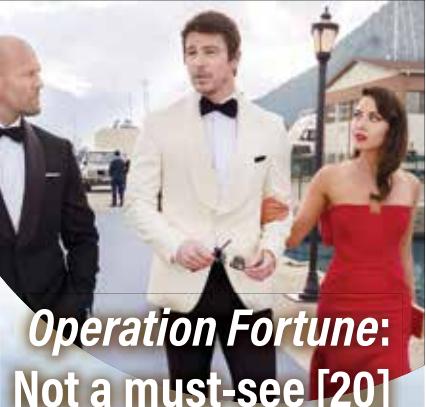


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Sun



The cost of disaster

Los Padres Forest Service assesses the damage caused by January storms and when it can fix and reopen roads, trails, and campgrounds [6]

BY TAYLOR O'CONNOR

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The \$65 million judgement against Greka/HVI [4]

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COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTERS OF THE CENTRAL COAST

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MARCH 9 - MARCH 16, 2023 VOL. 24 NO. 2

os Padres National Forest Service estimates that it will cost approximately \$100 million to repair the damage from January's storms. Four out of the national forest's five ranger districts are still closed, as are some roads that residents need to access their homes and businesses. Staff Writer Taylor O'Connor speaks with a local resident, the Los Padres National Forest, and the Los Padres Forest Association about the impact of January's storms, the national forest closure, and what it will take to repair damaged roads, trails, and campgrounds [6].

You can also read about why a judge is ordering HVI Cat Canyon to pay state and federal governments \$65 million [4]; tips and tricks from an LA-based photographer [18]; and what nonprofit is raising money by offering up a St. Patrick's Day-themed feast [21].

Camillia Lanham
editor



REPAIRS: The Los Padres Forest Association's maintenance crew has been assessing damage to front and backcountry trails in the national forest since the storms in January, including the Upper Cold Springs trail.

Cover photo courtesy of Los Padres Forest Association > Cover design by Alex Zuniga

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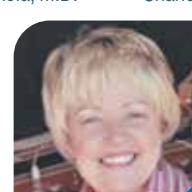
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POLITICAL WATCH

• **Disaster Loan Outreach Centers** opened at the Solvang Superior Court offices and at the Orcutt Union School District office to help meet the ongoing needs of businesses and community members impacted by the January storms, according to the Santa Barbara County Office of Emergency Management. The **U.S. Small Business Administration** (SBA) established the centers to provide disaster loan assistance, and **Federal Emergency Management Agency** (FEMA) individual assistance representatives will be available as well. SBA encourages businesses of all sizes, nonprofit organizations, homeowners, and renters to visit the loan center for one-on-one assistance with SBA customer service representatives, who will answer questions about the disaster loan program and assist in completing their loan applications. The loans available are low interest, with rates during the initial deferment period at 0 percent for 12 months from the date of initial payment. Homeowners can apply for up to \$200,000 to replace or repair their primary residence, and renters may borrow up to \$40,000 to replace or repair personal property damaged by the storms. Qualified businesses and most private nonprofit organizations can get physical disaster loans of up to \$2 million, which may be used to replace or repair property, machinery, equipment, fixtures, inventory, and leasehold improvements.

• U.S. Sen. **Alex Padilla** (D-California) joined several of his colleagues to introduce the Richard L. Trumka Protecting the Right to Organize (PRO) Act of 2023, a comprehensive proposal to protect workers' rights to come together and bargain for higher wages, better benefits, and safer workplaces, according to a March 1 statement from the senator's office. "Every worker deserves access to the protections offered by unions, which help level the playing field and fight corporate greed," Padilla said in a statement. "Unions help workers achieve improved working conditions, living wages, and broader benefits. I am committed to ensuring Congress does its part to protect workers and make it easier for them to bargain for fair compensation for their work—that starts with passing the PRO Act." The **Bureau of Labor Statistics** reports that nonunion workers earn just 85 percent of what unionized workers earn. Public support for labor unions is also surging—approval of labor unions is at its highest point since 1965, with 71 percent of Americans now supporting unions, according to a 2022 Gallup poll. Despite growing support for unions, union membership has fallen to a new low of 10.1 percent in 2022. Padilla said that the PRO Act would restore fairness to the economy by strengthening the federal laws that protect workers' rights to join a union and bargain for higher pay, better benefits, and safer workplaces.

• Gov. **Gavin Newsom** visited the **Diablo Canyon Power Plant** to tour its facilities and highlight how this source of carbon-free electricity will support energy reliability during California's clean energy transition, according to a March 2 statement from the governor's office. On Feb. 28, the **California Energy Commission** approved a staff analysis recommending the state pursue extending Diablo's operations through 2030 to ensure electric grid reliability, and on March 2 the **U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission** announced that the Diablo Canyon Power Plant may continue operating beyond its current license expiration dates while the federal agency considers its license renewal application. "As we experienced during the record heat wave last September, climate change-driven extreme events are causing unprecedented stress on our power grid—the Diablo Canyon Power Plant is important to support energy reliability as we accelerate progress toward achieving our clean energy and climate goals," Newsom said in the statement. "I look forward to our continued work with the Biden-Harris administration and the Legislature to build a reliable and resilient clean electric system." ◉



GROSS NEGLIGENCE: HVI Cat Canyon Inc. was ordered by a federal court to pay \$65 million in environmental damages and violations of federal and state laws, closing a lawsuit filed in 2011.

Federal court orders HVI Cat Canyon oil company to pay \$65 million

In the 15 to 20 years that HVI Cat Canyon operated in Santa Barbara County, Errin Briggs saw one issue after another but never saw any improvements to the oil company's operational behavior.

As the Santa Barbara County Planning Department's supervising planner overseeing oil and gas permits and leases, he and his staff would interact with HVI Cat Canyon Inc., formerly known as Greka Oil Company, on a regular basis.

"There was never any corrective action to their approach," Briggs said. "It was always, 'use stuff until it breaks and deal with the consequences once it does.' We just had constant issues with them."

A federal judge recently ordered HVI to face more consequences by paying the United States and the state of California \$65 million in penalties for violating federal regulations, cleanup costs, and natural resource damage, concluding a civil lawsuit filed against the company in 2011.

"Based on the totality of the circumstances, the spills evinced a pattern of reckless disregard for good oilfield industry practices and a series of negligent acts or omissions by HVI concerning oil spill prevention, and pipeline and facility inspection and maintenance," the 65-page ruling stated.

Although the case focused on 12 spills (between 2005 and 2010) that were found in violation of the Clean Water Act, court findings show that 181 spills were reported to the California Office of Emergency Services from 2006 to 2018, when the trial started—with flowline leaks cited as causing the largest number of spills and tank level alarm failures as causing the second highest, according to the ruling.

"HVI's history of spills provided clear notice to HVI of systemic and recurring deficiencies in its spill prevention measures," the ruling stated. "Yet, HVI failed to correct its deficiencies or to prevent them in the first place."

The U.S. Justice Department, the Environmental Protection Agency, the California Water Quality Control Board, and the California Department of Fish and Wildlife filed the suit together. In a Justice Department press release, the agencies said that this decision holds HVI accountable for failing to meet environmental obligations, but county Supervising Planner Briggs said he'd hesitate to

call this a victory.

HVI filed for bankruptcy in July 2019 after the state ordered the company, which owed international investment bank UBS AG more than \$114 million, to pay more than \$12 million in fines, according to previous *Sun* reporting. Briggs said he doesn't know where the company will come up with money to pay the judgement.

"I'd be shocked if this \$65 million is paid by Greka [HVI]. The dollar amount makes for a nice headline, but I don't think anybody out there who was affected by them will see any money," Briggs said. "This company used Santa Barbara County and went bankrupt and walked away. It's actually a major bummer."

When the company declared bankruptcy, it left behind more than 500 unplugged oil wells and all the physical infrastructure of the oil operation in Cat Canyon, leaving the area like a "ghost town," he said.

"The land is still impacted, but lucky for us the state is going to come in and clean a lot of that up," Briggs said.

California allocated about \$200 million in the 2022-23 budget dedicated to plug wells and decommission facilities in the state, according to a state Budget and Policy post. About \$25 million of that is coming to Santa Barbara County to plug more 200 wells, Briggs said, noting that work hasn't begun quite yet, but the state recently hired a contractor to oversee the work.

"A ray of hope or a 'small v' victory is [that] Greka no longer operates oil and gas in this county. That's a victory," Briggs said.

Attorneys representing HVI according to online court records could not be reached for comment by the *Sun*'s deadline.

—Taylor O'Connor

Solvang City Council denies Pride banner, crosswalk proposal

A local nonprofit's request to repaint crosswalks at two intersections in Solvang with a temporary rainbow pattern during Pride Month recently divided city officials.

The application—submitted by The Rainbow House Inc.—also included a request to install Pride-themed streetlight banners in town during June. It was denied with a 3-2 vote during the Solvang City Council's Feb. 27 meeting.

Rainbow House Executive Director Matthew Cavalli said the nonprofit was taken aback by what happened at the meeting.

"We did not think it was going to be denied,

nor did we expect any sort of public comment like that," Cavalli told the *Sun*. "We came unprepared."

He described comments from some of the attendees as "shocking" and "jarring," adding that the organization plans to draft a new application with revisions to the crosswalk design—as some safety concerns regarding how horses would react to the proposed pattern were called into question.

Cavalli's husband and Rainbow House co-founder, Kiel Cavalli, spoke briefly about the proposal at the start of the public comment and was immediately followed by Jessie Condit Bengoa, a local brand marketing executive and commercial property owner.

"My Danish family has resided in this valley since 1936. ... My young children are sixth generation residents of Solvang. We've served this town for 90 years," Bengoa said. "I am not here in any capacity whatsoever to judge or to admonish the LGBTQ-plus community. With that said, our town has a culture, we have a heritage, and we have a brand that's unique and it's differentiating. We're a charming, welcoming, beautiful Danish American community."

"It's the first rule of branding to know who you are and to unwaveringly stick to it," Bengoa continued. "You don't confuse, you don't divide, you don't alienate visitors or potential visitors by suddenly waging a woke campaign—and I think that word is appropriate here, a woke campaign—that is not inclusive, it's divisive."

"This isn't about gay or straight, this is about a public campaign that would push this ideology in front of our already established and welcoming brand of the city of Solvang," Bengoa added. "If you want this city to carry forward with a strong brand in the future, stay true to who and what we are."

As Bengoa left the podium, a round of applause erupted from attendees.

"Please hold your applause," Mayor Mark Infanti said. "If you can't hold your applause, I will clear the audience."

Santa Ynez Valley resident David Silva addressed Bengoa's remarks later during public comment, while speaking in support of the banner and crosswalk proposal.

"Your Danish heritage is rooted in a country that has led the way in LGBTQ rights, that is Danish heritage—legalizing gay marriage faster than most of the world," Silva said. "If we're going to say that we need to honor our Danish heritage, don't pick and choose what Danish

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NEWS from page 4

heritage you want to celebrate, because they've been leading the way, and we're asking you to keep up with them."

Silva also criticized the notion that Solvang is already established as a welcoming and accepting community, which Bengoa suggested and some other speakers echoed during the meeting.

"I've been called a fag in this community in the last two years more than I can count, and it's uncomfortable to be told that homophobia doesn't exist in this area," Silva added.

After public comment, Infant said that he's never seen "the prejudice that seems to be being expressed."

"This city is pretty much accepting of all people, in my opinion, in my experience around this town," Infant said.

Before seconding Councilmember David Brown's motion to deny the banner and crosswalk proposal, Councilmember Robert Clarke said he was offended by comments that "disparage anything about this damn town."

"I've been here 17 years. This is the friendliest, goddamned town I've ever been in, and people here are welcoming, they're warm, they embrace everybody," said Clarke, who added that although he opposes the proposal, he supports and previously voted in favor of the SYV Pride Parade and Festival—scheduled for June 24 this year.

"I voted for the parade. Of course I'm a redneck Republican and I took a lot of heat for that. But they followed the rules and did a good job, and it was a nice event," Clarke said. "But banners for a whole month? I don't get that, that to me is political."

"I'm going to get called a bigot tomorrow. I've been called a bigot before, I don't care," Clarke added, shortly before the proposal was denied in a 3-2 vote, with Councilmembers Claudia Orona and Elizabeth Orona dissenting.

—Caleb Wiseblood

Pipeline proposal raises concerns about resuming oil operations

After six hours of debate, the Santa Barbara County Planning Commission decided it needed more information before making a decision on a plan to update the Plains All American Pipeline that caused the Refugio oil spill in 2015.

Plains Pipeline L.P. proposed installing 16 new safety valves along the existing pipeline system that hasn't operated since the spill, which released 123,000 gallons of crude oil. The pipe runs from the Gaviota Coast to the Los Padres National Forest in Santa Barbara County, Planner Katie Nall told the Planning Commission during its March 1 meeting.

