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Extrapolations  
is dark [20]

# SUN



# Pride debate

*While some Solvang residents assert that hanging Pride banners in town isn't Danish, others point to Denmark's progressive history with LGBTQ-plus rights [6]*

BY TAYLOR O'CONNOR

**NEWS** Homeless Point-in-Time results [4]

**ARTS** The art of paper cutting [18]

**EATS** Lompoc's newest tasting room [21]



# Contents

MARCH 23 - MARCH 30, 2023 VOL. 24 NO. 4

A recent Solvang City Council meeting became very heated over what some would call routine business: a proposal to hang Pride banners on city light poles in Solvang during June, which is Pride Month. It's something cities across the U.S. do every year, but residents showed up to the Feb. 27 council meeting to say it didn't align with Solvang's marketing push of being a Danish town. The majority of council members agreed, and the city denied the proposal. Staff Writer Taylor O'Connor speaks with elected officials and LGBTQ-plus advocates about the decision and what it means to be Danish [6].

You can also read about what the recent Homeless Point-in-Time Count revealed is happening in Santa Barbara County [4]; the artist who cuts paper and shapes it into multilayered scenes [18]; and Camins 2 Dreams' new tasting room [21].

Camillia Lanham  
editor



**DANISH ROOTS:** Hanging Pride banners on city poles, according to some residents who spoke during public comment at a recent Solvang City Council meeting, would distract from the city's Danish heritage. However, Denmark is one of the most progressive countries in the world for LGBTQ-plus rights.

Cover photo courtesy of Golzar Meamar > Cover design by Alex Zuniga

## NEWS

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

## OPINION

Web Poll.....	10
Modern World.....	10
Canary.....	11

## EVENTS CALENDAR

Hot Stuff.....	12
----------------	----

## ARTS

Arts Briefs.....	18
------------------	----

## MOVIES

Reviews.....	20
--------------	----

## CLASSIFIEDS, HOME, AND REAL ESTATE

.....	23
-------	----

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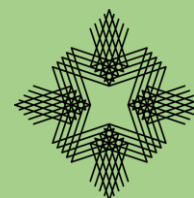
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## POLITICAL WATCH

U.S. Reps. **Salud Carbajal** (D-Santa Barbara) and **Jimmy Panetta** (D-Santa Cruz) joined 24 members of the California congressional delegation in calling for a delay of the March 16 deadline for families impacted by January's severe storms to apply for federal aid, according to a March 15 statement from Carbajal's office. Amid multiple new storms that have caused renewed flooding and displacement of families on the Central Coast, the bipartisan group of lawmakers asked the head of the **Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)** to extend the deadline for direct support to offset costs of home repairs, temporary displacement, and other costs associated with the January storm. "Our constituents are currently facing yet another flood event, and many have been displaced right before the March 16, 2023, deadline. Extending this deadline will allow victims to focus on their safety, instead of paperwork, as they continue to experience the fallout from current winter storms," the lawmakers wrote. "We are confident that FEMA did not anticipate this current storm when setting the current March 16 application deadline. We urge you to extend this deadline for our constituents who have been unable to recover between historic storms and have faced emergencies and losses twice in the past three months." While President **Joe Biden** has approved another federal emergency declaration for the most recent storms hitting the Central Coast, applications for FEMA disaster relief cannot be used for damage caused by the most recent flooding events.

U.S. Sen. **Alex Padilla** (D-California) joined several of his colleagues in sending letters to the nation's largest pharmacies—including Walgreens, CVS, Rite Aid, Albertsons, Costco, Kroger, and Walmart—urging them to ensure their policies provide the strongest possible legal access to mifepristone, an FDA-approved abortion medication, according to a March 14 statement from Padilla's office. In their letters, lawmakers ask companies to fully assess the laws in each state they operate in and ensure their policies provide the widest legal access to critical patient care, as well as clarify how they inform customers about access to the medication. In their letter to Walgreens specifically, the senators called out the company's "confusing announcement" about its plans to dispense mifepristone to customers, writing, "At a time of great confusion about abortion access, your company has done the disservice of adding to it." In the aftermath of the *Dobbs v. Jackson* decision, access to medication abortion is more vital for patients than ever, Padilla said in the statement. Across the U.S., medication abortion is the most common way women get abortion care, and mifepristone is one of two drugs used in most medication abortion care. Approved by the FDA more than 20 years ago, mifepristone's safety and efficacy have been affirmed time and again by scientific evidence, research, and clinical experience.

Gov. **Gavin Newsom** announced the release of \$1 billion in Homeless Housing, Assistance, and Prevention Round 4 funding to support communities across the state stepping up their work to reduce homelessness, according to a March 16 announcement from Newsom's office. In 2022, Newsom paused this funding to local governments and demanded greater ambition when they collectively proposed only a 2 percent reduction in unsheltered homelessness. Local governments have since revised their plans, now targeting a 15 percent reduction in homelessness statewide by 2025. Additionally, he announced the state's largest mobilization of small homes to serve people experiencing homelessness, especially those living in encampments. The California National Guard will assist in the preparation and delivery of 1,200 small homes to Los Angeles, San Diego County, San Jose, and Sacramento—free of charge and ready for occupancy. "In California, we are using every tool in our toolbox—including the largest-ever deployment of small homes in the state—to move people off the streets and into housing," Newsom said in the statement. "We are tackling this issue at the root of the problem by addressing the need to create more housing faster in California." ○



**COUNTING INDIVIDUALS:** Edwin Weaver, executive director of nonprofit Fighting Back Santa Maria Valley and vice chair for the Continuum of Care, completes a survey during the 2023 Point-in-Time Count in Santa Maria.

## Point-in-Time Count shows slight decrease in homelessness

For the first time in more than three years, Santa Barbara County's Point-in-Time Count results showed a decrease in the number of people experiencing homelessness.

"We're hopeful that all the efforts and the county and Continuum of Care and homeless service providers is really beginning to make a difference in people's lives, but we're hoping that it will make a difference on the system level as a whole," said Sylvia Barnard, who serves as the Santa Barbara/Santa Maria Continuum of Care chair.

Barnard and her team helped coordinate volunteer teams in Santa Maria, Lompoc, and Isla Vista for the count—a U.S. Housing and Urban Development-required annual process to count all individuals experiencing homelessness on a given night. This year's count took place on Jan. 25 with more than 400 volunteers.

Countywide, volunteers counted 1,887 people experiencing homelessness—down from 2022's 1,962, according to the preliminary results. About 41 percent of individuals (780 people) were identified in mid and North County, and 59 percent (1,107 individuals) were in South County.

"The Point-in-Time Count is definitely showing that having more bed availability has allowed more individuals to come into the shelter systems and the added outreach teams to build trust and bring time indoors is beginning to show in our Point-in-Time Count," Barnard said.

About 140 shelter beds and more than 800 opportunities for permanent housing have been added countywide, and about 1,050 people transitioned out of homelessness and into permanent housing, according to preliminary results. Barnard added that the county's Emergency Housing Voucher program, which provided 272 long-term rental subsidy vouchers, and the county's investment in a supportive services team also assisted in housing rates.

"The team is countywide and focusing on following [individuals] into housing to increase housing retention, and it definitely impacts the system where we're not seeing people recidivate back into homelessness," she said.

Kimberlee Albers, the county Homelessness Assistance Program manager, said that the county served more individuals than they had in previous years with a 49 percent increase from 3,094 in 2019 to 4,620 in 2022.

"There was this inverse relationship. In the years we saw the shelter count going down

because during the pandemic it was tougher; we had outbreaks and things going on with congregate shelters, the number of people sheltered was decreasing," she said.

During this time, the county had a large number of beds come online with the purchase of Hedges House of Hope in Isla Vista, the DignityMoves project in Santa Barbara, and reopening the third floor in the Salvation Army, providing an additional 58 beds in Santa Barbara, she said.

"We didn't have additional shelter beds between 2022 and 2023 in Santa Maria, but they are on the way," Albers said. "Hope Village will bring 94 rooms of interim housing to the Santa Maria Valley, and we really hope it will impact those numbers this year."

The groundbreaking ceremony for the project was supposed to happen on March 14 but was postponed due to the rain. A new date has not been announced, but the county is planning on beginning construction soon, she said.

"What we see in Santa Maria is a lot of really great housing projects moving forward and that's exciting; that isn't happening in every jurisdiction. We're really encouraged to see Santa Maria get housing projects moving," Albers said.

—Taylor O'Connor

## Lompoc prioritizes funding body cameras for city police

More than 300 Lompoc residents participated in a recent survey to help city officials weigh future budget priorities.

Results were collected between Jan. 10 and Feb. 10, and members of the Lompoc City Council discussed them during a special budget workshop on March 16.

One of the survey questions included a list of potential areas of improvement, and respondents were asked to rank those areas from most to least important for the city to consider while drafting the 2023-25 biennial budget cycle—set to be finalized before the end of June.

The majority of participants ranked "public safety and protection" as their top pick, including Lompoc resident Patricia Elszy—who was the sole speaker during public comment at the March 16 budget workshop.

Elszy introduced herself as the grandmother of late Lompoc resident Krys Ruiz, who was fatally shot on March 28, 2021, during an altercation with two police officers.

"This month will be two years since this horrible nightmare befell our family," Elszy

said. "The officers were not equipped with body cameras on that tragic evening."

Elszy described body cameras as "vitaly important for second-by-second accountability and clarity," and urged members of the Lompoc City Council to approve a budget that would fund body cameras for all police officers in the city.

Councilmember Dirk Starbuck was the first to speak after public comment and said that body cameras for the Lompoc Police Department should be prioritized in the 2023-25 budget.

"It's time to pull the plug and buy what we need to make it work," Starbuck said.

Mayor Jenelle Osborne said that the body camera initiative is "probably No. 1 for me" when it comes to projects she wants to see in the new budget cycle when it's brought back to the Lompoc City Council for final approval.

"It's time, we're past due on that. We have asked our community to be very, very patient, and they have, and we appreciate that," said Osborne, who added that part of the delay was due to the Lompoc Police Department's radio equipment requiring upgrades, otherwise "it would be almost impossible to buy the right body cams."

Lompoc Police Chief Kevin Martin said that the department will propose a five-year financial commitment for the city to consider to fund the body cameras and additional funding to hire at least one new staff member to oversee and archive the video recordings collected.

City Manager Dean Albro added that the funding proposals Martin mentioned will be brought back to council in time to consider before the 2023-25 budget is finalized.

Councilmember Jeremy Ball said he doesn't believe there has been any "shift in our thinking" toward body cameras for police officers among members of the Lompoc City Council.

"We've all been 5-0 on the body cams for two years," Ball said. "That needs to happen. I can't wait to see it happen, and I'm grateful that we have a chief that's willing to make sure that we've got a good fit for that, and it's not just throwing money at something that's out of date soon."

—Caleb Wiseblood

## County cannabis tax revenue \$10 million less than projected

Santa Barbara County collected \$3.1 million in cannabis cultivation and retail taxes through the second fiscal quarter, \$10.5 million less than the original projections of \$23 million.

"There's been a decline in gross sales receipts, there has been a significant drop in wholesale pricing, and there's a severe supply glut—there's too much product in California and not enough outlet[s]," county planner Brittany Heaton told the Board of Supervisors during its March 14 meeting. "The price per pound, as an estimation, we saw prices drop 35 to 40 percent on average."

Based on the second quarter filings, the county might expect a \$7 million increase in the next two quarters, she said. However, the rate of increase won't be as high as it was in previous years of the program—which saw a jump from \$6.7 million in 2018-19 to \$15.7 million in 2020-21, she said.

The county also had 12 operators leave the cannabis industry due a lack of capital, compliance issues, the application and licensing process, or attrition, she said.

On the other hand, 14 new business licenses were approved (now, there are 76 total), 14 cultivation operators are on the waiting list with 235 acres, and two retail stores opened in the unincorporated areas of the county with

NEWS continued page 5



NEWS from page 4

two more in the building permit process.

Cannabis taxes fund ongoing cannabis enforcement and its administration—which has 30 full-time employees—long-range planning, libraries, the 211 helpline, trail restoration efforts, and other community projects, according to a staff report of cannabis's historical revenue and expenditures.

Lionel Neff, a board member for the Coalition for Responsible Cannabis, told the Sun that this program turned out to be "another broken promise."

"For the last five years, we have had nothing but promises made, promises broken. Our entire county was sold on a cannabis program that was going to balance the issues of odor, traffic, and safety with substantial tax revenue," he said in a statement.

The significant decrease in revenue also alarmed 2nd District Supervisor Laura Capps, who said during the meeting that it might be time to reexamine the county's cannabis program.

