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OCTOBER 27 - NOVEMBER 3, 2022 VOL. 23 NO. 35

California's proposition game is strong. It seems as if every election cycle, there's a half a dozen laws for the state's voters to decide on, and this year is no different. There are seven—one about the right to reproductive health, two about gambling, one about taxing the wealthy to pay for electric vehicle infrastructure, one about dialysis, and one about funding arts education. Staff Writer Taylor O'Connor and *New Times* Assistant Editor Peter Johnson worked together to come up with a primer that could help you make some decisions [6].

You can also read about who said what in recent Santa Maria Joint Union High School District candidates forum [4]; what *Scary Poppins* has in store for you at the Melodrama [18]; and who and what are nominated for wine industry awards this year [21].

Camillia Lanham
editor

YES OR NO? Seven propositions await a decision from California voters, which could impact gambling, fire suppression, dialysis, and more.

Cover image courtesy of the California secretary of state > Cover design by Alex Zuniga

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Political Watch

• U.S. Rep. **Salud Carbajal** (D-Santa Barbara) announced a new $159,000 grant from the U.S. Department of Justice for the **Guadalupe Union School District** to improve school safety and protect students, according to an Oct. 24 statement from the congressman's office. In 2018, Carbajal supported the Students, Teachers, and Officers Preventing School Violence Act, which made annual grants available to states, school districts, and tribal organizations to bring evidence-based programs and strategies to schools to prevent acts of violence. The funding allocated from the department's School Violence Prevention Program will support construction of a new entryway at **Kermit McKenzie Intermediate School**, the purchase of new radios for school administrators, and the implementation of improved identification systems for school visitors. "As a father and grandfather, I know the concern that every parent feels sending their child off to school—especially as school violence and campus shootings have become all too common in our nation. That's why I voted to help deliver federal grants to schools so that they can take steps to improve the safety procedures and processes on our campuses, and why I'm proud to see some of that funding coming back to the Central Coast this year," Carbajal said in the statement. "Each and every student deserves to have a safe and supportive learning environment, and every parent deserves the peace of mind that their children are protected."

• U.S. Sen. **Alex Padilla** (D-California) celebrated the Senate's passage of the FIRE Act, a bill that would improve the **Federal Emergency Management Agency**'s (FEMA) wildfire preparedness and response programs by allowing the agency to pre-deploy assets during times of highest wildfire risk and increasing equity and consistency across multiple FEMA assistance programs, according to an Oct. 20 statement from the senator's office. The FIRE Act was born out of a 2021 roundtable conversation Padilla hosted where he was briefed by local leaders on the state of California's wildfire preparedness and recovery measures. It passed the Senate unanimously. "The impacts of wildfires on communities throughout California have been devastating, and more must be done to support communities faced with extreme wildfire threats," Padilla said in the statement. "The recent unanimous Senate passage of the FIRE Act was an important step forward in reforming federal wildfire preparedness and response programs. I'll continue working to ensure this bill makes it to the president's desk for his signature so that communities have access to the necessary resources they need to recover and rebuild after wildfires occur."

• California is poised to overtake Germany as the world's fourth largest economy, according to **Bloomberg**, continuing to outperform the nation and other countries in GDP growth, companies' market value, and renewable energy, Gov. **Gavin Newsom** said in an Oct. 24 statement. The governor's office's top takeaways from the Bloomberg data included 379 companies with a market value of at least $1 billion, unemployment rates falling to 3.9 percent, and renewable energy becoming California's fastest-growing businesses. "While critics often say California's best days are behind us, reality proves otherwise—our economic growth and job gains continue to fuel the nation's economy," Newsom said in the statement. "California's values and entrepreneurial spirit have powered this ascent to becoming the fourth biggest economy in the world, and we'll continue doubling down on industries of the future, like renewables and clean energy. I feel tremendous pride in California's resilience, leadership, and our formula for success."

BRIEFS

PHOTO BY TAYLOR O'CONNOR

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DISCUSSING PRIORITIES: Three of the four Santa Maria Joint Union High School District Board of Trustees candidates attended a community forum where they discussed school safety, mental health issues and concerns, overcrowded buses, and long commutes.

Santa Maria high school district candidates address community concerns

School safety, transportation issues, and mental health help were discussed by three out of four Santa Maria Joint Union High School District board of education candidates during an Oct. 19 community forum.

The school district is divided into five trustee areas, with areas 4 and 5 up for reelection this year. The League of Women Voters and Future Leaders of America partnered to host the forum at Santa Maria High School, where students, parents, and community members could attend, ask questions, and hear the candidates' overall plans.

Starting off the forum, incumbent Diana Perez, representing area 4, said she wants to help increase post-graduation options like the military, college, or trade schools, and add an additional school to the district to alleviate overcrowding. Her opponent, Raymond Acosta, was not present for the event.

"We have over 9,000 students in our four schools, with roughly about 3,200 at Pioneer Valley, 3,000 at Santa Maria High School, 2,500 at Righetti, and over 400 at Delta," Perez said. "But we're talking about some high schools that were built for 2,000 students, so we're definitely oversubscribed."

Adding a new high school to the district, she said, would help improve the classroom environment with fewer students per class, prepare for the district's future growth, and alleviate long commutes for Guadalupe students—a concern also brought up by parents during the forum because the bus driver shortage and overcrowded transportation is causing students to be late.

"I know a lot of students travel to Righetti High School every day and that's pretty tough. They have to get up early and sometimes cannot participate in after school sports and activities," Perez said. "That's why I'm supporting opening a new high school because I think we could build a school closer to Guadalupe and combat some of these challenges."

During a question related to mental health, sex education, and drugs and alcohol, Perez noted that the district works with Fighting Back Santa Maria Valley for enhanced education about drugs and alcohol, added eight more counselors per school, and hosts parent workshops about these topics, she said.

In trustee area 5, incumbent Dominick Palera faces off against Santa Maria resident and former military pilot David Baskett, whose top priority is enhancing student safety on campus, he said.

"We can have different ideas on education, we can have input from all kinds of folks in ideologies and backgrounds, but students must be safe," Baskett said. "At the end of the day, all of that falls apart if the students are not safe."

To enhance school safety, he proposed that teachers should have "the ability to defend the students," against someone. To address the question about overcrowded buses, he said the district should get bigger buses to hold more students, and in response to a concern about enhancing mental health, he suggested adding a chaplain on campus—something that helped him in the military, he said.

During most of the forum, incumbent Palera pointed out current school district programs and policies and said he'd like to continue down that track with the goal of improving student outcomes. He highlighted that during his term, he's seen the addition of 32 new classrooms at Righetti and 50 classrooms coming to Santa Maria High School.

To address commute-related concerns, Palera pointed out the current partnership with the city Department of Transportation to get adjusted routes and more buses, and said he wanted to look further into the issue.

"We are lucky to [have a partnership] with the city because they are moving routes and their buses [while] they are short too," he said.

Palera and Perez echoed one another on mental health, highlighting current services and partnerships, but Palera said he recognized that the school has taken on a greater role in these dialogues.

"We know the schools are picking up the role of a lot of parents now. The schools are almost the de-facto parent," Palera said. "These things are important, and they are young adults now. It's important we educate them on these things."

—Taylor O'Connor

Bus stop dispute puts Santa Maria development on hold

The Santa Maria Planning Commission wants to require an apartment building developer to fund a new bus turnout in the area but is waiting on a price tag.

Although city staff estimated that the turnout would cost between $40,000 and $50,000, commissioners opted to delay voting on the project until staff lands on a specific number.

During the Planning Commission's Oct. 19 meeting, the project's principal architect Scott Martin—whose client hopes to develop an 86-unit housing complex near the corner of Carmen Lane and South Blosser Road—described the condition as unfair but agreed with city staff that a new bus stop would benefit the development's future residents as well as nearby residents.

"We're very excited about the public bus drop-off; we think it's an amenity for the whole area. But we're swallowing hard trying to accept the full cost of it," Martin said. "We would like to have the commission consider that the applicant's happy to build it, but to 100 percent fund it seems to be putting an undue burden on this project. … That's the only condition I think we had any challenge with or took any heartburn to. … [We're] happy to build it, happy to accommodate it, just having a hard time saying we should pay for it all."

The project applicant, Steve Simoulis, was present during the meeting to answer questions from the Planning Commission. Chair Robert Dickerson asked about the estimated cost for the development—known as Avante Apartments—as a whole, to which Simoulis replied that it could be anywhere between $20 million and $50 million.

"OK, so $20, $30, $40 million and you're irritated at $40,000 or $50,000, right?" Dickerson said.

"It may sound like a small percentage, but to me, it's an issue," said Simoulis, who added that he doesn't believe the $40,000 to $50,000 estimate takes into account the cost of establishing or reestablishing utilities, such as streetlights and fire hydrants, located on the proposed site of the bus turnout.

Planning Commissioner Maribel Aguilera-Hernandez asked Simoulis if there's a percentage of the bus turnout funding he would be comfortable paying.

"Ten thousand dollars seems like the maximum I could even do for that," Simoulis said.

"I think it is important to know the actual cost," Aguilera-Hernandez said later, before motioning to revisit the development proposal on Nov. 16 with a specific cost for the bus turnout. The motion passed 4-0. Planning Commissioner Tim Seifert was absent.

—Caleb Wiseblood

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NEWS from page 4

New Santa Ynez airport board candidate added after elections debate

Christian Maurer is running for the Santa Ynez Valley Airport Authority board of directors after fellow airport authority members nominated him by petition and the agency rescheduled its elections, following some debate about the airport's voting bylaws.

"I thought it would be interesting to get more involved with day-to-day decision-making and future planning," Maurer said. "By and large, it's a great airport, but I think I can bring a different perspective, and I represent a demographic I'm not sure is represented."

