

# Sun

## AT THE MOVIES



*The Sisters Brothers:*  
Old West assassins [32]

# Burning up



*State agencies push prescribed burns, environmentalists advocate for development restrictions as number of massive wildfires increase [8]*

**BY CAMILLIA LANHAM**

**NEWS** Get to know state propositions before Election Day [7]

**ARTS** Lompoc 10 explores Jalama Road in new exhibit [27]

**EATS** Get a taste of a real Italian deli [34]

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# Contents

NOVEMBER 1 - NOVEMBER 8, 2018 VOL. 19 NO. 35

**F**irefighters have said it for so long it's practically a proverb: Fight fire with fire. Prescribed burns are the option that local, state, and federal agencies are considering in the battle against California's massive wildfires. The burns help firefighters manage blazes better when they flare up, advocates say, but requests for more burns are met with concern from environmental groups. For this week's cover story, *Sun* Executive Editor Camillia Lanham explored what SLO and Santa Barbara counties are doing along with state and federal agencies to start fires to prevent more [8].

Also this week, read up on statewide ballot propositions [7], a recent high school district decision leaves special needs teachers with a difficult choice [10], PCPA prepares the music for *Peter Pan* [24], a group of Lompoc artists explore Jalama Road in a new exhibit [27], learn the art of paranormal investigation [29], and check out what's fresh at Papa Napoli's in Santa Maria [34].



**YEARN TO BURN:** Local governments are collaborating with state and federal fire agencies to manage fire-prone areas with prescribed burns. Pictured: An April prescribed burn in the Los Padres National Forest in Santa Barbara County.

Joe Payne,  
managing editor

File photo by Spencer Cole > Cover Design by Alex Zuniga

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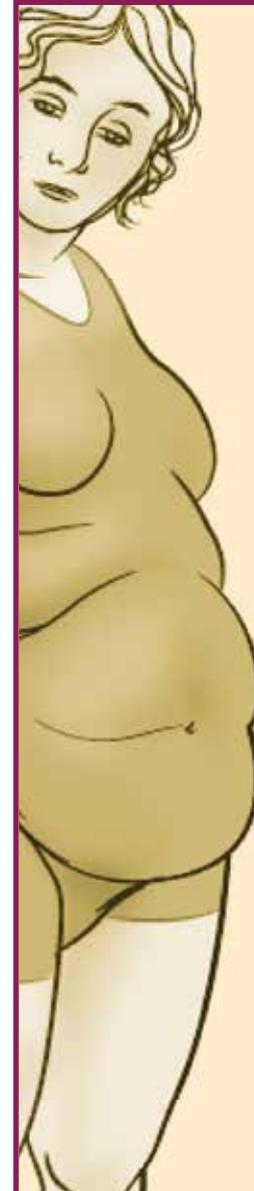
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## Political Watch

• Santa Barbara County election offices and polling places will be buzz on Nov. 6 for the midterm election. According to the county's website, conditional voter registration is available through Nov. 6 at 511 E. Lakeside Parkway in Santa Maria, 401 E. Cypress St. in Lompoc, and 4440-A Calle Real in Santa Barbara. Ballot drop boxes are also located at 511 E. Lakeside in Santa Maria and 4440-A Calle Real in Santa Barbara, and at 100 Civic Center Plaze in Lompoc. More information is available at (800) 722-8683 or countyofsb.org.

• The office of Sen. **Kamala Harris** (D-California) issued a statement on Oct. 26 after a suspicious package addressed to the office was reported to authorities by a postal employee in Sacramento. In the statement, Harris' spokesperson Lily Adams said that the package was "similar to those that have been sent to other elected officials," in regards to a spate of mailed pipe bombs sent to Democratic leadership. "Fortunately, nobody was injured," Adams stated. "Sen. Harris is enormously grateful to law enforcement officials across the country who have worked so hard over the past week to keep our fellow citizens safe." Two days earlier, Rep. **Salud Carbajal** (D-Santa Barbara) issued a statement on Oct. 24 in regards to the explosive devices that were sent to former Secretary of State **Hillary Clinton**, former President **Barack Obama**, political influencer **George Soros**, and the offices of CNN in New York. "This attempted attack is absolutely unacceptable and amounts to an act of terror on our leaders and our free press," Carbajal stated. "Regardless of how strongly we disagree on the issues, violence has no place in our political discourse." Carbajal asked the post office to temporarily suspend mail delivery to his office for a few days amid the investigation. On Oct. 26, authorities in Florida arrested **Cesar Sayoc**, an avid supporter of President **Donald Trump**, for allegedly sending the bombs.

• After a mass shooting at the Tree of Life Synagogue in Pittsburgh left 11 dead and more injured, Sen. **Dianne Feinstein** (D-California) released a statement on Oct. 27, saying she was "heartbroken" by news of the incident. "We can't ignore the recent spike in hate crimes and the pervasive effect of giving a wink and a nod to hate groups and those who would commit violence," Feinstein stated. "It is incumbent upon all of us to condemn the anti-Semitic hatred that led to this atrocity." Two days later, after an alleged hate crime ended with two deaths and more package bombs were discovered being sent to Democratic leadership, Feinstein issued another statement, linking the incidents as "a string of politically and racially motivated crimes," and pointed to the president as a cause of blame. "It's difficult not to draw direct lines between the hateful, divisive rhetoric of **Donald Trump** and an increase in such crimes," Feinstein stated. "Saturday's synagogue shooting was the largest killing of Jewish citizens in our history. But instead of helping the country mourn and recover, the president insisted on attending a political rally. That's shocking, but unfortunately not surprising."

• 24th District House candidate **Justin Fareed** (R) issued a new television commercial targeting Rep. **Salud Carbajal** and his votes concerning disaster relief and wildfire prevention funding. In a release, Fareed's campaign said that "Carbajal voted against two critical bi-partisan measures that would help to prevent wildfires by implementing common sense land management and forest protection practices on public lands," the release said. "Salud Carbajal has cast votes that cost lives," Fareed stated. "In Congress, we deserve a leader who will put people over politics, work to prevent future disasters from happening, and side with Central Coast families, not special interests or party bosses." ○

## Santa Maria-Bonita board candidates talk goals at debate

In a relatively low-energy forum on Oct. 26, Santa Maria-Bonita School District board of education candidates debated, and mostly agreed on, a variety of fiscal and educational topics.

While the four candidates each had some somewhat unique ideas on ways to improve the school district, they all shared similar goals for the district's handling of Santa Maria's children. The candidates, each with starkly contrasting backgrounds and qualifications, seemed to agree on most topics that came up, including improving in-school mental health care, continuing professional development trainings for teachers, and increasing parent involvement.

Vedamarie Alvarez-Flores, a native Santa Marian, former teacher of 39 years, adjunct at Cal Poly San Luis Obispo, and incumbent board member, said at the event that she hopes to promote equitable access to education for all Santa Maria-Bonita students.

As one of the district's first-ever credentialed bilingual teachers, Alvarez-Flores said she hopes to enhance the district's recent efforts to capitalize on its large population of native Spanish-speaking students and promote dual language skills. With that, Alvarez-Flores said she hopes to support diversity among the district's students and staff through ongoing district cultural competency trainings, increased parent involvement, and well-rounded curriculum.

"We need multilingual and multicultural classes," Alvarez-Flores said at the event, "not just bilingual."

In her past two years on the board, Alvarez-Flores said she learned a lot about the district's funding formula and how to inspire teachers and students to meet high expectations. Still, she said there's always more to learn, and she hopes to continue growing with another term.

Ricky Lara, a lifelong Santa Maria resident, farmer who oversees 4,500 acres and several employees, and another incumbent board member, said at the event that he hopes to help students become successful in whatever academic avenues they choose. Lara, who said hard work, compassion, and community input have been the keys to his success as both a farmer and board member, said he wants to work with parents, teachers, and staff to use their tax dollars in the most efficient ways possible within the district.

As a father of two children who have gone through Santa Maria-Bonita and down two very different career paths, Lara said he'd continue his support for all school subjects, from career tech and math pathways to the arts and literature.

Lara, who is backed by the California School Employees Association, said he's "all about equality," but struggled to lay out any specific ideas as to how he planned to enhance student success, opportunity, and fiscal responsibility within the district.

Lara typically kept his answers brief and often repeated or seconded what other candidates had already said.

Gary Michaels is a Chicago-born, former telecommunications marketer who came to Santa Maria in 2005 for a job with Comcast, where he helped install high speed internet at many of Santa Maria's school districts. He now works as a consultant for E-Rate, a program that provides major discounts to schools and libraries that need help obtaining affordable telecommunications and internet access.

Michaels said he wants to serve on the board because he believes in public education.

As a child from a lower middle class, Polish family, who moved on to graduate from several colleges, including the University of Sussex in



**THE CANDIDATES:** Sitting from left to right: Santa Maria-Bonita School District board candidates Vedamarie Alvarez-Flores, Ricky Lara, Abraham Melendrez, and Gary Michaels debate audience questions at a forum on Oct. 26.

London, Michaels said he's a product of the public school system at its best. Like many kids in Santa Maria, Michaels said he spoke different languages at home and in school, was bullied, and overcame adversities.

He said at the event that he hopes to support Superintendent Luke Ontiveros in his mission of improving test scores and closing achievement gaps. He'd like to promote student and parent literacy, create a carpooling program to help get kids to school, improve fiscal responsibility, and reduce class sizes.

"I want to make sure that money is not thrown at these kids," Michaels said, "but it's attached to them like their school backpacks."

Abraham Melendrez shared many of the other candidates' goals but had the most specific plans for ways to get there.

Melendrez, a Santa Maria native and nonprofit community organizer for Central Coast Alliance United for a Sustainable Economy (CAUSE), said that as a former student of the district, he hopes to give kids like himself a positive experience in the education system.

If elected, Melendrez said he would work to decrease class sizes and increase resources for students struggling with mental health issues. As a former English learner, survivor of abuse, and first-generation college graduate, Melendrez said he'd like to improve the district's services for English learners, advocate for more state funding, and create better education pathways for district staffers wanting to become teachers.

Melendrez struggled in school, he said, and didn't graduate high school until he was 21 years old. Now he's an alum of Allan Hancock College and UC Berkeley, and said he recently moved back to Santa Maria to help local high school and college students develop civic engagement, community service, policy research, and leadership skills. He's worked with multiple nonprofit, faith, and labor organizations.

He also hopes to enhance the district's arts and music education and increase participation in extracurricular activities, without which he said he may never have graduated. Mostly, he said he just wants to bring the humanity back into education.

"We have to understand that kids are humans first and foremost," he said "They're not clients, not products, they're humans."

—Kasey Bubnash

## SLO County looks to remove hurdles to farmworker housing

Amid a statewide shortage of agricultural labor and housing, San Luis Obispo County is looking at overhauling its farmworker housing regulations, which has been criticized by industry members as too restrictive.

County officials held a public workshop on Oct. 16 to outline the direction of the new housing ordinance and receive feedback. Proposed reforms include allowing ag housing on smaller acreages, on land further away from work sites, in more diverse land-use zones, and with more opportunities to obtain permits over the counter.

Industry leaders say SLO's regulations are outdated for their current labor needs, as farmers rely increasingly more on seasonal foreign workers hired through the federal H-2A program. Among H-2A's requirements is the employer must provide housing and transportation, which has created a crunch for units across the Central Coast.

Much of SLO's H-2A workforce commutes from the Santa Maria Valley to South County

NEWS continued page 6

## Weekend Weather

**KSBY NEWS**  
Microclimate Weather Forecast  
**Dave Hovde**  
KSBY Chief Meteorologist

<p><b>Thursday</b></p> <p><b>COASTAL</b> &gt; High 88 Low 47 <b>INLAND</b> &gt; High 90 Low 44</p>	<p><b>Friday</b></p> <p><b>COASTAL</b> &gt; High 85 Low 50 <b>INLAND</b> &gt; High 90 Low 51</p>
<p><b>Saturday</b></p> <p><b>COASTAL</b> &gt; High 80 Low 50 <b>INLAND</b> &gt; High 85 Low 52</p>	<p><b>Sunday</b></p> <p><b>COASTAL</b> &gt; High 81 Low 51 <b>INLAND</b> &gt; High 85 Low 51</p>

Ridge of high pressure weakens a little into the weekend but still mostly sunny with much warmer than average temperatures.

NEWS from page 5

fields, or from the Salinas Valley to Paso Robles wine country. SLO farmers seeking housing solutions on their own properties—for both their H-2A and domestic workforces—can be hampered by regulatory red tape.

“Farmers are, at a high expense, having to buy properties in Oceano at a premium price to house [workers],” SLO County Farm Bureau Government Affairs Specialist James Green said at the workshop.

Removing barriers to ag worker housing could allow multiple farmers to pursue a project on one site to house their employees, said Dana Merrill, owner of a Templeton-based vineyard management firm. Under current regulations, that’s challenging since housing must be located within 5 miles of the work site.

“In South County, ag workers go from Oceano through Nipomo, down into Santa Maria and Guadalupe,” said Brian Pedrotti, a senior planner for SLO County. “It’s a much larger area, a regional type of thing.”

Of the roughly dozen or so attendees at the workshop, not all were in favor of loosening the rules for building farmworker housing. One attendee lamented a lack of diversity in the stakeholders consulted (mostly industry members), and expressed concern about whether ag housing is compatible with county residents and neighborhoods. He mentioned the incident in April 2016 where an unknown arsonist set fire to a residential home built for H-2A farmworkers in Nipomo.

Similarly, another attendee worried that expanding the number of land-use zones where housing could be built—currently only allowed in “agricultural” and “rural lands”—could lead

to compatibility conflicts with neighboring landowners.

SLO County officials say they will continue to sculpt the ordinance, with plans to issue a public draft in December. The SLO County Board of Supervisors isn’t expected to make a final decision on the revisions until fall 2019. Ordinance changes that affect the county’s coastal zone—largely relevant to the Nipomo/Oceano area—also require the Coastal Commission’s approval.

—Peter Johnson

## Lompoc Unified employee arrested, fired after assaulting student

A Santa Maria man employed by the Lompoc Unified School District was arrested and fired after footage showing him abuse a special needs student on a school bus was turned over to investigators.

According to the Santa Barbara County Sheriff’s Office, the video shows the districts recent hire, 52-year-old Arthur Carlos, use “excessive force to restrain the child, including putting his hands around his neck and pushing his head against the bus window.” The 10-year-old student came home crying to his parents, who reported what their son said to the district, Sheriff’s Office Public Information Officer Kelly Hoover told the Sun.

“The school got the surveillance video from the bus and they were able to identify who the employee was,” Hoover said. “He had only been there, working for the school district, several days.”

The incident occurred on Oct. 16, and Carlos voluntarily visited the Sheriff’s Office to provide

a statement on Oct. 25, when we has arrested for “corporal injury upon a child.” Lompoc Unified issued a statement on Oct. 26, announcing that Carlos was terminated as a district employee.

Carlos was held at the Santa Barbara County Jail with a \$50,000 bail.

The Sheriff’s Office was able to move forward with the arrest thanks to the video evidence, Hoover explained. After reviewing the video, Sheriff’s detectives found the incident could be classified as a specific use of “unlawful force” against a minor, she explained.

“Not only was it a child, but a special needs child, only 10 years old, so the Sheriff’s Office took that case seriously and did a thorough investigation,” Hoover said.

—Joe Payne

## Santa Maria raises money for disability inclusive playground

With the help of community and corporate donations, Santa Maria—and all of Santa Barbara County—could soon have its first ever all-inclusive playground.

The Santa Maria Recreation and Parks Department announced Oct. 28 plans to partner with the Santa Maria Kiwanis for Kids Foundation in an effort to build a playground that would be accessible and fun for all children and parents, including those with varying disabilities.

While all the city’s playgrounds meet disability accessibility standards required by law, Recreation and Parks Director Alex Posada told the Sun this would be the first playground to go beyond those requirements and become truly “inclusive.”

Complete with an intricate ramping system,

activities that offer sensory, tactile, and noise stimulation experiences, and a wheelchair accessible swing, among other features, Posada said the playground will offer specific activities for everyone. Children with visual, mobile, and hearing impairments will all have specialized equipment to play on, Posada said, and parents with disabilities will be able to interact with their children as well.

“You can get involved and play with your child as opposed to just watching from the sidelines,” Posada said.

The 560-square-foot playground will be located in Preisker Park, and will cost about \$200,000 to purchase and build.

The Kiwanis for Kids Foundation, a nonprofit dedicated to raising funds for projects that will positively impact local youth, is charged with collecting money for the project, Posada said. Since former Kiwanis President Ryan Maxwell first fully committed to the project about five years ago, the foundation has set aside roughly \$45,000 to help fund the playground.

At the event on Oct. 28, which was held at 1 p.m. in Preisker Park, the city and Kiwanis unveiled their project fundraising plans and goals. Kiwanis hopes to raise \$100,000 from community members and business sponsors through outreach and a GoFundMe page, and to finish the project within the next year.

While the city will likely also contribute some funding, its main responsibilities are to provide park space and coordinate the playground’s installation.

Posada said that other communities in the area are working on similar projects, too. “The need is being recognized throughout the Central Coast.”

—Kasey Bubnash

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# Modest measures

Shedding light on the Nov. 6 ballot's lesser-known propositions

BY CHRIS MCGUINNESS

When SLO County voters head to the polls Nov. 6, they're going to have a lot of decisions to make.

In addition to voting for candidates running for state and local offices, as well as local ballot measures, those voters will also have to decide whether to approve or shoot down 11 statewide propositions addressing a wide range of issues.

But not all ballot measures are created equal, at least not in terms of the time they've been getting in the public's attention prior to the election. Some of the propositions have become highly visible, with supporters and opponents pouring millions of dollars into television and mailers to sway voters to their side. The expensive public battles have pushed some measures—like Proposition 6 to repeal the gas tax increase—into the spotlight, leaving others to linger in the shadows.

"The one we are really focused on, worked on, and contributed money to, was the No on Proposition 6 [campaign]," said Dave Mullinax, the Central Coast's regional public affairs manager for the League of California Cities.

While the public battle over the gas tax repeal is the organization's most visible effort, Mullinax said the League is also asking voters to support three other measures on the November ballot. Those include Proposition 1, which would allow the state to issue \$4 billion in general obligation bonds to fund affordable housing and the state's veterans homeownership program, and Proposition 2, which would allow the state to spend funds generated by the

Mullinax said. "But they don't have the juice and money behind campaigns on both sides."

The League isn't the only organization with its eye on some of the election's lesser-known ballot measures. Five Cities Homeless Coalition Executive Director Janna Nichols said the organization's board hadn't taken an official stance on Proposition 2, noting that affordable housing was difficult to secure and maintain.

"I am cautious about speaking on behalf of the organization on this issue," Nichols wrote in an email response to the *Sun*. "What I will say is that I believe that more resources dedicated to creating affordable housing, especially for those with disabilities (physical or mental), is desperately needed."

Central Coast Alliance United for a Sustainable Economy [CAUSE] is a social, economic, and environmental justice organization that operates in in Ventura, SLO, and Santa Barbara counties. CAUSE Policy and Communications Director Lucas Zucker said the organization was focused on two measures. One of these is Proposition 10, which would allow California counties and cities to pass rent control ordinances.

"We are an organization that works with low-income families and the middle class, and they are being pushed out of the area by rising housing costs and increasing rents," Zucker said. "Prop. 10 would really be a huge, historic change and really give cities a tool in their toolbox to tackle the housing crisis."

Zucker also said that the organization was concerned about Proposition 5, a measure that would allow homeowners who are older than 55

**'These are all public policy issues that we are facing, and there are no easy answers, but they don't have the juice and money behind campaigns on both sides.'**

*Dave Mullinax, League of California Cities*

state's "millionaire tax" on housing for people in need of mental health services. The group has also endorsed Proposition 3, which would provide \$8.9 billion in bonds for water-related infrastructure projects.

"These are all public policy issues that we are facing, and there are no easy answers,"

or severely disabled to move and carry their low property tax payments to a home anywhere in the state, as many times as they want when they sell their homes and purchase a new residence. Opponents like Zucker say that the measure would cut up to \$1 billion in funding for public schools, police, and other services.



TO THE POLLS: Voters will have to decide where they stand on 11 statewide ballot measures in the Nov. 6 election.

"This could be a really destructive proposition," Zucker said.

Andrea Seastrand, president of the Central Coast Taxpayer's Association, is on the other side of the fence when it comes to Proposition 5. Similar to other supporters, she argued that passing it would allow seniors and the disabled to purchase smaller, safer, and more practical homes, something she said could also help combat the state's housing crunch.

"This would encourage seniors to sell their larger homes, and families could move into them," she said.

While Seastrand and the association backed Proposition 5, she said the organization was still focusing the majority of its energy on

advocating for the passage of Proposition 6.

Part of the reason she believes that the measure has gotten so much attention is that the gas tax the measure seeks to repeal is something Californians experience every day.

"This was something very visible to people," she said. "It's a real pocketbook issue."

Regardless of how much attention they get, the ballot measures' fates will only be decided after voters step into booths across the state on Nov. 6.

For a full listing of the state's 11 propositions, visit the California Secretary of State's website at [voterguide.sos.ca.gov/propositions](http://voterguide.sos.ca.gov/propositions). ○

Reach New Times Staff Writer Chris McGuinness at [cmcguinness@newtimeslo.com](mailto:cmcguinness@newtimeslo.com).

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MUSIC MAN

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**GRASSY BURN:** SLO County Cal Fire allowed a fire that started near the Camp SLO gun range to char 250 acres before putting it out this past summer. The area was scheduled for a prescribed burn the following day.



# Pent up fuel

PHOTO COURTESY OF CAL FIRE

**A**n estimated 129 million trees in California are dead. It sounds apocalyptic, but it's true. About one-fifth of those, or 27 million, died between November 2016 and December 2017. More than 60 million died the previous year.

Most of the die-off has occurred in the Sierra Nevada, but forests on the Central Coast have lost their own share of oak, pine, and fir stands. The U.S. Forest Service surveyed 4.2 million acres of national forest land between Monterey and Los Angeles counties in 2015, estimating that 2 million trees had died from pest infestations, sudden oak death, and drought.

The U.S. Forest Service says that tree mortality contributes to the risk of fires that burn hotter, faster, and longer. The federal agency has teamed up with Cal Fire and 80 other federal, state, and local agencies and private utility companies to address "forest health," remove trees, increase the use of prescribed fire on public lands, and change the way fire suppression is funded.

"Wildfire is the largest risk to our national forest and the watersheds and communities adjacent to it," Los Padres National Forest Fuels Officer Nic Elmquist said. "We're always trying to be proactive and looking for projects that could potentially help with a more resilient landscape moving forward."

In 2017 and 2016, six major wildfires touched Santa Barbara County, charring 375,000 acres, burning up 1,133 structures, and killing three people. The largest of those, the Thomas Fire, started in Ventura County in December 2017, burning 282,000 acres between the cities of Ventura and Santa Barbara. The Montecito debris flow followed weeks later in January 2018, killing 20 people (two people are still missing). San Luis Obispo County has had one major fire

*State and federal agencies focus on increasing prescribed burns for wildfire prevention, but environmental groups say that's not the answer*

**BY CAMILLIA LANHAM**

in that time, the Chimney Fire, which burned 46,000 acres and 49 homes.

While the Thomas Fire held the record as the state's largest fire since record keeping began, the Mendocino Complex Fire in Northern California burned almost 500,000 acres this summer.

Wildfire is a natural part of the landscape in California, but fires of that size—which burn hundreds of homes, irreparably devastate thousands of acres of land, and kill people—are unacceptable to state legislators like Hannah-Beth Jackson (D-Santa Barbara). At the end of the 2018 legislative session, Gov. Jerry Brown signed two Jackson-authored bills that push for changes in the way public and private lands are managed for fire, development in the wildland-urban interface is addressed, and how residents are alerted about fires that threaten their homes.

