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AT THE MOVIES



A Thousand and One is heartbreaking [24]

# Goodbye, Greka

*California's spending more than \$34 million to clean up facilities and plug oil wells that HVI Cat Canyon (aka Greka Oil Company) left behind [8]*

BY TAYLOR O'CONNOR

12.28.2008 10:58

# SUN

**NEWS** Santa Ynez High School students push back [4]

**ARTS** Watercolor land and seascapes [22]

**EATS** Taste Cambria wines in style [25]



# Contents

APRIL 6 - APRIL 13, 2023 VOL. 24 NO. 6

**A**s a U.S. District Court handed down a \$65 million judgment against HVI Cat Canyon for oil spills and violating state and federal law, California is embarking on a hefty cleanup of the facilities the company left behind. The first phase entails plugging and abandoning 171 oil wells in Casmalia, Cat Canyon, and the Santa Maria Valley. It's the largest such project in state history. Staff Writer Taylor O'Connor writes about the project and the company formerly known as Greka Oil's tainted legacy in Santa Barbara County [8].

You can also read about why some Santa Ynez Valley Union High School students are upset with the school district [4]; a watercolor artist who teaches and paints [22]; and Cambria Estates Winery's new tasting room [25].

*Camillia Lanham*  
editor



**FINAL CLEANUP:** Santa Barbara County has been cleaning up oil spills from HVI Cat Canyon, aka Greka Oil Company, for as long as it operated in the county, including at the end of 2008, when this photo was taken. Now, California's Geologic Energy Management Division is working to clean up the company's mess for the last time.

Cover file photo courtesy of Santa Barbara County Fire Department Hazardous Materials Unit > Cover design by Alex Zuniga

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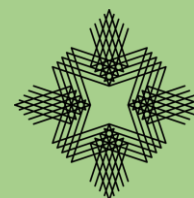
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## POLITICAL WATCH

U.S. Sen. **Alex Padilla** (D-California) and U.S. Rep. **Paul Ruiz** (D-San Bernardino) introduced bicameral legislation to create the César E. Chávez and the Farmworker Movement National Historical Park, according to a March 30 statement from Padilla's office. The bill would preserve the nationally significant sites associated with Chávez and the farmworker movement in California and Arizona. "On César Chávez Day we commemorate the work and legacy of an iconic Latino civil rights leader," Padilla said in the statement. "Our National Park System tells the story of our nation and preserves the people and movements that we value as Americans. Yet our park system does not yet adequately preserve the full culture and diverse legacy of all Americans. This legislation would bring us closer to the recognition farmworkers have earned and deserve." The park would include the existing national monument—which includes La Nuestra Señora Reina de la Paz, in Keene, California—and expand to 40 acres in Delano, California; the Santa Rita Center in Phoenix, Arizona; and McDonnell Hall in San Jose. It would also conduct a national historical trail study for the Farmworker Peregrinación National Historic Trail, the 300-mile march route taken by farmworkers between Delano and Sacramento in 1966, and require the U.S. Department of Interior to complete a general management plan for the historical park within three years.

U.S. Rep. **Salud Carbajal** (D-Santa Barbara) was a part of a bipartisan group of 28 U.S. House representatives that urged the **U.S. Food and Drug Administration** (FDA) to allow the over-the-counter sale of Narcan, which helps reverse an opioid overdose, according to a statement from the congressman's office. On March 29, the agency approved its over-the-counter sale, making it the first naloxone hydrochloride product to be approved by the FDA without a prescription. Earlier this month, Carbajal and his colleagues wrote a letter pushing this approval and said this would help save lives on the Central Coast and across the nation. Overdose deaths involving opioids, including fentanyl, increased by nearly 30 percent between 2019 and 2020, and demand for Narcan continues to rise as prescription and synthetic opioids flood communities across America. In 2021, the U.S. saw a record number of drug overdose deaths, more than 107,000, according to data from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. "I'm glad that the FDA has heeded our bipartisan call to swiftly approve the recommendation of their experts—and will work with our local partners to raise awareness of this new tool at our community's disposal as this new approval is implemented. Narcan is safe and effective, with no effect on someone who does not have opioids in their system," Carbajal said in the statement. "Putting it within reach of those who may be encountering substance abuse disorder in their home or in their day-to-day life will give us a new way to protect our communities from abuse, overdose, and loss of life."

The **U.S. Environmental Protection Agency** allowed California to become the world's first government to require zero-emission trucks and buses across the globe, according to a March 31 statement from Gov. **Gavin Newsom's** Office. California will require truck manufacturers to accelerate their sales of zero emission vehicles, setting increasing zero emission vehicle manufacturing standards starting from 2024 through 2035 that several other states are also choosing to adopt. Together, California and those states represent 22 percent of the national truck market. "This is a big deal for climate action. Last year, California became one of the first jurisdictions in the world with a real plan to end tailpipe emissions for cars. Now, thanks to the Biden administration, we're getting more zero-emission heavy duty trucks on the roads, expanding our world-leading efforts to cut air pollution and protect public health," Newsom said in the statement. ○



**BACK TO WHITE:** Santa Ynez Union High School District administration decided to paint over a temporary rainbow-patterned crosswalk during an anti-bullying and inclusion week at school.

## Santa Ynez High paints over rainbow crosswalk during No Place for Hate week

It hurt Santa Ynez Valley Union High School senior Vera Sieck to see the school paint over a temporary rainbow-painted crosswalk she and fellow students proposed for an inclusion week at school.

"I honestly took it really hard. It has not been easy growing up queer in the valley. This was the first public show of support I had received from the school, because, largely, student administration and student behavior has been indifferent at best," she said.

As co-president of the school's Gay-Straight Alliance (GSA), Sieck worked with her peers in other clubs like the school's Organization of Latinos and Americans club and Black Student Union to come up with a week of events that promoted inclusivity, diversity, and education through No Place for Hate: an anti-bullying nonprofit that works at schools nationwide to help create a more inclusive environment for students through events, assemblies, or classroom activities, she said.

"In one of those meetings, we proposed painting the crosswalk rainbow to say this place is a safe place. We went through the proper administration channels to get this approved on a higher level," she said.

Ramsey Asphalt Construction temporarily painted the crosswalks on March 24 and the company was slated come back a week later to repaint them, she said. This approval was a "huge deal," since the Solvang City Council rejected a similar proposal in February.

"The Monday night of No Place for Hate week—the 27th—I spoke at a City Council meeting asking them to rethink their decision to not put up rainbow crosswalks and I cited the school as an obvious support," Sieck told the *Sun*.

During the March 27 Solvang City Council meeting, Sieck told the dais that being able to see such visible support means a lot to her because inadequate representation can often feel isolating.

"In order to champion change, it's important to be at the forefront and to be deliberate with your messaging," Sieck said at the meeting.

The next day, March 28, the GSA hosted its lunchtime celebration, and an hour later the crosswalk was repainted white—closing down the entire parking lot 30 minutes before school got out.

"We were shocked, disappointed, and upset to see it taken away so publicly," Sieck said. "To me, it felt like they were trying to get rid of it before Wednesday night [March 28], which was Open House."

The principal, Michael Niehoff, said in an email to the Santa Ynez Valley Union High School District that the school received many perspectives on what painting the crosswalk meant for the community.

"We agree that our schools should not be politicized or used for outside agendas that cause division or disrupt school activities. We remain committed to providing a safe and welcoming environment for all students and will continue to seek ways to include the diverse perspectives of our community in future activities," Niehoff said in his email.

Niehoff told the *Sun* in an email that he's aware of the unique challenges that LGBTQ-plus students face at the school and outside of the school and gave administrative permission for the crosswalk to be painted. He added that he's been meeting with the GSA and other student organizations and is aware that the recent decision has left many feeling "disappointed, sad, and let down."

"I recognize the importance of the high school being a welcoming and supportive place for all students. Unfortunately, due to the circumstances surrounding the recent events in Solvang with rainbow crosswalks, the high school was unintentionally pulled into an issue that has divided the community," he said in the email. "I have encouraged our students to continue to work on ways to move forward positively and will continue to work to find ways to do better and to do what's right for all students."

Adults in the public Facebook group, Santa Ynez High School Administration/School Board Transparency Project, praised and criticized the school's decision in a series of posts with more than 160 comments.

"Nobody's hating anybody's identity. In fact, the discrimination of LGBT has long ... been over. I know that community has more support than most groups of people," group member Jesse Taylor commented. "Simply put we can all love and respect one another however, ideologies don't need to be crammed down another person's throat."

Fellow group member Erica Christine said this event was led by the students and the comments were "attacking" the students.

"It's shameful what adults are willing to do to these students who just want to be loved and accepted for who they are," Christine said. "They literally painted over the symbol meant to tell them they are love[d] and accepted."

Following the school's decision to paint over the crosswalk, Sieck told the *Sun*, several groups pulled out of No Place for Hate week in solidarity with GSA, and that she never received a complaint from any high school student about the crosswalk. Now, students plan to attend the April 18 Santa Ynez Valley Union High School District board of trustees meeting to express how this decision impacted the students.

"I believe the decision to paint the crosswalks was due to parent pushback and not student pushback," Sieck said. "I think the school board hearing what the students have to say on this will moderately affect what the school board thinks of a situation like this."

PHOTO COURTESY OF ALYCE BARRICK

—Taylor O'Connor

## County Planning Commission halts reservoir project in Cuyama

More than 20 public speakers recently urged the Santa Barbara County Planning Commission to deny a property owner's proposal to build three new water reservoirs in New Cuyama.

Despite county staff's recommendation to approve the project, Planning Commissioner C. Michael Cooney said he sided with participants of public comment during the commission's March 29 hearing, who unanimously opposed the construction of three frost ponds to store water for a sprinkler-based frost protection system at North Fork Ranch Vineyards.

"I do listen to those who are directly impacted by the proposal," Cooney said after public comment ended. "Armed with that testimony fresh in my mind ... I can't support the project as it now stands."

"There are tweaks that can be made, but I have severe doubt that I would ever find the ponds that have been proposed as the source of water for the frost control to be acceptable in a way that doesn't affect the remainder of the neighborhood negatively," Cooney added.

While staff found the project to be consistent with county policies, some local farmers and landowners argued during public comment that the applicant, Brodiaea Inc., should have considered alternative frost protection methods to eliminate the need for new reservoirs.

A handful of nonlocal speakers during public comment identified themselves as current students, alumni, or staff members at Harvard University, and claimed that Brodiaea Inc. is one of the shell companies that the college uses to invest in farmland.

Kelsey Ichikawa, an alumna of Harvard University and current researcher at the school, said that there are "deep contradictions" between "Harvard's goal of being at the leading edge of sustainability" while "seeking to consolidate its financial investments in groundwater-rich land and other natural resources in ways that threaten the rights and livelihoods of local residents and farmers."

"I'm asking you to push back against this external investor who, let's be honest, is not accountable to your constituents and is not accountable to the public good," Ichikawa said during public comment.

Hannah Weinronk, a staff member at Harvard University, claimed that Brodiaea was created by the college to disassociate some farmland and vineyard investments with "the Harvard name."

"If Santa Barbara County ever wanted to hold Harvard accountable for their actions with the vineyards in the future, it will be extremely difficult to do so," Weinronk said.

Planning Commissioner Laura M. Bridley later asked staff if there's anyway to prove whether Harvard University is the owner of Brodiaea.

"There is nothing in the case file that names Harvard. Brodiaea Inc. is the applicant," county contract planner Steve Rodriguez said. "I'd probably been working on the project for months until somebody informed me of that connection."

The Brodiaea project will be revisited, with new findings for denial from staff, at the Santa Barbara County Planning Commission's May 10 meeting.

—Caleb Wiseblood

## Good Samaritan Shelter advocates for grant funding from Santa Maria

For the first time in more than 20 years, Good Samaritan Shelter didn't receive a Santa Maria public services grant allocation, and it could potentially impact how certain services can operate, Executive Director Sylvia Barnard told the *Sun*.

She planned to approach the Santa Maria City Council during its April 4 meeting, which was held

NEWS continued page 6



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NEWS from page 4

after the *Sun* went to press, to try to get approval for emergency shelter and warming center funding, she said.

“I am planning on speaking to advocate for the operational funding for our shelter system and warming center,” she said. “We rely on the city’s investment into the shelter system so we can leverage it with county, state, federal, and private funding.”

Barnard requested \$20,000 for Good Sam’s emergency and family shelters and \$20,000 for the Santa Maria Warming Shelter from the city’s Community Development Block Grant (CDBG)—a federal program that provides local governments with funds for local organizations to address needs community-wide or for low to moderate income residents, according to city documents.

This year, the city has nearly \$1.4 million available with about \$209,000 dedicated to public services, \$938,000 for capital projects, and about \$7,500 for each council member to allocate, according to city documents.

Barnard’s requests were for the public services portion of the grant, and she filed an additional request for capital funds, according to city documents, but the Block Grant Advisory Committee did not recommend that Good Samaritan receive these funds.

Although Good Sam’s budget for the two shelters combined is close to \$1 million, they both heavily rely on CDBG funding, she added.

“I think the challenge is people see Good Sam has grown, and we have a larger budget, but all our new funding is dedicated to new programs. It doesn’t go back and support the shelter. The programs that are the least funded are the shelter programs,” Barnard said. “The warming shelter [was] open more than twice our normal season

because of the storms. You can imagine how much extra staffing, supplies, and funding that took that we didn’t originally plan for.”

This winter season, Good Sam’s Freedom Warming Center was activated for 50 nights, and served 241 people. Last year, Good Sam provided 22,774 bed nights at the Santa Maria emergency shelter and 12,310 bed nights at the family shelter, Barnard said. Overall, the organization served approximately 1,500 unduplicated people in Santa Maria alone and 3,500 countywide.

Although she doesn’t expect the City Council to make any changes, she hopes she can convince a few members to allocate their individual \$7,500 funds to Good Samaritan’s services.

Mark van de Kamp, the city’s public information officer told the *Sun* that the committee’s decision happened in part because Good Sam is set to receive more capital funds than it requested and was ranked the No. 1 priority for capital funds to address homelessness in the city. According to city documents, the Block Grants Advisory Committee recommended \$237,500 for family shelter rehabilitation and an additional \$12,500 for project delivery costs.

“The committee has a difficult task: There are way too many wonderful agencies and finite funds we can allocate,” van de Kamp said. “The committee recognizes and appreciates the great job performed by Good Samaritan, and the committee has to look at an agency’s capacity to offer services without CDBG funds, the overall needs of the community, and what to do with the finite funds.”