The airport authority is made up of 260 members and is led by a team of nine directors—four are users who have planes or lease hangars, and five are non-users who don't have a direct stake in the airport. Maurer is running for one of the two non-user seats up for this year's election, and he said he's hoping to represent a younger demographic and increase community engagement.

"There's an opportunity to communicate better with our membership and improve informational assets that we provide," he said. "I think it's easy to let things slip without an engaged membership behind you, I think that's why we had this issue around the election."

In the future, Maurer said he'd like to help facilitate adding more hangars, a mechanical shop, a small flight museum, and interactive elements for children.

"It's good for us to have long-term ideas and cut through them with the circumstances we are working with and the resources we have," he said.

Santa Ynez Airport pilot Robert Perry said he signed the petition to nominate Maurer because he said he wants to have a new voice on the board.

"I go to every meeting and listen to what's going on, and I see them [the board] paddling this canoe in one direction and the others in the other direction," Perry said. "They aren't solving anything; they are just going around in circles."

He hopes that Maurer can provide a viewpoint that will help the board have a vision for airport infrastructure improvements, and improve outreach to its members—which is what started issues with the election in the first place, Perry said.

In September, the board of directors voted to cancel this year's election after they received no new candidate applications, but Perry said that's because no one was notified that an election season was coming up.

"The authority does not communicate effectively with its membership and does not publicize the fact that there are elections," he said. "When I found out no one had applied, I sent out a notice to the entire membership that if you wish to run, there are seats open."

Maurer's petition was filed 36 hours before the ballot deadline and he's now included on the membership's emailed ballots, which need to be submitted prior to the board's rescheduled Nov. 3 meeting at 6 p.m., when new candidates will be announced.

"I just want to see the airport work well. I have not seen the authority work diligently to help it thrive," Perry said.

The *Sun* reached out to board President Jourdi de Werd for comment, but he couldn't be reached before the paper's deadline.

—*Taylor O'Connor*

Prop. primer

A quick explainer on the Nov. 8 election's seven propositions

BY PETER JOHNSON & TAYLOR O'CONNOR

Every election cycle brings a new slew of state propositions—some of the most confusing yet consequential items on Californians' ballots. We know how hard it is to sift through the stacks of mailers, editorials, and slanted advertising that's pushed out for or against each measure, so the *Sun* put together this no-nonsense primer on each one. Happy voting!

Proposition 1

After the U.S. Supreme Court found that the Constitution did not protect abortion access and overturned *Roe v. Wade* in the *Dobbs v. Jackson* decision, the California state Legislature passed an amendment to solidify reproductive rights in the state's Constitution, according to the Legislative Analyst's Office.

The state's Constitution currently guarantees everyone the right to privacy, but does not detail the right to make reproductive choices.

Proposition 1 would change the Constitution to specifically say that California cannot deny or interfere with a person's reproductive freedom to choose whether or not to have an abortion or to use contraceptives, according to previous *Sun* reporting. Because it's a constitutional amendment, it requires a two-thirds majority in both the state Senate and Assembly, and voter approval. If approved, it can only be overturned through a similar process.

"Could California have done this [earlier]? Perhaps, but I think California was still working in line with the law that was in place at the federal level for decades," state Sen. Monique Limón said in a previous interview with the *Sun*. "Passing Proposition 1 will allow Californians to continue with the rights we've seen in the state."

Proposition 26

This is one of two gambling bills on the ballot that has sparked serious back-and-forth and more than $400 million invested in campaigning, according to previous *Sun* reporting.

Proposition 26 changes the state Constitution to allow on-site sports betting, racetrack operations, roulette tables, and dice games on federally recognized tribal lands, according to the Legislative Analyst's Office. However, the proposition bans betting on high school and college sports games, and it allows people to file a lawsuit in state courts if any regulations are violated.

All tribes operating a racetrack would be required to pay the state 10 percent of sports bets made each day—after subtracting winning payments—through a new California Sports Wagering Fund, according to the analysis. Percentages for other games will be decided through state agreements with each tribe—which will later be used toward K-12 spending and community colleges each year, as well as supporting regulation costs.

The Santa Ynez Band of Chumash, along with several other tribes, is pushing for Proposition 26 because it would support more than 125,000 jobs and revenue for tribal governments along with a $20 billion statewide economic impact and a $3.5 billion tax impact, Chumash Chairman Kenneth Kahn said in a previous interview with the *Sun*.

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

Proposition 27

On the other side of the gambling argument, Proposition 27 would allow people over 21 (and off tribal lands) to place online bets for events like football games, award shows, or video competitions, but bans betting on high school games and elections, the Legislative Analyst's Office stated.

Tribes and larger online gambling companies that want to offer online gambling would need to apply for a five-year license with California, and they'd be required to pay 10 percent of sports bets made each month to the state, the analysis added.

The payments would create a new California Online Sports Betting Trust Fund where 85 percent would be funneled to gambling addiction programs and to a grant program for local entities addressing homelessness in their communities.

The remaining 15 percent would go toward tribes that are not involved with online sports betting, and can be used for tribal government, health, or economic development, the Legislative Analyst's Office said.

Supporters—including DraftKings, FanDuel, Sportsbook, and BetMGM—are saying that this proposition would grant hundreds of millions in homelessness solutions and mental health support, according to Ballotpedia.

Californians for Tribal Sovereignty and Safe Gaming, and the Coalition for Safe, Responsible Gaming are leading opposition campaigns. These organizations believe this measure will hurt tribal communities, according to Ballotpedia.

Proposition 28

A former Los Angeles Unified School District superintendent spearheaded this measure that would require the state to dedicate about $1 billion per year to arts and music education.

Currently, California does not have a guaranteed funding source for arts and music education in K-12 schools. During lean economic years, those subjects are often the first to see cuts.

Proposition 28 would force the state to allocate an amount of funds equal to 1 percent of the overall state education budget to arts and music—with specific directives to hire more teachers and send more funding to disadvantaged school districts.

The measure's supporters include arts organizations, teachers' unions, and the California Democratic Party. It faces no organized opposition. Locally, it's also endorsed by Chris Ungar, a San Luis Coastal Unified School District board trustee, who called the boost for arts and music "critical."

"As Austin Beutner, former LA Unified Schools superintendent and the force behind the proposition, says, 'Math has rules. Grammar has rules. Art is unbounded,'" Ungar said by email. "'And if you think about preparing students for critical thinking, art isn't just the sprinkles on an ice cream sundae. It's an essential piece.'"

Proposition 29

Proposition 29 is the third attempt by dialysis union workers to put an agenda of reforms in front of voters, after floating similar, unsuccessful ballot measures in 2018 and 2020.

This cycle's measure would place several requirements on the roughly 650 dialysis clinics across the state. It would mandate them to have a licensed physician, nurse practitioner, or physician assistant with at least six months of kidney care experience on-site during dialysis procedures.

It would also require clinics to divulge the names of any physician with more than a 5 percent ownership interest in the clinic; not discriminate against patients based on their source of payment; report infection data to the state; and obtain permission before closing or reducing hours.

Supporters—including the Service Employees International Union-United Healthcare Workers West, the California Labor Federation, and the California Democratic Party—argue that dialysis companies make huge profits yet are not investing enough in patient care and safety.

Opponents—including clinic owners, the American Nurses Association, the California Medical Association, the California Republican Party, and most major newspapers—counter that some of what's in the proposition is already happening at clinics, and its other provisions could force clinics to close, which would reduce patients' access to dialysis statewide.

Proposition 30

It's not every day you see Gov. Gavin Newsom side with the Republican Party, but that's the case with Proposition 30, a proposed tax on millionaires aimed at funding a variety of climate action initiatives.

Proposition 30 imposes a 1.75 percent tax on personal income above $2 million, which would raise between $3.5 billion and $5 billion annually to fund subsidies for electric cars, charging infrastructure, and wildfire response and prevention. About 80 percent of the tax money would go to rebates for electric cars or charging stations.

While Proposition 30 is supported by the California Democratic Party and various unions and climate organizations, it's opposed by Gov. Newsom, who's at odds with its largest donor: Lyft. Newsom accuses Lyft of a "cynical scheme" to saddle taxpayers with the cost of building out electric car infrastructure that the state is requiring of ride-booking companies over the next decade, according to *CalMatters*.

Newsom and other opponents argue that the state is already investing billions of dollars in electric cars and wildfire prevention. But supporters say the measure provides a reliable stream of funding to bolster climate action across the state.

Proposition 31

Proposition 31 is an attempt to overturn a recently passed state law that banned the sale of most flavored tobacco products.

State lawmakers adopted the ban in 2020 to protect teens from tobacco and nicotine abuse. It targets flavored products that proponents say are designed for and marketed to youth, including pods for vape pens, tank-based systems, menthol cigarettes, and chewing tobacco.

But before the law could take effect, the tobacco industry funded and spearheaded a ballot referendum to put the issue to voters. Voting "yes" upholds the law while voting "no" overturns it.

Supporters of the measure say the law is critical to curbing rampant underage tobacco and nicotine abuse. SLO County Public Health Officer Penny Borenstein urged a "yes" vote in a recent op-ed she penned and sent to local media.

Excessive nicotine use and addiction, Borenstein explained, harms young users by "affecting brain development and impacting attention, mood, and impulse control."

"Despite the tobacco industry being forced to admit the addictive power of nicotine, the industry continues to focus strategies on attracting younger users," Borenstein said. "No other commercial industry has been so persistent in the drive to profit from enticing new, younger people to become addicted."

Opponents of the proposition argue that the law simply bans the sale of an adult product to adult consumers, and that the state will miss out on the roughly $100 million in taxes that flavored tobacco generates. ❍

Contact Sun Staff Writer Taylor O'Connor at toconnor@santamariasun.com and New Times Assistant Editor Peter Johnson pjohnson@newtimesslo.com.