"What we have to do is recognize the fact that so much of our weather has changed as a result of climate change. ... We're seeing fires in December, which was unheard of before," Jackson said. "We all know that it's happening, unfortunately, the debate seems to be about who's responsible for it. We really do need to recognize that the impacts of climate change are very dramatic on our forests and on our entire ecosystems. We have to be more proactive than many of us would like."

Why those fires are so devastating and how to better protect our communities moving forward is an ongoing debate. While California's elected officials and federal and

state agencies are focused on increased fuel management techniques such as prescribed burns, environmental groups say the government should be looking at where and how homes are being built.

Brown issued an executive order in May 2018 to combat tree mortality and double the amount of land that's actively managed through vegetation thinning and prescribed fire. The California Chaparral Institute pushed back in a letter, saying that focusing on dead trees in forests is misguided because the fires that have been most devastating to California communities had nothing to do with those forests.

"The unacceptable loss of nearly 10,000 structures and 45 lives in the 2017 wildfires and the losses caused by the 2018 Montecito debris flow have little to nothing to do with forests or the treatment of wildland habitat," the letter states. "Most of these losses resulted from building flammable homes on flammable terrain, not the condition of the surrounding natural environment."

## All of the above

The argument—to burn or not to burn—was on full display during the Oct. 2 Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors meeting, where the Santa Barbara County Fire Department made its case for increasing the use of prescribed fire and vegetation removal as management tools.

"Our landscape is covered, particularly on federal land, continuously with large fires over the years," Fire Battalion Chief Rob Hazard told the board. "The extensive fire history in this county goes back decades and decades. We know that large wildfires are a permanent fixture in our county."

The fuels, mostly chaparral and grass; shape of the land, steep canyons that face the way the wind blows; and weather, hot, dry sundowner winds with low precipitation, give the Santa Barbara front country a propensity for ignition. Since 2004, the county has had 14 major wildfires on 518,068 acres of land. The biggest fire before that burned in 1993, Hazard said. Between 1955 and 1993, the county had seven big fires that seared 327,563 acres. Hazard attributes the increase in ignitions over the last 15 years to climate and forest management.

Santa Barbara County had a very active prescribed fire program from the 1950s to the 1980s, Hazard explained, when about 10,000 acres a year of mostly grass, sage, and scattered chaparral was burned. It reduced the age class of vegetation, reduced the amount of dead fuel, and restored fire-adapted ecosystems, he said. As a way of explaining the impact of vegetation age, Hazard said that when the 2016 Rey Fire met with the area where the 2007 Zaca Fire had burned, it went out.

"Fires interact positively with previous burns. They literally stop right on the edges of those burns," he said. "Up to about 20 years, we see this interaction."

Dead fuel builds after that, becoming more flammable, Hazard said. Fire danger increases from there, as does the inclination for hotter, faster, longer burning fires that are hard to put out.

The county spent \$180 million on the Thomas Fire and Montecito debris flow disasters and suffered an estimated

\$1.8 billion in property losses. Jameson Reservoir is unusable. Montecito's water supply and watershed are damaged. And the area will likely need to be evacuated this winter and next during heavy rains.

In order to prevent disasters of that magnitude in the future, county fire proposed targeting communities that are at a high risk of experiencing a wildfire and completing community wildfire protection plans in those areas. Plans include field treatments between defensible space and the wildland, creating defensible space (100-acre buffer around homes), hardening homes (replacing flammable materials), removing ignition points (such as wood piles), and educating communities about inspection, enforcement, and evacuation.

Los Padres National Forest treats approximately 2,000 to 4,000 acres every year. County fire has completed fuel treatments on 648 acres of land since 2004. The department has plans to treat less than 2,000 acres. Hazard said that's less than 1 percent of what's burned in the last 15 years. It would consist of working with small amounts of vegetation management in strategic areas—alongside roads, ridgelines, and in forested areas that could help in the event that a wildfire does break out.

Tepesquet resident Renee O'Neill, who's community has suffered close calls multiple times over the last 15 years, spoke during public comment at the meeting, saying that a plan to do something more in terms of prevention is long overdue.

"I'm all for prescribed burns in the right conditions," she said. "The Chumash Indians used to do this on a regular basis. ... Prescribed burns aren't something new."

She said she watched Los Padres ForestWatch shut down a prescribed burn in the Tepesquet area with the threat of a lawsuit. Luckily, O'Neill said, enough of the burn had already been completed to prevent the "La Brea Fire in 2008 from annihilating our community."

Andy Caldwell with the Coalition for Labor Agriculture and Business accused the environmental community of putting lives in danger with its crusade against fuel management on state and federal land.

"They need to be called out," he said. "We are disappointed that now that we're into the next rainy season, we don't have direction, we don't have a firm commitment."

Rebecca August with Los Padres ForestWatch pushed back against Caldwell's statements, calling it false rhetoric to say that environmentalists don't care about the lives of firefighters. She encouraged the county to put public safety above private property rights and look at ways to curb development in the wildland-urban interface—or at the very least require homes to be as fire resistant as possible.

"When I bought my house 18 years ago, I never knew I was moving to a fire-prone area," August told the board. She said the Windmill Fire nearly destroyed her home between Buellton and Los Alamos. "We can do a lot more to ensure that people are safe and that their homes survive a wildfire. ... I can't thank you enough for protecting my family, my animals, and my friends."

Bryant Baker, ForestWatch's conservation director, followed August in public comment, saying that the county needed to look at a range of options including targeted vegetation management, curbing new development in fire-prone areas, and reducing human-caused ignitions.

"I agree these issues should not be controversial," he said. "These issues should be science-based. ... There are some types of vegetation treatment that have no place in chaparral. Prescribed fire is one of them."

Janet Wolf, the county's 4th District supervisor, pleaded with the room to come together. She said she lost everything in the Painted Cave Fire in 1990, and it was difficult for her to listen to groups being pitted against one another in the aftermath of one of the worst disasters in county history.

"It's really disheartening for me because I think we all know that we don't really want this to happen and we don't want this to devolve into

two different camps. We really need to come together," Wolf said. "I just hope the tenor of all of our discussions is that people are well-respected and that we can get to a point again where we can do an 'all of the above' strategy."

## Active burning

SLO County has had an active prescribed fire program since the 1930s, according to SLO Cal Fire spokesperson Chris Elms.

"We don't just go out and burn anything," Elms said. "These burns are planned out months, maybe years, ahead of time."

He said that wildfires gain strength as they burn, and firefighters have to work against factors such as slope and wind when battling blazes. The goal with prescribed fire is to keep them low intensity while still burning the fuel that they're trying to get rid of—which include invasive weeds, dead brush and trees, and overgrown vegetation. Elms said the fire



**PRESCRIPTION:** U.S. Forest Service crew members work on a controlled burn in Los Padres National Forest in April 2018. The work included clearing brush and curing wood for small pile fires. Once reduced to ash, they are doused with water and mixed back in with the soil.

department will trim back branches so the fire stays low. If too much smoke accumulates, they can slow it down.

"The biggest thing that we get is: 'Why are you doing this now?'" Elms said. "Unfortunately, on the Central Coast, our good burning window is usually right in the middle of fire season."

In the winter, vegetation is often too wet to burn effectively and emits a lot of smoke. The conditions have to be just right for a prescribed burn. If the wind or temperature changes, or if the fuel moisture in the vegetation is too low or too high, they'll call off a prescribed burn, said Dan Falat, the district superintendent for SLO County's coastal State Parks.

"If we don't get the right lift or the right wind conditions, we have to cancel the whole thing," Falat said. "We probably cancel more than we burn because of the natural conditions that we have."

Planning those burns takes a lot of work and resources, Falat said. The SLO County Air Pollution Control District has to approve smoke management plans, there has to be an environmental review, State Parks has to coordinate with Cal Fire and other agencies or private landowners.

With State Parks resource management techniques, Falat said they try to work with the environment, reducing the amount of fuels on the ground, so that ladder fuels don't push fire up into tree canopies such as the Monterey pine stands in Cambria. That way, if fire does run through an area, it's not going to wipe out entire hillsides.

"It reduces the temperatures of the fire, reduces amount of damage even if it burns. A lot of these native plants, they either germinate or they are used to California fire conditions, but if you have higher fuel loads, it creates higher temperatures which creates more damage, not to mention [the ability] to control it," Falat said.

Right after it rained in early October, SLO County Cal Fire cleared and conducted pile burns of French broom, an invasive brush growing along both sides of Cambria Pines Road. Alan Peters, the unit forester for county fire, said clearing about 4 acres of brush produced 600 piles of the non-native plant.

"You're supposed to either burn in or leave it in place and let it rot," Peters said. "We didn't want to just cut it and leave it because we were obviously trying to reduce fire danger."

Between 500 and 4,000 acres of SLO County land gets treated with some form of management every year: Some of it's prescribed

FILE PHOTO BY SPENCER COLE

sustained by beneficial, low-intensity wildfires are overrun with fire-intolerant fuels and thick carpets of forest fuels that can turn even the smallest campfire into a raging firestorm."

Peters said the state's Cal Fire director instructed an increase in prescribed burning in the coming years. The California Air Resources Board is doing the same with the state's Air Pollution Control Districts (APCDs), giving them more money and equipment to work with local fire agencies on controlled burns, smoke monitoring, and weather forecasting.

SLO County APCD Control Officer Gary Willey was at a conference during the week of Oct. 22, and said they had a presentation with the Forest Service, Cal Fire, and the Air Resources Board on the topic of prescribed fire.

"We recognize the need to reduce that fuel load," Willey said. "We're finally putting some money toward it."

Willey said the biggest issue at the state level is definitely in the Sierra Nevada with all the dead trees, but that all districts will see an increase in burning. Therefore, residents will also see an increase in smoke, which the APCD is responsible for monitoring.

"From a health perspective, having these wildfires is a huge health impact. They can happen anytime without warning," Willey said. "You get less smoke with a prescribed burn than you do with a wildfire per acre burned."

Santa Barbara County APCD spokesperson Lyz Hoffman said wildfires put off as much as three times the amount of pollution as a prescribed burn does. Another benefit to prescribed burns, Hoffman said, is the APCD's ability to notify the public ahead of time. That way people with health conditions who could be impacted by smoke have time to prepare.

During the Thomas Fire, Santa Barbara, Goleta, and parts of Lompoc had unhealthy or very unhealthy air for almost two weeks. Hoffman said the increased focus on prescribed burns is a way for the state to stave off or minimize impacts such as unhealthy air.

Prescribed burns aren't the answer, though, said Jeff Kuyper, director of Los Padres ForestWatch.

"The overarching theme is that our communities need to take a comprehensive and holistic approach into protecting ourselves from wildfire, and so we can't really depend on one approach, and so we need to look at what the science tells us is the most effective way to accomplish that," Kuyper said. "The most effective way to protect communities from wildfire is to start from the home and work outwards."

The automatic reaction, Kuyper said, is for local decision makers to simply say that they need to clear more brush to protect communities, but that approach lulls communities into a false sense of security. ForestWatch Conservation Director Baker said that he sees some California communities taking the right approaches. Monrovia, on the edge of Angeles National Forest, has a robust community wildfire protection plan that focuses on creating defensible space around homes and making sure that people have the resources to fireproof their homes. This includes putting ember-proof screens on the outsides of homes and replacing shake roofs.

"When a home burns, it becomes a source of embers for much longer than when vegetation burns," Baker said. "It can burn for an hour or more that's kicking up embers that's raining on all these other homes."

August, who does public outreach for ForestWatch, added that a home that's not fire resistant in a neighborhood is a liability.

"The more we manage nature, the more harm we tend to do. And since science doesn't back it up, it doesn't make sense to focus on those measures," August said. "If that was the answer to saving everybody's homes and everyone's lives, I'm certain that we wouldn't be arguing with anybody." ○

Reach Executive Editor Camillia Lanham at [clanham@santamariasun.com](mailto:clanham@santamariasun.com).

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**Time to transfer?**

*County special needs teachers and staff face tough decisions amid transition to high school district*

**BY KASEY BUBNASH**

For more than a decade Barbara Fuston-King has worked as a paraprofessional in local special needs classes, providing health and educational services to Santa Maria's lowest functioning high school students.

She currently works in a classroom at Santa Maria High School, where she, two other paraprofessionals, and a teacher work with 10 special needs students. Six of those students are bound to wheelchairs, Fuston-King said, some are tube fed, some need help in the bathroom, and others suffer chronic seizures. In the past, Fuston-King said she's also worked with students who need throat suctioning to prevent choking, constant one-on-one care, and language translation services.

There are two other special needs classes like Fuston-King's in the Santa Maria Joint Union High School District—another at Santa Maria High School and one off-campus—that use paraprofessionals and teachers employed by the Santa Barbara County Education Office. Through its contract with the Education Office, the district pays indirect and administrative fees. In return, the county provides teachers, staff, and equipment in the district's outsourced special needs classes.

That's how it's been since Fuston-King was assigned to work in Santa Maria about 14 years ago. But in September 2017, the district notified the county that it would be ending its outsourcing contract and taking control of its special needs classes, a move that will go into effect before the next school year starts and leaves Fuston-King and her coworkers with a choice: transfer to the district or stay with the county.

For most, it hasn't been easy to process, Fuston-King said.

"All we are doing is fighting for our jobs," she said. If Fuston-King and her coworkers stay with the county, they risk temporary, long-term, or even permanent unemployment. They'd retain the displacement and layoff rights they're granted through the Santa Barbara County Education Office, according to a county communications employee. But employees worry there won't be available jobs in other parts of the county and say they'll likely be laid off permanently.

But signing on with the district could result in major increases to out-of-pocket costs for insurance and cuts to the monthly stipends staff receive through the county that Fuston-King said the district probably won't provide.

The stipends, which she said sometimes add up to a few hundred dollars a month, are paid to employees who provide special services to students, including tube feeding and language translation.

Cale Park, another paraprofessional working with special needs students through the county, said that one of his co-workers' out-of-pocket insurance costs would spike from \$500 a month to about \$1,300. That would cost almost half of his monthly paycheck, Park said, and not everyone has a spouse's plan to jump on to.

"Unfortunately it seems like staying with the county and going on unemployment looks like the best option," Park said, adding that if he and most of his co-workers take that route, the students will suffer, too. "The students we've built these relationships with are going to be kind of just let go to people who might never have worked in this field or who are willing to work for this little."

But Santa Maria Joint Union High School District Superintendent Mark Richardson said the district is legally bound to maintain high quality care for each of its special needs students, and that is and will always be the district's No. 1 priority.

While Richardson said he'd be happy to have each of the county's contracted paraprofessionals and teachers come on board

with the district, finding qualified staff to fill those positions—if emptied—before next school year would not be a problem.

"There isn't anything currently being done for students that we will not do," Richardson said. "I'm very confident that we'll be able to not only continue the great work that's been done, but enhance it."

Although Richardson said he feels for the employees caught up in this situation, negotiations are still being held, and the district is doing what it can to make the transition easier.

But legally, Richardson said the district can't offer the county employees benefits, compensation, vacation time, or stipends that differ from what the district's other classified employees agreed upon in their union's bargaining contract. Some of those things could change in the future, but they'd have to change for all classified employees, Richardson said.

Processes like these are always difficult, he said, and he expects negotiations, informational meetings, and program planning to run well into this spring.

Still, he said this transition is much needed. While it may have made sense to run the three higher needs classes at a regional level through the county at one time—when students from varying parts of the county enrolled in the classes—all but one of the current students live within the district.

They're Santa Maria Valley kids, and the district already provides most of the classroom space, any needed substitutes, transportation, and administrative oversight to all three classes. It's not cost effective or efficient to provide all those services and pay the county, Richardson said.

"These students are our students; it makes sense for us to serve them," Richardson said. "I certainly have compassion for the people involved in the program, and change is difficult on any level. But our first priority is serving our kids, and these are our kids." ○

Staff Writer Kasey Bubnash can be reached at [kbubnash@santamariasun.com](mailto:kbubnash@santamariasun.com).

PHOTO BY KASEY BUBNASH



**PHASING OUT OUTSOURCING:** Santa Maria Joint Union High School District plans retake full control over three of its special needs classes that are currently run by the Santa Barbara County Education Office. Those classes and one for students who are deaf or hard of hearing are the only that remain outsourced to the county.

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PHOTO COURTESY OF CENTRAL COAST SPORTS ARENA

# Spotlight on: Central Coast Sports Arena

## Tobin Flamm, co-owner, general manager

BY SPENCER COLE

When Tobin Flamm, 27, and his mom, Lori, bought the Central Coast Sports Arena some six months ago, they did so with one goal in mind.

“We just want to help give kids an outlet and encourage them to stay off the streets and shoot for their goals and dreams,” Tobin told the *Sun*. “If you’re not giving, you’re not living. That’s how I kind of look at my life: You can have as much knowledge as you want but if you are not sharing it with others, what’s the point?”

One of those things Tobin would like to share immediately is his love of hockey in the form of clinics and eventually a fully fledged youth league.

Despite a handful of professional teams statewide, establishing hockey is a tall order on the Central Coast, where snow is rare and freezes deep enough to solidify the top few feet of a lake are unheard of.

“There aren’t a lot of places to skate,” he said.

Santa Maria does have skate parks but organized street hockey is a rarity because most local kids don’t know how to play, aren’t interested, or can’t afford the equipment needed to compete. Tobin told the *Sun* that he hopes to change that.

A hockey player all of his life, Tobin is well connected throughout San Luis Obispo and Santa Barbara counties with the tight-knit athletic community. And being a part of that network has opened avenues for funding and partnerships with local businesses looking to

support youth sports leagues.

For instance, San Luis Obispo-based Inline Warehouse recently agreed to sponsor the sports arena’s upcoming youth hockey clinic by providing extra equipment for participants short on cash or those lacking proper gear.

The clinic will be held on Nov. 3 and 4, from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m., both days. It costs \$25 to participate.

“A good amount of kids so far signed up, about 25,” Tobin said. “Twenty of them have never played; seems like it’s going to be a really good turnout.”

He added that a well-attended clinic could be an opportunity to establish a youth league in Santa Maria for the first time in a decade.

“When I used to play in youth programs here, we had about 250 kids,” he explained. “We actually held tournaments where teams from Santa Barbara to San Luis to Paso [Robles] played at our rink monthly.”

To get back to that high point for youth hockey, Tobin may need to help bring the cost down for some families.

“It can get pricey,” he said of the early investments needed to outfit a hockey player. With gloves, sticks, pads, helmets, and league fees, the expenses can pile up quickly.

That’s why Tobin and Central Coast Sports Arena are trying to keep the costs low. Ideally, he said, anyone should have a chance to play if they want to.

“It’s how I’m gonna really pull people in this area and hopefully build a league,” he added. “If people are finding more interest, and I’m hoping they are going to find interest in it, I have to



**MIGHTY PUCKS:** Santa Maria’s Central Coast Sports Arena (937 South Thornburg) will host a two-day youth hockey clinic on Nov. 3 and 4 from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. The arena’s owners say they hope the camp will jump-start a new youth hockey league for the city’s kids.

find a good reasonable price point for them or otherwise they’re going to be pushed away.”

### Highlights:

• On Oct. 23, the Santa Maria Valley Chamber of Commerce issued its grades for local legislators on how the politicians supported area business issues. The Chamber commended Assemblymember Jordan Cunningham (R-Templeton) for supporting 11 of 15 bills favored by the California Chamber of Commerce. Sen. Hannah-Jackson (D-Santa Barbara) did not fare nearly as well. “Jackson once again declined to support local business issues,” the Chamber stated, “voting with

[local] business on 1 of 14 priority bills tackled in the state Senate this year. We continue to try to work with her staff to identify areas of common ground, but this year those priorities simply didn’t match up.”

• On Nov. 11, Santa Maria law firm Michael B. Clayton and Associates will host its 18th annual Veterans Day barbecue and flag ceremony. The event is at Veterans Memorial Hall (313 W. Tunnell St.) and starts at 10:30 a.m., beginning with a parade. ○

Staff Writer Spencer Cole wrote this week’s *Biz Spotlight*. Information should be sent to the *Sun* via fax, mail, or email at [spotlight@santamariasun.com](mailto:spotlight@santamariasun.com).

# Righetti (almost) completes outdoor science classroom

BY KASEY BUBNASH

Among Ernest Righetti High School’s boxy buildings, gated boundaries, and slabs of cold concrete that pave the way to and from each classroom, there lies a budding garden.

Its plants are small and just beginning to grow, but the varying wildflowers are already adorned

with red and purple blossoms, butterflies and hummingbirds and students frequent the spot, and the corridor surrounding the garden smells of fresh lavender and sage.

Best of all, the garden doubles as an outdoor science classroom.

The garden, a project that has been in the works for nearly three years, will provide space for students to observe plants that are native to the area, study factors that impact outdoor ecosystems, monitor pollinators, and collect and share scientific data as part of Righetti’s

new career technical education pathway (CTE) in environmental resources.

The pathway launched last school year, according to Rebecca Wingerden, one of the two science teachers at Righetti who helped build the garden and implement its environmental resources program.

“We’re hoping to make kids more aware and get them connected and interested locally, and then hopefully globally,” Wingerden said. “So that way we’ll be sending better thinkers and problem solvers out into the world.”

The garden’s construction—which included pouring a concrete trail, removing a large tree, installing a drip irrigation system, and planting several native plant species—cost \$16,000, according to the district. Wingerden said the project was paid for by CTE funding that was made available to the school largely because of the newly

PHOTO COURTESY OF JENNIFER DIAZ



**BUDDING SUCCESS:** Mexican sage, manzanita, matilija poppy, lavender, daisies, opus, and mountain lilacs are just some of the native plant species that adorn the recently finished outdoor science classroom at Ernest Righetti High School. While science students won’t officially begin working in the garden until spring, photography students like Jennifer Diaz, 16, are already utilizing the space for campus photo assignments.

implemented environmental resources pathway.

The idea to build a garden and opportunity to start a new CTE program came at about the same time a few years ago, Wingerden said.

The space the garden now occupies was once home to some basic landscaping that administrators had planned to remove, along with several other greenery spaces on campus, in an effort to cut maintenance costs. The spot is visible from Wingerden’s classroom, and it’s near a preschool program that’s run on campus, so Wingerden said she and her students were sad to hear that it might be ripped out.

Just as Wingerden and fellow science teacher Laura Branch were working to develop the environmental resources program, Wingerden said they and their students came up with a plan to save the space. They proposed the outdoor classroom to administration, and they’ve been working to find funding and align the garden’s possible uses with the CTE pathway ever since.

Although Wingerden said she and Branch are still hoping to install fencing and placards for each species of plant, the garden was mostly completed in September, and students will be using it for class for the first time this coming spring semester.

Through the pathway and the garden, Wingerden said students will be mimicking long-term data collection projects she and Branch do each summer in the Amazon rainforest with the Educators Academy, an organization that provides ongoing trainings for teachers of all kinds.

Through the Peru-based Amazon Conservatory for Tropical Studies, Wingerden said she and Branch track environmental changes in the rainforest using temperature gauges, water collection, soil tests, and camera traps that record animals as they enter the area and trip the cameras’ sensors. Students at Righetti will do all those things in the garden, Wingerden said.

## SCHOOL SCENE

### ATHLETE OF THE WEEK

PHOTO COURTESY OF JIM MCMANUS



### Karli Lundberg

Golf can be a psychologically draining game, but for committed athletes like Orcutt Academy High School junior Karli Lundberg, overcoming obstacles of all kinds is no problem.

Although Lundberg had a slow start this season, head coach Jim McManus said she took it upon herself to be a leader, showing Orcutt’s younger golfers that hard work really does pay off. Lundberg quickly made her way to the front of Ocean League, where she placed first and was crowned MVP in the finals.

“She is just a real go-getter,” McManus said. “It’s very exciting to coach someone like that.”

