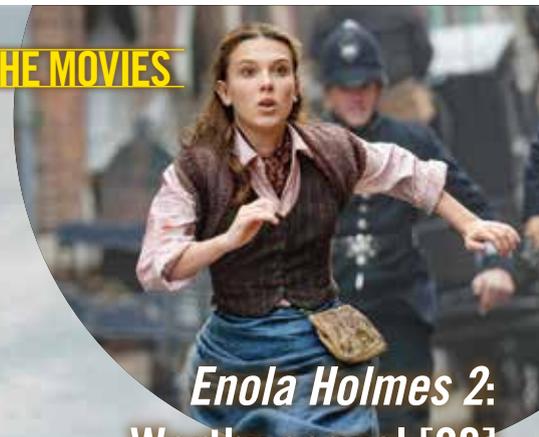


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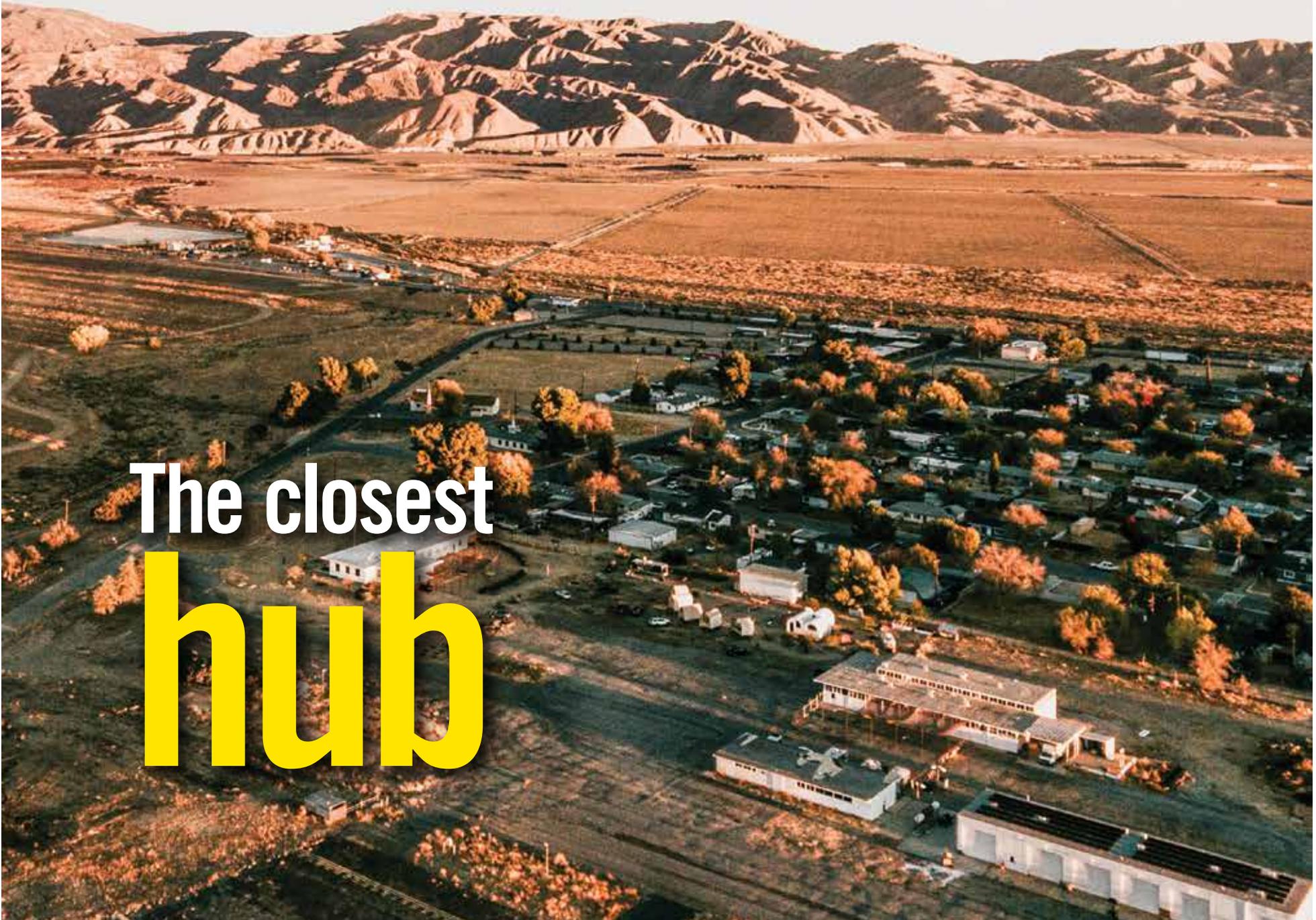
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Enola Holmes 2:
Worthy sequel [26]

*When it comes to the county's climate change resilience program,
Santa Maria area residents have to drive to Cuyama or Santa Barbara for help [8]*

BY TAYLOR O'CONNOR



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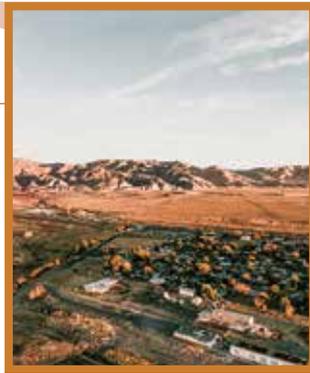
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Areas of Santa Maria include some of the most impacted residents in Santa Barbara County when it comes to climate emergencies, according to a county report. However, the county's new climate change resilience hubs are all located at least an hour away from the North County city. Staff Writer Taylor O'Connor speaks with the county about the reason why and a local activist organization about what it's doing to address the gap in services [8].

You can also read about what's going on with ExxonMobil and its lawsuit against the county [4]; a gallery in Los Olivos featuring subjective and objective perspectives [24]; and what the Santa Maria Wine Trolley has in store for fall [28].

Camillia Lanham
editor



DRIVE TIME: Northern Santa Barbara County residents will have to drive to Cuyama, which is at least an hour away for most community members, to access a climate resilience hub that would provide emergency medical supplies, shelter, and water in the case of a climate emergency.

Cover courtesy photo by Jesus Frayre > Cover design by Alex Zuniga

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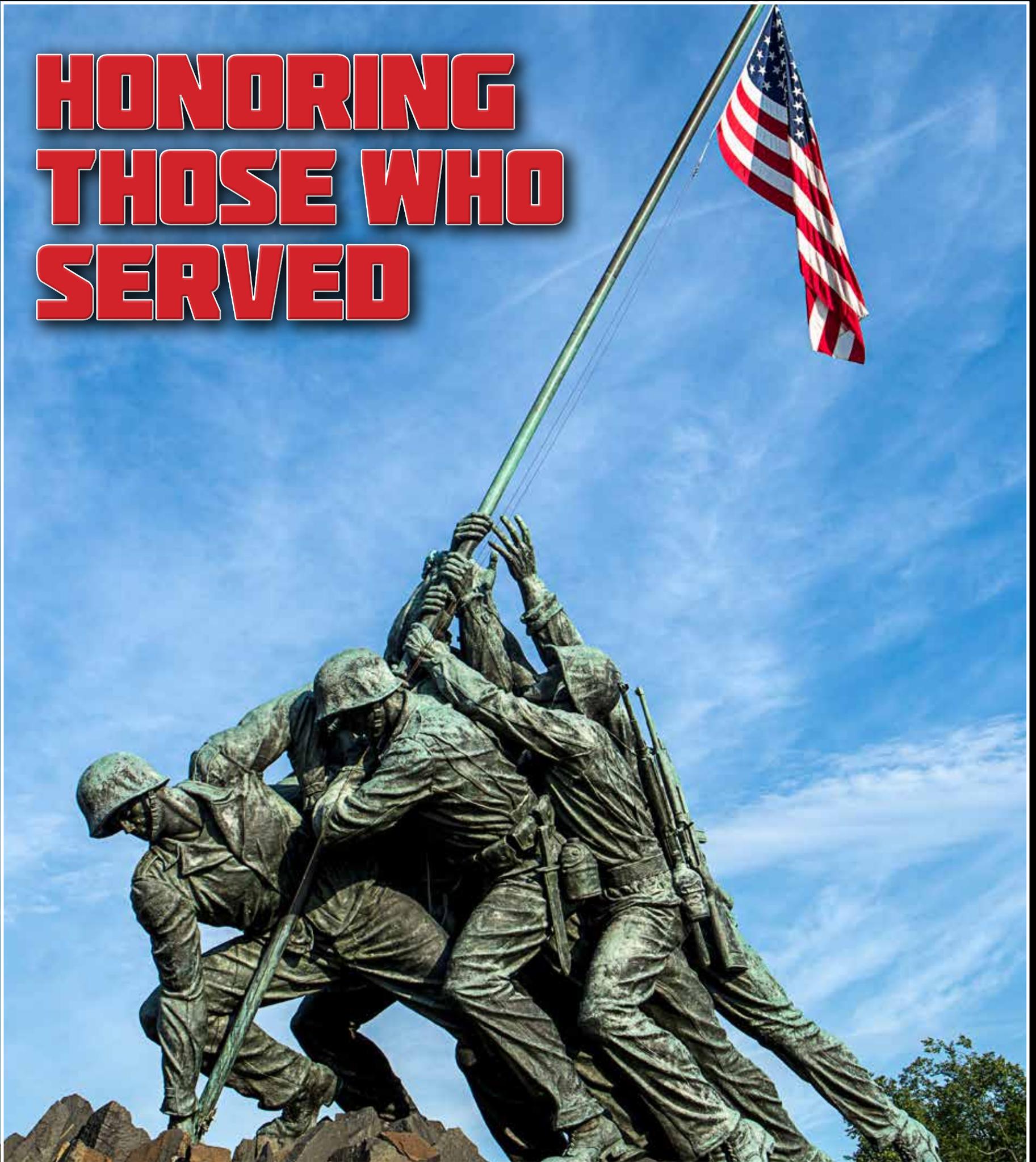
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Political Watch

• U.S. Sen. **Alex Padilla** (D-California) hosted a virtual event alongside California Assemblymember **Rebecca Bauer-Kahan** (D-San Francisco) and state mental health experts to celebrate the new 988 suicide and crisis lifeline's establishment with the recent signing of Assembly Bill 988, which will provide enhanced resources to the state to help combat the rising mental health crisis, according to a Nov. 3 statement from the senator's office. "For years, we've been fighting to end the stigma around mental health care and to get Californians the support they need; 988 is a national suicide and crisis lifeline that launched last summer to help anyone in California and across the country get connected to resources," Padilla said in the statement. "This accessible care will save lives. We're making big progress, but it's clear this fight is not over—we need to do more to help low-income and underserved communities, especially for the schools and students who still lack the resources they need." As of Nov. 3, Congress has provided more than \$15 billion to California through the American Rescue Plan—which Padilla supported—to help California school districts respond to the educational challenges caused by the pandemic. He's also introduced mental health-related legislation including the Comprehensive Mental Health in Schools Pilot Program to fund new programs in primary and secondary schools to address mental and behavioral health issues.

• The Santa Barbara County Public Health Department announced **Noemi "Mimi" Doohan** as the medical director for the county's health care centers effective Oct. 31, according to a statement from the Public Health Department. Doohan will direct 25 staff physicians, eight advanced practice practitioners, and 24 contracted specialists delivering care at the county's five federally qualified health centers and three shelter-based clinics to serve the homeless. She joins Santa Barbara County with 20 years of experience in the medical field and is experienced in all aspects of primary care as a family medicine provider and leader in private practice, rural and tribal clinics, urgent care, hospitalist medicine, street medicine, corrections, global health, and medical education. "We are thrilled that Dr. Doohan will be our medical director leading the exceptional health centers physicians, clinicians, and quality teams and as we pivot from pandemic footing back into our privileged role as a key provider in our county's Health Care Safety Net Delivery System," **Dana Gamble**, deputy director of the Primary Care and Family Health Division, said in the statement. "Dr. Doohan brings extensive experience in all aspects of health care and is exceptionally well equipped to guide our health care teams in providing excellent care to our patients."

