

SUN

Food & Drink

AT THE MOVIES



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Hitting the road

Local food trucks take good eats to the streets [15]

BY REBECCA ROSE



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JUNE 7 - JUNE 14, 2018 VOL. 19 NO. 14



FOOD TRUCK FRESH: Chrystal Trenado, left, and Sarah Crean, right, prepare fresh food in the Cubanissimo food truck, which serves hungry customers across the Central Coast.

SPECIAL THANKS TO OUR SPONSORS!



Some of the Central Coast's most up-and-coming eateries don't need a restaurant in wine country — they're on the go. The food truck craze didn't turn out to be a fad, and local entrepreneurs are starting up their own mobile eateries or enjoying long-term success after lots of hard work. For this week's cover story, and to begin our annual Food and Drink issue, Arts and Lifestyle Writer Rebecca Rose caught up with local food truck operators and learned how mobile meals changed their lives [15]. Also, as part of Food and Drink, local cannabis users have more choices than ever for their edibles [19], and the International Wine Film Festival comes to Santa Maria [22].

Also this week, check out our coverage of local election results [4], questions remain after a claim over a woman hit and killed by a Santa Maria bus was denied by the city [8], a local country singer will open Concerts in the Park [32], a famous LA poet will read her verse live in Orcutt [36], a Grover Beach ceramics program is in its own league [38], and hot dogs pair well with wine in Los Olivos [42].

Joe Payne,
Managing Editor

Cover photo by Jayson Mellom > Cover design by Alex Zuniga

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PUBLIC HEARING

to solicit input regarding

The Santa Maria Valley Management Area

2017 Annual Report of Hydrogeologic Conditions, Water Requirements, Supplies and Disposition

Prepared by Luhdorff and Scalmanini Consulting Engineers, April 2018, according to the terms of the June 30, 2005, Stipulation in the Santa Maria Valley Water Conservation District v. City of Santa Maria, et al.

Tuesday, June 12, 2018 • 2:00 p.m.
Santa Maria Board of Supervisors' Hearing Room
511 E. Lakeside Parkway, Santa Maria

For more information contact the Twitchell Management Authority at (805) 925-0951 extension 7270. For those that are unable to attend, written comments should be addressed to the attention of the Twitchell Management Authority, 2065 East Main Street, Santa Maria CA 93454. Written comments must be received by June 20, 2018, at 10:00 a.m.

The 2017 Annual Report of Hydrogeologic Conditions, Water Requirements, Supplies and Disposition is available at <http://bit.ly/TMAdocs>



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Political Watch

Just before midnight on June 5, Santa Barbara County posted its semi-official primary election results with 100 percent of precincts reporting on how county voters decided on statewide and county primary races, offices, and ballot measures. According to the results, there were 57,628 votes cast among the county's 206,110 registered voters. The following county figures reflect the semi-official results issued the evening of June 5.

Santa Barbara County voters closely mirrored statewide statistics for the race to replace California Gov. **Jerry Brown**. Of the more than 56,000 votes cast for the governor's race in the county, 33 percent chose Lt. Gov. **Gavin Newsom** (D) followed by 26 percent who voted for Republican businessman **John Cox**, where the statewide results compiled by *The New York Times* were 33 percent and 26 percent for Newsom and Cox, respectively. Hopeful Democrat **Antonio Villaraigosa** and Republican **Travis Allen** both received 11 percent of the vote in Santa Barbara County, with Villaraigosa earning 12 percent of the statewide vote and Allen seeing 10 percent of California's votes. County voters supported lieutenant governor candidate and Democrat **Eleni Kounalakis** with more than 13,000 votes, or nearly 25 percent, compared to 23 percent statewide.

U.S. Sen. **Dianne Feinstein** (D-California) received 45 percent of Santa Barbara County's votes on June 5 for her re-election bid, compared to 43 percent of the statewide vote, according to results compiled by *The New York Times*. Feinstein's Democratic challenger, state Sen. **Kevin de León** (D-Los Angeles), received only 8 percent of county votes, compared to nearly 11 percent statewide. Republican candidate **James Bradley** won 12 percent of votes in the county, with 9 percent of California's votes.