The City Council is scheduled to review and approve the overall allocations in the drafted Community Development Block Grant Action Plan on April 4. If approved, it will begin a 30-day public review period and a final approval will take place on May 2. ○

—Taylor O’Connor

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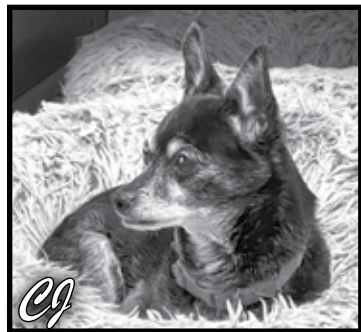


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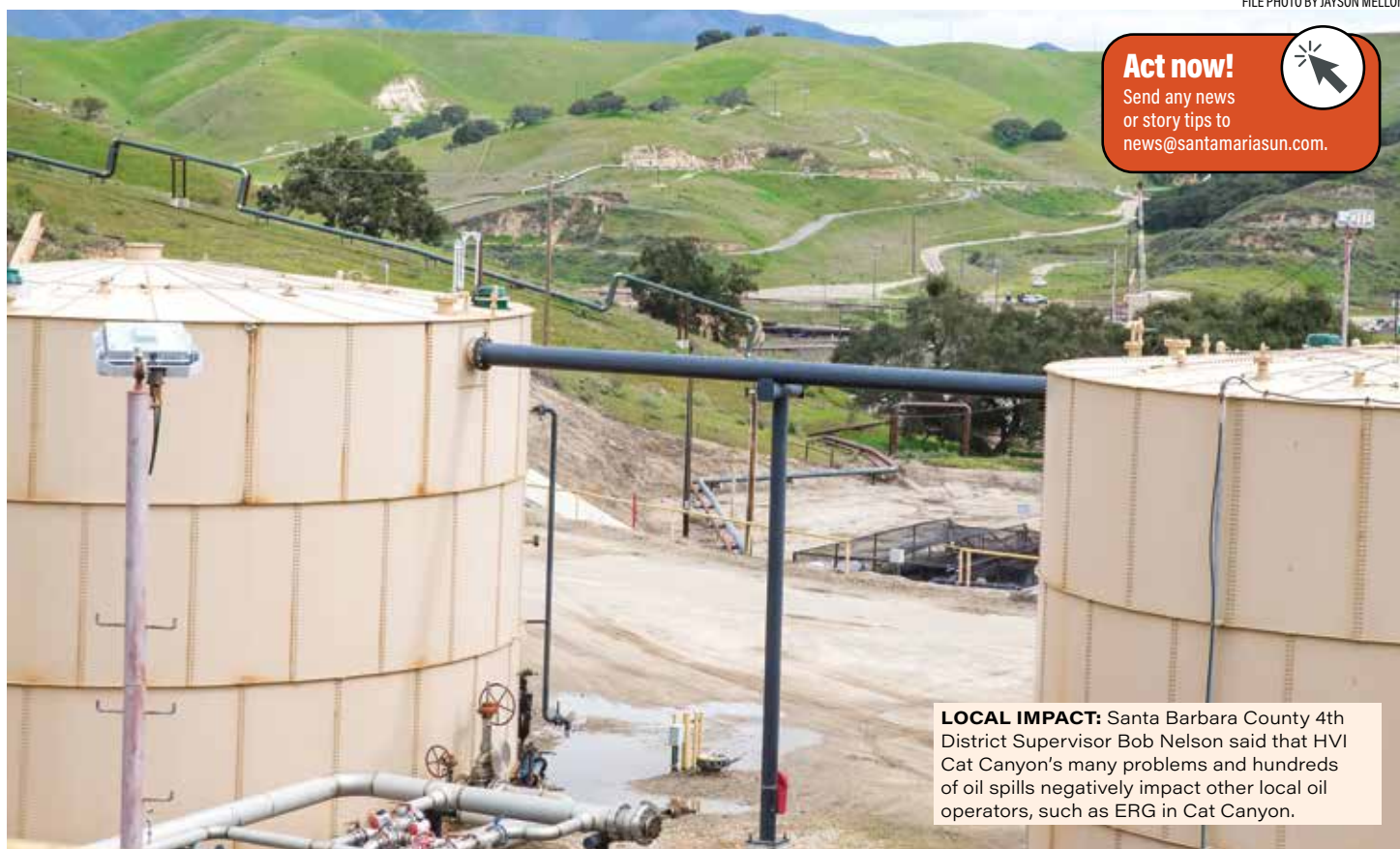
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## News



**LOCAL IMPACT:** Santa Barbara County 4th District Supervisor Bob Nelson said that HVI Cat Canyon's many problems and hundreds of oil spills negatively impact other local oil operators, such as ERG in Cat Canyon.

## 'An ugly legacy'

California's energy department begins cleaning up everything that HVI Cat Canyon left behind

BY TAYLOR O'CONNOR

California's Department of Conservation is embarking on the largest oil well plugging and abandonment project in the state's history, and it's in Santa Barbara County.

The department's Geologic Energy Management Division (CalGEM) received \$34 million from the state to plug 171 abandoned HVI Cat Canyon Inc. wells. HVI—formerly known as Greka Oil Company—spilled approximately 26,584 barrels of crude oil (about 1.1 million gallons) with more than 180 spills for the 15 to 20 years it operated in the county, according to a recent federal lawsuit ruling against the oil company.

The federal lawsuit (filed in 2011) concluded in March when the judge ordered HVI to pay \$65 million to various state and federal agencies for oil spills between 2005 and 2010.

"Had HVI complied with these regulations, it likely would have prevented the oil spills or mitigated their impacts and the volumes discharged," according to the court ruling.

While large U.S. and state agencies celebrate the ruling, calling it a victory, county 4th District Supervisor Bob Nelson said he doubts that HVI will be able to pay the \$65 million, and it leaves "good guys" responsible for cleaning up after HVI's havoc.

Nelson said his first thought about the lawsuit settlement was "good luck collecting."

"Obviously Greka has been a black eye on the energy industry in Santa Barbara County and is the exception not the rule. It's done more damage to the oil industry than any environmental nonprofit," Nelson said. "There's been a long history, unfortunately. Greka doesn't listen to anybody and does whatever they want."

In 2019, the company filed for bankruptcy after the state ordered the company, which already owed international investment bank UBS AG more than \$114 million, to pay more than \$12 million in fines for failing to comply with oil regulations for a field in Orange County.

He called the wells the company abandoned in Cat Canyon "eyesores."

"I am hoping these sites are cleaned up, nobody wants those ongoing liabilities that could

potentially impact surface owners as well as potentially even the community," he said.

Nelson added that the site is a public safety risk.

"It's equipment that's unmaintained, it's abandoned, there's barbed wire hanging all around, it's just a total mess," Nelson said. "It's been an ugly legacy. ... Hopefully the lawsuit and the abandonment of these wells or capping these wells is closing that chapter."

It's sad to see that "one bad operator can make everybody look bad," he said, adding that this could impact other oil companies that are already walking a tough line in a county with already-strenuous oil regulations.

"I totally believe in the industry, and it's a huge economic driver. People can get six-figures without a college degree; it's a huge economic freedom for families," he said. "It's important to keep those avenues available for companies that are doing the right thing."

Before the judge issued the ruling, the state allocated \$200 million in the 2022-23 budget for CalGEM to plug oil wells and decommission facilities in the state, according to the state Legislative Analyst's Office.

"It may be appropriate for the current oil and gas operators to bear at least some of the cost of remediating the environmental damages from these wells—rather than the general taxpayer through the state general fund," the office stated.

According to CalGEM's website, the revenue is coming from industry assessments and fees, and the division received \$34.69 million in August for the HVI Cat Canyon State Abandonment project. This project is the first phase of the state abandonment, which will plug approximately 171 orphaned oil wells and facilities.

"In September 2021, CalGEM issued an [o]rder to HVI Cat Canyon, Inc. to plug and abandon the 210 wells in the Casmalia, Cat Canyon, and Santa Maria Valley oil fields, decommission production facilities and restore lease and well sites pursuant to current state regulations," CalGEM's project description states. "Most of these wells have been idle since before 2019, some as early as the 1980s."

When HVI went bankrupt, it left 210 wells and other assets as a liability. Plugging and abandonment is required to mitigate the wells' danger to life, health and resources, according to CalGEM. The 39 wells that will remain after the first phase of the project will be addressed

separately because they will require "more complex remedial work," the project description stated.

Site investigation, planning, and permitting began in the fall of 2022. CalGEM conducted methane sampling for 65 of the 171 wells and found that 11 that were leaking, according to a presentation from the CalGEM Methane Task Force's Feb. 21 meeting. The agency contracted with Drilltek Inc. to plug and abandon the wells starting on Jan. 30.

The presentation added that CalGEM anticipates issuing future contracts to conduct state abandonment of the remaining HVI wells in the area.

HVI's numerous spills and lack of compliance caused the U.S. Justice Department, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), the U.S. Coast Guard, the California Department of Fish and Wildlife, and the California Regional Water Quality Control Board to sue the company in 2011 for violating federal and state laws.

In addition to the \$65 million judgment, a federal judge found that 12 of HVI's oil spills violated of the Clean Water Act and 17 violated state law and the company committed 60 federal regulation violations, according to the 65-page ruling on the lawsuit.

"Even when viewed in isolation, many of the failures amount to an extreme departure from good oilfield industry practices," the ruling stated. "Viewed in combination, the failures amounted to reckless disregard for HVI's obligations under the law to prevent and mitigate the spills and to implement effective spill prevention measures."

Errin Briggs, the County's Energy, Minerals and Compliance Division supervisor, told the *Sun* in a previous interview that HVI never corrected its approach as an oil operator in the county.

"Generally speaking, there were a lot of issues at their facilities—spills, pipeline ruptures. It seemed like they didn't put as much maintenance as the other companies did," Briggs said. "We had a constant spill of problems from both a compliance standpoint and an operational standpoint."

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

The *Sun* reached out to attorneys for the lawsuit representing HVI for comment, but they did not respond before the *Sun's* deadline. ○

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

**Act now!**

Send any news or story tips to [news@santamariasun.com](mailto:news@santamariasun.com).





PHOTO COURTESY OF GEOFF CLINTON

# Search and rescue

*Santa Maria Valley resident starts GoFundMe to purchase a thermal drone for local lost and found pets organization*

BY TAYLOR O'CONNOR

Geoff Clinton spent more than 30 years of his life working as an animal control officer and was often part of search and rescue teams to help find lost animals during natural disasters such as fires and mudslides.

When Clinton retired, he volunteered with Orcutt/Santa Maria Lost and Found Pets, a community Facebook group that started in 2014 dedicated to helping fellow residents find their pets. Since then, the group's grown to about 11,000 individuals, who can post about their lost pets, and people like Clinton help search for the animal for free, he said.

As a certified FAA Part 107 Commercial Drone Pilot, Clinton deploys his drone to help find lost pets in large open spaces, like agricultural land or riverbeds.

"When I retired, I was always interested in thermal imaging and what it could do for the industry," he said. "It would help rescue groups find lost animals not only in times of disaster, but lost and found groups for local areas such as we have."

As a result, Clinton started a GoFundMe to purchase a DJI Mavic 3 Thermal Drone to further Orcutt/Santa Maria Lost and Found Pets' goals and potentially make it easier for search parties to find animals, he said. As of March 30, he's raised about \$4,000 of his \$8,000 goal. Earlier in his career, thermal drones would have been impossible to get because they cost about \$35,000, but as time went on companies started making drones specifically for search and rescue at more affordable prices.

"We find a lot of animals in the agricultural fields because it's a convenient place to drive out when no one is watching," Clinton said. "That's where this technology works best, in wide open spaces."

Groups will find abandoned animals commonly around the Twitchell Reservoir, in Nipomo, off Highway 166, in the agricultural fields off of Bonita School Road, and around the outskirts of Guadalupe. Thick shrubbery can often make it difficult for Clinton to spot an animal in these areas because they block the drone's view of the animal, but with thermal capabilities, groups would be able to spot the animal faster, he said.

Clinton added there have been studies done surrounding thermal drone use for search and rescue parties, which found that parties with a thermal drone found a person much faster, causing a lot more organizations to incorporate these devices into their operations.

Thermal drones work best at night, and when the group



**TAKEOFF:** Retired animal control officer Geoff Clinton is getting his drone ready for an animal search and rescue, and is hoping to upgrade to a thermal drone to better capture lost pets' locations.

has known sightings of a particular animal, it would enable the group to develop a specific strategy to locate and recapture the animal.

"Drones use infrared spectrum, capturing the heat signature of the animal and producing an image. If you have an environment that's 40, 50 degrees and an animal that's 80, 90 degrees, he's going to show up like a lightbulb on your screen," Clinton said.

The FAA Part 107 Commercial Drone is a high resolution drone and can detect a 1- to 2-degree difference and has a capability to relay images from the drone's screen to a team of two to four people's phones, he said.

"We had a case in the shelter where a dog escaped from its foster family and we had dozens of volunteers working to locate the dog, and to this day it has not been found. That was the perfect scenario for a thermal drone," he said. "I want to raise money for a thermal drone because I think it'd be great for our organization and others like C.A.R.E. 4 Paws."

### Highlight:

- The Abel Maldonado Community Youth Center, 600 South McClelland St., is extending its weekday hours of operation from noon to 8 p.m. from April 7 to 14 for spring break. The Youth Center will resume its weekday hours of 3:30 to 8 p.m. on April 17. The Youth Center is a safe, supervised setting where teens engage in recreational activities. Its amenities include a game room, an art studio, basketball courts, a computer lab, fitness center, movie room, musical instruments, and a photo booth. It's also the hub for many popular programs, including Girls Night In, Teen Treks, Teen Trails, the Great Mystery Series, and leadership clubs, such as Full STEAM Ahead and Key Club. Membership is free for teens ages 12 through 18 and those in grades seven through 12. Direct questions to the Recreation and Parks Department at (805) 925-0951, Ext. 2260. ○

**Promote!**

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

## The Santa Maria Joint Union High School District Special Education Child Find



The Santa Maria Joint Union High School District (SMJUHS) seeks to identify, locate, and evaluate high school age students suspected of having a disability who may be eligible for special education services designed to meet their educational needs at no cost to families. This includes students that are highly mobile, migrant, experiencing homelessness, students that are wards of the state, and students attending private schools located within SMJUHS boundaries.

If you suspect your child has a disability, contact the school special education department or district office Special Education Department. Staff | Special Education | Santa Maria Joint Union High School District ([smjuhsd.k12.ca.us](http://smjuhsd.k12.ca.us))



## El Distrito Escolar de las Escuelas Preparatorias de Santa Maria Educación Especial Búsqueda de Estudiantes

El Distrito Unificado de Escuelas Preparatorias de Santa Maria (SMJUHS) busca identificar, localizar y evaluar a los estudiantes en edad de escuela preparatoria sospechosos de tener una discapacidad que puede ser elegible para servicios de educación especial diseñados para satisfacer sus necesidades educativas sin costo alguno para las familias. Esto incluye a los estudiantes que son altamente móviles, migrantes, sin hogar, estudiantes que están bajo la tutela del estado, y los estudiantes que asisten a escuelas privadas ubicadas dentro los límites de SMJUHS.

Si sospecha que su hijo tiene una discapacidad, comuníquese con el departamento de educación especial de la escuela u oficina de Educación Especial del distrito SMJUHS. Staff | Special Education | Santa Maria Joint Union High School District ([smjuhsd.k12.ca.us](http://smjuhsd.k12.ca.us))



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### ONLINE POLL

## What do you think about parents' rights policies in schools?

- 33% Adding a parents rights policy infringes on a teacher's ability to teach kids and shouldn't be in schools.
- 33% Parents should be able to opt their child out of certain learning experiences if it goes against their family values.
- 16% Parents should trust the educators to do their jobs and support their kids in other spaces.
- 16% It's important parents have a say in what their child can learn about to determine when they are ready to learn about certain topics.

