st Annual Santa Maria Empty Bowls

Beloved community fundraiser returns in person!

Gourmet soup, hand-crafted bowls, raffle extravaganza, music, bowl-making demonstrations

Wednesday, October 26

Santa Maria Fairpark  
937 S. Thornburg St.

3 seatings: 11am, 12noon, 1pm\*

\*Fresh soup and new bowls at every seating!

Tickets: \$25 donation

Online [www.FoodbankSBC.org/SMEB22](http://www.FoodbankSBC.org/SMEB22)

Purchase in person

Foodbank Warehouse, 490 W. Foster Rd.  
7am-3pm



SCAN ME

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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, pacsl.org.

**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** 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/.

**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.

**R & F PIGMENT STICKS DEMO WITH CARYL ST. AMA** Explore ways to paint with oil with R & F Pigment Sticks. In this free demo, you'll learn what pigment sticks are, ways to use them, and more. Reservation is required to attend; call or email Art Central at artcentralslo@yahoo.com. **Oct. 28**, 11-1 a.m. Free. 805-747-4200. artcentralslo.com. Art Central, 1329 Monterey St., 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.

**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.

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

**WIGGLE WAGGLE FALL FESTIVAL** The whole family—including leashed and friendly dogs—is invited to the Wiggle Waggle Fall Festival, a free, autumn-themed, community pet celebration. Enjoy kids' and canines' costume contests, canine carnival activities, local food and shopping, and photos in the Pup-kin Patch or with Santa Paws. **Oct. 29**, 12-3 p.m. Free. 805-543-9316. woodshumane.org/fallfestival. Woods Humane Society, 875 Oklahoma Ave., San Luis Obispo.

## CULTURE & LIFESTYLE

### SANTA MARIA VALLEY/LOS ALAMOS

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

**BILINGUAL STORY TIME: HORA DE CUENTOS** Songs, activities, and stories in English and Spanish. Story time is designed to build literacy skills and school readiness, all while having a great time. Mondays, 4 p.m. through Dec. 5 805-925-0994. Santa Maria Public Library (Altrusa Theater), 421 S. McClelland St., Santa Maria.

**BOUNCING BABY STORY TIME** Explore pre-literacy skills through music, movement, and visual stimulation and promote a healthy bond between baby and caregiver. Learn, connect, and grow with other babies and their caregivers. For ages 0-12 months. **Oct. 26**, 10 a.m. 805-925-0994. engagedpatrons.org. Santa Maria Public Library (Altrusa Theater), 421 S. McClelland St., Santa Maria.

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

**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. 21**, 7:30-9:30 p.m., **Oct. 28**, 7:30-9:30 p.m. and **Oct. 29**, 7:30-9:30 p.m. \$55. 805-925-4125. elksrec.com/p/events/haunted-hills. Elks Event Center, 4040 Highway 101, 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. 25**, 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 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 VALLEY RAILWAY HISTORICAL MUSEUM TOURS** The collection includes late 1800's-early 1900's Engine used by the Betteravia Union Sugar Company, a 1930's Sacramento Northern box car, and more. Fourth Saturday of every month, 12-4 p.m. smvrhm.com. Santa Maria Transit Center, Miller and Boone Streets, Santa Maria.

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

**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. 29**, 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.

**TODDLER TIME** A high-energy learning experience just for toddlers and their caregivers. Toddlers learn and grow through stories, movement, and music. Sign up for only one six-week timeslot. For ages 1-3 with caregivers. Tuesdays, Thursdays, 10 a.m. through Dec. 6 805-925-0994. engagedpatrons.org. Santa Maria Public Library (Altrusa Theater), 421 S. McClelland St., Santa Maria.

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

**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

**2022 PUMPKINS IN THE PARK** Enjoy pumpkin decorating, games, crafts, bounce houses, and a costume contest. Free pumpkins to the first 500 children. Food and drink available for purchase All activities are free to the public. **Oct. 29**, 10 a.m.-1 p.m. Free. pismobeach.org/recreation. Dinosaur Caves Park, Pismo Beach.

**CAT YOGA** Proceeds support Justice for Kristin Smart. **Oct. 22**, noon \$10 donation. Kennedy Club Fitness, 1299 James Way, Arroyo Grande.

**CENTRAL CORE WEEKEND WELLNESS FITNESS RETREAT: WATER WEEKEND** After Pilates workouts in the studio, attendees will head to the water. Choose surf or boogie board, and everyone does SUP Pilates. Event includes wine tasting and mineral springs. Open to everyone and all fitness levels. No need to be a studio member. **Oct. 22**, 10 a.m.-6 p.m. and **Oct. 23**, 10 a.m.-1 p.m. \$325. 805-295-9505. centralcore.fitness. Central Core, 1160 Price Street, Pismo Beach.

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

CULTURE & LIFESTYLE continued page 16

## TICKET WITH US!



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A Central Coast Tradition  
for over 35 years



Saturday, November 26<sup>7pm</sup>

Sunday, November 27<sup>3pm</sup>

Tickets

Adults \$25

Children \$20

## Thanksgiving Weekend

Clark Center for the Performing Arts  
487 Fair Oaks Ave., Arroyo Grande

Tickets available online, by phone, or at the Box Office  
**Sun** [www.ClarkCenter.org](http://www.ClarkCenter.org) 805-489-9444

CLARK CENTER

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

Come hear all this great music  
on our NEW state-of-the-art sound system!



SATURDAY  
**OCT 22**  
7:30pm

"Mary Jane's Last Dance"  
"Runnin' Down a Dream"  
"Free Fallin'"  
"You Don't Know How It Feels"  
"I Won't Back Down"  
"Don't Come Around Here No More"  
"A Refugee"  
"The Waiting"

And MANY MORE!



**HEREDEROS**  
MARIACHI HERENCIA DE MÉXICO  
WITH SPECIAL GUEST  
LUPITA INFANTE

SUNDAY  
**OCT 30**  
7:30pm

Mariachi Herencia de México and  
Lupita Infante pay tribute to the  
past while looking to the future in  
**HEREDEROS** (The Heirs), a vibrant  
and colorful celebration of Mexican  
music and culture.