• Gov. **Gavin Newsom** announced that he will convene local leaders in mid-November to review the state's collective approach to homelessness and identify new strategies to better address the growing homelessness crisis, according to a Nov. 3 statement from the governor's office. Until this convening, the state will hold off on providing the remaining third round of the \$1 billion Homelessness, Housing, Assistance, and Prevention grants. "Californians demand accountability and results, not settling for the status quo," Newsom said in the statement. "As a state, we are failing to meet the urgency of this moment. Collectively, these plans set a goal to reduce street homelessness 2 percent statewide by 2024. At this pace, it would take decades to significantly curb homelessness in California—this approach is simply unacceptable. Everyone has to do better—cities, counties, and the state included. We are all in this together." In total, the current plans result in just a 2 percent decrease of homelessness over four years statewide. Newsom said the meeting in mid-November will aim to coordinate the state's jurisdictions on an approach that will deliver more substantial results. This meeting will be an opportunity for community leaders to learn from one another about what works, as well as to identify barriers that inhibit progress, according to the governor's office. ○



ECOLOGICAL FIGHT: Santa Barbara County Environmental groups are now able to join the county in defending its decision to deny an ExxonMobil proposal to truck oil from its Santa Ynez Unit to processing facilities.

Enviro groups join Exxon lawsuit as company sells offshore unit

A federal judge recently ruled that conservation and indigenous groups can help legally defend Santa Barbara County after oil giant ExxonMobil filed a lawsuit against the county regarding the denial of an oil trucking proposal.

The project—which was denied by the Board of Supervisors in March—proposed trucking crude oil along highways 101 and 166 from its Las Flores Canyon processing facility to the Santa Maria Pump Station or to the Plains Pentland Terminal in Kern County, according to previous *Sun* reporting. It would have allowed ExxonMobil to resume operations at three idle oil platforms that have been shut down since the 2015 Refugio oil spill.

In May, Exxon filed a lawsuit against the county for violating its U.S. and California constitutional rights to private property and its use. The oil and gas company is in the process of selling its Santa Ynez Unit onshore and offshore facilities—which they hoped to restart with the trucking proposal—to Sable Offshore Corporation for \$643 million. The deal is part of a merger between Sable and SPAC Flame Acquisition Corporation.

"The sale advances ExxonMobil's focused investment strategy and highlights our willingness to divest assets to those who can derive greater value," an ExxonMobil spokesperson told the *Sun* via email.

In the third quarter of 2022, ExxonMobil announced that it earned \$19.7 billion, a \$1.8 billion increase from its second quarter earnings of \$17.9 billion, according to Exxon's earnings release.

Sable borrowed \$623 million (about 96 percent of the total cost) from Exxon under a five-year loan agreement to cover the purchase, according to a presentation that Sable gave its investors on Nov. 3. If the company does not resume oil operations by Jan. 1, 2026, Exxon could take back its property.

Linda Krop, chief counsel for the Environmental Defense Center, said that Exxon also bought and sold the accompanying pipelines as part of its goal to resume operations. Those pipelines were owned by Plains All American Pipeline, whose oil pipeline caused the spill.

"The fact that Exxon bought the pipelines, but it's a part of a package to another company, doesn't change what we're going to do," she said.

The Environmental Defense Center, the Sierra Club, and the Santa Barbara County Action Network are now able to submit evidence, research, and findings to the Santa Barbara County Superior Court to support the county's decision to deny

Exxon's trucking project.

"I think it's really important to have the environmental groups in the lawsuit because the groups did the research and uncovered and revealed the tremendous risk of transporting oil by tanker truck, one of the most dangerous forms of oil transit," Krop said. "Exxon did also raise some constitutional claims in its lawsuit, [like] taking of private property. Those issues will have to be addressed. But the first step will look at [if] the county's decision was based on the information it received."

ExxonMobil declined to comment on the lawsuit. Both sides will have until Dec. 13 to file their findings, and there is no schedule for hearings at this time.

—Taylor O'Connor

Health care forum highlights need for ongoing federal funds

U.S. Rep. Salud Carbajal (D-Santa Barbara) and U.S. Secretary of Health and Human Services Xavier Becerra attended a Nov. 2 community forum—hosted by Community Health Centers in Santa Maria—to hear about local COVID-19 vaccination efforts during the pandemic and to discuss future health care collaborative opportunities.

"I think it validated or it gave a lot more recognition to the efforts, campaigns, hard work, and sacrifices that so many folks made in taking care of so many lives during the pandemic," said Jose Guzman, Community Health Centers (CHC) director of outreach services, told the *Sun* after the forum.

At the pandemic's height, CHC collaborated with Santa Barbara and SLO counties' public health departments, Mixteco Indígena Community Organizing Project, the Grower-Shipper Association of SLO and Santa Barbara Counties, and Dignity Health to provide vaccines and adequate outreach to harder to reach communities like the Mixteco-speaking population, undocumented workers, and farmworkers, Guzman said.

"I think the collaboration will continue serving the community," Guzman said. "At the end of the day we want to continue serving our local residents."

As of Nov. 6, more than 900,000 doses had been administered with more than 300,000 people fully vaccinated, according to vaccine tracking data. In SLO County, more than 500,000 doses had been administered with 185,000 people fully

vaccinated. The partners emphasized that they hope to continue pushing vaccines and flu shots as California approaches the winter and holiday season.

However, during the roundtable discussion, SLO County Public Health Program Manager Jennifer Miller said that the collaboration to conduct greater COVID-19 outreach with communities like the Mixteco-speaking population was only possible with one-time federal funding.

"One of our fears is when the COVID money dries up and we've built these incredible relationships with our partners and our community, then what happens?" Miller asked. "We have radio [messaging], and that continues, but how do we continue to support these partners to continue this really good work, this nontraditional approach to public health outreach?"

In response, Secretary Becerra said that the U.S. government is trying to figure out how to allocate more funds and encouraged her to reach out to his community relations team to stay in the loop.

"We're going to shift some money into this to do outreach, [but] don't wait [to apply] because I'm going around the country and telling others to do the same. The money won't last long," Becerra said.

Becerra didn't specify where the funding would come from, or where community members could watch for its availability, but said he wanted to see this type of collaborative work continue beyond the COVID crisis to create a health care safety net.

"We want to make it so no one escapes our reach to give them the service they need. That's going to require you all to have the ability to do the outreach," he said. "We have to get the money to get there, but that's where I'd like to go. That's the quickest way to get that universal health care coverage that everyone talks about is by giving you all the capacity to reach people easier."

—Taylor O'Connor

County plans to apply for grants to help disadvantaged communities

Seven towns in Santa Barbara County currently fit the state's definition of disadvantaged unincorporated communities (DUCs), according to a recent analysis.

The label refers to low-income communities with unmet, critical infrastructure needs, planner Zoe Carlson explained during a summary of the countywide analysis at the Santa Barbara County

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NEWS from page 4

Planning Commission's Nov. 2 hearing.

All seven of the identified towns—Casmalia, Cuyama, New Cuyama, Garey, Los Alamos, Sisquoc, and Ventucopa—were previously defined as DUCs in a 2015 analysis, and reappraised in 2022.

"We updated our analysis and found that these same seven communities still meet the definition of DUCs and we did not identify any new DUCs," Carlson said during the Nov. 2 meeting.

Since 2011, state law has required Santa Barbara County to "essentially redo the analysis before each housing element update," Carlson added. The 2015 analysis was the first of its kind for the county, in order to comply with Senate Bill 244.

While no new DUCs were identified in the county ahead of the 2023-31 housing element update, staff provided some updates on existing infrastructure and the average household income in the seven DUCs in order to amend the DUC section of the County Comprehensive Plan.

The median household income in five of the seven identified communities is "\$62,938 or less," Carlson said, while the statistic is higher in Los Alamos, and currently undetermined in Garey.

The 2020 census did not report a median household income for Garey due to "the community's low participation in the census," according to the staff report, which also stated that "no major public service or infrastructure improvements have occurred in Garey since 2015."

Without economic data to consider, county staff determined that Garey still fits the definition of a disadvantaged community, due to the town's lack of access

to public water service, wastewater treatment service, and stormwater drainage infrastructure.

Although the 2020 census reported a median household income for Los Alamos above the income threshold for DUCs, county staff determined that the town still qualifies as disadvantaged, due to its "large, very low income population" with 35 percent of households making less than \$50,000 a year, while 36 percent of households make \$150,000 or higher annually.

Three of the identified disadvantaged communities—Los Alamos, Garey, and Sisquoc—are within flood zone benefit assessment districts, "however, these districts lack sufficient funding to support flood control improvement projects," according to Carlson.

"We did find that grant funding is available to help address infrastructure deficiencies within DUCs," Carlson said. "The proposed text amendments include nine current state or federal grant or loan opportunities that may be a good fit for infrastructure improvement projects."

Staff's funding suggestions for future improvement projects are included in a proposed general plan amendment, which the county Planning Commission approved unanimously, with a 4-0 vote. The general plan amendment will be revisited for final approval from the county Board of Supervisors on Dec. 13. ○

—Caleb Wiseblood

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Editor's note: The Sun went to press before the polls closed on Nov. 8. We plan to cover the results of this year's general election in the coming weeks as vote counts are updated and results finalized.

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Building resilience

Santa Barbara County's new program to help with climate change's impact doesn't have a North County location

BY TAYLOR O'CONNOR

Longer wildfire seasons and more extreme heat days are some of the current ways Santa Barbara County residents are already seeing climate change affect their everyday lives.

To address these impacts, Santa Barbara County instituted the regional climate collaborative: a network of organizations working together to create climate mitigation and "resiliency" efforts, according to the collaborative's website. One of the latest efforts included creating three new resilience hubs, Climate Program Manager Garrett Wong said.

"We think of a resilience hub or center as a community facility that can provide community services and resources before, during, and after a climate-related incident," Wong said. "We know there's already facilities in [communities] that are trusted institutions that have also provided community services in times of emergencies that we've experienced in this region."

The collaborative received two grants—a \$25,000 grant from Pacific Gas and Electric, and \$200,000 from the California Resilience Challenge grant program—to begin planning and determine ways to enhance the facilities' services, Wong said.

The hubs would open cooling centers during extreme heat days; provide clean filtered air during wildfire season; and distribute medical supplies, food, and water during emergencies.

"What's nice about the sites is that they are geographically dispersed across the county, provide a different context and the kind of functions they serve, and the constituents they serve and the local climatic conditions they are exposed to," Wong said.

However, the selected locations—Cuyama's Blue Sky Center, Santa Barbara's Franklin Neighborhood Center, and Carpinteria's Girls Inc.—are nowhere near Santa Maria or other North County communities, which have been cited as some of the communities most vulnerable to climate change impacts in the county, according to the county's Climate Change Vulnerability Assessment.

Santa Maria community activists are looking to other avenues to ensure climate change protections for residents, and the county's collaborative hopes to get more funding to build a network of resilience hubs throughout the county.

"We did not receive an application within the city of Santa Maria," Wong said. "We have had conversations with locations and agencies in Santa

Maria about this program. I think part of what we've learned is that it takes time and capacity for these organizations to participate."

Many organizations faced staffing issues, and the application required full capacity to even participate as a resilience hub, he added.

"We hope to continue the conversation with additional sites," Wong said. "This program is more specifically focused on the community and organizational capacity to develop and implement and sustain these facilities."

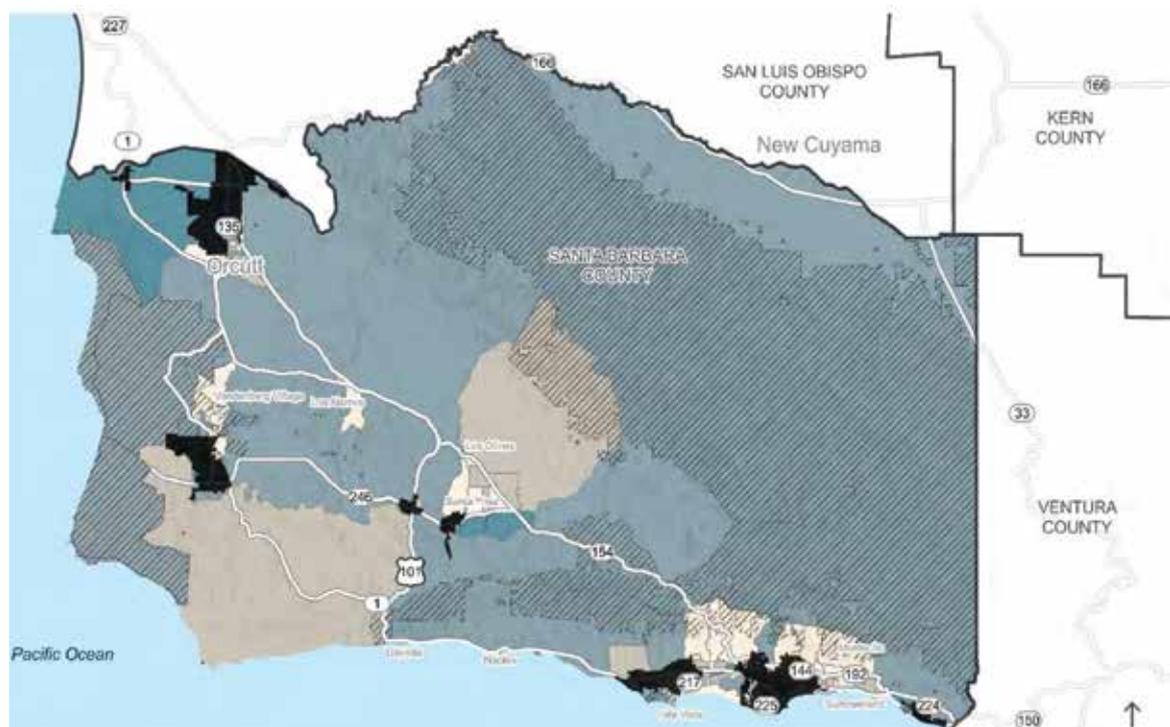
Meanwhile, Santa Marians and other North County residents are expected to be heavily impacted by climate change as its impacts worsen in the future. According to the Santa Barbara County Climate Change Vulnerability Assessment, communities Northwest of Santa Maria and in Southern Santa Ynez are two of the top three unincorporated communities that will disproportionately experience climate change to a severe degree.