6 Votes

Vote online at [www.santamariasun.com](http://www.santamariasun.com).



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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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# Government 'help'

## Is our water safe to drink or our food safe to eat?

BY RON FINK

How safe is the water we drink and the food we eat? I guess it depends on who you ask.

My grandma told me that "you have to eat a pound of dirt before you die" after I inadvertently got some mud in my mouth. After all these years I suppose I have "eaten" more than a pound as I made my way through life. I am told that our immune system requires exposure to certain contaminants to build up immunity to diseases, and so far I haven't had any major illnesses.

Water and food are essential to life; without either for very long you die. Preserving food, even for short periods, and then preparing a meal requires special packaging to assure it stays fresh until you need it.

Now, if we believe current government hysteria, we find out that some of the materials used in packaging and cooking utensils may be slowly killing us.

Why? Because so called "PFAS forever chemicals (per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances)" are found in many common products that are used daily.

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) says, "PFAS can be present in our water, soil, air, and food as well as in materials found in our homes or workplaces, including in public drinking water systems and private drinking water wells; at landfills, disposal sites, and hazardous waste sites such as those that fall under the federal Superfund and Resource Conservation and Recovery Act programs.

In aqueous film-forming foams (or AFFFs) used to extinguish flammable liquid-based fires. Such foams are used in training and emergency response events at airports, shipyards, military bases, firefighting training facilities, chemical plants, and refineries.

At chrome plating, electronics, and certain textile and paper manufacturers.

In food; for example in fish caught from water contaminated by PFAS and dairy products from livestock exposed to PFAS; in grease-resistant paper, fast food containers/wrappers, microwave popcorn bags, pizza boxes, and candy wrappers.

In household products and dust—for example in stain and water-repellent used on carpets, upholstery, clothing, and other fabrics; cleaning products; non-stick cookware; paints, varnishes, and sealants. In personal care products—for example in certain shampoo, dental floss, and cosmetics."

### The 'government is here to help you' and they will save you whether they know definitively what the problem or solution is or not.

This sounds bad, but how bad is it? During my 20 years as a military firefighter, I was frequently covered in AFFF during firefighting operations. Over the years, thousands of gallons were used during hot fire training sessions on military bases and civilian airports all over the world. There I drank the water, and once again I have suffered no health issues.

In Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) workplace standards, the government uses time-weighted-averages (TWA) to gauge when workers need to use personal protective equipment to avoid exposure to dangerous chemicals. TWAs are based on 8-hour exposure for 40 hours a week, 52 weeks a year to determine "exposure to high levels." This is several magnitudes greater than the general public is exposed to daily.

The EPA says, "Current scientific research suggests that exposure to high levels of certain PFAS may lead to

**WRITE NOW!** We want to know what you think about everything. Send your 250-word letter to Sun Letters, 2450 Skyway Drive, Suite A, Santa Maria, CA 93455. You can also fax it (1-805-546-8641) or e-mail it ([letters@santamariasun.com](mailto:letters@santamariasun.com)). All letters must include a name, address, and phone number for verification purposes; may be edited for space or clarity; and will be posted to [santamariasun.com](http://santamariasun.com).

adverse health outcomes. However, research is still ongoing to determine how different levels of exposure to different PFAS can lead to a variety of health effects. Research is also underway to better understand the health effects associated with low levels of exposure to PFAS over long periods of time, especially in children."

So, it looks like they really have no idea of the level of risk. But never mind, the "government is here to help you" and they will save you whether they know definitively what the problem or solution is or not. You can't be too safe, you know, as we discovered with all the COVID-19 hysteria when tens of thousands of people who took all the precautions the government mandated got sick anyway, but a number who didn't take any precautions did not get sick.

The EPA has recently changed the action levels for PFAS substances in drinking water systems even though "research is still ongoing." They have lowered the acceptable levels to 4 parts-per-trillion, well below the current standards. To put this in context, paint four ping pong balls blue and put them in a box containing a trillion red ping pong balls and try to find them. The cost to local water districts to test and treat is unknown, but you can bet it will be substantial.

I am going to heed my grandma's suggestion that "you have to eat a pound of dirt before you die" and not worry about this latest government concern. ○

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



Ron Fink wrote to the Sun from Lompoc. Respond with a letter to the editor by emailing [letters@santamariasun.com](mailto:letters@santamariasun.com).

### COMMENTARY

## Understanding, acceptance, love

### Being LGBTQIA isn't an ideology or a theory, Solvang

BY AL NUNEZ

"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," Solvang Mayor Mark Infanti said.

As if supporting the LGBTQIA community is promoting an ideology or theory. But don't blame us, it's a policy issue.

Well, you can argue pretty much anything when it's a broadly worded policy that can be interpreted in more than a few ways. But you know what you can't argue against? The LGBTQIA community.

Homosexuality is not something you can debate the merit of, and our very existence is not a theory with which you can disagree. Because last I checked, being gay is not a choice or a lifestyle. Veganism is a lifestyle. Being active is a lifestyle. "Lifestyle" implies that something can be changed or stopped.

COMMENTARY continued page 12

**THIS MODERN WORLD**  
by TOM TOMORROW

**PANEL 1:** OUR TOP STORY TONIGHT, AND TOMORROW, AND FOR THE FORESEEABLE FUTURE--DONALD TRUMP HAS BEEN INDICTED!

**PANEL 2:** BIFF, THIS IS AN OUTRAGEOUS ABUSE OF POWER! WE NOW LIVE IN AN AUTHORITARIAN POLICE STATE, CONTROLLED BY WOKE DEMOCRATS WHO WANT TO DEFUND THE POLICE!

**PANEL 3:** LOOK, I SAW A VIDEO OF A BLACK PERSON DOING SOMETHING THAT LOOKED ILLEGAL! WHY ISN'T ALVIN BRAGG PROSECUTING HIM, INSTEAD OF HARASSING DONALD TRUMP, A MAN OF IMPECCABLE CHARACTER? I AM JUST ASKING THE QUESTION!

**PANEL 4:** FOR INSIGHT AND ANALYSIS, WE'RE JOINED NOW BY OUR REGULAR COMMENTATOR, THE RIGHT WING NUTJOB!

**PANEL 5:** I--WAIT, WHAT? I'M STILL WORKSHOPPING HERE, JUST GO WITH IT.

**PANEL 6:** THAT DOES TECHNICALLY QUALIFY AS A QUESTION!

**PANEL 7:** IF A FORMER PRESIDENT CAN BE INDICTED FOR CRIMES, IT WILL INSPIRE FUTURE CRIMINAL PRESIDENTS TO TRY TO HOLD ON TO POWER AT ANY COST! CAN YOU EVEN IMAGINE THAT HAPPENING? IN AMERICA?

**PANEL 8:** BUT ALSO--THIS IS GREAT! THEY'VE JUST HANDED TRUMP THE NOMINATION, AND PROBABLY THE PRESIDENCY! NOTHING GUARANTEES ELECTORAL VICTORY LIKE A CRIMINAL INDICTMENT!

**PANEL 9:** WELL, THANK YOU FOR YOUR FASCINATING PERSPECTIVE! COMING UP NEXT: OUR FRIEND THE SENSIBLE MODERATE WONDERS IF THIS INDICTMENT IS SENSIBLE ENOUGH!

**PANEL 10:** I--WELL, NOW THAT YOU MENTION IT-- THE CORRECT ANSWER IS NO! YOU CANNOT!

**PANEL 11:** HE'S NOT MAD, HE'S LAUGHING, ACTUALLY!

**PANEL 12:** ALSO: REPETITIVE SPECULATION AND BLATHER LASTING FOR ENDLESS HOURS!

**PANEL 13:** I DON'T KNOW, HE SEEMS PRETTY MAD. LAUGHING, DAMMIT!

**PANEL 14:** IF NOT THE REST OF OUR NATURAL LIVES!

**PANEL 15:** FIRST THESE MESSAGES!



# DEATH NOTICES

For Obituary info call (805) 347-1968 or email [obituaries@newtimeslo.com](mailto:obituaries@newtimeslo.com)

**ALLAN, MARK GREGORY**, 55, of Lompoc passed away 3/14/2023 arrangements with Dudley-Hoffman Mortuary, Crematory & Memory Gardens

**BAILEY, ALVIN EARL**, 91, of Atascadero passed away 3/27/2023 arrangements with Chapel of the Roses

**BURGESS, ROBERT MARSHALL**, 83, of Paso Robles passed away 3/30/2023 arrangements with Chapel of the Roses

**CAPELL, VALERIA**, 102, of Lompoc passed away 1/17/2023 arrangements with Starbuck-Lind Mortuary & Crematory

**CAPPER, CHARLES WAYNE**, 100, of Atascadero passed away 3/06/2023 arrangements with Chapel of the Roses

**CLARK, JERRY**, 73, of Santa Maria passed away 3/30/2023 arrangements with Magner- Maloney Funeral Home & Crematory

**DODD, DAVID LIONEL**, 86, of Santa Maria passed away 3/26/2023 arrangements with Chapel of the Roses

**FERNANDEZ, BRENDA JEAN**, 57, of Atascadero passed away 3/25/2023 arrangements with Chapel of the Roses

**FORTIER, FRANK HUGH JR**, 81, of Santa Maria passed away 3/29/2023 arrangements with Dudley-Hoffman Mortuary, Crematory & Memory Gardens

**FROELICHER, JAN MARLENE**, 66, of Atascadero passed away 4/2/2023 arrangements with Chapel of the Roses

**GREEN, EVELYN OLLIE**, 95, of Arroyo Grande passed away 3/26/2023 arrangements with Marshall-Spoo Sunset Funeral Chapel

**JANSSEN, EUGENE S.**, 89, of San Luis Obispo passed away 2/25/2023 arrangements with Reis Family Mortuary & Crematory

**LEAL, RAFAEL MARRAQUIN**, 82, of Santa Maria passed away 3/30/2023 arrangements with Dudley-Hoffman Mortuary, Crematory & Memory Gardens

**MARKS, MARILYN GRACE**, 93, of Lompoc passed away 3/17/2023 arrangements with Starbuck- Lind Mortuary & Crematory

**MCQUEEN, DUNCAN WOODROW**, 85, of Baywood -Los Osos passed away 3/04/2023 arrangements with Los Osos Valley Mortuary & Memorial Park

**MILLER, BRIAN MATTHEW**, 49, of Santa Maria passed away 3/26/2023 arrangements with Dudley-Hoffman Mortuary, Crematory & Memory Gardens

**MISSAMORE, MARY CATHERINE**, 82, of Grover Beach passed away 4/01/2023 arrangements with Marshall-Spoo Sunset Funeral Chapel

**MORGAN, LADY KRISTEN GAIL**, 74, of Paso Robles passed away 3/28/2023 arrangements with Chapel of the Roses

**OLDS, ROBERT "BOBBY" FRANCIS EDWARD**, 21, of Los Osos passed away 3/04/2023 arrangements with Los Osos Valley Mortuary & Memorial Park

**PONTING, YOLANDA DIANE**, 69, of Grover Beach passed away 4/2/2023 arrangements with Marshall-Spoo Sunset Funeral Chapel

**PORTE, GREGORY LEROY**, 82, of San Luis Obispo passed away 3/09/2023 arrangements with Reis Family Mortuary & Crematory

**PRZYBYLA, BABY**, 0, of Paso Robles passed away 3/14/2023 arrangements with Chapel of the Roses

**RADAR, JOAN CHARLESTON**, 84, of Pismo Beach passed away 3/21/2023 arrangements with Marshall-Spoo Sunset Funeral Chapel

**ROMERO, AMBROSIO RELATOR**, 75, of Gilroy passed away 3/29/2023 arrangements with Magner- Maloney Funeral Home & Crematory

**ROMINE, EDWARDS K.**, 74, of Lompoc, passed away 3/18/2023 arrangements with Starbuck- Lind Mortuary & Crematory

**SETENCICH, KATHRYN LYNN**, 77, of Nipomo passed away 3/26/2023 arrangements with Marshall-Spoo Sunset Funeral Chapel

**SMITH, DELBERT ROCYE**, 79, of Lompoc, passed away 3/06/2023 arrangements with Starbuck- Lind Mortuary & Crematory

**STARR, KEVIN LEE**, 61, of Santa Maria passed away 3/29/2023 arrangements with Dudley-Hoffman Mortuary, Crematory & Memory Gardens

**STRAUSBURG, JEFFREY "JEFF"**, 63, of Nipomo passed away 3/21/2023 arrangements with Marshall-Spoo Sunset Funeral Chapel

**STUBBLEFIELD, HERMAN "STUBBY" L.**, 80, of Santa Maria passed away 3/30/2023 arrangements with Dudley-Hoffman Mortuary, Crematory & Memory Gardens

**TRUJILLO, DOMINGA CASTILLO**, 92, of Santa Maria passed away 3/28/2023 arrangements with Dudley-Hoffman Mortuary, Crematory & Memory Gardens

**VANLINGEN, EVELINE**, of Atascadero passed away 3/25/2023 arrangements with Chapel of the Roses

**VANORMAN, CATHERINE MARY**, 82, of Atascadero passed away 3/14/2023 arrangements with Chapel of the Roses

**WALDO, THOR WILLIAM**, 59, of Atascadero passed away 3/27/2023 arrangements with Chapel of the Roses

**WEAVER, BARBARA MARGAET**, 64, of Atascadero passed away 3/24/2023 arrangements with Chapel of the Roses

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### ATTENTION all former SMJUHSD Special Education Students born 1997 and 1998!

All records for any Special Education student that was born within 1997-1998 and attended a Santa Maria Joint Union High School District school, your physical special education records are available for pick up at no charge from the District Office. All 1997 Records not picked up by June 1, 2022 and 1998 Records not picked up by June 1, 2023 will be destroyed.

If you have any questions, or to arrange a pickup date/time, contact:



Sandra Hernandez/ Dept. of Special Education  
Santa Maria Joint Union High School District  
2560 Skyway Dr., Santa Maria, CA 93455  
805-922-4573 ext. 4311

### ATENCION estudiantes anteriores de SMJUHSD nacidos en 1997 y 1998!

Todos los registros de cualquier estudiante de Educación Especial que haya nacido dentro de 1997 -1998 y asistió a una escuela del Distrito Escolar de las escuelas preparatorias de Santa Maria, sus registros físicos de educación especial están disponibles para recoger sin cargo en la Oficina del Distrito. Todos los registros del 1997 que no hayan sido recogidos para el 1 de junio de 2022 y registros del 1998 que no hayan sido recogidos para el 1 de junio de 2023 serán destruidos.

Si tiene alguna pregunta, o para programar una fecha/hora de recogida, comuníquense con:

Sandra Hernandez/ Dept. de Educacion Especial  
Santa Maria Joint Union High School District  
2560 Skyway Dr., Santa Maria, CA 93455  
805-922-4573 ext. 4311



#### COMMENTARY from page 10

Homosexuality is like being straight, you either are or you aren't. It's that simple, and that complicated.