Get Your Tickets Today!  
**(805) 489-9444**  
[www.clarkcenter.org](http://www.clarkcenter.org)

CULTURE & LIFESTYLE from page 1

**HALLOWEEN BASH** Features a Truck or Treat, a movie screening, and more.  
**Oct. 28**, 6-8 p.m. \$10. 805-929-5679.  
[danaadobe.org](http://danaadobe.org). DANA Adobe Cultural Center, 671 S. Oakglen Ave., Nipomo.

**LIVES FROM OUR PAST: A TOUR OF THE ARROYO GRANDE DISTRICT CEMETERY** Meet some of the civic leaders, teachers, soldiers, victims of tragedy and a few who helped to build Arroyo Grande, California. Led by South County Historical Society President and author Jim Gregory. RSVP by emailing [nansbooks@aol.com](mailto:nansbooks@aol.com).

**Oct. 23**, 4-5:15 p.m. and **Oct. 30**, 4-5:15 p.m. Free admission; donations to the South County Historical Society are welcome. 805-305-3375. [southcountyhistory.org/](http://southcountyhistory.org/). Arroyo Grande District Cemetery, 895 El Camino Real, 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**

**BDSM 101** This monthly class from the Central Coast Kink Community provides a basic overview of kink, consent, rules, and information to help practitioners be successful and safe. Attendees must be 18+ years of age. Virtually meets via Zoom. Fourth Friday of every month, 6-8 p.m. No admission. [galacc.org/events/](http://galacc.org/events/). 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](http://theartofsilence.net). Online, See website, San Luis Obispo.

**CAL HOPE SLO GROUPS AT TMHA** Visit website for full list of weekly Zoom groups available. Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays, Fridays [calhopecoconnect.org](http://calhopecoconnect.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/](http://gopoly.com/). Alex G. Spanos Stadium, 1 Grand Ave., San Luis Obispo, 805-756-7297.

**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/](http://gopoly.com/). Alex G. Spanos Stadium, 1 Grand Ave., 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.

**FREE REPAIR CAFÉ** Got a toaster that won't toast? 5 Cities Repair Café is partnering with iFixit to repair small appliances, bikes, toys, computers/devices, and clothing, and sharpen tools and knives for free. All welcome. **Oct. 23**, 12-4 p.m. Free. 650-367-6780. [repaircafe5cities.org](http://repaircafe5cities.org). iFixit, 1330 Monterey St., 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](http://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](mailto: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/revdiann-davison](http://griefrecoverymethod.com/grms/revdiann-davison). Online, See website, San Luis Obispo.

PHOTO COURTESY OF BEDFORD WINERY



**BETTER CALL DOLL**

*The Bedford Tasting Room and Courtyard in Los Alamos presents Halloween: Unmasked, a special dinner and radio-style variety show, on Saturday, Oct. 29, at 5:30 p.m. The show features live puppetry, comedy skits, music, and more. Halloween costumes are encouraged. Tickets are \$75, which includes dinner. Call (805) 344-2107 or visit [bedfordwinery.com](http://bedfordwinery.com) for more info. The tasting room is located at 448 Bell St., Los Alamos.*

—C.W.

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

**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](http://squaredancecentralcoast.com). SLO Guild Hall, 2880 Broad St., San Luis Obispo.

**NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC LIVE WITH RONAN DONOVAN: SOCIAL BY NATURE** "What's a human? We are, at our core, social mammals. We build relationships, communicate, reproduce, establish territories, and adapt to shrinking resources." **Oct. 24**, 7:30-9 p.m. \$30-\$72. 805-756-6556. Performing Arts Center, 1 Grand Ave., San Luis Obispo, [pacslslo.org](http://pacslslo.org).

**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](http://safer.calpoly.edu/DVAM). Locations throughout SLO County, Call or visit website for event info, San Luis Obispo.

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

**QI GONG FITNESS ONLINE** Qi Gong combines balance, posture, meditation and gentle physical training for optimum health. Registration begins Aug. 8 for online class. Wednesdays, from 9:35 to 10:35 a.m. with experienced instructor Gary West. For ages 18 and over. Wednesdays. through Dec. 7 \$67. 805-549-1222. [slcugd.asapconnected.com](http://slcugd.asapconnected.com). Online, See website, San Luis Obispo.

**QI GONG FOR MIND, BODY, AND SPIRIT** Learn and practice qi gong, a Chinese system for physical, mental and spiritual development. This class is conducted outdoors in a beautiful setting, which is the best place to do qi gong, as its inspiration is drawn from nature. Certified instructor: Devin Wallace. Tuesdays, 10-11 a.m. \$10. 805-709-2227. Crows End Retreat Center, 6340 Squire Ct., San Luis Obispo.

**QI GONG ONLINE** Qi Gong Online is offered by San Luis Coastal Unified School District. Qi Gong improves balance, posture, tone, and fitness with gentle exercises. Instructor: Gary West. Wednesdays, 9:30-10:30 a.m. through Dec. 7 \$67 semester. 805-549-1222. [sloadultschool.org](http://sloadultschool.org). Online, See website, San Luis Obispo.



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

**SUNDAY EVENING RAP LGBTQ+ AA GROUP (VIRTUALLY VIA ZOOM)** Alcoholics Anonymous is a voluntary, worldwide fellowship of folks from all walks of life who together, attain and maintain sobriety. Requirement for membership is a desire to stop drinking. Email [aaapgroup@gmail.com](mailto:aaapgroup@gmail.com) for password access. Sundays, 7-8 p.m. No fee. [galacc.org/events/](http://galacc.org/events/). Online, See website, San Luis Obispo.

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

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

**WOMEN INVESTING IN REAL ESTATE (WIIRE) SLO** "Eat, Pray, F\* being broke." Discover the proven formula for how to create anything you want in life including and not limited to real estate investments. **Oct. 21**, 12-2 p.m. [my805tix.com](http://my805tix.com). Saints Barrel Wine Bar, 1021 Higuerra St., San Luis Obispo, 805-439-1929.

**FOOD & DRINK**

**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](http://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/](http://winestoneinn.com/).

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

**SANTA MARIA EMPTY BOWLS 2022** Empty Bowls demonstrates the value in nourishing one another – especially the most vulnerable among us – with a simple meal of soup from a handmade bowl. While last year may have looked different, this year organizers are excited to bring back the original event. **Oct. 26**, 11 a.m.-2 p.m. \$25. [foodbanksbc.org/event/smemptybowls22/](http://foodbanksbc.org/event/smemptybowls22/). Santa Maria Fairpark, 937 S. Thornburg St., Santa Maria.