"With revenues being way off—almost 100 percent from projections—that is a wake-up call for changes, a pretty loud and clear one," Capps said. "The intentions were for the revenue, that's the reason for this program. I'm curious about what tools we have within this body, within this board, to make the changes to make sure people are paying their taxes, paying their revenue, and the program we're running to actually [work] for more people."

She asked staff if it would be possible to segregate the Transient Occupancy Taxes (TOT)—a bed tax on hotels and short-term rentals that saw a \$2 million increase—or property taxes (\$17 million increase) in order to cover programs

funded by the cannabis industry.

Fifth District Supervisor Steve Lavagnino responded by saying the cannabis tax program can't get eliminated because it still funds 30 full-time employees and the law enforcement division—which are still needed to combat the illegal market and enforce legal regulations.

"If you get rid of the program, you still have the problem of you [now] don't have the revenue to deal with it. Yes revenue is down, but since 2019, TOT has brought in \$49 million to this county, cannabis has brought in \$43 million to the county," he said. "I don't remember anyone coming in 2013, 2014 when TOT was down saying we should get rid of the TOT program."

First District Supervisor Das Williams intervened and said that the supervisors were bringing "campaign issues" to the board, and requested that the supervisors stick to the agenda.

Capps responded to Lavagnino by saying that the revenue update showed that "the status quo" isn't working and change needs to come in order to continue county operations, to which Williams responded with a question regarding her proposal to change the program.

"I would just wonder, and I think it's a fair question, if revenue bounces back to \$7 or \$8 million, would you support the program if that logic follows through to whether it's successful as projected?" Williams said. "Something to think about, I don't need an answer immediately."

The board filed the item 4-1 with Capps dissenting, and discussed the possibility of adding a cannabis policy and enforcement discussion to a future agenda. ○

—Taylor O'Connor

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# Pride in history

*Solvang's denial of Pride banners goes against Denmark's progressive LGBTQ-plus policies, advocates say*

BY TAYLOR O'CONNOR

*Editor's note: This is the first installment of a two-part series on the conversations surrounding a proposal to hang Pride banners and paint a crosswalk with rainbow colors in Solvang during Pride Month in June.*

**M**att and Kiel Cavalli's 6-year-old boy asked if his parents would be killed like Martin Luther King Jr. after their proposal to hang Pride banners ended with uproar at a recent Solvang City Council meeting.

"It's just scary that this mind at 6 years old comes to this after what was said over this board meeting," Matt Cavalli, co-founder of the local nonprofit The Rainbow House Inc., told the *Sun*. "We are not only speaking to him as [parents], but we're speaking to him as gay individuals within the community, and it was a lot."

As the first LGBTQ-plus resource center in the Santa Ynez Valley founded in 2022, The Rainbow House Inc. hopes to "create a refuge for the queer community" and promote acceptance and peace for their community.

Pursuing their nonprofit's mission, the Cavallis proposed that Solvang hang Pride-themed streetlight banners and temporarily repaint the crosswalks on the downtown intersections of Copenhagen at First and Second Street with a rainbow pattern for June in recognition of Pride Month. According to the staff report, The Rainbow House Inc. would provide all the funding to install the banners and cover all costs relating to the crosswalk installation and its removal.

The Cavallis decided to put the proposal forward after the Solvang City Council recognized June as Pride Month and approved the second annual Santa Ynez Valley Pride parade—with the first happening just last year.

"We thought it was a no-brainer. We brought our kids, our 11-year-old and 6-year old, because we thought it would be a good experience for them to see how the council governs," Cavalli said. "And it was anything but that. ... We literally just showed up with the application and proposal, and we just didn't at all expect to hear and witness what was said."

The City Council rejected the proposal 3-2 (with Councilmembers Claudia Orona and Elizabeth Orona dissenting) at its Feb. 27 meeting saying that the banners don't follow city policies. During the discussion, some residents insisted that Pride banners don't match Solvang's Danish roots or the city's brand, but advocates for the proposal said otherwise.

Now, The Rainbow House Inc. plans to bring its proposal to Los Olivos, Los Alamos, Buellton, and Santa Ynez after Solvang denied the organization's reapplication, which will not be able to go back before the dais, Cavalli said.

"Creating awareness and a place to be, that's all it is. It isn't this activism; it isn't this political stance we're trying to do," Cavalli said. "The mission is so that people feel seen and feel welcome and know who they are is OK."

## The rejection

While rainbow crosswalks are present in other cities during Pride month—such as Manhattan Beach, West Hollywood, Davis, and Long Beach among others—Solvang Mayor Mark Infanti said the council rejected the proposal's sidewalk element because of safety concerns for horses.

Horse-drawn trolleys take people through Solvang, he said, and residents worried about them getting spooked with the different colors.

"Horses only see in grays—they don't see in color, and red might look like a hole and they won't walk on it," Infanti said.

He added that the City Council rejected the

banner proposal because it didn't follow the city's Banner Guidelines Policy—which states that all banners need to assist in advertising and promoting destinations or events that support tourism in

Solvang, must be a part of a Solvang-sponsored special event, and match the Danish theme.

"It was not ideological, it was based on policies," Infanti said of the council's decision. "We don't want to promote one particular ideology; what we want in this city is a community that is welcoming to everybody, and that requires some limits on what some groups can do."

The city proclaiming June as Pride Month is not considered a sponsorship but a recognition, he said.

"I know we had the gay Pride parade and a couple of ceremonies and that was wonderful, but they didn't ask for light pole flags, only a banner over the highway and they got that last year," Infanti said.

Cavalli and Infanti spoke over the phone following the February meeting.

"My comment to him is that I have no problem with gay people, some of my best friends are gay. We've been to their house, this is a very open community," he said. "I don't have a problem with any of that. What I have a problem with is the policy. I'm not sure if Mr. Cavalli agrees with the policy. Should we change the policy? That's for another time."

## Danish roots

During public comment on Feb. 27, some residents argued that Pride flags veered away from the city's Danish theme.

"Banners, sidewalk changes, events, and advertising should promote our small Danish village and be done in ways that promote a welcome, all-included atmosphere," resident Allison Hill wrote in a public comment letter. "Actions taken to promote political activism with disregard for all citizens and visitors, our children, and our community, do not fit in with the city of

Solvang's guiding [principles]."

However, Denmark has a deep history of being progressive about LGBTQ-plus rights, said Alyce Barrick, the vice president of Santa Ynez Valley (SYV) Pride.

"Denmark is one of the more progressive countries in Europe; they're leading the way in LGBTQ-plus rights. They're leading the way in same-sex marriages," Barrick said. "So for Solvang to say that they need to uphold their Danish values when they [Denmark] are leaders, shouldn't we be catching up to the rest of the world?"

Denmark decriminalized homosexuality in 1933. It was the first country in the world to grant same-sex unions with its Registered Partnerships Act of 1989, according to the Royal Danish Library. By 1996, discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation (along with race, religion, age, disability, or national, social, and ethnic origin) was prohibited by law in the workplace.

In 2014, Denmark became the first country in the world to allow a legal change of gender, and in 2017, the country was the first to no longer define being transgender as a mental illness—putting it ahead of the World Health Organization.

SYV Pride hosts the Pride parade and festival in Solvang along with other events promoting the LGBTQ-plus community. Barrick said the organization supports The Rainbow House Inc. and was disappointed in the City Council's decision.

In response, SYV Pride met with Copenhagen Pride, and the organization said it will ask the mayor of Copenhagen to co-author a letter to the mayor of Solvang to educate the city officials about Danish LGBTQ-plus rights, Barrick said. Copenhagen Pride couldn't be reached before the *Sun's* deadline.

"We just really want the community to know that it's about small victories and ensuring that that the community and that our youth know that we're here, and we're not going to give up," Barrick said. "We may not be successful at all of our endeavors, but we're not going to leave." ○

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

PHOTO COURTESY OF SYV PRIDE



**PARADE, BUT NO BANNERS:** Although the Solvang City Council approved the second annual Pride parade and festival, it rejected a proposal from The Rainbow House Inc. to hang Pride-themed banners during June.

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**A HELPING HAND:** Orcutt residents banded together to help the owner of The Golden Donut when she was diagnosed with cancer shortly after retiring during the 2022 holiday season.

## 'A ray of sunshine'

Orcutt community members pitch in to help local doughnut shop owner hospitalized with cancer

BY TAYLOR O'CONNOR

Orcutt resident Patricia Sly-Feighner said Houth Hak, the owner of Orcutt's Golden Donut, always went out of her way to make people feel special.

"She's just always so happy, you just knew she would smile at you. She would help carry your stuff out to your car; she was a ray of sunshine," Sly-Feighner said. "She made people feel like she was their best friend. She made you laugh, she was funny."

Sly-Feighner and her family—like many other Orcutt families—have been going to Golden Donut for years for a taste of its delicious doughnuts, she said. The business was hit hard during the pandemic, but the community rallied to support the shop after Hak's daughter tweeted about the situation in 2020.

When Sly-Feighner found out that Hak was recently diagnosed with cancer and admitted into the hospital for care, she decided it was time for the community to extend a helping hand again, she said. After getting the family's permission, Sly-Feighner set up a GoFundMe page to raise money to help with hospital bills and any other family needs.

Once she set up the GoFundMe page, she posted it to two local Facebook groups with about 5,000 people that she oversees as an administrator, calling people to donate to the cause, Sly-Feighner said.

"My thought was we would get to \$5,000 or \$10,000, and then it went to \$20,000, and now here we are at \$25,000," she told the *Sun* on March 16. "She's still in the hospital so we're waiting for her to come home. I want to do something for them when they get back."

Hak got sick shortly after retiring over the holidays in 2022. She discovered a tumor after going to the doctor for extreme shoulder pain—the tumor later shattered her neck and resulted in major neck surgery and a tracheostomy because of the swelling in her throat, according to the GoFundMe page.

She's now in San Francisco for chemotherapy, with no discharge date as of March 16. Sly-Feighner said the family is trying to set up treatments for her in San Luis Obispo after her radiation treatment.

"The GoFundMe is helping the family stay near her and taking that burden [of travel] off. Could you imagine not seeing your mom because she's four hours away and you can't afford gas? I wanted to alleviate anything that I could so she could recover," she said.

Not only are people able to donate to the GoFundMe page, but residents can write letters to the family while they are still in San Francisco to offer messages of love and support, Sly-Feighner said.

The *Sun* could not get ahold of family members before press time, but they posted a letter in the GoFundMe page, thanking the

residents for their support. "Your kindness and generosity have touched our hearts in a profound way, and we are so grateful

to be a part of such a caring and compassionate community," the letter said. "This has been a difficult time for our family, but the love and support that we have received from all of you have made a world of difference."

The family emphasized that it's not just their mother, Hak, who has been uplifted by the community, but the entire family has been deeply moved as well.

"Your messages of hope, love, and encouragement have given us the strength to face each day with renewed hope and optimism," the letter added. "We appreciate the donations that have been made, what is most important to us is the sense of community and connection that we feel with all of you."

Shortly after Hak got sick, the family sold The Golden Donut to a young couple, who hadn't changed the store too drastically from what Sly-Feighner could see, she said.

"They did the transition so seamlessly that it didn't disrupt the community, which shows how successful they should continue to be," Sly-Feighner said.

As of March 21, the GoFundMe page had raised more than \$25,500 and has 395 donors. Residents are still encouraged to donate, she said. Find the page online at [gofundme.com/f/TheOrcuttDonutLady](http://gofundme.com/f/TheOrcuttDonutLady).

"It's important to remember that we are a small community; even though we've grown so much, we still need each other," she said.

Send letters to 1125 Sir Francis Drake Blvd., Kentfield, CA 94904. Include her full name, Houth Mu Hak, otherwise she won't be able to receive the mail.