Now, you can choose to not befriend a gay couple or associate with a gay person in public. That's your choice to live an exclusive life. However, when you start to discriminate based on ... oh man.

I'm writing this, and I've lost that loving feeling. I've written similar words with similar points, multiple times across a dozen platforms and even in a couple of plays ... 30 years ago.

Thirty years ago! AIDS was ravaging the world, gays could serve in the military but only from a dark closet, and legalized gay marriage was a pipe dream. In most states, you could be fired just for being gay. The Pink triangle became our badge and we spoke to each other in code about being "family." And revealing that you were gay to anyone had to be planned, well-rehearsed, and came with more anxiety than if someone operated on your eyes while you were awake.

But things got better and continued to improve, or so I thought.

Now it's 2023 and Solvang has to debate whether it's promoting "one particular ideology."

Promote this then: There is a rise of homophobic attacks across the land, gay youth are bullied to their suicides (often publicly on social media for all to see), and some merchants are refusing business because they don't "agree" with that lifestyle. Books with even a hint of positive portrayals of gay characters are pulled from library

shelves. Some families with gay parents are ostracized and looked at with suspicion. Gay youth are still being ousted from their homes, left to fend for themselves without protection, without stability, without hope.

Those who so fervently try to "save" the world from the gays and their "lifestyle" just won't accept that people who are LGBTQIA are as much a part of this world as anyone else. And don't get me started on how your tourism revenue can benefit from LGBTQIA visitors with their typically higher disposable income.

But hey, as Mayor Infanti pointed out, last year the gays got a parade and a banner to hang over the highway, so there's that.

To be fair, Mayor Infanti is not the villain. The true villainy lies in thinking that Pride banners, repainting crosswalks for a month, and your children learning about the different people that make up this world somehow

harm you and yours.

Ever wonder why we have a rainbow flag? Its many colors represent the different shades of people in the gay community who are just hoping to live their lives like everyone else, free from discrimination, violence, and hatred.

Over the years, the LGBTQIA community has added colors to the Pride flag and letters to its acronym.

The "family" grew in its understanding, acceptance, and love.

There's no reason that Solvang, or anyone else, couldn't do the same. ○

*Al Nunez wrote to the Sun from Guadalupe. Write a response by emailing it to letters@santamariasun.com.*

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

# LANDFILL CLOSED FOR EASTER

## Sunday, April 9th, 2023

- Landfill reopens Monday, April 10, 2023 at 7:00 a.m.
- No change to Trash/Recycling collection during Easter week
- Place containers out by 6:00 a.m. on scheduled collection days

[www.cityofsantamaria.org/utilities](http://www.cityofsantamaria.org/utilities)

CITY OF SANTA MARIA

**Utilities Department**

QUESTIONS? CALL (805) 925-0951 EXT. 7270

SANTA MARIA VALLEY Chamber

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SCAN FOR MORE INFO



# No place for hate

I'm getting kind of tired of writing about all the homophobia in the Santa Ynez Valley. But it seems to be the topic du jour. Now, **Santa Ynez Valley Union High School** is getting in on all the action. As the principal put it, the school was "unintentionally pulled into an issue that has divided the community."

That good ol' **Solvang City Council** decision on Pride banners and rainbow crosswalks strikes again!

Some parents were apparently and, unsurprisingly, extremely upset that the school allowed students to paint a crosswalk in rainbow colors as part of **No Place for Hate** week.



Maybe some of the parents who used the school district's **Facebook** page to rage against a rainbow crosswalk and all it's perceived to represent need to participate in the weeklong celebration of diversity.

"The discrimination of LGBT has long as it's been over," **Jesse Taylor** stated so very eloquently in a post on a **Santa Ynez High School Administration/School Board Transparency Project** Facebook page thread. "Simply put we can all love and respect one another however, ideologies don't need to be crammed down another person's throat. In fact, the group that wants to preach tolerance and acceptance, should, conversely, accept and tolerate those that are intolerant."

Wow. The logic of some people, amirite? If you're going to rant on a Facebook post about the education system, at least edit your ravings for punctuation, grammar, and spelling.

It's so weird that a symbol of diversity is considered to be ideology—the colorful crosswalk was just a proclamation of students' reality and their acceptance and support of that reality. What Jesse Taylor doesn't seem to understand is that minorities are no longer willing to accept discrimination from folks like him—and rather than hiding their diversity from the intolerant for fear of the inevitable and predictable backlash, they now celebrate that diversity out in the open.

The whole public school system gets at least two weeks off school for a **Christian** holiday (It's **Christmas** for those of you who live under a rock), but paint a crosswalk rainbow colors, and now there's an ideology problem.

High school students from all walks of life pulled together to put that symbolism out there for the world to see. And people like Mr. Jesse Taylor decided they would enforce their ideology on the students by basically bullying the school to paint over the crosswalk in the middle of No Place for Hate week—a crosswalk that would have been repainted white at the end of the week, anyway.

Now that makes a statement. What's ideological is the backlash. The whipped frenzy of parents suddenly hyper-concerned about sexuality in high school students: Hello? Weren't you idiots all in high school once? Don't you remember? Sexuality is a BIG thing in high school. But better to pretend it isn't, I guess, for the sake of living under rocks.

Absolutely better to preach intolerance and bullying over respect, celebrating diversity, and acceptance. I guess the parents didn't understand the No Place for Hate assignment as the Santa Ynez Valley continues to dive deeper into a discussion about homophobia and the reality that discrimination is alive and well there—despite those who insist that it isn't as the words they use to spew their hate highlight the very thing they deny exists. ○

Send canary a thought or two on you by emailing [canary@santamariasun.com](mailto:canary@santamariasun.com).

# YOUR STORY MATTERS



*"I am glad I was assigned to be Ashley's CASA. I immediately saw her potential and committed to making sure that she would have the support she needed to build a new life for herself. Watching her overcome her struggles has been so rewarding, and I'm excited to see what she does with her future."*

Ashley is a 16-year-old young woman who came to the foster care system due to self-harm and suicidal tendencies triggered by her mother's mental health crisis.

Over the course of her time in foster care, Ashley had been put on 12 safety holds to protect her from harming herself. She was struggling with anxiety and was unable to be around many people without having an episode of debilitating anxiety. That's when a Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) was assigned to her case.

The CASA, a compassionate and supportive individual, quickly established a rapport with Ashley. She listened to Ashley's concerns and provided emotional support to her during such a difficult time.

Ashley's CASA was able to help her regain control of her life and overcome her struggles. With the help of her CASA, Ashley was able to move on from her situation and begin a new chapter in her life.

The CASA took Ashley out on outings and encouraged her to be

around people, which helped her regain her confidence. She was able to trust her CASA and confide in her when she was feeling overwhelmed. The CASA provided Ashley with a sense of stability and support that she had never experienced before.

As a result of her work with her CASA, Ashley was no longer self-harming, and her anxiety was much lower. She was able to be around many people without having an episode of anxiety. The CASA was a huge support to her, and Ashley knew that she could

always reach out to her CASA when she was feeling like she needed help.



**CASA**

Court Appointed Special Advocates FOR CHILDREN

[sbcasa.org](http://sbcasa.org)  
[volunteer@sbcasa.org](mailto:volunteer@sbcasa.org)

## What's Your Take?

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

This week's online poll 4/6-4/13

Should HVI Cat Canyon Inc. have to pay for the state abandonment and plugging project at its sites in Santa Barbara County?

- HVI is the company that caused all of the oil spills and problems. They should be the ones to fix it.
- HVI should pay for part of the project, but not for all of it.
- The company is bankrupt, I don't know how it would be expected to pay for anything.
- Who's HVI?

Enter your choice online at: [SantaMariaSun.com](http://SantaMariaSun.com)



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## HOOKED ON A REELING

The Neal Taylor Nature Center will host its 26th annual Fish Derby fundraiser tournament at Cachuma Lake, starting on Saturday, April 15, at 6 a.m. Tournament hours will conclude at noon on Sunday, April 16. Fishers of all ages are welcome to join. Contestants must fish during the tournament hours to compete. For registration details and more info on the competition, call (805) 693-8381 or visit [troutderby.org](http://troutderby.org).

—Caleb Wiseblood

PHOTO COURTESY OF THE NEAL TAYLOR NATURE CENTER

## ARTS

### SANTA MARIA VALLEY/LOS ALAMOS

**ARTISTIC SELF ART STUDIO** For adults ages 50 and over. Bring your art projects and supplies and work on them in a comfortable and relaxing atmosphere with other artists. This is a drop-in program. Wednesdays, 9-10 a.m. through Dec. 27 Free. 805-925-0951. Elwin Mussell Senior Center, 510 Park Ave., Santa Maria.

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

**COOKIES AND CHAPTERS BOOK CLUB** Each month will feature a new chapter book. Free copies of the book will be provided on a first come, first served basis. For ages 9-14. **April 8**, 11 a.m. 805-925-0994. [engagedpatrons.org](http://engagedpatrons.org). Santa Maria Public Library (Altrusa Theater), 421 S. McClelland St., Santa Maria.

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

**FREE APRIL ART WORKSHOP: MAKING NATURAL PAINT** All the items needed for this workshop will be items found in your own home. **April 12**, 5-7 p.m. Free. 209-312-8653. [corazondelpueblo.org](http://corazondelpueblo.org). Corazon del Pueblo Office, 201 E Main St., suite M, Santa Maria.

**JOURNALING FOR TEENS AND TWEENS** Learn about the many ways in which

people journal. Create, customize, and build a personal journal to keep. **April 6**, 4 p.m. 805-925-0994. Santa Maria Public Library (Altrusa Theater), 421 S. McClelland St., Santa Maria.

**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.

**MONSTERS AND MYTHS PACK FOR YOUTH** Explore monsters and myths from around the world through crafts and activities in this fun and educational pack. Program funded by California State Library. **April 8** 805-925-0994. [engagedpatrons.org](http://engagedpatrons.org). Santa Maria Public Library, 421 S. McClelland St., Santa Maria.

**MUSIC LESSONS AT COELHO ACADEMY** Learn to play piano, drums, guitar, base, ukulele, or violin, or take vocal lessons. 805-925-0464. [coelhomusic.com/Lessons/lessons.html](http://coelhomusic.com/Lessons/lessons.html). Coelho Academy of Music, 325 E. Betteravia Rd., Santa Maria.

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

**THE STUDIO PRESENTS: E(ART)H** For ages 12 to 18 in grades 7 to 12. Free environmental and sustainability-themed art projects for teens. Wednesdays, 5-6:30 p.m. through April 26 Free. 805-925-0951.

Abel Maldonado Community Youth Center, 600 S. McClelland St., Santa Maria.

**TEEN ART TIME** Teens, create artwork, learn about artists, and experiment with new media in an inspiring environment with other teen artists. All skillsets are welcome. **April 13**, 4 p.m. 805-925-0994. Santa Maria Public Library (Altrusa Theater), 421 S. McClelland St., Santa Maria.

**TEEN HENNA** Henna is an ancient, temporary body art that spans the globe and centuries. In this two-hour class, teens will learn henna history, and gain the confidence needed to create their own henna designs. Program funded in part or whole by California State Library. **April 14**, 1 p.m. 805-925-0994. [engagedpatrons.org](http://engagedpatrons.org). Santa Maria Public Library (Altrusa Theater), 421 S. McClelland St., Santa Maria.

**THEODORE ROOSEVELT'S WILD AMERICA** This one-man show features Theodore Roosevelt's outdoor adventures over several decades, from hunting in the woods of Maine to his ranching days on the Dakota frontier. This special fundraiser features Alan Sutterfield, who has toured as TR in Yosemite National Park and across the country. **April 7**, 8-9:30 p.m. and **April 8**, 8-9:30 p.m. \$20. 805-268-2993. [orcuttcommunitytheater.org](http://orcuttcommunitytheater.org). KDA Studios, 3558 Skyway Dr., Santa Maria.

**VALLEY READS BOOK CLUB** Group covers a different book each month. Registration required. Second Saturday of every month, 2 p.m. Free. 805-925-0994. [cityofsantamaria.org/city-government/departments/library](http://cityofsantamaria.org/city-government/departments/library). Santa Maria Public Library, 421 S. McClelland St., Santa Maria.

**YOUTH NEXT CHAPTER BOOK CLUB** Enjoy reading together. Talk about last season's book and read the first chapter of the new book together. Copies will be provided on a first come, first served basis. For ages 8-13. Supported in whole

or in part by the Central Coast Literacy Council. **April 12**, 4 p.m. 805-925-0994. [engagedpatrons.org](http://engagedpatrons.org). Los Alamos Library, 405 Helena St., Los Alamos.

### SANTA YNEZ VALLEY

**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.

**SEDGWICK RESERVE: A CONSERVATION STORY** **April 8-Oct. 16** Wildling Museum of Art and Nature, 1511-B Mission Dr., Solvang, 805-688-1082, [wildlingmuseum.org](http://wildlingmuseum.org).

**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. 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

**STAND-UP COMEDY SHOW** A night of hilarious stand-up comedy, hosted by local comic Justin Bournonville. This show will feature professional touring comedians Bee Gutierrez, Pancho Moler, Trent Babb, and Rick Martinelli. For ages 18+. **April 14**, 6:30 p.m. \$15. [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, [lompoart.org](http://lompoart.org).

### SOUTH COAST SLO COUNTY

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

**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.

**TRUSTING CHLOE: FILM SCREENING** Includes an introduction by the director and a screening of the film, followed by interviews with cast/crew and an audience Q-and-A session. **April 15**, 11 a.m.-1 p.m. [my805tix.com](http://my805tix.com). Fair Oaks Theatre, 1007 Grand Ave., Arroyo Grande.

### SAN LUIS OBISPO

**40TH ANNIVERSARY SLO POETRY FESTIVAL** Language of the Soul returns with the San Luis Obispo Poetry Festival, with featured readers Ginger Hendrix, George Burns, and Meliza Banales. Open reading follows. Hosted by Kevin Patrick Sullivan. **April 15**, 1-3 p.m. Free. 805-903-3595. GALA Pride and Diversity Center, 1060 Palm Street, San Luis Obispo.

**40TH ANNIVERSARY SLO POETRY FESTIVAL: SLO POETS LAUREATE READING** Featuring the current SLO Poet Laureate Kevin Clark, Poet Laureate emeritus Jeanie Greensfelder, and Benjamin Daniel Lawless reading Ivan BrownOtters poems. Open reading to follow. Hosted By Kevin Patrick Sullivan. **April 8**, 1:30-3 p.m. Free. 805-903-3595. San Luis Obispo Library Community Room, 995 Palm Street, San Luis Obispo.

**ACTOR'S EDGE: ACTING CLASSES** Actor's Edge offers film and television acting training in San Luis Obispo, plus exposure to Los Angeles talent agents. All ages and skill levels welcome. Classes available in SLO, LA, and on zoom. ongoing \$210 per month. [actorsedge.com](http://actorsedge.com). Online, See website, San Luis Obispo.

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

**ART AFTER DARK** Featuring rotating exhibits from local artists, live music, and vegan and vegetarian dining. First Friday of every month. through May 5 Free. Linnaea's Cafe, 1110 Garden St., San Luis Obispo, 805-541-5888, [linnaeas.com/](http://linnaeas.com/).