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- ❍ Proposition 1: We need to ensure reproductive freedoms for everyone.
- ❍ Proposition 26: It's important to provide revenue to tribal governments.
- ❍ Proposition 30: We need to make clean energy investments.
- ❍ I don't vote on propositions.

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FILLING THE GAPS: Marian's Extended Care Center staff provides a bridge between hospital care and home care by helping people get their strength back through treatment, medication administration, and daily task assistance.

A community asset

Marian Regional Medical Center's Extended Care Center celebrates 35 years in the community

BY TAYLOR O'CONNOR

Marian Regional Medical Center's Extended Care Center started with a few nuns and 10 patients who needed extra care after hospitalization. Now, the center serves 95 patients at a time and is celebrating its 35th anniversary, Jill Ledbetter said.

The skilled nursing facility serves community members who need some assistance with daily tasks like bathing, administering medication, going to the bathroom, or physical therapy, speech therapy, and wound care, said Ledbetter, the senior director of nursing at Marian Extended Care.

"Usually, it's that bridge between hospital and home health," Ledbetter said. "They are still pretty fragile. They don't need to go back to the hospital, but they aren't able to go home unless they have 24-hour caregivers."

As California's population of 65-and-older residents increases and people are living longer, the facility is preparing to add 12 to 14 beds and expand its residency and clinical programs for doctors and nurses, she said.

"As the population continues to age, we need geriatric specialists out there to help people with their quality of life," Ledbetter said. "In our residency program, we are giving young doctors exposure, and it might influence what specialty they go into."

The facility also partners with Allan Hancock College to give nursing students the opportunity to work at Marian, where they could later be recruited to work once they graduate, she added. Before COVID-19, Pioneer Valley High School students also used to come in to help with community service projects and assist staff, giving the center a "family feel and partnership with the community."

"We like to be seen as a learning environment," Ledbetter said. "It's fun to see the students graduate and have fond memories of their clinical here. As COVID restrictions lift, we hope to have more students and more groups of volunteers, which are a great asset to us."

The past two years strained the extended care facility with isolation, quarantine, and family separation, but the staff worked creatively to overcome some of those limitations, Ledbetter said.

"COVID taught us a lot about [how] to keep in touch," she said. "We have iPads available for short stays, teleconferencing, and FaceTiming to stay in touch with loved ones."

A lot of seniors are more familiar with technology and know how to use their cellphones, iPads, or other devices to communicate with their loved ones, Ledbetter said, noting that her own grandmother would have never been able to do that.

"It's expanded how we deliver health care and supports our patients and families to stay in touch," she said. "We need young people that have more elastic brains to help us learn how to use the technology and support our technology."

Although the program is designed to see patients 65 and over, nurses and doctors will often see severely injured farmworkers who might not have insurance. Because Marian's a nonprofit, those folks can receive the care they need, she said.

"A lot of the community doesn't even know we're here. But we are here—we are across from the [emergency room] and helping people transition from the hospital, gain their strength, and get back to the community," Ledbetter said. "That's what we're here for: to help the community. In whatever shape or size they come in."

Highlight

• The Santa Maria Public Library is hosting a free showing of *Coco* on Oct. 28 at 5:30 p.m., prior to a citywide Día de Los Muertos celebration—which will take place on Oct. 29 on the McClelland Street corridor (400 through 600 South McClelland Street), from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. The family-friendly event will feature live entertainment, a Catrin and Catrina contest, youth activities, and food and craft vendors. All are welcome to create colorful altars honoring loved ones who have passed on, and families can bring photos, flowers, or treats to contribute to the community altar. Direct questions to the city's Recreation and Parks Department at (805) 925-0951, Ext. 2260.

• The Santa Maria Utilities Department is offering free landscape burlap and sprinklers to city customers. The promotion is to remind homeowners to go green in the fall by pulling weeds and collecting clippings to improve the landscape, and adjust irrigation clocks in accordance with city watering restrictions. Residents will receive one 7-foot-by-7-foot landscape burlap and three sprinklers with anti-leak sprinkler bodies. The burlap can be used to gather clippings, branches, leaves, and other green waste from the yard or garden, and then transfer it to the compost pile. Santa Maria customers should contact the Utilities Department to reserve their butrlap and sprinklers while supplies last by calling (805) 925-0951, Ext. 7270, Monday through Friday. ❍

Promote!
Send business and nonprofit information to spotlight@santamariasun.com.

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

DEATH NOTICES

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

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

BORGES, TAMRA, 74, of Santa Maria passed away 10/17/2022 arrangements with Dudley-Hoffman Mortuary, Crematory & Memory Gardens

BUENAFE, PEARL, 89, of Arroyo Grande, passed away 10/13/2022 arrangements with Marshall-Spoo Sunset Funeral Chapel

CONRADI, EVA C., 94, of Santa Maria, passed away 10/21/2022 arrangements with Dudley-Hoffman Mortuary, Crematory & Memory Gardens

COOPER, BARBARA, 102, of Pismo Beach passed away 10/13/2022 arrangements with Marshall-Spoo Sunset Funeral Chapel

DE MARIA ALFRED A., 74, of Lompoc passed away 10/11/2022 arrangements with Starbuck-Lind Mortuary

DUNCAN, DONALD II, 53, of Paso Robles passed away 10/14/2022 arrangements with Blue Sky Cremation Service

ECHEVARRIA, BEVERLY JEAN, 72, of Morro Bay, passed away 10/6/2022 arrangements with Los Osos Valley Mortuary & Memorial Park

FLORES, ANGELINA IBARRA, 75, of Santa Maria passed away 10/12/2022 arrangements with Dudley-Hoffman Mortuary, Crematory & Memory Gardens

FLOREZ, CHARLES, 62, of Oceano passed away 10/13/2022 arrangements with Blue Sky Cremation Service

FREITS, THEOL ELMIRA, 101, of Bend Or., passed away 9/29/2022 arrangements with Los Osos Valley Mortuary & Memorial Park

FUNK, DONALD, 74, of Paso Robles passed away 10/15/2022 arrangements with Blue Sky Cremation Service

GREGORY, MORRIS NEAL, 89, of Arroyo Grande, passed away 10/23/2022 arrangements with Magner-Maloney Funeral Home & Crematory

HOCK, JULES, 87, of San Luis Obispo passed away 10/13/2022 arrangements with Los Osos Valley Mortuary & Memorial Park

HUSE, DOREEN MARY, 83, of Santa Maria passed away 10/16/2022 arrangements with Magner-Maloney Funeral Home & Crematory

JAUREQUI, MAURITA, 75, of Santa Maria passed away 10/15/2022 arrangements with Dudley-Hoffman Mortuary, Crematory & Memory Gardens

KEENE, WORTH, 104, of San Luis Obispo passed away 10/10/2022 arrangements with Los Osos Valley Mortuary & Memorial Park

KENNEDY, JACK, 87, of Santa Maria passed away 10/21/2022 arrangements with Blue Sky Cremation Service

KIRBY, ELDON LOWELL, 87, of Santa Maria passed away 10/16/2022 arrangements with Dudley-Hoffman Mortuary, Crematory & Memory Gardens

LARSON, DORATHIE, 92, of Santa Maria passed away 10/12/2022 arrangements with Dudley-Hoffman Mortuary, Crematory & Memory Gardens

LONGERETTA, RAYMOND JOSEPH JR., 72, of Baywood-Los Osos passed away 10/6/2022 arrangements with Los Osos Valley Mortuary & Memorial Park

MARLEY, CARLA, 69, of Oceano passed away 10/16/2022 arrangements with Marshall-Spoo Sunset Funeral Chapel

MASON, GERALD, 90, of Morro Bay, passed away 10/20/2022 arrangements with Los Osos Valley Mortuary & Memorial Park

PEPITONE, FRANCES E., 94, of Santa Barbara, passed away 10/21/2022 arrangements with Dudley-Hoffman Mortuary, Crematory & Memory Gardens

PORTER, E. GLENN, 81, of Santa Maria passed away 10/20/2022 arrangements with Dudley-Hoffman Mortuary, Crematory & Memory Gardens

SCHOT, LOUIS, 89, of Cuyama passed away 10/14/2022 arrangements with Dudley-Hoffman Mortuary, Crematory & Memory Gardens

SIMMONS, YOLANDA S., 80, of Santa Maria passed away 10/19/2022 arrangements with Magner-Maloney Funeral Home & Crematory

STARK, MARGARET "PEGGY", 73, of Arroyo Grande, passed away 10/13/2022 arrangements with Marshall-Spoo Sunset Funeral Chapel

WIGHTMAN, ANDREW MARLEY, 88, of Santa Maria passed away 10/13/2022 arrangements with Dudley-Hoffman Mortuary, Crematory & Memory Gardens

ZEMNY, MARIE DELORES, 93, of Santa Maria passed away 10/23/2022 arrangements with Magner-Maloney Funeral Home & Crematory

ZEPEDA, GILBERT "GIL", 48, of Santa Maria passed away 10/12/2022 arrangements with Dudley-Hoffman Mortuary, Crematory & Memory Gardens

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PUBLIC NOTICE
UNMET TRANSIT NEEDS

Santa Maria Regional Transit (SMRT) is inviting the public to a workshop on Unmet Transit Needs. As a requirement of the State of California Transportation Development Act (TDA), SMRT conducts an annual public input meeting to improve existing service and to identify future needs.

WHAT: Unmet Transit Needs Workshop

WHEN: Wednesday, November 30, 2022. First meeting will be held from 4:00 to 5:00 p.m. Second meeting will be held from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m.