**TACO TUESDAY** Tuesdays, 5-8 p.m. Wine Stone Inn, 255 W. Clark Ave., Orcutt, 805-332-3532, [winestoneinn.com/](http://winestoneinn.com/).

**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](http://coldcoastbrewing.com). COLD Coast Brewing Company, 118 W Ocean Ave, Lompoc.

**SOUTH COAST SLO COUNTY**

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

**SAN LUIS OBISPO**

**DINNER AT THE MADONNA INN** Jeff Gorman for Congress is holding a fundraiser at the Madonna Inn. Guests will dine to the smooth jazz music of award-winning composer Darren Gholston. **Oct. 23** [gormanforcongress.com](http://gormanforcongress.com). Madonna Inn, 100 Madonna Rd, San Luis Obispo, 877-468-3861.

**FOOD & DRINK** continued page 18

**Spread the word!**  
Send event information to  
[calendar@santamariasun.com](mailto:calendar@santamariasun.com).



**You Had To Be There Standup Comedy**  
**THURSDAY, OCTOBER 20**  
 Wicked Shamrock, Lompoc



**Camp Cass: Paint & Sip Class with Art Social**  
**FRIDAY, OCTOBER 21**  
 Cass Winery, Paso Robles



**Suppressed Intentions · Pentacaustic · Cool Homer Jack**  
**FRIDAY, OCTOBER 21**  
 Flower City Ballroom, Lompoc



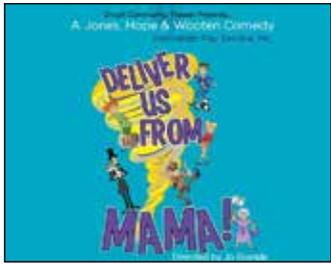
**Women Investing In Real Estate (Wiire): Eat Pray F\* Being Broke**  
**FRIDAY, OCTOBER 21**  
 Saints Barrel, SLO



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



**Yoga at Sycamore Mineral Springs**  
**DAILY AT 9AM**  
 Sycamore Mineral Springs Resort & Spa, Avila Beach



**Orcutt Community Theatre: Deliver Us From Mama!**  
**FRI, SAT, SUN, OCTOBER 21, 22, 23**  
 KleinDance Arts, Santa Maria



**Young Dubliners on the Green**  
**SATURDAY, OCTOBER 22**  
 Sea Pines Golf Resort, Baywood-Los Osos



**Volatus Harvest and Ready Room Pick Up Party**  
**SATURDAY, OCTOBER 22**  
 Volatus Wine Tasting Room, Paso



**The Mighty Cash Cats with The Linda Ronstadt Experience**  
**SATURDAY, OCTOBER 22**  
 Flower City Ballroom, Lompoc



**Camp Cass: Olive Oil Class**  
**SUNDAY, OCTOBER 23**  
 Cass Winery, Paso Robles



**An Affair To Remember Jazz Concert**  
**TUESDAY, OCTOBER 25**  
 Antigua Brewing Company, SLO



**Wednesdays Around The World Winemaker Dinner: Austria**  
**WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 26**  
 Cass Winery, Paso Robles



**Laugh Therapy Stand Up Comedy Show**  
**WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 26**  
 Maverick Saloon, Santa Ynez



**Bird and Botany Walk**  
**THURSDAYS, OCT. 27, NOV. 17, DEC. 22**  
 SLO Botanical Garden



**SOIREE: Voodoo Doodads - Senior Dance at the Garden!**  
**THURSDAY, OCTOBER 27**  
 SLO Botanical Garden



**By the Sea Productions: The Haunting of Hill House**  
**FRI, SAT, SUN, OCTOBER 28, 29, 30**  
 545 Shasta Ave, Morro Bay



**Do No Harm**  
**FRIDAY, OCTOBER 28**  
 Flower City Ballroom, Lompoc



**Bill Gaines Audio Big Annual Swap Meet**  
**SATURDAY, OCTOBER 29**  
 840-A Capitolio, SLO



**SLO Funny Comedy Show**  
**SATURDAY, OCTOBER 29**  
 Veterans Memorial Building, Morro Bay



**Rave From The Grave**  
**SATURDAY, OCTOBER 29**  
 Flower City Ballroom, Lompoc



**Barrelhouse Wailers and the Decomposing Brass Quintet!**  
**SUNDAY, OCTOBER 30**  
 Pismo Beach Veterans' Hall



**Cambria Concerts Unplugged: Lewis & Rose**  
**SUNDAY, OCTOBER 30**  
 Old Santa Rosa Chapel, Cambria



**Silent Movie with Live Orchestra**  
**SUNDAY, OCTOBER 30**  
 Harold J. Miossi CPAC at Cuesta College



**Storytime in the Garden!**  
**NOV. 1, 15, 29; DEC. 13, 27**  
 SLO Botanical Garden, San Luis Obispo

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**SEPTEMBER 22 - NOVEMBER 12**



**FREE  
LARGE POPCORN!**

**DOWNTOWN SLO FARMERS MARKET** Thursdays, 6-9 p.m. Multiple locations, Downtown San Luis Obispo.

**LA FIESTA DE LAS DALLIDET** Enjoy food and drink, with music and art celebrating Senora Asencion Concepcion Salazar Dallidet, widely known as Mama Dallidet. She was a strong woman who helped instill a sense of pride, especially in her daughters, in their Mexican heritage. **Oct. 22**, 11:30 a.m.-3 p.m. \$75. 805-543-0638. historycenterslo.org/fiesta.html. Dallidet Adobe and Gardens, 1185 Pacific St., San Luis Obispo.

**SLO FARMERS MARKET** Hosts more than 60 vendors. Saturdays, 8-10:45 a.m. World Market Parking Lot, 325 Madonna Rd., San Luis Obispo.

**VERTICAL WINE TASTING WITH THE WINEMAKER** Join our winemaker Jeff Huskey on a journey through the past, present, and future by sampling a vertical tasting of three favorite Ragtag wines. Limited seating. Secure your spot today. **Oct. 22**, 3-5 p.m. \$40. 805-439-0774. ragtagwineco.com. Ragtag Wine Co., 779 Higuera St., San Luis Obispo.



## MUSIC

### SANTA MARIA VALLEY/LOS ALAMOS

**DARREN SULLIVAN LIVE AND ACOUSTIC** Darren Sullivan plays live and acoustic from 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.