Lundberg, 16, will be back next year, and McManus said she hopes to play in college after that.

“She has a very bright future and is a huge part of the success we had this season,” he said. ○

—Kasey Bubnash

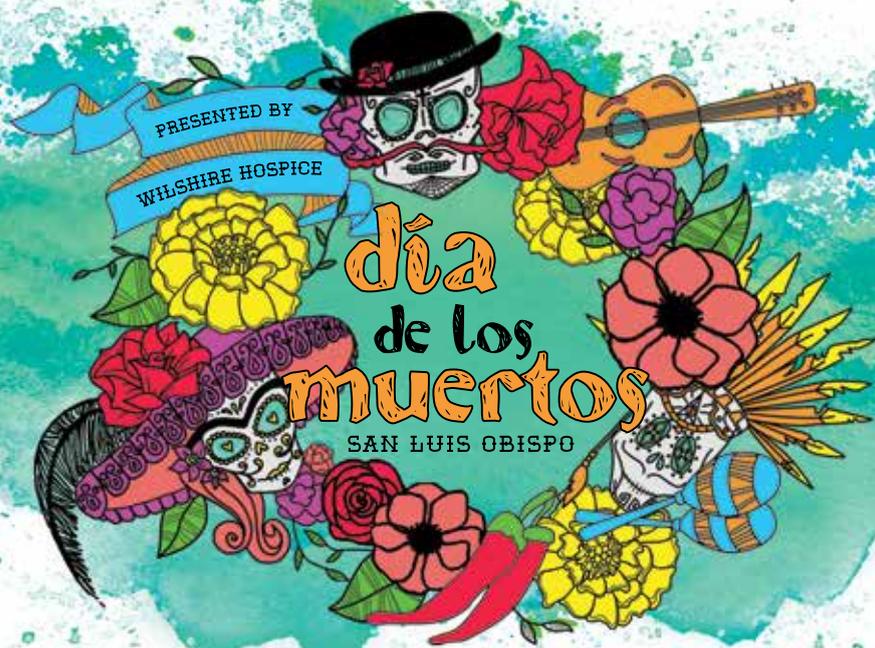
She and Branch already have their own camera trap to set up outside. An opossum is rumored to live near the garden, according to Branch, and rats have been known to roam campus.

“We’ll see what we find,” she said. ○

Staff Writer Kasey Bubnash writes *School Scene* each week. Information can be sent to the *Sun* via mail, fax, or email at [mail@santamariasun.com](mailto:mail@santamariasun.com).



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## Online Poll

What theme would you want for your escape room?

- 27% Steampunk.
- 27% Nautical, like a sinking ship.
- 27% Stuck in a voting booth.
- 18% Murder on the Orient Express.

11 Votes

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

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## Support Hancock at the ballot box

BY HILDA ZACARIAS

If you've seen the voter guide, you know there are a lot of initiatives and elections on the November ballot. While all issues are important, the two items regarding Allan Hancock College are particularly significant this year.

The first is the election of a trustee for Area 3, which encompasses Guadalupe and southern Santa Maria. Incumbent Larry Lahr, born and raised in Santa Maria, is a Hancock graduate and has served as a trustee for 24 years, providing leadership and stability as the college blossomed into the incredible institution it is today. It is my pleasure to serve alongside Larry, a compassionate advocate for students and a champion for the faculty and staff who serve our community.

Larry's leadership guided the college through budget downturns in a way that avoided the layoffs and furloughs of other public agencies. He was a key player in the development of the new, modern campuses you see today in Santa Maria and Lompoc. Most importantly, though, Larry is committed to ensuring that every student in our region has access to affordable, quality education that can lead to fulfilling careers. In fact, he was the first champion for the College's Career Day—an event that now brings more than 3,000 high school and junior

high students to Hancock annually, offering a chance to hear from local businesses and to start visualizing their own future.

The second opportunity on the Nov. 6 ballot is Measure Y, a bond measure that our board voted to support. Measure Y provides students with 21st century skills and leverages \$10 million in donated funds and an additional \$24 million in state funds to replace 50-year-old buildings on the Santa Maria campus. The project continues the college's leadership position as a hub for the arts while providing students with cutting-edge programs in graphic design, computer animation, digital photography, and virtual reality. Measure Y will also replace aging classrooms where students take classes in athletic training, sports medicine, and recreation management—each a growing career field along the Central Coast.

Measure Y also addresses career education programs in the southern part of the district by providing additional upgrades to the state-of-the-art public safety training facility and modernizing equipment for PCPA's productions in the Santa Ynez Valley. With Measure Y, Hancock can continue to provide the most advanced education possible in classrooms that are designed to last for generations.

As a trustee, I am pleased to be a part of all the great things happening at Allan Hancock College.

**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 (347-9889) 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).

Each year we set new records for graduation and we remain focused on our core mission, including career education and transfers to four-year universities. This fall, we welcomed our first group of Hancock Promise students with great success. In January, we will see the launch of the new four-year degree plan through a partnership with the University of La Verne. This program will provide substantial scholarships for transfer students, further expanding access to higher education in our region. It's an exciting time at Hancock and for our community.

When you are ready to mark your ballot, I hope you will consider the importance of supporting Allan Hancock College. We are poised for even greater things in the future, and your vote for Larry Lahr and Measure Y will ensure that we maintain our trajectory! ○

*Hilda Zacarias is president of the Allan Hancock College Board of Trustees. Send your thoughts to [letters@santamariasun.com](mailto:letters@santamariasun.com).*

## Quantum safety leap needed

*Highway 166 either needs modern passing lanes or to become a four-lane highway*

BY KEN MCCALIP

For many years I have been aware of the extreme dangers on the narrow two-lane Highway 166 between Santa Maria and Bakersfield. It was good to see the Cuyama Valley speaking up in unison requesting help with this roadway. Because we own a small ranch in the Cuyama Valley, I frequently use this roadway.

Back in 2004, the route was busy, but it has become extraordinarily hazardous since that time. I recall a trip I once took in the 1960s as I glanced up at the old road winding its way through the mountains along the upper reaches of the narrow canyon along the Cuyama River.

My friend Tony had a part time-time job driving for a moving company, and I had agreed to help him move a load of furniture for some folks to the small town of Taft on that extremely hot Saturday.

The moving van that Tony drove took up more than its share of the road, which, at times, narrowed down to one lane. On the old road, the switchbacks were so severe that it seemed you could see the back of the van coming the other way as you made the turns.

Travelers who needed a rest on this road could stop about halfway at the 20-Mile Station, a small restaurant perched between the road and the river far below. The eatery had only a counter and stools, and on that day two hungry and hot movers made the best of it. Because of the road, it was a long trip and we returned in the late hours that night.

Tony and I both went our separate ways to four-year colleges after attending Hancock College, and the old roadway took a quantum leap into the future when the state moved it to its current location. They knocked down entire mountains and moved the road to the canyon floor along the river bank. To meet the needs of a growing number of travelers and commerce, the old 20-Mile Station and harrowing switchbacks

were abandoned. These changes were designed to meet the needs of a growing region.

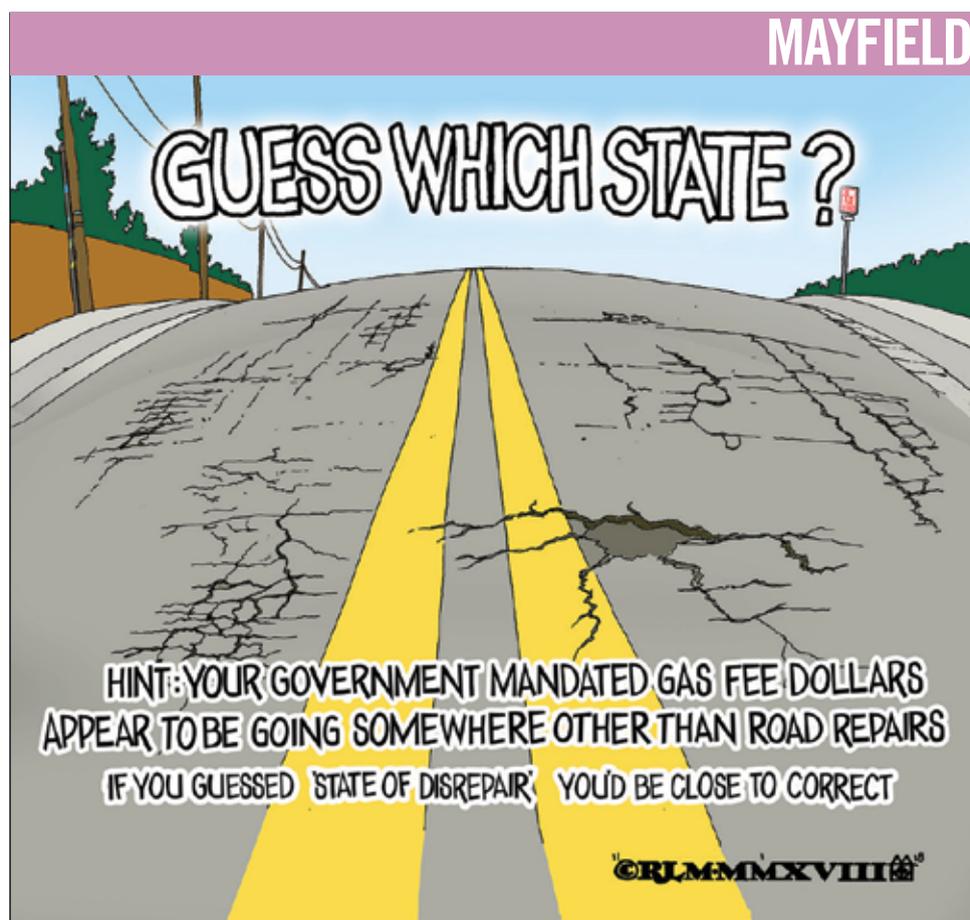
The quick movement of my wife, in the passenger seat, alerted me to the on-coming hazard that lay ahead. We had become lodged in a line of autos behind a slow moving truck

and some fool was going to pass on a solid no-passing line! We watched in horror as a car coming in the opposite direction emerged from over the hill. We were helpless!

But luckily for us all, the impatient idiot made it back into his lane in the nick of time.

This event was certainly enough danger for the one-hour trip to New Cuyama, but unfortunately, it repeated itself with three other impatient drivers testing their luck and everyone else's as they gambled on the no-passing line as we headed through more blind hills, curves, and dips.

COMMENTARY continued page 15



COMMENTARY from page 14

As we passed the gas station in New Cuyama, it gave me great pleasure to see one of the four impatient drivers stopped by the highway patrol. However, added police enforcement is not the answer to this problem as police can't be everywhere on this dangerous road. During all of these years no passing lanes have been added, and this is still one of the most dangerous roadways in the state, if not the nation.

Because of the increase in traffic and commerce between Bakersfield and Santa Maria, it is time for another quantum leap into the future with a new, divided, four-lane road, or, at the very least, modern passing lanes.

If you or a loved one plan to use 166, take a moment to call or write to state Assemblymember Jordan Cunningham at (805) 549 3387 or 444 Higuera St., suite 100, San Luis Obispo, CA 93401, and ask him to help make a quantum leap for improvements on 166. ○

*Ken McCalip is a North Santa Barbara County native. He can be reached at kennethmcalip@yahoo.com or write a letter to the editor in response and email it to letters@santamariasun.com.*

LETTERS

**Vote for Gloria Soto in Santa Maria's 3rd District**

Gloria Soto, 3rd District City Council candidate, will bring energy, vision, and smart city policies that will revitalize Santa Maria and reflect its new future. Gloria understands the immense need for more affordable housing in the city and will push developers to include affordable housing units in their new housing projects. No more off-setting projects in lieu of including affordable rental units and homes, which the current City Council has repeatedly done.

Santa Marians need more and better options for jobs and employment opportunities to pay for the costs of living in the city. Gloria Soto will work hard to attract more tech companies and businesses that support our existing local industries to Santa Maria. Agriculture has long been the base for jobs in our valley, but it is time to broaden that base so our local students have more options to support their families without having to move to someplace else.

Gloria recognizes that her district needs more healthy grocery stores and restaurants for the families living in the neighborhoods.

Do you know that 41 percent of those living in the 3rd District are under the age of 19? Gloria is eager to hear from, and work with, the city's youth to help solve the problems they face—violence, bullying, a lack of opportunities, poor transportation, and others.

The current City Council has repeatedly demonstrated that they have no genuine interest in involving the youth affected by their priorities and solutions.

If you want to see real, positive change in Santa Maria, vote for Gloria Soto for 3rd District City Council on Nov. 6!

Beth Schneider  
Santa Maria

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# School bored



After all my years in the coffee-fuelled business of journalism, I think I can say pretty definitively that there's hardly anything as boring as a school board meeting.

School boards often represent small cross sections of cities and communities and it's mostly parents who are concerned enough to attend meetings. The only time you read about a school board is if they try to ban evolution in Texas or if it's election time. Well, this ain't Texas, so here come the candidates!

The current incumbents on the **Santa Maria-Bonita School District board of education** and their challengers had an epic showdown on Oct. 26 (see page 5), debating the district's most pressing issues with fiery rhetoric and barbed insults. OK, that's a bit of an exaggeration; they mostly agreed and then went home.

Seriously, incumbent **Ricky Lara** basically answered a few questions with a "what she said!" He also seemed totally uninformed on most issues the audience asked about. Someone had to explain to him during the debate what cultural proficiency even was before he answered, "I'm for it!"

I've complained about voter apathy more than a couple times this election season, but candidate apathy? Seriously?

Apathy is contagious, I guess. If you have voters who don't care to do their homework, you're gonna get representatives who are the same. You might also get some opportunistic cultures in your midst though, too.

One challenger, **Gary Michaels**, is a **Santa Maria** transplant who used to work for Comcast. He was quick to jump on Lara's lack of knowledge on the issues.

"I have to say that when I listen to him now, it makes me wonder about what's going on on the board," he said.

Michaels pointed to the board's lack of conversation about "cultural diversity" as a problem, but he ended his own rambling answer on the cultural proficiency question with a pretty tone deaf "gracias," which received scoffs from the audience. Classy.

In the world of education and actually interesting school board meetings, cultural proficiency is a pretty big deal. And in a community like the one served by Santa Maria-Bonita, which has seen notable demographic shifts in the number of Hispanic students, having a school board educated on the topic should be important. These candidates should at least care enough to *know what it is*.

That's the opposite problem with more progressive challengers like **Abraham Melendrez**, who spoke up loud and clear on the cornucopia of issues that his group **CAUSE (Central Coast Alliance United for a Sustainable Economy)** is concerned about, from dual immersion classes to mental health support or cultural proficiency training. CAUSE has harped on these topics at school board meetings and elsewhere for years, and has seen so little done that its own members are stepping up to join the board.

It's not bad that school boards are boring, they really should be. Making decisions that affect an entire school district isn't flashy, but it is work. So is knowing who the candidates are and where they stand on the issues—if they know, that is. ☐

The Canary is a bird of few words. Send your thoughts to [canary@santamariasun.com](mailto:canary@santamariasun.com).

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PHOTO COURTESY OF THE GREAT AMERICAN MELODRAMA

## SPECIAL EVENTS

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#### CRAB-A-LICIOUS CRAB FEEDING FRENZY

Includes dinner, live music, a silent auction, and more. Dinner includes crab, rice pilaf, salad, and bread. Proceeds support local Special Olympics. **Nov. 2**, 6 p.m. \$45. 805-925-0951. Santa Maria Veterans Memorial Center, 313 W. Tunnell St., Santa Maria.

**HOLIDAY BAZAAR** A holiday bazaar featuring handcrafted items. **Nov. 3**, 9 a.m.-4 p.m. Free. 805-441-9791. Casa Del Rio Clubhouse, 1124 N Suey Rd., Santa Maria.

**MERRILL GARDENS ANNUAL BAZAAR** Features jewelry, needlework, greeting cards, wood art, handmade items, and more. **Nov. 3**, 9 a.m.-3 p.m. Free. 805-720-4608. Merrill Gardens, 1220 Suey Rd., Santa Maria.

**MOONDANCE** The Santa Maria Valley Sr. Club presents this dance party. Featuring live music from Riptide Big Band with vocalist Bob Nations. Funded by Community Foundation of SLO County. **Nov. 4**, 1:30-4 p.m. Free. 775-813-5186. RiptideBB.com. Elwin Mussell Senior Center, 510 Park Ave., Santa Maria.

**REAL ESTATE HOME BUYERS WORKSHOP** A home buyers workshop for first time buyers and investors. Covers loan process and programs, buying process, what to look for to find a good property, flipping houses, buying income producing properties, and more. Call to reserve spot. **Nov. 10**, 10-11:30 a.m. Free. 805-910-9548. Treasures 1, 210 W. Fesler St., Santa Maria, treasures1.com.

### SAN LUIS OBISPO

**2018 CENTRAL COAST ECONOMIC FORECAST** An informative program on the economy featuring guest speakers Chris Thornberg, Doug Lipp, and Robert Kleinhenz. **Nov. 2**, 7:30-11:30 a.m. \$120-\$135. 805-543-3000. Alex Madonna Expo Center, 100 Madonna Rd, San Luis Obispo.

**ANNUAL WILDLIFE SYMPOSIUM** Brings students and professionals together to share ideas, professional knowledge, and on-going research. This year focuses on collaborative ventures in wildlife conservation. **Nov. 9**, 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m. app.donorview.com/1PWW. Veteran's Memorial

Building, 801 Grand Ave., San Luis Obispo, (510) 285-6221.

#### FALL FEAST: A VEGAN THANKSGIVING

Celebrate a turkey-free Thanksgiving in an outdoor setting. Dinner includes tofury, field roast, trimmings, and more. Guests are welcome to come early to feed the animals. **Nov. 11**, 2-4 p.m. \$40. 805-748-7733. Happy Hen Animal Sanctuary, 2375 Corbett Canyon Rd., San Luis Obispo.

**NEW TIMES MUSIC AWARDS 2018** This annual music competition is designed to showcase local music and songwriting talent exclusive to local musicians on the Central Coast. **Nov. 2**, 7 p.m. \$10. 805-546-8208. newtimeslo.com. The Fremont Theater, 1035 Monterey St., San Luis Obispo.

## FUNDRAISERS

### SOUTH COAST SLO COUNTY

#### CAMP FIRE'S 21ST ANNUAL HOLLYBERRY DINNER AND AUCTION BENEFIT FUNDRAISER

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#### FALL HARVEST SPAGHETTI DINNER/BINGO NIGHT

Admission to this spaghetti dinner includes one Bingo card, salad, garlic bread, and dessert. Proceeds support the programs and operations of the Avila Beach Community Center. **Nov. 2**, 6-8:30 p.m. \$5-\$10. 805-627-1997. avilabeachcc.com. Avila Beach Community Center, 191 San Miguel St., Avila Beach.

#### MURDER MYSTERY DINNER

Featuring the Arroyo Grande High

The Sun and New Times now share their community listings for a complete Central Coast calendar running from northern Santa Barbara County through SLO County.

Submit events online by following the link on the calendar widget at [santamariasun.com](http://santamariasun.com). Submissions require logging in with your Google, Facebook, or Twitter account. You can also email [calendar@santamariasun.com](mailto:calendar@santamariasun.com). Deadline is one week before the issue date. Submissions are subject to editing and approval. Contact Calendar Editor Caleb Wiseblood directly at [wiseblood@newtimeslo.com](mailto:wiseblood@newtimeslo.com).

School Theatre Department. A 5-course dinner will be served with complimentary beer and wine. **Nov. 3-4**, 4-7:30 p.m. \$54-\$89. 805-540-5771. Point San Luis Lighthouse, 1 Lighthouse Rd., Avila Beach.

### SAN LUIS OBISPO

**27TH ANNUAL AIDS WALK** Proceeds help fund services for individuals living with HIV/AIDS. **Nov. 10**, 9 a.m.-1 p.m. 805-781-3660. asn.org. Mission Plaza, 989 Chorro St, San Luis Obispo.

## ARTS

### CLASSES & WORKSHOPS

#### SANTA MARIA VALLEY/LOS ALAMOS

#### BALLROOM, LATIN, AND SWING LESSONS

Marie King and Kings of Swing offer dance lessons for all ages and skill levels. Couples and singles welcome. Wednesdays, 6:30-8:30 p.m. \$36 for 4-week session. 805-928-7799. Oasis Senior Center, 420 Soares Ave., Orcutt.

**BASIC WATERCOLOR** No experience required. Tuesdays, 1-3 p.m. \$8. Oasis Senior Center, 420 Soares Ave., Orcutt, 805-937-9750.

**BEADING WORKSHOP** Thursdays, noon oasiorcutt.org. Oasis Senior Center, 420 Soares Ave., Orcutt, 805-937-9750.

**COUNTRY TWO STEP DANCE LESSONS** From the basics to a variety of patterns. Dancers of all skill levels welcome. Thursdays, 6:15-7 p.m. \$8. 805-680-5695. Oasis Senior Center, 420 Soares Ave., Orcutt.

**CREATIVE ART TUESDAYS** Meet other artists and support and critique others' works. Tuesdays,

1-4 p.m. \$1. Oasis Senior Center, 420 Soares Ave. Orcutt, 805-937-9750.

**EVERYBODY CAN DANCE** Ballet workout classes for teens and adults. Tuesdays, 6 p.m. everybodycandance.webs.com. Everybody Can Dance, 628 S. McClelland St., Santa Maria, 805-937-6753.

**INDIVIDUAL PAINTERS** No instructor. Fridays, 9 a.m.-noon \$1. Oasis Senior Center, 420 Soares Ave., Orcutt, 805-937-9750.

**INTRODUCTORY BALLET 1** Tuesdays, 5 p.m. everybodycandance.webs.com. Everybody Can Dance, 628 S. McClelland St., Santa Maria, 805-937-6753.

**INTRODUCTORY BALLET 2** Wednesdays, 6 p.m. and Fridays everybodycandance.webs.com. Everybody Can Dance, 628 S. McClelland St., Santa Maria, 805-937-6753.

**INTRODUCTORY BALLET 3** Wednesdays, 6 p.m. everybodycandance.webs.com. Everybody Can Dance, 628 S. McClelland St., Santa Maria, 805-937-6753.

**LATIN DANCE CLASS: SALSA, BACHATA, AND MORE** Instructors and styles vary from week to week. Thursdays, 8-10 p.m. \$10. facebook.com/dancingamor. Everybody Can Dance, 628 S. McClelland St., Santa Maria, 805-937-6753.

**MUSIC LESSONS** Offering private and classroom lessons. ongoing 805-925-0464. Coelho Academy of Music, 325 E. Betteravia Road, Santa Maria.

**SALSA DANCE CLASS** No partner or experience needed. Wednesdays, 7-9 p.m. Free. 805-937-1574. CentralCoastSwingDance.com. Old Town Brew, 338 W. Tefft St, Nipomo.

**SWING, BALLROOM, AND LATIN DANCE CLASSES** Hosted by the Kings of Swing. All skill levels welcome (adults). Couples and singles welcome. Pre-registration recommended. Thursdays, 7-8 p.m. \$45. 805-928-7799. Adkins Dance Center, 1110 E. Clark Ave., Santa Maria.

**UKULELE CLASS** Wednesdays, 11:30 a.m. Oasis Senior Center, 420 Soares Ave., Orcutt, 805-937-9750.

**WEST COAST SWING CLASS** No partner or experience needed. Mondays, 7-9 p.m. Free. 805-937-1574. CentralCoastSwingDance.com. Old Town Brew, 338 W. Tefft St, Nipomo.

SUBMIT YOUR EVENTS

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ARTS continued page 18

**SOUTH COAST SLO COUNTY****OPEN STUDIO FOR HOMESCHOOLED**

**CHILDREN** Includes drawing, painting, sewing, weaving, mixed media, printmaking, and 3-dimensional building in a safe, non-competitive environment. Fridays, 9 a.m.-2 p.m. \$15 per hour. 805-668-2125. LiIA Creative Community, 1147 East Grand Ave. Suite 101, Arroyo Grande, lila.community.