WHERE: Santa Maria Public Library Shephard Hall, 1st Floor
421 S. McClelland Street Santa Maria, CA 93458 or Virtual Zoom Webinar:

To register for the virtual webinar, scan the QR code or visit www.rideSMRT.org

4:00-5:00 p.m. Webinar
ID: 856 4131 4644

OR

5:30-6:30 p.m. Webinar
ID: 880 5955 7241

If you cannot attend the workshop, but would like to provide comments, please mail comments to the City of Santa Maria at 110 S. Pine Street, Suite 221, Santa Maria, CA 93458. Comments may also be emailed directly to smrtcomments@cityofsantamaria.org with subject "Unmet Transit Needs."

You can also call (805) 925-0951, ext. 2459 for more information or to provide comment. The last day to submit comments is Friday, December 2, 2022.

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), individuals needing special accommodations to participate in the meeting should contact SMRT at least three working days prior to the meeting at (805) 928-5624.

The meeting will be Spanish and Mixteco language accessible if requested. Las reuniónes serán accesibles en Español y Mixteco si se solicita. Favor de llamar a SMRT al (805) 925-0951 ext. 2459, para más información del reunión o para solicitar un intérprete.

Opinion

LETTERS

Online Poll

What do you think about the plan to hire more sheriff's deputies and staff?

39% Bonuses are great, but there should also be retention bonuses or salary changes to keep staff.

33% As long as my city and property are protected, I don't really care about the details.

17% The Sheriff's Office has been having issues for years, and this plan will change nothing.

11% Incentives and bonuses are a great way to hire more staff.

18 Votes

Vote online at www.santamariasun.com.

Sun

Northern Santa Barbara County's News & Entertainment Weekly
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We welcome submissions. Please accompany them with a self-addressed, stamped envelope. All letters to the editor become the property of the *Sun*.

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Jim Mosby is not Lompoc's public safety candidate

The election is coming up in just a few weeks, and our local election is so important! You've probably seen former Councilmember Jim Mosby's signs around town as he attempts to reinvent himself as the "public safety" candidate. Ironically, this is the same former official who decimated our public safety sector when he was the leading voice of the council majority.

You don't have to take my word for it; read the 2021 Santa Barbara grand jury report on the Lompoc Police Department titled "Moving Toward a Safe and Proud Community." It breaks down (in detail) the horrific decisions that led to a big jump in crime and the loss of valuable staff. This report is damning. The decisions to essentially defund public safety (initially led by former Mayor John Linn followed by Jim Mosby) often came down to a 3-2 vote. We are still feeling the impacts.

Mr. Mosby is now trying to place the blame for all of these problems on current Mayor Jenelle Osborne. Keep in mind that the Lompoc mayor has no special powers. The majority always rules at City Council.

When I was elected over Jim Mosby in 2020 (by almost 20 percent), a new council majority took shape. This majority has been led by Mayor Osborne. Since the start of 2021, we are almost fully staffed at our Police Department. And thanks to 5-0 votes on our current budget, and a new cannabis tax on manufacturing, we are starting to see improvements in Lompoc.

In less than two years, the current City Council has allocated millions of dollars toward building back our public safety sector. In addition, we've doubled down on our commitment to improve and sustain the quality of our parks. We have a long way to go, but this council has worked extremely well together to achieve these goals.

Jim Mosby is misleading Lompoc residents about public safety. Consider this: If he really was the public safety candidate, why are the Lompoc police and fire departments endorsing Jenelle Osborne for mayor?

Even though challenges remain, I'm proud of the direction that we are heading under Mayor Osborne's leadership. I wholeheartedly give her my endorsement.

Jeremy Ball
Lompoc City Council member

Get all the facts on Santa Barbara Humane

It's really important we get the story about local animal adoptions right. The recent Santa Maria *Sun* article regarding Santa Maria animal services ("Potential Santa Maria animal services contract sparks controversy," Oct. 20) missed the mark.

Due to challenges, turnover, and a rising number of animals at Santa Barbara County Animal Services, a request for proposal (RFP) was issued by the city of Santa Maria to look for the best possible operation to take over the contract for animal services.

The best option for Santa Maria is Santa Barbara Humane, which responded to the RFP. However, a few misinformed individuals were given space in the Santa Maria *Sun* story to assert unsubstantiated and unmerited claims against this long-standing and essential pillar in animal welfare.

Live-release data is publicly available for anyone choosing to speak at a hearing or pen a news article. But since that due diligence was not reflected in the efforts of those who spoke against Santa Barbara Humane, let's do that here.

Santa Barbara Humane's live-release rate is 96 percent—one of the highest in the nation, where the average is 89 percent. The "no kill" designated threshold is 90 percent.

Santa Barbara Humane's fully equipped veterinary clinics, staffed by four full-time veterinarians and a team of qualified professionals, manage and assist a variety of serious medical cases for shelter animals, public animals, and cases referred and transferred to us by Santa Barbara County Animal Services.

Santa Barbara Humane was just named "Best Place to Adopt a Pet," by the *Santa Barbara Independent*.

Just in the last month, Santa Barbara Humane performed 1,297 vaccinations and wellness appointments and 503 spays/neuters for the community at reduced costs or free.

I understand and empathize with the passion people have for animals in need. But passion that is uninformed creates distraction and damage to the creatures we are looking to protect.

John Soboslai
Santa Barbara

Santa Barbara Humane by the numbers

When members of the public make inaccurate statements about our local animal shelters, dogs and cats pay a high price. Numbers tell the story best, not inflammatory statements and misinformation.

Despite recent statements from the public reported by your newspaper ("Potential Santa Maria animal services contract sparks controversy," Oct. 20), Santa Barbara Humane does an amazing job. They are respected around the nation as a caring, focused, and efficient operation. They are known as people who love animals and know what is best for each dog and cat and make sure it is carried out.

Some facts for the record:

1. Ninety-six percent of animals that come into SB Humane are live-released. One of the highest live-release rates in the nation.

2. The average stay of animals at SB Humane is 11 days—recently a transfer of 36 animals were adopted in just three days. Each of these animals was placed as quickly as possible in a loving home.

3. SB Humane employs four full-time expert veterinarians and routinely offers low-cost or free veterinary services to members of our community in need.

4. If a dog or cat is struggling to find an adoptive home, SB Humane has a committee composed of eight individuals that thoroughly discusses options, support, and strategies to help the animal. This process accounts for their incredibly high 96 percent live-release rate.

Recently it was reported that Santa Barbara County Animal Services had more than 100 animals in their care, creating serious overcrowded conditions. When the animal population is this high, it also means that the average stay is likely to be 30 to 60 or more days. That is *not* an efficient or loving operation from the perspective of the animals.

Shannon Kennedy
Santa Barbara

Judy Frost is best for county school board

In this time when there has been so much going on with schools, I felt compelled to write a letter in support of someone who I know personally and someone who is currently serving on the Santa Barbara County board of trustees—Judy Frost. Judy has spent the past four years representing trustee area 5. She understands the role of the County Office of Education as they support 21 school districts in this county.

Her goal is to work collaboratively with other board members in order to improve services and educational outcomes for all students in Santa Barbara County. It is imperative that we allow an experienced and dedicated person like Judy to continue to help build the future of our county.

Judy has a great deal of experience as a volunteer in arts and education. She has a background in finance and understands the need to evaluate every aspect of the support that the county provides to each district. She is willing to explore new innovations and methods to engage students so that they can be successful. She has the heart and passion to continue to be effective on the Santa Barbara County board of trustees.

Please vote for Judy Frost to ensure positive outcomes for every student!

Linda Cordero
Santa Maria

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

MAYFIELD

Questionable bias

If the little notes the *Sun* has received are any indication of how people are feeling about the upcoming election, then Santa Maria is apprehensive, to say the least.

And, no surprises here, **Etta Waterfield**, who is seeing her way out of her **Santa Maria City Council** seat, is a favorite target of these, umm, feelings.

"Waterfield is a wily fox," one person told me. I don't know that I'd give her *that* much credit. A "wily fox" is mischievous and intelligent. Angsty Dems, amirite?

Waterfield got on their last nerve (and mine, too, which you would know if you're a fan of this particular column). Their next target? **Maribel Aguilera-Hernandez**, whose name I accidentally misspelled last week. I apologize!

They've accused this little paper of siding with Waterfield and her ilk!

I'm offended.

I pointed out some less than flattering things about the person running against Aguilera-Hernandez, **Carol Karamitsos**, so obviously, I'm on the *conservatives'* side! Have any of these people ever read my column before?

These people asked me via email whether I knew about Waterfield appointing Aguilera-Hernandez to the Santa Maria Planning Commission. Yes. But thanks for the hot tip.

I believe that people are individuals who can speak for themselves. If you really want to know about the candidates, go back and watch them vote on issues before the **Santa Maria Planning Commission** and the **Santa Maria Joint Union High School District**.

Also, did I know that Aguilera-Hernandez is a lawyer who has worked on cases for various oil companies, which obviously means that her stances on the city's issues are less than genuine? Hmm. I wasn't aware that being keen to help fix homelessness and being a petroleum industry attorney were mutually exclusive. I'm pretty sure you can be both of those things *at the same time.*

I do get the aversion to Big Oil. It makes you feel a little dirty, amirite?

What I don't understand is why putting a candidate's name first in the paper shows bias. Yes. One person was very upset with the paper about its consistency in using Aguilera-Hernandez's name first in its story and headlines, which obviously showed that we are biased against Karamitsos—and not that we are consistent!

"And the quotes you chose for Maribel are just a bit more favorable than the ones you choose [sic] for Carol," this woman wrote.

Um, we don't make the quotes up. The people we interview speak for themselves, and we're stuck with what they say. We ask questions, they give us answers, and we put the most usable, cohesive, understandable quotes in the paper.

We're also stuck with the choices that the people we reach out to make, such as City Council candidates and opponents **Gloria Soto** and **Steve Funkhouser**, who didn't respond to our interview requests. So we didn't write about them. *Bias*!

If you read this column at all, you would have noticed that just a couple of weeks ago, I pointed out the questionable content of something Maribel said at a forum that Carol didn't attend.