State Assemblymember **Jordan Cunningham** (R-San Luis Obispo) received 62 percent of the vote in the parts of Santa Barbara County that make up the 35th Assembly District, with hopeful Democratic challenger **Bill Ostrander** earning 37 percent. Across the entire 35th District—which includes SLO County and Santa Maria, Guadalupe, and Lompoc—Cunningham received 56 percent of the vote compared to Ostrander's 43 percent. The two candidates will continue to November, with Ostrander challenging Cunningham's incumbency.

State Assemblymember **Monique Limón** (D-Santa Barbara) dominated the top-two primary for California's 37th Assembly District, which includes Santa Ynez Valley, the rest of South County, and much of Ventura County. Of more than 28,000 Santa Barbara County residents who voted in the district's primary, 85 percent voted for Limón. Democratic challengers David Norrdin and Sofia Collin won 6 and 5 percent of the vote, respectively. Across the entire district, however, Limón earned 83 percent of the vote, whereas Norrdin won 10 percent and Collin won 6 percent. Norrdin will continue to November to challenge Limón for her Assembly seat.

A number of elected county positions were decided on June 5, including several uncontested races. The Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors will see **Steve Lavagnino** continue as 5th District supervisor after he received close to 5,000 votes with 98 percent of the vote. Uncontested candidate **Gregg Hart** will replace **Janet Wolf** as 2nd District supervisor after receiving 98 percent of the vote, with more than 11,000 votes. **Joseph E. Holland** will continue as the county's clerk-recorder-assessor after winning 87 percent of the county's votes to challenger **Baz Ofiaeli**'s 12 percent. District Attorney **Joyce Dudley** won 98 percent of the vote in her uncontested race to remain DA. **Harry Hagen** will continue on as the county's treasurer-tax-collector-public administrator with 99 percent of the vote.

A majority of Lompoc voters supported Measure Q, a bond measure for improvements and upgrades to the Lompoc Unified School District's schools, but not enough to pass the \$79 million bond. Achieving a simple majority by less than 50 votes, 3,266 Lompoc residents in the school district voted for the bond, whereas 3,228 voted against it. The bond measure required at least 55 percent of the vote to pass. ○

Brown blows by challengers

Sheriff Bill Brown will remain at the top of Santa Barbara County's Sheriff's Office following a decisive victory in the June 5 primary.

As of the *Sun*'s press time, the incumbent Brown had captured at least 50 percent of total votes, enough to prevent a second contest between him and Lt. Brian Olmstead in the November general election.

Olmstead, who announced his candidacy three months before the primary, pulled in more than 30 percent of total ballots cast but failed to pry enough votes away from Brown to force a runoff in the fall. He found some of his potential support syphoned away by Lt. Eddie Hsueh, who despite running a campaign that spent and raised less than a combined \$10,000, managed to snag 14 percent of the vote.

Olmstead ran a more effective political machine in terms of finances than Hsueh, raising around \$124,000 and spending nearly all of it on TV, radio, and print ads in an attempt to oust Brown, who's held the office for almost 12 years. Sheriff Brown outraised and outspent his two opponents by wide margins throughout the campaign. He ultimately raised more than a quarter million dollars to retain his position and spent at least \$170,000 on a combination of ads and political consulting firms.

At his election party in Santa Barbara on June 5, Brown told the *Sun* the night's results were a reflection of his past four years as sheriff.

"I don't believe anything's happened between the last election and now that would have caused voters to massively change their minds," he said, adding he was proud for receiving bipartisan support ranging from the local level to Gov. Jerry Brown and Sen. Dianne Feinstein (D-California). Those kind of endorsements are humbling, he added, but are also a reflection of the job.

"This is a nonpartisan position," he said. "I protect everybody in this community. It doesn't matter what your political affiliation is, your religious beliefs, your sexual orientation, or immigration status—none of that matters. We protect everybody here and we're proud to do that, and I think most people get that."