The company said it proposed this project in order to comply with California Assembly Bill 864, which mandates oil operators to install the best available technology on existing pipelines in the coastal zone, according to county staff's presentation. Some public commenters, however, felt that approving the project would be a step toward restarting oil operations at the Santa Ynez Unit, which ExxonMobil recently sold.

"The existing pipeline system is unsafe to operate due to the way it is constructed and Plain's failure to maintain it," Sierra Club Santa Barbara-Ventura Chapter Chair Katie Davis said in a public comment letter. "At the criminal sentencing hearing after Plains was convicted for criminal negligence, the prosecutor tried to prohibit Plains from restarting or even threatening to restart this pipeline."

She requested the board grant the appeal, as Exxon doesn't need shutoff valves if the pipeline isn't in operation and it should be

decommissioned instead.

Staff approved the valve proposal in August 2022, according to the staff report. The Gaviota Coast Conservancy, the Tautrim family, the Gaviota Coast Conservancy, and Greyfox LLC appealed that decision in September due to restart concerns. Appellants requested further environmental review for the project since the 2015 oil spill occurred and pipeline conditions have changed since the pipeline's original environmental review from 1985, said Ana Citrin, an attorney representing the Gaviota Coast Conservancy.

"The pipeline that was evaluated in the 1985 environmental impact report was described as having a fully functioning liner system to protect against external corrosion," Citrin said during public comment on March 1. "Since the Refugio oil spill, the liner system is ineffective and the liner is causing external corrosion."

Without updating the entire pipeline, there is still risk of crude oil spills within "environmentally and culturally sensitive areas," she said.

Plains argued that the question of whether operations would resume wasn't the issue in front of commissioners. Attorney Brian Carlin—who said he represented Pacific Pipeline Company, which purchased the pipeline in October 2022—told commissioners that Plains was only looking to stay in compliance with AB 864, and for the pipeline to be considered an active line and not decommissioned.

"Denying appeals for installation is a vote for compliance of AB 864, [which] by no means authorizes the restart of these pipelines," Carlin said.

If the company wanted to resume operations, it would require further analysis and a restart plan to lay out all the steps and parties involved, he said, adding that installing new safety valves doesn't trigger additional environmental review.

"We believe we would be out of compliance if we didn't do anything. This is about compliance," Carlin said. "The pipelines are holding pressure, [but] this is not a vote for restart."

The proposal follows the county's denial of ExxonMobil's proposal to truck crude oil along Highways 101 and 166 from its the Santa Ynez Unit's Las Flores Canyon processing facility to the Santa Maria Pump Station or to the Plains Pentland Terminal in Kern County. Exxon recently sold the Santa Ynez Unit's offshore and onshore operations to Sable Offshore Corporation for \$643 million—with the goal of restarting operations by 2024 outlined in a presentation Sable gave to investors.

Staff proposed to deny the appeal, but the commissioners were divided between denying the appeal and investigating the issue further. Fifth District Commissioner Vincent Martinez said he saw the matter before them as the installation of the valves only.

"From looking at AB 864, it directly originated from the spill in 2015 ... to lessen the risk of oil spills. This is our legislative body acting on this provision," Martinez said. "Addressing this pipeline as a whole beyond the valves being addressed here today [is] a whole different animal."

For 1st District Commissioner Michael Cooney, it was important to consider this project from all sides and look at the bigger picture of future oil pumping along the coast.

"We would be doing a disservice to our constituents who have appreciated our coastline to not deal further with these issues that have been raised," Cooney said. "The valve project is an end run of starting up another pipeline on the Gaviota Coast."

The item was continued to the April 26 meeting, where staff will return with options for further environmental review. ☈

—Taylor O'Connor

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Washed out

The U.S. Forest Service works with several nonprofit organizations to repair Los Padres National Forest trails and roads after significant storm damages

BY TAYLOR O'CONNOR

A "tidal wave" of water ripped through Colson Canyon Road, wiping it out entirely after the area received 10 inches of rain in one day during the January storms that drenched Santa Barbara County, Paul Antolini said.

"There's 30-feet sheer walls where the road used to be," Antolini said. "It's going to take quite a bit of time and quite a bit of expenses [to repair it], but for me that represents my access."

Antolini owns and operates G. Antolini and Son, a stone quarry mining operation that's been selling wholesale stones to building material dealers since 1953. The Jan. 9 storms shut his business down "right then and there," he said.

"As a small-business person, the thing that keeps me up at night is I hope I can stay solvent. With no income coming in, it's tough, to be honest," Antolini said.

Colson Canyon Road lies within the Los Padres National Forest, just east of Santa Maria, and is within U.S. Forest Service jurisdiction, leaving the agency responsible for the road's repairs. Although the federal agency made significant progress, with most residents in the lower parts of the canyon able to access their homes, Antolini's mining operation is farther up the canyon, and he can only access his business by foot.

"There's no way I can get in, there's no way I can bring product out or, for that matter, bring fuel into my equipment. It makes for a challenging situation," he said. "Damage is great all over the forest and I know [the Forest Service] has a lot on their plate, but from my personal situation, I'm trying to stay solvent business-wise, and my employees would like to have their livelihoods back."

Two months after that storm, Antolini's business is still shut down and the road is still inaccessible. His two employees had to seek disaster-related unemployment benefits, and he has had to cut back on his own expenses in order to stay afloat, Antolini said.

"The sooner that road can get put back for me the better," he said. "If I could start shipping products again that would make a huge difference."

Colson Canyon Road is one of many that Los Padres National Forest is working to reopen in California's third largest forest, which experienced more than \$100 million in damages to roads, trails, campgrounds, and more during the January storms. Currently, the forest is working with nonprofits to assess that damage, search and apply for funding sources, and conduct trail and road

maintenance. It will take years before the forest returns to the state it was in before the storm, and the cost of damages is much higher than the forest's annual budget.

After the January storms, the Los Padres issued a 60-day shutdown order for four of its five ranger districts, cutting off the public's access. Now, the service is looking at putting in place a new closure order listing specific trails, roads, and campgrounds that need to remain closed due to the extent of the damage, Los Padres National Forest Spokesperson Andrew Madsen said.

"Damage includes everything from the road no longer [being] there to roads with giant craters in them—debris, rockslides, branches," Madsen said. "In those cases the road has not been undermined in some way, ... we'll be able to reopen those."

Updated closure details were not available for release before the Sun's deadline, but Madsen said that Colson Canyon Road was "completely obliterated" and would take about two years to repair and cost about \$10 million.

"The impacts from the storm are well outside our budgetary allotment," Madsen said. "In our budget, those are all discretionary [funds]. When we get it we know where it's going to go—\$100 million in overall damage, that's four to five years of our regular budget money."

"Normally a downed tree is a big deal, a normal survey of 10 downed trees was a big deal," he said.

"Now, we're dealing with mudslide sections where there used to be a ramp that led into a creek crossing and now it's a 6-foot drop."

Trail maintenance teams and volunteers flagged significant trail damage every 50 yards on average, with one crew in the Santa Ynez

President Joe Biden's federal emergency disaster declaration will help free up funds, with the bulk of the Forest Service's funding stream coming from the Federal Highways Administration's Emergency Relief for Federally Owned Roads to repair forest roadways, Madsen said.

"Those monies will trickle down eventually once the designation has been made, and once it's been determined they can flow," he said. "We do obviously work with the county and the state, but the funding sources are all separate."

Trails are a whole different matter, Madsen said. Those are maintained by some Forest Service staff and many nonprofits, like the Los Padres Forest Association (LPFA), which can apply for grant funding and take trail crews out to do maintenance.

LPFA's Executive Director Bryan Conant said that he and his trail teams got involved with storm recovery shortly after the flooding and have assessed more than 206 miles of trails in Santa Barbara, Ventura, and parts of San Luis Obispo counties for any obstructions to trails, like fallen trees, chaparral overgrowth, or debris. Crews usually take photos of the damage, flag the GPS coordinates to send back to the Forest Service, and mark the trails with little plastic flags or stacks of rocks (cairns) to help future hikers find the adjusted path.

"It's going to take a while, but this isn't something that hasn't happened before, and most of us are familiar with these legendary years of giant rains," Conant said. "Trees will grow back, dirt will return, and trails will return on the dirt again."

Valley area reporting 700 photos of trail damage, Conant said.

"As far as the trails go, there's a few trails in the frontcountry where it's outside of our paygrade. The Forest Service has professional trail folks on their team that are surveying these trails and cost analysis for what it takes to fix those trails. We're relying on them for expertise and funding," he said. "Most of the backcountry is about getting in there with as many people as you can, just swinging tools, taking it one creek crossing at a time, and chipping away."

The storm's impact forced the association to revise its whole work program from updating some of the forest's backcountry trails to try and get the more popular trails back in shape and work out from there, he said.

"We're having to start over again," Conant said. "We've been working really hard over the last five to 10 years to get these trails in shape, and we have to start over again. We're kind of going backwards, but it's OK. It's what you have to do."

When the forest reopens, recreators should expect trails in rougher conditions with more obstacles and will find it more difficult to locate the trails, he said. Hikers should plan accordingly and know they are going to be moving slower than their normal pace.

"It's going to take a while, but this isn't something that hasn't happened before, and most of us are familiar with these legendary years of giant rains," Conant said. "Trees will grow back, dirt will return, and trails will return on the dirt again."

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

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STORM DAMAGE: The January storms that swept through Santa Barbara County caused severe damage in the Los Padres National Forest, and maintenance teams are working to recover several trails, including the Upper Manzana Creek Trail.

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News

SPOTLIGHT

PHOTO COURTESY OF TRI-COUNTY REGIONAL ENERGY NETWORK

Clean and cost effective

Central Coast energy agencies offer incentives to electrify home and heating systems

BY TAYLOR O'CONNOR

Recent extreme natural gas prices had a huge impact on Central Coast residents, with SoCalGas' rates tripling from \$1.05 per therm in December 2022 to \$3.45 in January 2023.

Three energy agencies are offering opportunities to switch to cleaner, more sustainable sources for heating.

The Tri-County Regional Energy Network (3C-REN), Central Coast Community Energy, and TECH Clean California are offering incentives (which can be combined) for people to upgrade their natural gas furnace or water heaters to all-electric heat pumps, 3C-REN Program Manager April Price said.

"The California grid, by and large, is becoming much [cleaner] in its energy sources. It makes sense to transition our sources to electricity," Price said.

All-electric heat pumps are about three times more efficient than their natural gas counterparts, they reduce a resident's carbon emissions, and increase safety by removing natural gas combustion from the home, she said.

"I think a lot of Central Coast residents have heating systems and are considering whether or not they want air conditioning in their home[s]. [By] putting a heat pump system in your home, you are getting two in one," Price said. "It's a cost-effective way to make your home more comfortable. From a greenhouse gas emissions standpoint, it's a great step to reducing your emissions while keeping your home comfortable."

While most people will still need natural gas for kitchen appliances and water heaters, they would still be using less natural gas every day by relying on electricity to heat their homes, she said. Although people's electric usage will increase, companies are offering special rates for customers when they make the change to account for the increased usage.

"The thing to stress is because it's so much more efficient, my understanding is people aren't seeing the linear increase in their electricity bills that they would have otherwise expected," she said.

Furnace replacement costs can range between \$12,000 to \$25,000, depending on the project and the type of furnace; however, with a 30 percent federal tax credit (capped at \$2,000) and the combined local incentives, customers can expect \$6,000 to \$14,000 off the total cost of a heat pump project, Price said.

"In some cases, you're looking at half off, and in some cases you're looking at the coverage of the entire project," she said.

The discounts offered through the 3C-REN incentive are around \$3,000, but there's variation depending on the type of equipment a homeowner replaces, Price said. There are also opportunities to access higher savings if



HEATING EFFICIENTLY: In order to help more people switch from natural gas to all-electric heating systems in their homes, the Tri-County Regional Energy Network (3C-REN), Central Coast Community Energy, and TECH Clean California are offering incentives to help bring down replacement costs.

residents are of lower income status, if they use Pacific Gas and Electric's low-income rates, or if English is not the primary language spoken at home.

Central Coast Community Energy offers a program called Electrify Your Home that brings costs down by \$3,500, and TECH customers can access its Clean California heat pump water heater incentives that bring the cost down by \$3,100.

"The gist here is that all of these incentives can, for some people, result in a very low-cost or sometimes even a free pump, and if you are a customer that needs to replace your furnace or gas heater, it's a unique time in accessing this much more efficient technology," Price said.