**PLAY EXPLORE CREATE 2** Includes drawing, pastel, watercolor, tempera, collage, printmaking, sewing, and building. Tuesdays, Thursdays, 9-10:30 a.m. & 1:30-3 p.m. \$20 for one day; \$35 for two. 805-668-2125. lila.community. LiIA Creative Community, 1147 East Grand Ave. Suite 101, Arroyo Grande.

**SAN LUIS OBISPO**

**KNITTING FOR BEGINNERS** Beginners will learn basic stitches and will work on projects designed to teach them how to get started with knitting. All class materials provided. **Nov. 3**, 12-1 p.m. and **Nov. 10**, 12-1 p.m. Free. 805-781-5783. San Luis Obispo Library, 995 Palm St., San Luis Obispo.

**LIFE DRAWING WITH JOSE LEMUS** This class will look at the complexity of the human form and explore methods of simplification in lines, forms, and values. A live model will provide a variety of poses so students can produce multiple interpretive drawings. **Nov. 3**, 11 a.m.-2 p.m. \$45. 805-234-2228. artcentralartsupply.com/current-workshops.php. Art Central, 1329 Monterey St., San Luis Obispo.

**MAKE A SUCCULENT WREATH** Learn how easy it is to create with succulents. All materials provided to complete a lush wreath including locally grown succulents. **Nov. 5**, 6-8 p.m. \$62. 805-549-1222. creativemetime.com. San Luis Coastal Adult School, 1500 Lizzie St., San Luis Obispo.

**NANOWRIMO WORKSHOP**

**WITH BAXTER TRAUTMAN** In celebration of National Novel Writing Month, the library hosts this writing session facilitated by local author Baxter Trautman. **Nov. 10**, 2-4 p.m. Free. 805-781-4187. San Luis Obispo Library, 995 Palm St., San Luis Obispo.

**NANOWRIMO WORKSHOP WITH SUE**

**MCGINTY** A writing session facilitated by local author Sue McGinty. Her books include *Murder at Smuggler's Cove* and *Murder in a Safe Haven*. **Nov. 1**, 5:30-7 p.m. Free. 805-781-4187. slolibrary.org. San Luis Obispo Library, 995 Palm St., San Luis Obispo.

**ROLL UP YOUR SLEEVES: WRITING AND**

**EDITING WORKSHOP WITH SHERRY SHAHAN** Author Sherry Shahan will lead this hands-on workshop with emphasis on editing your early drafts. Bring a highlighter and your work-in-progress. **Nov. 3**, 10 a.m.-noon Free. 805-781-5783. slolibrary.org. San Luis Obispo Library, 995 Palm St., San Luis Obispo.

**SUCCULENT WREATH** Students learn mosaic basics by cutting plate pieces, then gluing and grouting to take home a finished piece in three hours. Great for beginners. **Nov. 7**, 6-9 p.m. \$60. 805-546-3100. creativemetime.com. Cuesta College Community Programs, Highway 1, San Luis Obispo.

**TECHNIQUES WITH ALCOHOL INK AND**

**PEBEO FANTASY PAINTS WITH MARGARET BURDICK** An overview of the techniques and possibilities when using alcohol ink with other media. Attendees will create one or two pieces each after experimenting with the materials. This class is limited to nine persons. **Nov. 3**, 2-5 p.m. \$35. artcentralartsupply.com. Art Central, 1329 Monterey St., San Luis Obispo, 805 747 4200.

**SPECIAL ART EVENTS****SANTA YNEZ VALLEY****10TH ANNIVERSARY PHOTOGRAPHY**

**COMPETITION** The theme of this year's competition is "Nature Regenerated." This year's guest judge will be Bill Dewey, whose extensively photographed the tri-counties through its many cycles of fire and regeneration. **Through Nov. 5** Wildling Museum of Art and Nature, 1511-B Mission Dr., Solvang, 805-688-1082, wildlingmuseum.org.

**NATURAL PERFUME WORKSHOP** Receive personalized guidance in blending your signature scent by Susan Farber, trained perfumer. Learn how to formulate your very own fragrance with botanical essences gathered from around the world. **Nov. 10**, 10 a.m.-1 p.m. \$85. 805-886-5538. eventbrite.com. Windmill Nursery, 925 W. Hwy 246, Bueliton.

**VILLAGE DAYS** Demonstrators help visitors learn a variety of skills including grinding acorns, basket weaving, building a tule house, and more. **Nov. 3**, 11 a.m.-2 p.m. explorelompop.com. La Purisima Mission, 2295 Purisima Mission, Lompoc.

**SANTA MARIA VALLEY/LOS ALAMOS**

**FIRST FRIDAY ARTIST RECEPTIONS** Valley Art Gallery features 12 artists each year. Enjoy art, wine, and food at these opening receptions. First Friday of every month, 5-7 p.m. Free. 805-937-2278. valleygallery.org. Valley Art Gallery, 125 W. Clark Ave., Orcutt.

**KNOLLWOOD ANNUAL CRAFT FAIR** This annual fair features homemade crafts of all types. All items are available for purchase. **Nov. 3**, 9 a.m.-3 p.m. Free. 805-720-5998. Knollwood Village, 4012 S Bradley Rd., Orcutt.

**POETRY NIGHT AT CORE WINERY** Monthly poetry group with two featured poets and open readings. Check CORE Winery Facebook page for details or schedule changes. Second Saturday of every month, 7:30 p.m. Free. 805-937-1600. corewine.com. CORE Winery, 105 W Clark Ave., Orcutt.

**SAN LUIS OBISPO****35TH ANNUAL SAN LUIS OBISPO POETRY**

**FESTIVAL** Featured readers are Mira Rosenthal, Paul Willis, and Hiram Sims. Followed by an open reading. **Nov. 11**, 2:15-4:30 p.m. Donations accepted at the door. 805-903-3595. languageofthesoul.org. San Luis Obispo Library, 995 Palm St., San Luis Obispo.

**35TH ANNUAL SLO POETRY FESTIVAL AT**

**GALA** Featured readers include TC West, Karl Kempton, Don Wallis, Glenna Luschei, and Kevin Patrick Sullivan. Followed by an open reading. **Nov. 10**, 2:15-4:30 p.m. Donations accepted at the door. 805-903-3595. languageofthesoul.org. GALA Center Gallery, 1060 Palm St., San Luis Obispo.

**FAR OUT: FILM PREMIERE** REI and Teton Gravity Research present this feature length ski and snowboard film. **Nov. 8**, 7-10 p.m. ticketweb.com. SLO Brew Rock, 855 Aerovista Pl., San Luis Obispo, 209-417-7748.

**ART AT HIGH NOON: DAVID LIMRITE'S**

**GHOST STORIES** Bring your own lunch to this art appreciation program for working adults. Features artist-in-residence David Limrite for an in-depth look at his exhibition, *A Roomful of Ghosts*, on view through Dec. 2. **Nov. 1**, 12-1 p.m. Free. 805-543-8562. sloma.org/events/art-at-high-noon.php?event=1763. San Luis Obispo Museum of Art, 1010 Broad St., San Luis Obispo.

**BRENT DICKINSON: ARTIST CRITIQUES**

Local artists and students are welcome to bring their portfolios and discuss their practice with Brent Dickinson in a supportive and educational environment. Dickinson is a multi-disciplinary conceptual artist and writer based in Los Angeles. **Nov. 6**, 3-5 p.m. Free. 805-546-3202. Harold J. Miossi Gallery, Highway 1, San Luis Obispo, cuesta.edu/student/campuslife/artgallery/.

**BRENT DICKINSON: PERFORMATIVE**

**LECTURE** A lecture on a crypto-fictional organization called the Marcel Maus Hermeneutical Think Tank. **Nov. 6**, 7-8:30 p.m. Free. 805-546-3202. Harold J. Miossi Gallery, Highway 1, San Luis Obispo, cuesta.edu/student/campuslife/artgallery/.

**CAL POLY ARCHITECTURE 15TH ANNUAL**

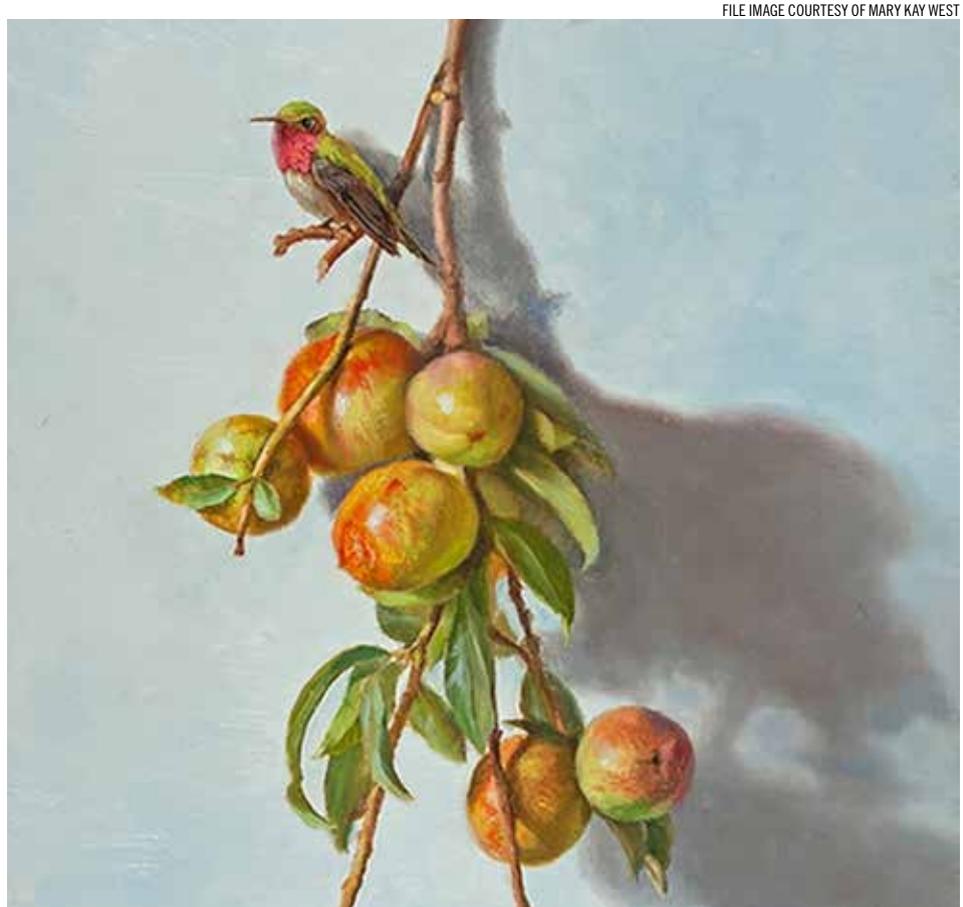
**VELLUM FURNITURE DESIGN SHOW** Projects range from tables and chairs to light fixtures, toys, and other furniture design solutions. **Nov. 2**, 6:30-9 p.m. and **Nov. 3**, 11 a.m.-6 p.m. Free. wayback.archive-it.org. Downtown SLO, 1185 Monterey St., San Luis Obispo, 805-234-1727.

**CHUMASH VILLAGE ART AND CRAFT FAIR**

This fair features baked goods, candies, and arts and crafts by Chumash Village seniors including watercolor and acrylic paintings, jewelry, fused glass, paper art and holiday cards, ornaments, handmade books, wood sculptures, and more. Food trucks will be present. **Nov. 3**, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. and **Nov. 4**, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Free. 510-301-1286. Chumash Village, 3057 S Higuera St., San Luis Obispo.

**EXHIBITS****SANTA YNEZ VALLEY**

**FOLDED ART: ORIGAMI ANIMALS** Featuring origami animals by artist Robert Salazar. In the Oak Gallery (second floor). **Nov. 10-March 20** Wildling Museum of Art and Nature, 1511-B Mission

**DEALER'S CHOICE**

*Artist's Choice, a group show at the Judith Hale Gallery in Solvang, runs through Nov. 12. Featured artists include Mary Kay West, Dirk Foslien, Sheryl Knight, Grace Schlesier, and Vic Riesau. The gallery is located within Solvang Antiques at 1693 Copenhagen Drive, Solvang. More info: (805) 686-2322 or solvangantiques.com.*

Dr., Solvang, 805-688-1082, wildlingmuseum.org.

**GIVENS, BELONI, AND KELLEHER** Featuring works by artists Carrie Givens, Susan Beloni, and Renee Kelleher. **Nov. 1-Dec. 1** Gallery Los Olivos, 2920 Grand Ave., Los Olivos, 805-688-7517, gallerylosolivos.com.

**MIRELLA OLSON: FEATURED ARTIST Through**

**Nov. 1** Gallery Los Olivos, 2920 Grand Ave., Los Olivos, 805-688-7517, gallerylosolivos.com.

**NATURE ABSTRACTED** This exhibit is on display in the Barbara Goodall Education Center (third floor). In collaboration with the Santa Barbara based Abstract Art Collective. Features 29 works by 18 artists. **Through Feb. 4**, 2019 \$5. Wildling Museum of Art and Nature, 1511-B Mission Dr., Solvang, 805-688-1082, wildlingmuseum.org.

**NATURE IMAGINED** This exhibit celebrates nature through art by Cheryl Medow, Ellen Jewett, and Hilary Brace. These artists used diverse materials and methods to create their works. Mondays, Wednesdays-Sundays, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. \$5. 805-686-8315. wildlingmuseum.org. Wildling Museum of Art and Nature, 1511-B Mission Dr., Solvang.

**NATURE REGENERATED** Photographers were encouraged to capture examples of nature's ability to regenerate and thrive. This exhibit showcases winning entries in the Adult and Junior categories. ongoing Free. 805-686-8315. wildlingmuseum.org/photography-competition/. Wildling Museum of Art and Nature, 1511-B Mission Dr., Solvang.

**PAST, PRESENT, FUTURE A** 30-year retrospective exhibit featuring various artists. **Through Nov. 11** 805-686-1211. Elverhoj Museum of History and Art, 1624 Elverhoj Way, Solvang, elverhoj.org.

**PAVLOV GALLERY: FEATURED ARTISTS**

Showcasing new collections on a weekly basis. Featured artists include Chris Pavlov, Iris Pavlov, Robert Hildebrand, Doug Picotte, and more. ongoing, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Free. 805-686-1080. pavlovgallery.com. Pavlov Art Gallery, 1608 Copenhagen Dr., Ste C, Solvang.

**THE SANTA YNEZ VALLEY ARTS**

**ASSOCIATION: SECOND SATURDAY ARTISANS** Applications to be a featured artist will be accepted throughout the series. Second Saturday of every month, 12-5 p.m. Free. 805-688-7338. santaynezvalleyarts.org. Santa Ynez Valley Grange Hall, 2374 Alamo Pintado, Los Olivos.

**SANTA MARIA VALLEY/LOS ALAMOS**

**FEATURED ARTIST: IRINA MALKMUS** This exhibit is one of a continuing series of shows to

spotlight local art and artists. ongoing 805-938-9724. irinamalkmus.com. Ameriprise Financial, 2605 S Miller St., Suite 104, Santa Maria.

**JAN HOWARD: FEATURED ARTIST** Howard is the gallery's featured artist for the month of November. **Nov. 1-30** Valley Art Gallery, 125 W. Clark Ave., Orcutt, 805-937-2278, valleygallery.org.

**SOUTH COAST SLO COUNTY****SHE SANG ME A GOOD LUCK SONG A**

statewide traveling exhibit featuring the California Indian photographs of Dugan Aguilar. ongoing 415-525-1553. exhibitenvoy.org. DANA Adobe Cultural Center, 671 S. Oakglen Ave., Nipomo, 805-929-5679.

**SAN LUIS OBISPO**

**BRENT DICKINSON** Dickinson is a multi-disciplinary conceptual artist and writer based in Los Angeles. His work explores Christian theology, critical theory, and experimental comedy. **Nov. 8**, 4:30-7:30 p.m. and **Nov. 8-Dec. 5** Free. 805-546-3202. cuesta.edu/student/campuslife/artgallery/. Harold J. Miossi Gallery, Highway 1, San Luis Obispo.

**BRENT DICKINSON: ART OPENING**

**RECEPTION** An opening reception for Babbling Objects: An Indoor Earthwork. Dickinson's work utilizes an entanglement of Christian theology, critical theory, and experimental comedy to explore properties and structures of meaning formation. **Nov. 8**, 4:30-7:30 p.m. Free. 805-546-3202. Harold J. Miossi Gallery, Highway 1, San Luis Obispo, cuesta.edu/student/campuslife/artgallery/.

**OUTLIERS: RECEPTION** The exhibit features works by Lena Rushing, Hope Kroll, and Graham Smith and runs through Dec. 1. **Nov. 2**, 6-9 p.m. 805-710-4798. lenarushing.com. The 4 Cats Cafe and Gallery, 1531 Monterey St., San Luis Obispo.

**PILGRIM'S PROCESS: THE POETRY OF**

**MICHAEL HANNON** The exhibit celebrates over five decades of works in print. Includes chapbooks, books, broadsides, poetry-infused sculpture, mail art, and altered objects. **Nov. 5-March 29**, 9 a.m.-4 p.m. Free. 805-756-2305. lib.calpoly.edu/events/pilgrimsprocess. Cal Poly Special Collections and Archives, Robert E. Kennedy Library, 1 Grand Ave., Building 35, Room 409, San Luis Obispo.

**SIXTH ANNUAL LITTLE TREASURES** All artwork is priced at \$100 or less. **Nov. 2**, 6-8 p.m. and **Nov. 2-Dec. 30** Free. 805-747-4200. artcentralartsupply.com/. Art Central, 1329 Monterey St., San Luis Obispo.

## STAGE

## LOMPOC/VANDENBERG

**ON GOLDEN POND** Lompoc Civic Theatre presents this dinner theater production. Admission includes a three-course dinner catered by Sage Restaurant. **Nov. 3** 805-735-2281. lompocivictheatre.com. The Mission Club, 4300 Clubhouse Road, Lompoc.

## SANTA MARIA VALLEY/LOS ALAMOS

**PETER PAN** A family-friendly musical based on the J.M. Barrie tale. **Nov. 8-Dec. 23** Marian Theatre, 800 S. College Dr., Santa Maria, 805-928-7731, pcpa.org.

## SAN LUIS OBISPO

**THE GLASS MENAGERIE** Tennessee Williams' classic drama. This intensely personal piece explores the complexity of our memories and the ways in which we can never truly escape them. Wednesdays-Sundays, 7-9 p.m. and Saturdays, Sundays, 2-4 p.m. **through Nov. 18** \$20-\$39. 805-786-2400. slorep.org. San Luis Obispo Repertory Theatre, 888 Morro St., San Luis Obispo.

**TRUST FALL** This tale features legends, villains, and heroes, who lived centuries apart, as they meet in a mythic world. Performed with four puppet interludes. Thursdays-Saturdays, 8-9:30 p.m. **through Nov. 10** \$12-\$20. 805-756-4TIX. theatredance.calpoly.edu/productions. Spanos Theatre, Cal Poly, San Luis Obispo.

**GHOST SHIP** Presented by Cuesta Drama. **Nov. 8-18** \$20. Cuesta College Cultural and Performing Arts Center, Highway 1, San Luis Obispo, 805-546-3198, cuesta.edu.

**TRUST FALL** A comic saga that tells the story of Daedalus, an inventor and sculptor who always ends up creating problems that others must solve. **Nov. 1**, 8-10 p.m., **Nov. 2**, 8-10 p.m., **Nov. 3**, 8-10 p.m., **Nov. 8**, 8-10 p.m., **Nov. 9**, 8-10 p.m. and **Nov. 10**, 8-10 p.m. \$12-\$20. 805-756-4849. theatredance.calpoly.edu/. Spanos Theatre, Cal Poly, San Luis Obispo.

**WHOSE LIVE ANYWAY?** **Nov. 4** Performing Arts Center, 1 Grand Ave., San Luis Obispo, 756-4849, pacso.org.

## CULTURE &amp; LIFESTYLE

## LECTURES &amp; LEARNING

## LOMPOC/VANDENBERG

**COMMUNITY FOOD CENTER** The center is a food pantry offering nutritional classes.



## ACT NATURALLY

Windmill Nursery hosts its Natural Perfume Workshop on Nov. 10 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Perfumer Susan Farber will instruct participants on how to formulate fragrances using various botanical materials. Admission is \$85. Windmill Nursery is located at 925 W. Highway 246, Buellton. More info: (805) 886-5538.

Wednesdays, 3-5 p.m. Free. 805-967-5741, Ext. 107. El Camino Community Center, W. Laurel Avenue and N. I Street, Lompoc.

## SANTA MARIA VALLEY/LOS ALAMOS

**BI-LINGO** Informal conversation to practice Spanish language skills for anyone with basic Spanish-speaking skills. Second Thursday of every month, 6-7 p.m. Free. Santa Maria Public Library, 421 S. McClelland St., Santa Maria, 805-925-0994.

## SOUTH COAST SLO COUNTY

**POINT SLO LIGHTHOUSE TOURS** Docents lead guests on a one-hour tour of the historic site, the buildings, and up to the Lighthouse tower. Please arrive 15 minutes early. All proceeds go directly toward the site's restoration. Wednesdays, 12 & 1 p.m. and Saturdays, 12, 1 & 2 p.m. \$17-\$22. 805-540-5771. pointsanluislighthouse.org. Point San Luis Lighthouse, 1 Lighthouse Rd., Avila Beach.

## CLUBS &amp; MEETINGS

## SANTA MARIA VALLEY/LOS ALAMOS

**ANIME CLUB FOR TEENS** A club for teens interested in anime and manga. **Nov. 9**, 4:30-5:30

p.m. Free. 805-925-0994. engagedpatrons.org. Santa Maria Public Library, 421 S. McClelland St., Santa Maria.

**BOARD OF LIBRARY TEENS (BOLT)** BOLT is an opportunity for teens to help decide on teen activities in the library. **Nov. 10**, 10-10:45 a.m. Free. 805-925-0994. engagedpatrons.org. Santa Maria Public Library, 421 S. McClelland St., Santa Maria.

**COFFEE AND CONVERSATION** Tuesdays, 1 p.m. oasisorcutt.org. Oasis Senior Center, 420 Soares Ave., Orcutt, 805-937-9750.

**HI-WAY DRIVE-IN SWAP MEET** Come to the Hi-Way Drive-In for the Sunday Swap Meet. Sellers: \$20; Produce sellers: \$25; Buyers: \$2 car load. Sundays, 4:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. 805-934-1582. Hi-Way Drive-In, 3170 Santa Maria Way, Santa Maria.

**RECREATION AND PARKS DEPARTMENT: MAH JONGG** Wednesdays, 11:30 a.m.-4 p.m. 805-922-2993. Elwin Mussell Senior Center, 510 Park Ave., Santa Maria.

**SANTA MARIA TOASTMASTERS WEEKLY MEETING** Toastmasters International is a worldwide nonprofit educational organization that empowers individuals to become more effective

communicators and leaders. Tuesdays, 6:30-8 p.m. 805-264-6722. santamaria.toastmastersclubs.org/. Toyota of Santa Maria, 700 E Beteravia Rd., Santa Maria.

**TRI CITY SOUND CHORUS OF SWEET ADELINES INTERNATIONAL** Welcomes all women who are interested in learning about barbershop-style music singing and performing. Thursdays, 6:45-9:30 p.m. 805-736-7572. Lutheran Church of Our Savior, 4725 S. Bradley Road, Orcutt.

**TRIVIA NIGHT** Wednesdays, 7 p.m. Free. naughtyoak.com. Naughty Oak Brewing Co., 165 S Broadway St Ste 102, Orcutt, 805-287-9663.