During the campaign, Brown's opponents questioned his and the Sheriff Office's relationship with the county Board of Supervisors. Olmstead even went as far to blame the staffing shortages on Brown's mandatory overtime policy at the Santa Barbara County Jail and inability to get funding from the board to keep positions and their wages competitive. The county's Deputy Sheriff's Association eventually endorsed Olmstead as a rebuke to Brown's practices.

The Sheriff's Office has lost 90 positions since 2007 due to budget cuts, and Brown said the work those positions did "hasn't gone away." Answering the criticism on election night, Brown pointed to his support from 5th District Supervisor Steve Lavagnino and said the supervisors and his office would need to work together to solve their myriad financial issues, including finishing the North County jail, limiting deputy attrition, and reducing recidivism in the inmate population.

"We haven't always seen eye to eye on things, but the reality is that we are all going to have to work together to try to address some of these issues," he added. "The county has some tremendous financial issues and problems—and I recognize that—but on the same token, public safety is the most important job of government. We have to make sure we are supporting our people."

That also means repairing any frayed relationships with his deputies and members of their association. Brown said the office would need to work to make sure its levels of



PHOTO BY SPENCER COLE

RUNAWAY VOTE: Santa Barbara County Sheriff Bill Brown won't face a challenger in the November general election after capturing more than 50 percent of the vote in the June 5 primary. Pictured: Brown at his June election night party in Santa Barbara.

compensation are fair and market driven.

"We have to recognize we live in a county that's high cost of living, and it's hard for entry-level people coming in to be able to buy a house and make a living and put a root down here," he explained. "We're going to have to work hand-in-hand with the deputies and the union to try to see what can we do collectively to try to make things more manageable for people and better for people ... because ours are exhausted."

—Spencer Cole

Schaffer to be crowned county's auditor-controller

Longtime accountant Betsy Schaffer will take Theo Fallati's place as Santa Barbara County's auditor-controller in January 2019 after a substantial victory in the June 5 election.

Despite allegations of "self-dealing" and corruption from her challenger, assistant-auditor controller Schaffer beat out former county attorney and current Chief Investment Officer Jennifer Christensen by more than 26 percent of the vote.

"I just feel really, really appreciative," Schaffer said on June 5, shortly after many of the county's voting precincts reported semi-official election night results.

Schaffer, who was backed by several local Democratic organizations and politicians during her campaign, has worked off and on in the auditor-controller office for nearly 15 years.

On election night—just before heading to the Democratic election party at Casa Blanca Restaurant and Catina in Santa Barbara—Schaffer said she was extremely nervous.

But she took an early lead at about 8 p.m., when more than 57 percent of the vote-by-mail ballots turned out in her favor. That percentage hardly changed throughout the night and into the next morning as precincts continued reporting semi-official results.

Shortly after 8 a.m. on June 6, semi-official election night results showed Schaffer winning the race by 7,306 votes, and Christensen conceded in a written statement.

In the statement, Christensen thanked her supporters and said that despite the loss, her campaign message promoting integrity and honesty in Santa Barbara County would have a lasting impact.

Christensen, who began her work with the county as an attorney in the county counsel's office 16 years ago, currently manages \$1.6 billion as the county's chief investment officer.

"I want the best for our community," Christensen wrote in her June 6 statement. "However, it was at great personal cost that I took on this campaign. As a result, I will now be shifting gears to focus on family and more personal matters."

When Schaffer takes office in January of 2019, she said she hopes to rally her team, hire an assistant, and continue developing an internal audit plan.

"Win or lose, I'm just so appreciative of all the support I've received throughout this whole process," Schaffer told the *Sun*. "I've just got such amazing support out there, and people have really responded to me personally and have supported our office and all the good work we do."

"Thank you to everybody," she added. "I just really want to get back to work."

—Kasey Bubnash

Carbajal and Fared to face off in November

A buzzing crowd of supporters of Republican candidate Justin Fared sipped drinks at the Santa Maria Elks Lodge while awaiting the primary election results on the evening of June 5. By 10 p.m., Fared's campaign felt comfortable declaring that he had shut out Republican primary candidate Michael Erin Woody for the GOP ticket, ensuring that Fared would challenge Rep. Salud Carbajal (D-Santa Barbara) once again for 24th Congressional District seat in the U.S. House of Representatives.