Highlight

• The Santa Maria Recreation and Parks Department invites community members to sign up for the new Adult Pickleball League held at the Hagerman Sports Complex Courts, 3300 Skyway Drive, which begins on April 3. The recreational league invites novice and experienced players ages 18 and up. The season includes 10 matches, plus playoffs. Doubles divisions are available for men's, women's, and mixed teams. A free agents list is also available for individuals who don't have a doubles partner or are new to the area. The registration fee is \$81 for a city resident team or \$106 for a non-city resident team. League play takes place Monday through Wednesday starting at 5:30 p.m. Participants can register online at cityofsantamaria.org/register, or in person at the Recreation and Parks Department administrative office, 615 South McClelland St. Register by March 16. Call the Recreation and Parks Department at (805) 925-0951, Ext. 2260, for more info. ○

Promote!

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



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

DEATH NOTICES

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

ANDERSON, ANTOINETTE MARIE, 91, of Atascadero passed away 2/25/2023 arrangements with Chapel of the Roses

ATWOOD, JUDITH KAY, 80, of Arroyo Grande passed away 2/22/2023 arrangements with Marshall-Spoo Sunset Funeral Chapel

BEZERRA, FREDERICK J., 81, of Santa Maria passed away 3/01/2023 arrangements with Dudley-Hoffman Mortuary, Crematory & Memory Gardens

BUCKHOLZ, DOLORES, 94, of Los Osos passed away 2/25/2023 arrangements with Blue Sky Cremation Service

CARDECIA, DOREEN FERN WOLFE, 84, of Santa Maria passed away 2/20/2023 arrangements with Dudley-Hoffman Mortuary, Crematory & Memory Gardens

CHAIT, EDGARDO, 66, of Santa Maria passed away 3/01/2023 arrangements with Magner-Malone Funeral Home & Crematory

COSCA, CARMEN Y., 79, of Santa Maria passed away 2/24/2023 arrangements with Dudley-Hoffman Mortuary, Crematory & Memory Gardens

DEASER, DYLAN VALENTINE, 27, of Grover Beach passed away 2/17/2023 arrangements with Chapel of the Roses

DESMOND, SHIRLEY ANN, 90, of Arroyo Grande, passed away 2/26/2023 arrangements with Marshall-Spoo Sunset Funeral Chapel

DIAZ, MICHAEL L., 58, of Santa Maria passed away 2/16/2023 arrangements with Magner-Malone Funeral Home & Crematory

FURUKAWA, TETSUO, 95, of Santa Maria passed away 2/20/2023 arrangements with Dudley-Hoffman Mortuary, Crematory & Memory Gardens

GUERRA, REYNALDA, 90, of Santa Maria passed away 2/25/2023 arrangements with Dudley-Hoffman Mortuary, Crematory & Memory Gardens

HAAKE, JOAN CLAIRE, 89, of Orcutt passed away 2/28/2023 arrangements with Dudley-Hoffman Mortuary, Crematory & Memory Gardens

HOLLUM, PATRICIA LOUISE, 80, of Santa Maria passed away 2/18/2023 arrangements with Dudley-Hoffman Mortuary, Crematory & Memory Gardens

KERSEY, CARMEN PATRICIA, 92, of Paso Robles passed away 2/05/2023 arrangements with Chapel of the Roses

LEINE, PATRICIA MAE, 91, of Santa Maria passed away 2/26/2023 arrangements with Magner-Malone Funeral Home & Crematory

LOGUERCIO, MARILYN, 89, of Santa Maria passed away 2/18/2023 arrangements with Dudley-Hoffman Mortuary, Crematory & Memory Gardens

LOPEZ, JUDITH CAROLINE, 82, of Santa Maria passed away 2/25/2023 arrangements with Dudley-Hoffman Mortuary, Crematory & Memory Gardens

LOPEZ, AGNES, 94, of Santa Maria passed away 2/28/2023 arrangements with Dudley-Hoffman Mortuary, Crematory & Memory Gardens

MACK, RANDELL LEWIS, 76, of Atascadero passed away 2/18/2023 arrangements with Chapel of the Roses

MCENTIRE, JAMES PAUL, 76, of Atascadero passed away 2/18/2023 arrangements with Chapel of the Roses

MCMILLAN, CHRISTOPHER SEAN, 50, of Santa Maria passed away 2/19/2023 arrangements with Dudley-Hoffman Mortuary, Crematory & Memory Gardens

MEDEIROS, NANCY, 79, of Paso Robles passed away 2/27/2023 arrangements with Blue Sky Cremation Service

MOORE, WILLIAM HERBERT JR., 90, of Paso Robles passed away 2/25/2023 arrangements with Chapel of the Roses

NORTON, MARY, 59, of Templeton passed away 2/26/2023 arrangements with Blue Sky Cremation Service

OSTINI, SALLY CAROL, 67, of Santa Maria passed away 2/25/2023 arrangements with Dudley-Hoffman Mortuary, Crematory & Memory Gardens

PEEK, HOWARD ALAN, 72, of San Luis Obispo passed away 1/05/2023 arrangements with Reis Family Mortuary

PETERSEN, EDWARD DAVID, 78, of Atascadero passed away 2/14/2023 arrangements with Chapel of the Roses

RICHARDSON, RONALD, 67, of Paso Robles passed away 1/31/2023 arrangements with Chapel of the Roses

ROCHESTER, PHILLIP, 72, of Santa Maria passed away 2/27/2023 arrangements with Dudley-Hoffman Mortuary, Crematory & Memory Gardens

SANFORD, ROBERT EMORY, 92, of Atascadero passed away 2/20/2023 arrangements with Chapel of the Roses

SECOR, BARRY K., 94, of Santa Maria passed away 2/28/2023 arrangements with Magner-Malone Funeral Home & Crematory

SILVERIA, SUSAN "SUSIE", 72, of Santa Maria passed away 2/28/2023 arrangements with Magner-Malone Funeral Home & Crematory

SINGH, PAUL KARM, 66, of Santa Maria passed away 2/23/2023 arrangements with Magner-Malone Funeral Home & Crematory

STATOM, LEE, 97, of Arroyo Grande passed away 2/18/2023 arrangements with Marshall-Spoo Sunset Funeral Chapel

SULLIVAN, RILEY HANS, 21, of Creston passed away 1/29/2023 arrangements with Chapel of the Roses

TESTERMAN, CLARISS, 100, of Paso Robles, passed away 2/27/2023 arrangements with Blue Sky Cremation Service

WEEKS, BETTY A., 93, of Santa Maria passed away 3/02/2023 arrangements with Dudley-Hoffman Mortuary, Crematory & Memory Gardens

WOMACK, MARLY EMILY, 93, of Nipomo passed away 2/23/2023 arrangements with Dudley-Hoffman Mortuary, Crematory & Memory Gardens

WOOD, SUSAN VERONIKA, 73, of Santa Maria passed away 2/24/2023 arrangements with Magner-Malone Funeral Home & Crematory



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ONLINE POLL

Would you sign up for any of the relief plans for natural gas bills?

- 50% Yes, the California Climate Credit would help me a lot.
 42% No, these \$50 to \$100 relief plans are hardly cost-effective.
 8% When are we going all-electric?
 0% Someone else pays my gas bills.

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Quality of life

Lompoc community members have ongoing concerns about 'code enforcement' and owners' responsibilities

BY RON FINK

What is the purpose of a "code enforcement program"? In cities, the legislative body adopts policies and regulations designed to "protect the public," and the public should be held accountable for compliance. Sometimes these policies can be open to interpretation, thus making enforcement a challenge.

For example, the Lompoc Municipal Code says, "Excessive, unnecessary, or annoying noise can jeopardize the health and welfare of the citizens and degrade the quality of life." The problem is that "excessive, unnecessary, or annoying noise" is very subjective, and one person's noise is another person's music.

Another section states, "It is a public nuisance for a person owning, leasing, occupying, managing, or having the charge of any premises to maintain such premises in a manner resulting in the following conditions: A danger to public safety and welfare."

The city provides a more objective definition of "danger to public safety" on the Code Compliance, Neighborhood Preservation page of the city website. It states, "Weeds and grass in excess of 1 foot in height constitute an unsightly appearance, is dangerous to public safety and welfare, and is likely to harbor rats and other vermin."

In areas that are managed by homeowner associations (HOAs), rules are developed by the owners of the property in the development. These areas are frequently well maintained and have both the cooperation of the occupants, and in some cases strong enforcement action by the HOA mitigates poorly maintained units.

There has been an ongoing

public concern in Lompoc about "code enforcement" in areas that are not managed by HOAs. Some feel that the city needs a major cleanup and more proactive enforcement of existing ordinances; others feel they have a right to keep piles of junk on their property and never maintain the vegetation in their yards.

To add to this problem, there are many absentee landowners of both commercial and residential properties, some abandoned homes, and owners who just don't care how their commercial properties are maintained.

It seems that 'pride of ownership' is a thing of the past; some feel they have a right to pile old cars, erect makeshift shelters in front of their homes, park several vehicles in the front yard, and let the vegetation overtake the property.

Recently the Lompoc City Council conducted a public hearing concerning a report by the city attorney that, "The city had received complaints from the city's solid waste collector of the difficulty in driving through the alley of 1128 North A St. (property) due to the overhanging tree on the property. The complaints stretched back several months. The city notified the property owner, advised of the violations and necessary corrective actions. Several months later, the same complaints were received from the solid waste collector."

I am very familiar with this property; it is located across the street from an elementary school on a busy street, and almost two decades ago I filed a complaint with the city concerning the same conditions in the front yard of this property. The city cleaned up the property and placed an assessment on it to recover the costs if the property was sold.

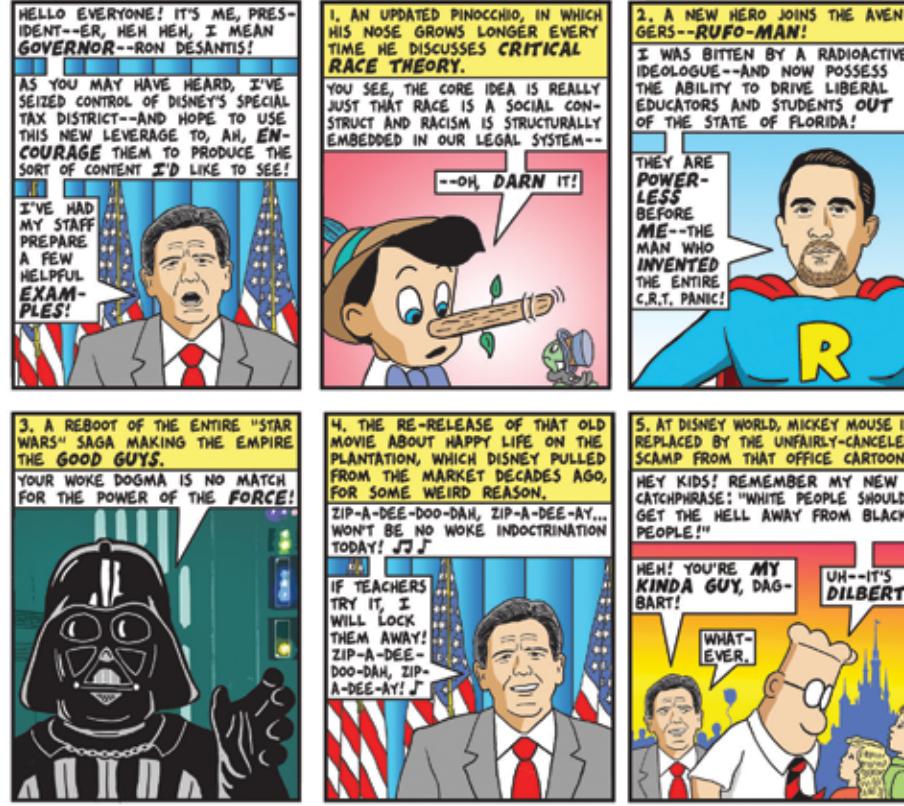
It was then and still is an abandoned single-family residence, and apparently the owners have no interest in either maintaining or selling

Speak up!

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THIS MODERN WORLD



by TOM TOMORROW

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the property to someone who would renovate it.

As I travel around our city, I have noticed many other residential and commercial properties that appear to violate one or more municipal code provisions, such as vegetation, including dry grass, dead shrubs, dead trees, and overgrown grass or weeds; operating a business from their home that includes delivery of materials or the storage of commercial vehicles; and parking numerous vehicles in what was once the landscaping of their front yard.

Each of these properties impacts the quality of life for their neighbors and has an adverse impact on the value of neighboring properties.

Some create serious fire hazards in that should a fire occur, it would rapidly grow and threaten neighboring properties. Others create health hazards due to rodent and insect infestation that spread to adjoining properties.

The current enforcement action on the North A Street property began in October last year; now four months later, after failing to receive a response from the property owner, the city had to get an abatement order from the court, commit more than \$5,000 of general fund resources to clean up the property, and now will wait several years to recover the money if the property is sold. The latest action was in addition to previous cleanup actions over the last 20 years.