### Highlight

• The Environmental Defense Center (EDC)—one of the nation's longest-running public interest law firms working to protect the California coast, natural resources, and the Earth's climate—announced that Alex Katz will become the organization's new executive director this month. Katz brings 25 years of experience in public service and communications to the fight for environmental protection. He is deeply committed to climate action, conservation, and justice for communities that are disproportionately harmed by the fossil fuel industry and other sources of pollution, according to the EDC. Former EDC Executive Director Owen Bailey served in that role for more than nine years. Owen passed away last year after a long battle with cancer. The organization has been without a full-time executive director since then. Alex will be joining a staff of 10 members and two year-long legal fellows. ○

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

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# DEATH NOTICES

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**AMBROSETTI, ROBERT LOUIS**, 90, of Guadalupe, passed away 3/16/2023 arrangements with Dudley-Hoffman Mortuary, Crematory & Memory Gardens

**ARER, ROBERT VERN**, 66, of Santa Maria passed away 3/13/2023 arrangements with Dudley-Hoffman Mortuary, Crematory & Memory Gardens

**BAYSA, FRANCISCA RAMILO**, 83, of Santa Maria passed away 3/15/2023 arrangements with Dudley-Hoffman Mortuary, Crematory & Memory Gardens

**BLANNETT, DOROTHY**, 86, of San Luis Obispo passed away 3/14/2023 arrangements with Blue Sky Cremation Service

**BRINKLEY, MERLE VIRGINIA**, 94, of Atascadero passed away 3/13/2023 arrangements with Chapel of the Roses

**BRISTOW, PATRICIA MARIE**, 67, of New Cuyama passed away 3/10/2023 arrangements with Dudley-Hoffman Mortuary, Crematory & Memory Gardens

**BROWN, KEN**, 73, of Santa Maria passed away 3/14/2023 arrangements with Dudley-Hoffman Mortuary, Crematory & Memory Gardens

**BURNS, MARGARET SORBIE**, 105, of Santa Barbara passed away 3/17/2023 arrangements with Dudley-Hoffman Mortuary, Crematory & Memory Gardens

**CARPENTER, DAVID BEN JR.**, 55, of Santa Maria passed away 3/11/2023 arrangements with Dudley-Hoffman Mortuary, Crematory & Memory Gardens

**CONDONE, BERNADINE**, 71, of Atascadero passed away 3/08/2023 arrangements with Blue Sky Cremation Service

**DESOLMINIHAC, VELMA L.**, 90, of Santa Maria passed away 3/20/2023 arrangements with Magner-Maloney Funeral Home & Crematory

**DRESP, DARREL EDWARD**, 86, of San Luis Obispo passed away 1/18/2023 arrangements with The Neptune Society

**EMERY, MARJORIE ANN**, 102, of Santa Maria passed away 3/13/2023 arrangements with Dudley-Hoffman Mortuary, Crematory & Memory Gardens

**FERRELL, BILL LEON**, 87, of Atascadero passed away 3/15/2023 arrangements with Chapel of the Roses

**GAGNON, ROBERT**, 91, of Paso Robles passed away 3/10/2023 arrangements with Blue Sky Cremation Service

**GEE, RICHARD WELDON**, 77, passed away 3/14/2023 arrangements with Chapel of the Roses

**GRIFFITH, IRA DEAN**, 92, of San Luis Obispo passed away 2/16/2023 arrangements with Los Osos Valley Mortuary & Memorial Park

**HARRIS, ROBYN CAROL**, 61, of Oceano passed away 3/10/2023 arrangements with Marshall-Spoo Sunset Funeral Chapel

**JOHNSON, NATHAN BLAISE**, 18, of Orcutt passed away 3/05/2023 arrangements with Dudley-Hoffman Mortuary, Crematory & Memory Gardens

**LEWIS, WALLACE "WALLY" ARLEN**, 95, of Grover Beach passed away 3/19/2023 arrangements with Marshall-Spoo Sunset Funeral Chapel

**MILLER, MARVIN**, 88, of Arroyo Grande passed away 3/07/2023 arrangements with Marshall-Spoo Sunset Funeral Chapel

**MONTGOMERY, MARY JANE**, 97, of Arroyo Grande passed away 3/15/2023 arrangements with Marshall-Spoo Sunset Funeral Chapel

**MORA, BEATRIZ**, 78, of Santa Maria passed away 3/11/2023 arrangements with Dudley-Hoffman Mortuary, Crematory & Memory Gardens

**PAYTON, GEORGE PATRICK**, 55, of Arroyo Grande passed away 3/12/2023 arrangements with Marshall-Spoo Sunset Funeral Chapel


**QUAID, MARJORIE R.**, 84, of Santa Maria passed away 3/13/2023 arrangements with Dudley-Hoffman Mortuary, Crematory & Memory Gardens

**STOLL, LOTTE**, 92, of Santa Maria passed away 3/13/2023 arrangements with Dudley-Hoffman Mortuary, Crematory & Memory Gardens

**TOMILLOSO, CARYS LAINE**, 18, of Santa Maria passed away 3/13/2023 arrangements with Dudley-Hoffman Mortuary, Crematory & Memory Gardens

**VAN ORMAN, CATHERINE M.**, 82, of Atascadero passed away 3/14/2023 arrangements with Chapel of the Roses

**WATERS, MICHAEL "MIKEY"**, 71, of Arroyo Grande passed away 3/08/2023 arrangements with Marshall-Spoo Sunset Funeral Chapel



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- 55% I haven't been impacted at all.
- 38% Minor inconveniences, like brief power outages, kids home from school, etc.
- 7% Major flooding and property damage.
- 0% Stuck at home due to road closures.

18 Votes

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We welcome submissions. Please accompany them with a self-addressed, stamped envelope. All letters to the editor become the property of the Sun.

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# Refined by fire

*Lompoc's fire crews are well trained, but the city needs to fund a more robust department to ensure public safety*

### BY RON FINK

On Saturday evening, March 11, a very large fire occurred at the north end of Lompoc between Walmart and the airport.

The property, known as the "Campbell Coolers," is a very large vegetable processing facility. There are several football field-sized piles of construction material, pallets, and boxes stored on the property. It was one of these piles that was ablaze; the cause is yet to be determined. However, there are security cameras in several places on the commercial buildings to the south of the fire and on the Campbell Cooler property to help determine when and how it started.

The Lompoc Fire Department consists of two pumpers (engines) staffed with three firefighters, a rescue truck with two firefighters, and a battalion chief 24/7. Based on scanner traffic, the original call was for "a pallet on fire behind Walmart"; this would have been a routine trash fire, but as the single engine that was dispatched reported: "There is a large fire, start a structure response."

This would bring county and Vandenberg Space Force Base fire crews to assist. As Battalion Chief Scott Nunez arrived, he upgraded the response to a second alarm, which brought several additional county crews from Buellton, Gaviota, and Orcutt and a ladder truck from Santa Maria. Most were used for the firefight, others to respond to other calls for service.

It took a couple of hours for the fire to be brought under control using the "surround and drown" technique of applying large quantities of water; the tactic also protected surrounding buildings, and the following day none appeared to be damaged. The outcome would have been much different if the wind was blowing, but it was calm at the time.

Based on the number of fire crews required, this is the largest fire within the city limits in decades. It brings into focus why an adequately equipped, staffed,

and trained fire department is critical to ensure public safety.

First let's examine equipment. There are several very large multi-family residential, hotels, commercial, and industrial complexes of various ages, some more than 50 years old, throughout the city. As this fire points out, an aerial ladder is an essential tool to apply water promptly from above and/or rescue trapped people. The aerial truck used in this case traveled almost a half-hour from Santa Maria to Lompoc before it could be used.

With only two staffed fire engines, the city relies on mutual assistance from Santa Barbara County and Vandenberg Space Force Base to meet staffing and equipment requirements at building fires. If the nearest county crew is at another call for service, then the Vandenberg crew, with a 10- to 15-minute response time is the nearest resource.

Why are fire department response times and staffing levels important? During fires, flashover occurs when all the combustible materials in a room or compartment reach their ignition temperatures at the same time and can occur within six to 10 minutes of the inception of a fire. If fire apparatus and personnel are on the scene and can intervene prior to flashover occurring, property loss is decreased, thus risk to civilians and firefighting personnel is reduced.

To add to the staff/equipment problem, if one or both city pumper crews are on other calls, which is a common occurrence, the response will be delayed until they are finished with the current call.

The Lompoc fire crews are very well trained and spend many hours each week developing technical skills, equipment operation skills maintenance, and firefighting/rescue techniques. The command staff also spend many hours sharpening their incident command skills. Interdepartmental training and joint exercises are an integral part of the skills maintenance component of their training regimen.

At this fire, all of those hours of training paid off as they seamlessly worked with other agencies to protect adjoining buildings from the heat of this fire.

There have been many somewhat ineffective attempts by the political leadership in

our city over the last several decades to provide citizens with adequate fire protection resources. For example, the City Council authorized purchase of a ladder truck nearly 40 years ago, but never authorized full-time staffing to operate it.

Thus it was just a shiny object rather than an effective firefighting tool. This truck was recently retired because, during an annual inspection, structural cracking was detected at the base of the ladder; there is no plan to replace it.

This fire burned a large pile of pallets and boxes with an estimated value of \$325,000, but the next could be in an occupied apartment building, hotel, or large commercial structure.

Waiting several valuable minutes for outside help to arrive isn't a responsible strategy. The City Council needs to address staffing and equipment issues carefully to ensure that the city has adequate and timely fire department response capability. ○

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

### LETTERS

## Santa Maria: Stop the gobble-gobble

The citizens of Orcutt are fed up with the actions of Santa Maria as they attempt to annex the Richards Ranch property into the city. It is located next to Highway 135 and Union Valley Parkway. The Parkway already has significant traffic. If approved, traffic will increase by 20,780 trips per day creating more unwanted noise. This area has long been part of the Orcutt community plan with nothing to do with the city.

Also Righetti High School is now at 145 percent of capacity. When students are going to and from school, we now have difficulty pulling out of our neighborhood onto Foster Road. If approved, the added students will make it "exponentially" worse!

Let's look at the project! It consists of 400 apartments, 95 townhomes, and a retail commercial center. The city of Santa Maria wants to annex this property for two reasons: tax revenue and state housing mandates, both at Orcutt's expense.

Orcutt now has 34 key sites in the Orcutt Community Plan. Any changes need to be made by the citizens of Orcutt, not Santa Maria. There is no doubt that dwellers in this project will use Orcutt's resources such as schools, law enforcement, fire and rescue, parks, trails, and roadways.

How does Santa Maria exercise this authority over Orcutt? Years ago Santa Maria and a supervisor from Santa Maria decided that Orcutt did not need state water. They have continued to control growth with a grip on water even though Orcutt has its own vast supply of underground water. Every time a commercial development comes along, Santa Maria refuses to sell water unless the project is annexed.

Today Orcutt residents have more expendable income than Santa Maria and, in fact, support Santa Maria's economy such as Costco, Home Depot/Lowe's, car dealerships, big-box stores, hospitals, etc. Santa Maria reaps the benefits via taxes without providing services to Orcutt.

While Santa Maria tore down its historic downtown and it still struggles to survive, Orcutt did the opposite. Orcutt residents formed the Old Town Orcutt Revitalization Association and transformed Old Town Orcutt into a thriving historical downtown.

Join me in assembling a group to incorporate Orcutt, which was established in 1904. If successful, Orcutt would become the third largest city in Santa Barbara County—larger than Guadalupe, Buellton, Solvang, Carpinteria, Goleta, and Lompoc. Contact Steve LeBard to join our group at (805) 714 1165.

Ken McCalip Orcutt

### Speak up!

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



## THIS MODERN WORLD

by TOM TOMORROW

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# Policy prattlers

Solvang is so far up its own ass about what “Danish” means that it can’t understand the evolution of the European country that it spends marketing money to emulate. I guess Solvang likes to live in the past—like almost 100 years ago, past: pre-1933

## Denmark.

You know? Back before it was legal to be a homosexual.

Not to rehash my rants from earlier this year, but come on Solvang! **Hans Christian Andersen** died in 1875. Isn't it time to evolve to a more modern take on what it means to be Danish? After the City Council voted the city back to early 20th century Denmark by not allowing Pride banners to hang from city light poles during Pride Month, the city doubled down on its devolution by denying a second attempt to get the city to put the banners up.

**Copenhagen** hosts the biggest Pride celebration in Denmark every year, so **Copenhagen Drive** could really lean into that heritage during Pride Month.

All this talk about city policy got my feathers ruffled, and really got me thinking about what makes a political issue political. The Pride Month banners request is relatively benign, just a show of acceptance, really. If the city had just approved the application, I doubt anyone outside of the **Santa Ynez Valley** would have taken notice. Instead, the city of Solvang made headlines all over the **Central Coast**.

City residents and three members of the **City Council** made the Pride Month banners a political issue—using the excuse that they’re not compatible with the city’s marketing efforts.

If you check out the marketing website for “The Danish Capital of America,” solvang.usa, it begs the LGBTQ-plus community to “tie the knot in Solvang.” If that’s what the city wants, it would seem that hanging up Pride banners during Pride Month would fit right in with the city’s marking efforts.

“Solvang says ‘Velkommen’ to LGBT Visitors,” the website states. “Solvang proudly welcomes ALL visitors and has a tradition of welcoming LGBT singles, couples, and families.”

But, Solvang *will not* put up Pride banners, because—as the current mayor puts it—“We don’t want to promote one particular ideology.”

What particular ideology do flags on light poles for one month promote, **Mark Infanti**?

Because I can’t think of the “ideology” behind it.