The crowd—which dwindled as it got late but still included dozens of local Republicans, organizers, and volunteers—cheered as Fared entered the room to give his victory speech, thanking the Elks, his parents, and voters in Santa Maria.

"I think Washington can learn a few things from well-run municipalities like Santa Maria," Fared told the crowd. "Santa Maria has a two-year budget structure with good oversight and management of taxpayer dollars. The great people of Santa Maria elected pragmatic local

NEWS continued page 7

Weekend Weather

Microclimate Weather Forecast
Dave Hovde
KSBY Chief Meteorologist

| | |
|---|---|
| <h3>Thursday</h3> <p>COASTAL > High 69 Low 50 INLAND > High 78 Low 49</p> | <h3>Friday</h3> <p>COASTAL > High 72 Low 52 INLAND > High 82 Low 50</p> |
| <h3>Saturday</h3> <p>COASTAL > High 71 Low 53 INLAND > High 80 Low 50</p> | <h3>Sunday</h3> <p>COASTAL > High 71 Low 54 INLAND > High 78 Low 50</p> |

While temps look mild, the afternoon and early evening winds will be breezy, especially Sunday. Otherwise, just some night and morning cloud cover which will clear each day.

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PHOTO BY JOE PAYNE



READY FOR NOVEMBER: Santa Barbara businessman Justin Fareed celebrated his primary election win at the Santa Maria Elks Lodge on June 5. He will continue on in the November general election to run against Rep. Salud Carbajal (D-Santa Barbara) again for the 24th Congressional District seat in the House of Representatives.

NEWS from page 4

leaders who share a commonsense vision of governance, lowering taxes, reducing onerous regulations, creating more local jobs, higher wages, and a great opportunity for the next generation.”

Fareed clinched the Republican nomination after receiving 37 percent of the votes in Santa Barbara County, dwarfing Woody’s 8 percent of county votes, according to semi-official results from the county.

Rep. Carbajal took home 54 percent of the vote in his home county, and achieved 53 percent of the vote to Fareed’s 46 percent across the entire 24th Congressional District, according to ballotpedia.org.

Carbajal spoke with the *Sun* over the phone from Washington, D.C., saying he was pleased with the primary results leading into the general election in November.

“Clearly the voters are putting the faith and trust in me to continue to represent the Central Coast in Washington,” Carbajal said. “Water, jobs, bringing down health care and prescription drug costs, immigration reform, and continuing to work in a bipartisan way, as I did in local government and as I continue to do in Washington.”

The congressman was busy in the Capitol, he said, preparing for a number of important votes in the House, including votes on energy, water resources, military appropriations, and spending bills.

“I’m obviously very happy with the outcome tonight and the trust that voters are putting behind me, but I’m not taking anything for granted,” he said.

In Santa Maria, at the Elks Lodge, Fareed pointed to Carbajal as part of the “broken Washington system,” that was “mortgaging the finances of this country on the backs of our children and grandchildren.”

“What I’m focused on are the issues that are affecting us locally,” Fareed told the *Sun*. “I do believe we will have our people who are looking for more practical and commonsense leaders who will put the interest of people in front of politics, and that’s what I think we all hope for and that’s what I’m going to fight for—our values here on the Central Coast collectively.”

Familiar local Republicans and conservatives were a part of the crowd at Fareed’s event in Santa Maria, including Santa Maria City Councilmembers Michael Moats and Etta Waterfield and 4th District County Supervisor Peter Adam.

They were there to also keep an eye on the rest of the election results coming in, which depending on key races like the one for the governorship, could help Fareed’s chances in November, Councilmember Moats said.

“We wanted to see a Republican come in second place for governor, so it isn’t two Democrats running against each other, which I think will be good for the down ticket

Republican congressional candidates,” Moats said. “I think it’s really important that we retain our congressional Republicans for the state of California. I think [Fareed] is doing really well.”