It seems that "pride of ownership" is a thing of the past; some feel they have a right to pile old cars, erect makeshift shelters in front of their homes, park several vehicles in the front yard, and let the vegetation overtake the property; others have pride in the upkeep of their homes and businesses. ☺

Ron Fink writes to the Sun from Lompoc. Send a letter for publication to letters@santamariasun.com.

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LETTERS

'Who's zooming who?'

I never understood the exact meaning of that Aretha Franklin song title, but the lyrics imply a lack of trust.

I just finished reading an investor newsletter explaining why some of my investments are not living up to my expectations. I have holdings in some natural gas companies, expecting a cold winter would boost demand. *Au contraire mon frère*. Warmer winter, said they. My response: "Didn't we just have a couple of arctic cyclones clobber the Midwest?" Their assumed counter: "Who are you going to believe, me or your lying eyes?"

Bottom line: January nat gas prices fell, while my gas bill doubled. Talk about getting it from both ends at the same time.

Is the Public Utilities Commission on top of this? I doubt they would respond to a common consumer. Wish I had a press badge. Hello! Anyone looking into this? [Are we] without an active press, our last line of consumer protection, because I'm sure our resident congressman is busy carbon stamping bills to put up windmills for the delusional greenies instead of protecting price gouging by utilities.

So tell me, anyone, who's zooming who?

Jan Lipski
Vandenberg Village

Bad actors

California's No. 1 inland oil polluter—aka Greka Oil & Gas, aka HVI Cat Canyon, aka owned by Randee Grewal—is now on the hook for \$65 million for more than 12 oil spills between 2005 and 2010.

Oil spills, as in plural, as in multiple spills taking place over and over and over again on the property HVI operated on in Cat Canyon. According to court documents, 181 spills were reported to the California Office of Emergency Services between 2006 and 2018. So way more than what's included in the 2011 lawsuit that the U.S. Justice Department, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, California Water Quality Control Board, and the California Department of Fish and Wildlife filed against HVI.

A judge recently ruled that the company pay the state and federal agencies a combined \$65 million for violating federal regulations, cleanup costs, and natural resource damage.

Santa Barbara County Planning Department Energy, Minerals, and Compliance Division Supervising Planner Errin Briggs thinks there's a fat chance that anyone's going to see a dime from HVI.

"This company used Santa Barbara County and went bankrupt and walked away. It's actually a major bummer," Briggs said.

It's a total bummer. Briggs said the county had constant issues with HVI/Greka, which were never corrected. HVI filed for bankruptcy in 2019 after the state hit the company with \$12 million in fines for its operating practices.

Then, the company just abandoned its leaky, half-broken infrastructure to continue rotting away in Cat Canyon. Now, the state is working to plug more than 200 of the 500 oil wells the company walked away from. Good thing Grewal and his family of Greka engineering and energy companies are operating in other countries—**China and India**—with much less stringent regulations than California. It took us more than 10 years to even get a judgement against a company that everyone knew was a bad actor. Just imagine what's happening elsewhere.

Speaking of a bad actor, what's up with Solvang?

Once again, the city seems to be leaning on its Danish heritage to do things that make me scratch my little birdy brain. In February, the **Solvang City Council** denied an application from **The Rainbow House Inc.** to put **Pride** banners up for Pride Month—with **Councilmember Robert Clarke** calling the request "political" and proving my point that he shouldn't have been appointed to serve on the council after losing an election.

"This is the friendliest goddamned town I've ever been in," Clarke said, just sweeping away the comments residents made about being called names for being gay. "Banners for a whole month? I don't get that."

It's for Pride month, so I get that you don't understand it. And the comments other residents made at the meeting just point to how badly Solvang needs a wake-up call. Brand marketing executive, commercial property owner, and stalwart Danish-American **Jessie Condit Bengoa** is a stunning example.

"You don't alienate visitors by suddenly waging a woke campaign," she said. "This isn't about gay or straight, this is about a public campaign that would push this ideology in front of our already established and welcoming brand of the city of Solvang."

I'm confused. Are all of the Danish buildings suddenly going to disappear if the city puts Pride Month banners up? It sounds like it's absolutely about "gay or straight."

*The Canary is astonished but not surprised.
Respond to canary@santamariasun.com.*



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This week's online poll 3/9-3/116

What did you think about the Planning Commission's decision on the Plains Pipeline valve proposal?

- They should have allowed the new valves to be added to the existing pipeline.
- Commissioners should have granted the appeals and denied the project.
- They did a great job with their decision; it was fair to all sides.
- I don't care about the Planning Commission's decision.

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COMEDY OF MANNERS

The Pacific Conservatory Theatre's (PCPA) production of *Emma* debuted in early March and is scheduled to run through Sunday, March 19, at the Marian Theatre in Santa Maria. The show's cast includes George Walker, Emily Trask, Jordan Stidham, Julia Mae Abrams (pictured, from left to right, respectively). To find out more about the show or purchase tickets, call the PCPA box office at (805) 922-8313 or visit pcpa.org. The Marian Theatre is located at 800 S. College Drive, Santa Maria.

—Caleb Wiseblood

ARTS

SANTA MARIA VALLEY/LOS ALAMOS

ALMOST MAINE Some residents of Almost, Maine find themselves falling in and out of love in unexpected and hilarious ways. **March 10-26** my805tix.com, Santa Maria Civic Theatre, 1660 N. McClelland St., Santa Maria.

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COOKIES AND CHAPTERS BOOK CLUB Free copies of the book will be provided on a first come, first served basis. The book for March is *The Night Diary* by Veera Hiranandani. For ages 9 to 14. **March 18**, 11 a.m. 805-925-0994. engagedpatrons.org. Santa Maria Public Library (Altrusa Theater), 421 S. McClelland St., Santa Maria.

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

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MUSIC LESSONS AT COELHO ACADEMY Learn to play piano, drums, guitar, base,

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

SPRING READING PROGRAM IN-N-OUT COVER TO COVER The popular In-N-Out Reading Program returns. Sign up at any SMPL location, track books, read, and receive rewards for every five books completed. Final date to redeem is April 29, while supplies last. For ages 4-12. Sponsored and provided by In-N-Out. Through April 15 805-925-0994. engagedpatrons.org. Santa Maria Public Library (Altrusa Theater), 421 S. McClelland St., Santa Maria.

TEEN ANIME CLUB Teens who are interested in anime or manga; come to Anime Club. Hang out with other fans, eat Japanese snacks, and do fun activities. New members are always welcome.

March 17, 4:30 p.m. 805-925-0994. engagedpatrons.org. Shepard Hall Art Gallery - Santa Maria Public Library, 421 South McClelland St., Santa Maria.

TEEN ART TIME Teens, create artwork, learn about artists, and experiment with new media in an inspiring environment with other teen artists. All skillsets are welcome. **March 9**, 4 p.m. 805-925-0994. engagedpatrons.org. Santa Maria Public Library (Altrusa Theater), 421 S. McClelland St., Santa Maria.

TEEN MANGA PACK: ALL LOCATIONS Pick up a pack to learn about the history of manga, supplies to create your own, and a manga to keep. Program funded in part or whole by California State Library. **March 11** 805-925-0994. engagedpatrons.org. Santa Maria Public Library, 421 S. McClelland St., Santa Maria.

UKULELE LESSONS For individuals 50 years and up, at no charge. Participants

will learn to play chords, melodies, and familiar songs. Five baritone ukuleles are available to borrow, or class members may bring one of their own. Mondays, Wednesdays, 10:30-11:30 a.m. Elwin Mussell Senior Center, 510 Park Ave., Santa Maria.

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

WINE AND DESIGN CLASSES Check Wine and Design's Orcutt website for the complete list of classes, for various ages. ongoing [Varies.wineanddesign.com/orcutt](http://varies.wineanddesign.com/orcutt). Wine and Design, 3420 Orcutt Road, suite 105, Orcutt.

YOUTH SEW MUCH FUN CLUB Youth will learn to sew, and practice sewing skills at the library. Learn the basics of a machine and sewing by hand, or practice skills with the club. Materials will be provided. Youth are welcome to bring fabric from home. **March 15**, 4 p.m. 805-925-0994. engagedpatrons.org. Santa Maria Public Library, 421 S. McClelland St., Santa Maria.

BECAUSE WE PAINT: DUO EXHIBITION Garrett and Ginny Speirs, an artist couple, will be showing their oil paintings in Gallery Los Olivos in March. Garrett's work will feature distant water and landscape scenes from California, Italy, and Croatia. Ginny's work shows the close-up details of local plant life. Mondays-Sundays, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. through March 31 805-688-7517. GalleryLosOlivos.com. Gallery Los Olivos, 2920 Grand Ave., Los Olivos.

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

LEARN CALIFORNIA'S OFFICIAL DANCE: WEST COAST SWING Learn to dance west coast swing in a casual, friendly environment. No partner needed. Taught by Gina Sigman. Thursdays, 6:30-8:15 p.m. Beginning class is free; \$10 for advanced. 805-344-1630. High Roller Tiki Lounge, 433 Alisal Road, Solvang.

PAINT AND SIP IN THE VINEYARD Art Social 805 is coming out to host a fun paint and sip event at the Grenache Blanc vineyard. Sip delicious wine and whisk your paintbrush across the canvas while guided by a hosting artist. **March 12**, 1-3 p.m. \$50. 805-688-9339.zacamaesa.com/upcoming-events/. Zaca Mesa Winery, 6905 Foxen Canyon Road, Los Olivos.

Lompoc/Vandenberg

LIVE STAND-UP COMEDY Hosted by local comic Justin Bourronville. This show will feature professional touring comedians Scott Cavanaugh, Margaux Hamilton, Max Kestenbaum, and Courtney Ciocco. For ages 18 and over. **March 18**, 8 p.m. \$15. my805tix.com. Flower City Ballroom, 110 W. Ocean Ave., Lompoc.

SUNBURST ART SERIES: SILK SCARF PAINTING Create hand-painted, one-of-a-kind, wearable art. No experience is necessary. Come and get creative with paint and silk. Presented by Jana Brody, creator of PaintJamUSA. For ages 12 to adult. Space is limited. \$55 donation includes all supplies and instruction. **March 12**, 1-2:30 p.m. 805-736-6528. sunburst.org. Sunburst Retreat Center, 7200 CA-1, Lompoc.

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COURTESY PHOTO BY LUIS ESCOBAR REFLECTIONS PHOTOGRAPHY STUDIO

SOUTH COAST SLO COUNTY

ABSTRACT ART EXHIBIT BY STEVE ANDREWS

Steve Andrews' "Wow Factor" works are on display at The Arroyo Grande Library. 10 percent of all sales help the Central Coast Parkinson Association continue their valuable work in the community's fight against Parkinson's Disease. Through March 25 Arroyo Grande Library, 800 W. Branch, Arroyo Grande, 473-7164, slolibrary.org.

EMBROIDERERS GUILD OF AMERICA

The Bishop's Peak Chapter of the Embroiderer's Guild of America invites you to attend its monthly meeting. For more information, follow on Facebook or visit the EGA website. Third Saturday of every month, 10 a.m.-2 p.m. through Nov. 18. Free. Grover Beach Community Center, 1230 Trouville Ave., Grover Beach, 805-773-4832.

MIXED MEDIA (ADULTS)

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

PLAY, EXPLORE, CREATE (AGES 5-7)

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

SAN LUIS OBISPO

ART CENTRAL'S SIXTH ANNUAL "YART SALE"

Come and browse through gently used art supplies, generously donated by local artists. All proceeds go towards creating scholarships for graduating local high school students continuing their art studies in college. In partnership with MBAA. Cash only. **March 13-18**, 10 a.m.-6 p.m. 805-747-4200.artcentralsls.com/.

Blog: Art Central, 1329 Monterey St., San Luis Obispo.