One resident called the flags “political activism with disregard for all citizens and visitors, our children, and our community.” The flags are actually a sign of inclusiveness, a show of support for all citizens and visitors, children, and members of the community. And I know, “inclusiveness” is a dirty word for all you righty-tighties out there. But it shouldn’t be.

It’s absolute madness that the cultural fight for control over the country’s narrative is again targeting the LGBTQ-plus community (because targeting people of color isn’t doing enough to galvanize support for the far-right), and the stupid talking points from that campaign infiltrated a city discussion over the banners hanging from city light poles for four weeks. And gaslighting everyone—by claiming that rainbow banners don’t match with Solvang’s Danish heritage instead of admitting that America’s political moment really hits home for certain members of the Solvang’s City Council and adamant city residents—isn’t working.

Everyone now knows what and who you are. Slow clap, because you just made this a political fight. ☹

The Canary hates the word gaslighting. Send new terms to canary@santamariasun.com.



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## POURS AND POSES

Vineyard Yoga SYV will hold its first Yoga in the Vineyard session of 2023 at Zaca Mesa Winery in Los Olivos on Sunday, March 26, from 10 a.m. to noon. The event includes a one-hour yoga class followed by guided meditation and a complimentary glass of wine. Admission to the event is \$40. Visit [zacamesa.com](http://zacamesa.com) or [vineyardyogasyv.com](http://vineyardyogasyv.com) for more info. Zaca Mesa Winery is located at 6905 Foxen Canyon Road, Los Olivos.

—Caleb Wiseblood



PHOTO COURTESY OF ZACA MESA WINERY

## 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. Through March 26 [my805tix.com](http://my805tix.com). Santa Maria Civic Theatre, 1660 N. McClelland St., Santa Maria.

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

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

**LEARN CALIFORNIA'S OFFICIAL DANCE: WEST COAST SWING** Learn west coast swing in a casual, friendly environment, taught by Texas state swing champion, Gina Sigman. No partner needed. Tuesdays, 6:30-8:15 p.m. Beginning class is free; \$10 for advanced. 805-344-1630. Cubanissimo Cuban Coffee House, 4869 S. Bradley Rd., #118, Orcutt.

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

ukulele, or violin, or take vocal lessons. 805-925-0464. [coelhomusic.com/Lessons/lessons.html](http://coelhomusic.com/Lessons/lessons.html). Coelho Academy of Music, 325 E. Betteravia Rd., Santa Maria.

**PAWS TO READ** Reading to dogs is a wonderful way for children to gain confidence while reading aloud. These dogs absolutely love all kinds of books and are excellent listeners. Call or visit Youth Services to register child for a 15-minute time slot. Tuesdays, 3:30-5 p.m. through March 28 805-925-0994. [engagedpatrons.org](http://engagedpatrons.org). Santa Maria Public Library (Altrusa Theater), 421 S. McClelland St., Santa Maria.

**SATURDAY CRAFTERNOON: RECYCLED BIRDFEEDERS** Make a delightful birdfeeder out of recycled cans to hang in your tree at home and enjoy your neighborhood birds. All materials will be provided and this workshop is free. For patrons ages 18 and older. **March 25**, 2:30 p.m. Free. 805-925-0994. [cityofsantamaria.org](http://cityofsantamaria.org). Santa Maria Public Library, 421 S. McClelland St., 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](http://engagedpatrons.org). Santa Maria Public Library (Altrusa Theater), 421 S. McClelland St., Santa Maria.

**THE STUDIO PRESENTS: MARVELOUS MARCH** For ages 12 to 18 in grades 7 to 12. Free superhero-themed art projects for teens. To register, visit site. Wednesdays, 4:30-6:30 p.m. through March 29 Free. 805-925-0951. Abel Maldonado Community Youth Center, 600 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. [anc.apm.activecommunities.com/santamaria/activity/search?activity\\_keyword=ukulele](http://anc.apm.activecommunities.com/santamaria/activity/search?activity_keyword=ukulele). Elwin Mussel Senior Center, 510 Park Ave., Santa Maria.

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

### SANTA YNEZ VALLEY

**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](http://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](http://wildlingmuseum.org).

**LAUGH THERAPY: STAND-UP COMEDY 2023** Enjoy comedy from comics from across the country. Headliner: Ed Greer. **March 29**, 8-10 p.m. [my805tix.com](http://my805tix.com). Maverick Saloon, 3687 Sagunto St., Santa Ynez, 805-686-4785.

**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.

**VOICES AND VISTAS** Award-winning artist Jim Tyler will exhibit a collection of landscape, figurative, and portrait pastel paintings at Gallery Los Olivos during the month of April. **April 1**, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. and Mondays-Sundays, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. through April 30 805-688-7517. [GalleryLosOlivos.com](http://GalleryLosOlivos.com). Gallery Los Olivos, 2920 Grand Ave., Los Olivos.

### LOMPOC/VANDENBERG

**BRENDA FRENCH MEMORIAL ART AUCTION AND SALE** The Lompoc Valley Arts Council is sponsoring a Silent Auction and Sale of fine art from the collection of Brenda French; work by local and county art professionals; and treasured collectibles. **April 1**, 11 a.m.-4 p.m. Free. 805-735-6896. [facebook.com/LompocValleyArtsCouncil](http://facebook.com/LompocValleyArtsCouncil). Stone Pine Hall, 210 South H St., Lompoc.

**CAROL TALLEY: ARTIST RECEPTION** "Luminous Landscapes" is the theme of Carol Talley's art exhibit on display through mid-May at Flying Goat Cellars Tasting Room & Art Salon. **March 24**, 4-6 p.m. 805-736-9032. [flyinggoatcellars.com/blogs/news/carol-talley](http://flyinggoatcellars.com/blogs/news/carol-talley). Flying Goat Cellars, 1520 Chestnut Court, Lompoc.

**COLOR ME DRAG** A colorful evening celebrating the art of drag. Guests are encouraged to dress head-to-toe in their favorite color. Hosted by Angel D'Mon and Vivian Storm. **April 1**, 6 & 9 p.m. [my805tix.com](http://my805tix.com). Flower City Ballroom, 110 W. Ocean Ave., Lompoc.

**WATER AND WOOD** Featured artists: Neal Andersson and Chuck Klein. Opening reception held on Apr. 2, from 1 to 3 p.m. Thursdays-Sundays, 11 a.m.-4 p.m. through April 23 Free admission. 805-737-1129. Cypress Gallery, 119 E Cypress Ave., Lompoc, [lompcart.org](http://lompcart.org).

### 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](http://slolibrary.org).

**BE PART OF ART** There will be a different art activity each month. Bring the whole family to see the beauty in creating together and how easy it can be to bring art into your home. Last Saturday of every month, 1:30-3 p.m. Free. 805-668-2125. [lila.community/](http://lila.community/). LiLA Creative Community, 1147 East Grand Ave. suite 101, Arroyo Grande.

**FIBER THERAPY: INTUITIVE BASKETRY CREATIVE WORKSHOP WITH HELEN SEIGEL** Learn the basic process of how to make a coil basket. This approach to basketry will introduce possible paths for exploration. Bring any additional yarn you might want to use in your basket. **March 25**, 9 a.m.-noon \$50. 805-668-2125. [lila.community/](http://lila.community/). LiLA Creative Community, 1147 East Grand Ave. suite 101, Arroyo Grande.

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

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

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

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

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

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

**PLAY, EXPLORE, CREATE 1 (AGES 3 AND 4)** Enjoy the opportunity to explore drawing, painting, collage, sculpture, and mixed media. Each week a new adventure awaits. Thursdays, 2-3 p.m. and

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 [newtimeslo.com](http://newtimeslo.com). You may also email [calendar@newtimeslo.com](mailto:calendar@newtimeslo.com). Deadline is one week before the issue date on Thursdays. Submissions are subject to editing and approval. Contact Calendar Editor Caleb Wiseblood directly at [cwiseblood@newtimeslo.com](mailto:cwiseblood@newtimeslo.com).

SUBMIT YOUR EVENTS

## INDEX

Arts.....	12
Culture & Lifestyle .....	15
Food & Drink.....	16
Music .....	16



**COMEDIAN LINE-UP  
ANNOUNCED!**

Best of  
The San Francisco  
Stand-up Comedy  
Competition

Sat, April 1 at 7:30pm

Featuring:

Brooke Heinchen

& Ta'Vi

Headliner:

Joe Zimmerman

Hosted by:  
Sammy Obied

Sponsored by  
Pismo Beach  
Veterinary Clinic

# ALWAYS AMAZING. NEVER ROUTINE.



## PARMALEE

APRIL 28 | SATURDAY | 8PM



## MARIACHI REYNA

MAY 6 | SATURDAY | 8PM



## THUNDER FROM DOWN UNDER

MAY 26 | FRIDAY | 8PM



## BUMPING MICS

JUNE 23 | FRIDAY | 8PM

ON SALE MARCH 24

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# Sherlock Holmes AND THE FINAL PROBLEM

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SCAN FOR MORE INFO



**PLAY AMONG THE STARS**

The Santa Maria Philharmonic Society presents a family-friendly concert, *Fly Me to the Moon: From J.S. Bach to Mr. Spock*, at First Baptist Church in Santa Maria on Sunday, March 26, from 4 to 5 p.m. Admission to the performance, which includes live music infused with multimedia elements, is free. Call (805) 925-0412 or visit [santamariaphilharmonic.org](http://santamariaphilharmonic.org) for more info. First Baptist Church is located at 2970 Santa Maria Way, Santa Maria.

—C.W.

THE PRIDE & DIVERSITY CENTER AND BBP PROUDLY PRESENT

**QUEER SPRING BREAK WEEKEND KICKS OFF FRIDAY, MARCH 24TH**



Shanelle Vanity



Elliott with 2 T's  
RUPAUL'S DRAG RACE SEASON 13



Alizae Brooks  
MS. SIN CITY AMERICA 2023



**TOMMI ROSE**



Ada Vox  
AMERICAN IDOL S. 18

**THE ROCK**  
855 Aerovista Place  
San Luis Obispo

**& THE PLAYGIRLS**

18+ MUST HAVE VALID ID

TWO SHOWTIMES - VIP SEATING AND GENERAL ADMISSION TICKETS AVAILABLE NOW \$75 and \$45

Doors at 5:30pm show 6:30-8:00pm/Doors at 9pm show 10-11:30pm

[www.bigbalszproductions.com](http://www.bigbalszproductions.com) for tickets



**ARTS** from page 12

Fridays, 9-10 a.m. \$25. 805-668-2125. lila.community/. Lila Creative Community, 1147 East Grand Ave. suite 101, Arroyo Grande.

**SHERLOCK HOLMES AND THE FINAL PROBLEM** Sherlock Holmes' skills are put to the test when he goes head-to-head with his intellectual equal, criminal mastermind Professor Moriarty. After repeated attempts on his life, Holmes is rejoined by his recently married friend Dr. Watson and the two attempt to thwart the Professor's plans Saturdays, 2-4 p.m., Wednesdays-Saturdays, 7-9 p.m. and Sundays, 6-8 a.m. through May 14 \$30-\$36. 805-489-2499. [americanmelodrama.com](http://americanmelodrama.com). Great American Melodrama, 1863 Front St., Oceano.

**SAN LUIS OBISPO**

**ART EXHIBIT: NEEDLING** Featuring the Cutting Edge Fiber Art Group. Through April 3, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Free. 805-747-4200. [artcentralslo.com/gallery/](http://artcentralslo.com/gallery/). Art Central, 1329 Monterey St., San Luis Obispo.

**ART IN THE GARDEN AND PLANT SALE** Features more than 30 artists showing and selling their work in a variety of media, including daily performances by the Jill Knight Duo. Food and drink available for purchase, along with a variety of plants from the five Mediterranean climate zones. **March 25**, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. and **March 26**, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Free. 805-541-1400. [slobg.org](http://slobg.org). San Luis Obispo Botanical Garden, 3450 Dairy Creek Rd., San Luis Obispo.

**ART WORKSHOP: ACRYLIC OCEAN PAINTING WITH CATHERINE LEMOINE** Subject: "Pacific Blue/Golden Sands." All ages and all experience levels welcome; can enroll in either date or both. Some materials included, enroll by calling or texting. **March 24**, 2-4:30 p.m. and **March 25**, 2-4:30 p.m. \$45 per person, per class. 805-863-4287. [artcentralslo.com](http://artcentralslo.com). 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. [artcentralslo.com/gallery-artists/](http://artcentralslo.com/gallery-artists/). Art Central, 1329 Monterey St., San Luis Obispo.

