

Paso Robles Daily News

Local women recognized as Small Business Persons of the Year

Posted: [2:05 am, May 3, 2019](#) by [News Staff](#)



Andrea Wasko and Meaghan Gilbert.

–The [U.S. Small Business Administration](#) (SBA) today announced Andrea Wasko and Meaghan Gilbert, owners of Los Osos based Connoisseur Creations, Inc., as the 2019 Small Business Persons of the Year for the SBA’s 15 county San Joaquin Valley and Central Coast region.

The SBA will present Andrea Wasko and Meaghan Gilbert with their Small Business Persons of the Year award at 1:30 p.m. on Monday, May 6, 2019 at the County Government Center 1055 Monterey Street in San Luis Obispo, 4th Floor Conference Room #454. The award presentation event is open to the media.

Established in 1996, Connoisseur Creations’ flagship product, the [Quick Pickle Kit](#), uses recipes handed down through Andrea’s family and is sold online and at local retailers. The Quick Pickle Kit is safe, quick, simple and natural and consumers can use the kit to pickle any vegetable. Connoisseur Creations donates part of the Quick Pickle Kit and Spice Packet sales on their website to local nonprofit agencies and their products are assembled by disabled adults.

“Meaghan and I are grateful to the SBA, and Mission Community Services Corporation’s Women’s Business Center for their support of Connoisseur Creations,” said Andrea Wasko. “We are honored to be recognized as the SBA’s 2019 Small Business Persons of the Year, and appreciate the opportunity to advocate for other women owned businesses.”

Connoisseur Creations used assistance from SBA funded Mission Community Services Corporation’s Women’s Business Center to make critical decisions about their company’s operations, which allowed the business to run more effectively and efficiently.

“The SBA is proud to recognize Andrea and Meaghan as our 2019 Small Business Persons of the Year,” said Fresno District Director Dawn Golik. “Connoisseur Creations is a great success story about how SBA programs including Women Business Centers, provide free assistance to help woman owned companies start up, scale up, and succeed.” National Small Business Week will be observed May 5-11, 2019, with events in Washington, D.C., around the country and online.