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

ARTS continued page 14

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

SUBMIT YOUR EVENTS



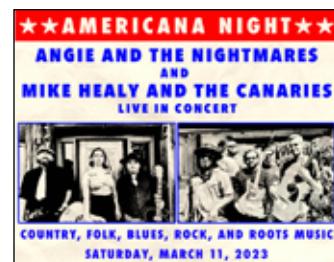
AT HER TABLE: Celebrating Women Owned Food & Beverage Businesses
MON-SUN, MARCH 6-12
Multiple venues across SLO County



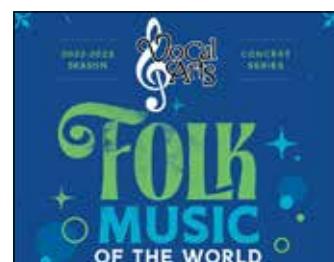
Be Hoppy Tours: Sip of SLO Brewery/Cidery Tours
THURSDAYS & SUNDAYS THRU JUNE 29
Begins/ends at CC Brewing, SLO



Almost, Maine
FRI, SAT, SUN, MARCH 10-26
Santa Maria Civic Theatre,
Santa Maria



**Angie & The Nightmares and
Mike Healy & The Canaries**
SATURDAY, MARCH 11
Flower City Ballroom, Lompoc



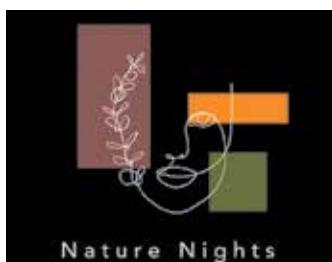
**Vocal Arts Ensemble:
Folk Music of the World**
Trilogy at Monarch, Nipomo: MARCH 16
Cuesta CPAC, SLO: MARCH 19



SLOFunny Comedy Show
2023 Season Pass to Monthly Shows
10 SHOWS: MARCH 25-DEC 30
Morro Bay Veterans Hall



**Be Hoppy Tours:
Friday Hoppy Hour Tours**
FRIDAYS THRU JUNE 30
Begins/ends at CC Brewing, SLO



**Nature Nights: Immersive Outdoor
Holiday Light & Art Exhibition**
FRI, SAT, SUN THRU MARCH 19
SLO Botanical Garden



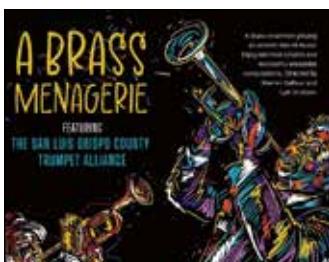
"Live at the Lighthouse"
2023 Concert Series Season Pass
8 CONCERTS: JUNE 24-OCT 14
Point San Luis Lighthouse, Avila Beach



Jacob Mann with Cuesta Jazz
FRIDAY, MARCH 10
Harold J. Miessi CPAC,
Cuesta College, SLO



It's free! Contact us for more info:
805-546-8208
info@My805Tix.com



**A Brass Menagerie with SLO
County Trumpet Alliance**
SUNDAY, MARCH 12
Harold J. Miessi CPAC, Cuesta

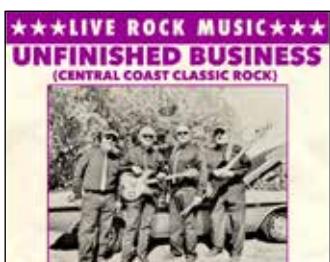


**Freak Out Friday: Psychedelic Rock
Party with DJ Daisy Van Tassel**
FRIDAY, MARCH 17
Flower City Ballroom, Lompoc

**Live Stand-Up Comedy
Hosted by Justin Bouronville**
SATURDAY, MARCH 18
Flower City Ballroom, Lompoc



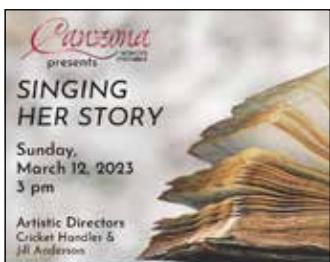
SLO Blues Baseball 10-Pack of Tickets
Good at All But 3 Home Games
32 HOME GAMES: MAY 26-JULY 29
Sinsheimer Park, SLO



Unfinished Business
(Central Coast Classic Rock)
FRIDAY, MARCH 10
Flower City Ballroom, Lompoc



Point San Luis Lighthouse Tours
SATURDAYS & WEDNESDAYS
Virtual Tours Available On Demand
Avila Beach



**Canzona Women's Ensemble:
Singing Her Story**
SUNDAY, MARCH 12
United Methodist Church, SLO



Yoga/Kayak to the Lighthouse
SUNDAY, MARCH 19
Point San Luis Lighthouse,
Avila Beach



**SLO County Jazz Federation:
Young Jazz Scholarship Concert**
SUNDAY, MARCH 19
Mt. Carmel Lutheran Church, SLO



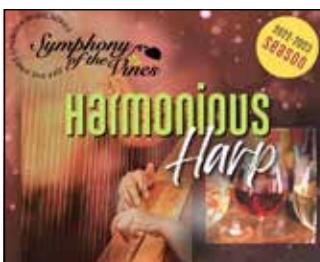
**Shakti: Embodying the Goddess
for Empowered Life Change**
THURSDAYS, MARCH 9 & 23
9th Limb Yoga, Morro Bay



**By the Sea Productions:
The Psychic**
FRI, SAT, SUN, MARCH 10, 11, 12
545 Shasta Ave, Morro Bay



**Be Hoppy Tours:
Crafty Women Tastings & Tour**
SATURDAY, MARCH 11
Begins/ends at The Hub, SLO



**Symphony of the Vines:
Harmonious Harp**
SUNDAY, MARCH 12
Cass Winery, Paso Robles

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Saturday March 18 2023

31st Annual Allan Hancock College

KIWANIS INTERNATIONAL

Girls game 5 p.m.

Boys game 7 p.m.

CENTRAL COAST ALL STAR

BASKETBALL SPECTACULAR

High School Senior All-Stars

Northern Santa Barbara County vs. San Luis Obispo County

Sponsored by Kiwanis Club of Santa Maria Valley "Nighttime"

For more information: (805) 264-1523

Scan for livestream of games

Admission \$8 adult \$4 child/student

Hot Stuff**ARTS** from page 12

BEACON ART SHOW A juried show held annually. The community is invited to enter up to five pieces of art. The show's opening night will be March 3. This year's theme is Artistic Spectrum. Fridays-Sundays, through April 2 Free. 805-544-4608. San Luis Obispo United Methodist Church, 1515 Fredericks Street, San Luis Obispo.

A CONVERSATION WITH RAIN PRYOR: INTERSECTING IDENTITIES Rain Pryor, comedian, actress and activist, explores racism and her bi-racial and bi-cultural identity with insight and humor. This event is a part of the SLO Jewish Film and Learning Festival. **March 11**, 7-9 p.m. \$25. slojff.com. Palm Theatre, 817 Palm St, San Luis Obispo.

CRITICAL ENCOUNTERS Beginning with monoprints and photography from the 1980s, this exhibition follows the lineage of Nixon Borah's practice towards his recent digital composites. Through April 3, 11 a.m.-5 p.m. Free. 805-543-8562. sloma.org/exhibits/current/. San Luis Obispo Museum of Art, 1010 Broad St, San Luis Obispo.

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

INTRO TO OIL PAINTING WITH SPENCER COLLINS The perfect class for those wanting to try oil painting for the first time. Discuss color theory, layering paint, and how to use various media. Each student will create a dynamic landscape using a reference image provided by the teacher. Thursdays, 10:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m. through March 30 \$35 per class. 559-250-3081. 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.

LIZ MARUSKA'S ART: ENJOYING BIG SUR Maruska's spellbinding impressions of this iconic seashore in a euphoric and inspiring display of art rendered in a luminous palette of colors that glows with vitality. Through March. Free. 805-550-3308. SLOProvisions.com. SLO Provisions, 1255 Monterey St, San Luis Obispo.

NATURE NIGHTS An immersive exhibition for the entire family featuring Bryn Forbes' large format projections, Michael Reddell's wire sculpture, and Kody Cava's colorfully creative illumination of the garden areas. Food, wine, and beer for purchase. Fridays, Saturdays, 6-8 p.m. through March 18 \$14.75-\$24.75. 805-541-1400. slobg.org. San Luis Obispo Botanical Garden, 3450 Dairy Creek Rd, San Luis Obispo.

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

PHOTO COURTESY OF ELIZABETH TUCCIANORE

**GOT SILK?**

As part of the Sunburst Art Series, the Sunburst Retreat Center in Lompoc will hold a silk scarf painting workshop on Sunday, March 12, from 1 to 2:30 p.m. The class, open to adults and children ages 12 and up, is led by Paint Jam USA creator Jana Brody. No experience is necessary to join. Pre-registration is required, as space is limited. Visit sunburst.org for more info. The Sunburst Retreat Center is located at 7200 S. Highway 1, Lompoc.

—C.W.

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RING OF FIRE: THE MUSIC OF JOHNNY CASH From the songbook of Johnny Cash comes this unique, original musical about love and faith, struggle and success, rowdiness and redemption, and the healing power of home and family. Through March 12 storep.org. San Luis Obispo Repertory Theatre, 888 Morro St, San Luis Obispo, 805-786-2440.

SECOND SATURDAYS AT SLOMA Intergenerational learning and creative expression for children of all ages. Families are invited to SLOMA's lawn to learn about the visual arts together using our unique activity kits and create an art project inspired by our exhibitions. Second Saturday of every month, 11 a.m.-1 p.m. Free. 805-543-8562. sloma.org/events/second-saturdays/. San Luis Obispo Museum of Art, 1010 Broad St, San Luis Obispo.

SLO JEWISH FILM AND LEARNING FESTIVAL The JCC-Federation of SLO and Hillel CalPoly are coordinating to present the SLO Jewish Film and Learning Festival. With in-person screenings at The Palm and Cal Poly. **March 9-11** Varying by events. slojff.com/. Palm Theatre, 817 Palm St, San Luis Obispo.

SLO NIGHTWRITERS: A COMMUNITY OF WRITERS SLO NightWriters supports local writers with monthly presentations, critique groups, contests, and other events. Second Tuesday of every month, 6:30-8 p.m. Free. 805-703-3132. slonightwriters.org. Online, See website, San Luis Obispo.

WALT WHITMAN GAY MEN'S BOOK CLUB

This club reads, studies and discusses books chosen by the group which relate to their lives as gay men. All are welcome. Second Monday of every month, 7:30 p.m. Free. galacc.org/events/. Online, See website, San Luis Obispo.

CULTURE & LIFESTYLE**SANTA MARIA VALLEY/LOS ALAMOS**

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

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

LET'S BLOW OFF SOME STEAM Come to a special story time filled with exploration and discovery. For ages 3-5. Program funded in part or whole by California State Library. **March 10**, 11 a.m. 805-925-0994. engagedpatrons.org. Santa Maria Public Library (Altrusa Theater), 421 S. McClelland St., Santa Maria.

begins March 1. For patrons 18 and older. **March 11**, 10:30 a.m. Free. 805-925-0994. cityofsantamaria.org. Santa Maria Public Library, 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.

GROUP WALKS AND HIKES Check website for the remainder of this year's group hike dates and private hike offerings. ongoing 805-343-2455. dunescenter.org. Guadalupe-Nipomo Dunes Center, 1065 Guadalupe St., Guadalupe.

HOMEWORK HELP: SANTA MARIA PUBLIC LIBRARY Volunteer tutors are available to help with assignments and work on skills. For children in grades K-6. First come, first served; no sign-ups are required. No events scheduled between April 10 and 13. Mondays-Thursdays, through May 25 Free. 805-925-0994. engagedpatrons.org. Santa Maria Public Library, 421 S. McClelland St., Santa Maria.

LET'S BLOW OFF SOME STEAM Come to a special story time filled with exploration and discovery. For ages 3-5. Program funded in part or whole by California State Library. **March 10**, 11 a.m. 805-925-0994. engagedpatrons.org. Santa Maria Public Library (Altrusa Theater), 421 S. McClelland St., Santa Maria.

ORCUTT MINERAL SOCIETY Second Tuesday of every month Oasis Center, 420 Soares Ave., Orcutt, 805-937-9750.

CULTURE & LIFESTYLE continued page 15

**CULTURE & LIFESTYLE** from page 14

PRESCHOOL STORY TIME Story time is designed to build literacy skills and school readiness, all while having a great time. This fun story time will feature songs, fingerplays, and stories. For ages 3-6. Mondays, 10 a.m. through April 10. 805-925-0994. [engagedpatrons.org](#). Santa Maria Public Library (Altrusa Theater), 421 S. McClelland St., Santa Maria.

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

SANTA MARIA PUBLIC LIBRARY: IF/THEN GENDER EQUITY FAMILY STEAM PACKS Packs feature a fun project and highlights a female leader in their STEAM field. This project was supported in whole or in part by the If/Then Initiative, a national effort sponsored by Lyda Hill Philanthropies. **March 18** Free. 805-925-0994. [engagedpatrons.org](#). Santa Maria Public Library, 421 S. McClelland St., Santa Maria.

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

TEEN BOLT Teens, have a chance to help shape the future of your Library. Discussions during BOLT will help determine teen program themes, and BOLT members will have the opportunity to help plan and run teen programs. Light snacks will be provided. **March 10**, 4:30 p.m. 805-925-0994. [engagedpatrons.org](#). Santa Maria Public Library (Altrusa Theater), 421 S. McClelland St., Santa Maria.

TODDLER TIME High-energy learning experience just for toddlers. Toddlers learn and grow through stories, movement, and music. For ages 1-3. Tuesdays, Thursdays, 10 a.m. through April 13. 805-925-0994. [engagedpatrons.org](#). Santa Maria Public Library (Altrusa Theater), 421 S. McClelland St., Santa Maria.