## SOUTH COAST SLO COUNTY

**NIPOMO SENIOR CENTER** The center is open five days a week; closed on weekends and holidays. Mondays-Fridays, 9 a.m.-1 p.m. 805-929-1615. Nipomo Senior Center, 200 E. Dana St., Nipomo.

## SUPPORT GROUPS

## SANTA MARIA VALLEY/LOS ALAMOS

**TRAUMA INFORMED PARENTING GROUP** A foster parent class presented by Calm. Tuesdays 805-965-2376. calm4kids.org. Church For Life, 3130 Skyway Dr., Suite 501, Santa Maria.

## CREATE &amp; LEARN

## SANTA MARIA VALLEY/LOS ALAMOS

**CARD MAKING** Tuesdays, 9 a.m. oasisorcutt.org. Oasis Senior Center, 420 Soares Ave., Orcutt, 805-937-9750.

**FALL MAKERSPACE** For participants to create, build, explore, use their imagination, and more. Saturdays, 10 a.m.-3 p.m. and Wednesdays, 4-6 p.m. through Nov. 28 Free. 805-925-0994. cityofsantamaria.org/city-government/departments/library. Santa Maria Public Library, 421 S. McClelland St., Santa Maria.

**KNITTING AND CROCHETING** Wednesdays, 9:30 a.m. oasisorcutt.org. Oasis Senior Center, 420 Soares Ave., Orcutt, 805-937-9750.

## MIND &amp; BODY

## SANTA MARIA VALLEY/LOS ALAMOS

**AROMAYOGA THERAPY** An evening of restorative yoga and essential oils to prepare guests for the holiday season. Features holiday foods made with flavored oils. **Nov. 9**, 6:30-7:45 p.m. \$16. 805-266-6391. clients.mindbodyonline.com. Treetop Yoga, 2771-C Santa Maria Way, Santa Maria.

CULTURE & LIFESTYLE continued page 20



## Football vs. Idaho State

November 10 - 4 p.m.

*Hats Off to Heroes / Homecoming*

## Football vs. Southern Utah

November 17- 4 p.m.

*Senior Day*



VISIT [GOPOLY.COM](http://GOPOLY.COM) /TICKETS TO PURCHASE TICKETS TODAY!



**CANDLELIGHT RESTORATIVE YOGA** Release and open your body with breath, props, and meditation. Mondays, 7-8 p.m. [yogaformankind.com](http://yogaformankind.com). Yoga for Mankind, 130 N Broadway, Suite B, Orcutt.

**DANCES OF UNIVERSAL PEACE** Simple, meditative, and joyous circle dances using music, mantras and movements from a variety of cultures and spiritual traditions. First Sunday of every month, 2-4 p.m. \$8 · \$10 donation. 805-717-1933. Unity Chapel of Light Church, 1165 Stubblefield Rd., Orcutt, [unitysantamaria.net/](http://unitysantamaria.net/).

**GENTLE YOGA** Tuesdays, Thursdays, 8:30 a.m. [oasisorcutt.org](http://oasisorcutt.org). Oasis Senior Center, 420 Soares Ave., Orcutt, 805-937-9750.

**MEDITATION GROUP** Features a 20 minute meditation followed by a brief discussion. Meetings take place in the sanctuary. All are welcome. Thursdays, 11 a.m.-noon. Free. 805-937-3025. Unity Chapel of Light Church, 1165 Stubblefield Rd., Orcutt, [unitysantamaria.net/](http://unitysantamaria.net/).

**REFLEXOLOGY AT OASIS** Tuesdays, 9 a.m. [oasisorcutt.org](http://oasisorcutt.org). Oasis Senior Center, 420 Soares Ave., Orcutt, 805-937-9750.

**SOUND HEALING WORKSHOP** Hosted by sound healer Wayne Perry, who teaches guests how their own voices can be used for healing. **Nov. 10**, 10 a.m.-7 p.m. and **Nov. 11**, 10 a.m.-7 p.m. \$295 and up. 805-361-0524. Treasures 1, 210 W. Fesler St., Santa Maria, [treasures1.com](http://treasures1.com).

**TAI CHI AT OASIS** Tuesdays, Thursdays, 9:45 a.m. [oasisorcutt.org](http://oasisorcutt.org). Oasis Senior Center, 420 Soares Ave., Orcutt, 805-937-9750.

**SANTA MARIA VALLEY/LOS ALAMOS**

**NFL FLAG FOOTBALL** Presented by Rise and Achieve. For boys and girls ages 5 to 17. First game takes place July 7. 10 games guaranteed. ongoing 805-868-3633. [riseandachieve.com](http://riseandachieve.com). Ernest Righetti High School, 941 E. Foster Rd., Orcutt, 805-937-3738.

**KIDS & FAMILY**

**SANTA MARIA VALLEY/LOS ALAMOS**

**39 CLUES SCAVENGER HUNT** A scavenger hunt based on the popular 39 Clues book series. For kids ages 6 to 12. **Nov. 7**, 4-5 p.m. Free. 805-925-0994. [engagedpatrons.org](http://engagedpatrons.org). Santa Maria Public Library, 421 S. McClelland St., Santa Maria.

**AFTERNOON STORY TIME** Story time for ages 6 to 12. Features stories, movies, and crafts. Tuesdays, 3:30-4:30 p.m. through Dec. 11. Free. 805-925-0994. Santa Maria Public Library, 421 S. McClelland St., Santa Maria.

**BILINGUAL STORY TIME: HORA DE CUENTOS** Features stories, songs, and rhymes in both Spanish and English. Wednesdays, 5:30-6 p.m. through Dec. 12. Free. 805-925-0994. Santa Maria Public Library, 421 S. McClelland St., Santa Maria.

**CUDDLY KITTENS STORY TIME** Story time for children ages 3 to 5 and their families. Wednesdays, 10:30-11 a.m. through Dec. 12. Free. 805-925-0994. Santa Maria Public Library, 421 S. McClelland St., Santa Maria.

**HOMEWORK HELP** For grades K through 6. Mondays-Thursday, 4-7 p.m. through June 6. Free. 805-925-0994. [cityofsantamaria.org](http://cityofsantamaria.org). Santa Maria Public Library, 421 S. McClelland St., Santa Maria.

**KTS ALL STAR GYMNASTICS: NINJA WARRIOR CLASSES** Bring out your inner warrior with kids parkour classes in a safe setting. For ages 5 and up. Wednesdays, Fridays, 5:30 & 6:30 p.m. 805-349-7575. Santa Maria Town Center, 142 Town Center East, Santa Maria.

**MOMMY AND ME CLASSES** Brief gymnastics classes for ages 1 to 3 (as soon as they can start walking on their own). Mondays, Wednesdays, Fridays, 9:30-10 & 10:15-10:45 a.m. \$35-\$55. KT's All Star Gymnastics, 237 Town Center E, Santa Maria, 805-349-7575.

**PRESCHOOL CRAFT TIME EXPRESS** Craft time for kids ages 3 to 5. **Nov. 1**, 4-5 p.m. Free. 805-925-0994. [engagedpatrons.org](http://engagedpatrons.org). Santa Maria Public Library, 421 S. McClelland St., Santa Maria.

**READALOUD** The Buellton Library presents ReadAloud, a play-reading group for adults, teens

and children 9 and up. Fridays, 4-5 p.m. Free. 805-688-3115. Buellton Library, 140 W. Highway 246, Buellton.

**SANTA MARIA VALLEY RAILWAY HISTORICAL MUSEUM** The Santa Maria Valley Railway Historical Museum features a locomotive, boxcar, cabooses, railroad artifacts, and diorama. Second and fourth Saturday of every month. 12-4 p.m. ongoing 805-714-4927. Santa Maria Transit Center, Miller and Boone St., Santa Maria.

CULTURE & LIFESTYLE continued page 22

PHOTO COURTESY OF EXPLORE LOMPOC



**WHAT'S COOKING?**

*Pig and Butter Catering hosts a cooking class on Nov. 3 from noon to 3 p.m. at Hilliard Bruce Winery, located at 2075 Vineyard View Lane, Lompoc. Participants can expect to learn recipes for Korean fried chicken tostadas, garlic aioli cabbage slaw, churros with creme anglaise and Mexican chocolate sauce, and more. Admission ranges from \$80 to \$100. More info: (805) 736-5366 or [hilliardbruce.com](http://hilliardbruce.com).*

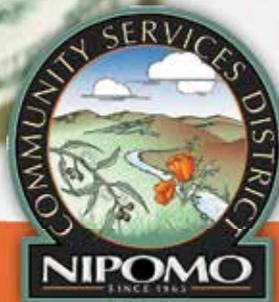
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**HOPE COMMUNITY CHURCH SERVICES** Join Hope Community Church for Sunday morning and Wednesday night services. Children care provided for infants and children under 4. Sundays, 10:30 a.m. and Wednesdays, 6:30 p.m. Free. 805-922-2043. [hopesm.com](http://hopesm.com). Hope Community Church, 3010 Skyway Dr. Suite F, Santa Maria.

**INTUITIVE GUIDANCE** Sessions may include but are not limited to mediumship, psychic awareness, light journey work, and aura cleansings. Thursdays, 12-2 p.m. \$20 for 15 minutes. 937-271-5646. CovenTree: Books and Gifts, 722 E Main St., Santa Maria.

**MEDITATION CLASS: A STUDY OF TRADITION AND PRACTICE** With AnnKathleen, who has been meditating since 1992 when she was introduced to Transcendental Meditation from teacher Sri John Karuna. Wednesdays, 6:30-7:45 p.m. \$10-\$15. 805-598-1509. [divining.weebly.com](http://divining.weebly.com). Art of Alchemy, E. Orange St, Santa Maria.

**WISDOM READINGS** AnnKathleen uses tarot and oracle cards to guide participants to solutions that bring peace, happiness, and positive thinking. Fridays-Sundays, 1-5 p.m. \$60-\$100. 805-598-1509. Art of Alchemy, E. Orange St, Santa Maria, [divining.weebly.com](http://divining.weebly.com).

**WISDOM READINGS AT COVENTREE** AnnKathleen, the Mistress of Alchemy, uses tarot and oracle cards to guide participants to solutions that bring peace, happiness, and positive thinking. Every other Friday, 1-5 p.m. \$60-\$100. 805-598-1509. [divining.weebly.com](http://divining.weebly.com). CovenTree: Books and Gifts, 722 E Main St., Santa Maria.

### VOLUNTEERS

#### SANTA MARIA VALLEY/LOS ALAMOS

**VOLUNTEER INFO SESSION** Become an advocate for children in foster care. RSVP online. Nov. 5, 5:30-6:30 p.m. 805-357-2595. [sbcasa.org/volunteer](http://sbcasa.org/volunteer). CASA of Santa Barbara County, 2601 Skyway Dr, Ste A3, Santa Maria.

### FOOD & DRINK

#### FARMERS MARKETS

##### LOMPOC/VANDENBERG

**LOMPOC FARMERS MARKET** Features fresh fruit and vegetables, flowers, entertainment, and activities for the whole family. Fridays, 2-6 p.m. Lompoc Farmers Market, Ocean Avenue and I Street, Lompoc.

**VANDENBERG VILLAGE FARMERS MARKET** Locally grown produce and food stuffs are available year round. Sundays, 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Vandenberg Village Farmers' Market, 120 Burton Mesa Blvd., Lompoc.

##### SANTA MARIA VALLEY/LOS ALAMOS

**GROWING GROUNDS FARM STAND** Produce, flowers, and other plants from the nursery are available for purchase. Second Saturday of every month, 10 a.m.-3 p.m. 805-934-2182. Growing Grounds Farm, 820 W. Foster Rd., Santa Maria, [t-mha.org](http://t-mha.org).

**ORCUTT FARMERS MARKET** Presents local farmers and small businesses. Tuesdays, 10 a.m.-1 p.m. Orcutt Farmers Market, Bradley Road, Orcutt.

##### SOUTH COAST SLO COUNTY

**ARROYO GRANDE FARMERS MARKET** Includes produce, artists and musicians. Saturdays, 12:2-2:25 p.m. Arroyo Grande Farmers Market, Olohan Alley, Arroyo Grande.

**NIPOMO FARMERS MARKET** Includes a large variety of locally grown produce. Open year round Sundays, 11:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m. [nipomofarmersmarket.com/](http://nipomofarmersmarket.com/). Nipomo Farmers Market, Via Concha Road, Nipomo. ○

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### STAY GOLD

The Lompoc Civic Theatre presents its dinner theater production of *On Golden Pond* on Nov. 3 at the Mission Club, located at 4300 Club House Road, Lompoc. Admission is \$55 and includes a three-course dinner catered by Sage Restaurant. Dinner is served at 5:30 p.m. The show begins at 6:30 p.m. More info: (805) 735-2281 or [lompocivictheatre.com](http://lompocivictheatre.com).



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St. Joseph High School



**Autumn Wine Stroll**  
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SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 11  
Atascadero United Methodist Church



**Tribute to the Eagles**  
TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 13  
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**The  
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**Wine & Dine**  
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**Santa's  
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SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 24  
Avila Beach Civic Association



**Fin's Giving Tuesday-  
Dinner for a Cause**  
TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 27  
Fin's Restaurant



**Roy  
Zimmerman**  
THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 29  
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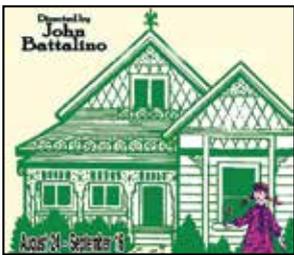
**Season's Greetings Holiday  
Choral Concert**  
THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 29  
Monarch Club at Trilogy



**Victorian Christmas  
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THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 29  
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**Holiday Dinnertainment**  
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**Anne of Green Gables**  
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Productions



**SLO Wind Orchestra:  
Make a Joyful Noise**  
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**North County Chorus: Winter  
Concert**  
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 2  
CPAC at Cuesta College



**Combopalooza**  
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**THE DYLAN ORTEGA BAND** As part of KRAZY Country Honky-Tonk Thursday. Thursdays, 7 p.m. Maverick Saloon, 3687 Sagunto St., Santa Ynez, 805-686-4785, [mavericksaloon.org](http://mavericksaloon.org).

**FIRST FRIDAY '80S NIGHT** Featuring the Molly Ringwald Project. First Friday of every month, 8:30-11:30 p.m. \$10 after 8 p.m. Maverick Saloon, 3687 Sagunto St., Santa Ynez, 805-686-4785, [mavericksaloon.org](http://mavericksaloon.org).

**THE HOLLYWOOD HILLBILLIES LIVE** Nov. 9, 8 p.m. Maverick Saloon, 3687 Sagunto St., Santa Ynez, 805-686-4785, [mavericksaloon.org](http://mavericksaloon.org).

**LIVE MUSIC ON THE PATIO** Local acts perform every Saturday. Saturdays, 5-8 p.m. Maverick Saloon, 3687 Sagunto St., Santa Ynez, 805-686-4785, [mavericksaloon.org](http://mavericksaloon.org).

**THE MUTINEERS LIVE** Nov. 3, 9 p.m. Maverick Saloon, 3687 Sagunto St., Santa Ynez, 805-686-4785, [mavericksaloon.org](http://mavericksaloon.org).

**NATE LATTA: LIVE ON THE PATIO** Enjoy live music from Nate Latta on the patio. Nov. 11, 1-5 p.m. Maverick Saloon, 3687 Sagunto St., Santa Ynez, 805-686-4785, [mavericksaloon.org](http://mavericksaloon.org).

**ODDLY STRAIGHT LIVE** No outside food or drinks allowed. Nov. 9, 6-9 p.m. Free. Cold Spring Tavern, 5995 Stagecoach Rd., Santa Barbara, 805-967-0066, [coldspringtavern.com/entertainment.html](http://coldspringtavern.com/entertainment.html).

**RJ MISCHO LIVE** No outside food or drinks allowed. Nov. 2, 6-9 p.m. Free. Cold Spring Tavern, 5995 Stagecoach Rd., Santa Barbara, 805-967-0066, [coldspringtavern.com/entertainment.html](http://coldspringtavern.com/entertainment.html).

**THE RUBEN LEE DALTON BAND LIVE** No outside food or drinks allowed. Nov. 10, 5-8 p.m. Free. Cold Spring Tavern, 5995 Stagecoach Rd., Santa Barbara, 805-967-0066, [coldspringtavern.com/entertainment.html](http://coldspringtavern.com/entertainment.html).

**SALT MARTIANS LIVE** A bluegrass group. No outside food or drinks allowed. Nov. 3, 1-4 p.m. Free. Cold Spring Tavern, 5995 Stagecoach Rd., Santa Barbara, 805-967-0066, [coldspringtavern.com/entertainment.html](http://coldspringtavern.com/entertainment.html).

**SEAN WIGGINS AND LONE GOAT LIVE** No outside food or drinks allowed. Nov. 4, 4:30-7:30 p.m. Free. Cold Spring Tavern, 5995 Stagecoach Rd., Santa Barbara, 805-967-0066, [coldspringtavern.com/entertainment.html](http://coldspringtavern.com/entertainment.html).

**SPOONFUL LIVE** A rock and blues group. No outside food or drinks allowed. Nov. 3, 5-8 p.m. Free. Cold Spring Tavern, 5995 Stagecoach Rd., Santa Barbara, 805-967-0066, [coldspringtavern.com/entertainment.html](http://coldspringtavern.com/entertainment.html).

**MUSIC LISTINGS** continued page 25

## Making musicals

### Pacific Conservatory Theatre's returning music director preps students for Disney's Peter Pan

BY JOE PAYNE

The group of Pacific Conservatory Theatre (PCPA) students sits in rows, waiting for their cue, eyeing the swish of Callum Morris' wrist.

Morris, the current interim music director for PCPA, guides the piano accompanist as acting intern Chynna Walker stands, singing the part penned for the title character of the upcoming production of *Peter Pan* at an early October rehearsal.

"Let's be quiet as a mouse and fill the lovely little house for Wendy/Oh for Wendy, she's gone to stay," Walker puts out with a nasally British accent.

"And be our mother, at last we have a mother," the group chimes in as Pan's Lost Boys.

Just after their second entrance, Morris' hands drop, and the music with them.

"Can you make that not so lovely?" he asked to some murmured laughter. "I just want it to sound like a group of Lost Boys."

PCPA's upcoming production of *Peter Pan* is the season's opening musical, and the conservatory's large-scale, family-friendly holiday production. From the first days of running their lines, the actors have worked on the music alongside the dialogue.

Morris was the music director at PCPA from 2004 to 2016 and got called back for the semester to fill in until a new permanent instructor is hired. After two years away, he returned to direct music and teach classes, sliding again into the workflow at the conservatory.

"The nice thing about it is, because I did the job so long, it's very familiar," Morris told the *Sun*. "It was just trying to get back into the swing of things, because things move fast at PCPA."

*Peter Pan* isn't the most musically complicated play ever penned, but it is involved. All the characters have accents, and there's plenty of action, including a choreographed stick fight with the aforementioned Lost Boys.

From the beginning, Morris has worked closely with the show's director, PCPA Artistic Director Mark Booher, and Assistant Director Kitty Balay. He was a part of student auditions, he said, and led the musical direction



**FIGHT TO THE BEAT:** PCPA's production of *Peter Pan* includes a choreographed fight sequence with the Lost Boys, Neverland's ragtag band headed by Pan. Conservatory students will align their actions with rhythmic cues in the music.



**MUSIC DIRECTOR:** Former PCPA Music Director Callum Morris (pictured left) returned to the conservatory this semester to help fill the role until PCPA finds a new permanent instructor. Morris oversees the music for productions like the upcoming *Peter Pan*, teaching students the music and coaching them in interpretation and style.

during the first rehearsals.

"I'm working with all the cast over those three days, I'm teaching them all the songs they need to know, working on the harmonies with them if there's any harmonies for them to sing," he said. "And just kind of figuring out what they need to work on and help guide them through how the score works."

The students should be used to following Morris' baton, they'll be doing so during production. PCPA performers take musical cues from the music director via television screens offstage that are visible from onstage, he explained.

Once the music is learned, interpretation and character factor more into the conversation. That's where the group was during the Oct. 4 rehearsal, already working on finer points of pronunciation, phrasing, and character.

Hence the request for a "not so lovely" sound.

"We're trying to figure out, what is the sound of the character?" Morris said. "Especially when I'm working with young actors who are new, sometimes I have to ask male actors, 'I need you to sound like men.' But in this case it was the opposite, I needed them to sound like young boys. I needed a brighter tone that didn't sound as developed."

Another aspect of *Peter Pan* is the tradition of casting the title character with a female actor. A number of "major actresses have played the role," Morris said, and how they approach Pan's voice is directly

**LOCAL NOTES** continued page 25

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**LOCAL NOTES** from page 24

connected to the play's music.

"It's written for a woman to perform, but is written quite low," he said. "That was also part of having the character sound like a boy even though it was being played by a woman."

There are a number of singing techniques, or lack thereof, that can help an actress sound more like the boy who never wanted to grow up, he explained.

"We work on kind of going for a little more of a straight tone," he said. "A boy's sound wouldn't necessarily have a really developed vibrato the way a trained female sound would have."

The decisions the director makes along the

**Catch the show**

The Pacific Conservatory Theatre (PCPA) presents its production of the musical *Peter Pan* showing Nov. 8 through Dec. 23 at the Marian Theater, 800 S. College Drive, Santa Maria. More info: (805) 922-8313 or pcpa.org.

way affects how the music is performed as well, whether it's the emotional approach a character takes to a scene or the sound they're reaching for in the voice.

Performing in musicals is something that all PCPA acting students must learn. Morris also teaches classes during the week, including

instructing first-year students in singing and music fundamentals and theory. After *Peter Pan* opens, he'll also co-teach a musical theater ensemble class with resident artist Brad Carroll.

"It's an opportunity for them to experience how to be in an ensemble and how to create character when you might not even have a character name," he said, "and create relationships and also understand how to give and take focus for the featured roles in a number."

Classes like those make sure that PCPA's acting interns know how to follow a score and stay in tune. For productions like *Peter Pan*, which take an audience into a fantastical world

populated by Lost Boys, pirates, and more, creating character is what it's all about.

And that's what PCPA is all about too, Morris said, and it's why returning to take the musical helm of the pirate ship for a semester was an opportunity he was excited to take.

"It is a special place," he said. "You really get to work on the art, and everyone is there to work on the art and work together to create a really interesting piece that we get to present to this community. Everyone's goal is the same." ○

*Managing Editor Joe Payne's goal is always good music. Contact him at jpayne@santamariasun.com.*

**MUSIC LISTINGS** from page 24

coldspringtavern.com/entertainment.html.

**SUNDAY ROUND-UP** Enjoy live music on the patio and special menu offerings every Sunday morning. Sundays, 11 a.m. Free. Maverick Saloon, 3687 Sagunto St., Santa Ynez, 805-686-4785, mavericksaloon.org.

**TERESA RUSSELL AND COCOBILLI LIVE** This group performs rock and blues. No outside food or drinks allowed. **Nov. 11**, 4:30-7:30 p.m. Free. Cold Spring Tavern, 5995 Stagecoach Rd., Santa Barbara, 805-967-0066, coldspringtavern.com/entertainment.html.

**THE TEX PISTOLS LIVE** **Nov. 10**, 8 p.m. Maverick Saloon, 3687 Sagunto St., Santa Ynez, 805-686-4785, mavericksaloon.org.

**THE THIRD MAN LIVE** This group performs surf, lounge, and old school country. No outside food or drinks allowed. **Nov. 10**, 1-4 p.m. Free. Cold Spring Tavern, 5995 Stagecoach Rd., Santa Barbara, 805-967-0066, coldspringtavern.com/entertainment.html.