"The most vulnerable populations are those with limited mobility, limited resources, existing in social or economic disparities, and/or those that live in high-risk areas," the assessment said. "Residents of front-line communities are often immigrants and refugees, indigenous and persons of color, and face increased hardship due to socio-economic or environmental pressures."

Although the Cuyama hub location makes sense, Lucia Marquez—the associate policy director for Central Coast Alliance United for a Sustainable Economy (CAUSE)—said there's also a need for resources like resilience hubs in North County because of its high population of front-line communities, such as renters and undocumented families.

"I don't think it's an issue of should it be here or there; we need more investments especially in disadvantaged communities that experience the impacts at a disproportionate level," Marquez said.

"We did not apply, mainly because we're not a direct service provider, so our office might not be the most logical place for a resilience hub compared



WHO'S IMPACTED? The darker blue areas show the Santa Barbara County regions that have the populations most vulnerable to climate change, while the lighter areas show the least vulnerable populations. Black areas are incorporated cities.

to maybe more service-oriented organizations," Marquez added later in an email to the *Sun*.

During extreme heat days, low-income households also can't afford air conditioning units or higher electricity bills, and some homes and housing units might not be able to be retrofitted to weather higher temperatures, Marquez added.

"We have a high renter population, and the lived experience [during] extreme heat days is very different," she said. "Cooling centers within closer access is something we need to see in our communities."

Marquez believes there will be more opportunities for resources to come to communities like Santa Maria, but she said that it's important for local decision makers to seek out those funding opportunities and make sure they come to the community.

Along with funding, environmental justice is another element Marquez said she'd like to see developed in Santa Barbara County—and across the state—with financial safety nets for undocumented workers, including farmworkers, who tend to continue working in hazardous conditions such as wildfires in order to keep their families afloat.

"Being undocumented, [there's] not the same access to unemployment or FEMA [Federal Emergency Management Agency] relief funds," she said. "These are some of the unseen impacts of

climate change that people see in Santa Maria that people don't think of when we say 'climate change.'"

Marquez said she has seen a lot of investment from the state to address climate impacts and make California more climate-resilient, but access to emergency relief funds is something that needs to be addressed.

"We need to make sure undocumented people are not left behind, that's why CAUSE has been working on Safety Net for All and calling on our state officials to prioritize relief for undocumented families in the state budget," Marquez said.

Safety Net for All is a statewide coalition of organizations promoting policy solutions to help combat climate impacts on undocumented communities, she said. Currently, the coalition is advocating to invest in unemployment benefits for undocumented workers in the next budget cycle.

"It makes sure that undocumented workers and families are not left out of the safety net," Marquez said. "That's going to be a growing need as climate change becomes more and more severe—whether it's a massive disaster that leaves people out of work, they lose their homes, or their health is really impacted." ○

Reach Staff Writer Taylor O'Connor at toconnor@santamariasun.com.

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TEE IT UP: The second Annual Tee It Up Veterans golf tournament will be held on Nov. 11 at the Santa Maria Country Club and is expected to have 151 participants and 250 dinner and auction guests. Last year's event raised about \$50,000.

Teeing up for troops

Two Central Coast-based veterans organizations host second annual golf tournament fundraiser

BY TAYLOR O'CONNOR

In 2021, Welcome Home Military Heroes Founder Robert Tolan worked with Band of Brothers' Founder Jeff Stone, creating a golf tournament in the span of five weeks.

"We had quite a bit of mistakes last year; none of us had ever played in a golf tournament. None of us had even really played golf," Tolan recalled. "There was never a golf tournament [for veterans] on the Central Coast, and we just decided to go for it."

After overselling last year's event and learning from their mistakes, the two organizations are hosting another sold-out Tee it Up for Veterans golf tournament at the Santa Maria Country Club followed by a dinner and live auction on Veterans Day, Nov. 11. All of the benefits will go toward the two Central Coast-based organizations, he said.

During the pandemic, Band of Brothers and Welcome Home were two of the only organizations offering vets services, and funds were running thin, Tolan said. They decided to hold a golf tournament because it could raise a lot of funds to continue operating.

"The other reason is we knew a golf tournament would bring in a completely different crowd: people who didn't know about Welcome Home or Band of Brothers. It was a mission to expand out to individuals who never heard of us, and let them know what's going on in the veteran community," he said.

Band of Brothers is a Santa Maria-based organization that offers a house for homeless veterans and sports clubs where veterans can travel and play against other sports teams, Tolan said. Welcome Home primarily operates in SLO County and offers welcome home packages for all military members returning from deployment, military member care packages, and veteran funeral services.

Tolan and Stone met while playing in a veterans softball league and Stone asked if he wanted to collaborate with Band of Brothers, Tolan said.

"Welcome Home and Band of Brothers have worked together in the past. [We] put up flag poles for free, and replaced about 500 flags in the last two years," he added.

Now, the two nonprofits have 152 people playing in the tournament, about 40 volunteers, and are expecting 250 people for the dinner and live auction, Tolan added.

During last year's tournament, Tolan said they raised \$25,000 for each organization—the largest donation received in Band of Brothers' history.

"My goal is for us to bring in more than \$25,000. I want to break that record again; anything over \$25,000 is amazing for both organizations," Tolan said.

Although the tournament is sold out, Tolan added that sharing the organizations on social media is a helpful way to get their messages out to the public and promote future events—which can be found on their respective websites and Facebook pages.

"It's great for all our members, especially our veterans on Veterans Day, [to be] with a bunch of people having fun. It's an absolutely gorgeous and overall fun event," Tolan said. "The planning is hard and it's been long, but the day of the event is absolutely a blast."

Highlights

- Dignity Health's Marian Community Clinic celebrated 25 years of operating with the grand opening of a new location. On Nov. 10, clinic physicians and staff along with Santa Maria Mayor Alice Patino and ambassadors of the Santa Maria Valley Chamber of Commerce attended a ribbon cutting ceremony and hosted an open house with clinic tours, live music, and refreshments. The Marian Community Clinic is the largest clinic network on the Central Coast. It first opened in 1997 and was the first of nearly 50 primary care and specialty clinics in the area. After more than two decades, the clinic moved into a new modernized space, at 1745 N. Broadway, which includes an onsite lab.

- Santa Barbara County nonprofit CommUnify was named a "2022 Top-Rated nonprofit" by GreatNonprofits, the leading website for community recommendations of charities and nonprofits. The award is based on the rating and number of reviews that CommUnify received from volunteers, donors, and aid recipients. GreatNonprofits is the largest donation website for nonprofits where people share stories about their personal experiences with more than 1.6 million charities and nonprofits. ○

Promote!

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

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DEATH NOTICES

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AINSWORTH, VELMA "LOUISE", 88, of Arroyo Grande, passed away 10/31/2022 arrangements with Marshall-Spoo Sunset Funeral Chapel

ALEXANDER, RITA RAE, 76, of Paso Robles passed away 10/27/2022 arrangements with Chapel of the Roses

BERNING, ALBERT, 83, of Santa Maria, passed away 10/31/2022 arrangements with Marshall-Spoo Sunset Funeral Chapel

BRIDGES, LOUISE E., 92, of Santa Maria passed away 11/2/2022 arrangements with Magner-Maloney Funeral Home & Crematory

DOOLITTLE, JACK ROBERT, 78, of Paso Robles passed away 10/30/2022 arrangements with Chapel of the Roses

DUCA, SUZANNE GRACE, 82, of Arroyo Grande, passed away 10/26/2022 arrangements with Marshall-Spoo Sunset Funeral Chapel

FERGUSON, JAKE ALLEN, 29, of Atascadero passed away 10/30/2022 arrangements with Chapel of the Roses

FISHER, PAM, 61, of Los Alamos passed away 10/30/2022 arrangements with Dudley-Hoffman Mortuary, Crematory & Memory Gardens

GODSEY, DAVID, 77, of Atascadero passed away 10/27/2022 arrangements with Blue Sky Cremation Service

GOODMAN, BARBARA, 90, of Santa Maria passed away 10/27/2022 arrangements with Dudley-Hoffman Mortuary, Crematory & Memory Gardens

GORDON, BRUCE NERVIK, 83, of Santa Maria passed away 11/3/2022 arrangements with Dudley-Hoffman Mortuary, Crematory & Memory Gardens

HERMANN, RICHARD "DICK", 81, of Nipomo passed away 11/6/2022 arrangements with Dudley-Hoffman Mortuary, Crematory & Memory Gardens

HOFFMAN, CHARLES "CHUCK" CHASE JR., 75, of San Luis Obispo passed away 10/28/2022 arrangements with Chapel of the Roses

HUBBARD, DENNIS, 75, of Morro Bay, passed away 10/31/2022 arrangements with Blue Sky Cremation Service

JENSEN, HAROLD, 98, of Paso Robles passed away 10/31/2022 arrangements with Chapel of the Roses

KASELIONIS, VIOLETA EMILJA, 75, of Atascadero passed away 10/27/2022 arrangements with Chapel of the Roses

LACEY, DONNA LEE, 80, of Paso Robles passed away 10/28/2022 arrangements with Chapel of the Roses

MAYA, ANTONIO, 68, of Nipomo passed away 10/30/2022 arrangements with Marshall-Spoo Sunset Funeral Chapel

NEWHOUSE, LYNNE S., 81, of Paso Robles passed away 10/11/2022 arrangements with Chapel of the Roses

NOLAN, STEPHEN J., 68, of Santa Maria, passed away 10/31/2022 arrangements with Dudley-Hoffman Mortuary, Crematory & Memory Gardens

O'NEIL, SCOTT, 52, of Santa Maria passed away 11/2/2022 arrangements with Dudley-Hoffman Mortuary, Crematory & Memory Gardens

OAKES, HIWATHA, 89, of Santa Maria passed away 10/31/2022 arrangements with Magner-Maloney Funeral Home & Crematory

ONTIVEROS, JASON PAUL BARAJAS JR., 27, of Santa Maria passed away 10/29/2022 arrangements with Dudley-Hoffman Mortuary, Crematory & Memory Gardens

PEASNALL, DARLENE, 81, of Atascadero passed away 11/1/2022 arrangements with Chapel of the Roses

QUARESMA, WILLIAM, 91, of Grover Beach passed away 10/28/2022 arrangements with Marshall-Spoo Sunset Funeral Chapel

QUIROS, MIGUEL D., 77, of Santa Maria passed away 11/4/2022 arrangements with Dudley-Hoffman Mortuary, Crematory & Memory Gardens

RACKEL, MONICA ANN, 65, of Santa Maria passed away 11/2/2022 arrangements with Dudley-Hoffman Mortuary, Crematory & Memory Gardens

RUFFINO, STEVE, 68, of Los Alamos passed away 10/27/2022 arrangements with Dudley-Hoffman Mortuary, Crematory & Memory Gardens

STAHR, HAE WOL, 80, of Santa Maria passed away 11/2/2022 arrangements with Magner-Maloney Funeral Home & Crematory

THOMAS, SACHIE, 93, of Santa Maria passed away 11/5/2022 arrangements with Dudley-Hoffman Mortuary, Crematory & Memory Gardens

TONGE, SHIRLEY ANN SIPE, 86, of Santa Maria passed away 11/2/2022 arrangements with Magner-Maloney Funeral Home & Crematory

TONNE, PHYLLIS LORRAINE, 96, of Arroyo Grande, passed away 11/2/2022 arrangements with Marshall-Spoo Sunset Funeral Chapel

VELASQUEZ, DELIA R., 89, of Glendora passed away 10/16/2022 arrangements with Chapel of the Roses

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A familiar story

Reflecting on wars and diplomacy, past and present

BY JOHN ASHBAUGH

Sixty years ago, the world stood inches from nuclear armageddon as President John F. Kennedy went *mano a mano* with Nikita Khrushchev to force the USSR to remove nuclear missiles stationed in Cuba. *Sun* readers are mostly much younger than me, but you probably know how the crisis was resolved if you've read anything about the Cuban Missile Crisis. Diplomacy is the *only* way to avoid war and the best way to *end* a war.