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

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.

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

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF WATCH AND CLOCK COLLECTORS, CHPT. 52 Come join a friendly meeting of watch and clock collectors. Members bring watches 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. 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, [Scitesswimschool.com](#).

YOGA/KAYAK TO THE LIGHTHOUSE Paddle a kayak out to the Point San Luis Lighthouse for a one of a kind yoga session by Ashley Sagaribala, Saunter Yoga and Wellness. **March 19**, 10 a.m.-1:30 p.m. [my805tix.com](#). Point San Luis Lighthouse, 1 Lighthouse Rd., Avila Beach.

SAN LUIS OBISPO

AGILITY (PARKOUR) CLINIC In a world where the "cool" kids seem to rule, agility (aka parkour) offers a path to social confidence. No experience is necessary, so come transform from timid to triumphant and flip with flair at this Agility Clinic. For ages 5 to 17. **March 11**, 1:15-3:15 p.m. \$25; \$10 per additional sibling. 805-547-1496. [performanceathleticslso.com/events](#). Performance Athletics Gymnastics, 4484 Broad St., San Luis Obispo.

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

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

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

CHUMASH ETHNOBOTANY WITH JAN TIMBROOK Dr. Timbrook's informative, illustrated talk will provide a glimpse into the fascinating plant world of the Chumash. **March 11**, 1-2 p.m. \$15/\$5. 805-541-1400. [slobg.org](#). San Luis Obispo Botanical Garden, 3450 Dairy Creek Rd., San Luis Obispo.

DR. DAN KRIEGER TEACHES ON MISSION SLO AND EARLY CALIFORNIA HISTORY Come learn the fascinating history of Mission SLO and early California from a Cal Poly professor. Held in Youth Center, Mission SLO. Presented by Mission Docents. All are welcome. **March 18**, 9:30-11:30 a.m. Free admission. 805-234-4457. Mission San Luis Obispo de Tolosa, 751 Palm Street, San Luis Obispo, 805-781-5991.

FREE FAMILY DAY A day of the month when admission to the garden is waived all day for all guests. This month, Raise Up SLO is bringing African drumming to the garden. **March 12**, 9 a.m.-4 p.m. Free. 805-541-1400. [slobg.org](#). San Luis Obispo Botanical Garden, 3450 Dairy Creek Rd., San Luis Obispo.

THE GRIEF RECOVERY METHOD (ZOOM) Part of the Cuesta College Community Educational Series. Call or go online for more details. Tuesdays, 6 a.m.-8 p.m. through March 21 \$150 includes book. 714-273-9014. [griefrecoverymethod.com](#). Online, See website, San Luis Obispo.

HEALING DEPRESSION SUPPORT GROUP A safe place for anyone suffering from the pain of depression. We do not criticize but do share our journey, feelings, and what works for us. We can

meet in person or use Zoom if needed. Mondays, 6-7 p.m. Free. 805-528-3194. Hope House Wellness Center, 1306 Nipomo St., San Luis Obispo.

JUSTICE SUNDAY AT MOUNT CARMEL LUTHERAN CHURCH: PROJECT SWEET DREAMS Irene Kilstrom started Project Sweet Dreams 20 years ago to supply kits containing a pillow, blanket, and doll to children in foster care. Come and be inspired by one woman's dedication to making life a little better for children in difficult circumstances. Refreshments provided. **March 12**, 11 a.m.-noon. Free. 805-544-2133. [mtcarmelslo.org](#). Mount Carmel Lutheran Church, 1701 Fredericks St., San Luis Obispo.

LGBTQ+ FED THERAPIST LEAD SUPPORT GROUP (VIRTUALLY VIA ZOOM) A pro-recovery group offering space to those seeking peer support, all stages of ED recovery. We understand recovery isn't linear and judgment-free support is crucial. Share, listen, and be part of a community building up each other. Third Wednesday of every month, 7-8 p.m. Free. [galacc.org/events/](#). Online, See website, San Luis Obispo.

MINDFULNESS AND MEDITATION (ONLINE MEETING) Zoom series hosted by TMHA. Thursdays, 10:30 a.m.-noon. Transitions Mental Health Warehouse, 784 High Street, San Luis Obispo, 805-270-3346.

OPIOID/NARCAN TRAINING AND MENTAL HEALTH RESOURCE FAIR A community event addressing the mental health and opioid crisis. Resource booths by many of the county's mental health, addiction treatment, social services, private practice, and non-profit agencies. A panel of local experts discussion. Features free Narcan training and distribution. **March 18**, 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Free. 805-329-5595. [centralcoastcamft.org](#). Mission College Prep, 682 Palm St., San Luis Obispo.

PLUG-IN TO LOCAL CLIMATE ACTION Get inspired by local action, connect with others, and discover more ways to get involved with the SLO Climate Coalition. Attend virtually or in-person. Sustainable snacks and childcare will be provided. Third Thursday of every month. Through Dec. 31. [slocclimatecoalition.org/events/](#). Ludwick Community Center, 864 Santa Rosa, San Luis Obispo.

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

SALLY, THOMAS, OPRAH, AND ME: A FAMILY STORY AAUW SLO is presenting member and local resident Mary Jefferson, a descendant of President Thomas Jefferson and Sally Hemings, who will talk about an often ignored chapter of our history as well as sharing her personal journey uncovering her heritage. **March 11**, 10-11:30 a.m. San Luis Obispo Library Community Room, 995 Palm Street, San Luis Obispo, 805-781-5991.

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

SLO NOONTIME TOASTMASTERS CLUB MEETINGS Want to improve speaking and leadership skills in a supportive and positive environment? During COVID, we are meeting virtually. Contact us to get a meeting link for info. Tuesdays, 12-1 p.m. Free. [slonoontime.toastmastersclubs.org](#). Zoom, Online, Inquire for Zoom ID.

SOCIAL BRIDGE PLAYERS: FREE LESSONS Reservations required, at [BridgeSLO@gmail.com](#). Proof of vaccination required. No partner needed. **March 13**, 10 a.m.-noon. Free. [slobridge.com](#). San Luis Obispo Senior Center, 1445 Santa Rosa St., San Luis Obispo.

CULTURE & LIFESTYLE continued page 16

\$40 Gen Ad**\$80 VIP****ALL AGES
11a-5pm**

WELCOME TO THE 805 SPRING CLASSIC

SS BAND

Steppin' Out Host DJ/MC **DAPECH MODE** **Mestizo**

Saturday March 25, 2023

TICKET LOCATIONS

SANTA MARIA

Amsterdam Smoke Shop - 437 S Broadway

Dr. Sneaks805 - 1523 S Broadway. Ste D

LOMPOC

The Roots - 805 W Laurel Ave

New Era Sound - 900 N H St

Cold Coast Brewery - 118 W. Ocean Ave.

GROVER BEACH

Amsterdam Smoke Shop - 1519 W Grand Ave

PRE-REGISTRATION

10x20 Lot \$40 Grass Area \$60 Asphalt Area

20x20 Lot \$90 Barn Area

ALL MAKES ALL MODELS

CONTACT: FRESH FRANK

805 310 6292

ONLINE ACCESS CODE

REGISTRATION

CMT RANCH 5200 DOMINION RD ORCUTT, CA
LIVE MUSIC - FOOD TRUCKS - KID ZONE
WELCOMETO THE 805.COM

CULTURE & LIFESTYLE from page 15

SUCCESSFULLY GROWING TOMATOES

Learn how correct planting methods can increase success growing tomatoes. Master Gardener, Joan Cloutier, will talk about pest control, irrigation, soil management, and fertilizer. Learn how to grow healthy and productive plants and how selecting the right variety will produce a good crop. **March 16**, 6:45-8 p.m. Free. lovardenclub.org. Online, See website, San Luis Obispo.

SUNDAY EVENING RAP LGBTQ+

AA GROUP (VIRTUALLY VIA ZOOM)

Alcoholics Anonymous is a voluntary, worldwide fellowship of folks from all walks of life who together, attain and maintain sobriety. Requirement for membership is a desire to stop drinking. Email aarapgroup@gmail.com for password access. Sundays, 7-8 p.m. No fee. galacc.org/events/. Online, See website, San Luis Obispo.

TAI CHI AND QIGONG FITNESS ONLINE

Gentle but powerful physical exercises to improve balance, posture, and overall well being. Wednesdays, 8:25-10:35 a.m. through May 24 \$77. 805-549-1222. ae.slcusd.org. Online, See website, San Luis Obispo.

TAI CHI AND QIGONG ONLINE With Gary West through SLO Adult School. Held

Wednesdays, at 8:25 a.m. (TaiChi) and 9:35 a.m. (QiGong). Wednesdays, through May 25 \$77 for semester. 805-549-1222. ae.slcusd.org. 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.

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

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

NORTH COAST SLO COUNTY

SHAKTI: EMBODYING THE GODDESS

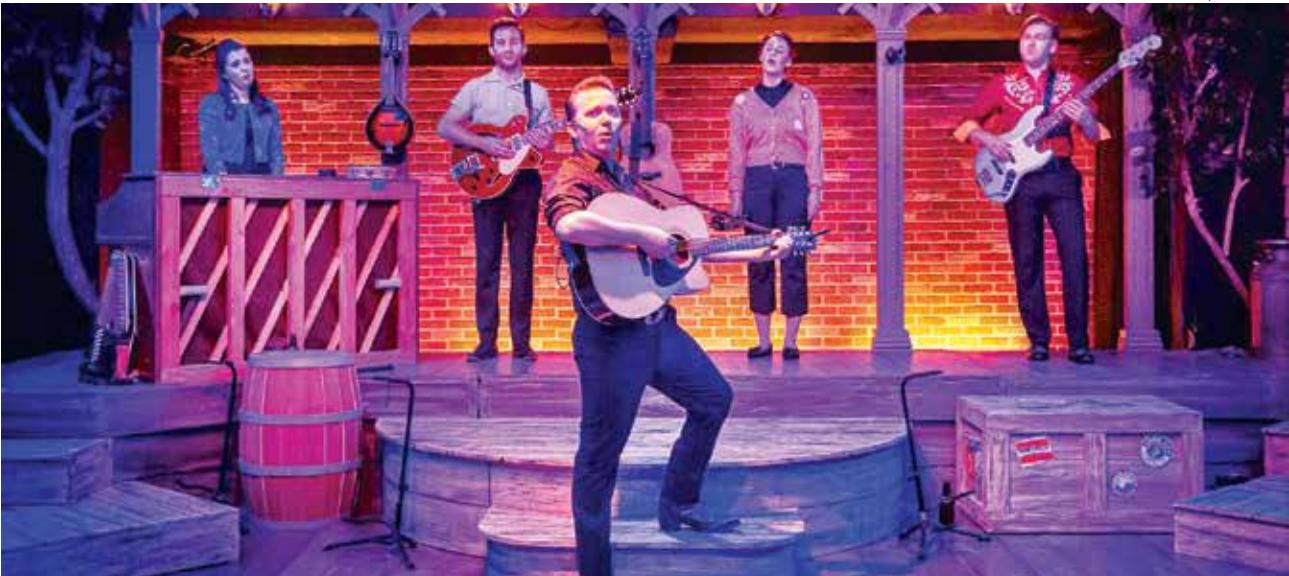
This four-class series will explore the iconography, mythology, and devotional practices of 4 goddesses: Durga, Kali, Saraswati, and Lakshmi. Guided by Dawn Feuerberg, a classical ashtanga yoga teacher and tantra meditation instructor. **March 9**, 5:15-6:45 p.m. \$44; \$148 for series. 805-540-1762. my805tix.com. 9th Limb Yoga, 845 Napa Ave., Morro Bay.

FOOD & DRINK

SANTA MARIA VALLEY/LOS ALAMOS

2023 KIWANIS CORNED BEEF AND CABBAGE Each meal includes a generous portion of lean corned beef, red potatoes, cabbage, carrots, onions, horseradish, and a freshly baked roll. **March 12**, 11:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m. Elwin Mussell Senior Center, 510 Park Ave., Santa Maria.

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



FILE COURTESY PHOTO BY RYLO MEDIA DESIGN, RYAN C. LOYD

CASH ME IF YOU CAN

The San Luis Obispo Repertory Theatre presents its production of *Ring of Fire*, a theatrical tribute to Johnny Cash, through Sunday, March 12. The show's remaining performances will be held Thursday through Saturday, at 7 p.m. each evening, and at 2 p.m. on Saturday and Sunday. For tickets and more info, visit slorep.org. The San Luis Obispo Repertory Theatre is located at 888 Morro St., San Luis Obispo.

—C.W.

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.