**TOM BALL AND KENNY SULTAN LIVE** No outside food or beverages allowed. Sundays, 1:15-4 p.m. Free. Cold Spring Tavern, 5995 Stagecoach Rd., Santa Barbara, 805-967-0066, coldspringtavern.com/entertainment.html.

**LOMPOC/VANDENBERG**

**SIP MUSIC CLUB** Pairing music and local wine with 4 seasonal releases each calendar year. Price includes 3 VIP access tickets to each SipMusic event, and 1 album and 1 bottle of premium wine every 3 months. ongoing \$40. Lompoc Wine Factory, 321 N. D St., Lompoc, 805-243-8398, lompocwinefactory.com.

**SANTA MARIA VALLEY/LOS ALAMOS**

**AHC CONCERT BAND: FALL POPS CONCERT** Presented by the Allan Hancock College Concert Band. **Nov. 10**, 7:30-9 p.m. Free to \$10. 805-929-0552. First Baptist Church, 2970 Santa Maria Way, Santa Maria.

**LIVE MUSIC AT CA' DEL GREVINO** Enjoy live music from a different band/musician each week. Wednesdays, 5:30-8:30 p.m. Free. 805-937-6400. facebook.com/cadelgrevino. Ca' Del Grevino Cafe and Wine Bar, 400 E. Clark Ave., suite A, Orcutt.

**LIVE MUSIC AT COSTA DE ORO** Enjoy live music and complimentary appetizers every week. Thursdays, Fridays, 5-7 p.m. and Saturdays, 3-5 p.m. Free. Costa De Oro Winery, 1331 S. Nicholson Ave., Santa Maria, 805-922-1468, cdowinery.com.

**LIVE MUSIC AT MOXIE CAFE** Enjoy live music from local artists, food, and drinks. Thursdays-Saturdays, 5-8 p.m. Free. moxiecafe.com/music/. Moxie Cafe, 1317 W. McCoy Ln., Santa Maria, 805-361-2900.

**LIVE MUSIC AT O'SULLIVAN'S** Featuring live entertainment from local and touring alternative, indie, rock, punk, reggae, ska, alt-country, and other left-of-center musicians several times throughout each month. ongoing Free. O'Sullivan's Pub, 633 E. Main St., Santa Maria, 805-925-0658, osullivanspub.net.

**LIVE MUSIC AT PRESQU'ILE** Different acts every Friday evening. Fridays, 4-6 p.m. Free. Presqu'ile Winery, 5391 Presqu'ile Dr., Santa Maria, 805-937-8110, presquilewine.com.

**SAN LUIS CHAMBER ORCHESTRA AND HANCOCK COLLEGE SINGERS** Featuring Beethoven's Mass in C Major and Piano Concerto #4. With guest artist Kumiko Uyeda. **Nov. 3**, 7:30-9:30 p.m. \$10 donation. 805-748-6087. sanluischamberorchestra.

org. Santa Maria First United Methodist Church, 311 S Broadway, Santa Maria.

**THE TAPROOTS LIVE** This SLO-based duo performs folk and Americana. **Nov. 9**, 4-6 p.m. Complimentary. Presqu'ile Winery, 5391 Presqu'ile Dr., Santa Maria, 805-937-8110, presquilewine.com.

**WILL BREMAN LIVE** **Nov. 2**, 4-6 p.m. Complimentary. Presqu'ile Winery, 5391 Presqu'ile Dr., Santa Maria, 805-937-8110, presquilewine.com.

**SOUTH COAST SLO COUNTY**

**ACOUSTIC SUNDAYS** Sundays, 3-6 p.m. Seaventure Restaurant, 100 Oceanview Ave, Pismo Beach, 805-779-1779, seaventure.com.

**THE CLIFFNOTES SQUARED** **Nov. 3**, 7-10 p.m. Free. 805-773-6563. puffersofpismo.com/. Puffers of Pismo, 781 Price St., Pismo Beach.

**FRIDAY MUSIC NIGHT AT AVILA BEACH RESORT** Enjoy acoustic music from local artists with food and drinks from Mulligan's. Fridays, 5-8 p.m. Free. 805-595-4000. Avila Beach Resort, 6464 Ana Bay Dr., Avila Beach.

**FRIDAY NIGHT LIVE MUSIC** Enjoy live music and food on the patio. Fridays, 5:30-8:30 p.m. Free. 805-489-9099. branchstreetdeli.com. Branch Street Deli, 203 E. Branch St., Arroyo Grande.

**THE GUESTROOMS** Enjoy live music, a food truck, cupcakes, and more **Nov. 2**, 5-8 p.m. Free. The Place Arts Co-op, 1699 Pacific Coast Highway 1, Oceano, 8051234567.

**LIDO LIVE** Live music at Lido at Dolphin Bay. Tuesdays, Thursdays, Fridays, 5-8 p.m. Free. 805-773-8900. thedolphinbay.com/lido. Lido Restaurant at Dolphin Bay, 2727 Shell Beach Rd., Pismo Beach.

**LIVE IN CENTRAL PARK (REVISITED): SIMON & GARFUNKEL TRIBUTE** Award-winning recording artists Lee Lessack and Johnny Rodgers recreate Simon & Garfunkel's Live at Central Park. **Nov. 3**, 7:30-9:30 p.m. \$49-\$56. 805-489-9444. clarkcenter.org/event/live-at-central-park-revisited-simon-garfunkel-tribute/. Clark Center for the Performing Arts, 487 Fair Oaks Ave., Arroyo Grande.

**LIVE MUSIC AT MOROVINO WINERY** With Jon Stephen. For ages 21-and-over. Second Sunday of every month, 2-5 p.m. through Dec. 9 Free with wine purchase. 805-627-1443. morovino.com. Morovino Winery, 468 Front Street, Avila Beach.

**LIVE MUSIC AT PUFFERS** Tuesdays, 6:30-9:30 p.m. Free. 805-773-6563. puffersofpismo.com. Puffers of Pismo, 781 Price St., Pismo Beach.

**OPEN BLUES JAM** Wednesdays Mongo's Saloon, 359 W. Grand Ave., Grover Beach, 805-489-3639.

**SAN LUIS CHAMBER ORCHESTRA AND HANCOCK COLLEGE SINGERS** Features guest artist Kumiko Uyeda. **Nov. 4**, 3-5 p.m. \$10 donation. 805-748-6087. sanluischamberorchestra.org. Grace Bible Church, 100 Rodeo Dr., Arroyo Grande.

**SIDE EFFECTS** Tuesdays Free. 805-773-6563. puffersofpismo.com. Puffers of Pismo, 781 Price St., Pismo Beach.

**SONGWRITERS AT PLAY: CHRIS BELAND** Special guests include Ynana Rose, Shining in the Dark, Sarah Biklen, Charles Motley, and host Steve Key. **Nov. 7**, 6-8:30 p.m. Free. 805-204-6821. songwritersatplay.com. Branch Street Deli, 203 E. Branch St., Arroyo Grande.

**WEDNESDAYS: LIVE MUSIC** Enjoy live music in the fireplace room. Wednesdays, 6-9 p.m. Seaventure Restaurant, 100 Oceanview Ave, Pismo Beach, 805-779-1779, seaventure.com.

**SAN LUIS OBISPO**

**20TH ANNUAL VOCAL JAZZ FESTIVAL CONCERT**

Featuring Groove for Thought. **Nov. 2**, 8-11 p.m. \$15-\$20. Cuesta College Cultural and Performing Arts Center, Highway 1, San Luis Obispo, 805-546-3198, cuesta.edu.

**'80S MUSIC TRIBUTE**

Presented by Songwriters At Play. Artists include Charles Motley, Noah David, Kevin Graybill, Paula Richardson with Steve Key, Hayley Layne, Kenny Taylor, Matt Yaki, Will Breman, Michael Venia, and Kaiya. **Nov. 1**, 6:30-9 p.m. \$10. 805-868-7133. 7Sisters Brewing Company, 181 Tank Farm Rd. Suite 110, San Luis Obispo, 7SistersBrewing.com.

**BROWN BAG**

**CONCERT** First Friday of every month, 12-1 p.m. Free. 805-543-5451. fpcsl.org. First Presbyterian Church of San Luis Obispo, 981 Marsh St., San Luis Obispo.

**ESTAS TONNE: THE BREATH OF SOUND**

**WORLD TOUR** New Times readers can get a 15% discount off tickets with the promo code: SPIRIT. **Nov. 11**, 7-9 p.m. \$35-\$90. 424-385-1992. estastonne2018.com/. Performing Arts Center, 1 Grand Ave., San Luis Obispo.

**FOR THE FOLKS FUNK FINALE FT. MOJO GREEN**

Featuring funk/dance band Mojo Green and indie-folk group Arthur Watership. Proceeds support Bang the Drum. **Nov. 2**, 6:30-10 p.m. \$10; free for ages 12 and under. 805-888-7940. forthefolksmusic.com. Bang The Drum Brewery, 950 Orcutt Road, San Luis Obispo.

**FRESH PICKED CONCERT SERIES**

Enjoy live music from a different act each performance. First Thursday of every month, 6:30-8:30 p.m. Free. DowntownSLO.com. Harvest Stage, 995 Higuera St., San Luis Obispo, 805-541-0286.

**GYPSY JAZZ NIGHT**

With the Gypsy All Stars: Laurel Mitchel (vocals), Daniel Cimo (violin), James Gallardo, Ben Arthur, and Toan Chau. Every other Thursday, 9:30-11:30 p.m. Barrelhouse Brewing Co. Speakeasy, 1033 Chorro St., San Luis Obispo, 805-296-1128, barrelhousebrewing.com.

**JAZZ JAM SESSIONS AT UNITY CONCERT HALL**

Hosted by the SLO County Jazz Federation. First Wednesday of every month, 7-9 p.m. Free. 805-543-1200. Unity Concert Hall, 1130 Orcutt Road, San Luis Obispo.

**LIVE AT SLO BREW: DEAD HORSES**

Opening support by Benjamin Jaffe. **Nov. 4**, 7-11 p.m. ticketweb.com. SLO Brew, 736 Higuera St., San Luis Obispo, 805-543-1843.

**LIVE MUSIC AT MOTHER'S TAVERN**

Fridays, 7:30-10:30 p.m. Free. 805-541-8733. motherstavern.com. Mother's Tavern, 725 Higuera St, San Luis Obispo.

**MOZART AND THE MASONS: CHAMBER**



PHOTO COURTESY OF RIPTIDE BIG BAND

**DOWN TO THE RIPTIDE**

The Santa Maria Valley Senior Club presents *MoonDance* on Nov. 4 from 1:30 to 4 p.m. at the Elwin Mussell Senior Center, located at 510 Park Ave., Santa Maria. This dance party features live music from the Riptide Big Band. This event is sponsored by Community Foundation of SLO County. More info: riptidebb.com.

**CONCERT** Presented by Orchestra Novo, featuring Michael Nowak. **Nov. 3**, 7:30-9 p.m. \$40. King David's Lodge, 859 Marsh St., San Luis Obispo, 805-545-5681.

**NOCHE CALIENTE**

Fridays, 10 p.m.-2 a.m. 805-541-096. slograd.com. The Graduate, 990 Industrial Way, San Luis Obispo.

**PINT NITE WITH WILL BREMAN**

**Nov. 9**, 6-8 p.m. Free. 805-868-7133. 7Sisters Brewing Company, 181 Tank Farm Rd. Suite 110, San Luis Obispo, 7SistersBrewing.com.

**SLO JAZZ FESTIVAL AT COURT STREET**

A summer concert series. Saturdays, 12:30-2:30 p.m. Free. The San Luis Obispo Collection, 870 Monterey St., San Luis Obispo, 415-394-6500.

**SLO SYMPHONY PRESENTS: THE AMERICAN MASTERS**

This concert celebrates classical favorites of American composers. Featuring Ilya Kaler on violin. **Nov. 10**, 7:30 p.m. \$20-\$87. 805-756-4849. slosymphony.org. Performing Arts Center, 1 Grand Ave., San Luis Obispo.

**SONGWRITERS AT PLAY: NICOLE STROMSOE WITH DORIAN MICHAEL**

Performing an atmospheric blend of eclectic, old soul, jazz, and blues. **Nov. 8**, 6:30-9 p.m. Free; all ages welcome. 7Sisters Brewing Company, 181 Tank Farm Rd. Suite 110, San Luis Obispo, 805-868-7133, 7SistersBrewing.com.

**SONGWRITERS AT PLAY: TRIBUTE TO '80S MUSIC**

The song list includes hits by Prince, A-ha, Madonna, Talking Heads, Tom Petty, and many more. Artists include Charles Motley, Noah David, Steve Key, and more. **Nov. 1**, 6:30-9 p.m. \$10 for tickets in advance. 805-868-7133. 7Sisters Brewing Company, 181 Tank Farm Rd. Suite 110, San Luis Obispo, 7SistersBrewing.com.

**SUNDAY SERENADE**

Features a different acoustic act each week. Sundays, 4:30-6:30 p.m. Bang The Drum Brewery, 950 Orcutt Road, San Luis Obispo, 242-8372, bangthedrumbrewery.com/.

MUSIC LISTINGS from page 25

**DJ/DANCE**

**SANTA YNEZ VALLEY**

**KRAZY COUNTRY HONKY-TONK THURSDAY**  
Thursdays, 6 p.m. Maverick Saloon, 3687 Sagunto St., Santa Ynez, 805-686-4785, mavericksaloon.org.

**LOMPOC/VANDENBERG**

**THIRSTY THURSDAYS WITH DJ VEGA** Playing today's and yesterday's hits. No cover charge. Bring your dancing shoes. Thursdays, 9 p.m.-2:30 a.m. Free. 805-478-3980. DJ's Saloon, 724 E Ocean Ave., Lompoc.

**SANTA MARIA VALLEY/LOS ALAMOS**

**HULA DANCING** Thursdays, 6:30 p.m. 805-598-6772. Oasis Senior Center, 420 Soares Ave., Orcutt.

**LINE DANCING** Mondays, 6:30-9 p.m. \$5. 805-310-1827. Oasis Senior Center, 420 Soares Ave., Orcutt.

**NIGHTLIFE AT RANCHO BOWL** Enjoy DJ's 6 nights a week in the Rancho Bar and Lounge. For ages 21-and-over. Tuesdays-Sundays, 9 p.m. Free. 805-925-2405. ranchobowl.com/nightlife. Rancho Bowl, 128 E Donovan Rd., Santa Maria.

**SOUTH COAST SLO COUNTY**

**DJ CAMOTE** Thursdays, 5 p.m. Harry's Night Club And Beach Bar, 690 Cypress St., Pismo Beach, 805-773-1010, harryspismo.com.

**DJ DRUMZ AT MONGO'S** Fridays Free. 805-489-3639. mongosaloon.com. Mongo's Saloon, 359 W. Grand Ave., Grover Beach.

**SAN LUIS OBISPO**

**CONSCIOUS DANCE** Shelley Kilcoyne (teacher and somatic psychotherapist) and Kari Stettler (teacher and somatic experiencing practitioner) provide soundscapes, gentle guidance, and compelling inquiry to help support this meditation

dance. Second Thursday of every month, 7:30-9 p.m. through Dec. 13 \$15-\$20. 805-550-8717. insightsomatics.com. SLO Yoga Center, 672 Higuera St #200, San Luis Obispo.

**COUNTRY NIGHT** Thursdays, 8 p.m.-2 a.m. 805-541-096. slograd.com. The Graduate, 990 Industrial Way, San Luis Obispo.

**HOT, HOT, HOT: SINGLES DANCE THE NIGHT AWAY** An opportunity for singles to meet, mingle, and dance. First Saturday of every month, 6:30-11:30 p.m. through Dec. 8 \$5. 805-888-9980. The Graduate, 990 Industrial Way, San Luis Obispo, slograd.com.

**NORTH SLO COUNTY**

**BALLROOM DANCE LESSONS WITH A-TOWN BALLROOM** Dance lessons with Cammie Velci and Brian Reeves. Singles and couples from all levels of experience are welcome. Mondays, Tuesdays, 7-9 p.m. \$10-\$15. 888-395-4965. atownballroom.com. Atascadero Agricultural Hall, 5035 Palma Ave., Atascadero.

**DANCE LESSON AND DANCE PARTY** Come learn a variety of ballroom, swing, and Latin dances. Followed by a potluck dance party. Sundays, 5-7:30 p.m. \$10. 888-395-4965. atownballroom.com/. Atascadero Agricultural Hall, 5035 Palma Ave., Atascadero.

**DANCE LESSONS WITH CAMMIE AND BRIAN** Come learn a variety of ballroom, swing, and

latin dances. Mondays, Tuesdays, 7-9 p.m. \$10. 888-395-4965. atownballroom.com/. Atascadero Agricultural Hall, 5035 Palma Ave., Atascadero.

**SUNDAY DANCE PARTIES** A weekly dance party that includes free dance lessons. Sundays, 6-8 p.m. Free; \$5 on DJ nights. 888-395-4965. Atascadero Agricultural Hall, 5035 Palma Ave., Atascadero.

**KARAOKE/OPEN MIC**

**SANTA YNEZ VALLEY**

**KARAOKE AT SOLVANG BREW** Thursdays Free. Solvang Brewing Company, 1547 Mission Dr., Solvang, 805-688-2337.

PHOTO COURTESY OF COLD SPRING TAVERN



**SPOONER THE BETTER**

*Cold Spring Tavern presents Spoonful on Nov. 3 from 5 to 8 p.m. This group performs rock, blues, and soul. Admission is free. No outside food or beverages are allowed. Cold Spring Tavern is located at 5995 Stagecoach Road, Santa Barbara. More info: (805) 967-0066 or coldspringtavern.com.*

**OPEN MIC NIGHT AT SOLVANG BREW** Wednesdays Free. Solvang Brewing Company, 1547 Mission Dr., Solvang, 805-688-2337.

**SANTA MARIA VALLEY/LOS ALAMOS**

**WEDNESDAY NIGHT KARAOKE** Guests are welcome to take the stage and sing. Wednesdays, 9 p.m.-1:30 a.m. 805-863-8292. Louie B's, 213 E. Main St., Santa Maria.

**SOUTH COAST SLO COUNTY**

**FRONT ROW KARAOKE** Thursdays, 9 p.m. 773-1010. Harry's Night Club And Beach Bar, 690 Cypress St., Pismo Beach, harryspismo.com.

**JAWZ KARAOKE** Thursdays, 9 p.m. Harry's Night Club And Beach Bar, 690 Cypress St., Pismo Beach, 805-773-1010, harryspismo.com.

**KARAOKE WITH DJ SAM** Sundays Mongo's Saloon, 359 W. Grand Ave., Grover Beach, 805-489-3639.

**SAN LUIS OBISPO**

**KARAOKE NIGHT SUNDAYS AT BUFFALO PUB AND GRILL** Sundays, 8 p.m. Free. 805-544-5155. Buffalo Pub And Grill, 717 Higuera St., San Luis Obispo.

**OPEN MIC** Mondays, 7:30-10 p.m. Bang The Drum Brewery, 950 Orcutt Road, San Luis Obispo, 242-8372, bangthedrumbrewery.com/.

**OPEN MIC NIGHT AT 7SISTERS** For musicians, poets, and comedians. Family-friendly. Performers get a free beer. Sundays, 6-8 p.m. Free. 805-868-7133. 7sistersbrewing.com/calendar. 7Sisters Brewing Company, 181 Tank Farm Rd. Suite 110, San Luis Obispo.

**OPEN MIC NIGHT AT KREUZBERG** Wednesdays Free. 805-439-2060. kreuzbergcalifornia.com. Kreuzberg Coffee Company, 685 Higuera Street, San Luis Obispo. ○

Jillian Davenport, MD, FAAP

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We are thrilled to have Board Certified and award-winning Pediatrician, Dr. Jillian Davenport join our team! Dr. Davenport completed her Residency at UCSF Benioff Children's Hospital in San Francisco, CA. She was a researcher for The Children's Hospital of Philadelphia and The Scripps Research Institute in La Jolla, CA. Dr. Davenport volunteered with Puentes de Salud, a free clinic serving South Philadelphia's Latino immigrant population, and comes to CHC from private practice in Atascadero, CA where she provided primary and acute care.

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## Arts Briefs

### Lompoc photography contest announces winners

Family Service Agency (FSA) of Santa Barbara County recently announced the winners of its 2018 photography contest, titled The Good Life on the Central Coast.

The contest asked residents of Santa Barbara County to share images of life in their local communities. The competition was split into four categories: youth, adult, professional, and employee.

Winners in the youth category include first place winner Ian Grose for *Golden Hour*, second place winner Jacob Grossi (pictured below) for *Father's Day*, and third place winner Wil Sillers with *Soarin over California*. Professional category winners include Michael Collins' first place image *Lompoc's Danny Duffy at Dodger Stadium*, Collins' second place *Double Lighting*, and Dan Quinajon's third place *Faith*. Winners in the adult category included first place winner Ali Lutz for *Lost in the Clouds*, second place winner Cheryl Decker's *Tilt a Whirl*, and third place winners Carmen Galzerano (Big Sister of BBBS) and Sara Fonseca (Little Sister of BBBS).

Winners are now eligible to have their work hang at FSA's Lompoc offices. For more information, visit [fsacares.org](http://fsacares.org).

PHOTO COURTESY FAMILY SERVICE AGENCY



### PCPA hosts gala to coincide with *Peter Pan* debut

Pacific Conservatory Theatre (PCPA) presents An Evening in Neverland, an opening night gala and special performance of its latest musical, *Peter Pan*.

The black tie event takes place on Nov. 10 and includes a red carpet, champagne reception, and hors d'oeuvres made by Scratch Kitchen. The Clap Your Hands Cabaret, which includes members who are conservatory students and resident artists, will perform before the debut of *Peter Pan*.

The gala starts at 5:30 p.m. and tickets cost \$150. All proceeds benefit PCPA's scholarship program. The event takes place at the Marian Theatre, Allan Hancock College, 800 S. College Drive, Santa Maria. For more information, visit [pcpa.org/gala2018/](http://pcpa.org/gala2018/) or call (805) 928-7731, Ext. 4109.

### Allan Hancock College unveils art by former professor

A painting created by retired fine arts professor Deborah West was unveiled at the Student Services building at Allan Hancock College in Santa Maria during an Oct. 25 ceremony.

West is a retired art and design professor who taught at Hancock for 28 years. The event featured a ribbon cutting hosted by the Art on Campus Committee in honor of West's new oil painting, *Santa Maria Riverbed*.

"For me, this view is the iconic image of the Santa Maria Valley," stated West in a press release. "It greets me each time I enter and leave the valley. The changing beauty of land and sky returns me to an awareness of the astounding vastness that surrounds our human life."

The painting is available to view by the bottom of the east staircase in the lobby of building A, the Student Services building. The college is located at 800 S. College Drive, Santa Maria. ○

Arts Briefs is compiled by Arts and Lifestyle Writer Rebecca Rose. Send information to [rrose@santamariasun.com](mailto:rrose@santamariasun.com).

## A long and winding road

### The Lompoc Ten celebrates its unique interpretations of Jalama Road

BY REBECCA ROSE

Jalama Road is a little more than 14 miles of some of the most scenic landscape on the Central Coast. The winding path of road, stretching from the whirring noise of Highway 101 to a quiet strip of Jalama Beach, tells a story of the true California, a diverse state born from agriculture, ranching, and a love of the sea.

To painter Betsee Talavera, it's a region that provides almost mystical inspiration. One of her favorite places is an area she dubbed "Swallow Bridge," an unnamed bridge on Jalama Creek.

"I was out there in the evening in what we call the golden hour, the hour before sunset," she said. "I leaned over the bridge and this flock of swallows came up from underneath. It was just one of those magical moments."