**ICE CUBE LIVE** Presented by 805Concerts. Iconic rap artist Ice Cube will headline this concert. Additional acts to be announced prior to the show. **Oct. 22**, 3 p.m. \$40-\$150. 805concerts.com. Elks Event Center, 4040 Highway 101, Santa Maria.

**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. 23** and **Oct. 30** 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: MUSIC 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.

### SANTA YNEZ VALLEY

**FLANNEL 101 LIVE ON THE STAGE** A '90s cover band. **Oct. 29**, 9 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.

**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

**DO NO HARM LIVE** Genres include Motown, R&B, classic rock, and blues. All ages welcome. **Oct. 28**, 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.

MUSIC continued page 19



### FREE FIXINGS

Repair Café Five Cities hosts its next Repair Café event at iFixit in San Luis Obispo on Sunday, Oct. 23, from 1 to 4 p.m. The public is encouraged to bring in small appliances, bikes, toys, computers, and other devices that need fixing for free repairs. Tool and knife sharpening will also be offered for free at the event. Visit [repaircafe5cities.org](http://repaircafe5cities.org) for more info. San Luis Obispo's iFixit is located at 1330 Monterey St.

—C.W.

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### MUSIC from page 18

**RAVE FROM BEYOND THE GRAVE 2022** a Halloween-themed electronic dance music party. Costumes encouraged. **Oct. 29**, 7 p.m. [my805tix.com](http://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](http://my805tix.com). Flower City Ballroom, 110 W. Ocean Ave., Lompoc.

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**BARRELHOUSE WAILERS AND THE DECOMPOSING BRASS QUINTET** Presented by the Basin Street Regulars. **Oct. 30**, 1-4 p.m. [my805tix.com](http://my805tix.com). Pismo Beach Veterans Memorial Hall, 780 Bello St., Pismo Beach.

**BOOGIE BY THE BAY WITH THE CLIFFNOTES** The Cliffnotes are bringing their New Orleans-flavored boogie blues back to Avila Bay. All ages welcome. **Oct. 21**, 5-7 p.m. Free. 805-595-4000. [avilabeachresort.com/mulligans](http://avilabeachresort.com/mulligans). Mulligans Bar and Grill, 6460 Ana Bay Rd, Avila.

**KARAOKE FUN-RAISER AND COSTUME CONTEST** Hosted by the Central Coast Chordsmen. Prizes awarded for best costumes. **Oct. 29**, 6:30-10:30 p.m. \$20 general admission; \$30 cabaret table seat. 805-574-5445. [clarkcenter.org/shows/halloween-karaoke/](http://clarkcenter.org/shows/halloween-karaoke/). Clark Center for the Performing Arts, 487 Fair Oaks Ave., 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](http://clarkcenter.org).

### SAN LUIS OBISPO

**AN AFFAIR TO REMEMBER: JAZZ CONCERT** The Mo Betta Jazz Band will be bringing back to SLO the extraordinary talents of Walt Johnson, former lead trumpet player for old Blue Eyes Frank Sinatra. **Oct. 25**, 7:30 p.m. [my805tix.com](http://my805tix.com). Antigua Brewing, 1009 Monterey St., San Luis Obispo, 805-242-1167.

**SOMOS AMIGOS: WITH SONIA DE LOS SANTOS AND THE OKEE DOKEE BROTHERS** As the Grammy and five-time Parents' Choice Award-winning Okee Dokee Brothers, they have put this passion for the outdoors at the heart of their Americana folk music. They will be joined by Latin Grammy nominee Sonia De Los Santos. **Oct. 30**, 3-4:30 p.m. \$24-\$48. 805-756-6556. Performing Arts Center, 1 Grand Ave., San Luis Obispo, [pacslo.org](http://pacslo.org).

PHOTO COURTESY OF TONY PIAZZA

## Arts Briefs

### Medium, author Tyler Henry brings live show to Santa Ynez

IMAGE COURTESY OF THE CHUMASH CASINO RESORT



The Chumash Casino Resort in Santa Ynez presents An Evening of Hope and Healing with Tyler Henry on Friday, Oct. 21, and Saturday, Oct. 23, starting at 8 p.m. both evenings. Henry is a medium, author, and reality television personality widely known for his work on the series *Life After Death with Tyler Henry*, currently streaming on Netflix, and the E! Channel's *Hollywood Medium with Tyler Henry*, which ran for four seasons between 2016 and 2019.

In 2016, Henry authored his first memoir, *Between Two Worlds*, and a second book, *Here and Hereafter: How Wisdom from the Departed Can Transform Your Life Now*. Labeled as shy and reserved during his youth, Henry has stated that he began developing his clairvoyant abilities at age 10. In 2015, Henry gained notoriety after giving a psychic reading on an episode of the popular reality show *Keeping Up with the Kardashians*.

Tickets to either of Henry's two appearances at the Chumash Casino Resort range between \$59 and \$89. An Evening of Hope and Healing, which includes live readings and an interactive Q-and-A, is described as an opportunity to see Henry connect with his audience and share his ability with as many people as possible.

Call (805) 686-0855 or visit [chumashcasino.com](http://chumashcasino.com) for more info on the program and other upcoming events hosted at the Chumash Casino Resort. The casino is located at 3400 Highway 246, Santa Ynez.

### Oceano dunes photography exhibit gets extension in SLO

COURTESY PHOTO BY KARL KEMPTON



An exhibition of Oceano-based artist Karl Kempton's dune photographs is currently on display at the Photo Shop in San Luis Obispo, where it debuted at the end of August and was originally scheduled to run through the end of September. Kempton recently announced that the exhibit's stay has been extended through Monday, Nov. 14.

The exhibit showcases a collection of photographs Kempton has taken at the Oceano dunes over the course several years. The location has been the subject of thousands of his photographs.

In press materials, Kempton described the Oceano dunes as a pristine setting "transcended by unspeakable beauty," with remarkable forms and patterns.

A resident of Oceano since 1983, Kempton is a poet, visual poet, writer, photographer, publisher, editor, and environmental activist. He's also a co-founder of the San Luis Obispo Poetry Festival. To find out more about Kempton's work, visit [karlkempton.net](http://karlkempton.net).

Arts Briefs is compiled by Arts Editor Caleb Wiseblood. Send information to [cwiseblood@santamariasun.com](mailto:cwiseblood@santamariasun.com).