PRESQUE'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. ongoingpresquilewine.com/club/. Presque'ile Winery, 5391 Presque'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 ALAMOS

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/VANDENBERG

HEAD GAMES TRIVIA AND TACO TUESDAYS CLASH

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

SOUTH COAST SLO COUNTY

BLUE MOON OVER EPOCH

One wine, one dish, and one great opportunity to experience the Rhône style terroir of the Central Coast. Blue Moon Over Avila, owned by Nanci Bell, has partnered with Epoch Winery's award-winning winemaker, Jordan Fiorentini, to present an evening to collaborate as women in the industry. **March 11**, 5-8 p.m. \$60. atherable.com. Blue Moon Over Avila, 460 Front St., Avila Beach, 805-595-2583.

AN EXPLORATION OF VERMOUTH

Experience the world of vermouth like never before at The Haven in Arroyo Grande. Attendees will be greeted with signature vermouth cocktail and light bites. **March 12**, 3-5 p.m. \$60. exploretrock.com. The Spoon Trade, 295 West Grand Ave., Gower Beach, (805) 904-6773.

FISH FRY The St. Patrick's Italian Catholic Federation (ICF) is offering a seasonal fish and chips and coleslaw dinner in the parish hall. Dine in or take out. Fridays, 4-7 p.m. through March 10 \$10-\$20. St. Patrick's Church, 501 Fair Oaks Ave., Arroyo Grande, stpatssag.org.

SUNSET DINNER AND WINE PAIRING

Features a five-course plated dinner with wine pairings by local, women-owned Arianna Wines. **March 10**, 4:30-6:30 p.m. \$65. eventbrite.com. Sunsets at Pismo, 1 Pier Plaza, Pismo Beach, 805-858-8220.

SAN LUIS OBISPO

BOOZY HIGH TEA PARTY

Saints Barrel Wine Bar is hosting a boozy tea party featuring Secret Garden Herb Shop Teas, Bramble Pie Company, and Breda SLO's gourmet chocolates. **March 12**, 12-2 & 2-4 p.m. \$75. eventbrite.com. Saints Barrel Wine Bar, 1021 Higuera St., San Luis Obispo, 805-439-1929.

TACO TUESDAY

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

SANTA YNEZ VALLEY

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.

DOWNTOWN SLO FARMERS MARKET

Thursdays, 6-9 p.m. Downtown SLO, Multiple locations, San Luis Obispo.

FEAST OF FLAVORS

Enjoy a multi-course plated dinner by Shekamoo Grill, featuring Middle Eastern cuisine and wine pairing at Saucelito Canyon. **March 12**, 5:30 p.m. \$70. eventbrite.com. Saucelito Canyon Tasting Room, 3080 Biddle Ranch Rd., San Luis Obispo, 805-543-2111.

HEAD GAMES TRIVIA NIGHT

Live multi-media trivia every Wednesday. Free to play. Win prizes. Teams up to six players. Wednesdays, 6:30-8:30 p.m. Free. headgamenstrivia.com. Antigua Brewing, 1009 Monterey St., San Luis Obispo, 805-242-1167.

MEZCAL TASTING

Part of AtHerTable Women's Week. Discover four different mezcals. Pre-registration via e-mail required. Maximum capacity is 15 attendees. **March 9**, 6 p.m. \$40 (doesn't include tax or gratuity). drinkramblingspirits.com. Rambling Spirits, 3845 S. Higuera St. (inside SLO Public Market), San Luis Obispo.

MEZCAL TASTING EXPERIENCE

Join Ariette of Rambling Spirits in discovering four different mezcals from the Rambling Spirits Workshop private collection, and talk about the process. For up to 15 guests only. **March 9**, 6-8 p.m. \$40. eventbrite.com. Rambling Spirits, 3845 S. Higuera St., suite 114, San Luis Obispo.

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

NORTH SLO COUNTY

AT HER TABLE STREET FESTIVAL

Support local, women-owned food and beverage companies at a street festival in downtown Atascadero. Food and drinks will be available for purchase by individual vendors, and can be enjoyed with live music. **March 12**, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Free entry. atherable.com. Downtown Atascadero, Entrada Ave., Atascadero.

MOTHERS FOR PEACE BARBECUE

FUNDRAISER Join for good food, including vegetarian/vegan options, a silent auction featuring works from local artists, and updates on Fukushima and the current legal efforts to foil Diablo Canyon's license extension. **March 11**, 11 a.m.-2 p.m. \$25. 805-602-8342. Community Church of Atascadero, 5850 Rosario Ave., Atascadero, atascaderoucc.org.

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.

KEEPING IT GREEN DANCE

The Santa Maria Valley Senior Citizens Club presents "Keeping it Green", a dance with Riptide Big Band, vocalists, Bob Nations and Mitch Latting. Free thanks to grant funding by Community Foundation of San Luis Obispo County. **March 12**, 1:30-4 p.m. Free. 775-813-5186. riptidebb.com. Elwin Mussell Senior Center, 510 Park Ave., Santa Maria.

MUSIC AT ROSCOE'S KITCHEN

Live DJ and karaoke every Friday and Saturday night. Featured acts include Soul Fahy Band, DJ Nasty, DJ Iovas, and more. Fridays, Saturdays, 9 p.m.-2 a.m. Roscoe's Kitchen, 229 Town Center E, Santa Maria, 805-623-8866.

MUSIC AT THE LIBRARY: HILARY CLARK, CELLO AND LYNN GARRETT,

PIANO Hilary Clark, principal cellist of the Santa Maria Philharmonic, will be joined by pianist Lynne Garrett, in a performance of some of their favorite works; music by Schubert, Prokofiev, Faure, Debussy, and Lukas Foss. **March 11**, 3-4 p.m. Free. 805-925-0412. smphilharmonic.org/events-concerts/.

Santa Barbara Humane- Santa Maria Training Center, 1517 Stowell Center Plaza, Suite B, Santa Maria.

SANTA YNEZ VALLEY

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

SOUTH COAST SLO COUNTY

FOLK MUSIC OF THE WORLD

Performed by the internationally acclaimed Vocal Arts Ensemble, a 34 member adult choir. Features music from France, Japan, and the Ukraine, as well as American folk music. **March 12**, 3 p.m. my805tix.com. San Luis Obispo United Methodist Church, 1515 Fredericks Street, San Luis Obispo, 805-242-6065.

SLO CIDER THIRD ANNIVERSARY PARTY With a pizza pop-up, prizes, live music, and more. **March 11**, 12-9 p.m. Free show. 805-721-6878. classicentrentainmentslo.com. SLO Cider, 3419 Roberto Ct., Suite C, San Luis Obispo.

OPEN MIC NIGHT IN THE TASTING ROOM Kelsey Rae hosts this open mic event for music and comedy in the tasting room. Second Thursday of every month, 7-9 p.m. Free show. 805-721-6878. SLO Cider, 3419 Roberto Ct., Suite C, San Luis Obispo.

SINGING HER STORY Canzona Women's Ensemble presents this afternoon concert of heartfelt storytelling and song. Musical selections are inspired by the various heritages of Canzona's singers, highlighting diverse repertoire from a wide range of ethnic cultures. **March 12**, 3 p.m. my805tix.com. San Luis Obispo United Methodist Church, 1515 Fredericks Street, San Luis Obispo, 805-242-6065.

SUNDAY MUSIC AT RAGTAG WINE CO. Enjoy live music by local favorites. Wine available by the flight, glass, or bottle. Sundays, 4-7 p.m. Ragtag Wine Co., 779 Higuera St., San Luis Obispo, 805-439-0774. ragtagwineco.com.

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ZEPPIRELLA: LED ZEPPELIN TRIBUTE Vocalist Anna Kristina, guitarist Gretchen Menn, bassist Holly West, and drummer Clementine have brought their passion for the sacred music of one of the greatest bands in rock history. **March 16** \$20. slobrew.com. SLO Brew Rock, 855 Aerovista Pl., San Luis Obispo, 805-543-1843.

CLARK CENTER
FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS
2022-2023 SEASON
487 Fair Oaks Ave
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**COMEDIAN LINE-UP
ANNOUNCED!**

 Best of
The San Francisco
Stand-up Comedy
Competition

Sat, April 1 at 7:30pm

Featuring:
Brooke Heinchen
& Ta'Vi



Hosted by:
Sammy Obied

Sponsored by
Pismo Beach
Veterinary Clinic

Headliner:
Joe Zimmerman



St. Patrick's Day in Ireland
March 11 at 7:30pm

The sound of fiddles, uilleann pipes, bodhrán, guitar, flutes, song and dancing feet will transport you and your family to the Emerald Isle. A night of "rip-roaring music, song and dance...the epitome of family entertainment, togetherness and Irish life." (Irish News)

Produced by Kerry Irish Productions



Saturday, March 25 at 7:30pm

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WFC 150
APRIL 21 | FRIDAY | 6:30PM



WFC 151
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ARTS BRIEFS

Ann Foxworthy Gallery's newly featured artists combine digital and traditional art

PHOTO COURTESY OF THE ANN FOXWORTHY GALLERY



A collection of artworks created by members of Digital Arts Group SLO are currently on display at Ann Foxworthy Gallery in Santa Maria, as part of the venue's latest group exhibition—PIXELS, Portals, and Paradigms.

An artist reception for the exhibit will be held on Thursday, March 9, from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m., while the show is scheduled to remain on display at the gallery through Thursday, March 16. Featured digital artworks in the program include sculptures based on interpreted sound waves, experimental video, installation art, "and other innovative combinations of traditional and digital mediums," according to press materials.

Digital Arts Group SLO is described as a collective of more than 50 artists who reside throughout the Central Coast, Los Angeles, and San Francisco.

"These artists are interested in sharing ideas and processes, and creating art in the digital media realm," Laura-Susan Thomas, gallery director at the Ann Foxworthy Gallery, said in press materials. "They are exploring and pushing the boundaries of how digital media can be used as an art form."

To find out more about PIXELS, Portals, and Paradigms, call (805) 922-6966, Ext. 3465, or visit hancockcollege.edu/gallery. The Ann Foxworthy Gallery is located inside the Academic Resource Center, building L, on Allan Hancock College's Santa Maria Campus, at 800 S. College Drive, Santa Maria.

The gallery's regular hours, open for public viewing, are Monday through Wednesday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., and every Thursday from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. To request a viewing of PIXELS, Portals, and Paradigms outside the venue's standard operating hours, reach out to Thomas by email, laura.thomas@hancockcollege.edu.

Sideways author Rex Pickett holds book signing in Paso Robles

IMAGE COURTESY OF WINDWARD VINEYARD



Tickets are available in advance for an upcoming book signing event with author Rex Pickett at Windward Vineyard in Paso Robles, scheduled to be held on Saturday, April 15, from 2 to 5 p.m. Pickett will be signing copies of *Sideways*, the popular novel that explores Northern Santa Barbara County's wine country and spawned a critically acclaimed film adaptation in 2004.

Admission to the event is \$60 per person, which includes a personally signed hardback copy of *Sideways* and a vertical flight of pinot noirs. For tickets and more info, contact lou@windwardvineyard.com, visit windwardvineyard.com, or call (805) 239-2565. Windward Vineyard is located at 1380 Live Oak Road, Paso Robles.

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

COURTESY PHOTOS BY DARCY HEMLEY

**Showtime!**

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



WORK AND PLAY: Prolific photographer Darcy Hemley specializes in portraits, including family portraits, that depict subjects "ideally in their own environment" and feel as unstaged and natural as possible, she said.

Portrait mode

LA photographer Darcy Hemley shares career tidbits, holds Solvang workshop

BY CALEB WISEBLOOD

When it comes to portrait photography, Darcy Hemley likes to capture subjects in their natural habitats—whether it's their home, place of work, or sanctuary of some kind—with as few alterations to those environments as possible.

"I'm sure that some of my portraits are things that make some people think, 'Oh my God, I would never have an air conditioner in the photo,'" The Los Angeles-based photographer said. "For me, that's kind of like my bent."

Hemley will be sharing aspects of her creative process and career-inspired tips on portrait photography during her upcoming workshop at Alisal Ranch in Solvang. Her presentation is part of the venue's second annual WILDWONDER program, a multi-day women's retreat scheduled for March 19 through 22.

During her workshop, Hemley will share with participants the

techniques she uses as a professional portrait photographer, and later that day she will also hold a mini portrait session for guests who'd like their own photos taken.

"I'm going to go up early to pick a place for the portrait session," said Hemley, who will take her intimate yet scenic photos somewhere on the Alisal Ranch's vast estate.

One of the first things on Hemley's mind when it comes to any portrait project is scouting locations and picking at least three different settings, she explained. Hemley starts with her least favorite location of the three, because by the time she reaches the third spot—her top pick—the subject usually "becomes the most trusting," while gradually warming up to the process, the photographer said, and those final portraits usually turn out to be the best of the bunch.

Over the years, Hemley's editorial portraits have appeared

in several publications, including *Vanity Fair*, *Teen Vogue*, and *GQ*. While she also teaches photography courses at the California Institute of the Arts, aka CalArts, she rarely has held group workshops similar to her event at Alisal Ranch.