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

**ART EXHIBIT: FLOWERS AND FLUTTERBYS** Art Central presents a spring exhibit featuring local artist of all media. Meet the artists during the artist reception on Apr. 8, from 2 to 4 p.m. **April 7-May 1**, 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Free. 805-747-4200. [artcentralslo.com/gallery/](http://artcentralslo.com/gallery/). 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.

ARTS continued page 16

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).

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SUBMIT YOUR EVENTS





**Be Hoppy Tours: Brew & Cider Tours**  
**THURSDAY THRU SUNDAY**  
 Tours begin and end at  
 Central Coast Brewing Co., SLO



**Shamanic Morning Rituals for Vitality  
 & Joy with Aurora Adventures**  
**FRIDAY, APRIL 7**  
 End of Atascadero Road, Morro Bay



**Deep House Music  
 with Host Anton**  
**FRIDAY, APRIL 7**  
 Flower City Ballroom, Lompoc



**Orcutt Community Theater:  
 Teddy Roosevelt's Wild America**  
**FRI & SAT, APRIL 7 & 8**  
 Klein Dance Arts Studio, Orcutt



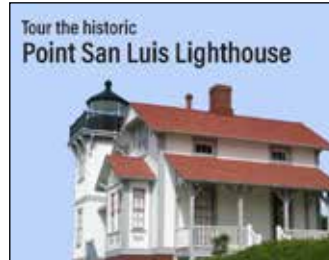
**Donate to Save the Cuesta Inlet**  
**DONATIONS ACCEPTED ONLINE  
 THRU SATURDAY, APRIL 8**  
 Baywood Park / Los Osos



**Beer Yoga**  
**SATURDAY, APRIL 8**  
 Ancient Owl Beer Garden &  
 Bottle Shoppe, Atascadero



**Spring Wine Walk**  
**SATURDAY, APRIL 8**  
 Downtown Paso Robles  
 Wine District



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



**SLO Funny Comedy  
 Jamboree - SLO**  
**THURSDAY, APRIL 13**  
 Highwater SLO, San Luis Obispo



**Songwriters at Play:  
 Jolon Station Band**  
**FRIDAY, APRIL 14**  
 The Barn at Fog's End, Cambria



**Spaghetti Dinner/Bingo Night**  
**FRIDAY, APRIL 14**  
 Avila Beach Community Center,  
 Avila Beach



**Stand Up Comedy Show  
 Hosted by Justin Bournonville**  
**FRIDAY, APRIL 14**  
 Flower City Ballroom, Lompoc



**"Trusting Chloe"  
 Film Screening**  
**SATURDAY, APRIL 15**  
 Fair Oaks Theatre, Arroyo Grande



**SLO Funny Comedy  
 Jamboree - Grover Beach**  
**SATURDAY, APRIL 15**  
 Ribline by the Beach, Grover Beach



**SLO Funny Comedy  
 Jamboree - Morro Bay**  
**SUNDAY, APRIL 16**  
 Morro Bay Eagles Club, Morro Bay



**Women Investing in Real Estate  
 (WiIRE) Luncheon**  
**FRIDAY, APRIL 21**  
 Saints Barrel, San Luis Obispo



**Wine4Paws Woods Fundraiser  
 Kick-Off Party**  
**FRIDAY, APRIL 21**  
 Hayseed & Housdon, Paso Robles



**Celebrate 40 Years of  
 Creek Lands Conservation**  
**FRIDAY, APRIL 21**  
 San Luis Obispo Museum of Art



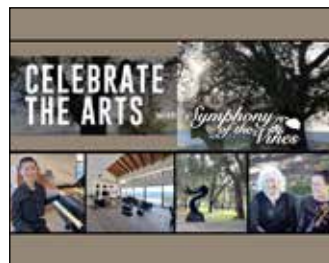
**That's What She Said  
 Live in Concert**  
**FRIDAY, APRIL 21**  
 Flower City Ballroom, Lompoc



**By the Sea Productions:  
 Spinning Into Butter**  
**FRI, SAT, SUN, APRIL 21, 22, 23**  
 545 Shasta Ave, Morro Bay



**Plantopia - Order Plants Now!**  
**PICK UP: SATURDAY, APRIL 22**  
 Pick up plants in Santa Maria,  
 Ventura, or Solvang



**Symphony of the Vines:  
 Celebrate the Arts Fundraier**  
**SATURDAY, APRIL 22**  
 Riding Residence, Paso Robles



**METALACHI: The world's first and  
 only heavy-metal mariachi band**  
**SATURDAY, APRIL 22**  
 Flower City Ballroom, Lompoc



**SLO County Jazz: Bruce Forman  
 Meets the SLO Jazz All-Stars**  
**SATURDAY, APRIL 22**  
 Mt. Carmel Lutheran Church, SLO

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 the weekly **Ticket Wire** newsletter and  
 get all the latest events each Wednesday



ARTS from page 14

**CENTRAL COAST SHAKESPEARE FESTIVAL: AUDITIONS** For this summer's production and future productions. Visit site for audition appointment and prep details. **April 15**, 2:30-6 p.m. centralcoastshakespeare.org. San Luis Obispo Library Community Room, 995 Palm Street, San Luis Obispo, 805-781-5991.

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

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

**DORRANCE DANCE** Dorrance Dance is an award-winning tap dance company based in New York City. Founded in 2011 by Artistic Director and 2015 MacArthur Fellow Michelle Dorrance, the company shares the incredibly dynamic range that tap dance has to offer through performance and education. **April 12**, 7:30-9 p.m. \$30-\$60. 805-756-6556. Performing Arts Center, 1 Grand Ave., San Luis Obispo, pacsl.org.

**FESTIVAL OF LIGHTS EMBROIDERY CLASS** Learn the basics of hand embroidery, and create an embroidered Festival of Lights wall hanging for Hanukkah. Complete embroidery kit included in the class cost. **April 16**, 1-4 p.m. \$25. 805-544-0760. bethdavidslo.org. Congregation Beth David, 10180 Los Osos Valley Road, San Luis Obispo.

**FREE DOCENT TOURS** Gain a deeper understanding of the artwork on view with SLOMA's new docent tours.

Every Saturday, join trained guides for interactive and engaging tours of SLOMA's current exhibitions. ongoing, 11-11:30 a.m. Free. 805-543-8562. sloma.org/visit/tours/. San Luis Obispo Museum of Art, 1010 Broad St., San Luis Obispo.

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

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

**KIDS ART CLASS: PORTRAITS FOR KIDS WITH ZOE WILLIAMSON** Learn to love drawing faces. Each class, we will look at a famous artist, a new style of art, and practice drawing different expressions using simple proportions. Learn new techniques and build confidence. For kids ages 7 and older. Tuesdays, 3:30-5 p.m. through June 13 \$300 for 10 Classes. 805-747-4200. artcentralslo.com/workshops-events/. Art Central, 1329 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/.

**PARENT-CHILD POTTERY CLASS** Make lasting memories with clay together as a family. For ages 6 and over. Thursdays, 10:30 a.m.-noon \$70. Anam Cre Pottery Studio, 1243 Monterey St., San Luis Obispo, anamcre.com.



**CHAIRS WITH FLAIR**

*The Friends of the Santa Maria Public Library will hold its 12th annual Painted Chair Raffle Drawing at the Santa Maria Town Center on Friday, April 14, at 4 p.m. Tickets are currently available for \$1 each, or 6 for \$5, to enter the raffle. Prizes include book-themed chairs and other items decorated by local artists. Call (805) 925-7116 for more info on the fundraiser.*

—C.W.

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

**PLEIN AIR PAINTERS OF THE CENTRAL COAST** A self-directed fun group of

dynamic artists who enjoy painting and sketching outdoors. Artists meet on site at various locations. Weekly plein air destinations are provided by Kirsti Wothe via email (mrswothe@yahoo.com). Wednesdays, 9 a.m.-noon SLO County, Various locations, San Luis Obispo.

**POTTERY: BEGINNING WHEEL CLASS** This series is a great intro to the pottery wheel. Students learn to throw various shapes, surface decorate, and glaze.

Clay and firing included with admission. Thursdays, 10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. \$180. anamcre.com. Anam Cre Pottery Studio, 1243 Monterey St., San Luis Obispo.

**SCULPTURE CLASS WITH ROD PEREZ** This weekly sculpture drop-in class gives an opportunity for potters to take on new projects and learn new techniques relating to sculptural work. Additionally, every first Friday of the month, a new project will be taught by Rod Perez for

beginners. Fridays, 10 a.m.-noon \$40. anamcre.com. Anam Cre Pottery Studio, 1243 Monterey St., San Luis Obispo.

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

**SLO DRAWZ: OPEN FIGURE DRAWING GROUP** Improve your drawing skills while also building a community of supportive creatives with live models. This is not a guided class, please bring your own materials. To sign up, email chantellegoldthwaite@gmail.com. Every other Thursday, 5-7 p.m. through Dec. 31 \$20 per session; or \$60 for a month pass. 805-747-4200. instagram.com/slodrawz/. Art Central, 1329 Monterey St., San Luis Obispo.

**SLO LIBRARY: 40TH ANNUAL SAN LUIS OBISPO POETRY FESTIVAL** Language of the Soul returns with its 40th SLO Poetry Festival at the SLO Library Community Room with SLO County Poet Laureate Kevin Clark and Poets Emeritus Jeanie Greensfelder and Dian Sousa. Open reading follows. Hosted by Kevin Patrick Sullivan. Donations always welcome. **April 8**, 1:30-3:30 p.m. 805-903-3595. San Luis Obispo Library, 995 Palm St., San Luis Obispo.

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

**SLO FUNNY COMEDY JAMBOREE: HIGHWATER SLO** Features international headliner and Cal Poly alumnus Dave Burleigh at HighwaterSLO. Hosted by

ARTS continued page 18



Thank you to the sponsors, donors, guests and volunteers who made this year's **Valentina Martins Memorial Fashion Show & Luncheon** a success. We are extremely grateful for your support.

- This event was sponsored by:
- SEIU Local 6120 - UCLA Health - Phoebe Jaeckels
  - Jacqueline Frederick Law
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  - Tom Becker Real Men Wear Pink
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**Always, Patsy Cline**  
 Sat., Apr 15 at 7:30pm

A musical play, complete with down home country humor, true emotion, audience participation, and over 25 Cline hits including "Crazy" and "I Fall to Pieces." With Misty Rowe (*Hee Haw, Happy Days*) as fan/friend Louise Seger.

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**Drag Race Favorites & More!**  
 Apr 22 at 7:30pm

Queens from *RuPaul's Drag Race* including Chad Michaels as Cher, Venus D'Lite as Madonna and Victoria "Porkchop" Parker. *American Idol* and *Queen of the Universe* finalist Ada Vox headlines.

Sponsored by  
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**Winter Dance Party**  
 May 6 at 7:30pm

The official live and authentic re-creation of Buddy Holly, Ritchie Valens, and the Big Bopper's final tour. "As flawless as a chord from a Fender Stratocaster..." - Chicago Tribune

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**WFC 150**

APRIL 21 | FRIDAY | 6:30PM



**WFC 151**

APRIL 22 | SATURDAY | 6:30PM



**PARMALEE**

APRIL 28 | FRIDAY | 8PM



**THUNDER FROM  
DOWN UNDER**

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Hot Stuff

PHOTO COURTESY OF SLOFUNNY COMEDY

ARTS from page 16

**Cat Alvarado**, with special guest Sean Grant. Featuring Camilla Cleese and local CalPoly student comedians David Uhlfelder and Mat Salud. **April 13**, 8-9:30 p.m. \$25. 805-534-3129. facebook.com/slofunny. Highwater SLO, 1127 Broad St., San Luis Obispo.

**TINY POTTERS: WISE ONES AND WEE ONES PAINT** For ages 4 to 6. Kids have the option to paint animals and other subjects. Tuesdays, 10:30-11:30 a.m. \$30. anamcre.com/booking. Anam Cre Pottery Studio, 1243 Monterey St., San Luis Obispo.

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

**WALT WHITMAN GAY MEN'S BOOK CLUB** This club reads, studies and discusses books chosen by the group which relate to their lives as gay men. All are welcome. Second Monday of every month, 7-9:30 p.m. Free. galacc.org/events/. Online, See website, San Luis Obispo.

CULTURE & LIFESTYLE

SANTA MARIA VALLEY/LOS ALAMOS

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

**AAUW AUTHOR TALK: GIVE A WOMAN A SHAWL, SHE IS FOREVER YOUR SISTER** Author Jacqueline St. Joan will discuss her experiences traveling in Pakistan, the enduring friendships she made, and her resulting advocacy for women's rights in that region. She will share and read from her two novels related to this work. Co-sponsored by AAUW. **April 13**, 5 p.m. Free. cityofsantamaria.org. Santa Maria Public Library, 421 S. McClelland St., Santa Maria, 805-925-0994.

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

**BOUNCING BABY STORY TIME** Explore pre-literacy skills through music, movement, and visual stimulation, and promote a healthy bond between baby and caregiver. Learn, connect, and grow with other babies and their caregivers. For ages 0-12 months. **April 12**, 10 a.m. 805-925-0994. engagedpatrons.org. 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.

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

**EARTH EGGS-PLOERS** Free and supervised arts and crafts programs for youth ages 6 to 12. Registration is required. Tuesdays, 4-6:30 p.m. through April 25 Free. 805-925-0951. Minami Community Center, 600 W. Enos Drive, Santa Maria.

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

**FINANCIAL LITERACY WORKSHOP** The Santa Maria Public Library will be hosting outreach staff from SESLOC Federal Credit Union for a free presentation on the basics of personal finances. Afterwards, patrons will have an opportunity to ask questions in a Q-and-A session. Registration is required. Ages 18 and up welcome. **April 14**, 4 p.m. Free. 805-925-0994. cityofsantamaria.org. Santa Maria Public Library, 421 S. McClelland St., Santa Maria.

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



GIGGLY GIG

Prolific LA-based comedian and writer Cat Alvarado will host the SLOFunny Comedy Jamboree at Highwater SLO on Thursday, April 13, starting at 8 p.m. Additional performances of this group comedy showcase will be held through Sunday, April 16, at venues in Paso Robles, Grover Beach, and Morro Bay. Visit my805tix.com for venue details and tickets. To find out more about SLOFunny Comedy, visit facebook.com/slofunny.

—C.W.

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

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

**LET'S BLOW OFF SOME STEAM** Come to a special story time filled with exploration and discovery. Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, and Math themes will be explored through stories and discovered through hands-on activities. Come dressed for mess. For ages 3-5. Program funded in part or whole by California State Library. **April 7**, 11 a.m. 805-925-0994. engagedpatrons.org. Santa Maria Public Library (Altrusa Theater), 421 S. McClelland St., Santa Maria.

**MINDFULNESS AROUND THE WORLD PACK FOR YOUTH: ALL SM BRANCH LOCATIONS**

Pack pick-up begins April 15. Learn about different mindfulness practices around the world. Packs will include supplies that aid in relaxation and being more present. Program funded in part or whole by California State Library. **April 15** 805-925-0994. engagedpatrons.org. Santa Maria Public Library, 421 S. McClelland St., Santa Maria.