You know why? Because the only thing I'm biased about is calling out people who say questionable things and do questionable things.

This accusatory woman said she seriously questions the integrity of the *Sun*.

Hmm. Questionable.

The Canary is biased against angry accusations. Send more of them to canary@santamariasun.com.

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HOT STUFF

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2022

HOOKED ON A FEELING

The Pioneer Valley High School (PVHS) Drama Department presents Peter and the Starcatcher, a theatrical prequel to Peter Pan, with performances starting on Thursday, Oct. 27, in the school's Performing Arts Center. The show is scheduled to run through Saturday, Nov. 5. Tickets are available in advance at onthestage.tickets. The PVHS Performing Arts Center is located at 675 Panther Drive, Santa Maria.

—Caleb Wiseblood

PHOTO COURTESY OF KENNY KLEIN

ARTS

SANTA MARIA VALLEY/LOS ALAMOS

AUTUMN CRAFT EXPERIENCE Experience autumn with crafts at the Santa Maria Public Library. Leaves, paint, colors, and artists will be part of the experience. **Oct. 29**, 4 p.m. 805-925-0994. 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. 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.

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. Through Dec. 31 Free admission (works available for sale). Santa Maria Airport, 3249 Terminal Dr., Santa Maria.

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

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

STEPHANIE PALOMAREZ: FEATURED ARTIST Part of the Valley Art Gallery's artist series at the Santa Maria Airport. Through Dec. 5 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. Santa Maria Public Library (Altrusa Theater), 421 S. McClelland St., Santa Maria.

UKULELE LESSONS For individuals 50 years and up, at no charge. Participants will learn to play chords, melodies, and familiar songs. Five baritone ukuleles are available to borrow, or class members may bring one of their own. Mondays, Wednesdays, 10:30-11:30 a.m. cityofsantamaria.org/register. Elwin Mussell Senior Center, 510 Park Ave., Santa Maria.

VALLEY READS BOOK CLUB First Tuesday of every month, 2 p.m. Free. 805-925-0994. cityofsantamaria.org/city-government/departments/library. Santa Maria Public Library, 421 S. McClelland St., Santa Maria.

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

SANTA YNEZ VALLEY

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

DUNES: VISIONS OF SAND, LIGHT, AND SHADOW Traverse the sand dunes with Central Coast photographer Bob Canepa in the Wilding 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.

GALLERY TALK AND BOOK SIGNING With featured artist Hilary Baker. **Nov. 6**, 3-4 p.m. $5-$10. Wildling Museum of Art and Nature, 1511-B Mission Dr., Solvang, 805-688-1082, wildlingmuseum.org.

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

LOMPOC/VANDENBERG

DIVAS DE LOS MUERTOS DRAG SHOW Features performances by Angel D'Mon, Melina Poinsettia, Sheba, Karma Limbs, Starla, and BB Delusional, and live music by local group Mariachi Lo Mejor de Jalisco. **Nov. 4**, 7 p.m. my805tix.com. Flower City Ballroom, 110 W. Ocean Ave., Lompoc.

NEW VISTAS: FEATURED ARTIST NEIL ANDERSSON A showcase of oil paintings by local artist Neil Andersson. **Nov. 3-27** Cypress Gallery, 119 E Cypress Ave., Lompoc, 805-705-5328, lompocart.org.

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. Old Town Lompoc, H and I St., Lompoc.

TINY ART SHOW Includes 93 small artworks submitted by Lompoc residents of various ages. Through Oct. 31 cityoflompoc.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/. 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/. LilA Creative Community, 1147 East Grand Ave. suite 101, Arroyo Grande.

CENTRAL COAST FILM EXPO Includes industry speakers, workshops, demonstrations, and a program to celebrate sequels in cinema with multiple anniversary screenings. **Nov. 4-5** Clark Center for the Performing Arts, 487 Fair Oaks Ave., Arroyo Grande, 805-489-9444, clarkcenter.org.

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

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

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

MIXED MEDIA WORKSHOP (AGES 7-12) Come explore mixed media with an emphasis on the Elements of Art and the Principles of Design. Each week, students will have the opportunity to use various media. Tuesdays, 3:30-4:45 p.m. $25. 805-668-2125. lila.community/. LilA Creative Community, 1147 East Grand Ave. suite 101, Arroyo Grande.

OPEN STUDIO (AGES 7-12) Guests can explore a variety of media and techniques while focusing on their own subject matter. Whether they come with a project in mind, or find their way as they play, this class offers a chance for independent learning in a supportive environment. Thursdays, 3:45-4:45 p.m. $25. 805-668-2125. lila.community/all-workshops/open-studio. LilA Creative Community, 1147 East Grand Ave. suite 101, Arroyo Grande.

ARTS continued page 13

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 newtimesslo.com. You may also email calendar@newtimesslo.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@newtimesslo.com.**

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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/. LilA Creative Community, 1147 East Grand Ave. suite 101, Arroyo Grande.

PLAY, EXPLORE, CREATE (AGES 5-7) Young artists will play at various stations, exploring games, and mixed media. There will be a new activity each week. Wonderful opportunities for drawing, painting, and sculpture. Tuesdays, 9-10 a.m. $25. 805-668-2125. lila.community/. LilA Creative Community, 1147 East Grand Ave. suite 101, Arroyo Grande.

PLAY, EXPLORE, CREATE 1 (AGES 3 AND 4) Enjoy the opportunity to explore drawing, painting, collage, sculpture, and mixed media. Each week a new adventure awaits. Thursdays, 2-3 p.m. and Fridays, 9-10 a.m. $25. 805-668-2125. lila. community/. LilA Creative Community, 1147 East Grand Ave. suite 101, Arroyo Grande.

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

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.

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

ART IN THE GARDEN The show features a diverse selection of well-respected local artists. Art will include jewelry, glass, paintings, ceramics, sculptures and more. Visitors will find art for the home and garden, unique gifts, as well one-of-a-kind jewelry. **Nov. 5**, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. and **Nov. 6**, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. $5; free for members and children ages 12 and under. San Luis Obispo Botanical Garden, 3450 Dairy Creek Rd., San Luis Obispo, 8055411400.

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

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

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

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

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

ARTS continued page 14

Santa Ynez Chumash & 50+ Tribes urge:

☒ NO on Prop 27

NOProp27.com

Ad paid for by Santa Ynez Band of Chumash Indians

ON SALE NOW

SCARY POPPINS

SEPTEMBER 22 - NOVEMBER 12

THE GREAT AMERICAN MELODRAMA EST. THEATRE 1975

FREE LARGE POPCORN!

Great Snacks · Cold Beer · Hwy 1 Oceano · 805-489-2499 · americanmelodrama.com

ARTS from page 13

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.

FUN FRAMES WITH THE FAMILY: HALLOWEEN In this one-hour class, guests use Posca Paint Pens to decorate frames with spooky Halloween designs. Participating with your child is encouraged. These papier-mâché frames make great gifts. **Oct. 30**, 1-2 p.m. $25 per student or $40 for two participants. 805-747-4200. artcentralslo.com/workshops-events/. Art Central, 1329 Monterey St., San Luis Obispo.

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

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

INTRO TO 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/. 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 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/. Art Central, 1329 Monterey St., San Luis Obispo.

JOURNEY INTO MAKING JOURNALS WITH ARDELLA SWANBERG Learn how to make a journal or sketchbook. Everyone makes the same sized book, but what you learn in this class will enable you to make books of all shapes and sizes. Email ardellajo@yahoo.com to reserve. **Nov. 5**, 1:30-4 p.m. $40 (materials not included). 805-747-4200. artcentralslo.com. 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.

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.

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. SLO Public Market, 120 Tank Farm Road, San Luis Obispo.

THE MONDAY CLUBHOUSE CONSERVANCY FINE ARTS AWARDS APPLICATIONS Open to high school juniors and seniors. Categories: classical music, jazz music, and visual art. Submit online application. Finalists in all categories compete in a live competition at The Monday Club on Feb. 26. **Nov. 1-Jan. 30** Free. 805-242-1076. themondayclubslo.org. Online, See website, San Luis Obispo.

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

NICOLE IRENE ANDERSON: BREAKING POINT 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/.

FILE PHOTO COURTESY OF CHRISTINA MCPHEE

HOT STUFF
OCT. 27 – NOV. 3
2022

CONTEMPORARY TREASURES

Listening, a solo, audio-visual exhibition featuring works by artist Christina McPhee, will remain open at Osos Contemporary in downtown San Luis Obispo through Friday, Nov. 18. The multi-faceted showcase includes a collection of McPhee's recent paintings. The gallery is located at 967 Osos St., San Luis Obispo. Visit ososcontemporary.com for more info on the exhibit.

—C.W.

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.

THE QUALITY OF LIFE Set in the Berkeley hills after a major fire, Jane Anderson's 2007 play introduces us to Jeannette, an earthy, high-spirited woman whose husband, Neil, is dying of cancer. A staged reading. **Nov. 4**, 7 p.m. and **Nov. 5**, 2 & 7 p.m. San Luis Obispo Repertory Theatre, 888 Morro St., San Luis Obispo, 805-786-2440, slorep.org/.

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.

RADIUM GIRLS A play based on true events in American history, this work centers around the "Radium Girls," dial painters poisoned by radium-based paint. With death imminent, these women went up against the company. Eventually, their heroism led to new protections and labor laws for workers. **Oct. 27**, 7 p.m., **Oct. 28**, 7 p.m., **Oct. 29**, 7 p.m., **Nov. 3**, 7 p.m., **Nov. 4**, 7 p.m. and **Nov. 5**, 7 p.m. $8-$12. 805-596-4040. slohsdrama.com. San Luis Obispo High School, 1499 San Luis Dr., 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.

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

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.

Spread the word!
Send event information to calendar@santamariasun.com.