"I don't teach these often, but this one has kind of inspired me to endeavor in that direction," said Hemley, who added that she's most interested in engaging with attendees who want to approach photography "from a really intentional place," rather than think of cameras and phone cameras simply as tools.

"I think it's really interesting to think about how kind of ubiquitous photography is to all of us now," said Hemley, whose March 20 workshop is open to beginners without previous photography experience.

Hemley is a lifelong Californian, and her upcoming class in Solvang won't be the first occasion to bring



IN FRAME: One of photographer Darcy Hemley's preferences when working at a subject's home or place of work is to refrain from altering those environments, while other photographers might jump to removing objects like tools or appliances from the scene, she said.



POOL PIC: Several examples of Darcy Hemley's intimate family and portrait photography can be found on her website, darcyhemley.com, including this poolside shot. Hemley will be discussing aspects of her unique, candid approach to portraits during an upcoming workshop in Solvang.

Find your intention

For info on photographer Darcy Hemley's upcoming workshop in Solvang, visit alisalranch.com. The class is being held on March 20 as part of Alisal Ranch's WILDWONDER multi-day women's retreat (March 19 through 22). Call the venue at (805) 693-4208 for additional details. The ranch is located at 1054 Alisal Road, Solvang.

To find out more about Hemley's work, visit darcyhemley.com.

her up to the Central Coast, where she ultimately hopes to retire someday.

"The Central Coast is like if Northern California and Southern California had a baby," the Los Angeles resident said with a laugh.

After taking a photography class during high school, Hemley was hooked on the medium and went on to study at CalArts, where she'd eventually teach courses herself someday.

Straight after college, Hemley quickly began working for entertainment magazines, she said. She continues to love capturing writers, filmmakers, actors, musicians, and other artists.

"My all-time favorite was Leonard Cohen," Hemley recalled. "That was an incredible shoot, because I'm a huge fan of his work."

Hemley has nothing but fond memories of the assignment—arranged by *Spin* magazine for a feature on Cohen. The shoot was held at the late musician's home in Hancock Park.

"He was just so gracious and kind and such a great sport for being photographed—he understood the process really well," Hemley said. "We spent almost the whole day shooting because he was having so much fun and offering us snacks and wine and playing us his new record."

"My whole team was like, 'Oh my God, is this really happening?'"

Arts Editor Caleb Wiseblood is humming "Hallelujah." Send comments to cwiseblood@santamariasun.com.

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Operation meh

Guy Ritchie directs this action comedy about super spy Orson Fortune (Jason Statham) who's tasked with stopping arms dealer Greg Simmonds (Hugh Grant) from selling deadly new weapons technology. The lone wolf operative is reluctantly teamed with three other spies: Sarah Fidel (Aubrey Plaza), Nathan Jasmine (Cary Elwes), and JJ Davies (Bugzy Malone). Their plan is to blackmail Simmonds' favorite Hollywood movie star, Danny Francesco (Josh Hartnett), into getting close to Simmonds so they can take him down. (114 min.)

Glen: Richie's made some absolutely amazing

films: *Lock, Stock and Two Smoking Barrels* (1998), *Snatch* (2000), *Sherlock Holmes* (2009),

The Gentlemen (2019). Even his mediocre films are usually at least watchable. I'd put his latest in the latter category—watchable but not Richie at his best. If fact, if it weren't for the amazing performance by Grant and the easy sarcastic charm of Plaza, this would be a dud. They

saved the film for me. Usually I like Statham, but his character is pretty flat, and violence-wise, he's not given as much to do as usual. I'm a Richie fan, and if you are, try a matinee. Otherwise, wait for this one to stream.

Anna: It's a way to pass a couple of hours without feeling like it was a total waste of time. It certainly wasn't my favorite Ritchie flick, but

it did the job. You're right that Plaza and Grant are the MVPs here; without them this film would have been a complete snooze fest. I also usually really like Statham, and I did like him here, but he just didn't have much to do except roll his eyes and take part in a bit of intermittent violence. It's not a waste of time, but I don't know that I would be stoked to pay full price to see it either. There is movie magic and some pretty on-point stunts going on, but overall, the wow factor is in short supply. Watch for the gold stars that Plaza and Grant get, but don't get too overly excited—most of this movie is effortlessly forgettable.

Glen: The story itself is pretty standard stuff: Ukrainian mobsters, a rival spy guy named Mike (Peter Ferdinando), and exotic locales such as Madrid, Cannes, and Turkey. The McGuffin is something called "The Handle," some high-tech device supposedly worth billions that Simmonds is going to sell to the highest bidder. We later learn it can be programmed to

defeat any security system in the world or some such nonsense. There are also a couple biotech moguls who've been hoarding gold and want to use The Handle to collapse the worldwide financial markets. The plot feels irrelevant. In a final desperate act of wishful thinking, the story ends with a setup for a sequel. The more I



DEEP COVER: Special operator Orson Fortune (Jason Statham) enlists Hollywood actor Danny Francesco (Josh Hartnett) and spy Sarah Fidel (Aubrey Plaza) to help him take down an arms dealer, in *Operation Fortune: Ruse de Guerre*, screening in local theaters.

think about it, the less I like this film. Just wait to stream it.

Anna: Yep, it is definitely one you don't want to think about too much. The little fun that's there wears thin pretty quickly. You would think with this much money and star power you'd put in a little more work in the writer's room, but that isn't what happened here. Honestly, half the plot you just mentioned I had either not noticed or have completely forgotten about a day later. It's kind of funny to watch Hartnett's Danny

Francesco prepare for the role of a lifetime—himself. Plaza is dry and snarky. Grant plays a smarmy rich dude with ease. It isn't terrible, but it is terribly forgettable. I agree with you: This one can wait for home viewing when nothing else is on. ☺

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

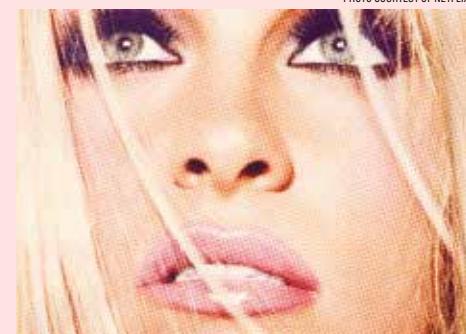


A LIFE IN PICTURES: Mateo Zoryan (center) stars as Younger Sammy Fabelman, a stand-in for co-writer and director Steven Spielberg in his autobiographical film *The Fabelmans*, this year's Golden Globe Best Motion Picture winner, which is also nominated for seven Academy Awards.

filmmaking as a "hobby." It's easy to understand where Spielberg found his balance between artistry and technical wizardry. A terrific film. (151 min.)

—Glen

New Flicks



UNEXPLODED BOMBSHELL: In *Pamela: A Love Story*, a new documentary streaming on Netflix, the '90s sex symbol candidly shares the story of her early life, superstardom, rocky romances, and the sex tape scandal, ultimately revealing her humanity.

accuse it of curating her life, but it feels as unvarnished as her makeupless face. (112 min.) ☺

—Glen

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Feasts to fund

Santa Maria-based nonprofit holds corned beef takeout fundraiser

BY CALEB WISEBLOOD

Emerald eggs. Green beers. Shamrock shakes. St. Patrick's Day is synonymous with a handful of festive consumables, including the headliner of one local nonprofit's upcoming dinner fundraiser.

On Sunday, March 12, Kiwanis of Santa Maria Valley Foundation will hold its annual Corned Beef and Cabbage Dinner at the Elwin Mussell Community Center. The organization has hosted the event—which raises money for student scholarships and other programs supported by the group—every March for more than 15 years, said longtime board member Katherine Fischer.

"The date of the event shifts from year to year. Sometimes it's on St. Patrick's Day if that happens to fall on a weekend," said Fischer, who first joined the Kiwanis club about 25 years ago. "But if it falls during the week, we'll have the event on the Sunday before—that's what we've usually done."

"This is an event where we're able to—through a lot of volunteer work—sell tickets for the meals and make a profit that goes to our foundation," Fischer added.

Fischer is the official chairperson for the Corned Beef and Cabbage Dinner and oversees various aspects of the volunteer-led event, which she described as a big group effort. Over the years, Fischer has worked with other board members and additional volunteers to prepare the dinners and serve patrons.

"We arrive at 7 in the morning to get things set up because the corned beef needs a long, slow cook in order to come out really delicious—which it does," said Fischer, who described the chairperson role as multi-faceted. "I kind of do what needs to be done—try and see that things are coordinating. We've been doing this long enough that people know what to expect and what needs to be done."

"You sweep up when you need to, or help wash the potatoes, or help fill the trays of food that are being picked up," Fischer added. "You know? You just do what needs to be done."

Fischer described the program's dinner offering as "a very traditional corned beef meal" with tender, long-cooked



YEARLY TRADITION: Every March, either on or around St. Patrick's Day, the Kiwanis of Santa Maria Valley Foundation prepares corned beef dinners as one of its yearly fundraisers to support student scholarships and other children's programs.



SLOW AND STEADY: Longtime board member of the Kiwanis club Katherine Fischer described the main dish offered at the 2023 Corned Beef and Cabbage Dinner as traditional, tender, and slow-cooked corned beef. Prep for the corned beef starts at 7 a.m., while the first orders go out no earlier than 11:30 a.m.

Green day

Patrons can pre-order takeout options offered at the Corned Beef and Cabbage Dinner (Sunday, March 12, from 11:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.) online at my805tix.com. The curbside pickup fundraiser will be held at the Elwin Mussell Community Center, at 510 E. Park St., Santa Maria.



BREAKING BREAD: Volunteers at a past year's Corned Beef and Cabbage Dinner event dish out some bread rolls—one of the side dishes included in each takeout dinner offered at the upcoming 2023 fundraiser.

EATS continued page 22



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EATS from page 21

During the March 12 event, customers will be able to pick up their takeout dinners between 11:30 a.m. and 2:30 p.m. The standard dinner, fit for one, is available for \$20, while a family pack—described as feeding four to six people—is \$75.

Like all of the Kiwanis club's fundraiser events, the proceeds from the Corned Beef and Cabbage Dinner will primarily support children's programs.

"We are always looking for ways to raise funds for the foundation so we can do things in the community that we would like to be able to do. We focus on helping kids, through supporting things like science camps, or helping to buy equipment so that kids can participate in sports who wouldn't be able to afford to otherwise," Fischer said. "We have funded books for libraries in local schools, because you know, state funds are thin on such things very often."

Fischer added that the nonprofit is extremely thankful for the patrons who have continued to support the fundraiser over the years—and who've helped spread the word



GRAB AND GO: While originally a hybrid event, with a sit-down table service and takeout options available, the 2023 Corned Beef and Cabbage Dinner is solely a curbside pickup program with to-go dinners packed up for patrons to grab.

—especially as it's evolved into a takeout-only program.

"We have a large number of returning customers that purchase the meal year after year after year," Fischer said, "and we are just so grateful that they enjoy it so much and continue to support us and tell their friends about it."

Arts Editor Caleb Wiseblood is wearing green. Send four-leaf clovers to cwiseblood@santamariasun.com.

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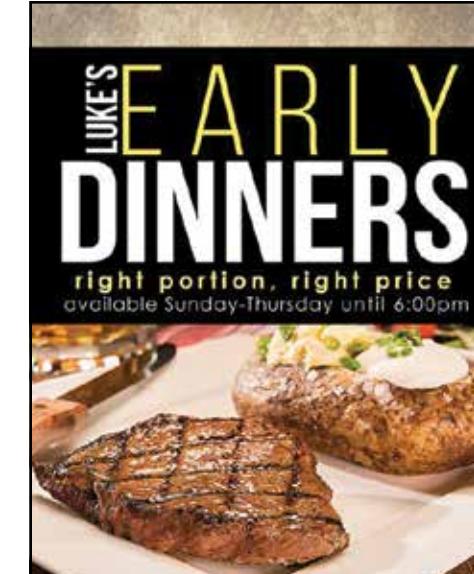


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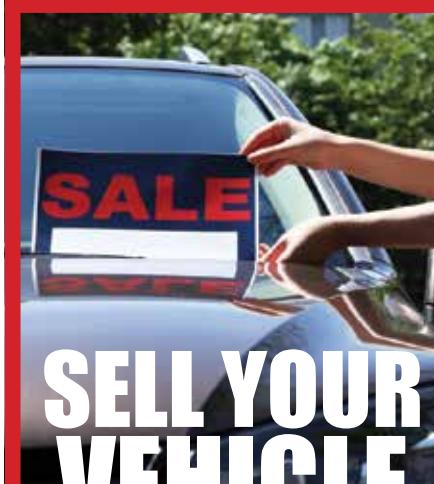
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