For Talavera and the other artists of the Lompoc Ten, it's just one more story about why Jalama Road holds special significance. The 10 painters—Vicki Anderson, Jon Arnold, Diane Atturio, Trish Campbell, Alan Freeman, Linda Gooch, Elizabeth Monks Hack, Carol Oliveira, Talavera, and Ann Thompson—focused their skilled eyes on the 14-mile-long byway for a show at the Grossman Gallery in Lompoc that runs through Nov. 30.

The group (which traces its origins in the Lompoc Valley Art Association) has been meeting for the past several years to offer critiques and support of one another's work as well as network and discuss their craft. They had their first group exhibit in 2015, titled *Variations*, which featured a composite made of 10 paintings by each artist that all made up one landscape. This time the artists have chosen to focus on Jalama Road.

A skilled painter with a degree in Studio Art from the University of California Irvine, Hack pursued fashion as a career after graduation. She did a stint studying at Fashion Institute of Design at Merchandising in Los Angeles and traveled extensively before settling in Lompoc, where she taught art in local schools. It was through her work as an artist that she met Andersen.

"I delivered a lecture on tonal painting to the Lompoc Art Association," Hack said. "That gave one of its members, Vicki Andersen, the idea to create a small group of artists who were 'mad about painting.' The group would be a place to discuss painting joys, frustrations, technical issues, details, and discoveries."

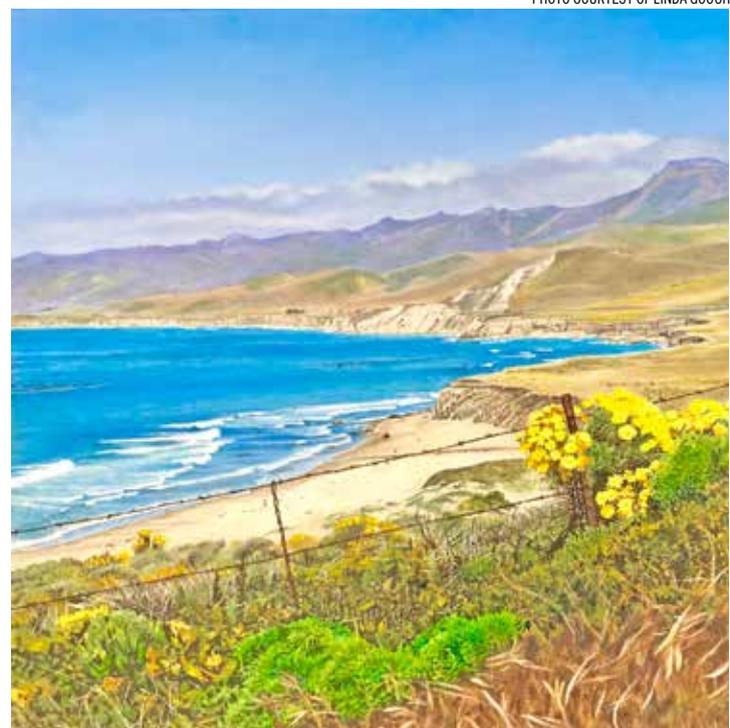
Hack said most of the members are involved with other local artistic groups that focus on issues outside of purely painting. Early on, the group decided to focus on just painting and to keep the size of the group at 10.

"It was felt that more than 10 members would diminish the focus on painting issues," Hack explained. "It was decided early to make this group very informal in structure. We have no governing body or rules, other than to eat, drink, and paint."

PHOTO COURTESY OF BETSEE TALAVERA



**WILLOW OR WON'T YOU GO:** Betsee Talavera's *Jalama Willows* is part of a new exhibit from the Lompoc Ten, a group of artists showcased at the Grossman Gallery in Lompoc throughout November.



**JALAMACARE:** Jalama: Highway to the Sea features paintings from artists known as the Lompoc Ten, including Linda Gooch's *Jalama View*. Gooch's work and pieces from the other artist are on display at the Grossman Gallery through Nov. 30.

Hack that said for her, the group helped her focus on painting and critique, an especially key area for most artists.

"It provides me with a support group of fellow artists who are able to critique each other's work in a positive context," she said. "Personally, what I like best about Lompoc Ten is to see what art surprises our members bring to the easel every month."

The Jalama exhibit sprang out of an idea to paint scenes from the eclectic road. Andersen had previously collaborated with Santa Barbara photographer Diblee Hoyt on an exhibit documenting Rancho San Julian. So the group embarked on a field trip to explore the area.

"We visited a working ranch to draw and take photographs," Hack said. "Although every aspect of the road is stunning, especially on a beautiful spring day, I connected with the age-old barns. I love the soft textures of the once-rigid geometries of architecture."

Painting almost exclusively in oil, Hack focuses on aging urban architecture and other elements that highlight the region's rich history. The barns and houses of Jalama Road are the subject of at least two of her paintings featured in the show.

The striking thing about the work of the Lompoc Ten is the diversity in the style and nature of the individual pieces. Some artists are more meticulous or realistic, whereas others incorporate more impressionist or modern styles.

Talavera loved to draw horses when she was young. She points to that time as the origins of her love of art. Her father had gone through the original Santa Barbara School of the Arts, which had opened in 1922 and closed in 1933. Art was an inherited passion and talent, and Talavera sought to pursue it until the realities of making a living as a commercial artist set in. She moved to Mexico for 10 years and later returned to the United States to work as a teacher, taking art classes in her free time as a hobby.

Now an avid and thriving acrylic painter, Talavera said she joined the Lompoc Ten five years ago through her membership with the Lompoc Valley Art Association. She said the association was filled with a variety of artists, including sculptors and other mixed media creators.

"A number of us just wanted to get together and paint," Talavera said. "Most of us [in the Lompoc Ten] are interested in landscape art. We just wanted to work in a certain area of interest so we decided to form a small group."

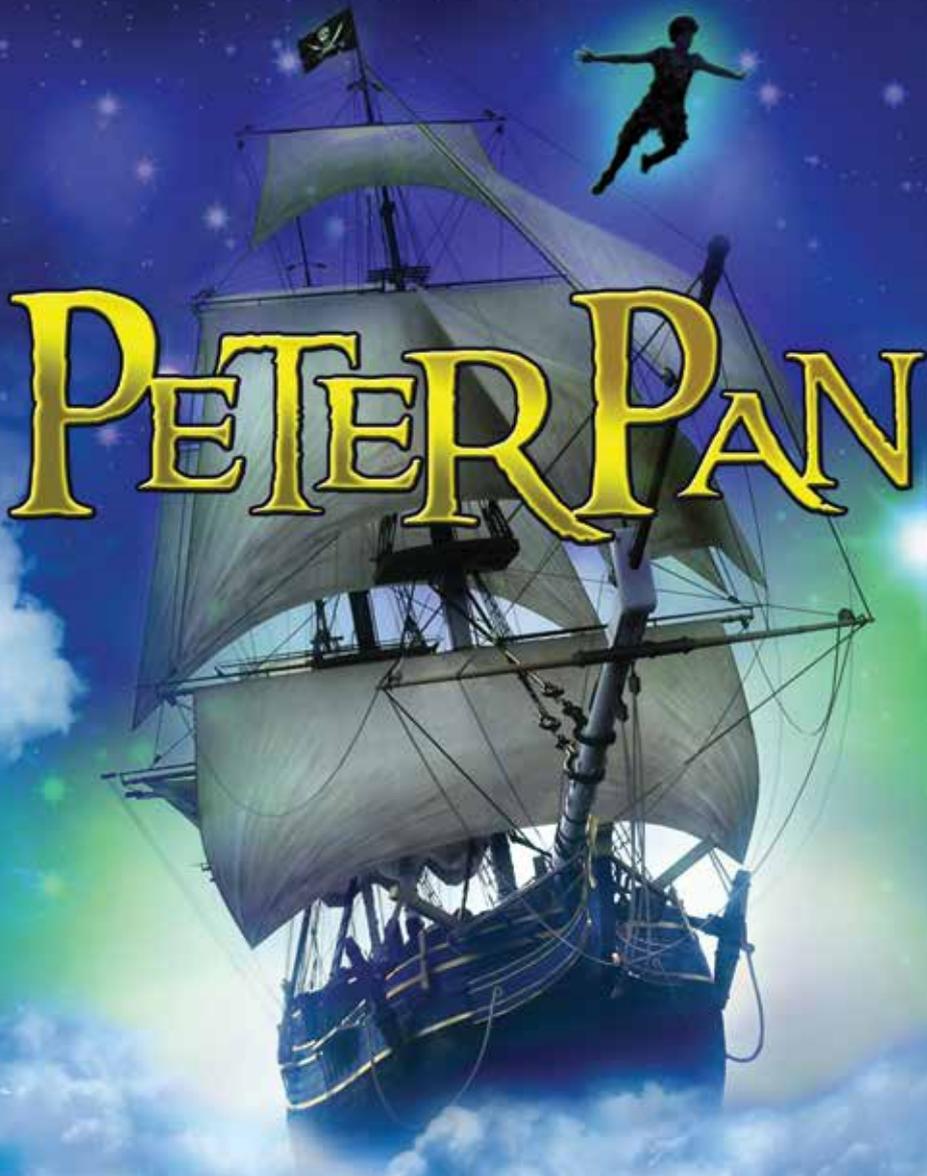
The group meets monthly, asking members to bring at least one piece to critique. Talavera said the group offers support when needed and talks about long-range projects and other ideas.

Critiques are vital to an artist's existence in many ways. While art is largely a solitary process, critiques allow painters and other artists to gain perspective on their work, getting a glimpse at how other eyes see their pieces. An artist can get caught up in the minutiae of their work and have trouble seeing the bigger picture, Talavera explained.

"We definitely want the truth," Talavera said. "It's all really helpful. We've all benefited greatly from the camaraderie and the creative energy." ○

Arts and Lifestyle Writer Rebecca Rose is on the road. Contact her at [rrose@santamariasun.com](mailto:rrose@santamariasun.com).

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The Los Padres Artist Guild Presents our Annual Christmas Show and Sale

**The Colors of Christmas**



**Fri., Nov. 2, 6:30 - 9pm**  
**Sat., Nov. 3, 10am - 5pm**  
**Sun., Nov. 4, 11am - 4pm**

Featuring a unique blend of art gallery & hand-crafted quality items created by local artists.

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Admission is free. Information: [www.lospadresartistguild.org](http://www.lospadresartistguild.org)

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PHOTO COURTESY OF CENTRAL COAST PARANORMAL INVESTIGATORS



**WHO YA GONNA CALL?** Central Coast Paranormal Investigators was launched in 2007 by Mitch Flores. Flores and his team have investigated haunted sites throughout the Central Coast and across the United States, including Waverly Hills Sanatorium in Louisville, Kentucky, which is considered to be one of the most haunted places in the world.

## Spooky business

*Ghost hunting is a seriously scary business in Santa Maria for Central Coast Paranormal Investigators*

BY REBECCA ROSE

Mitch Flores had his first paranormal experience when he was just 11 years old. "I had a paper route on the same path my mom and her friends would walk on a daily basis," Flores said. "I went by this house and there was an old man standing in an upstairs window of the house, staring down at the street towards me. He just looked not normal, he looked creepy." When he came home, he asked his mother if she knew who the old man was. His mother was taken aback by the question and told her young son that no one lived in that house. The last man who lived there died by hanging himself in a tree in the backyard.

Filled with intrigue, he snuck out late at night to return to the house where he had seen the strange man. He climbed through an open window, determined to find the old man he had seen. It sounds like a terrifying experience, but to Flores it was the beginning of a curiosity into the unexplained that would blossom into something bigger.

"At that time, I didn't relate 'ghost hunting,' to that," he said. "I was just a kid doing something interesting. Now I look back and think that was the first sign this is what I should be doing."

Flores now runs a business called Central Coast Paranormal Investigators (CCPI), a service that looks into strange phenomena and investigates possible possessions and hauntings. Since 2007, he and his team have explored reports of hauntings throughout the Central Coast and beyond, including the La Purisima Mission in Lompoc, the Adelaida Cemetery in Paso Robles, the Santa Maria Inn, and the site of the former Far Western Tavern in Guadalupe.

His team of specialists includes investigators Rob Burr and Helena Leathers, photographer Sandra Cortez, and occult specialist Tom Burbank. Clients of CCPI range from businesses looking to confirm or debunk rumors of hauntings to individuals who report unexplained phenomena in their homes or daily lives. Flores said they initially approach hauntings with a strong degree of skepticism, working at first to debunk the notion of something paranormal at work.

"We come in on a scientific level," he

### Scare town

Central Coast Paranormal Investigations is based in Santa Maria. For more information, [ccpinvestigators.com](http://ccpinvestigators.com) or email [mitchflores@ccpinvestigators.com](mailto:mitchflores@ccpinvestigators.com).

said. "We try to disprove their claims in a rational way. Then if we can't, then we turn to investigating it as a paranormal incident."

The team uses tools such as electromagnetic field meters (EMFs) and electronic voice phenomenon recorders (EVPs) to help detect and record signs of spirit activity. They also use night vision cameras and glasses but also rely heavily on their own instincts and physical sensations.

"When you get the random goosebumps," he said. "When the hair stands up on your body, something is causing that. Our biggest tool is our body, and we use the other equipment as a confirmation of what we sense."

One of the team's first investigations was also one of their most haunted. In 2008, Flores got the Far Western Tavern in Guadalupe to allow them into their business overnight. (The restaurant has since moved its location to Orcutt.) Over the course of their research, CCPI recorded dozens of EVPs of possible apparitions.

The team got the recordings by asking basic questions, such as the names of the spirits they encountered. One presence told them she was a little girl named Melissa. Another EVP recording captured a little boy and little girl who were trying to play hide and seek with Flores. Then they stumbled upon something more sinister.

"We captured a very angry cowboy in one of the bathrooms," Flores said. "We had a ball we were rolling, thinking it was for the children we detected. And then a very evil voice called out that it didn't like the ball."

While the ghost stories are chilling, in actuality, most of CCPI's cases do not produce evidence of paranormal activity. Flores said, oftentimes, reports of hauntings or spiritual phenomena can turn out to be manifestations of personal anxiety or stress, causing people to read into things they may see or hear.

"The holidays are especially tough," Flores said. "For some people, it's the most depressing time of the year. People are going through financial or emotional issues. So you tend to see things that can be more rationally explained than not."

Flores, who still finds himself amazed by but not scared of the entities he investigates, said that part of the reason he does his work is to help clients find closure.

"Most people just want to know if they're crazy or not," he said. "They just want validation." ○

Arts and Lifestyle Writer Rebecca Rose will haunt you all. Contact her at [rrrose@santamariasun.com](mailto:rrrose@santamariasun.com).

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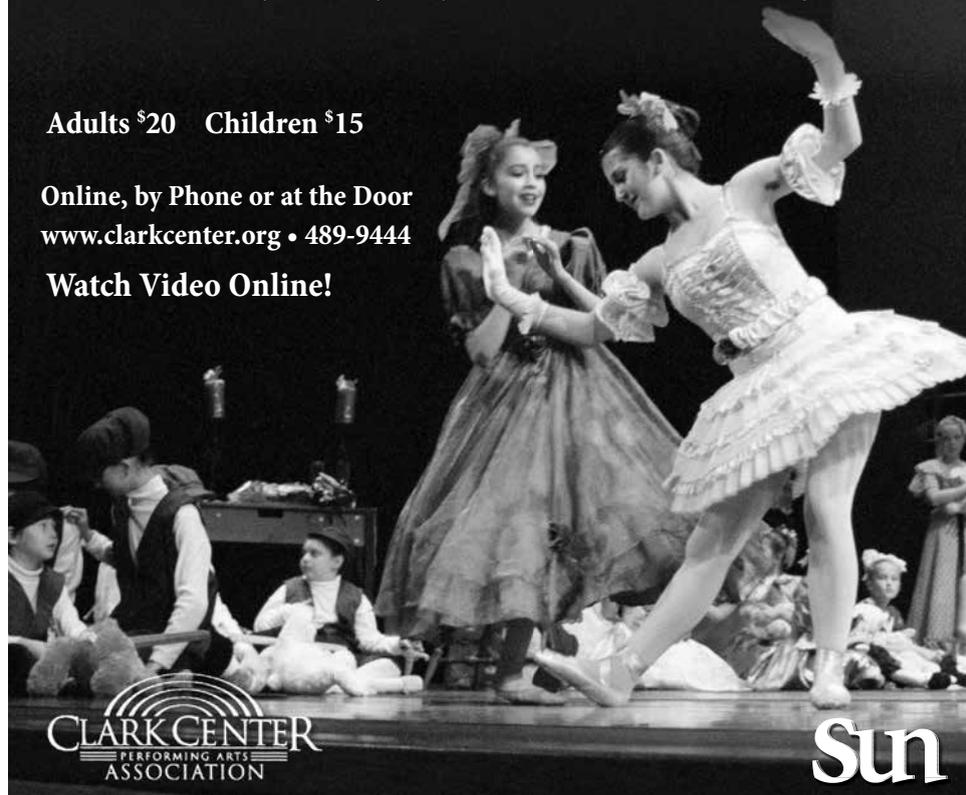
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# Hallo-nope

Rebecca is done with scary movies

BY REBECCA ROSE

Halloween is finally over and I say thank goodness. Not because I don't like the holiday or enjoy overdosing on novelty candy, believe me I do. But I'm finally through another season of marathon-watching scary movies.

I watch my fair share of horror flicks throughout the year, mostly the artsy kind where *the real monster was your inner feeling of self-doubt and existential dread all along*. I fancy myself a connoisseur of horror, but that's just a lie I tell people to seem edgy and not like a boring 44-year-old woman who has to cover her eyes during intense parts of *Murder She Wrote*. Mostly I hate to love horror. Gore freaks me out, serial killer movies give me nightmares for weeks on end, and demon/ghost possession movies send me into paranoid tantrums in the middle of the night, convinced that ghosts are hiding under my bed.

Actually come to think of it, I'd mostly be embarrassed by that last one because underneath my bed is not very tidy. This is where we shove random dog toys and laundry we wish to disown, not somewhere I want strange apparitions hanging out and silently judging my cleaning habits.

My fiance prefers horror films that seem like they were made by 6-year-old boys who were given a can of Play-Doh, a box of crayons, and \$7 million to make their ideal scary movie.

Everything he likes centers on sharks, often robotic or mutated with other ancient animals like dinosaurs. In the past few years of our soon-to-be wedded bliss, I have endured the following films, all in the name of true love: *Sharktopus*, *Mega Shark Versus Giant Octopus*

(for crying out loud), *2-Headed Shark Attack*, *Ghost Shark*, *Shark Night*, and of course obviously *3-Headed Shark Attack*.

I am always given strong impassioned lectures on par with something one might hear on the floor of the Senate defending the rights of orphaned babies with typhoid fever to convince me to watch these works of cinematic art. "It is so important and vital that we watch and support *Mega Shark Versus Crocosaurus!* It's the moral and just thing to do."

I end up wasting almost two hours of my life watching a collection of idiots pretend that splashing around in open waters recently polluted with radiation/alien space rays/ Carmen Electra is a good idea.

So it was in the interest of being a good sport that I agreed to jump headfirst into October scare-a-thons in the interest of keeping my relationship strong. Our scariest month is a time when all the classic horror films are featured and often on sale/available for rent at a lower price. It's a time of year to dust off everything from *The Exorcist* to *House of a Thousand Corpses*.

It's not like we have to look that far for said material either. My fiance has a box of horror movies and I don't know why ("No, everything is not 'already online,' Rebecca. Show me *Horror Shark Clown from Hell?* Is that on Hulu? OK then."). When we moved he suggested keeping a box set of all the *Nightmare on Elm Street* DVDs in favor of a box with my christening gown and irreplaceable photos of my childhood.

So once again all the scary movies are boxed away, not to be looked at for another year, until I'm ready to pretend that I'm not scared to death of ghosts living in my attic. The shark movies, however, I'll have to continue to deal with year round. ☹

Rebecca Rose is somewhere cowering in fear. Contact her at [rrrose@santamariasun.com](mailto:rrrose@santamariasun.com).



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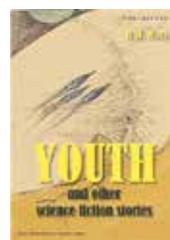
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## Film Reviews

Editor's note: Santa Maria 10 (805-347-1164) films and show times were unavailable at press time.

### BOHEMIAN RHAPSODY

What's it rated? **PG-13**  
 Where's it showing? **Movies Lompoc, Parks Plaza**  
**NEW** Bryan Singer (*The Usual Suspects*, *X-Men*, *Superman Returns*) directs this biopic about Freddie Mercury (Rami Malek) and Queen, chronicling the band's rise to super stardom, Mercury's solo career and AIDS diagnosis, and their triumphant reunion and spellbinding performance at the 1985 Live Aid concert. (134 min.)  
 —Glen Starkey

### HALLOWEEN

What's it rated? **R**  
 What's it worth? **Matinee**  
 Where's it showing? **Movies Lompoc, Parks Plaza**  
**PICK** David Gordon Green (*Snow Angels*, *Pineapple Express*, *Joe*) co-writes and directs this sequel to John Carpenter's *Halloween* (1978). Completely erasing the continuity of the original film's seven sequels, serial killer Michael Myers has been locked up for 40 years. Meanwhile, Laurie Strode (Jamie Lee Curtis), the sole survivor of the Haddonfield Halloween murders, has been preparing for the day he should ever escape and inevitably come after her. Sloppy writing and inconsistent retconning aside, *Halloween* is worth watching for the things it does right. The performances, score, and overall atmosphere are on par with the original, making it a worthy homage. But the best homages still leave room for originality. This one leaves a tiny bit. It's obvious how much Green and company love the material, but they cross the line between reverence and flat-out plagiarism too often. Still, the predator-becomes-the-prey motif pays off quite well and Curtis wielding a shotgun hunting down Myers is worth the price of admission alone. (106 min.)  
 —Caleb Wiseblood

### HUNTER KILLER

What's it rated? **R**  
 What's it worth? **Rent it**  
 Where's it showing? **Movies Lompoc, Parks Plaza**  
 Donovan Marsh (*Spud*, *Spud 2: The Madness Continues*, *Avenged*) directs Gerard Butler as Capt. Joe Glass, a Navy lifer who dives into the depths of Russian waters to stop a rogue Russian military man from starting World War III. *Hunter Killer* is less concerned with originality, as it feels similar to *Olympus Has Fallen*. It has the same producers, so what do you know? The United States seems to be in some kind of peril and in comes Butler to save the day in an action-packed drama. But there are so many oddities about this film that it's hard to stay engaged for two hours while Navy SEALs fight to protect America in a submarine. The film follows the USS *Arkansas*, a sub captained by

FILM REVIEWS continued page 33

### SCORING

**FULL PRICE**... It's worth the full price of an evening showing  
**MATINEE**..... Save a few bucks, catch an afternoon showing  
**RENT IT**..... It's worth a rental  
**STREAM IT**..... Wait 'til Netflix has it  
**NOTHING**..... Don't waste your time

# Wicked, wild West

**C**o-writer/director Jacques Audiard (*Dheepan*, *Rust and Bone*, *A Prophet*) helms this adventure-comedy-crime story set in 1851 Oregon, and based on Patrick DeWitt's novel. John C. Reilly and Joaquin Phoenix star as Eli and Charlie Sisters, two notorious assassins in pursuit of gold prospector Hermann Kermit Warn (*Riz Ahmed*), who's been taken under the wing of scout John Morris (*Jake Gyllenhaal*). Unfortunately, Eli begins to question his "profession," while Warn hopes to offer an alternative to his death. (121 min.)