NORTH COAST SLO COUNTY

COSTA GALLERY: ELLEN JEWETT Gallery hours are expected to be extended beginning in October or November for the holidays. Thursdays-Saturdays, 11 a.m.-4 p.m. and Sundays, 12-4 p.m. Costa Gallery, 2087 10th St., Los Osos, 559-799-9632.

DAVID J ROGERS FINE ART GALLERY: UPCOMING WORKSHOPS Visit website for more info on upcoming workshops at the studio. **Nov. 5** 805-225-5077. davidjrogersart.com. David J Rogers Fine Art Gallery, 407 Morro Bay Blvd., Morro Bay.

THE REBOOT (STORYTELLING REIMAGINED): GHOST IN THE MACHINE Enjoy a live story performance in a garden theater under the stars. Tellers share true tales about stranger things and being human in these digital times. Come early for best seating, tasty eats, and more. **Oct. 28**, 7-9:15 p.m. Free. 805-772-9225. facebook.com/the.reboot4u. Top Dog Coffee Bar, 857 Main St., Morro Bay.

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.

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

BILINGUAL STORY TIME: HORA DE CUENTOS Songs, activities, and stories in English and Spanish. Story time is designed to build literacy skills and school readiness, 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.

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

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

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

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. 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.

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.

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 Varies. Unwind Studio, 130 N. Broadway, suite B, Santa Maria, 805-748-2539, unwindsantamaria.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

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

SAN LUIS OBISPO

SLO SYMPHONY'S FAMILY FALL FEST FUNDRAISER Proceeds benefit the symphony's Education Programs, including youth symphony, music van, instrument petting zoo, and Strings in the Schools. Food included with ticket. **Nov. 5**, 12-3 p.m. $20-$50. 805-356-1438. slosymphony.org. Octagon Barn Center, 4400 Octagon Way, San Luis Obispo.

NORTH SLO COUNTY

29TH ANNUAL ROCK AND GEM SHOW Hosted by the Santa Lucia Rockhounds. **Nov. 5**, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. and **Nov. 6**, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. $5; free for military and ages under 16. slrockhounds.org. Colony Park Community Center, 5599 Traffic Way, Atascadero.

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. 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/.

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

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

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

SANTA YNEZ VALLEY

PAINT AND SIP IN THE VINEYARD Paint Jam USA is coming out to host this event at Zaca Mesa's Grenache Blanc vineyard. Tickets include admission to the class with all materials provided and a glass of wine to sip as your paintbrush whisks away on the canvas. **Nov. 6**, 11 a.m.-12:30 p.m. $45. 805-688-9339. zacamesa.com/upcoming-events/. Zaca Mesa Winery, 6905 Foxen Canyon Road, Los Olivos.

LOMPOC/VANDENBERG

HEAD GAMES TRIVIA AND TACO TUESDAYS CLASH Don't miss Head Games Trivia at COLD Coast

FOOD & DRINK continued page 16

GET TICKETS NOW!

SCAN WITH CAMERA

FRIDAY
NOV. 4, 7PM
SLO BREW ROCK

SLO BREW ROCK
Big Big SLO
1st Capital Bank
MY 805 TIX
Robbo Music
Ernie Ball Music Man
Pirate Radio 104.1
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NEW TIMES MUSIC AWARDS SHOWCASE 2022

LIVE PERFORMANCES BY

DEAD MAGIC
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HA KEEM & VINCENT ANGELO
JACQUI BOMBEN
JODY MULGREW
MEGAN STONESON
STEPHEN STYLES
SUSAN RITCHIE

OTHER 2022 WINNERS

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BLYTHE BERG
BRYNN ALBANESE
CASSI NICHOLLS
CHUCK PELIGROSO
EDAWG805
11EVAN
JOLON STATION BAND
KDG805
LEWIS & ROSE
THE A.M.S
TRAPPED LIKE RATS

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Friday, November 4, 2022 • 7–9:30pm • SLO Brew Rock • 855 Aerovista Place • San Luis Obispo • California • General Admission: $15

FOOD & DRINK from page 14

Brewing Company every Tuesday night. Teams can be up to 6 members. Earn prizes and bragging rights. Kekas will be serving their delicious local fare. Fun for all ages. Tuesdays, 7-9 p.m. Free. 805-819-0723. coldcoastbrewing.com. COLD Coast Brewing Company, 118 W Ocean Ave, Lompoc.

SOUTH COAST SLO COUNTY

ANNUAL DRIVE-THRU BARBECUE FUNDRAISER Purchase of a large tri-tip dinner helps support the students and families of Coastal Youth Theater and Coastal Performing Arts Foundation. **Nov. 5**, 4-6 p.m. my805tix.com. Oceano Elks Lodge, 410 Air Park Drive, Oceano.

MUSIC

SANTA MARIA VALLEY/LOS ALAMOS

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

JONI MITCHELL TRIBUTE The cast includes Kiki Ebsen, Hither, Zoe FitzGerald Carter, Ann-Marita, The Taproots, Katie Ferrara, Brenda Carsey, Gary Garrett, and Ynana Rose. **Nov. 4**, 6:30 p.m. my805tix.com. Unity Chapel of Light Church, 1165 Stubblefield Rd., Orcutt.

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. 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 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.

JIMI NELSON BAND LIVE ON STAGE Nov. 5, 8:30 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.

HAWAIIAN LUAU SENIOR DANCE Lompoc Seniors Club is sponsoring this dance with the Riptide Big Band and guest dancer Yuka Freeman. Funded by the Community Foundation of SLO County. **Nov. 6**, 3:30-5:30 p.m. $3 donation. 661-333-7746. Dick DeWees Community & Senior Center, 1120 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 lompocconcert.org. First United Methodist Church, 925 North F St., Lompoc.

PHOTO COURTESY OF JUDY LINDQUIST

HOT STUFF
OCT. 27 – NOV. 3
2022

LOMPOC LUAU

The Lompoc Seniors Club hosts the Hawaiian Luau Senior Dance at the Dick DeWees Community and Senior Center on Sunday, Nov. 6, from 3:30 to 5:30 p.m. The event is funded by the Community Foundation of SLO County and will feature live entertainment with guest dancer Yuka Freeman (pictured) and the Riptide Big Band. Guests are asked to donate $3 for entry. The venue is located at 1120 W. Ocean Ave., Lompoc. Email lompocseniorclub@yahoo.com for more info.

—C.W.

THE PARK BROTHERS LIVE The Park Brothers came together as a guitar duo studying under one of the world's preeminent masters of the classical guitar, Christopher Parkening. Presented by the Lompoc Concert Association. **Nov. 5** lompocconcert.org. First United Methodist Church, 925 North F St., Lompoc.

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

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

SOUTH COAST SLO COUNTY

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

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

SAN LUIS OBISPO

2022 NEW TIMES AWARDS SHOWCASE Designed to showcase music and songwriting from local musicians throughout the Central Coast of California in a wide variety of genres. **Nov. 4**, 7-9:30 p.m. my805tix.com. SLO Brew Rock, 855 Aerovista Pl., San Luis Obispo, 805-543-1843.

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.

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FRIDAY, OCTOBER 28
Saints Barrel, SLO

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

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

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

SLOFunny Comedy Show
SATURDAY, OCTOBER 29
Veterans Memorial Building, Morro Bay

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

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

Barrelhouse Wailers and The Decomposing Brass Quintet
SUNDAY, OCTOBER 30
Pismo Beach Veterans' Hall

Orchestra Novo Live with Silent Movie "Show People"
SUNDAY, OCTOBER 30
Harold J. Miossi CPAC, Cuesta College

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

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NEW TIMES MUSIC AWARDS!
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Alex Madonna Expo Center, SLO

Songwriters At Play presents: Joni Mitchell Tribute
FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 4
Unity of Santa Maria, Santa Maria

Coastal Decor Turkey Craft Workshop Fundraiser
FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 4
Pismo Beach Cities Lions Club

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SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 5
Oceano Elks Lodge, Oceano

Art in the Garden
SAT & SUN, NOVEMBER 5 & 6
SLO Botanical Garden, San Luis Obispo

Camp Cass: Paint & Sip Class with Art Social 805
SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 6
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Arts Briefs

Los Alamos Theatre Group presents *Audition: A Los Alamos Story*

PHOTO COURTESY OF THE LOS ALAMOS THEATRE GROUP

The Los Alamos Theatre Group's latest original musical, *Audition: A Los Alamos Story*, premieres at the Los Alamos Depot Bar on Friday, Nov. 11. Performances of the new production are scheduled to run through Sunday, Nov. 20.

Audition: A Los Alamos Story features 13 actors, who will perform about a dozen original songs. Tickets to the show are available in advance at latgstore.square.site. A full bar will be open for attendees to purchase drinks and food during each program.

Performances of *Audition: A Los Alamos Story* will be held every Friday at 7 p.m., Saturday at 2 and 7 p.m., and Sunday at 2 p.m.

The Los Alamos Depot Bar is located at 515 Bell St., Los Alamos.

Santa Maria Airport showcases artworks by Stephanie Palomarez

PHOTO COURTESY OF STEPHANIE PALOMAREZ

The Valley Art Gallery is currently showcasing art by local artist Stephanie Palomarez at the Santa Maria Airport. The exhibit debuted at the beginning of October and is scheduled to remain on display through Monday, Dec. 5.

The showcase includes acrylic and watercolor paintings as well as silk screen prints by Palomarez.

"For me, art is a journey of self-discovery. This journey involves the freedom to travel without a passport through the geography of the 'inner realms' of dreams and visions," Palomarez said in press materials. "Art provides a connection between my inner and outer world, my community, and the earth."

Visit valleygallery.org for more info. The Santa Maria Airport is located at 3217 Terminal Drive, Santa Maria.