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

**POKÉMON CLUB** Join other Pokémon trainers at the popular Pokémon Club. Learn how to play the Pokémon Trading Card game, watch the show, and participate in other fun activities. Bring a deck from home to battle or use one from the library. **April 15**, 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. **April 10**, 10 a.m. 805-925-0994. engagedpatrons.org. Story time is designed to build literacy skills and school readiness, all while having a great time. This fun story time will feature songs, fingerplays, and stories. For ages 3-6. Mondays, 10 a.m. through April 10 805-925-0994. engagedpatrons.org. Santa Maria Public Library (Altrusa Theater), 421 S. McClelland St., Santa Maria.

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

**STRESS BALL TO-GO KITS: ORCUTT, LOS ALAMOS AND CUYAMA BRANCH LIBRARIES** Feel your troubles melt away with these easy to make stress balls. Utilizing simple materials, stress balls can be a fun activity for anyone to make. All materials will be provided. For patrons 18 and older. **April 10** Free. cityofsantamaria.org. Santa Maria Public Library, 421 S. McClelland St., Santa Maria, 805-925-0994.

**TEEN GAMING** Teens, come for a Friday afternoon of gaming. Play to win or sit back and watch the action on the large screen. Light snacks will be provided. **April 7**, 4:30 p.m. 805-925-0994. engagedpatrons.org. Shepard Hall Art Gallery - Santa Maria Public Library, 421 South McClelland St., Santa Maria.

**TEEN SPRING BREAK HORROR MARATHON: INSIDIOUS** Teens, join each afternoon for some serious chills with screenings of PG-13 films in the Insidious series. Light snacks will be provided. **April 10**, 2 p.m. 805-925-0994. engagedpatrons.org. Shepard Hall Art Gallery - Santa Maria Public Library, 421 South McClelland St., Santa Maria.

**TEEN SPRING BREAK HORROR MARATHON: INSIDIOUS 2** Teens, join each afternoon for some serious chills with screenings of PG-13 films in the Insidious series. Light snacks will be provided. **April 11**, 2 p.m. 805-925-0994. engagedpatrons.org. Shepard Hall Art Gallery - Santa Maria Public Library, 421 South McClelland St., Santa Maria.

**TEEN SPRING BREAK HORROR MARATHON: INSIDIOUS: THE LAST KEY** Teens, join each afternoon for some serious chills with screenings of PG-13 films in the Insidious series. Light snacks will be provided. **April 13**, 2 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, unwindstamaria.com.

**YOUTH SEW MUCH FUN CLUB** Youth may learn to sew, and practice sewing skills at the library. Learn the basics of a machine and sewing by hand, or practice skills with the club. Materials will be provided. Youth are welcome to bring fabric from home. **April 12**, 4 p.m. 805-925-0994. engagedpatrons.org. Santa Maria Public Library, 421 S. McClelland St., Santa Maria.

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.

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

**NATURE WALK FOR CANCER SURVIVORS AND FRIENDS** Tenet Health Central Coast's oncology program is hosting this event, starting at the Bob Jones Trailhead. RSVP required. **April 11**, 10 a.m. 805-546-7725. TenetHealth.com. Bob Jones Trail, 7009 Ontario Road, Avila Beach.

**NATUREFEST AT DANA** All ages can connect with nature at the Dana Adobe's NatureFest. **April 15**, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. \$10 for adults; \$3 for youth. 805-929-5679. danaadobe.org. DANA Adobe Cultural Center, 671 S. Oakglen Ave., Nipomo.

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

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

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

SAN LUIS OBISPO

**BARS AND BOUNCE CLINIC** Bars and Bounce is "a sneaky way to get fit." Build whole-body strength swinging on bars and bouncing on trampolines. No experience is necessary, so come fly away. **April 15**, 1:15-3:15 p.m. \$25 for first child; \$10 per additional child. 805-547-1496. performanceathleticslso.com/events. Performance Athletics Gymnastics, 4484 Broad St., San Luis Obispo.

**BEYOND MINDFULNESS** Realize your potential through individualized meditation instruction with an experienced teacher via Zoom. This class is for those who wish to begin a practice

CULTURE & LIFESTYLE continued page 20

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FEATURING Central Coast bands, BBQ, and beer on our outdoor patio from 12-4pm

MAY

- 5/6 Shameless
- 5/7 The Jump Jax
- 5/13 Louie Ortega Band
- 5/14 Roughouse
- 5/20 Jukebox Heroes
- 5/21 Spanky Paul
- 5/27 Noach Tangeras
- 5/28 The Tap Roots



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APRIL 28 - 30, 2023

# KID'S ART CONTEST

OPEN TO 1ST-8TH GRADERS,  
MUST ATTEND SCHOOL IN  
NORTHERN SANTA BARBARA COUNTY TO BE ELIGIBLE

**Requirements:**

Paper size must be 8 1/2" x 11" with a strawberry image brought to life by design and creativity, recommended pattern attached. Entry must include – *Student's name, phone number, address and grade, teacher's name, phone number, school name, and address on the backside of entry.* Artists may use any colorful medium that includes, but is not limited to markers, paint, colored pencils or crayons. No computer-generated or enhanced artwork will be accepted.

**Criteria of Judging:**

Entries will be judged according to grade category. Grade categories are as follows: Grades 1st – 3rd, 4th – 6th, 7th – 8th. Entries will be judged on the following three criteria:

1. Originality
2. Artistic composition
3. Relevant content

**Restrictions on entry:**

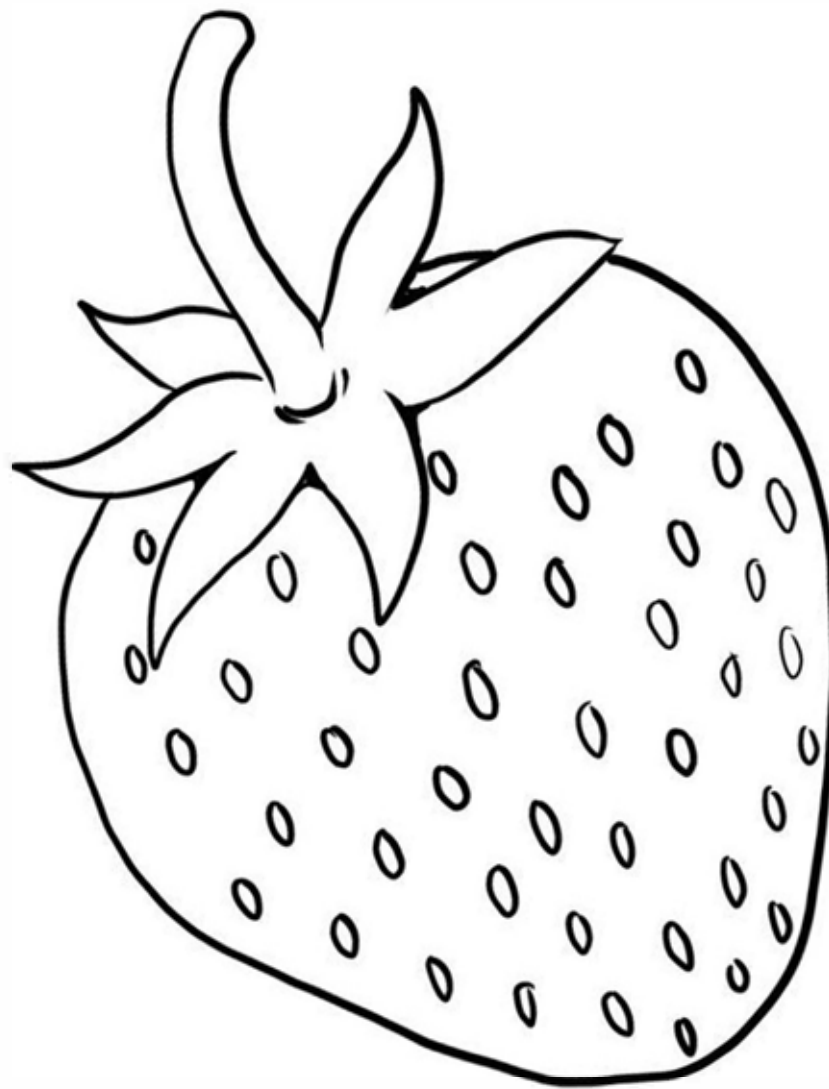
The artwork must depict images appropriate for children to view. The design must be the contestant's own original creation and may not be copied, traced, or duplicated from previously published art, including photographs. Submissions must have been completed between March 1, 2023, through April 14, 2023. Selection and ownership of contest entries: All entries become the property of the Santa Maria Fairpark and artwork will not be returned to the artist.

**Prizes:**

The 1st place winners, in each grade category will receive a \$25 gift card and Four (4) Admissions to the 2023 Santa Maria Valley Strawberry Festival. The 1st place winner's classroom will also receive a \$150 gift card for classroom supplies.

**Contest Deadlines:**

All entries must be delivered to or received by the Santa Maria Fairpark at 937 S. Thornburg St., Santa Maria, California 93458 by no later than 5pm on Friday, April 14, 2023. Post marked entries do not meet the deadline.



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For questions, please call  
(805) 925-8824 or visit us at  
[www.santamariafairpark.com](http://www.santamariafairpark.com)



# Invest in Our Planet! Earth Day 2023

April 22 • 11am-4pm • Laguna Lake Park, SLO  
Welcome Ceremony with Chumash Leader Michael Khus

Live Music featuring Carbon City Blues  
Earls of Tuesday & Bay Love

Kids Zone • EV Car Show • Bike Valet

FREE admission all ages!



## Earth Day Alliance

WE NEED VOLUNTEERS!

earthdayslo.org • 805-544-8529

### EARTH DAY 2023

Saturday, April 22nd 11am-4pm (Rain Cancels)

FREE EVENT  
Fun for the Whole Family

GRAND OPENING

- Santa Maria River Watershed Exhibit featuring Steelhead & Rainbow Trout
- Central Coast Aquarium Tide Pools Touch Tank 11-2pm
- Fly fishing information & casting demo
- Recycling, composting & conservation information
  - Crafts for Kids
  - FREE Food, Music
  - Local Strawberries
- Native Garden Milkweed seeds & tours
- English & Spanish hourly Museum Tours
- Ukulele Band 1pm

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(805) 614-0806 • smnaturalhistory.org



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## Hot Stuff

### CULTURE & LIFESTYLE from page 18

or seek to deepen an existing one. Flexible days and times. Certified with IMTA. Email or text for information. Mondays-Sundays, 5:30-6:30 p.m. Sliding scale. 559-905-9274. theartofsilence.net. Online, See website, San Luis Obispo.

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

**COFFEE CHAT SLO** HomeShareSLO, a program of non-profit Smart Share Housing, facilitates matches between Providers (those with extra rooms) with home Seekers (those looking for affordable housing). Second Wednesday of every month, 10:30-11:30 a.m. Free and open to the public; No RSVP required. 805-215-5474. smartsharehousing.com. SLO Guild Hall, 2880 Broad St., San Luis Obispo.

**FIFTH ANNUAL DAHLIA TUBER SALE** Features items for sale, growing discussions, and demonstrations, as well as a special presentation at 11 a.m. Sale is an outdoor farmer's market-style event. Free parking. Cash, check, and debit cards accepted. April 16, 9:30 a.m.-1 p.m. Free. 805-801-3917. centralcoastdahlias.org. Dr. Rene Bravo's parking lot, 3241 South Higuera, 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.

**PUPPY SOCIAL HOUR** Puppies (10 weeks to 5 months old) will learn appropriate play style with other pups, acceptable manners with people, tolerance for gentle restraints, confidence with the approach of friendly strangers, and more. Saturdays, 9 a.m. and Wednesdays, 10 a.m. \$25. 805-543-9316. woodshumanesociety.org/training/. Woods Humane Society, 875 Oklahoma Ave., San Luis Obispo.

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

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

**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. slonoonmetoastmastersclubs.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 Garden Room, 100 Madonna Road, San Luis Obispo.

**SPRING GYMNASTICS CAMP 2** Take some personal time while your kids enjoy hours of bouncing, flying, flipping gymnastics fun without wearing out your furniture. Ages 4-13; no experience is necessary. Extended care and customizable schedule available. April 10, 9:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m., April 11, 9:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m., April 12, 9:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m., April 13, 9:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m. and April 14, 9:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m. \$40-\$355 depending on which options you choose. 805-547-1496. performanceathleticslo.com/camps. Performance Athletics Gymnastics, 4484



### MYSTERY INK

Local mystery novelist Tony Piazza is one of the four featured authors at an upcoming book signing event, scheduled to be held at the Coalesce Bookstore in Morro Bay on Sunday, April 16, at 1 p.m. The event will include dramatic readings of scenes from books by Piazza and authors Lida Sideris, Anne R. Allen, and Mara Purl. Call (805) 772-2880 or visit coalescebookstore.com to find out more about the event.

—C.W.

Broad St., San Luis Obispo.

**STAY YOUNG WITH QI GONG** Qi Gong boosts energy and vitality, reduces stress, improves balance and flexibility, and, best of all, is fun. Join instructor Devin Wallace for this outdoor class which is held in a beautiful setting. Call or email before attending. Tuesdays, 10-11 a.m. \$10. 805-709-2227. Crows End Retreat Center, 6340 Squire Ct., 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.

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

**TOMATO FANDANGO** Growing Grounds Farm's edible plants meet artisan vendors in a beautiful location. Find heirloom and hybrid tomato varieties, peppers, eggplant, basil, veggies, berries, and more. April 15, 11 a.m.-4 p.m. and April 16, 11 a.m.-4 p.m. Free admission. 805-934-2182. Tiber Canyon Ranch, 280 W Ormonde Rd, 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. Second Tuesday of every month, 6-8 p.m. Free. GALA Pride and Diversity Center, 1060 Palm Street, San Luis Obispo, 805-541-4252.

## FOOD & DRINK

### SANTA MARIA VALLEY/LOS ALAMOS

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

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

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

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

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

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

### SANTA YNEZ VALLEY

**EASTER BRUNCH** The first Easter Brunch Buffet to be held at Vega Vineyard and Farm. Ticket pricing includes brunch buffet and a glass of sparkling wine, bellini or mimosa (for ages 21 and over), or glass of orange juice. April 9, 10 a.m.-6 p.m. \$49. 805-688-2415. vegavineyardandfarm.com. Vega Vineyard and Farm, 9496 Santa Rosa Road, Buellton.

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

FOOD & DRINK continued page 21



FOOD & DRINK from page 20

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. 805-819-0723. coldcoastbrewing.com. COLD Coast Brewing Company, 118 W Ocean Ave, Lompoc.

SOUTH COAST SLO COUNTY

AVILA BEACH SPAGHETTI DINNER AND BINGO NIGHT Enjoy a delicious spaghetti dinner with salad, garlic bread, and dessert followed by Bingo. Dinner tickets include first bingo card. Additional bingo cards are \$1 each. Local wine and beer available for purchase. Prizes awarded to Bingo winners. April 14, 6-8 p.m. \$10 per person; \$5 for children ages 6 and under. 805-627-1997. Avila Beach Community Center, 191 San Miguel St., Avila Beach, avilabeachcc.com.