When asked if he was concerned about the “blue wave,” a perceived backlash against Republican candidates due to Donald Trump’s presidency and administration, Fareed said he wasn’t worried.

“I’m encouraged by the amount of turnout that we have and the amount of people that are engaged in the process so far and across the political spectrum,” he said.

—Joe Payne

Measure for unincorporated county pot taxes passes easily

Santa Barbara County residents voted resoundingly on June 5 to rake in the green, with more than 75 percent of ballots cast tallied in favor of Measure T, or a general tax on marijuana.

“With legalization comes needed enforcement, education, and other services,” Supervisor Das Williams stated in favor of the measure. “Santa Barbara County needs to tax cannabis growers and businesses to enforce our ordinance and fund other priorities such as the Sheriff’s Department, District Attorney’s Office, Mental Health Services, Public Health, and other general services.”

Measure T’s proponents say the taxes will help the county regulate a nascent industry known for deep ties to the black market. Its opponents, on the other hand, argue that the structure of the current tax measure does little to ensure the money won’t be spent on “employee salaries and benefits” and that the funds “must be earmarked for police protection, law enforcement, and code compliance.”

Fourth District Supervisor Peter Adam and Joe Armendariz, the executive director of the Santa Barbara County Taxpayers Association, stated leading up to the election that “opposing Measure T isn’t about opposing the legalization of marijuana, it has solely to do with demanding our politicians be accountable by specifying how they will spend future new taxes.”

On this year’s ballot, the two men pointed to the coastal cities Carpinteria and Goleta. Both communities oppose the regulatory framework the county adopted to mitigate impacts from marijuana grows, according to Adam and Armendariz.

On election night, Adam criticized the tax measure in its current form.

“Not because I don’t want to tax cannabis, but because I don’t like these taxes where nobody has to tell you where they’re going to spend the money,” he said. “I would love to see the public demand of politicians that they tell you where they’re going to spend the money, and not just give you the laundry list of people’s favorite things that they might spend the money on.”

Measure T enacts a tax on gross receipts and is scaled depending on the type of cannabis operation: nurseries and distributors are taxed 1 percent; manufacturers 3 percent; cultivators 4 percent; retailers 6 percent; and micro businesses 6 percent. The taxes are effective only in the county’s unincorporated areas and, as general taxes, go straight to the county’s general fund once collected.

—Spencer Cole

Class certification granted in Santa Barbara County Jail lawsuit

A U.S. District Court judge granted a motion for class certification on May 31 to the complainants of a federal class action lawsuit against Santa Barbara County and the Santa Barbara County Sheriff’s Office.

The complaint, which was originally filed on

Dec. 6 last year, includes detailed accounts of the county’s alleged poor treatment of inmates with disabilities and mental health issues, and claims that conditions in the Santa Barbara County Jail are dangerous and unlawful.

Current inmates and representative plaintiffs Clay Murray, David Franco, Sharen Winkle, Maria Tracy, and Eric Brown are not seeking damages, but rather court-ordered systematic reforms within the jail and its policies that would improve treatment of mentally ill and disabled inmates.

The plaintiffs filed a motion for class certification on March 6, according to Aaron Fischer, an attorney representing the plaintiffs through Disability Rights California, a nonprofit advocacy organization that conducted an extensive investigation into the Santa Barbara County Jail’s treatment of its inmates in 2015.

The motion hearing was delayed in April, and U.S. District Court Judge George Wu approved the class certification at a hearing on May 31, allowing the lawsuit and its plaintiffs to represent all current, former, and future inmates of the jail. Such certification has benefits for both parties in avoiding costly litigation, Fischer said in a previous interview with the *Sun*, and the move went unopposed by the Sheriff’s Office and county.

“The next step is for the parties to sit down and seriously discuss whether the county will address the deficiencies identified by us and independent experts, without the need for costly litigation,” Fischer wrote in an email to the *Sun*. “We should have a shared goal—to ensure that people held in the Santa Barbara County Jail receive the mental health and medical treatment they need, and that they are not subjected to harmful conditions, consistent with the Constitution and the law.”