In his first weeks in office, JFK was humiliated by the Bay of Pigs debacle. A few weeks later, this youngest president ever to be elected turned in a weak performance at the Vienna Summit with Khrushchev. Moscow was convinced that they could roll this new administration with impunity and threaten us by placing medium-range nuclear missiles on the soil of their new ally, Cuba, only 90 miles from our shores.

They were mistaken. JFK rallied the "free world" against the nuclear threat through a skillful display of international diplomacy. His brother, Attorney General Robert "Bobby" Kennedy, opened a diplomatic back channel that enabled Khrushchev to withdraw the missiles based on a promise from Kennedy that we would quietly remove obsolete tactical missiles that we had installed in eastern Turkey.

This year, the Western world was rocked into action to meet a new challenge as Russian President Vladimir Putin launched an invasion against neighboring Ukraine on Feb. 27 with the intent to absorb it into his grand design for a new "Imperial Russia." President Biden committed \$16 billion in military aid to Ukraine and, with our NATO allies, Ukraine has stopped the

Russian advance and even regained significant territory that the Russians had occupied in the early months of the war. We are using the "soft power" of our economic strength to impose sanctions that have isolated Russia and shriveled its energy exports—a great success.

Ukraine's President Volodymyr Zelensky has countered Russian propaganda at every step. Recently, Russian appeals to the UN Security Council that claimed Ukraine was developing a nuclear "dirty bomb" were met with the full measure of scorn and derision that they deserved.

Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi (D-San Francisco) further demonstrated American support for Ukraine: She traveled to Croatia to meet with the Crimea Platform, a group of nations organized by Ukraine to affirm the case for Ukrainian sovereignty over the Crimean Peninsula. Crimea is the strategic fulcrum of Black Sea navigation that Russians invaded and occupied in 2014.

My wife and I were also recently in Croatia. We visited two military museums where the Croatians proudly display their heroic story of victory against overwhelming odds in the "Homeland War" with their former Yugoslav Federation partners, Bosnia and Serbia. In the four years of hostilities that ended in 1995, Croatia showed the same determination to win their freedom and secure their national sovereignty that we see today in Ukraine.

Will we someday be able to visit Ukraine and find a similar museum where they can tell the compelling story of their suffering and ultimate victory against the Russians?

I certainly hope so. But God help us all if the Republican Party nominates Donald Trump for the presidency in 2024. The MAGA Republicans should be fully prepared to defend Trump's insufferable puppy love for Putin and the

Russian oligarchs who have financed this war. We now know, of course, that Russian rubles bailed out the failing Trump Organization when no legitimate banks would offer him credit.

Speak up!

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



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Our nation must be ready *and* willing to defend Western civilization against the most serious diplomatic and military challenge that we have faced since 1962—emanating from Moscow once again. Only skilled diplomacy, an intimate knowledge of our allies *and* our adversaries, and a little luck will enable a lasting and legitimate peace. ○

John Ashbaugh has been engaged in local politics since arriving on the Central Coast in 1977. Write a response for publication by emailing letters@santamariasun.com.

LETTERS

An alternative to war

"Now, therefore, I, Harry S. Truman, president of the United States of America, do hereby proclaim the cessation of hostilities of World War II, effective 12 o'clock noon, Dec. 31, 1946."

I was a little more than 10 months old when President Truman proclaimed an end to war and the beginning of what the world hoped would be peace. But there has been no peace in the world during my lifetime. We even waged a "Cold War."

This is true because people, and groups of people and the rulers of people, are constantly competing for resources, land, influence, and power. Leaders talk peace but wage war.

In the same way that it takes two people to have an argument, it takes two countries to fight a war. Both decide to struggle against the other. Both have a choice between diplomacy and violence. There are moments when peace may be achieved, and so many times, as in the Ukrainian war, those moments come and go.

America believes it is guiltless in all the wars since Truman declared peace. We always blame the other country, evil forces, bad players. Isn't it time that we did some real soul searching as a country to understand why we are in a constant state of war somewhere in the world?

War is not a sports event. It is serious violence and destruction. Yet we treat wars as if they are athletic competitions where we love our team and are desperate for them to win. We cheer our side on whether we are right to battle the other side or not. One need only look at recent wars, which were never declared by Congress as the Constitution demands. None of them were wise. None of them were fair. None of them were won.

Are we destined to keep fighting for decades and centuries to come, or will we blow up our planet in an attempt to defeat our enemies, and in so doing make our planet uninhabitable?

It's up to us. We can choose to elect leaders who are peacemakers. Women and men who know the true costs of war and are ready to do all they can to make and keep the peace. This would begin by not arming the world so that it is in a constant state of war.

The shout will go out that if we don't do it, someone else will. We've heard that cry before. What about the cry of all the mothers and wives and children who have lost loved ones in stupid, unwinnable wars? Human beings suffer because of the wrong decisions of their rulers.

It is up to the people to change the system that is rigged against them. Not just in America, but around the world. It begins with open discussion and debate between people who believe they are natural enemies. War will only end when we stop warring with each other, find the common ground that is there in our humanity, and work together to heal the world. This may sound too optimistic. What is the alternative?

Gale McNeeley
Santa Maria

The big game

Should we cry for **ExxonMobil**? The multinational energy corporation sued **Santa Barbara County** over what's known as a "takings" in May for the **Board of Supervisors'** decision to deny an oil trucking project that would have enabled the company to restart its operations offshore near Santa Barbara.

Recently, a judge ruled that a bunch of environmental nonprofits, such as the **Environmental Defense Center**, could join the suit on the county's side. Exxon's nemesis!

But before you get too teary-eyed over this "unfairly" treated company that can no longer make use of its private property because an oil pipeline burst in 2015, spilling oil along the South County's pristine coastline, I've got some news to share!

As ExxonMobil announced its third quarter earnings the last week of October, Americans paid an average of \$3.76 for a gallon of gas, Californians, \$5.29 (that's another story). The average price per gallon has increased by almost \$2 since 2020.

And that increase in money you're paying at the pump is helping companies like ExxonMobil collect those dollars, babeee! *They're raking it in!*

ExxonMobil announced a \$1.8 billion increase in its earnings from the previous quarter. Year-to-date earnings, the company said, increased by more than \$20 billion year-over-year. Oil production grew by nearly 90,000 barrels a day.

The oil giant that exemplifies the term **Big Oil** also stated that it "achieved best-ever quarterly refining throughput in North America"—meaning the most oil refined in three months. In addition, Exxon's paid out \$15 billion in aggregate dividends

to its investors for the year: that's ONE BILLION DOLLARS, 15 times.

So what exactly are we paying for at the pump? Supply and demand? Sounds like there's plenty of supply if ExxonMobil is achieving "best-ever" records. All I can think about is how corporations basically own us and American politics works for them. Not us.

That earnings report makes me think that "inflation" is an elaborate joke that we don't get because we can't stop fighting about stupid conspiracy theories that align with our worldview about our fellow humans. And the oil companies started it all with a sleight of hand line about the Russian War in Ukraine and oil supply. Who's gullible now?!

USA! USA!

ExxonMobil is also in the process of selling its **Santa Ynez Unit** (of lawsuit fame) of offshore oil platforms, an onshore processing facility, and the pipelines that run between them. Why? Exxon's not stupid. They "loaned" **Sable Offshore Energy Corporation**—well, soon to be corporation if a merger goes its way—more than \$600 million to purchase the unit and its associated facilities. But it comes with a giant caveat: If Sable can't restart oil operations there (which have been stalled since 2015) in the next five years, Exxon can take the property back.

Sable is a Canadian-based company. If you Google it, the company was (is?) a joint venture between **Shell**—also *Big Oil*—and Exxon, so what's going on? An elaborate shell game (pun intended!) with Big Oil holding all the shells. ○

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PROLIFIC PAIR

The Chumash Casino Resort presents Grammy Award-winner Lyle Lovett (left) and Grammy-nominated singer-songwriter John Hiatt (right), who will perform together during a live concert in the Samala Showroom on Saturday, Nov. 12, at 8 p.m. Tickets to see the country duo are available in advance at chumashcasino.com. Admission ranges between \$59 and \$94. The Chumash Casino Resort is located at 3400 E. Highway 246, Santa Ynez.

—Caleb Wiseblood

PHOTO COURTESY OF THE CHUMASH CASINO RESORT

ARTS

SANTA MARIA VALLEY/LOS ALAMOS

AUDITION, A LOS ALAMOS STORY A new musical comedy, described as “a love song (actually, 12) to our very special small town on the Central Coast.” **Nov. 11**, 7-8:15 p.m., **Nov. 12**, 2-3:15 & 7-8:15 p.m., **Nov. 13**, 2-3:15 p.m., **Nov. 18**, 7-8:15 p.m., **Nov. 19**, 2-3:15 & 7-8:15 p.m. and **Nov. 20**, 2-3:15 p.m. \$25. 805-344-1144. latgstore.square.site. Los Alamos Theatre Group, 515 Bell Street, Los Alamos.

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

BEYOND GLORY Presented by the Santa Maria Civic Theatre. **Nov. 11**, 7 p.m., **Nov. 12**, 7 p.m. and **Nov. 13**, 1:30 p.m. smct.org/show/beyond-glory/. Santa Maria Civic Theatre, 1660 N. McClelland St., Santa Maria.

CASA DEL RIO HOLIDAY BAZAAR Handcrafted holiday gift event. Local artists handcraft all gifts and decor. am, jellies, and baked delicacies available. Free hourly giveaways. 50/50 drawing tickets will be sold. Money collected from 50/50 drawing will go to local charity. Lunch will be available for purchase. **Nov. 12**, 9 a.m.-3 p.m. Free. 805-441-9791. Casa Del Rio Clubhouse, 1124 N Suey Rd., Santa Maria.

CINDERELLA Last seen at PCPA in 2015 and back by popular demand for the whole family, the Broadway adaptation of Rodgers and Hammerstein’s beloved musical. This fresh, contemporary take on the classic tale is full of new surprises, familiar friends, and Rodgers and Hammerstein’s unforgettable music. **Nov. 10-Dec. 23** \$25-\$59. 805-922-8313. pcpa.org/events/cinderella. PCPA: The Pacific Conservatory Theatre, 800 S. College, 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.

HOLIDAY BAZAAR This event showcases a variety of items from more than 45 vendors. **Nov. 18**, 4-8 p.m. and **Nov. 19**, 9 a.m.-3 p.m. Free admission. First Christian Church, 1550 S College Drive, Santa Maria, fccsantamaria.org.

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 violin, or take vocal lessons. 805-925-0464. coelhomusic.com. Coelho Academy of Music, 325 E. Betteravia Rd., Santa Maria.

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

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 Second Saturday of every month, 2 p.m. 805-925-0994. cityofsantamaria.org/city-government/departments/library. Santa Maria Public Library, 421 S. McClelland St., Santa Maria.

WATER BY THE SPOONFUL Presented by the Santa Maria Civic Theatre. **Nov. 18**, 7 p.m., **Nov. 19**, 7 p.m. and **Nov. 20**, 1:30 p.m. smct.org/show/water-by-the-spoonful/. Santa Maria Civic Theatre, 1660 N. McClelland St., Santa Maria.

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

SANTA YNEZ VALLEY

ASTONISH: AN EVENING OF MAGIC WITH DEREK MCKEE A contemporary, stylized, and unique experience seeing

New Times and the Sun now share their community listings for a complete Central Coast calendar running from SLO County through northern Santa Barbara County. Submit events online by logging in with your Google, Facebook, or Twitter account at newtimeslo.com. You may also email calendar@newtimeslo.com. Deadline is one week before the issue date on Thursdays. Submissions are subject to editing and approval. Contact Calendar Editor Caleb Wiseblood directly at cwiseblood@newtimeslo.com.

Derek present his ground breaking performance exclusively in the intimate setting of the Craft House at Corque theater. **Nov. 12** and **Nov. 13** my805tix.com. Craft House at Corque, 420 Alisal Road, Solvang.