BRUSHES AND BUBBLES Please join Art Social 805 at Laetitia Vineyard where you will paint the featured image, while enjoying a glass of bubbles. Tickets include paint materials and your first glass of liquid courage. April 16, 10 a.m.-noon \$60. 805-481-1772. artsocial805.com. Laetitia Vineyard & Winery, 453 Laetitia Vineyard Drive, Arroyo Grande.

TRIVIA NIGHT Join BrainStew Trivia for a hilariously witty evening of trivia in Pismo. Teams of 1 to 4 people. Prizes awarded to the first and second place teams. Kitchen is open until 7:30 p.m. for brain fuel. Beer, cider, wine, and non-alcoholic options available. First Thursday of every month, 6:30-8 p.m. 805-295-6171. kulturhausbrewing.com. Kulturhaus Brewing Company, 779 Price St., Pismo Beach.

SAN LUIS OBISPO

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

EASTER BRUNCH Enjoy an Easter Brunch at Apple Farm Restaurant. No reservations required. First come, first served. April 9, 9 a.m.-2 p.m. 805-544-6100. applefarm.com. Apple Farm, 2015 Monterey St., 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. headgamestrivia.com. Antigua Brewing, 1009 Monterey St., San Luis Obispo, 805-242-1167.

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

NORTH SLO COUNTY

BEER YOGA A hybrid yoga class where students practice yoga while drinking beer during their practice. April 8, 10-11 a.m. my805tix.com. Ancient Owl Beer Garden, 6090 El Camino Real, suite C, Atascadero, 805-460-6042.

BRUNCH IS BACK The second Sunday of the month with brunch. Enjoy a two-hour cruise on the waterfront. Features fresh coffee, pastries, and more. Second Sunday of every month, 11 a.m.-1 p.m. \$50. 805-772-2128. chabliscruises.com. Chablis Cruises, 1205 Embarcadero, Morro Bay.

BRUSHES AND BUBBLES AT 15C Please join ArtSocial805 at 15DegreesC, where you will put brushes to canvas and paint the featured image, while sipping on a glass of bubbles. Tickets include all painting materials and your first class of liquid courage. April 8, 12-2 p.m. \$47. 805-434-1554. artsocial805.com. 15 Degrees C Wine Shop and Bar, 624 S Main St., unit 101, Templeton.

ONX WINES VINEYARD TOUR AND TASTING Enjoy a private tour and tasting at the ONX Estate. The tour begins at the Tractor Shed with a portfolio tasting. From there your host will drive you around the vineyard in an off-road vehicle, allowing you to taste the wine right where it's grown. Mondays, Thursdays-Sundays, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. through Oct. 29 \$45 per

person. 805-434-5607. onxwine.com/estate. ONX Estate Vineyard, 1200 Paseo Excelsus, Templeton.

PAINT AND SIP Please join ArtSocial805 at Iron Oaks Winery, where you paint the featured image while enjoying in-house wines. Tickets include all paint materials and a tasting of three wines, plus 10 percent off bottle purchases. April 13, 6-8 p.m. \$48. 805-257-8041. artsocial805.com. Iron Oaks Winery, 823 13th St., Paso Robles.

PAINT AND SIP CASS Please join ArtSocial805 at Cass Winery, where you will paint the featured image, while sipping on a glass of your favorite Cass wine. April 14, 7-9 p.m. \$55. 805-239-1730. Cass Winery and Vineyard, 7350 Linne Rd., Paso Robles, casswines.com.

SIP N' SKETCH Bring your own art supplies of any medium you prefer and create under the formal instruction of Anne Laddon and Terez Tyni. Come create while sipping wine selected from a library collection donated by winery partners. April 15, 6-9 p.m. \$25 (comes with a glass of wine). 805-238-9800. studiosonthepark.org/. Studios on the Park, 1130 Pine St., Paso Robles.

SPRING WINE WALK Taste the diversity of the Downtown Paso Robles Wine District. 16 wineries will be pouring 11 Paso Robles AVAs with gourmet food pairings. April 8, 1-4 p.m. my805tix.com. Paso Robles Downtown Wineries, Various locations, Paso Robles.

MUSIC

SANTA MARIA VALLEY/LOS ALAMOS

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

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.

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.

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. 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.

LIVE MUSIC WITH RUSTY LINDSEY AND FRIENDS Don't miss these talents, described as "a rare find in the Santa Ynez Valley." April 8, 6-9 p.m. Free. 805-686-9126. arrowsmithwine.com. Arrowsmith's, 1539 Mission Drive, Solvang.

MUSIC WITH BRADY HARRIS A new talent at Arrowsmith's. April 15, 6-9 p.m. Free. 805-686-9126. arrowsmithwine.com. Arrowsmith's, 1539 Mission Drive, Solvang.

PABLO CRUISE LIVE IN CONCERT Classic '70s rock and roll band Pablo Cruise brings their nostalgic vibe to the stage at the newly renovated Solvang Festival Theater.

April 15, 7-10 p.m. Starting at \$65. 805-686-1789. solvangtheaterfest.org. Solvang Festival Theater, 420 2nd St., Solvang.

SANTA YNEZ VALLEY CONCERT SERIES: 42ND SEASON The SYV Concert Series' 2022-23 season includes five upcoming concerts, through 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

DEEP HOUSE MUSIC All ages welcome. In-house food, wine, and beer available for purchase during the event. April 7, 7 p.m. \$10. my805tix.com. Flower City Ballroom, 110 W. Ocean Ave., Lompoc.

SOUTH COAST SLO COUNTY

ALWAYS ... PATSY CLINE A musical play, complete with down home country humor, true emotion, audience participation, and more than 20 Cline hits including "Crazy," "I Fall to Pieces," "Sweet Dreams," and "Walking After Midnight." April 15, 7:30-10 p.m. \$48-\$58. 805-489-9444. clarkcenter.org/shows/always-patsy-cline/. Clark Center for the Performing Arts, 487 Fair Oaks Ave., Arroyo Grande.

DULCIE TAYLOR TRIO April 8, 1-4 p.m. Blacklake Golf Course, 1490 Golf Course Lane, Nipomo, 805-343-1214.

THE LONG RUN: EXPERIENCE THE EAGLES This act has earned its place among the top-drawing tributes in North America and is widely regarded as the finest Eagles tribute show working today. April 7, 7:30-10 p.m. \$40-\$50. 805-489-9444. clarkcenter.org. Clark Center for the Performing Arts, 487 Fair Oaks Ave., Arroyo Grande.

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.

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.

NATE SMITH AND KINFOLK Nate Smith is a drummer, composer, and producer from Chesapeake, Virginia. His visceral, instinctive, and deep-rooted style of drumming has led to three Grammy nominations. Smith fuses his original compositions with an eclectic mix of music, including everything from jazz to R&B to hip-hop. April 7, 7:30-9:30 p.m. \$40. 805-756-4849. calpolyarts.org. Spanos Theatre, Cal Poly, San Luis Obispo.

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

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

TOM PETTY AND STEVIE NICKS TRIBUTE Songwriters at Play celebrates the music of Tom Petty and Stevie Nicks with this tribute concert. April 8, 4 p.m. my805tix.com. SLO Wine and Beer Company, 3536 S. Higuera St., suite 250, San Luis Obispo, 805-544-9463.

UH2BT: K POP NIGHT April 7, 8 p.m. The Fremont Theater, 1035 Monterey St., San Luis Obispo, 805-546-8600, fremontslo.com. ☪

SPECIAL PUBLICATION

STRAWBERRY FESTIVAL PROGRAM

BOOK YOUR AD BY: April 13, 2023

PUBLICATION DATE: April 20, 2023



The annual Santa Maria Valley Strawberry Festival is scheduled to be held at the Santa Maria Fairpark from Friday, April 28 through Sunday, April 30, 2023.

Reach thousands of festivalgoers in the event's program, printed in the Sun! The program will include the schedule of events and info about things to see and do at the festival.

CONTACT US FOR MORE INFO TODAY



NORTHERN SANTA BARBARA COUNTY (805) 347-1968 advertising@santamariasun.com





ARTS BRIEFS

## Wildling Museum's new group exhibit highlights the Sedgwick Nature Reserve

COURTESY IMAGE BY DENNIS CURRY



Art from 11 Central Coast-based artists will be on display in an upcoming group exhibition, Sedgwick Reserve: A Conservation Story, at the Wildling Museum of Art and Nature in Solvang.

The exhibit is scheduled to open in the museum's Valley Oak Gallery on Saturday, April 8, and will remain up through Monday, Oct. 16. An artist reception will take place on Sunday, April 16, from 3 to 5 p.m.

Painters, photographers, and other participating artists in the show were tasked to submit pieces of various media centered on the Sedgwick Nature Reserve, located in the foothills of the Santa Ynez Valley. The diverse reserve hosts multiple habitats and is one of seven reserves managed by the UCSB Natural Reserve System.

The Wildling Museum's executive director, Stacey Otte-Demangate, described the Sedgwick Nature Reserve as "unique for the amount of serious academic research it supports, particularly with native oaks."

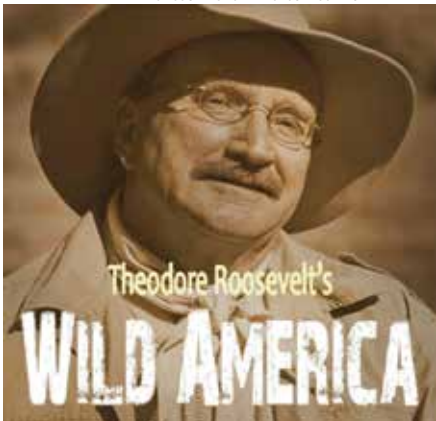
"We love to highlight local conservation areas and Sedgwick is a major one," Otte-Demangate said in press materials.

The new exhibition's 11 featured artists are Whitney Abbott, Chris Chapman, Dennis Curry, Camille Dellar, Bill Dewey, Bruce Everett, Russ Hunziker, John Iwerks, Manny Lopez, Mark Oliver, and Nina Warner.

To find out more about Sedgwick Reserve: A Conservation Story, call the Wildling Museum at (805) 686-8315 or visit wildlingmuseum.org. The museum is located at 1511 Mission Drive, unit B, Solvang.

## Orcutt Community Theater holds one-man show, Theodore Roosevelt's Wild America

IMAGE COURTESY OF THE ORCUTT COMMUNITY THEATER



Local thespian Alan Sutterfield will portray Theodore Roosevelt in the Orcutt Community Theater's new production of *Theodore Roosevelt's Wild America*. The one-man show will be presented at KDA Studios in Santa Maria on Friday, April 7 and Saturday, April 8, at 8 p.m. both evenings.

Tickets to *Theodore Roosevelt's Wild America* are \$20 each and are available to purchase in advance at my805tix.com. According to press materials, the show's plot follows Roosevelt's outdoor adventures over several decades, during his hunting days in the woods of Maine and his ranching days on the Dakota frontier.

For more info on *Theodore Roosevelt's Wild America* and other upcoming productions hosted by the Orcutt Community Theater, call (805) 268-2993 or visit orcuttcommunitytheater.org. The next show in the theater group's lineup is *And Then There Were None*, which is scheduled to premiere on Friday, May 5, and run through Sunday, May 21.

KDA Studios is located at 3558 Skyway Drive, Santa Maria. ○

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

COURTESY IMAGE BY CHLOE MARIE HOURDEQUIN



**VALLEY VIEW:** The Santa Ynez Valley is one of the regions watercolorist Chloé Marie Hourdequin focuses on in her Local Landmarks series, which features a collection of landscapes and seascapes based on locales in a handful of cities across the Central Coast.

**Showtime!**

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



# Majestic merch

*Local watercolorist merchandises original landscapes, offers private painting workshops*

BY CALEB WISEBLOOD

**R**ocky bluffs and rolling hills are among the backdrops captured in watercolor painter Chloé Marie Hourdequin's Local Landmark series.

Constantly inspired by "our striking purple mountains, green pastures, and stunning ocean views," Hourdequin has painted several landscapes and seascapes based on serene settings found along the Central Coast—including locales in the Santa Ynez Valley, Pismo Beach, and other cities—over the years.

"There are endless views to be inspired by living on the Central Coast and I strive to commit them all to watercolor art," said Hourdequin, a professional artist and art instructor based in Santa Barbara.

Through her business, CMH Designs, Hourdequin merchandises her own watercolor paintings as traditional prints and in other forms—greeting cards, stickers, totes, even tea towels. She also leads watercolor painting classes for private events, with reservation options available to peruse on her company's website.

Hourdequin's most recent CMH Designs workshop—a Watercolor and Wine event in late March—was held at Riverbench Vineyard and Winery in Santa Maria for members of the venue's wine club. Hourdequin is no stranger to the Santa Maria Valley as she grew up in Orcutt.

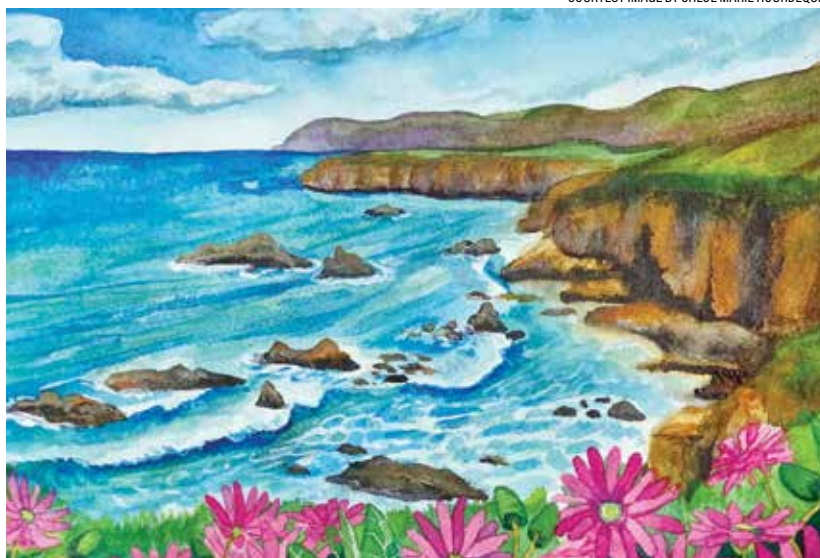
It was Santa Barbara, however, where her "art journey" began, the artist said.

During her childhood, Hourdequin and her family would drive down to Santa Barbara regularly to visit her grandmother. While in grade school, she spent many summers at a children's art camp at the Ridley-Tree Education Center.

Hourdequin moved to Santa Barbara after her freshman year at St. Joseph High School. She entered Santa Barbara High School as a sophomore, and quickly took advantage of the school's "well-established arts programming," she said.

"It was when I transferred to Santa Barbara High School that I learned about the many different mediums and modes to create artwork,"

COURTESY IMAGE BY CHLOE MARIE HOURDEQUIN



**COASTAL AND POSTAL:** Many of watercolor painter Chloé Marie Hourdequin's landscapes and seascapes—including this coastal scene in her Local Landmarks: 5 Cities collection—are available to purchase as traditional prints, postcards, greeting cards, or in other forms.