Fischer said Disability Rights, the Sheriff’s Office, and the county will be working toward remedial plan negotiations this spring and summer, a process that he said typically takes time and patience.

—Kasey Bubnash

Santa Maria adds odor complaints to website

On the same day that a Santa Barbara grand jury report found that there was “no clear point of contact for odor complaints on the city of Santa Maria website,” the city added just such a page to its site.

The new page, available at cityofsantamaria.org/odors, was added on June 1 after the grand jury report found that Santa Maria residents would approach a variety of county and city agencies about offensive odors from agricultural fields, composting facilities, and wastewater treatment plants.

According to the report, locals complained to the Air Pollution Control District, an independent agency that serves Santa Barbara County; the Santa Barbara County Public Health Department; and Santa Maria’s Wastewater Treatment Plant, which is located outside city limits. The city office responsible for addressing odor complaints is the Office of the City Attorney, Code Compliance, according to the report.

Santa Maria Public Information Manager Mark van de Kamp notified local news media on June 1 about the point of contact addition to the city’s website, saying it was added as a “resource for residents.”

The city’s new page also identified an odor source not found in the grand jury report, a county flood control lake at Jim May Park that is lowered before the wet season each year, van de Kamp told the *Sun* directly via email.

“Vegetation in the water is also discharged into a drainage ditch, and when it decomposes there is an odor,” van de Kamp wrote. “But that is seasonal and short-lived.” ○

—Joe Payne

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Seeking compensation

City rejects legal claims filed by family of woman killed by Santa Maria Area Transit bus

BY KASEY BUBNASH

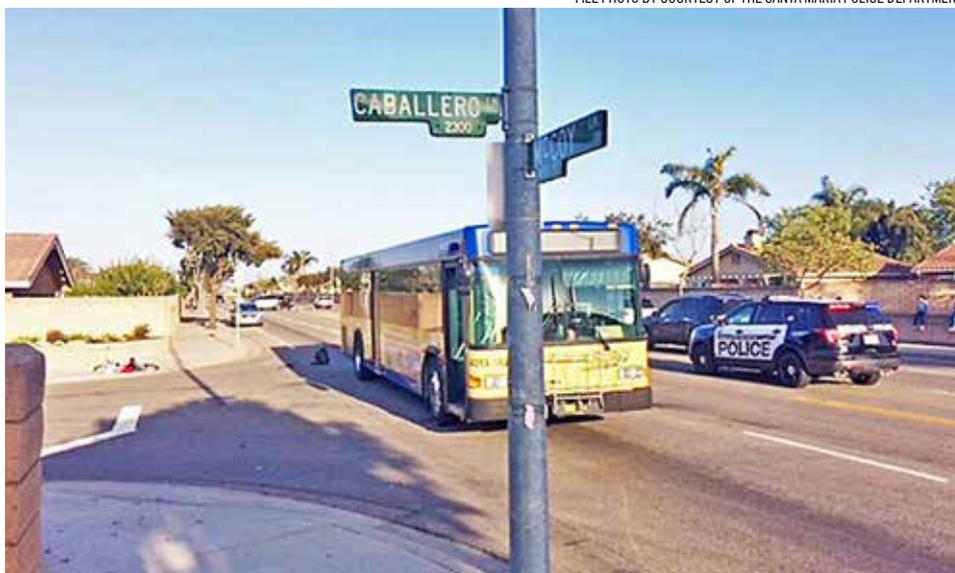
Santa Maria city officials recently rejected several claims filed by the family of a woman who was hit and killed by a city bus in April.

Santa Maria resident Veronica Perez, 43, was seriously injured when she was hit by a Route 7 Santa Maria Area Transit bus just before 6 p.m. on April 2.

The bus was headed west on East McCoy Lane when it collided with Perez near the corner of Caballero Lane, according to Mark van de Kamp, public information officer for the Santa Maria City Manager's Office.