## Fatal fiction

### Santa Maria novelist releases new mystery, *A Murder, Well-Scripted*

BY CALEB WISEBLOOD

A previous career in the film industry became the inspiration for Tony Piazza's latest detective novel, set in 1930s Hollywood.

"When writing my stories, I draw on many experiences from my life," said the Santa Maria-based novelist, who used to work as a stand-in and stunt double for actors in the 1970s, including Michael Douglas. "I am very familiar with being around movie crews and what makes up their daily routine. ... I worked with motion picture and television companies that came into the [San Francisco] Bay Area for about 10 years."

Piazza's new novel, *A Murder, Well-Scripted*, starts with a missing actress, who was kidnapped during a film shoot. The film's producer hires Piazza's protagonist investigator, Tom Logan, to take the case.

"The suspects are plentiful, and the twists are daunting as he [Logan] weaves his way through a mystery teeming with deceit, jealousy, and greed," Piazza said about the book, which marks the eighth installment in his ongoing series that follows Logan's various investigations.

Piazza said that each book in the franchise is designed to be read as a stand-alone story, but readers who follow each book in order will witness a progression in Logan's personal life, "with the primary characters' relationships with him evolving throughout the series."

"But, as far as the mystery story within each book, they are self-contained and can be read in any order," Piazza said.

An avid bookworm since youth, Piazza grew up loving stories by Dashiell Hammett, Raymond Chandler, Arthur Conan Doyle, and Agatha Christie. Piazza's early interest in

mystery novels preceded his eventual appreciation of screenplays for detective dramas.

"Over those years working in the entertainment business, I've read many detective scripts and become knowledgeable about structure, plotting, and story hooks," said Piazza, whose last novel before *A Murder, Well-Scripted* was *Murder in the Cards*, released in 2019.

Piazza took a break from writing during the pandemic, which resulted in the three-year gap between books, the author explained.

"It was difficult not writing for such a long period of time. The story was evolving in my head, and I was anxious to get it down on paper, but life kept interfering with the process," Piazza said.

"I wrote the first two chapters before COVID hit and then went on hiatus for the entire interval of the lockdown. You would think that having so much time would have been ideal for a writer, but I knew I couldn't give 100 percent to my story when so much was transpiring in real life."

"Once life started returning to some semblance of normal and routines were beginning again, I was able to pick up where I had left off a year and a half earlier," Piazza added. "It felt great immersing myself back into the fictitious world of my private investigator—once more guiding my protagonist, Tom

Showtime!

Send gallery, stage, and cultural festivities to [cwiseblood@santamariasun.com](mailto:cwiseblood@santamariasun.com).



PHOTO COURTESY OF TONY PIAZZA



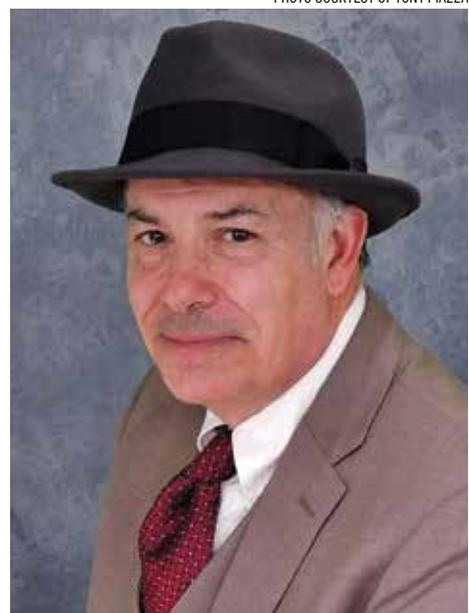
ME AND MICHAEL: During the 1970s, local novelist Tony Piazza (right) worked as a stand-in for film and television actors, including Michael Douglas (left) in the crime series, *The Streets of San Francisco*.

Logan, through the nostalgic era of the 1930s. ... Looking back, perhaps it would've made more sense for me to return to that world sooner instead of being glued those months to the news of the day."

Piazza's latest piece of Logan literature will be highlighted at the Book Loft in Solvang during a book signing with the author on Saturday, Nov. 12. There's also a radio play-style audiobook in the works for the new novel, Piazza revealed.

"James Romick is a ... Broadway actor who not only reads my book, but performs the various characters as he goes along," said Piazza, who described Romick's upcoming audiobook adaptation as "similar to the radio dramas of yesteryear and the next best thing to seeing my work on the big or small screen."

Arts Editor Caleb Wiseblood is a big fan of the big screen. Send thriller recommendations to [cwiseblood@santamariasun.com](mailto:cwiseblood@santamariasun.com).