**BALLET THEATRE SLO: THE HUNCHBACK OF NOTRE DAME** The world premiere of Ballet Theatre San Luis Obispo's epic full-length three act adaptation of Victor Hugo's classic tale, described as a whirlwind of love, cruelty, and betrayal. **April 1**, 7-9:15 p.m. and **April 2**, 2-4:15

p.m. \$20-\$56. 805-756-4849. [bt-slo.org/nextproduction](http://bt-slo.org/nextproduction). Performing Arts Center, 1 Grand Ave., San Luis Obispo.

**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.

**CIVIC BALLET OF SLO: THE SCARLET IBIS** An American classic, James Hurst's coming-of-age story "The Scarlet Ibis" arrives on stage as a contemporary ballet by Civic Ballet artistic director Drew Silvaggio. It explores themes of family, acceptance, pridefulness, and fragility. Performed with *Our Town*. **March 24** and **March 25**, 7-9:15 p.m. \$38-\$52. 805-756-4849. [pacsllo.org](http://pacsllo.org). Performing Arts Center, 1 Grand Ave., San Luis Obispo.

**CRITICAL ENCOUNTERS** Beginning with monographs 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/](http://sloma.org/exhibits/current/). San Luis Obispo Museum of Art, 1010 Broad St., San Luis Obispo.

**FLORAL FEMALE SCULPTURE SERIES** A seven-session class, walking students through a young woman sculpture with floral elements. Beginners welcome. Tuesdays, Fridays, 11 a.m.-1 p.m. through March 24 \$250. [anamcre.com/booking](http://anamcre.com/booking). Anam Cre Pottery Studio, 1243 Monterey St., San Luis Obispo.

**LIZ MARUSKA'S ART: ENJOYING BIG SUR** Wander through 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 31 Free. 805-550-3308. [SLOProvisions.com](http://SLOProvisions.com). SLO Provisions, 1255 Monterey St., San Luis Obispo.

**MARELA ZACARIAS: STORYTELLING** Through July 7 San Luis Obispo Museum of Art, 1010 Broad St., San Luis Obispo, 543-8562, [sloma.org/](http://sloma.org/).

**PAINT SOCIAL** Please join ArtSocial805 at ArtCentral SLO for a step-by-step painting experience. **April 2**, 1-3 p.m. \$40. 805-747-4200. [artsocial805.com](http://artsocial805.com). Art Central, 1329 Monterey St., San Luis Obispo.

**PLEIN AIR PAINTERS OF THE CENTRAL COAST** A self-directed fun group of dynamic artists who enjoy painting and sketching outdoors. Artists meet on site at various locations. Weekly plein

air destinations are provided by Kirsti Wothe via email ([mrswothe@yahoo.com](mailto:mrswothe@yahoo.com)). Wednesdays, 9 a.m.-noon SLO County, Various locations, San Luis Obispo.

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

**NORTH COAST SLO COUNTY**

**AQUARIUS 2023 CALIFORNIA OPEN WATERMEDIA EXHIBITION** Annual juried exhibition presented by Central Coast Watercolor Society, featuring varied watermedia styles and techniques by California artists. Through April 3, 12-4 p.m. Free. 805-772-2504. [ccwvart.com](http://ccwvart.com). Art Center Morro Bay, 835 Main St., Morro Bay.

**BOOK-SIGNING WITH PEGGY ROTHSCHILD** Molly Madison is back to solve another murder in her California community in a new mystery from author Peggy Rothschild. **March 25**, 1-3 p.m. Free. Coalesce Bookstore, 845 Main St., Morro Bay. [coalescebookstore.com/](http://coalescebookstore.com/).

**DEVOTIONAL JEWELRY BY JANE SIRAGUSA** Jane's Devotional Jewelry are wearable reminders of unique spiritual journeys, as not all spiritual journeys are the same, so different devotionals serve different purposes. Ultimately, Jane's jewelry best serves as a reminder that "we are not alone." Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays-Sundays, 11 a.m.-5 p.m. through April 29. 805-772-1068. [galleryatmarinasquare.com](http://galleryatmarinasquare.com). Gallery at Marina Square, 601 Embarcadero suite 10, Morro Bay.

**FINE ART ACRYLIC AND DIGITAL PAINTINGS BY STEVE DAYTON** Steve obtained Associate and BFA degrees in graphic design from Ricks College and Brigham Young University. Steve's paintings are either abstract or representational, and those in his Cayucos series use acrylic paints inspired by the Central Coast. Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays-Sundays, 11 a.m.-5 p.m. through April 29 Free. 805-772-1068. [galleryatmarinasquare.com](http://galleryatmarinasquare.com). Gallery at Marina Square, 601 Embarcadero suite 10, Morro Bay.

**FINE ART ACRYLIC PAINTINGS BY SANDRA SANDERS** "I can paint for hours on end. The stress of life just seems to

ARTS continued page 15



**KCBX FM**  
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ARTS from page 14

go away while I'm painting a beautiful seascape or a snowy mountain scene. I hope you enjoy looking at them as much as I enjoyed painting them," Sanders said in a statement. Mondays, Wednesdays-Sundays, 11 a.m.-5 p.m. through March 29 Free. 805-772-1068. galleryatmarinasquare.com. Gallery at Marina Square, 601 Embarcadero suite 10, Morro Bay.

**FINE ART JEWELRY BY MARJORIE ZLOTOWITZ** "I love the colors, shapes, and textures of natural stones, various metals, and vintage beads. The breathtaking beauty of the Central Coast provides endless inspiration," the artist said in a statement. Mondays, Wednesdays-Sundays, 11 a.m.-5 p.m. through March 29. 805-772-1068. galleryatmarinasquare.com. Gallery at Marina Square, 601 Embarcadero suite 10, Morro Bay.

**FINE ART OIL PAINTINGS BY JEFF ODELL** For more than 30 years on the Central Coast, Odell has been painting rural/urban landscapes, seascapes, portraits, figures, interior studies, and "anything that will sit long enough to serve as a subject." Gallery open daily. Mondays, Wednesdays-Sundays, 11 a.m.-5 p.m. through April 29. 805-772-1068. galleryatmarinasquare.com. Gallery at Marina Square, 601 Embarcadero suite 10, Morro Bay.

**FOREVER STOKED PAINT PARTY** Join us at the gallery, for a few hours to travel on a creative paint journey. You will receive as much or as little instruction as you prefer. No artistic experience is necessary. Saturdays, 7-9 p.m. \$45. 805-772-9095. Forever Stoked, 1164 Quintana Rd., Morro Bay.

**METAL ART BY TRUDI GILLIAM** Gilliam creates her sculptures using copper, brass, nickel/silver, and found objects. This new series of whales and birds uses copper and sea glass. ongoing 805-772-9955. Seven Sisters Gallery, 601 Embarcadero Ste. 8, Morro Bay, sevensistersgalleryca.com.

**THE PLEIN AIR TEAM** Acrylic artist, Nancy Lynn, and husband, watercolorist, Robert Fleming, have an ongoing show of originals and giclee prints of Morro Bay and local birds. 805-772-9955. Seven Sisters Gallery, 601 Embarcadero Ste. 8, Morro Bay, sevensistersgalleryca.com.

CULTURE & LIFESTYLE

SANTA MARIA VALLEY/LOS ALAMOS

**10TH ANNUAL EVERYTHING EDIBLE: SPRING PLANT SALE** Find a huge selection of heirloom and hybrid tomato varieties, peppers, eggplant, basil, herbs, veggies, berries, fruit trees, flowers. **March 25**, 10 a.m.-3 p.m., **March 26**, 10 a.m.-3 p.m. and **April 1**, 10 a.m.-3 p.m. Free admission. 805-934-2182. Growing Grounds Farm, 820 W. Foster Rd., Santa Maria, t-mha.org.

**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.

**FAIRY GARDENS** Inspired by Irish history, mythology, and Fairy folklore, create a magical or mysterious fairy garden. Program funded in part or whole by California State Library. **March 23**, 4 p.m. 805-925-0994. engagedpatrons.org. Santa Maria Public Library (Altrusa Theater), 421 S. McClelland St., Santa Maria.

**FAMILY STEAM NIGHT** Bring the family for a night of science, technology, engineering, art, and math fun. Activities are designed for elementary school

aged children to complete with other family members. Program funded in part or whole by California State Library. **March 30**, 4-5:30 p.m. 805-925-0994. engagedpatrons.org. Santa Maria Public Library (Altrusa Theater), 421 S. McClelland St., Santa Maria.

**FAMILY, CULTURE, AND LITERACY ACTIVITY PACKS; ALL SM BRANCH LOCATIONS** Features activities which celebrate cultures from around the world, and the power of literacy, while encouraging time for family connection. Program funded in part or whole by California State Library. **March 25** 805-925-0994. engagedpatrons.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.

**THE GREAT OUTDOORS** Join Susan Tuttle, California Naturalist and Education Coordinator at Los Flores Ranch Park, for a special presentation on local parks and trails. For all ages. **March 28**, 4 p.m. Free. 805-925-0994. Santa Maria Public Library, 421 S. McClelland St., Santa Maria.

**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.

**POKEMON CLUB** Join other Pokémon trainers at the popular Pokémon Club. Learn how to play the Pokémon Trading Card game, watch the TV show, and/or participate in other fun activities. Bring a deck from home to battle or use one from the library. **March 25**, 11 a.m. 805-925-0994. engagedpatrons.org. Santa Maria Public Library (Altrusa Theater), 421 S. McClelland St., Santa Maria.

**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.

**PRESCHOOL YOGA STORY TIME** Come for a morning of yoga with stories and breathing exercises. Children are introduced to mindfulness and will learn exercises to help regulate emotions. Space and supplies are limited. For ages 3-5. Program funded in part or whole by California State Library. **March 24**, 11 a.m. 805-925-0994. engagedpatrons.org. Santa Maria Public Library (Altrusa Theater), 421 S. McClelland St., 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. **April 1** 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. Fourth Saturday of every month, 12-4 p.m. smvrhm.com. Santa Maria Transit Center, Miller and Boone Streets, Santa Maria.

**SHAMROCKIN' FUN** Free and supervised arts and crafts programs for youth ages 6-12. Registration is required. Tuesdays, 4-6:30 p.m. through March 28 Free. 805-925-0951. Minami Community Center, 600 W. Enos Drive, Santa Maria.

**SPECIAL GENEALOGY PRESENTATION**

Learn about Midge Buchert's experience researching the inter-related Italian-Swiss families of the Central Coast of California, who are trying to connect with their roots in Switzerland. Learn more about her project and the tools created for FamilySearch. **March 25**, 10:30 a.m. Free. 805-925-0994. cityofsantamaria.org/city-government/departments/library. Santa Maria Public Library, 421 S. McClelland St., Santa Maria.

**TEEN BLEACH T-SHIRT CREATION** Design and create a one-of-a-kind, custom shirt. Using a spray bottle of bleach, stencils, or other props, you will create an original fashion design. **March 23**, 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 Varies. 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.

**DONATION-BASED YOGA FOR FIRST RESPONDERS, EMTS, AND CARETAKERS** Class schedule varies. Contact empoweryoga805@gmail for details and reservations. ongoing 805-619-0989. empoweryoga805.com. Empower Yoga Studio and Community Boutique, 775 W. Grand Ave., Grover Beach.

**HOPE FOR THE HOMELESS GOLF TOURNAMENT 2023** Hosted at the Pismo State Beach Golf Course, this fun celebration of community and charity is a great opportunity to test your skills on the green while helping your neighbors in need. **March 25**, 7 a.m.-1 p.m. my805tix.com. Pismo Beach Golf Course, 25 West Grand Ave., Grover Beach.

**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.

**SOUND HEALING WITH CHARMIAN REDWOOD** The vibrational sound "travels throughout your entire physical body, chakras and energy field, clearing and removing imbalances or blockages to your ideal and healthy vibration." Bring a yoga mat. **March 26**, 12-2 p.m. Love offering. 805-440-9461. unity5cities.org. The Victorian, 789 Valley Rd., Arroyo Grande.

**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, 5cityesswimschool.com.

SAN LUIS OBISPO

**THE ATOM: A LOVE AFFAIR FILM SCREENING** Ecologistics and Mothers For Peace present a sweeping international feature documentary which charts the West's roller-coaster love-hate relationship with nuclear power over the past 75 years, via the scientists, engineers, politicians and campaigners who experienced it first hand. Q-and-A to follow. **March 25**, 3 p.m. \$10. ecologistics.org. Cuesta College Cultural and Performing Arts Center, Highway 1, San Luis Obispo.