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

A PERSONAL POINT OF VIEW: GALLERY LOS OLIVOS Artists Renee Kelleher and Karen McGaw will share the featured spotlight at Gallery Los Olivos during the month of November. These artists have been friends for decades and share critiques and dialogues that fuel their personal creative process. Mondays, Thursdays-Sundays, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. through Nov. 28 805 688-7517. GalleryLosOlivos.com. Gallery Los Olivos, 2920 Grand Ave., Los Olivos.

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

HAPPY HOLIDAYS CRAFT FAIRE Featuring hand-crafted items only. There will be a wide variety of crafts, over 32 tables to peruse, and raffles available, along with a bake sale. A great place to find the right item for the right person, especially at this time of year. **Nov. 19**, 9 a.m.-3 p.m. Free. 805-291-6092. Valley of Flowers Half-Century Club, 341 No. N St., Lompoc.

NEW VISTAS: FEATURED ARTIST NEIL ANDERSSON A showcase of oil paintings by local artist

Neil Andersson. Through Nov. 27 Cypress Gallery, 119 E Cypress Ave., Lompoc, 805-705-5328, lompcart.org.

SCREENING OF ALICE’S ADVENTURES IN WONDERLAND (1972) Projected onto a giant screen. The film is rated G, and is suitable for all ages. All seating is first come first serve. Mats on the floor for additional picnic-style seating (feel free to bring blankets). **Nov. 12**, 7 p.m. \$5. my805tix.com. Flower City Ballroom, 110 W. Ocean Ave., Lompoc.

SOUTH COAST SLO COUNTY

12TH ANNUAL HOLIDAY BAZAAR Support local vendors of handcrafted jewelry, glass art, baked goods, candy, cookies, and more. **Nov. 12**, 9 a.m.-3 p.m. Portuguese Hall, 707 Huasna Road, Arroyo Grande.

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. and Saturdays, 2-4:30 p.m. through Nov. 12 \$30-\$36. 805-489-2499. americanmelodrama.com/. Great American Melodrama, 1863 Front St., Oceano.

ARTISAN FAIRE Features more than 30 vendors with hand crafted goods, paintings, fabric art, ceramics, jewelry, and much more. Includes a cafe with homemade pie. All proceeds go to community charities and college scholarships for local students. **Nov. 19**, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Free. 831-595-6507. Women’s Club of Arroyo Grande, 211 Vernon St., Arroyo Grande.

HOLIDAY EXTRAVAGANZA: A CHRISTMAS CAROL Visited by the ghosts of Past, Present, and Future, Ebenezer Scrooge must find it in his heart to change or face a bleak and lonely future. No show on Christmas day. Wednesdays-Saturdays, 7-10 p.m., Saturdays, 2-5 p.m. and Sundays, 6-9 p.m. through Dec. 18 \$36-\$40. 805-489-2499. americanmelodrama.com. Great American Melodrama, 1863 Front St., Oceano.

MEET THE AUTHORS: STEVE KIEWER AND JUDYTHE GUARNERA Together, this husband and wife author duo wrote two books in the Tuckable Tales of the Sierra series. **Nov. 15**, 6:30-8 p.m. Free to attend. 805-481-4131. GroverBeachLibrary.org. Grover Beach Community Library, 240 N 9th St., Grover Beach.

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.

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SUBMIT YOUR EVENTS

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**With just 10 - 12 hours a month,
you have the opportunity to make a
significant difference.**

FIND OUT HOW INSIDE

**CHANGE A
CHILD'S STORY.™**



**THANK YOU FOR SPONSORING!
SANTA MARIA SUN &
HUTTON PARKER FOUNDATION**



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

But local children are hurting.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

If you don't see yourself as a volunteer, are you willing to support the work that CASA and our amazing volunteers do in your community?

However you decide to get involved, I want

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

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

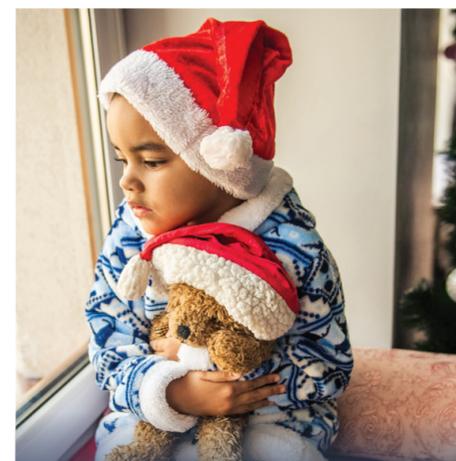
Will you step forward in hope for a child?

Join us today. Our children can't wait.

Yours in advocacy,



Kim Colby Davis, Executive Director



SPONSOR A CHILD'S CHRISTMAS WISH LIST!

CASA provides gifts to more than 600 children each holiday season. Sponsor a wish list for \$100!

[SBCASA.ORG/DONATE](https://www.sbcasa.org/donate)



MEET GRACIE

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

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

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

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

Then, Gracie got suspended at school for fighting.

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

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

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

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

With hope, comes resilience.

With hope, comes healing.

With hope, comes a brighter future.

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

To learn more about becoming a CASA volunteer, visit [SBCASA.ORG](https://www.sbcasa.org) or call/text 805-868-8890.



MARDI GRAS

Benefiting CASA of Santa Barbara County
SAVE THE DATE - January 28, 2023
Craft House at the Corque Hotel

CHANGE A CHILD'S STORY.™



YOUR SUPPORT IS NEEDED NOW MORE THAN EVER



Become a CASA volunteer!
SBCASA.ORG - info@sbcasa.org - 805-868-8890

GET INVOLVED WITH CASA!



Volunteer

We are only asking for 10 - 12 hours per month!

CASA will provide you with all of the training and support needed to become a volunteer advocate.

As a CASA volunteer, you will act as a consistent adult in a child's life as they navigate the foster care system. You can help assure their needs are met and set them up for a successful future.

Learn more at SBCASA.ORG/VOLUNTEER

Donate

Give the gift of advocacy!

When you donate to CASA of Santa Barbara County, you are assuring that a victim of child abuse has a dedicated volunteer advocate. Having a CASA volunteer can change the trajectory of a child's life, leading to more positive outcomes for our community's most vulnerable children.

Donate now at SBCASA.ORG/DONATE



**CHANGE A
CHILD'S STORY.™**



CASA

Court Appointed Special Advocates
FOR CHILDREN

SANTA BARBARA COUNTY

SBCASA.ORG - 805-739-9102 - info@sbcasa.org

805-668-2125. lila.community. LiIA 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. LiIA Creative Community, 1147 East Grand Ave. suite 101, Arroyo Grande.

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

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

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

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

PASSIFLORA MOSAICS WORKSHOPS Check website or call for workshop offerings and more details. Through Nov. 13 805-440-3054. passifloramosaics.com/workshops/. Passiflora Mosaics, 330 N. 10th St., Grover Beach.

PLAY, EXPLORE, CREATE (AGES 5-7) Young artists will play at various stations, exploring games, and mixed



media. There will be a new activity each week. Wonderful opportunities for drawing, painting, and sculpture. Tuesdays, 9-10 a.m. \$25. 805-668-2125. lila.community. LiIA Creative Community, 1147 East Grand Ave. suite 101, Arroyo Grande.

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

TRIOLOGY ART EXTRAVAGANZA Media on display and for sale includes photography, ceramics, carvings, mosaics, jewelry, and more. **Nov. 19**, 11 a.m.-3 p.m. Monarch Club, 1645 Trilogy Pkway., Nipomo.

SAN LUIS OBISPO

ALAN CUMMING IS NOT ACTING HIS AGE The award winning Scottish-American polymath known for playing God, the Devil, Hitler, a lawyer, the Pope, a teleporting superhero, Hamlet, all the parts in Macbeth, and the EmCee in Cabaret on Broadway brings his new cabaret show for an evening of story and song. **Nov. 13**, 7:30-9 p.m. \$49-\$79. 805-756-6556. Performing Arts Center, 1 Grand Ave., San Luis Obispo, pacsl.org.

SLAM DUNK

Nella Kitchen and Bar in Los Olivos presents An Evening of Wine and Food with Sasha Vujacic on Friday, Nov. 18, at 5 p.m. Vujacic is a Paso Robles-based winemaker and former NBA player. Several of his family vineyard's vintages will be paired with a multi-course meal during the upcoming event. Visit nellakitchen.com to find out more about the dinner. Nella Kitchen and Bar is located at 2860 Grand Ave., Los Olivos.
—C.W.

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

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.

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.

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.

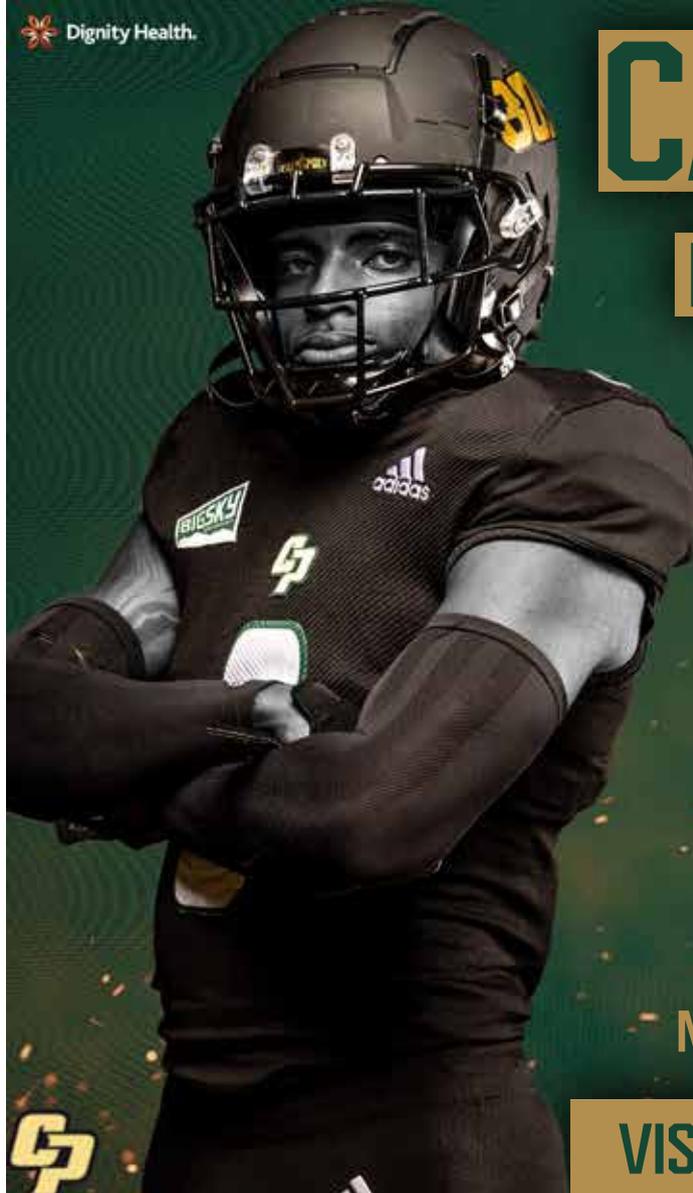
INTRODUCTION TO OIL PAINTING The perfect class for those wanting to try oil painting for the first time. Hosts discuss color theory, layering paint, and how to use various media. Each student will create a dynamic landscape using a reference photo. Thursdays, 10 a.m.-1 p.m. through Dec. 29 \$100 for 4 classes. 805-747-4200. artcentralslo.com/workshops-events/. Art Central, 1329 Monterey St., San Luis Obispo.

JUST ADD WATER Come experience the detailed and expressive work of six accomplished local watercolorists in this upcoming show. 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.

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. Through Jan. 30, 2023 Free. 805-242-1076. themondayclubslslo.org. Online, See website, San Luis Obispo.

ARTS continued page 20



CAL POLY FOOTBALL

HALL OF FAME GAME | SENIOR NIGHT

VS



SATURDAY, NOV. 19 AT 5 PM

MUSTANG MEMORIAL FIELD, PRESENTED BY DIGNITY HEALTH

VISIT GOPOLY.COM/TICKETS TO PURCHASE TICKETS TODAY!

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

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

POTTERY: BEGINNING WHEEL CLASS This series is a great intro to the pottery wheel. Students learn to throw various shapes, surface decorate, and glaze. Clay and firing included with admission. Thursdays, 10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. \$180. anamcre.com. Anam Cre Pottery Studio, 1243 Monterey St., San Luis Obispo, 805-896-6197.

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

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

SENIOR CLAY CLASS Offered to the senior community as an outlet to explore the beauty of clay. Ages 60 and over. Caretakers welcome for additional \$20. Fridays, 10 a.m.-noon \$40. anamcre.com. Anam Cre Pottery Studio, 1243 Monterey St., San Luis Obispo, 805-896-6197.