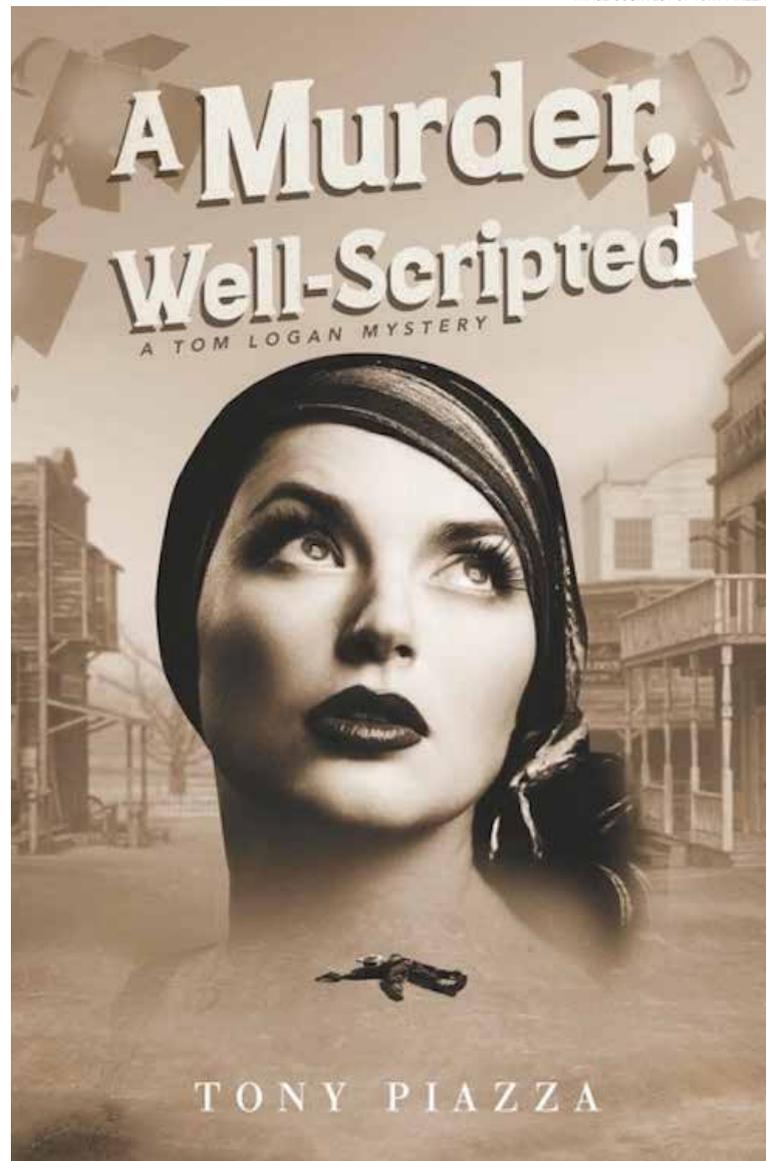


MAN OF MANY HATS: Santa Maria resident Tony Piazza worked in the film and television industry in multiple capacities—as a stand-in, stunt double, photo double, and bit actor—long before becoming a prolific novelist.

### A novel experience

Tony Piazza will be signing copies of his new book, *A Murder, Well-Scripted*, at the Book Loft on Saturday, Nov. 12, from 2 to 4 p.m. The bookstore is located at 1680 Mission Drive, Solvang. Call (805) 688-6010 or visit [bookloftsolvang.com](http://bookloftsolvang.com) for more info on the event.

IMAGE COURTESY OF TONY PIAZZA



BETWEEN THE LINES: *A Murder, Well-Scripted* is the eighth installment in author Tony Piazza's mystery series that follows fictional investigator Tom Logan, who takes on the case of a kidnapping in Hollywood.

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# Perseverance

**M**ike Barker (*Best Laid Plans*, *Shattered*) directs Jessica Knoll's debut screenplay (based on her debut novel) about Ani Fanelli (Mila Kunis), a New Yorker whose life seems perfect. She's got a writing job at a women's magazine, a posh apartment, and a handsome fiancé—Luke Harrison (Finn Wittrock)—from an old-money family. As her wedding approaches, her mother, Dina (Connie Britton), shows up to “help,” while simultaneously a documentary film crew led by Aaron Wickershan (Dalmar Abuzeid) is pressuring her to do an on-camera interview about a 14-year-old tragedy at her posh private high school. Soon her perfect life begins to unravel. (113 min.)

**Glen:** You know the old saying, “Don’t judge people. You don’t know what they’ve gone through?”

*Luckiest Girl Alive* is that saying brought to life. When we first meet Ani, we sense something’s off about her. She feels like a fraud in her life. She hides things from Luke and her best friend, Nell (Justine Lupe), and she’s got a dark streak that comes out when she’s stressed. At first, she’s hard to like, but as the pressure builds toward her wedding, as her strained relationship with her mother bubbles to the surface, and as she’s forced to confront her tragic past, we begin to see the source of her inner turmoil. In a flashback with Chiara Aurelia as young Ani, her high school desperation as the new, poor girl trying to fit in at a snobby

### LUCKIEST GIRL ALIVE

What’s it rated? **R**  
 What’s it worth, Glen? **Full price**  
 What’s it worth, Anna? **Full price**  
 Where’s it showing? **Netflix**

high school comes to light, as well as her trauma that led to the event the documentary film crew aims to uncover. I wasn’t especially drawn in at first, but this story soon had me.

**Anna:** Ani is hell-bent on creating the perfect life. She’s got the handsome socialite who showers her with designer everything and whose family is putting on the perfect Nantucket wedding. Seemingly her carefully designed life is going well, but it’s clear Ani has a whole lot of trauma she isn’t dealing with. Her mother is a source of some of it: In flashbacks, we see Dina both body shame her teenage daughter and moments later treat her like the finest cut offered up at the meat market when she drops her off at her new high school. But when the documentarian shows up, Ani’s

carefully crafted bubble around her new life starts to implode. She’s rushed into a world where her past is confronting her—not just physically with people from her past, but her mind starts to lose control of her curated persona. I, too, wasn’t immediately drawn in. In fact, I groaned in the first

few minutes while Ani was telling the audience what “kind” of person she is. But I warmed to her story and was soon engaged. Kunis has a knack for keeping things interesting on-screen.

**Glen:** Ani isn’t helped by the fact that Dean Barton (Alex Barone), another survivor of their high school tragedy, has gone on the talk show circuit to self-aggrandize his role. Because Ani has never spoken publicly about what happened, some have conjectured she may have had a role in it, but



**WHO IS SHE REALLY?** Ani Fanelli (Mila Kunis) seems like she has her life perfectly assembled, but then her past returns to haunt her, forcing her to face it fearlessly, in Netflix’s *Luckiest Girl Alive*.

clearing her name comes with a host of other risks, not to mention a huge privacy invasion. I’m sure this all sounds very mysterious, but it would ruin the film if we revealed details. Suffice it to say, Ani is faced with difficult choices. Not only is Kunis terrific, but I loved Jennifer Beal as her cutthroat editor Lolo Vincent, not to mention Scoot McNairy as her high school teacher Andrew Larson. The film explores personal weakness and what it takes to face your demons. Ignore the critics, stick with it through the first act, and you’ll be rewarded.

**Anna:** It seems Ani’s finally ready to stop running from the past and start confronting it. She’s been demonized because of the situation that unfolded, and she made a chameleon-like change. When she runs into Mr. Larson years later, he doesn’t

even recognize her even though they had a strong bond before. When Ani decides to speak with the documentary crew despite hesitation from her family and friends, she’s taking the power of the past trauma back into her own hands—and that ultimately is a strong message. Where she disappeared before under attack and scrutiny, she rises and fights and names names of those whose past sins have not been punished. The things about Ani’s character in the beginning are actually helpful in the end. ○

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

## TV Reviews

### ANDOR

What’s it rated? **TV-14**  
 When? **2022**

Where’s it showing? **Disney Plus**

Created by Tony Gilroy (*The Bourne Identity*, *Beirut*), this new Star Wars TV series is a prequel to *Rogue One* (2016) and follows Cassian Andor’s (Diego Luna) evolution from morally questionable thief to Rebel Alliance intelligence officer whose heroism helps retrieve schematics for the Empire’s Death Star. For non-Star Wars fans, sorry if I just got Star Wars nerdy on you.