**CULTURE & LIFESTYLE** continued page 16

**21+**

**SUPER GAY DJ DANCE PARTY**

Hosted by Nala Diamond & Juicy CW

SATURDAY MARCH 25th

Doors @ 7pm

MUSIC 8 - 12 PM

Proceeds benefit the GALA Pride & Diversity Center

QR CODE

TICKETS \$15 online / \$20 at the door www.bigbalszproductions.com

855 Aerovista Place San Luis Obispo

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**THREE SPECKLED HENS ANTIQUES & OLD STUFF SHOW**

**Fri-Sun, April 28-30, 2023**

**Paso Robles Event Center, Paso Robles**

Presented by: **THREE SPECKLED HENS**

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**What's Your Take?**

We know you've got an opinion. Everybody's got one!

This week's online poll 3/23 - 3/30

What do you think of the Solvang City Council decision to reject hanging pride banners during June?

- The city council made the right decision following its policies.
- It was an informed decision in the best interest of all community members.
- The city council should look at changing its streetlight banner policy.
- The decision further harms people in the LGBTQ+ communities.

Enter your choice online at: SantaMariaSun.com

**Sun**



## CULTURE & LIFESTYLE from page 15

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

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

**BIRDS AND BOTANY MONTHLY WALK AT SLO BOTANICAL GARDEN** The Garden is excited to present a monthly bird walk series on the fourth Thursday of every month which explores the intersection of birds and botany. Fourth Thursday of every month, 8-11 a.m. \$10 for Garden Members; \$40 for general public. 805-541-1400. slobg.org. San Luis Obispo Botanical Garden, 3450 Dairy Creek Rd., 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 CONJURERS (SLO COUNTY MAGIC CLUB)** Monthly meeting of magicians of all levels. Please call or email for more info. Meet like-minded folks with an interest in magic, from close-up to stage performances. Last Wednesday of every month, 6:30-9 p.m. 805-440-0116. IHOP, 212 Madonna 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 25**, 9:30-11:30 a.m. Free admission. 805-234-4457. Mission San Luis Obispo de Tolosa, 751 Palm Street, San Luis Obispo, missionsanluisobispo.org/.

**FAMILY DAY AT THE DALLIDET** Bring the whole family to help open the Dallidet Gardens for 2023. A day of kid-friendly activities, games, and fun planned (plus lunch). **April 1**, 11 a.m.-3 p.m. \$25 adults; \$10 children. 805-543-0638. historycenterslo.org/familyday. Dallidet Adobe and Gardens, 1185 Pacific St., San Luis Obispo.

**FREE FAMILY DAY AND SNAKE SCIENCE** Admission waived all day for all guests. This month, join Dr. Emily Taylor from Cal Poly with some sensational serpents. Please bring water, sunscreen, and comfortable shoes. For more information about registering for this program, email millie@slobg.org or call. **April 2**, 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Free. 805-541-1400. slobg.org. San Luis Obispo Botanical Garden, 3450 Dairy Creek Rd., 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.

**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.

**ORCHID FEST 2023** Enjoy the beauty and grandeur of orchids. Produced in conjunction with Five Cities Orchid Society. Seven area orchid societies will be exhibiting and selling their individual specialities. **April 1**, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. and **April 2**, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Free. 805-541-1400. slobg.org. San Luis Obispo Botanical Garden, 3450 Dairy Creek Rd., San Luis Obispo.



## SOMEWHERE THAT'S GREEN

*The 5Cities Homeless Coalition hosts its annual Hope for the Homeless Golf Tournament at the Pismo State Beach Golf Course on Saturday, March 25, from 7 a.m. to 1 p.m. Team players and single players will have access to a barbecue lunch during the fundraiser. Participants can preregister for the event at my805tix.com. The golf course is located at 9 Le Sage Drive, Grover Beach.*

—C.W.

**Q YOUTH GROUP (VIRTUALLY VIA ZOOM)** This is a social support group for LGBTQ+ and questioning youth between the ages of 11-18. Each week the group explores personal, cultural, and social identity. Thursdays, 6-8 p.m. Free. galacc.org/events/. 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. slonoonline.toastmastersclubs.org. Zoom, Online, Inquire for Zoom ID.

**SLO RAM RETIRED ACTIVE MEN COFFEE CABINET** Weekly Coffee Cabinet meeting of the SLO RAM Active Retired Men, a local men's social club. Click 'Contact' on website for invite. Thursdays, 8-9:30 a.m. \$10. retiredactivemen.org. Madonna Inn, 100 Madonna Road, San Luis Obispo.

**SPRING GYMNASTICS CAMP 1** Take some personal time while your kiddos enjoy hours of bouncing, flying, and flipping gymnastics fun. For ages 4-13. No experience is necessary. Extended care and customizable schedule available. **March 27**, 9:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m., **March 28**, 9:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m., **March 29**, 9:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m., and **March 31**, 9:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m. \$40-\$355 depending on which option you choose. 805-547-1496. performanceathleticslo.com/camps. Performance Athletics Gymnastics, 4484 Broad St., 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.slcsud.org. Online, See website, San Luis Obispo.

**TAICHI 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.slcsud.org. Online, See website, San Luis Obispo.

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

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

### NORTH COAST SLO COUNTY

**CENTRAL COAST WOOD CARVERS** Learn the art of wood carving or wood burning. Join Central Coast Wood Carvers in Morro Bay at St. Timothy's. Open for beginners, intermediate, or advance. Learn a wide range of techniques and skills. Mask Required. Tuesdays, 9:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Free. St. Timothy's Catholic Church, 962 Piney Way, Morro Bay, 805-772-2840, sttimothymorrobay.org/index.html.

**DEMENTIA CONVERSATIONS: DRIVING, DOCTORS AND MAKING PLANS** Learn tips to have difficult conversations related to dementia, including going to the doctor, deciding when to stop driving, and putting legal and financial plans in place. **March 24**, 10:30 a.m.-noon No cost. 805-342-0956. alz.org. Morro Bay Library, 625 Harbor St., Morro Bay.

**SOCRATES: DISCUSSION GROUP** Group members present interesting and thought provoking topics of all sorts. Topics are selected in advance and moderated by volunteers. Vaccinations are necessary. Enter through wooden gate to garden area. Wednesdays, 10 a.m. 805-528-7111. Coalesce Bookstore, 845 Main St., Morro Bay, coalescebookstore.com/.

## FOOD & DRINK

### SANTA MARIA VALLEY/LOS ALAMOS

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

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

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

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

### SANTA YNEZ VALLEY

**YOGA IN THE VINEYARD** Vineyard Yoga SYV is coming out to Zaca Mesa Winery to host the first Yoga in the Vineyard session of 2023. Event includes a one-hour yoga class, guided meditation, a glass of wine, and gorgeous vineyard views. **March 26**, 10 a.m.-noon \$40. 805-688-9339. zacamesa.com/upcoming-events/. Zaca Mesa Winery, 6905 Foxen Canyon Road, Los Olivos.

### LOMPOC/VANDENBERG

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

**SLO COAST WINE CLASSIC** Join SLO Coast winemakers and fellow wine lovers at the SLO Coast Wine Classic in Pismo Beach. Meet and mingle with winemakers all weekend. **March 24-27**, 11 a.m.-7 p.m. \$75-\$350. 805-550-2506. eventbrite.com. Pismo Beach Pier, West end of Pomeroy, Pismo Beach.

**ST. PATRICK'S CHURCH FISH FRY** The Italian Catholic Federation Lenten Fish Fry season is here. Enjoy a fish and chips and coleslaw dinner in the parish hall. Dine in or take out. All are welcome. Fridays, 4-7 p.m. through March 31 \$10-\$20. St. Patrick's Church, 501 Fair Oaks Ave., Arroyo Grande, stpatsag.org.

### SAN LUIS OBISPO

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

**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. headgamestrivia.com. Antigua Brewing, 1009 Monterey St., San Luis Obispo, 805-242-1167.

**MERAKI MIXER** An interactive event to connect with local entrepreneurs, listen to a few speakers, and have chances to win prizes. **March 25**, 5-10 p.m. my805tix.com. The Penny, 664 Marsh St., San Luis Obispo.

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

## MUSIC

### SANTA MARIA VALLEY/LOS ALAMOS

**BIRDIE: MUSIC FOR THE KID IN EVERYONE** Preschoolers and young elementary youth: grab your families and

come rock out at the Library to music by Birdie. More than just 'ABCs and colors, this music inspires children and makes them feel good about themselves. **April 1**, 11:30 a.m. 805-925-0994. Santa Maria Public Library (Altrusa Theater), 421 S. McClelland St., Santa Maria.

**FOLK DANCE CLASS** For adults ages 50 and up. Learn folk dances from around the world. No experience is necessary. Every third Thursday, 2-3 p.m. through Dec. 28 Free. 805-925-0951. Elwin Mussell Senior Center, 510 Park Ave., Santa Maria.

**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.

**LINE DANCING FUN** For adults ages 50 and older. Learn basic patterns and steps to some of your favorite music. This beginner-friendly class is for anyone that enjoys dancing. Wednesdays, 1:30-2:30 p.m. through Dec. 27 Free. 805-925-0951. 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 Fyah Band, DJ Nasty, DJ Jovas, and more. Fridays, Saturdays, 9 p.m.-2 a.m. Roscoe's Kitchen, 229 Town Center E, Santa Maria, 805-623-8866.

**SANTA MARIA PHILHARMONIC: FLY ME TO THE MOON (FAMILY CONCERT)** Spend your Sunday afternoon with the whole family at the Santa Maria Philharmonic's Fly Me to the Moon concert. Experience the thrill of live music and multimedia fusion in a presentation that celebrates science, technology, imagination, and the arts. **March 26**, 4-5 p.m. 805-925-0412. smphilharmonic.org. First Baptist Church, 2970 Santa Maria Way, Santa Maria.

**A TRIP DOWN BOURBON STREET** The Santa Maria Valley Senior Citizens Club presents this dance concert with Riptide Big Band, and vocalists Bob Nations and Mitch Latting. Free thanks to grant funding by Community Foundation of San Luis Obispo County. **April 2**, 1:30-4 p.m. Free. 775-813-5186. RiptideBB.com. Elwin Mussell Senior Center, 510 Park Ave., Santa Maria.

**UKULELE JAM SESSIONS** This is a drop-in program. Play melodies and many songs with other musicians. Baritone ukuleles are available to use or bring your own. Music and music strands provided. Mondays, Wednesdays, 10:30-11:30 a.m. through Dec. 27 Free. 805-925-0951. Elwin Mussell Senior Center, 510 Park Ave., 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.

**SANTA YNEZ VALLEY CONCERT SERIES: 42ND SEASON** The SYV Concert Series' 2022-23 season includes five upcoming concerts, between October and May. Through May 13 smitv.org/syv-concert-series.html. St. Mark's in the Valley Episcopal Church, 2901 Nojoqui Ave., Los Olivos.

**WINE DOWN WEDNESDAYS** Wednesdays, 4:30-5:30 p.m. Brick Barn Wine Estate, 795 W. Hwy 246, Buellton, 805-686-1208, brickbarnwineestate.com.

### LOMPOC/VANDENBERG

**COSMIC DISCOTEQUE** Features '70s disco and funk music. **March 31**, 8 p.m. my805tix.com. Flower City Ballroom, 110 W. Ocean Ave., Lompoc.

**FREE SWING DANCING LESSONS** All ages welcome. No experience necessary. **March 29**, 8 p.m. my805tix.com. Flower City Ballroom, 110 W. Ocean Ave., Lompoc.

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

### SOUTH COAST SLO COUNTY

**"OLD SONGS FOR YOUNG VOICES"** Two retired elementary teachers present songs, share instruments, and a themed library book each month. "Mr. G" shares his mandolin, viola, and various hand percussion instruments that kids get to try out. "Mr. Rouillard" brings along his songbooks with traditional folk songs for kids. Last Tuesday of every month, 3:30-4:30 p.m. through March 28 Free. Arroyo Grande Library, 800 W. Branch, Arroyo Grande, 473-7164, slolibrary.org.

**THE BIG SIRTS OF SWING AND THE RIGHETTI HIGH SCHOOL JAZZ BAND** The "Big Sirts of Swing" is a jazz quartet based on the Central Coast. The RHS musicians play compositions of varying styles of jazz, such as swing, bebop, funk, etc. **March 26**, 1 p.m. my805tix.com. Pismo Beach Veterans Memorial Hall, 780 Bello St., Pismo Beach.

### SAN LUIS OBISPO

**EASTON EVERETT SOLO** Enjoy some indie-acoustic, live music. Thursdays, 5:30-7:30 p.m. eastoneverett.com. Big Sky Cafe, 1121 Broad Street, San Luis Obispo, (805)545-5401.