VIRGINIA MACK: BEGINNING WATERCOLOR This is a watercolor class designed to let you jump in and try out this engaging medium through experimentation. It's designed for beginners and those with watercolor experience who wish to expand their knowledge of painting in watercolors. To enroll please contact Mack

via email: vbmack@charter.net Wednesdays, 1:30-3:30 p.m. \$35. 805-747-4200. artcentralslo.com/workshops-events/. Art Central, 1329 Monterey St., San Luis Obispo.

CULTURE & LIFESTYLE

SANTA MARIA VALLEY/LOS ALAMOS

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

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.

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

LETTERS TO VETERANS Join us in thanking those who have served our country. Come to the Santa Maria Public Library and express your appreciation by writing a letter to a veteran. Stationary, pens, and pencils will be provided. **Nov. 11**, 2 p.m. Free. 805-925-0994. cityofsantamaria.org. Santa Maria Public Library, 421 S. McClelland St., Santa Maria.

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

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

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

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, unwindstamaria.com.

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

LOMPOC/VANDENBERG

LOMPOC VALLEY BOTANICAL AND HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY MEETING All garden and botany enthusiasts are invited to attend the November meeting, which will feature a plant exchange. **Nov. 20**, 2 p.m. 805-717-0067. Stone Pine Hall, 210 South H St., Lompoc, lompoctmuseum.org/pine.php.

SOUTH COAST SLO COUNTY

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

ENOS MEMORIAL HIKE AT THE STATE REFUGEE Hikers will begin their adventure walking through a wooded area of arroyo willows and wax myrtle, where numerous species of songbirds make their homes, as they head to a bridge that crosses the lake. **Nov. 19**, 9 a.m. my805tix.com. Oso Flaco Lake Natural Area, Oso Flaco Lake Rd., Nipomo, 805-343-2455.

FREE YOGA FOR FIRST RESPONDERS, EMS, AND COMMUNITY CARETAKERS Join for some well-deserved self-care. Anyone including fire, EMS, police, hospital workers, medical staff, assisted living caretakers, etc. is welcome. All yoga abilities are encouraged to attend. Please email empoweryoga805@gmail.com in

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Send event information to calendar@santamariasun.com

advance to enroll. Thursdays, 6-7 p.m. 805-619-0989. Empower Yoga Studio and Community Boutique, 775 W. Grand Ave., Grover Beach, empoweryoga805.com.

THE GODDESS WALK: SUNSET HIKE AND PICNIC A special WMW docent led stroll through indigenous land in honor of Native American Heritage Month. **Nov. 19** my805tix.com. Pismo Preserve, Mattie Road, Pismo Beach.

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

POINT SAN LUIS LIGHTHOUSE TOURS Tours will give you a glimpse into the lives of Lighthouse Keepers and their families, while helping keep our jewel of the Central Coast preserved and protected. In-person and virtual tours offered. Check website for more details. Wednesdays, Saturdays pointsanluislighthouse.org/. Point San Luis Lighthouse, 1 Lighthouse Rd., Avila Beach.

SOCIAL GROUP FOR WIDOWS AND WIDOWERS Call for more details. Second Saturday of every month, 10 a.m. 805-904-6615. Oak Park Christian Church, 386 N Oak Park Blvd., Grover Beach.

WEEKLY WATER SAFETY LESSONS Facility advertised as open and safe. Give the office a call to register over the phone. Mondays-Fridays \$160-\$190. 805-481-6399. 5 Cities Swim School, 425 Traffic Way, Arroyo Grande, 5citysswimschool.com.

SAN LUIS OBISPO

BRINGING NATURE HOME AND COLOR YOUR GARDEN WITH CA NATIVE PLANTS Learn how to use beautiful plants to promote the survival of native wildlife. We will view and discuss two recorded presentations explaining why what we plant is crucial to the survival of our local ecosystem, as well as the planet. Contact for Zoom link. **Nov. 17**, 6:45-7:45 p.m. Free. lovgardenclub.org. Online, See website, San Luis Obispo.

CAL POLY FOOTBALL VS. MONTANA STATE It's Heroes Night, so all military, veterans and first responders can get up to four free tickets to watch the Mustangs take on Montana State. The first 2,000 fans will receive a Cal Poly cup. **Nov. 12**, 5 p.m. 805-756-4849. gopoly.com/. Alex G. Spanos Stadium, 1 Grand Ave., San Luis Obispo.

CULTURE & LIFESTYLE continued page 22



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Eclectic Electric:
EDM Night
FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 11
 Flower City Ballroom, Lompoc



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 Sycamore Mineral Springs Resort
 & Spa, Avila Beach Drive, SLO



Nature Nights
FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 11 –
SUNDAY, JANUARY 8
 SLO Botanical Garden



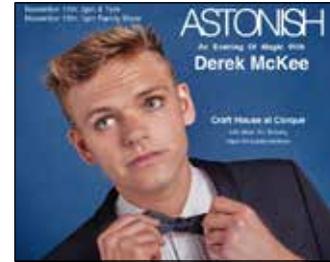
11th Annual Paso Robles
Garagiste Wine Festival
FRI & SAT, NOV. 11 & 12
 The Siren, Morro Bay



Family Fun Night: Screening of
Alice's Adventures in Wonderland
SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 12
 Flower City Ballroom, Lompoc



The Bellamy Brothers
SATURDAY,
NOVEMBER 12
 Rava Wines, Paso Robles



Astonish: An Evening of Magic
with Derek McKee
SAT & SUN, NOVEMBER 12 & 13
 Craft House at Corque, Solvang



Bird and Botany Walk
SAT, NOV. 12; THURS, NOV. 17;
THURS, DEC. 22
 SLO Botanical Garden



Cass Somm Class:
Holiday Wine Pairing
SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 13
 Cass Winery, Paso Robles



Storytime in the Garden!
TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 15 & 29;
TUESDAY, DECEMBER 13 & 27
 SLO Botanical Garden



Camp Cass: Paint & Sip Class
with Art Social 805
FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 18
 Cass Winery, Paso Robles



Wiire SLO presents: Turning a
"Can't" into "I'll show you!"
FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 18
 Saints Barrel, SLO



Holiday Barn Bazaar
FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 18
 Red Barn, Los Osos Community
 Center, Baywood-Los Osos



Water By The Spoonful -
Readers Theatre
FRI, SAT, SUN, NOV. 18, 19, 20
 Santa Maria Civic Theatre



70s Night: Disco vs Rock
DJ Battle
FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 18
 Flower City Ballroom, Lompoc



Enos Memorial Hike
at the State Refuge
SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 19
 Oso Flaco Lake, Arroyo Grande



Bash Cancer Fest
SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 19
 Red Barn, Los Osos Community
 Center, Baywood-Los Osos



Women Making Waves: Goddess
Walk Sunset Hike & Picnic
SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 19
 The Pismo Preserve



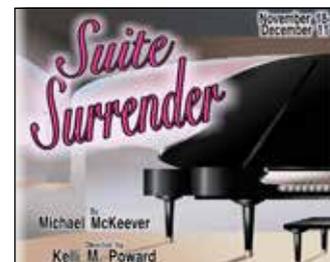
The Dave Becker Sextet ft.
Marina Pacowski & Scott Whitfield
SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 19
 Mt. Carmel Lutheran Church, SLO



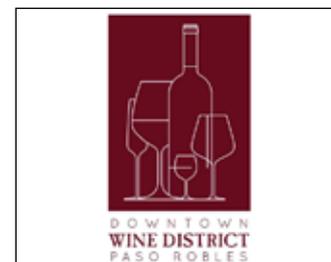
Our Dying World, Hellgate,
and Guests
SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 19
 Flower City Ballroom, Lompoc



Basin Street Regulars: The Brass
Nickels featuring Bonnie Otto
SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 20
 Pismo Beach Veterans' Hall



By the Sea Productions:
Suite Surrender
FRI, SAT, SUN, NOV. 25-DEC. 11
 545 Shasta Ave, Morro Bay



Paint the Town Red -
Downtown Wine Walk
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 Paso Robles Downtown

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CULTURE & LIFESTYLE from page 20

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

HEALTHY HERITAGE ZOOM EVENT Come spread mental health awareness and break the consequences cycle of the mental health barrier. **Nov. 15**, 6-7:30 p.m. Open to eligible Native American families residing in the Coastal areas. 559-760-1160. nfrfamily.org. Online, See website, San Luis Obispo.

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

NATIONAL NOVEL WRITING MONTH (NANOWRIMO) Join local writers in SLO County and pledge to write 50,000 words of a novel in 30 days. Writers will meet online and in-person to write together throughout November. Go to the local chapter's website to view the NaNoWriMo events calendar. Through Nov. 30 Free. nanowrimo.org/regions/usa-california-san-luis-obispo. Online, See website, San Luis Obispo.

NATURE NIGHTS An immersive outdoor holiday light and art exhibition. Features large format light projections, illuminated sculptures, and artistic lighting of garden areas throughout the garden. Closed on Thanksgiving and Christmas. Thursdays-Sundays, 5, 6 & 7 p.m. through Jan. 8 my805tix.com. San Luis Obispo Botanical Garden, 3450 Dairy Creek Rd., San Luis Obispo, 805-541-1400.

SUPPORT GROUP FOR CAREGIVERS OF PERSONS WITH FTD (FRONTOTEMPORAL DEMENTIA) A meeting providing information and support for caregivers of people with Frontotemporal Dementia (FTD). FTD is a dementia that affects younger people and is very difficult for families. This is an open group. Caregivers can drop in for information, supportive discussion, and caregiving tips. Second Saturday of every month, 2:30-4 p.m. through Jan. 14 805-471-8102. calpoly.zoom.us/j/83141446835. Online, See website, San Luis Obispo.

TECH BREW MEETUP Tech Brew is a free networking event where people interested in technology can hang out in an informal environment with a small TEDtalk-like presentation from an interesting speaker. Learn more online. Second Monday of every month, 5-7 p.m. 805-323-6706. meetup.com/softec/. StoryLabs, 102 Cross St, Suite 220, San Luis Obispo.

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.

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

SANTA YNEZ VALLEY

SECOND SATURDAY OPEN AIR MARKET: LOS OLIVOS A carefully curated open air artisan and farm market. Features great vintage finds, handwoven and hand dyed textiles, hand-spun yarn, organic body care products, and locally grown organic eats. Second Saturday of every month, 11 a.m.-4 p.m. Free. 805-722-4338. Sisters Gifts and Home, 349 Bell Street, Los Alamos.

LOMPOC/VANDEMBERG

HEAD GAMES TRIVIA AND TACO TUESDAYS CLASH Don't miss Head Games Trivia at COLD Coast Brewing Company every Tuesday night. Teams can be up to 6 members. Earn prizes and bragging rights. Kekas will be serving their delicious local fare. Fun for all ages. Tuesdays, 7-9 p.m. Free. 805-819-0723. coldcoastbrewing.com. COLD Coast Brewing Company, 118 W Ocean Ave, Lompoc.

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.

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

SANTA MARIA PHILHARMONIC: MUSIC AT THE LIBRARY Santa Maria Philharmonic Society presents this music program. **Nov. 12**, 11 a.m.-4 p.m. Free. 805-925-0412. smphilharmonic.org/events-concerts/. Shepard Hall Art Gallery - Santa Maria Public Library, 421 South McClelland St., Santa Maria.

USO DANCE Features the Riptide Big Band, with vocalist Bob Nations and guest vocalist Kathryn Loomis. Grant funded by Community Foundation of San Luis Obispo County. **Nov. 13**, 1:30-4 p.m. Free. 775-813-5186. RiptideBB.com. Elwin Mussell Senior Center, 510 Park Ave., Santa Maria.

MUSIC continued page 23

FILE PHOTO COURTESY OF THE SLO COAST WINE COLLECTIVE

PUMPKIN SMASHING!

Smash it, don't trash it!

Don't send your tired old pumpkins and gourds to the landfill —bring them to our **Pumpkin Smashing** event for a fun new way of disposal! It's free, and all ages are welcome! Come on down for a *smashing* good time!

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 20, 2022

1:00 p.m.-3:00 p.m.

**Town Center West
Downtown Santa Maria**



For more information, call (805) 925-0951 ext. 7270



WAYS OF THE WINE

The SLO Coast Wine Collective hosts its Harvest on the Coast festivities on Friday, Nov. 11, at the Avila Beach Aquarium, and Saturday, Nov. 12, at the Avila Beach Golf Resort. Approximately 30 of the new SLO Coast AVA's wineries will be pouring throughout the two-day event's duration. Visit slocoastwine.com for more info. The Avila Beach Aquarium is located at 50 San Juan St., Avila Beach. The Avila Beach Golf Resort is located at 6464 Ana Bay Road, Avila Beach.