**Glen:** What a brutal, unforgiving world Eli and Charlie Sisters find themselves in. The Old West that Audiard conjures up reminds me of the work of Sam Peckinpah (*The Wild Bunch*, *Straw Dogs*, *Bring Me the Head of Alfredo Garcia*)—dark, violent, and absurd. The film opens with a nighttime gunfight, fiery discharges lighting up the blackness. The Sisters are remorseless, and they're under the command of The Commodore (Rutger Hauer), a classic Old West villain who takes what he wants. The Sisters' next mission is to find Warn and kill him, but not until they've extracted a formula he's developed to find river gold. They head south out of Oregon, discovering that The Commodore's scout John Morris has taken up with Warn instead of holding him for their arrival. Next they come upon the dangerous town of Mayfield, where they meet the town's namesake (Rebecca Root), every bit as vicious as The Commodore. Eventually they catch up with Warn and Morris near San Francisco. Along the way, we get to know introspective Eli and reckless, hard-drinking Charlie, who squabble along the way. They've had an impossibly hard life and know of no other way to get by than with gun in hand. Even though they're murderers, Charlie being especially awful, I couldn't help but sympathize with them. This is a cutthroat world, and those they dispatch are just as unsavory. In stark contrast to the Sisters is the educated and philosophical Morris, and the idealist Warn, who dreams of creating a utopian world of true egalitarian democracy. It's a story about the horrors of the real world and the dream of a perfect world—one too terrible to survive, the other too good to be true.  
**Anna:** It certainly is a harsh world in the Old West, and Charlie and Eli have chosen a

particularly nasty line of work that affords them little time for rest and an inherent distrust of the world around them. I was surprised that I hadn't heard more about this film when it came to SLO. It has four very billable actors as leads and a shoot-'em-up storyline to keep the action rolling. Reilly and Phoenix are a good match as the outlaw brothers—while they work together seamlessly in the midst of a gunfight, their personal relationship is a lot messier. Charlie is a drunk just like their pa; Eli is the put-upon older brother who yearns for a simpler life sans a murderous career. When the brothers finally track down Warn and Morris, the idea of

a different life starts to settle in, but nothing goes quite right for these two outlaws, and Charlie's erratic ways soon lead to more trouble. This is the kind of Western I like—there're plenty of gunfights and squinty-eyed cowboys staring each other down, but there's a story here

and not an oversimplified one. It may have quiet moments but it doesn't get boring. A nice balance is struck between bloody battles and crisp, beautiful, quiet moments out on the plains.  
**Glen:** Since I'm unfamiliar with the book upon which it's based, I had no idea where the story was going, and it certainly went to a lot of unexpected places. Both brothers endure some truly horrible ordeals, in Eli's case through bad luck, and in Charlie's case through reckless stupidity. Some of it plays out like a horror film. At heart, however, it's the story of family. Charlie's a terrible person and Eli has been taking care of him his whole life, sticking by him regardless of what stupid mistakes he makes. To an outsider, Charlie's irredeemable, but Eli knows how and why Charlie is who he is. Eli doesn't blame Charlie even though he's clearly exasperated by the drinking and aggression. It's a very unusual Western, sort of in the vein of *The Missouri Breaks* (1976), and director Audiard mixes classic Western vistas with the sort of dark, dirty horrors of *A Man Called Horse* (1970). There have been a few good Westerns lately: *Hostiles* (2017), *The Ballad of Lefty Brown* (2017), contemporary Westerns *Wind*

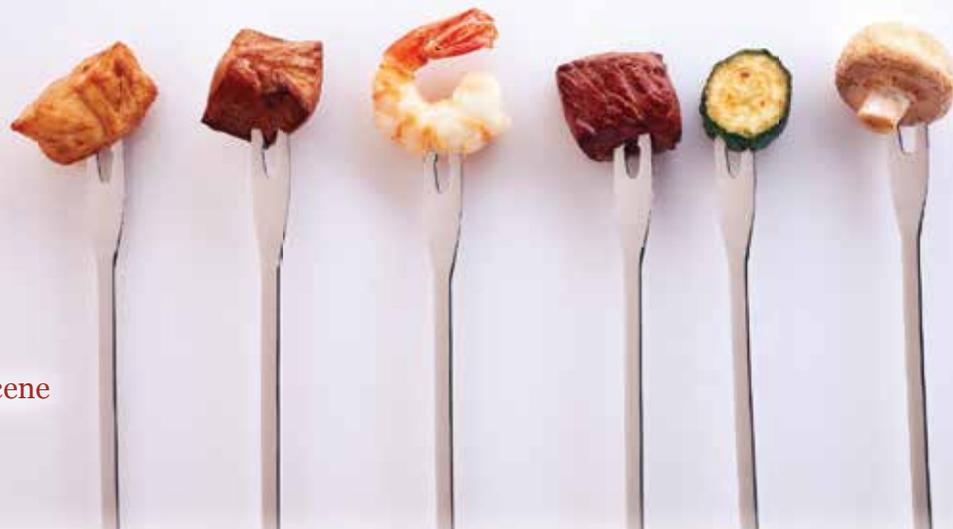


**BROTHER'S KEEPER:** Eli Sisters (John C. Reilly, standing) seems to always be keeping his reckless younger brother, Charlie (Joaquin Phoenix), out of trouble.

*River* (2017) and *Hell or High Water* (2016), *In a Valley of Violence* (2016), *The Revenant* (2015), and *Django Unchained* (2012) spring to mind. It's hard to know which films will stand the test of time and become iconic like *The Ox-Bow Incident* (1943), *High Noon* (1952), or *Shane* (1953), but if you love Westerns as much as I do, *The Sisters Brothers* is absolutely worth the price of admission. As a bonus, you get an amazing Carol Kane as the brothers' mother Mrs. Sisters. It's a small but essential role, and it perfectly caps this surprising and affecting story.  
**Anna:** The short time that we get to spend with Mrs. Sisters and her two boys is precious, and Kane plays the tough but motherly woman with tenderness. I loved the ending of this film. As someone who is personally pretty tight with siblings, I can tell you that the loving but exasperated relationship between Charlie and Eli is very much relatable, just brought to an extreme. That whole concept of "you can't choose your family" plays across Eli's face every time he's forced to deal with Charlie's terrible decisions. As you said, he knows the reasons behind Charlie's faults and most certainly feels guilt for not being able to protect his little brother from the world's evils. Reilly and Phoenix seemed a bit of an odd pairing to me at first, mostly because I think of Reilly as a comedy guy through and through. This is a great reminder that he holds more cards than that. If this were playing at a multiplex-type theater, I may say hit a matinee, but the Palm's pricing is so good that there's no reason not to hit this one up day or night. It's an entertaining and style-savvy ride through the Old West, and a sad yet sweet family story at heart. ○

*Sun Screen* is written by *New Times* Senior Staff Writer Glen Starkey and his wife, Anna. Comment at [gstarkey@newtimeslo.com](mailto:gstarkey@newtimeslo.com).

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By Rebecca Rose

# Sun

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**JUST A GIRL:** Young Clara (Mackenzie Foy) is transported to a magical world built by her mother, where she must work to save it from destruction, in *The Nutcracker and the Four Realms*.

**FILM REVIEWS** from page 32

Glass to investigate the sinking of another ship by Russians. Instead, he finds himself in the middle of an international crisis. Russian President Zakarin (Alexander Diachenko) is overthrown by his own Defense Minister Dmitri Durov (Mikhail Gorevoy), and the sub's investigation turns into a rescue mission, but any wrong move could be misinterpreted and inadvertently start another world war. Halfway into the movie, we're introduced to a group of four Marines who are sent to Russia to figure out what's going on with the Russian president.

The scenes are very busy as it jumps from the Pentagon, where Rear Admiral John Fisk (Common) and the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff (Gary Oldman) argue about how to proceed with the mission; to the Barents Sea inside the

submarine with Glass and his crew; and on the ground with a group of Marines fighting to save the Russian president. Are you still following?

Not to mention there isn't any character building for Glass (or any of the characters, for that matter). He continuously makes it known that he's just one of the crewmembers, not some hotshot from the Naval Academy. He doesn't do much other than bark orders, furrow his brow, and not bat an eye while commanding his ship.

To top it all off, during the investigation of the unaccounted for submarine, Glass learns that Russians attacked the sub. His crew also finds another Russian sub that's been compromised but is still holding survivors. So being the all-American that Glass is, he risks the lives of his crew to save those of the "enemy." After rescuing the Russian captain and a few remaining crewmembers, he and Glass put their differences

aside to work together to save the Russian president.

*Hunter Killer* puts you in a delightful alternate reality where people can actually act like humans with dignity and professionalism to help one another in desperate times of need. But that's something that military movies usually do: hone in on this fantasy of the good in people—and then good triumphs evil. It's something I guess we all need to believe in but that doesn't really exist.

It's also such a murky concept to release a movie that embraces collaboration with the Russians (123 min.)

—Karen Garcia

**INCREDIBLES 2**

What's it rated? **R**

What's it worth? **Full price**

Where's it showing? **Hi-Way Drive-In**

**PICK** Writer-director Brad Bird helms this exciting animated sequel about a family with superhero powers, forbidden by law to use their special gifts. Perhaps with the help of the wealthy Deavor siblings, their public image will be repaired enough to allow them a return to crime fighting. (118 min.)

—Glen Starkey

**THE NUTCRACKERS AND THE FOUR REALMS**

What's it rated? **PG**

Where's it showing? **Hi-Way Drive-In, Movies Lompoc, Parks Plaza**

**NEW** Lasse Hallström (*What's Eating Gilbert Grape*, *The Cider House Rules*, *A Dog's Purpose*) and Joe Johnston (*Honey, I Shrunk the Kids*; *Jumanji*; *Captain America: The First Avenger*) co-direct this family adventure fantasy about a young girl named Clara (Mackenzie Foy) who's transported to a magical world built by her mother. (109 min.)

—Glen Starkey

**A STAR IS BORN**

What's it rated? **R**

What's it worth? **Full price**

Where's it showing? **Parks Plaza**

**PICK** Co-writer, director, and co-star Bradley Cooper helms this remake of *A Star Is Born* (first released in 1937 and later remade in 1954 and 1976). In this iteration, Cooper stars as Jackson Maine, a famous musician whose star is waning as he discovers talented but insecure singer Ally (Lady Gaga). As Jack battles alcoholism and his own decline, he helps Ally find the strength to let her talent shine. (135 min.)

—Glen Starkey

Sun movie reviews are compiled by New Times Senior Staff Writer Glen Starkey. Contact him at [gstarkey@newtimeslo.com](mailto:gstarkey@newtimeslo.com).

**BATMAN FOREVER**

When? **1995**

What's it rated? **PG-13**

Where's it available? **DVD, Amazon, iTunes**

I'm writing about Joel Schumacher's *Batman Forever* this week because my editor, alleged Stanford graduate and human labrador retriever, Peter Johnson, said I couldn't write an entire column about Seal's two music videos for "Kiss From A Rose" (yes, there are two).

I think I was 5 when I first saw *Batman Forever*, and it definitely was the first Batman movie I watched all the way through. The only other one I'd seen up to that point was in fractured segments and it had Danny DeVito dressed up as a murderous goth penguin that

PHOTO COURTESY OF WARNER BROS. PICTURES



**SEAL OF APPROVAL:** *Batman Forever* may not have Danny DeVito, but it does have Jim Carrey and a song by Seal that plays over the closing credits. And sometimes that's all you need.

kept trying to kill Michael Keaton.

Danny DeVito is scary enough to a toddler before you smear a bunch of white foundation all over his face and surround him with flightless ice birds.

But this movie doesn't have Danny DeVito. It has Tommy Lee Jones, Val Kilmer, and Jim Carrey, all of whom were apparently so annoying on set that Schumacher vowed to never work with any of them again. Despite this, he and Carrey did *The Number 23* a few years later, so maybe it was just that Val Kilmer is as hard to work with as some in Hollywood claim, and Tommy Lee Jones really is a dick. According to Carrey, Jones told him he "hated him and all his movies" when they first met, and anyone willing to say that to Jim Carrey is probably an asshole. This might be why Jones was considered a perfect fit for the role of Two-Face because his character seems to dislike everyone. Well, at least before he develops some creepy relationship with Carrey's Riddler that is borderline bromance, but really leans toward disturbing.

Nicole Kidman is in this movie and she honestly deserves way more credit than she gets for pulling out a solid performance while dealing with Tommy Lee Jones being a grouchy old curmudgeon and Carrey allegedly accidentally breaking prop canes and furniture trying to stay in character.

My two favorite tidbits of trivia for *Batman Forever* are: 1) All the riddles delivered by Carrey were written by Will Shortz, the editor for *The New York Times* crossword puzzle and 2) Director Joel Schumacher asked singer/artist/

**BLAST FROM THE PAST**

Heidi Klum-hater Seal to shoot a second music video for his song, "Kiss From A Rose."

Growing up I was told "Kiss From A Rose" was written specifically for Batman. But after a cursory glance at the lyrics you will learn that "Kiss From A Rose" has nothing to do with Batman. In fact, I'm not even sure Seal knows what it's about. "I have avoided explaining these lyrics for over 25 years," he told fans on the website Genius in 2015. "I am not going to start doing it now."

I don't blame him. But I'm thankful that Schumacher talked Seal into filming a second music video where he just lip syncs next to the Bat Signal while footage from the movie plays over it.

My point here is the first version wasn't even released for a year or so, and it involved Seal as a photographer taking pictures of a supermodel. It comes across as an Austin Powers scene without any humor and a lot of bad lighting. The videos are parallel opposites in this sense because it's impossible to be poorly lit in front of a gigantic searchlight with a bat emblazoned on the front.

There are a lot of terrible things in the world, but both versions of "Kiss From A Rose" do not fall in that ever-widening category. *Batman Forever*'s OK too, I guess.

—Spencer Cole



**Live at Central Park (revisited)**  
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## Papa's best

*Papa Napoli still delivers on classic Italian deli fare*

BY REBECCA ROSE

I love to try new things. In my role here, I'm always looking to find the newest places to spotlight, hoping to give readers some fun fresh culinary ideas. But sometimes, I like to go back and visit the classics.

That's what brought me into Papa Napoli's in Santa Maria. I have some pretty fond memories of coming here when my sister lived in Orcutt. We used to take my nephew here or sometimes I'd get takeout and eat at Waller Park. There's



**HELLUVA MORTADELLA:** Mortadella is part of the Papa's Combinazione sandwich, served at Papa Napoli's restaurant in Santa Maria.



**GIVE THIS MINISTRONE A TONY:** Papa Napoli's makes their signature minestrone soup with a beef and chicken base, resulting in a hearty and flavorful soup.

### A longtime favorite

Papa Napoli is open at 325 Betteravia Road, suite B9, Santa Maria. For more information, call (805) 928-7272.

something really soothing and familiar about traditional deli food. It's unfussy yet packed with complex flavors. It immediately reminds me of my youth, before fast food restaurants took over every nook and cranny of our urbanescapes. My Austrian-Hungarian mother had a penchant for poppyseed kaiser rolls smothered in thick Bavarian mustards and loaded with her favorite Italian deli meats such as mortadella, salami, and speck.

After 36 years in business, the family-owned restaurant is still on top of their game. Yelp reviewers rave about the meatball parmigiana and the intimate feel inside the deli. I haven't had Papa Napoli's in more than a decade, so I thought I would revisit it to see if it still holds up.

I don't think the menu has changed much since I was here last. To break tradition, I'll start by discussing their desserts, which include cheesecake and chocolate mousse cake, which is something I just now realized exists and is glorious. But it's the cannoli that you can't leave without. Crispy pastry with sweet ricotta cheese filling, Papa Napoli's cannoli is distinctive and subtle, a nice way to end a meal (I definitely did not eat mine before my sandwiches came, no sir).

The main focus of Papa Napoli's is deli submarine-style sandwiches, served hot or cold. These sub sandwiches are also offered in half-sizes for \$5.49, which makes it easier to try different kinds. Make sure to grab some mustard at the counter, because the sandwiches come with just provolone cheese, shredded lettuce, tomatoes, red onion, and a pepperoncini. The restaurant's own Italian dressing is also added, giving a nice acidic brightness to the heartier meats and cheese.

I went straight for the warm pastrami sandwich, which I had never tried before but had heard and read good things about. I was not disappointed. Pastrami is one of those things every region does a little differently. It's meant to be spicy and smoky and complements a robust mustard really well. Papa Napoli's pastrami is fatty and has a smoky peppery flavor throughout. It practically melted in my mouth and is one of their stronger menu options.

Another sandwich I tried was the Papa's Combinazione, a traditional Italian combination with capocollo, salami, and mortadella. Mortadella is such an underrated and misunderstood meat. Hailing from Bologna and sometimes mistaken for the meat of the same name "but with green stuff in it,"



**PASTRAMI TSUNAMI:** Papa Napoli's opened in 1982 in Santa Maria, and since then they've stuck to Italian deli classics, like hot pastrami, a standout on their menu.

mortadella is made of the finest bits of pork with fat and a distinct layer of spice. Green olives or pistachios are often added to the meat as well. A good slice of mortadella will be silky and have a strong taste of pork.

Other hot subs include the meatball parmigiano, loaded with Papa Napoli's housemade sauce and meatballs, and also a vegetarian option made with melted cheese, mushrooms, artichokes, and olives (skip the cheese and it's a vegan option as well). Cold sub options include liverwurst (which while not Italian is still a very popular traditional deli offering), corned beef, capocollo, tuna salad, turkey, and roast beef. Full sized subs

start at \$8.49 and go up to \$10.99. I thought the half-size was filling enough for me, especially if you add sides such as potato salad, chips, or minestrone soup—and about that minestrone.

Minestrone soup is a traditional Italian dish made with a lot of vegetables and pasta. There are some disagreements about how a true minestrone is prepared. Some purists say that beans make the best base while others opt for chicken or beef. At Papa Napoli's, their house-made minestrone is made with a beef and chicken base. The resulting flavor is a very rich tomato taste that isn't too spicy or mellow.

EATS continued page 35

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# Public Workshop Notice Unmet Transit Needs

Santa Maria Area Transit (SMAT) is inviting the public to workshops on Unmet Transit Needs. As a requirement of the State of California Transportation Development Act (TDA), SMAT conducts an annual public input meeting to improve existing service and to identify future needs. The City of Santa Maria currently uses 100 percent of its TDA funds for public transportation.

## Two public workshop will be held:

**Date:** Tuesday, November 6, 2018

**Time:** 1st Workshop: 12:00 p.m.  
2nd Workshop: 5:30 p.m.

**Where:** Santa Maria Public Library  
Shepherd Hall, 1st Floor  
421 S. McClelland Street  
Santa Maria, CA

If you cannot attend the workshop, but would like to provide comments, please mail comments to the City of Santa Maria at 110 S. Pine Street, Suite 101, Santa Maria, CA 93458. Comments may also be emailed directly to Transit Coordinator Eustaquio Valdez at [evaldez@cityofsantamaria.org](mailto:evaldez@cityofsantamaria.org) or faxed to (805) 928-4995 with subject "Unmet Transit Needs". You can also call (805) 925-0951, ext. 2225 for more information or to provide comment. The last day to submit comments is Friday, November 16, 2018.

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, individuals needing special accommodations to participate in the meeting should contact SMAT at least three working days prior to the meeting at (805) 928-5624. A Spanish translator will be available at the hearing.

Favor de llamar a SMAT al 925-0951, ext. 2170 para más información sobre esta reunión.

**EATS** from page 34

The texture is a bit lighter than the minestrone I'm more accustomed to but to turn a phrase, I wouldn't kick Papa Napoli's minestrone out of bed for having crackers.

OK, that was awful, I'm sorry. But at least know that Papa Napoli's is much better at Italian subs than I am at making goofy jokes. ○

Arts and Lifestyle Writer Rebecca Rose has a soul made of stone-ground mustard. Contact her at [rrose@santamariasun.com](mailto:rrose@santamariasun.com).



**FAMILY FEEL:** Papa Napoli's has been family-owned for the last 36 years in Santa Maria. Photos of the family adorn many of the walls inside the Italian deli.

## Rebeccamendations:

*What's new, what's fun, and what to try*

• **Tequila Mexican Restaurant** is now open in Buellton at the site of what used to be El Sitio. I'll be sharing more about them in the future, but for now you can check them out for yourself at **35 W. Highway 246**.

• Vegan cauliflower chowder at **Plenty on Bell** (pictured) is a work of art especially because it's hard to find a truly vegan soup at a lot of places. Grab a bowl (if they have it on special) at **508 Bell St., Los Alamos**.

• If you are looking for something ridiculously indulgent, try **Tower Pizza's** all meat pizza featuring red sauce, salami, pepperoni, ham, sausage, and ground beef. So many meats at **436 Alisal Road, Unit C, Solvang**.

• Fans of **Costa de Oro's** 2016 tempranillo and petite sirah take note. The Santa Maria winery made 50 cases of each one so if you want to secure yours, head down to **1331 Nicholson Ave., Santa Maria**.

• **The Bread Shop** in Solvang recently unveiled a new item: Mediterranean stuffed hand-rolls, filled with feta cheese. Cue the romantic music as we all swoon over this crispy puffy delight at **473 Atterdag Road**.

• It's the season for roasted root vegetables, and I could not be more excited. Farmers markets will be overflowing with carrots, parsnips, turnips, potatoes, rutabaga, and so much more. Here's what I do with my haul: I make roasted veggies with garlic and herbs, a super simple dish that can serve as a main dish or a side. Pick your favorite three (potatoes, turnips, and carrots make one of my favorite combos), peel and chop them up about even sizes, and spread them on greased sheet tray. Add about five to six smashed and peeled whole garlic cloves, coat everything with olive oil, and then add salt, pepper, about 1 to 2 teaspoons of cumin, and 1 tablespoon of Herbs de Provence. Roast for 20 minutes at 400 degrees, stir everything (to make sure nothing is sticking to the pan), roast for another 20 minutes and voila. Enjoy your roasted rooties. ○

PHOTO COURTESY OF PLENTY ON BELL



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**\$2395 940 Moonlite Drive** - 3 + 2.5, Sunrise Hills 2stry hm beautifully remodeled w/all new paint/carpet, ldry rm/hkups, u/s, 2car grg w/epoxy flr, lg covrd patio/yard, grdnr, no pets.

**\$2200 1722 Bilbao Drive** - 3 + 2.5, La Ventana 2stry condo in gated comm near hospital/101 frwy, vaulted ceilings, dbl loft, kit granite ctrs, F/R, F/P, 2car grg, patio, pool/club privs inc, no pets.

**\$2195 225 Stubbs Lane** - 3 + 2.5, Orcutt 1stry hm next to Waller Pk, dual stack stone F/P, remod'd kitchen/granite ctrs, fridge, ldry rm inc w/d, 2car grg, yd/grdnr, no pets.

**\$2050 1141 Shady Glen** - 3 + 2, Orcutt 1stry hm w/ hrdwd flrs and crpt in bdrms, L/R, F/P, D/R, 2car grg, w/d hkups, RV pkg, yd/grdnr, no pets.

**\$1950 734 Dahlia Place** - 3 + 2, Orcutt 1stry hm w/RV pkg, separate side grg, 2car grg, L/R, F/R, ldry/craft room, lg bdrms, yd/grdnr, no pets.

**\$1895 1135 Via Mavis** - 2 + 2, Creekridge Villas 1stry condo in Orcutt, gated comm, new wood lam flrs thru-out, lg mstr ste, lattice cov'd patio, 2car grg, pool privs, no pets.

**\$1450 545 Pinal Avenue #B** - 2 + 1, Old Orcutt 1stry apt in 4-plex, eat-in kit, w/d hkups, 1 car alloc pkg, patio, water pd, no pets.

**\$1450 321 Inger Drive #H73** - 2 + 2, Las Palmas u/s condo w/fridge, w/d hkups in utility closet off balcony, trash pd, 2cars mas, pool privs, no pets.



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**\$1500 923 E. Cypress Avenue** - 2 + 1.5, 2stry townhm, quiet, prvt, 2 car attach grg, living & dining area w/F/P, slider doors to sm prvt patio, newer crpt & paint thruout, no pet or smoking.

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