Tote notes

Visit [chloemariehourdequindesigns.com](http://chloemariehourdequindesigns.com) for more info on local artist and art instructor Chloé Marie Hourdequin and her business, CMH Designs. Hourdequin's watercolor paintings are available for sale as prints, as well as greeting cards, postcards, totes, and other products.

Hourdequin said. "I was fortunate to have several very talented art teachers local to Santa Barbara who encouraged me to foster my understanding of watercolor and pursue my talent in the medium outside of class."

During high school, Hourdequin also painted outside the classroom and often participated in local art competitions. She eventually returned to the Ridley-Tree Education Center to volunteer as a teen art counselor.

When it was time to apply for college, Hourdequin sought to attend UCLA, where she was accepted, but she decided not to major in art.

"I knew that I was talented in the arts, but felt I needed to learn more about myself and pursue an education in the humanities," said Hourdequin, who ended up graduating from UCLA with three separate bachelor degrees, in history, art history, and anthropology.

When she wasn't studying, Hourdequin continued to paint "on the side, as a means of relaxation" throughout her college years, and picked up part-time jobs at a few art museums to support herself.

"Shortly after college, I returned home to Santa Barbara where I had originally begun my art journey," Hourdequin said, "and knew it was time to pick up my paintbrush in a professional capacity."

One of Hourdequin's favorite parts about leading private painting sessions and workshops, especially for beginners, is getting to revisit and reevaluate the core fundamentals of watercolor painting, she explained.

"Instructing painting classes has allowed me to harness my artistic abilities so much more strongly than if I were to work solely by myself," Hourdequin said. "As I work to break down the different steps for participants, I feel myself learning all over again the mechanisms of the watercolor process that I usually pass through quickly when painting."

"Taking the time to treasure the fundamentals has given me such a deeper appreciation for the painting process," she added, "and a deeper understanding of the depths to which the medium of watercolor can be used." ○

Arts Editor Caleb Wiseblood treasures feedback. Send comments to [cwiseblood@santamariasun.com](mailto:cwiseblood@santamariasun.com).

PHOTO COURTESY OF CHLOE MARIE HOURDEQUIN



**WATERCOLOR INTO WINE:** Chloé Marie Hourdequin, the founder of CMH Designs, led her most recent Watercolor and Wine workshop at the Riverbench Vineyard and Winery in Santa Maria in late March.



# LOMPOC Pops ORCHESTRA

For the Love of Music  
 Brian Asher Alhadeff,  
 Artistic Director & Conductor

PRESENTS

## Classic Pops Galore!

Featuring Pianist Anyssa Neumann and Soprano Jennifer Freye

**MONDAY, April 24 2023 at 7:30 PM**

First United Methodist Church • 925 North F Street

**GENERAL ADMISSION \$25 • STUDENTS WITH ID \$5**

**Children 12 & Under FREE • For more info call (805) 735-6463**

TICKET OUTLETS: The Box Shop • Lompoc Valley Florist  
 and at the door on the night of the concert.



APRIL 28-30, 2023

12pm - 10pm Daily



**FRIDAY | APRIL 28**

*Senior Day*

Seniors 62+ admission FREE - All Day

**SATURDAY | APRIL 29**

*Kids Day*

Youth 6 -11 admission \$5.00 - All Day

**SUNDAY | APRIL 30**

*Fiesta Day*

Hispanic Concert & Entertainment

NEW Chalk Festival • Cruizin' Car Show • Local Community Artisan & Small Business Showcase  
 CA Women for Ag. Strawberry Tasting • Food & Commercial Vendors • Strawberry Eating Contest  
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# Heartbreaker

In her feature-length debut, writer-director A.V. Rockwell helms this love letter to mothers. Inez (Teyana Taylor) kidnaps her 6-year-old son, Terry (Aaron Kingsley Adetola), from the foster care system to restart their life together, ultimately reclaiming their sense of home and family. Inez finds a partner in Lucky (William Catlett), and the story proceeds as Terry turns 13 (Aven Courtney) and then 17 (Josiah Cross), but their secret always lingers ominously over them, threatening to destroy the home they've built together. The film won the Sundance Film Festival Grand Jury Prize. (117 min.)

**Glen:** This is an impressive feature-length debut. Rockwell, a woman of color, has directed short films and music videos since 2012, so she knows her way around a camera. The film starts in 1994 in New York City when the Twin Towers still dominated the skyline, but Rockwell's focus is on the street and the people trying to get by, in particular Inez, who's recently released from Rikers Island jail. She hustles by doing hair, but she's clearly burned some bridges in her old haunt, so when she takes Terry, they head to where she grew up in Harlem. She's far from a perfect mother, but she's a dedicated one who's trying to make a better life for her son and herself. Teyana Taylor is positively fierce as Inez, who at one point tells Terry, "I'd go to war for you. I'd fight this whole city." She's a flawed character, but you want to root for her and you want to see her succeed both for herself and for Terry.

**Anna:** The thing that keeps Inez pushing through is her fierce love for Terry, and somehow, even though it's far from perfect, she manages to build a life for him. He's smart and quiet and in desperate need of someone to care for him when he is a little boy. The foster system can easily swallow up kids like Terry, and Inez truly believes that he is better off with her. Life is a battle for the two, especially in the beginning. Taylor plays Inez with the desperate energy of a rat caught in a trap trying to claw its way out. When Terry is older, their fear becomes not that he will be recognized, but that without a birth certificate he won't be able to take the next

## A THOUSAND AND ONE

What's it rated? **R**  
 What's it worth, Glen? **Full price**  
 What's it worth, Anna? **Full price**  
 Where's it showing? **Regal Edwards RPX Santa Maria**

steps in life to become an adult. This film is achingly sad in a lot of places, but there is a beauty to that sadness. I especially found the connection between Terry and Lucky, the only man who has been a father figure to him, to be profound. **Glen:** Catlett as Lucky was a really interesting character. At first, he resisted the idea of being a father figure to Terry, and the reason becomes obvious at the ambiguous ending of the film, which really surprised me, but soon Lucky realizes how desperately Terry needs a role model, and as flawed as Lucky is, he does his best to become one. The film is also about a changing New York City, then-Mayor Rudy Giuliani's stop and frisk policy that put a target on the backs of young black men and boys like Terry, and gentrification. In one particularly vexing segment, it becomes clear that Inez's new landlord is less interested in repairing her apartment and more interested in



**A MOTHER'S LOVE:** After losing her son, Terry (Aaron Kingsley Adetola), to the foster care system and bouncing around shelters, Inez (Teyana Taylor) kidnaps him to restart their life together, in *A Thousand and One*, screening at Regal Edwards RPX in Santa Maria.

forcing her out. Life is hard and unfair, but Inez wants more for Terry. She just might not be able to supply it.

**Anna:** The new landlord seems too good to be true, and he is. It seems like every time this family catches a hint of a break, something inevitably comes crashing down. Terry gets accepted into a specialized tech high school, but

when he can't provide a social security number those dreams are dashed. I thought this movie was fantastic, but it definitely wasn't a light watch. This film broke my heart. ○

Senior Staff Writer Glen Starkey and freelancer Anna Starkey write Sun Screen. Glen compiles listings. Comment at [gstarkey@newtimeslo.com](mailto:gstarkey@newtimeslo.com).

## Television Reviews

### HELLO TOMORROW!

What's it rated? **TV-MA**  
 When? **2023**  
 Where's it showing? **Apple TV Plus**

Billy Crudup takes the stage as Jack Billings, a slick salesman who hocks condos on the moon. The retro-futuristic world the show makers have built for us in *Hello Tomorrow!* is very cool looking—vintage cars that hover off the ground, *Mad Men* style costuming—it's a lot of fun to watch.

The series centers on Billings and his fellow salesmen, including a young guy named Joey (Nicholas Podany) who Jack takes under his wing for ulterior reasons that become clear quickly. Soon into the season it becomes clear that whether the salesmen are aware of it or not, they may be selling dreams much more than they are actual property on the moon.

Rounding out the sales team are couple Shirley and Eddie (Haneefah Wood and Hank Azaria). She's got the brains, and he's got a gambling problem. There's also Herb Porter (Dewshane Williams), who is nerdy and quirky and so much fun to watch. It's not getting rave reviews on IMDb or Rotten Tomatoes, but I had fun watching *Hello Tomorrow!* If you like shows that offer up



**JUMPING JACK:** Jack Billings (Billy Crudup) runs a team of sales people selling property on the moon, or maybe just the promise of property on the moon, in *Hello Tomorrow!* streaming on Apple TV Plus.

retro visual fun, this one will probably be a hit for you too. (10 31-min. episodes)

—Anna

**BINGEABLE**

### THE NIGHT AGENT

What's it rated? **TV-MA**  
 When? **2023**  
 Where's it showing? **Netflix**

In this action thriller, low-level FBI Agent Peter Sutherland (Gabriel Basso) is tasked with helping the "Night Action" phone in the basement of The White House. If an agent calls, Peter's job is merely to direct needed resources. Most of the time he quietly analyzes reports of the president's Chief of Staff Diane Farr (Hong Chau). It's a phone that "never rings" ... until one night it does.

On the other end of the line is Rose Larkin (Luciane Buchanan), who's on the run from two assassins—Dale (Phoenix Raei) and Ellen (Eve Harlow)—who are part of a conspiracy that rises to the upper echelons of the federal government. Soon Peter and Rose are on the run, and they don't know who they can trust. It's very gripping indeed!

It's also got a cast of terrific and compelling intertwining characters. The assassins are fascinating, but there's also Secret Service Agents Chelsea Arrington (Fola Evans-Akingbola) and Erik Monks (D.B. Woodside), who are in charge of protecting Vice President Redfield's (Christopher Shyer) daughter Maddie



**STEPPING UP:** Low-level FBI Agent Peter Sutherland (Gabriel Basso) stumbles onto a conspiracy involving The White House, in the new action-thriller series *The Night Agent* on Netflix.

(Sarah Desjardins). The storyline and action are a blast, but the character-driven drama sets the series apart. (10 45- to 56-min. episodes) ○

—Glen

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**REFRESHING RENEWAL:** New flooring, decor, and furniture are among the recent renovations at Cambria Estate Winery's popular tasting room in the Santa Maria Valley.

## Hoorays and chardonnays

*Cambria Estate Winery celebrates tasting room and facility renovations*

BY CALEB WISEBLOOD

There's an 80-mile stretch between Cambria Estate Winery and the coastal village it's often mistakenly associated with.

Located on Chardonnay Lane in the Santa Maria Valley, the renowned winery was co-founded in 1986 by vintners Barbara Banke and Jess Jackson, who chose the name Cambria as a reference to their Welsh heritage, the estate's winemaker Jill Russell explained.

"It's not connected at all to the town, Cambria. I mean, I wish. I love the town," Russell said with a laugh, before adding that Cambria is coincidentally where her husband proposed to her.

Russell and other staffers at the estate are currently gearing up for the grand reopening of the property's newly renovated tasting room. The May 13

celebration will be open to the public, while a soft reopening event—exclusive to Wine Club Members—was held at the end of 2022. The winery is currently open for tastings.

The estate's tasting room setting—including its indoor lounge area and outdoor patio area—was given "a little facelift," Russell said, with new flooring, furniture, and decor installed, among other renovations.

One aspect of the indoor tasting area that remains the same as it was prior to the renovations is a distinct row of windows that allows patrons to view the massive facility that houses the winery's stainless-steel tanks. The facility is outdoors, but a newly constructed roof now rests above the tanks, which results in more energy efficient cooling due to less sun exposure.

"The recent construction that we did was mostly focused on covering this cellar. Then we decided, why not update our tasting room too?" said Russell, who added that the new roof was completed just before the fall of 2022. "Before this harvest, this was all exposed."

Many wines in Cambria Estate Winery's lineup result from stainless steel fermentation and aging, including the 2020 Fog Tide chardonnay. Comparatively, some of the winery's chardonnays, like the 2018 West Point, are the product of traditional oak barrel fermentation and aging.

Taste-wise, Russell's personal preference between the two styles can vary from day to day, she explained, depending on what she's planning to eat for dinner. Stainless steel chardonnay—often crisp and zippy—pairs well with creamy pasta dishes, she said, while barrel chardonnay—often warm and round—goes great with fish tacos and seafood in general.



**BARREL ROLE:** Los Alamos resident and Cal Poly alumna Jill Russell joined Cambria Estate Winery as head winemaker in 2017.



**VINES AND VIEWS:** Located just off the Foxen Canyon Wine Trail, the Cambria Estate Winery in Santa Maria is known for its scenic, hillside setting.

EATS continued page 26

### May the corks be with you

For more info on Cambria Estate Winery, call (805) 938-7318 or visit [cambriawines.com](http://cambriawines.com). The winery will host a grand reopening celebration for its newly renovated tasting room on Saturday, May 13, at 11 a.m., and is located at 5475 Chardonnay Lane, Santa Maria. The winery is currently open for tastings.

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**Eats**

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EATS from page 25

"I change back and forth depending on what I'm eating or what I'm doing that evening, but I do gravitate toward barrel fermented chardonnay," Russell said. "I like the complexity that oak brings to chardonnay."

Russell enjoys engaging with the estate's patrons interested in the intricacies that distinguish the two winemaking methods, and has led larger discussions on those distinctions and other wine-related topics during the various seminars she's hosted over the years.

If she hadn't become a winemaker, Russell probably would have leaned toward a career in teaching, she said. Her journey toward working in the wine industry began while she was in high school.

"I always loved science but I didn't grow up around wine or anything," Russell said. "I grew up in a boating family. My parents had margaritas and beer. Wine wasn't on my table."

Russell was born and raised in the East Bay Area. One of her first jobs as a teenager was working for a winery-based catering company owned by a family that lived in her neighborhood.

"They kind of recruited a bunch of us to work there," said Russell, who worked alongside some of her friends at the ongoing catering gig based at a winery in the Livermore Valley. "On the weekends, I'd be working these beautiful weddings, at a winery, and I fell in love with the scene, the beauty of the vineyard, the food culture."

Originally, Russell considered working toward



**MAKE YOURSELF AT HOME:** Patrons of Cambria Estate Winery can look forward to enjoying tastings of chardonnay, pinot noir, viognier, syrah, and more of the venue's wines in a cozy, lounge-like setting.

a career in vineyard management, but switched her focus to winemaking early on during her college studies. She moved to San Luis Obispo and majored in viticulture and enology at Cal Poly, where she graduated in 2009.

After college, Russell—who now resides in Los Alamos—worked in assistant winemaker roles for vintners in the Edna Valley and Sta. Rita Hills among other areas before joining Cambria Estate Winery as head winemaker in 2017. She still considers herself a newbie, compared to some of her colleagues at the estate with 20-year tenures.

Russell's penchant for teaching comes in handy when she comes across newbies even newer than herself.

"I have interns," the winemaker said. "When I get to show them the process, I love seeing their little eyes light up." ○

Arts Editor Caleb Wiseblood is eyeing his inbox. Send comments to [cwiseblood@santamariasun.com](mailto:cwiseblood@santamariasun.com).

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