With a total 24 episodes planned—12 this year and 12 more currently in development—the series is just beginning, but it will eventually cover the five years leading up to the events of *Rogue One*. It’s off to a cracking good start! When we first meet Andor, he’s a cynic in search of his missing sister. Yes, he hates the Galactic Empire, which was responsible for the destruction of his home planet of Kenari, but he’s miles away from the passionate Rebel hero of *Rogue One* who’s willing to sacrifice himself for the cause.

With film-quality production values, a terrific cast, and an engaging storyline, *Andor* is worthy of its franchise, but more



PHOTO COURTESY OF LUCASFILM

**FROM CYNIC TO HERO:** In the new Disney Plus TV series *Andor*, we meet Cassian Andor (Diego Luna), the passionate hero of the 2016 film *Rogue One*, who’s a cynic thief uninterested in the Rebel Alliance and its fight against the Galactic Empire.

importantly, instead of recycling the same stories—as the *Star Wars* franchise is wont to do—*Andor* feels fresh and new. (40-min. episodes)

—Glen

**BINGEABLE**

### A FRIEND OF THE FAMILY

What’s it rated? **TV-MA**

When? **2022**

Where’s it showing? **Peacock**

Peacock’s new series *A Friend of the Family* starts its first episode with Jan Broberg, the real-life victim of Robert Berchtold, asking the audience to please remember that this is a story that really happened to her and her family. If you watched the 2017 documentary *Abducted in Plain Sight*, you’re already familiar with the Broberg family and the unbelievable events that unfolded over the course of many years between them and Bob Berchtold, who the family calls “B” for short.

Berchtold was a master manipulator who set his sights on Jan right away. Jake Lacy plays B with maddening skill—the wolf is hidden well under sheep’s clothing. Each episode released so far comes in around 45 minutes and weaves through time—jumping back and forth between the beginning of B’s relationship with the Berchtolds, Jan’s kidnapping, and the unbelievable events that happened for years after.

Anna Paquin and Colin Hanks play Mary Ann and Bob Broberg, both of whom had their own secret sexual relationships with B. The whole story is mind-boggling, and I for one can’t wait to watch



PHOTO COURTESY OF EAT THE CAT

**MANIPULATED:** The Broberg family falls under the charms of a masterful manipulator and pedophile who preys on their daughter in the miniseries *A Friend of the Family*, streaming on Peacock.

this cast tell the story. Released on Thursdays, by the time you read this seven of nine episodes will be available. (nine 45-min. episodes) ○

—Anna



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**RAISING THE BAR:** COLD Coast Brewing Company opened on Ocean Avenue in Lompoc in April and is now home to an award-winning brown ale. The brewery recently won a bronze medal at the Great American Beer Festival, held in early October.



Share tasty tips!

Send tidbits on everything food and drink to [cwiseblood@santamariasun.com](mailto:cwiseblood@santamariasun.com).



**PEDAL TO THE MEDAL:** Mike Lamping, Eric Oviatt, and Jason Drew (left to right), three of the four co-founders of the COLD Coast Brewing Company, jumped onstage during the Great American Beer Festival after the local brewery was announced as a bronze medal recipient.

# Bronze brew

Lompoc brewery wins prestigious medal at nationwide beer competition

BY CALEB WISEBLOOD

It's been in business for less than a year, and COLD Coast Brewing Company has already gained national recognition for one of its ales.

In early October, the Lompoc-based brewery's co-founders flew to Denver, Colorado, to attend the Great American Beer Festival—the largest annual commercial beer competition in the U.S. More than 2,000 breweries from around the country competed in this year's contest, including COLD Coast.

Co-founder Eric Oviatt said that he and the brewery's other three co-founders—Dave Caro, Mike Lamping, and Jason Drew (the C, L, and D of COLD Coast)—weren't expecting to win in any of the categories they entered, but that didn't stop them from having a good time.

"We had a ball. We went there for the experience. We're beer nerds," Oviatt said. "That

was the first time we'd ever been. ... We were not expecting any kind of win."

That's why the group felt "completely dumbfounded" when COLD Coast's name was announced during the awards ceremony on the final day of the festival, Oviatt explained.

Oviatt can clearly recall hearing that the brewery won a bronze medal in the American brown ale category—but after that, the awards ceremony felt like a surreal blur, he said.

"I don't remember anything for 20 minutes after they called our name. I barely remember walking up onstage," said Oviatt, who at least has photographic proof that he and two of his colleagues accepted the bronze medal at the Colorado Convention Center.

COLD Coast's award-winning brown ale, known as Brown Evolved, was one out of more than 9,000 libations from participating brewers submitted into the competition. The contest's winners were selected by a panel of 235 judges. Three winners were chosen from

each of the event's 98 beer categories.

Oviatt said that his brewery's bronze win wasn't just a shock to him and his fellow co-founders, it was a surprise to several other brewery owners at the event—some of whom had never heard of Lompoc.

"During the awards ceremony, we were sitting in a row with a few other breweries ... and when our name got called, somebody in the row yelled, 'What the f—!'" Oviatt said with a laugh. "We were all thinking that in our head, but somebody yelled it."

"Walking around the Beer Festival afterwards with a medal around our neck, people just treated us differently," Oviatt added. "Everybody wanted to talk to us afterwards. Before that, we were getting questions like, 'Where's Lompoc? I've never heard of Lompoc.' That's about the extent of what people said to us when we were walking around for the first couple of days.

"But after we were walking around with the medal, everybody wanted to know how we brewed

... and, 'What's in your brown? What makes it so special?'"

Brown Evolved is described as a classic American brown ale with bready, biscuity, toffee, and chocolate notes of toasted American malt. The medal-winning beverage is currently sold out but will be back on tap at COLD Coast within the next few weeks after a new batch is brewed, Oviatt said.

In the meantime, Oviatt recommends guests try the brewery's original brown ale on tap, which he described as one of COLD Coast's flagships, darker and less hoppy than Brown Evolved.