Perez was cycling in the bike lane on McCoy when she was hit, van de Kamp said in a media statement on April 3. She was taken by helicopter to Santa Barbara Cottage Hospital, where she died on April 8 due to injuries caused by the collision.

The Santa Maria Police Department's traffic bureau was still investigating the incident in May, and van de Kamp said the department recently forwarded its traffic collision investigation report to the Santa Barbara County District Attorney's Office for review.



FILE PHOTO BY COURTESY OF THE SANTA MARIA POLICE DEPARTMENT

CABALLERO AND MCCOY: Santa Maria resident Veronica Perez, 43, was seriously injured when she was hit by a Route 7 Santa Maria Area Transit bus near the corner of East McCoy and Caballero on April 2. She died on April 8.

Van de Kamp said that he is unaware of any criminal investigation into the bus driver. District Attorney Joyce Dudley wrote in an email to the *Sun* that she could not comment on the case due to active investigation.

The Perez family filed four legal claims with the city of Santa Maria immediately following the incident, according to Ruben Ruiz, a Ventura-based accidents and injuries attorney representing the Perez family. Each of the claims, which Ruiz said were filed on behalf of Perez's husband and three children, exceeded \$10,000.

The city formally rejected the claims in

a letter on May 25, Ruiz said. Claims are commonly rejected in such cases, he said, and typically serve as the legal step just before filing a lawsuit.

Ruiz said he fully expected the rejection, and he and his clients now have six months to file a formal complaint through the court system.

"If, and when," the Perez family files a lawsuit, Ruiz said, his clients will be seeking monetary compensation for the unexpected loss of their mother and wife. A specific amount of damages has not been decided.

Ruiz said his investigation—experts from his office recently reviewed some available

information on the incident—is currently on hold. His team, he said, is still waiting to review the Santa Maria Police Department's report, which is not currently available because of the district attorney's active investigation.

"In a situation like this," Ruiz told the *Sun*, "our goal is to hopefully try to figure out what went wrong and work with the city to prevent it from happening in the future and prevent others from getting hurt."

Assistant City Attorney Philip Sinco said the city formally rejected the claims because of its contract with First Transit, an Ohio-based company that operates and maintains Santa Maria Area Transit buses.

The city's contract with First Transit, Sinco said, states that First Transit will provide the city with defense and indemnity in any cases of negligence caused by First Transit drivers. Essentially, Sinco said, First Transit agreed to provide legal counsel and pay any damages on behalf of the city in lawsuits caused by First Transit or its employees.

"We don't believe we're responsible for this," Sinco told the *Sun*.

Sinco said he did not know if the First Transit bus driver involved in Perez's death was still working with the company, and he said he could not comment on the district attorney's investigation into the incident.

First Transit did not respond to multiple requests for comment. ○

Staff Writer Kasey Bubnash can be reached at kbubnash@santamariasun.com.

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Time to vote!

Fill up your tank and break out the fuzzy dice, because the Sun wants to know which businesses really rev your engine in Northern Santa Barbara County. What's your favorite car hop? Which wineries do you love to cruise to in the convertible? Who knows how to keep you firing on all cylinders? We need to know, so burn rubber and help vote in the results for the our annual Best of issue!

Get your foot on the gas because it's a race to the finish—the ballot deadline is Monday, June 11, by 5 p.m. Winners are announced in our Aug. 2 issue. Buckle up!



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Drop your ballot by our office or mail it to:

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Name _____

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THE RULES One ballot per person. No more than two ballots may be submitted per envelope or in person at one time. No photocopies will be accepted. To prevent ballot-box stuffing (also known as cheating), all ballots must have at least 25 categories completed and must include the name, email, phone number, and address of the voter, for verification purposes only. All information is kept in complete confidence. Only local or locally-owned businesses are eligible to win. We would like to add you to our email newsletter; please check box to unsubscribe. Ballots must be in our office by Monday, June 11, at 5 p.m. Winners will be announced in our Aug. 2 special publication. All entries become the property of the Sun.