**JONAH KIM AND TRIO BARCLAY** Artist-in-Residence cellist Jonah Kim joins Trio Barclay for an afternoon of chamber music. **March 26**, 2-4 p.m. Tickets start at \$35. 805-781-3009. festivalmozaic.org/barclay. Cuesta College Cultural and Performing Arts Center, Highway 1, San Luis Obispo.

**KASH'D OUT: WHISKEY & WEED TOUR 2023** For ages 18 and over. **March 31** \$17. slobrew.com. SLO Brew Rock, 855 Aerovista Pl., San Luis Obispo, 805-543-1843.

**KBONG AND JOHNNY COSMIC** Kevin Bong, aka 'KBONG' is a multi-instrumental artist who is well known for his "key" role in reggae band Stick Figure. Johnny Cosmic is a multi instrumentalist with more than 20 years of experience in music production and live performance. **March 23**, 7 p.m. \$20. slobrew.com. SLO Brew Rock, 855 Aerovista Pl., San Luis Obispo, 805-543-1843.

**LIVE MUSIC AT RAGTAG WINE CO.** Enjoy live music by local favorites. Wine available by the flight, glass, or bottle. Thursdays-Saturdays, 6-9 p.m. Ragtag Wine Co., 779 Higuera St., San Luis Obispo, 805-439-0774, ragtagwineco.com.

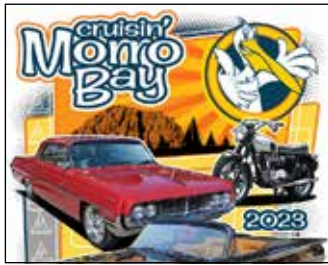
**LIVE MUSIC FROM GUITAR WIZ BILLY FOPPIANO AND MAD DOG** Join "Guitar Wiz" Billy Foppiano and his trusty side kick Mad Dog for a mix of blues, R&B, and more. Saturdays, 11 a.m.-1 p.m. 805-544-2100. Bon Temps Creole Cafe, 1819 Osos Street, San Luis Obispo, bontempscreolecafe.com/.

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ARTS BRIEFS

## Flying Goat Cellars showcases landscapes by Carol Talley

COURTESY IMAGE BY CAROL TALLEY



On Friday, March 24, Flying Goat Cellars in Lompoc will hold an opening reception for its latest art showcase—a solo exhibition of paintings by local artist Carol Talley. The reception is scheduled to start at 4 p.m.

The exhibit is titled Luminous Landscapes, and features a collection of Talley's "abstracted landscapes" that evoke feelings of both familiarity and mystery, according to press materials.

"I explore the landscape by in-person direct observation, and by recollection of the place," Talley said in press materials. "My aim is to capture the essential form, color, and gesture of a place, and then distill these elements into a compelling representation, leaving the unnecessary behind and revealing the vital core of a scene."

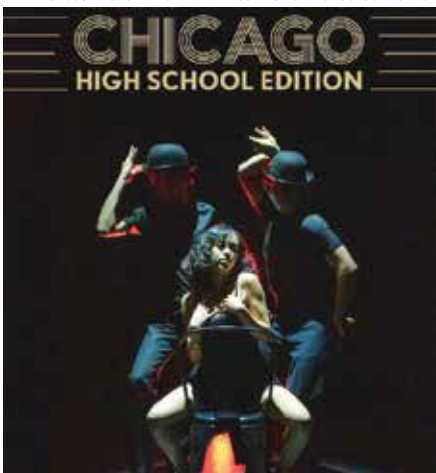
"Sometimes the location can be recognized," Talley continued. "At other times, the reference has been morphed into a dreamlike image."

Talley, whose paintings will be on display at Flying Goat Cellars through the end of May, will be at the upcoming reception for guests to meet. For more info on Talley's work, visit caroltalley.com.

To find out more about the exhibit and other programs hosted by Flying Goat Cellars, visit flyinggoatcellars.com. The venue is located at 1520 E. Chestnut Court, Lompoc.

## Three local high schools team up for student production of Chicago in Santa Maria

IMAGE COURTESY OF THE SANTA MARIA JOINT UNION HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT



A new student-led production of *Chicago* will premiere at the Pioneer Valley High School Performing Arts Center in Santa Maria on Thursday, March 23, at 7 p.m. Additional performances will be held on March 24, 25, 30, and 31 and April 1, at 7 p.m. each evening.

This iteration of the popular musical, set during the roaring 1920s, features student actors, singers, and dancers from Pioneer Valley High School, Righetti High School, and Santa Maria High School, according to the Santa Maria Joint Union High School District.

"The energy of this show, this cast, is out of this world," Pioneer Valley High School student Makai Copado said in press materials. "It has been such a blast putting such a timeless and iconic show on. I am so confident people are going to enjoy it very much."

For more info on the production and tickets, visit pvhsphanthers.org or call (805) 922-1305. The Pioneer Valley High School Performing Arts Center is located at 675 Panther Drive, Santa Maria. ○

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

PHOTOS COURTESY OF RYAN CARROLL



### Showtime!

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



**AUTUMN ART:** Lompoc papercut artist Ryan Carroll based this piece—one of several of Carroll's works currently on display at the Santa Maria Public Library—on a scene from the 1960 film *Late Autumn*.

# Cut it out

## Ryan Carroll's papercut pieces pop with color in Santa Maria

BY CALEB WISEBLOOD

Just like the Donovan song implies, to catch the wind was no easy task for local artist Ryan Carroll while completing a piece centered on Morro Rock.

"I was trying to capture that Morro Bay is very windy," Carroll said with a laugh.

As a papercut artist, Carroll enjoys re-creating imagery from reference photos and other resources, transforming them into intricate, collage-esque artworks that often feel both flat and three-dimensional simultaneously. Unlike how he creates most of his work though, Carroll used a tearing technique rather than a cutting method while creating his Morro Rock scene.

"That was the first tearing one that I played with—to tear the paper instead of cutting it, which was more difficult than I imagined," said

Carroll, whose windy Morro Bay seascape is full of choppy waves—well depicted by the torn pieces of colored paper he used to create them.

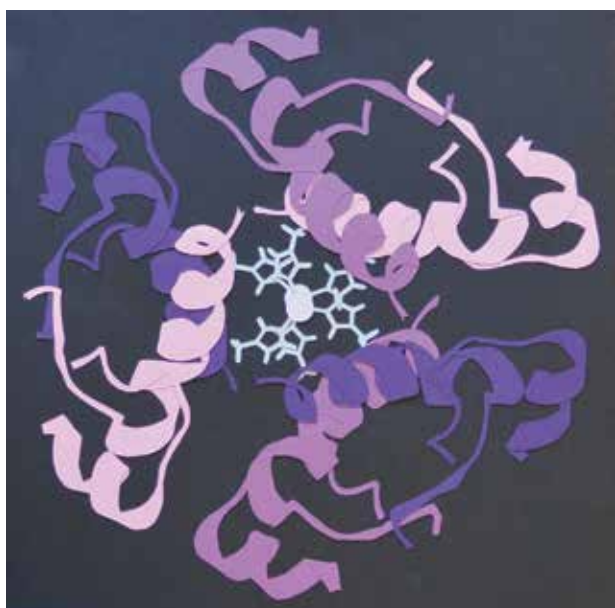
The Morro Rock piece is currently on display at Shepard Hall—the Santa Maria Public Library's gallery space—as part of

a new solo exhibition of papercut artworks by Carroll. The showcase opened in mid-March and is scheduled to remain on display through mid-May.

Carroll described the exhibit—which marks the Lompoc artist's first time displaying his work in Santa Maria—as "basically a summary of all of my work," as the show includes recent pieces finished within the past few months and a handful with various year gaps in between completion dates.

"I've been doing paper stuff for as long as I can remember," said Carroll, who loved origami in elementary school and became interested in kirigami—in which paper is cut and folded to create three-dimensional designs—during high school.

"I made this 3D model based on *Howl's*



**WORLDS COLLIDE:** Local artist and full-time chemist Ryan Carroll's passions for art and science intersect in his papercut model of an insulin ribbon structure and similar artworks included in his current solo exhibit at Shepard Hall.



**ROCK, PAPER, NO SCISSORS:** To create his multilayered seascape of Morro Rock, local papercut artist Ryan Carroll tore up pieces of colored paper rather than cut out any precise designs.

## Thrill of the paper chase

Lompoc-based papercut artist Ryan Carroll's new solo exhibition at Shepard Hall premiered in mid-March and is scheduled to remain on display through Thursday, May 11. Shepard Hall is located inside the Santa Maria Public Library, at 421 S. McClelland St., Santa Maria. Call the library at (805) 925-0994 for more details.

*Moving Castle*, from a template I found online. That was my first venture into cutting paper," recalled Carroll, who went on to study chemical biology at UC Berkeley after high school.

His passions for science and art have always gone hand in hand, said Carroll, who now works as a full time chemist at Vandenberg Space Force Base. Some of his papercut works in the show are protein structures, similar to the models he was assigned to illustrate during college.

"In school, we had to map different proteins, and they get visualized in this sort of ribbon structure," Carroll said, "and I thought, 'Oh this looks like a neat abstract,' but it's not an abstract—it's an actual thing."

"I think there's a lot more overlap with science and art than people realize," Carroll added. "I think a lot of people think of art as kind of carefree—like there's no work involved, but there actually is a lot of work involved."

Carroll said he's a big fan of STEAM (science, technology, engineering, arts, and mathematics), distinct from the STEM approach.

"Curiosity, ingenuity, and problem solving all both apply to the fields of science and art," the artist and chemist said. "They're both very active-minded things."

The day that Carroll hung his papercut pieces for the new exhibit at Shepard Hall was just the day after his wife, Cristina Kartsioukas, took down her paintings and prints, which were part of the gallery's first solo exhibit of 2023.

"It happened to be a coincidence that our shows were back-to-back because we applied separately, and she hadn't changed her name yet. So whoever scheduled us didn't realize we were married," Carroll said.

Carroll described the setup process for his exhibit as a race against the clock, as he started hanging his works around 10 a.m. on March 9, knowing he had to catch a flight that evening to Las Vegas—fortunately from the Santa Maria Airport—to attend a weekend-long family reunion and board game convention.

"It was a time crunch for sure," Carroll said. ○

Arts Editor Caleb Wiseblood wants to play *Monopoly* with real money. Place your bets at [cwiseblood@santamariasun.com](mailto:cwiseblood@santamariasun.com).

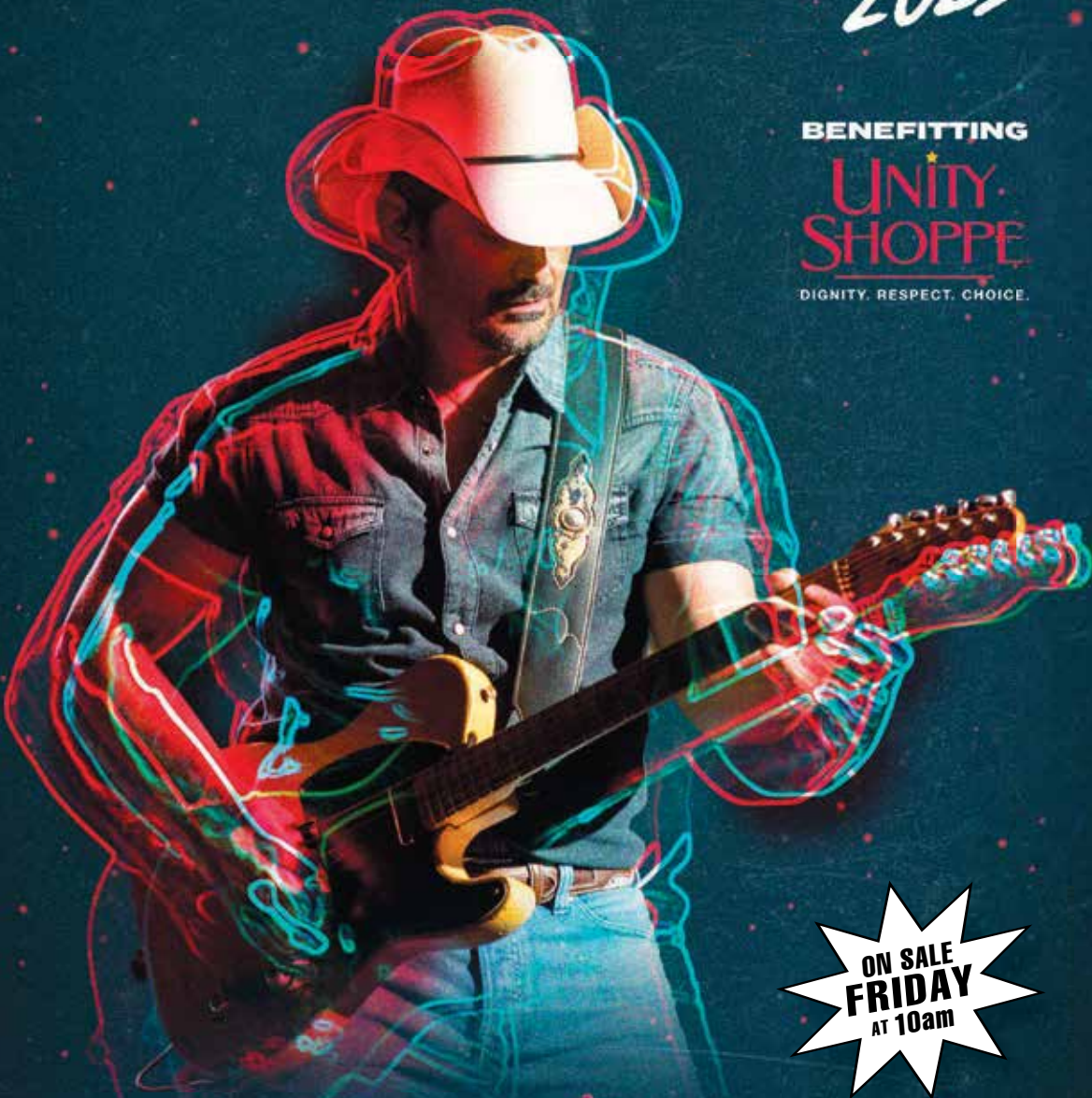




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# Dark days ahead

**C**reator Scott Z. Burns (*Contagion*, *Side Effects*) helms this new anthology drama series that peers into our future to explore what life on our climate-changed planet will be like. (eight planned 50-min. episodes)

**Glen:** This star-packed new series is interested in how the “chaotic effects of climate change have become embedded into our everyday lives,” and each interconnected episode explores people who are confronted by difficult choices—will they choose complacency or courage?