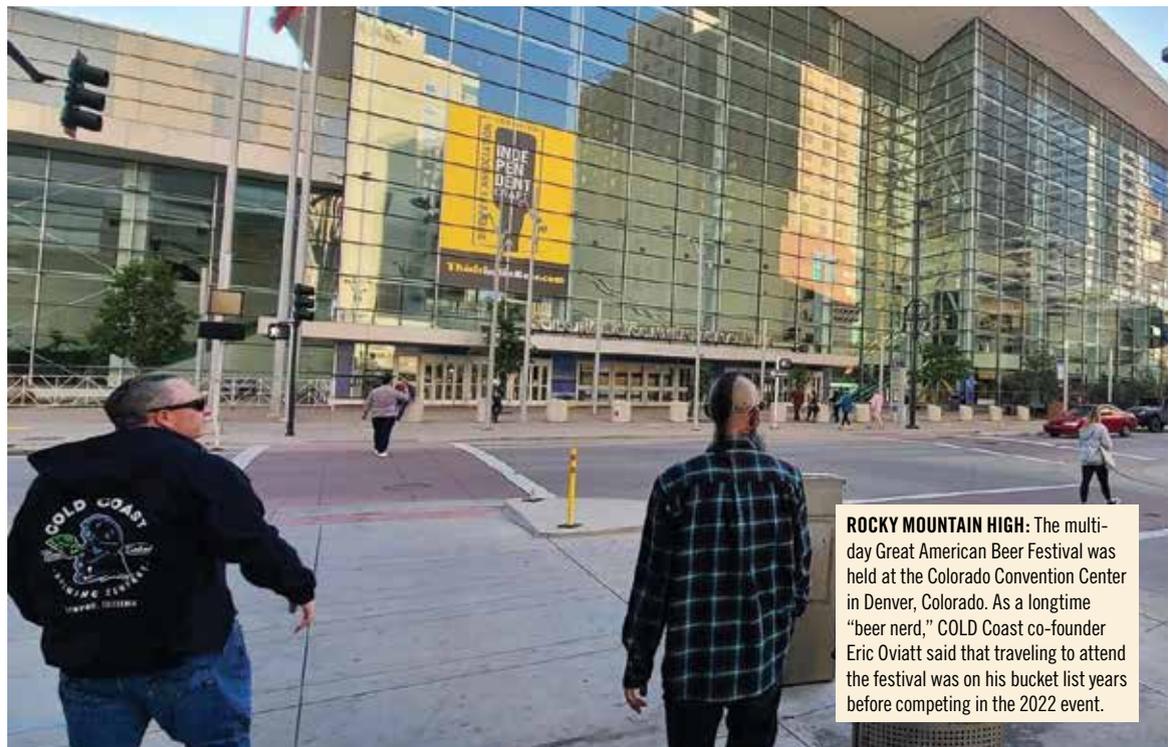
One of the reasons the bronze win still feels surreal for Oviatt is because he's heard stories from friends in the industry who've competed year after year without winning.

"We've got friends down in LA that have been trying for nine years and they still haven't won a medal," Oviatt said. "We didn't think that there was any way we were going to win." ○

Send ale tales to Arts Editor Caleb Wiseblood at [cwiseblood@santamariasun.com](mailto:cwiseblood@santamariasun.com).



**ON TAP:** COLD Coast's medal-winning brown ale, known as Brown Evolved, is currently sold out at the local brewery but will be back on tap within the next few weeks after a new batch is brewed, according to the brewery's co-founder Eric Oviatt.



**ROCKY MOUNTAIN HIGH:** The multi-day Great American Beer Festival was held at the Colorado Convention Center in Denver, Colorado. As a longtime "beer nerd," COLD Coast co-founder Eric Oviatt said that traveling to attend the festival was on his bucket list years before competing in the 2022 event.

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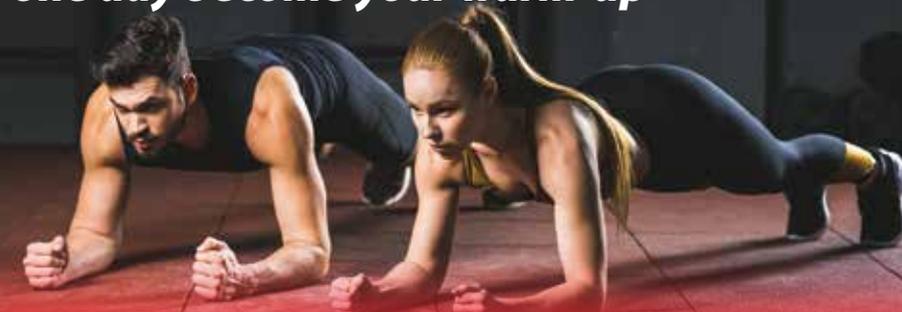


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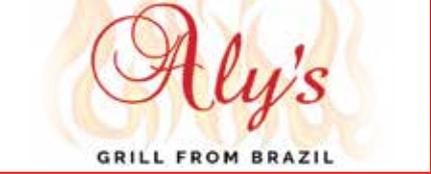
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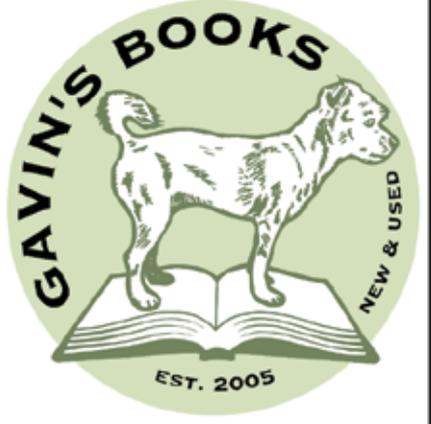


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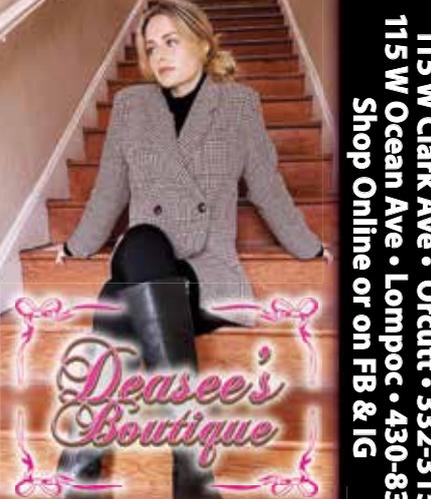
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