Paint Jam USA holds watercolor workshop in Los Olivos

Zaca Mesa Winery in Los Olivos will host a Paint and Sip event with Paint Jam USA on Sunday, Nov. 6, from 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Participants of the class, led by instructor Jana Brody, will paint a fall watercolor scene.

Admission to the class includes all materials needed to complete the painting and a glass of wine to sip during the course. Tickets to the event are $35 for Zaca Mesa Winery Wine Club members and $45 for nonmembers.

Attendees of the class are encouraged to bring three items for donation to the Santa Barbara Food Bank for a special discount. To find out more about the upcoming workshop, call (805) 688-9339 or visit zacamesa.com. Zaca Mesa Winery is located at 6905 Foxen Canyon Road, Los Olivos. ❍

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

PHOTOS COURTESY OF THE GREAT AMERICAN MELODRAMA

NEW NANNY: Scary Poppins (Meggie Siegrist) disciplines Jill (Sydni Abenido, left) and Jack (Jesse Graham, right) Peabody in The Great American Melodrama's production of *Scary Poppins*.

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

She's Scary, not Mary

The Melodrama's take on Mary Poppins, Scary Poppins, is back onstage for a fourth time—in celebration of spooky season

BY CAMILLIA LANHAM

I saw her before the play even started, hanging out in the eaves, waiting to make her entrance. You know the one—flying in on the wings of an umbrella out of the sky to save the day for a family in need with a playful wink and a stern nod.

That's part of the magic of Mary Poppins. She's a lovely, ethereal enigma of a nanny. Practically perfect in every way, right down to the spoonful of sugar. But that's not who The Great American Melodrama's current production is about. This play focuses on her sister, Scary Poppins, who's not all there and isn't quite up to snuff when compared to her more famous sister's legacy.

But does she have what it takes to save this family in need? I won't spoil the show for you, but suffice to say, it's a laughable, lovable, rocky journey.

Adapted from *Mary Poppins* by Eric Hoit and Jordan Richardson, *Scary Poppins* highlights what the Melodrama does best: a spoof on a classic with all the right throwbacks, carefully placed humor, and riffs on pop songs that everyone can get behind. Running through Nov. 12 alongside the *The Villains Vaude* vaudeville revue ("There's a little bad in everyone … and isn't that good," the playbill says), it's a perfect way to get into the spooky season before the holidays.

Quirky inventor Professor Henry Peabody (Antwon Mason) is at his wits' end with his children Jill (Sydni Abenido) and Jack (Jesse Graham), a couple of mischievous kids without a mother. They're always getting into trouble and have a hard time listening. Abenido and Graham are hilarious, leaning into their stereotyped characters with vigor. Graham throws his Jack temper tantrums with wild abandon. There's something about seeing a grown man writhing around on the floor in a costume akin to a grammar school uniform that induces belly laughs. And the audience didn't hold back either.

When Henry comes up with a plan to hire a nanny, the kids intercede, fabricating their own plan to bring in the "practically perfect" Mary Poppins, a character from Jack's book. But that's not who they get. Cue Scary Poppins' (Meggie Siegrist) entrance.

She's a little dirty, isn't traditionally pretty, doesn't feed the children spoonfuls of sugar, and cackles like the Wicked Witch of the West. Scary is pure gold as far as I'm concerned, and if Siegrist's performance is any indication of how much fun she has playing Scary, it must be a blast.

However, Jill and Jack are a bit disappointed in their "savior." Thank goodness Scary has her own set of lesson-filled hijinks for the children to participate in, even if the adults in their world disagree.

While Jill and Jack are on their own journey, their father is on another as he gets himself involved in a little bit of an awkward romance, and the villain of the show, Baron Dimitri Nogoodnik (Toby Tropper), attempts to steal the professor's greatest invention. Who's going to save the day? I guess you'll have to watch it to find out.

According to the Melodrama, *Scary Poppins* is the most requested play ever and is back onstage for the fourth time. The show played to a packed house on a recent Sunday, so I would reserve your seats in advance, show up early (snack bar opens 30 minutes before curtain) to get a hot dog and a glass of wine, and be prepared for a joyful evening. ❍

Editor Camillia Lanham is always ready for hijinks. Send ideas to clanham@santamariasun.com.

MAD VILLAIN: Baron Dimitri Nogoodnik (Toby Tropper) plays the evil man with a plan in the Melodrama's *Mary Poppins* adaptation, *Scary Poppins*, but he's not a banker—he's an ambassador for a country that wants to steal one of Henry Peabody's inventions.

CRAZY PROFESSOR: Inventor professor Henry Peabody (Antwon Mason) deals with Scary Poppins (Meggie Siegrist) in his own strange way in the Melodrama's spoof on *Mary Poppins*.

ALL TIED UP: Henry Peabody (Antwon Mason) unties his maid, Prudence (Natalie Mara), and attempts to help her out of a Baron Dimitri Nogoodnik-induced stupor.

A little dirt

Reserve your seat to see *Scary Poppins* and *The Villains Vaude* at The Great American Melodrama by visiting americanmelodrama.com or calling the box office at (805) 489-2499. Running through Nov. 12, showtimes are Wednesday through Friday at 7 p.m., Saturday at 2 and 7 p.m., and Sunday at 6 p.m. at 1863 Front St. in Oceano.

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Equality's a beach

Swedish writer-director Ruben Östlund (The Square, Force Majeure)—in his English-language debut—delivers a wicked Palme d'Or-winning satire about social hierarchy inverted. Guests on a luxury cruise for the über-rich find their wealth, power, and prestige means little after they're marooned on an island, fighting for survival, where Abigail (Dolly De Leon), a yacht housekeeper with fishing skills, suddenly has more social cachet. (147 min.)

Glen: This ink-black comedy skewers the ultra-rich, depicting their tenuous grasp on the false reality that their wealth creates while also lampooning our celebrity- and beauty-obsessed culture, where vapid know-nothings are stars of social media. We're first introduced to Carl (Harris Dickinson), a male model romantically involved with more-successful female model and Instagram influencer Yaya (Charlbi Dean). They bicker about money and gender roles, but she lands them a free cruise on a posh yacht helmed by an unhinged boat captain (Woody Harrelson) and filled with tone-deaf one-percenters like elderly couple Winston (Oliver Ford Davies) and Clementine (Amanda Walker), British arms dealers who casually brag that hand grenades are their best seller; gregarious Russian oligarch Dimitry (Zlatko Buric), who boasts about getting rich "selling shit"—aka fertilizer; and other oblivious and demanding guests who make outrageous requests, such as having the yacht's sails cleaned even though this is a motorized yacht without sails. When they hit rough seas and seasickness sets in, it's pure *schadenfreude* watching them fall ill.

Anna: As someone who has watched every iteration of the *Below Deck* reality franchise, I thought I had seen the worst of the worst behavior by über-rich jerks on a yacht, but nothing could prepare me for the sheer terribleness that has been imagined by Östlund. There's a great scene where Vera (Sunnyi Melles) holds stewardess Alicia (Alicia Erikkson) hostage by the hot tub and then insists the young woman climb in the tub in her uniform before announcing that all the crew must go for a swim off the waterslide. These rich people are straight-up exhausting! Harrelson is great as the perpetually drunk sea captain who's finally forced from his quarters to attend the ill-fated captain's dinner. That dinner scene and the minutes that follow are not for the squeamish—let's just say there's no lack of bodily fluids. The film is divided into parts, and by the time we land on the island, it's clear that while money can buy a lot, it can't build a fire, and it can't hunt. Suddenly the Richie-Riches are powerless, and Abigail couldn't be happier to take over as captain. It builds an interesting commentary about the haves and have-nots and how quickly a change in circumstance can flip everything on its head.

Glen: Östlund loves to explore the various sides of human nature. *Force Majeure* (2014), or its American version *Downhill* (2020), is about a couple on a skiing vacation with their children who must reexamine their relationship after an avalanche strikes and the husband is more interested in saving himself than his family. How we react in desperate situations differs, and those moments are where true character emerges. We all like to think we'd behave nobly when the time comes, but until it happens, who knows? If nothing else, *Triangle of Sadness* humanizes its characters. It's the antithesis of romanticism.

Anna: These people just can't seem to get away from their greed, even in a place where wealth holds no power, like a deserted island. Paula (Vicki Berlin) was a higher rank than Abigail on the ship, but when she tries to pull rank in order to get Abigail to share food, she's met with a big fat "no way" and soon tries to establish herself as Abigail's right hand. It's just a really interesting look at what power does to people. This film has a long run time, but stick with it—the ending definitely took me by surprise.

Glen: I loved that the ending lacked a clear resolution. It allows us viewers to decide for ourselves how we hope it all turns out. It's certainly poignant and open to interpretation. ❍

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

PHOTO COURTESY OF IMPERATIVE ENTERTAINMENT

BEAUTIFUL PEOPLE? Models Yaya (Charlbi Dean, left) and Carl (Harris Dickinson) find their relationship tested when a luxury cruise is marooned on an island, in writer-director Ruben Östlund's Palme d'Or-winning satire, *Triangle of Sadness*, screening at The Palm Theatre of San Luis Obispo.

TRIANGLE OF SADNESS

What's it rated? **R**
What's it worth, Glen? **Full price**
What's it worth, Anna? **Full price**
Where's it showing? **The Palm Theatre in SLO**

Film & TV Reviews

SIGNIFICANT OTHER

New Flicks

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

Co-writers/directors Dan Berk and Robert Olsen (*Villains, The Stakelander*) helm this sci-fi mystery thriller that begins as a pretty standard alien body-snatcher flick before it flies off the rails in a most delightful and ridiculous way. Its absurdity becomes its greatest strength and the source of a few shock-induced laughs.