The first three of eight planned episodes have been released, beginning with “2037: A Raven Story,” which focuses on Junior (Matthew Rhys, who was so great as the titular character in the reboot of *Perry Mason*), who’s taken the blaze-of-glory path of greed. The second, “2046: Whale Fall,” features Sienna Miller as researcher

Rebecca Shearer, who’s studying what may be the world’s last whale. The always amazing Meryl Streep stars as Rebecca’s ailing mother, Eve. This second episode packed an emotional wallop. The third, “2047: The Fifth Question,” focuses on Rabbi Marshall Zucker (Daveed Diggs), who’s petitioning the government to save his congregation’s flooding Florida temple. Neska Rose stars as Alana Goldblatt, an adolescent member of Zucker’s congregation who’s having a crisis of faith—why is God allowing this to happen? It’s all pretty depressing but also very well executed and acted—activism filmmaking at its finest.

**Anna:** It’s a heavy series, and the first episode took a while to grab me. By “Whale Fall,” I was hooked though. Miller and Streep both do a fantastic job of making the audience invest in the storyline. Shearer has a young son, Ezra (Joaopaulo Malheiro), who suffers from a condition that shortens his life with exposure to the sun. This world is an ugly place, but there are still small moments of beauty. It seems that many people left in the world are cruel and selfish, but there are also those looking to do good. Diggs as Rabbi Zucker is a great example of that. Constantly at odds with his father who wanted him to be a lawyer, he can’t seem to

## EXTRAPOLATIONS

What’s it rated? **TV-MA**  
 What’s it worth, Glen? **Full price**  
 What’s it worth, Anna? **Full price**  
 Where’s it showing? **Apple TV Plus**

catch a break. All he wants is to provide a safe haven for his congregation, yet at every turn he’s told no. I can’t say the series is a wholly pleasant watch, but these performances are dynamite. I, for one, intend to watch the entire series.

**Glen:** Burns seemed to be prescient when he wrote *Contagion* (2011), about a global pandemic seen through the eyes of health care workers and the CDC. In many ways, it mirrored our struggle with COVID-19. Will future episodes of *Extrapolations* pivot to the sort of innovative spirit that we like to believe inhabits the human race, allowing us to stave off the worst of climate change or at least find a way to survive it? Or are we going to simply shrug our collective shoulders and watch as our planet becomes uninhabitable? That question is at the heart of this ambitious, sprawling,



**ACT OR REACT?** Meryl Streep stars in the second episode of the new Apple TV Plus series *Extrapolations*, which imagines life on an Earth ravaged by climate change. Eiza González and Edward Norton appear in the fourth episode, coming out March 24.

and somewhat incoherent series, which I’m looking forward to watching unfold. Subsequent episodes star Edward Norton, Diane Lane, Keri Russell, Marion Cotillard, and Forest Whitaker. If the planet is going down, with a cast like this, it should be an entertaining demise.

**Anna:** Not a fun subject to sit in, but one that is knocking at our door constantly these days. It’s sort of a trick, getting this tremendous of a cast on the same project. Who’s not going to watch, even if the subject is a bummer? It tells us

many different stories under the same umbrella, almost a mini movie each episode. With that upcoming cast list, there’s no way I’m missing any of this series. Just don’t watch it when you are already feeling low—it’s not told through rose-colored glasses. ○

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

## TV & Film Reviews

### SHRINKING

What’s it rated? **TV-PG**  
 When? **2023**

Where’s it showing? **Apple TV Plus**

The makers of *Ted Lasso* have blessed us with a new series starring Jason Segel, Harrison Ford, and Jessica Williams as therapists who work in an office together. Segel is Jimmy, a man who lost his wife in the not-too-distant past and has spiraled into a mess of booze, depression, and distraction. His teenage daughter, Alice (Lukita Maxwell), has been cared for by their nosy but loving neighbor, Liz (Christa Miller).

When Gaby (Williams) pawns off a patient—Sean (Luke Tennie), a young veteran in the throes of PTSD who is now prone to violence—something in Jimmy’s brain makes a switch. He decides to change up the way he cares for his patients, and the domino effect happens to his personal life. He’s working through his grief and trying to find forgiveness from Alice for completely checking out on her. He’s working out what it means to lose someone and how to shoulder the fact that not every aspect of their

**BINGEABLE**



**ALL IN YOUR HEAD:** Harrison Ford stars as Paul, a curmudgeonly therapist who helps his protégé’s daughter, Alice (Lukita Maxwell), navigate her mother’s death, in *Shrinking*, a dramedy screening on Apple TV Plus.

marriage was great when his wife passed.

Funny and heartwarming in all the right ways, *Shrinking* is feel-good meets the realities of imperfection. I hope for another season of this! (10 33-min. episodes)

—Anna

### LUTHER: THE FALLEN SUN

What’s it rated? **R**  
 When? **2023**

Where’s it showing? **Netflix**

Jamie Payne directs this film sequel to the award-winning television saga about brilliant but disgraced police detective John Luther (Idris Elba), created by novelist and scriptwriter Neil Cross. I’ve never seen the series, so if you’re wondering if you can enjoy this film without being familiar with the story, you can. It opens with Luther in prison, trying to survive inmates who are less than fond of the police.

The bracing, action-packed opening unfolds into a cat-and-mouse with master criminal David Robey (Andy Serkis), who’s positively diabolical. The sadist likes to make his victims suffer and force their loved ones to watch them die. Part of the story involves a “red room,” a place where he stages his killing and allows subscribers to watch via the internet. As nemeses go, he’s a good one—he is corruption incarnate.

Apparently, the TV show was a huge hit, with five seasons and as many as 9 million viewers, who are hungry for more Luther. He’s a gritty character to be sure—determined and capable, but not superhuman. Cross said he was inspired by



**SLEUTH:** Idris Elba stars as John Luther, a disgraced police detective who sees a chance to redeem himself when a serial killer emerges to draw him into his sinister plans, in *Luther: Fallen Sun*, streaming on Netflix.

both Sherlock Holmes and Columbo. It’s not the best serial killer flick I’ve seen, but it’s gripping enough to devote a couple of hours to. (129 min.) ○

—Glen

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**CHEERS:** Lompoc-based winemakers Mireia Taribó (left) and Tara Gomez (right) founded the Camins 2 Dreams wine label in 2017. In early 2023, the couple celebrated a soft opening of their new tasting room in Lompoc, followed by an official grand opening in March.



**CELEBRATORY SOUVENIR:** The ribbon cut during the Camins 2 Dreams' Chestnut Court tasting room's official ribbon cutting ceremony, held in early March, now hangs on a wall inside the new venue.

## Paths to dreams

Camins 2 Dreams winemakers open new tasting room in Lompoc

BY CALEB WISEBLOOD

As two local vintners were recently putting the finishing touches on their new tasting room, the building shook for a moment.

"I just finished hanging all the stuff. I think that was the day before we opened," said Lompoc-based vintner Mireia Taribó, who recalled the reverberating boom of a missile fired from Vandenberg Space Force Base sometime in February.

Luckily the framed artworks, accolades, and magazine clippings Taribó hung that day stayed put, and at least one more addition to the walls of Camins 2 Dreams' new tasting room has been hung up since then—the ribbon from the venue's official grand opening, held a few weeks after their soft opening.

Since 2017, Taribó and her wife and fellow winemaker, Tara Gomez, have been turning their winemaking dreams into reality, releasing grüner

veltliner, gamay, carignan, and syrah for their Camins 2 Dreams label—*camins* means "paths" in Catalan.

"It was a great turnout; we were really happy about it," Gomez said about the early March ribbon cutting event. "It was so great to have support from the community and other people in the wine industry that showed up and celebrated with us."

The winemaking pair's new tasting room is located in the Lompoc Wine Ghetto on Chestnut Court, next door to Flying Goat Cellars, and marks the third property Taribó and Gomez frequent on a regular basis.

The couple opened their first tasting room on North F Street in Lompoc in 2019, where they will continue to offer tastings by appointment only, as the new Chestnut Court location will take over as the brand's main tasting room. Originally they'd purchased the new space for a different purpose.

### Sweet dreams

For more info on Camins 2 Dreams, visit [camins2dreams.com](http://camins2dreams.com). The local wine label's new tasting room is located at 1520 E. Chestnut Court, Lompoc.

"Just last year, we acquired this building, but it was mainly supposed to be for barrel storage," Gomez said. "But it just happened to be here in the Wine Ghetto. So it made more sense, where there's more foot traffic, to put a tasting room here. So this will be our main tasting room, and the one on F Street will be a secondary location."

Camins 2 Dreams also has case storage at the Santa Rita Hills Wine Center in Lompoc, so Taribó and Gomez often find themselves traveling back and forth between their original tasting room and the Wine Center. They were driving that route like usual when they noticed the vacancy at the Wine Ghetto.

"One day we happened to drive by and saw that there was a space available for lease. So we just jumped on it—because we were already looking for a new space for

EATS continued page 22



**NEW NEIGHBORS:** Camins 2 Dreams' new tasting room is located in the Lompoc Wine Ghetto, in the same complex as Flying Goat Cellars and other local tasting rooms.

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## EATS from page 21

six months," Gomez said. "It's so challenging here now because we have the cannabis industry that's really growing and taking over a lot of the buildings here."

Taribó and Gomez first met more than a decade ago while they were both working at J. Lohr Vineyards and Wines in Paso Robles. One of the many things the two winemakers have in common is they both became interested in wine at an early age.

For Gomez, her foray into wine started "with a love of science." During elementary school, the Lompoc local knew she wanted to be a scientist someday. Her parents used to love wine tasting and touring different vineyards and wineries along the Central Coast, and would occasionally take her along.

"Back then, it was more allowable for kids to go on wine tours and stuff like that," Gomez said. "That was how I found this science connection to wineries—by walking around, seeing the lab, seeing people in white lab coats doing titrations. That was my instant connection."

Like her wife, Taribó also has a passion for science and studied chemistry before pursuing an additional degree in enology during college. She'd wanted to be a scientist when she grew



**BARREL ROLES:** Local winemakers Mireia Taribó (left) and Tara Gomez (right) originally acquired a vacant space on Chestnut Court to use as additional barrel storage but quickly decided to use the site as a new tasting room for their Camins 2 Dreams label as well.

up, but preferably not one confined to a lab environment. Winemaking had also intrigued Taribó—who was born and raised in Catalunya, Spain—since childhood, as wine was part of almost every meal in her family's household and her parents often made their own wine.

"The thing about growing up in Spain is you always have wine around you," Taribó said. "I knew early on that I wanted to pursue something that involved chemistry someday but something nature-related, where I could work

outdoors and be active.

"That's where winemaking came into place." ○

Arts Editor Caleb Wiseblood is raising a glass. Send comments to [cwiseblood@santamariasun.com](mailto:cwiseblood@santamariasun.com).

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