—C.W.

SANTA YNEZ VALLEY

11TH ANNUAL REGGAE ON THE MOUNTAIN
 Featured artists include Ziggy Marley, Steel Pulse, Barrington Levy, Don Carlos, Groundation, Nattali Rize, Marlon Asher, and several others. Check website for full lineup. **Nov. 18, Nov. 19 and Nov. 20** reggaeonthemountain.com. Live Oak Camp, Highway 154, Santa Ynez.

JIMMIE DALE GILMORE AND DAVE ALVIN LIVE
 With the Guilty Ones. Part of Tales from the Tavern. **Nov. 16**, 7:30-9:30 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.

ROCK 'N ROLL BARBECUE AND CONCERT AT ZACA MESA WINERY Enjoy delicious tri-tip, pulled pork, and barbecue chicken sandwiches by The Ribline, classic rock music by Unfinished Business, and your favorite Zaca Mesa and TREAD wines. **Nov. 11**, 5-7:30 p.m. \$70. 805-688-9339. zacamesa.com/upcoming-events/. Zaca Mesa Winery, 6905 Foxen Canyon Road, Los Olivos.

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

'70S NIGHT: DISCO VS. ROCK An evening of classic 1970s rock, glam and disco with Soul Dust Productions and Daisy Van Tassel. For ages 18 and over. **Nov. 18**, 8 p.m. my805tix.com. Flower City Ballroom, 110 W. Ocean Ave., Lompoc.

ECLECTIC ELECTRIC: EDM NIGHT EDM night with DJ Martin, Fyamoji, and Cryptid Wrangler. **Nov. 11**, 8 p.m. my805tix.com. Flower City Ballroom, 110 W. Ocean Ave., Lompoc.

KARAOKE ON THE BIG STAGE Join KJ Mike Miclat for a night of all-ages karaoke, and feel like a true rock star. All ages welcome. **Nov. 10**, 8 p.m. Free admission. my805tix.com. Flower City Ballroom, 110 W. Ocean Ave., Lompoc.

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

OUR DYING WORLD, HELLSGATE, AND GUESTS: LIVE IN CONCERT A night of the hardest and the heaviest with Our Dying World, HellsGate, and guests. All ages welcome. **Nov. 19**, 8 p.m. \$15. my805tix.com. Flower City Ballroom, 110 W. Ocean Ave., Lompoc.

SOUTH COAST SLO COUNTY

THE BRASS NICKELS: FEATURING BONNIE OTTO Presented by the Basin Street Regulars. **Nov. 20**, 1-4 p.m. my805tix.com. Pismo Beach Veterans Memorial Hall, 780 Bello St., Pismo Beach.

CHRISTMAS CHOIR Sing your way into the new year. Bring your choir binders (new members will have binders provided) Some new original tunes and some standard Christmas Songs will be included in this years program. Contact for end date. Tuesdays, 7-8:30 p.m. through Dec. 20 Free. Richard Inman, Private Home TBA, Arroyo Grande, 805-937-4413.

SAN LUIS OBISPO

EAST MEETS WEST East Meets West featuring the return of Ilya Yakushev performing Gershwin's Piano Concerto in F, and more. **Nov. 12**, 7:30 p.m. \$21-\$89. 805-356-1438. slophony.org/2022-2023-season/. Performing Arts Center, 1 Grand Ave., San Luis Obispo.

EASTON EVERETT LIVE AT HOTEL CERRO Easton Everett is an artist known for a guitar woven sound that spreads out across the American music story. His originality is in writing compelling music outside the pop main stream in distinctive stylistic shapes. **Nov. 11**, 6-9 p.m. eastoneverett.com/. Hotel Cerro, 1125 Garden St., San Luis Obispo, 805-548-1000.

LIVE MUSIC FROM GUITAR WIZ BILLY FOPPIANO AND MAD DOG Join "Guitar Wiz" Billy Foppiano and his trusty side kick Mad Dog for a mix of blues, R&B, and more. Saturdays, 11 a.m.-1 p.m. 805-544-2100. Bon Temps Creole Cafe, 1819 Osos Street, San Luis Obispo, bontempscreolecafe.com/index.htm.

VETERANS DAY CONCERT: STANDING FOR FREEDOM, MUSIC UNITES Cuesta Concord Chorus and Cuesta Wind Ensemble featuring Ron Kean's American Mass, John Philip Sousa marches, music of Aaron Copland, and uplifting patriotic melodies conducted by Cassandra Tarantino and Jennifer Martin. **Nov. 11**, 3-5 p.m. \$20; free for Veterans. tickets.cuesta.edu. Cuesta College Cultural and Performing Arts Center, Highway 1, San Luis Obispo. ○

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DAUGHTRY

NOVEMBER 18 | FRIDAY | 8PM



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LOS TIGRES DEL NORTE

DECEMBER 2 | FRIDAY | 8PM



JOHNNY MATHIS

DECEMBER 16 | FRIDAY | 8PM



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DECEMBER 31 | SATURDAY | 9PM

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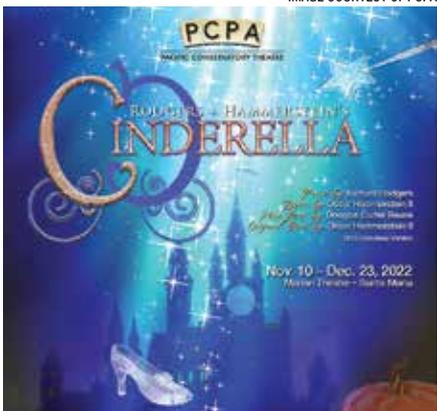
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Arts Briefs

PCPA presents Rodgers and Hammerstein's *Cinderella*

IMAGE COURTESY OF PCPA



The Pacific Conservatory Theatre's (PCPA) production of Rodgers and Hammerstein's *Cinderella* will premiere at the Marian Theatre in Santa Maria on Nov. 10, with performances scheduled to run through Dec. 23. Iconic musical numbers in the show include "Ten Minutes Ago," "In My Own Little Corner," and "Impossible; It's Possible."

The show's director, Erik Stein, is thrilled to bring this version of the classic rags-to-riches tale to the Marian Theatre's stage, he said in a press release from PCPA.

"The Cinderella story I want to tell is a story of kindness," Stein said in the release. "Ella puts kindness into the world, and, when we put kindness into the world, perspectives shift and what was once impossible becomes possible."

"Sometimes producing a play can feel like a 'Cinderella story,'" he added. "Taking a show from the page to the stage is often thought of as an impossible task. . . . But with a shift in perspective, what many consider to be impossible can truly become magical."

The ensemble cast of PCPA's *Cinderella* includes Faith Lennon Richter as Ella and Kitty Balay, Samuel Lariviere, Oscar Emmanuel Fabela, Christen Celaya, Audrey Cirzan, Elizabeth Martinie, Andrew Philpot, Keenon Hooks (who also serves as the show's choreographer), and others in various supporting roles. The production features scenic design by Jason Bolen, sound design by Walter Clissen, costumes by Eddy L. Barrows, and music direction from Paul Marszalkowski.

On Nov. 12, PCPA will host a special pre-show reception before the Saturday night performance, with charcuterie boxes for attendees and an open dessert bar during intermission. Visit pcpa.org or call the PCPA Box Office at (805) 922-8313 for more info on the reception and regular performance dates. The Marian Theatre is located at 800 S. College Drive, Santa Maria.

Riptide Big Band brings live music to USO Dance in Santa Maria

FILE PHOTO COURTESY OF JUDY LINDQUIST



The USO Dance, hosted by the Santa Maria Valley Senior Club with support from the Santa Maria Recreation and Parks Department, will be held on Nov. 13, from 1:30 to 4 p.m., at the Elwin Mussell Senior Center. The dance will feature live music provided by the Riptide Big Band.

Admission to the event is free thanks to grant funding from the Community Foundation of San Luis Obispo County. Visit riptidebb.com for more info on the dance and other upcoming live music events. The Elwin Mussell Senior Center is located at 510 Park Ave., Santa Maria. ○

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

COURTESY IMAGE BY RENÉE KELLEHER



ON THE CLOCK: *Grand Central Terminal Clock* is one of Renée Kelleher's paintings currently on display at Gallery Los Olivos, as part of a new duo show highlighting artworks by Kelleher and longtime collaborator and friend Karen McLean-McGaw.

Truth or dare

Two painters examine subjectivity, individuality in new Los Olivos exhibit

BY CALEB WISEBLOOD

There's a mantra written on local artist Karen McLean-McGaw's easel that has influenced all of her paintings since the 1980s.

"Tell me a different truth" is the phrase, which McLean-McGaw adopted from famed watercolorist Timothy J. Clark, who she once studied with.

"Every time I start a painting, I am reminded to look beyond the obvious and find the deeper meaning for myself and the viewer," said McLean-McGaw, whose latest duo exhibition with frequent collaborator Renée Kelleher is titled *A Personal Point of View*, and is currently on display at Gallery Los Olivos.

"I think Renée and I both approach the subject with this in mind, and each painting becomes our own personal point of view to be shared with the viewer," added McLean-McGaw, who's been friends with Kelleher for more than three decades.

The two artists met while attending a Santa Barbara-based painting and critique group meeting during the late '80s.

"We were both watercolorists during that time," recalled Kelleher, who now only paints with oils.

"I switched to oils as my medium of choice. I've not looked back, as I find oil painting freeing and rich in depth of color," Kelleher said. "Karen also paints with oils now but still does her beautiful watercolor work as well."

McLean-McGaw said she loves "the transparency and fluidity" of working with watercolors, but enjoys working with oils as well, thanks to "the texture and depth I can achieve with opaque paints."

Showtime!

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



Differing media preferences aside, both McLean-McGaw

and Kelleher have a mutual affinity for plein air painting on location. One of McLean-McGaw's favorite places on the Central Coast to set up her easel for the day is at the Music Academy of the West in Santa Barbara.

McLean-McGaw has a fond memory at the site where she completed *Summer Afternoon at the Music Academy*, one of her watercolor landscapes included in the new Gallery Los Olivos exhibition—which premiered in early November and is slated to remain on display through Nov. 28.

"This day was especially special. Not only did I have beautiful light but the musicians were practicing in the garden as I painted," McLean-McGaw said about her experience painting *Summer Afternoon at the Music Academy*. "It was magic."

Like McLean-McGaw, Kelleher is a big fan of light and the way it affects different surfaces, and aims to capture those subtleties in her artworks.

COURTESY IMAGE BY KAREN MCLEAN-MCGAW



SIGHTS AND SOUNDS: Local artist Karen McLean-McGaw painted *Summer Afternoon at the Music Academy* on location at the Music Academy of the West in Santa Barbara. One of her favorite memories about working on the piece was getting to hear live music from musicians at the academy while painting.

COURTESY IMAGE BY RENÉE KELLEHER



COZY CANVAS: Renée Kelleher was inspired to paint her piece *Cocoon* after seeing her husband "cocooned" under a blanket "to stay warm on a chilly night," the artist said.

On point

A Personal Point of View debuted in early November and is scheduled to run through Nov. 28 at Gallery Los Olivos, located at 2920 Grand Ave., Los Olivos. Visit gallerylosolivos.com for more details on the new duo exhibition.

To find out more about either of the exhibit's featured artists, Renée Kelleher or Karen McLean-McGaw, visit reneeekelleher.com or mclean-mcgaw.com, respectively.

"Light is what makes us see shapes, and wonderful value changes draw us into a good painting," Kelleher said. "My goal is to achieve that."

Kelleher's work on display in the new duo show includes traditional landscapes, such as her piece *Hillside Vineyard*, along with a collection of more intimate works that capture candid or "mundane" moments in time, the artist said.

"I like to paint the mundane: the unmade bed, the beautiful taffeta gown tossed on the chair, an ancient tree with peeling bark, or yellow cabs in the streets of NYC," said Kelleher, who studied under prolific artist Garin Baker while living in New York. "I think viewers might see my paintings as quirky sometimes."

One of Kelleher's unmade bed scenes, *Cocoon*, was inspired by her husband "cocooned" under a blanket "to stay warm on a chilly night," she said.

For Kelleher, one of the goals behind showing her artworks alongside pieces by McLean-McGaw in *A Personal Point of View* at Gallery Los Olivos is to show how two artists—who often paint with one another—can tackle similar subject matter with different approaches and end results.

"The theme of *A Personal Point of View* is about how we artists 'see' our world," Kelleher said. "We can set up side by side to paint and yet capture a completely different perspective on the subject before us." ○

Arts Editor Caleb Wiseblood wants to hear your perspective. Send comments to cwiseblood@santamariasun.com.