After opening with a "red star" landing in a forest and a weird black tentacle-like alien entering a deer, the film follows young couple Ruth (Maika Monroe) and Harry (Jake Lacy), who, despite Ruth's anxiety, head into the very same woods for a backpacking trip. She's brave surfing in shark-infested waters, but there's something about the forest that triggers Ruth's delicate mental condition. She loves Harry, so she fights her fear and goes.

Will she encounter an odd deer that stares weirdly at her? It wouldn't be much of a story without that. The film goes on to explore how love manifests itself in the human mind—an experience apparently unknown to the alien life form. It also examines memory and childhood trauma. It's a weird little film that you might just hate, but I loved its twists and turns, and its Pacific Northwest scenery is grand. (84 min.)

—*Glen*

PHOTO COURTESY OF PARAMOUNT PLAYERS

BODY SNATCH: On a backpacking trip with her longtime boyfriend, Ruth (Maika Monroe) encounters an alien that can inhabit other sentient beings, in *Significant Other*, streaming on Paramount Plus.

THE WATCHER

BINGEABLE

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

Based on a true unsolved case, *The Watcher* reveals the psychological torture one shadowy figure inflicts on the residents of 657 Boulevard. While outside of their price range, Dean (Bobby Cannavale) and Nora Brannock (Naomi Watts) can't help but put a bid on their dream home—a home that soon becomes a nightmare.

Surrounded by a handful of odd neighbors and an unwelcoming small town, the Brannocks soon start reeling out of control. Dean can't get his mind off of the stranger whose obsession with their home has cost him his grip on reality. Security systems are installed, a private eye is hired, but strange letters keep coming. Their realtor, Karen (Jennifer Coolidge), is desperate for them to sell. Is she behind the threats? Or perhaps it's the neighbors obsessed with home preservation. Maybe Dean himself has been driven to create a ruse as a way out of the hefty mortgage after getting passed up for a promotion. Everyone is a suspect.

The actual owners this series is based on never actually moved into the house, making their fate different from that of the fictional Brannocks. This is one that will keep you guessing. (seven approximately 45-minute episodes) ❍

—*Anna*

PHOTO COURTESY OF NETFLIX STUDIO

SECRETS AND LIES: After liquidating all his assets to buy his dream home in the suburbs, Dean (Bobby Cannavale) becomes increasingly obsessive over his family and distrustful of his nosey neighbors, who seem to hold secrets about his beautiful old home, in the Netflix miniseries *The Watcher*.

Stars in sustainability

Central Coast winemakers celebrate their harvest and international acclaim

BY CHERISH WHYTE

Fall is crush time for California's wine industry. The Santa Barbara County Vintners Festival was Oct. 8 in Solvang. In San Luis Obispo County, the Paso Robles Wine Country Alliance celebrates Harvest Wine Month throughout October, while its rising-star sister, the San Luis Obispo Coast Wine Collective, rolls out Harvest on the Coast in November.

This year's buzz word for local vintners is "sustainability," and it's gone viral on a global scale. In fact, nominations for *Wine Enthusiast* magazine's esteemed Wine Star Awards, recognizing standouts in the wine and alcohol beverage industry worldwide, are Central Coast-heavy for 2022.

William Foley is up for a Lifetime Achievement Award, Jeff O'Neill for Person of the Year, and Nicholas Miller for Wine Executive of the Year.

If these names sound familiar, it's because they all have ties to SLO and Santa Barbara counties.

Foley Family Wines' international portfolio includes Foley Estates Vineyard and Wine in Lompoc and Firestone Vineyard in Los Olivos. Foley has steadily acquired properties and brands since 1996, when he established Lincourt Vineyards in Santa Barbara County's Sta. Rita Hills American Viticultural Area.

He now boasts an estimated 7,000 vineyard acres in California and Oregon, as well as investments in New Zealand, France, and Argentina.

Fellow industry veteran O'Neill oversees a similarly expansive portfolio, including Paso's Robert Hall Winery and Rabble Wines.

Founded in 2004, O'Neill Vintners & Distillers is a leader in sustainability. Initiatives include the world's largest worm-powered winery wastewater system, solar energy, and regenerative farming.

By 2024, O'Neill pledges to purchase 100 percent certified sustainable grapes from the company's more than 200 farmers across 15,000 vineyard acres.

Miller, meanwhile, as executive vice president of sales and marketing for Miller Family Wines and its parent Thornhill Companies, was lauded by the magazine for playing an instrumental role in "one of the most dynamic full-service wine companies in the United States."

In addition to owning Bien Nacido and Solomon Hills vineyards in Santa Maria, the family's holdings include thousands of other vineyard acres throughout the Central Coast. Among its extensive list of wine brands is the recently launched Reciprocity, containing 100 percent certified organic cabernet sauvignon and chardonnay grapes from the family's French Camp Vineyard in Paso Robles.

Other local nominees hoping to join the winners' ranks have similarly impressive backgrounds with notable commitments to sustainability.

Paso's Tablas Creek Vineyard and Hope Family Wines are vying for Innovator of the Year and American Winery of the Year, respectively, while the new SLO Coast AVA is in the running for Wine Region of the Year—which Santa Barbara County won in 2021.

"One of the best-known brands out of California's Central Coast, Tablas Creek Vineyard is famous for its focus on Rhone varietals thanks to the founding partnership between France's Perrin family (Chateau de Beaucastel) and their American partners, the Haas family," the magazine stated.

Tablas Creek has also become one of the most sustainable U.S. wineries after being certified organic in 2006, biodynamic in 2016, and regenerative organic certified in 2020. Earlier this year, the winery introduced a 3-liter premium box wine with the equivalent volume of four bottles to further its sustainability efforts.

"It's a huge honor being nominated for a Wine Star Award," said Tablas Creek partner and general manager Jason Haas. "I've always thought that wine is the perfect vehicle to bring organic, biodynamic, and regenerative farming to a broader audience.

"It's a product that people understand comes from a specific place, and I think it's intuitive that if you farm in a way that helps your grapevines live longer, that helps them grow deeper roots, that helps them withstand heat spikes and virus, this translates directly into better wine. … Now we're excited to share what we've done and get as many wineries farming this way as we can."

The magazine also touted the sustainability efforts of Hope Family Wines, producer of several high-profile brands, including Liberty School, Treana, Quest, Austin Hope, and Troublemaker.

"This is a fitting accolade to include in the nomination, as sustainability is a top priority for the winery," said president and winemaker Austin Hope.

In addition to requiring all their vineyards to be certified sustainable, Hope said the winery is also funneling efforts into water conservation and clean water, maintaining wildlife habitats on its vineyards, safe pest management, energy efficiency, and continuing to invest in the team's future.

"While I am humbled that we are included for such a thoughtful award amongst other great American wineries, it really is an award that is shared by all of the dedicated and passionate members of the Hope Family Wines team," Hope added. "The power of our team continues to amaze me, and I am excited to continue the journey of creating a global brand that delivers amazing wines from such a special region, for all to enjoy."

Closer to the ocean, the recently established SLO Coast AVA is giving Santa Barbara County and Paso's storied vineyards some serious competition.

Best known for its chardonnay and pinot noir, SLO Coast is holding its own against esteemed rivals for Wine Region of the Year—Abruzzo, Italy; Marlborough, New Zealand; Rogue Valley, Oregon; and Uco Valley, Argentina.

Stephen Dooley, owner and winemaker at SLO's Stephen Ross Wine Cellars and president of the SLO Coast Wine Collective, said the nomination was "especially meaningful coming in our first year of official recognition, as it brings national awareness to our new AVA and confirms that our hard work over the years has been appreciated not only among consumers, but within the wine industry."

Inaugural SLO Coast-branded wines will be featured at the collective's upcoming Harvest on the Coast.

Dooley's debut label adorns his first-ever sparkling wine—a 2019 blanc de noir that he plans to pour at the event's new VIP rare and reserve tasting on Nov. 12.

Future releases of the winery's SLO County pinot noir and Spanish Springs Vineyard albariño will also carry the new designation.

According to Matt Kettmann, who covers the Central Coast for *Wine Enthusiast*, the AVA's growing fame is well deserved. "The cool-climate wines are thrilling, the winemakers are energized and adventurous, and the landscapes are arguably more beautiful than anywhere else on the planet," he said. "I can't wait to see what happens in the decades to come." ❍

Contributor Writer Cherish Whyte applauds the Central Coast's star-studded vintners. Reach her through the editor at clanham@santamariasun.com.

Taste the hype

For details on Harvest on the Coast, held Nov. 11 and 12 in Avila Beach, visit slocoastwine.com. *Wine Enthusiast* will announce its full slate of winners for its 23rd annual Wine Star Awards on Nov. 3.

PHOTO COURTESY OF MILLER FAMILY WINES

ORGANIC AND AFFORDABLE: Miller Family Wines' latest organic brand, Reciprocity, released in September and priced under $20, can be purchased online as well as at Central Coast retailers California Fresh markets in Pismo and San Luis Obispo, El Rancho Market in Solvang, and Good Land Wine Shop in Santa Barbara.

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PHOTO COURTESY OF TABLAS CREEK VINEYARD

NEW DAY FOR ROSÉ: From left, Tablas Creek cellar assistant Amanda Weaver, proprietor Jason Haas, and winemaker Neil Collins have high hopes for the winery's 3-liter boxes. Haas estimates the new format reduces the carbon footprint of the same volume of wine in glass bottles by 84 percent.

PHOTO COURTESY OF TABLAS CREEK VINEYARD

PACO LEADS THE PACK: At Tablas Creek in Paso Robles, 5-year-old alpaca and resident mascot Paco accompanies a flock of sheep, which is critical to the winery's farming.

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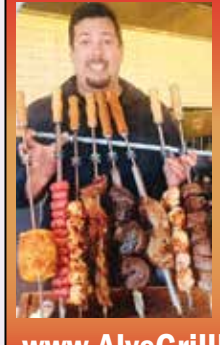
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