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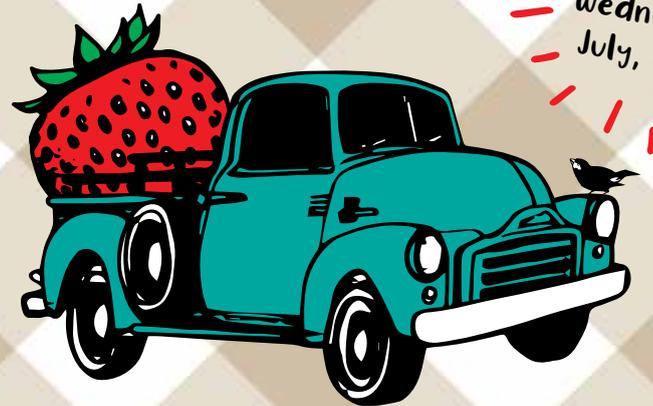
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Matchless!

Harry Bradbeer (*Fleabag*, *Enola Holmes*) directs this sequel about Sherlock Holmes' (Henry Cavill) teenage sister, Enola (Millie Bobby Brown), a budding detective who finally takes on her first official case about a missing girl. (129 min.)

Glen: I loved the 2020 original, but I have to say I was a little worried as this sequel proceeded that it would simply feed viewers more of the same. Instead, it gave me what I loved about the first film—a super engaging heroine who's ahead of her time, with just the right combination of confidence and vulnerability to keep the stakes high, and who knowingly winks at the camera as she breaks the fourth wall—and added even more emotional heft. This time around, Enola has been hired to find a missing girl, but she stumbles upon a conspiracy at a matchstick factory that's endangering its all-female workforce. Enola may be the only one willing to stand up to protect these exploited workers. If you like a cracking good mystery with a plucky female lead—and who doesn't?—*Enola Holmes 2* delivers the goods. It's basically a kids' movie, but it's got some important sociopolitical ideas in mind.

Anna: The great thing about films like this is that you can watch it with kids and actually enjoy the film yourself. It doesn't skew too young, and there's enough intrigue to keep adults engaged.

ENOLA HOLMES 2

What's it rated? **PG-13**
 What's it worth, Glen? **Full price**
 What's it worth, Anna? **Full price**
 Where's it showing? **Netflix**

Enola is spunky and strong and such a great character—Brown is a terrific choice for the role. I enjoyed the first film, and I absolutely loved the series *Fleabag*, so director Bradbeer has a fan in me. The cast is no joke. Cavill is a great Sherlock, and Helena Bonham Carter plays their mother with her usual funky flair. These two films have been a great opportunity to showcase a strong female lead, and Enola's quick wit, clever brain, and wild bravery are admirable to say the least. If your kids are old enough to watch this film, I highly encourage you to include them in on the viewing—it's just plain fun for everyone.

Glen: Tying into the whole women's and labor rights movement makes the story so much more potent. The missing girl, Sarah Chapman (Hannah Dodd), is based on an actual historical figure—a key organizer of the Matchgirls Strike at the Bryant and May Match Factory in Bow, London, on July 5, 1888, which the film correctly describes as “the first ever industrial action taken by women for women.” The working conditions

in these factories were horrible, and the pay pathetic, and the women would be fined for small offenses like taking too long in the bathroom, which further eroded their pay. Factory owners often denied women work, accusing them of being sick with typhus, but the women were ill thanks to

white phosphorus poisoning from the factory—that now turned them away to hide the true source of their illness. This film tees up another sequel, and I, for one, will be first in line to watch the mystery unfold. Enola is a thoroughly likeable



DON'T UNDERESTIMATE HER: Millie Bobby Brown reprises her role as Sherlock Holmes' teenage sister, in *Enola Holmes 2*, streaming on Netflix.

character created by YA novelist Nancy Spring, who just added a seventh title to her book series that started in 2007. Keep them coming!

Anna: I love that the film takes on an actual historical event and one that is such a keystone story in the women's rights movement. Enola is a wonderful character to use in introducing young people to these stories. Brown has been flying high since her hit role as Eleven in *Stranger Things*, and she isn't putting her talent to waste as she takes on more roles and complex characters.

Enola shows us what a brave and bold woman can look like—even in olden times and with obstacles thrown her way left and right. I will be recommending this film to my siblings and friends who have young daughters. This is a great character to look up to. ○

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

TV Reviews

WELCOME TO WREXHAM

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

In this documentary TV series, funny famous dudes Ryan Reynolds and Rob McElhenney chronicle their ambitious undertaking when they buy a Welsh football team that needs a whole lot of help to rise to its former glory. From the twinkle of an idea to resodding the pitch, each episode blends slice-of-life moments from the team and from the town and townspeople of Wrexham, along with the duo's many hurdles when it comes to procuring the team and winning over the fiercely loyal fan base.

Whether they're working the players or replacing a manager—there seems to be no easy road for Reynolds and McElhenney. The two manage to keep their senses of humor throughout the process though, and everyone surrounding the Wrexham team—from players to townsfolk—are all incredibly endearing. This docuseries will make you fall in love with a little town you may have never known existed if it wasn't for this show.

If you're a fan of these two actors and love an underdog story, Season 1 of *Welcome to Wrexham* is sure to delight you.

PHOTO COURTESY OF BOARDWALK PICTURES



SPORTS MOGULS: Hollywood luminaries Rob McElhenney (left) and Ryan Reynolds join forces to buy a down-on-its-luck Welsh football team to try to turn it around, in the FX docuseries *Welcome to Wrexham*, screening on Hulu.

I might not be a big sports fan or follower, but this team has gained a fan in me! (18 approximately 28-min. episodes)

—Anna

BINGEABLE

YELLOWJACKETS

What's it rated? **TV-MA**
 When? **2021-present**
 Where's it showing? **Showtime**

I'm a little late to this party, but we just figured out that for a few dollars more a month we could add Showtime to our Paramount subscription. I'd heard the buzz about this show, and now I know it's true: This is an engaging, well-written, and superbly acted and directed thriller that has me hungry for the second season, coming next year.

Created by the writing team of Ashley Lyle and Bart Nickerson (*The Originals*, *Narcos*, *Dispatched from Elsewhere*), the series follows a talented New Jersey high school girls' soccer team in 1996 as they fly to Seattle for a national tournament. Somewhere over Canada, the plane crashes, leaving the team stranded deep in the wilderness. The series cuts between the girls in the woods trying to survive the Canadian wilds, and the few ultimate survivors in 2021 trying to go about their lives amid prurient interest in their survival story, which they've kept to themselves for more than 20 years.

Some dark, *Lord of the Flies*-level things happened to these women in those woods, things that perhaps border on the supernatural,

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SECRET KEEPERS: (Left to right) Plane crash survivors Misty (Christina Ricci), Natalie (Juliette Lewis), Taissa (Tawny Cypress), and Shauna (Melanie Lynskey) struggle to keep their lives together decades after the tragedy that killed their high school soccer teammates, in *Yellowjackets*, streaming on Showtime.

events that hardened and scarred the survivors in twisted ways. Their sense of morality has been compromised, and yet we empathize with them and can't look away. (11 approximately one-hour episodes) ○

—Glen

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MOVE OVER, UBER: The Santa Maria Wine Trolley is a classy weekend transportation service that loops around wine tasting areas throughout the Santa Maria Valley.



ON AND OFF: Santa Maria Wine Trolley riders are free to hop on and hop off the trolley at any of the program's five stops, scattered across the Santa Maria Valley, as the weekend service loops around each stop several times between 10:30 a.m. and about 6 p.m.

Anything from the trolley, dears?

For more info on the Santa Maria Wine Trolley, visit santamariavalley.com. Tickets to ride the trolley are available online in advance, or at several locations in Santa Maria, including the Santa Maria Valley Chamber of Commerce, located at 614 S. Broadway, Santa Maria. This year's season of the trolley service will conclude on Sunday, Nov. 27.

All aboard!

Santa Maria Wine Trolley offers extended wine tasting transportation through Thanksgiving weekend

BY CALEB WISEBLOOD

This year marked the return of the Santa Maria Wine Trolley, after the attraction's two-year pause due to the pandemic. The trolley resumed transportation services to local tasting rooms in May, and a recent boost in ticket sales inspired the program's organizers to extend this season's end date—originally in mid-October—to late November.

"This is our first year back, and we were super excited to launch it," said Taz Dougherty, tourism coordinator for the Santa Maria Valley Chamber of Commerce. "As the trolley season went on, there was just more hype about it. ... Towards the end of the season, September into mid-October, we were seeing an uptick in ridership, which is great."

Dougherty has worked with the Chamber of Commerce since 2017, the same year as the Santa Maria Wine Trolley's debut season.

The unique trolley service usually starts around Memorial Day and runs through mid-October each year, Dougherty said.

One of the benefits of pushing back the trolley's run time through Thanksgiving weekend this year is that riders get to experience some fall weather as the post-summer heat dies down.

"Kind of a bonus of us extending the wine trolley season is getting to see the leaf color change, which is really, really pretty as you're going out there," Dougherty said, commenting on the scenic routes that lead up to some of the trolley's pickup and drop-off points. "It's a lot of fun. Even just the views are wonderful."

The trolley runs on Saturdays and Sundays and travels on a loop between five different stops, from 10:30 a.m. to about 6 p.m. Ticket holders are free to hop on and hop off the trolley at any stop and can stay as long as they want at each destination before the last loop of the day.

"You just have to know it's going to be an hour-long route," Dougherty said. "So, if the trolley comes back around and you're not done somewhere ... you can totally stay there another hour and wait for it to come back."

Dougherty has enjoyed riding the trolley himself a couple of times over the years. One of his personal favorite destinations on the route this season is Old Town Orcutt, where a handful of tasting opportunities are located.

"You get a little bit of everything out of it. Even aside from wine, you have all the restaurants," said Dougherty, who added that Old Town Orcutt is usually

where riders roam around to check out the various tasting rooms, eateries, and shops sprawled across Clark Avenue, and wait a while before hopping back on the trolley.

The trolley stops twice in Old Town Orcutt, once near the front of town and again a few blocks later at Steller's Cellar, located at 400 E. Clark Ave.

Although it doesn't matter which stop ticket holders decide to start their journey at, the first pickup point on the trolley's loop is Costa de Oro Winery, located at 1331 Nicholson Ave., Santa Maria.

The next stop is Amplify Wines Tasting Lounge and Winery, located at 2320 Thompson Way, suite F, Santa Maria. After Amplify, the trolley makes two stops in Old Orcutt before taking riders to Cottonwood Canyon Vineyard and Winery, located at 3940 Dominion Road, Santa Maria.

During the remaining weeks of the season, the trolley will operate on Saturdays and Sundays, except during the week of Thanksgiving, Dougherty clarified, when the program will run on Friday as well.

"We are going to run Friday for Black Friday," Dougherty said. "Lots of wineries do some fun things for Black Friday and that Thanksgiving weekend, so we figure we'll have one last kind of full weekend hurrah." ○

Arts Editor Caleb Wiseblood usually eats fries on Fridays. Send wine and fries to cwiseblood@santamariasun.com.



SIPS AND SIGHTS: Taz Dougherty, tourism coordinator for the Santa Maria Valley Chamber of Commerce, described the scenic, sight-seeing aspect of the Santa Maria Wine Trolley as an experience in itself.



TROLLEY TASTINGS: Cottonwood Canyon Vineyard and Winery on Dominion Road is one of the featured destinations patrons can stop at during the Santa Maria Wine trolley's hourly route.

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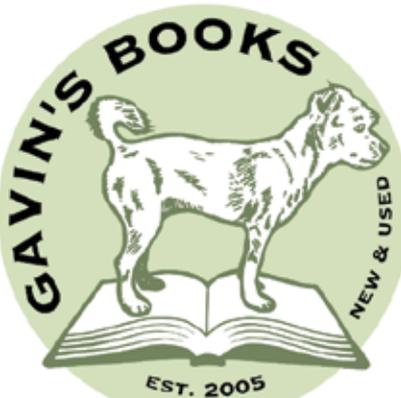


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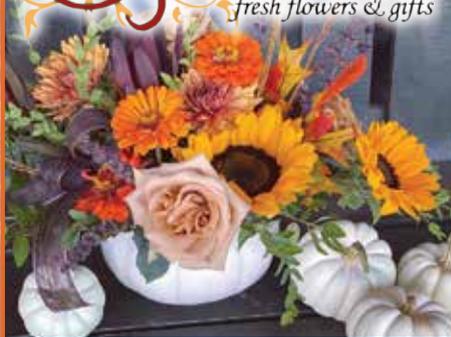
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