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2. Best Nipomo Restaurant
3. Best Orcutt Restaurant
4. Best Lompoc Restaurant
5. Best Guadalupe Restaurant
6. Best Los Alamos Restaurant
7. Best Los Olivos Restaurant
8. Best Buellton Restaurant
9. Best Solvang Restaurant
10. Best Santa Ynez Restaurant
11. Best Restaurant. Period.
12. Best Food Truck
13. Best Breakfast
14. Best Bakery
15. Best Seafood
16. Best Burger Joint
17. Best Pizza
18. Best Steak
19. Best Tri-Tip Sandwich
20. Best Salsa
21. Best Taco
22. Best Burrito
23. Best Deli Sandwich
24. Best Ice Cream/Frozen Yogurt
25. Best Vegetarian Restaurant
26. Best Cheap Eats
27. Best Restaurant to Impress
28. Best Kid-Friendly Restaurant
29. Best Farm/Produce Stand
30. Best Grocery Store
31. Best Hispanic Market
32. Best Chinese Food
33. Best Japanese Food
34. Best Italian Food
35. Best Authentic Mexican Food

36. Best Outdoor Dining

LIQUID CONNECTIONS

37. Best Winery for Red
38. Best Winery for White
39. Best Winery for Sparkling
40. Best Brewery
41. Best Tasting Room
42. Best Winery or Brewery Tasting Transportation
43. Best Margarita
44. Best Fancy Cocktail
45. Best Themed Bar
46. Best Happy Hour
47. Best Place to Have a Cup of Coffee

ARTS AND ENTERTAINMENT

48. Best Live Music Venue
49. Best Local Band or Musician
50. Best Shop for Musicians
51. Best Photographer
52. Best Artist
53. Best Place to View Art
54. Best Community Event
55. Best Theater Group
56. Best Learning Center/Museum
57. Best Radio Station
58. Best Media Personality

BURNING CASH

59. Best New Business of 2017
60. Best Clothing Store
61. Best Eyewear Store
62. Best Place to Buy Kids Clothes
63. Best Thrift Store
64. Best Antique Store
65. Best Bookstore
66. Best Place to Geek Out
67. Best Medical Marijuana Delivery Service

68. Best Smoke Shop

69. Best Financial Planner/Accountant
70. Best Local Bank or Credit Union
71. Best Lawyer/Attorney
72. Best Auto Maintenance/Repair
73. Best Car Audio/Security
74. Best Auto Dealership
75. Best Place to Buy Tires
76. Best Car Wash/Detail
77. Best Place to Fill Up Your Car (Specific City)
78. Best Mover
79. Best Veterinarian
80. Best Place to Pamper Your Pet
81. Best Place to Get a Tattoo/Piercing
82. Best Jewelry Store
83. Best Place for Gifts
84. Best Hardware Store
85. Best Home and Garden Store
86. Best Real Estate Company (Specific City)
87. Best Customer Service
88. Best Electrician
89. Best Landscaper
90. Best Contractor
91. Best Plumber
92. Best Furniture/Decor Store
93. Best Carpet/Flooring Company

EVENTS AND FESTIVITIES

94. Best Day Trip
95. Best Place to Go On a First Date
96. Best Place for a Big Bash
97. Best Place to Have a Kids Party
98. Best Quinceañera Resource
99. Best Place for Formal Attire
100. Best Flower Shop
101. Best Car Show/Club
102. Best DJ

103. Best Caterer

104. Best Place to Put Up Visiting Family

105. Best Pet Sitter or Boarding

FEELIN' GOOD

106. Best Health Club/Gym
 107. Best Martial Arts Gym
 108. Best Health Food/Vitamin Store
 109. Best Place for Skin Care
 110. Best Place to Get a Massage
 111. Best Yoga Studio
 112. Best Hike or Bike Trail
 113. Best Barbershop
 114. Best Hair Salon
 115. Best Nail Salon
 116. Best Tanning Salon
 117. Best Dentist
 118. Best Orthodontist
 119. Best Doctor
 120. Best Chiropractor
 121. Best OB-GYN
 122. Best Pediatrician
 123. Best Alternative Healer
 124. Best Counselor/Therapist
 125. Best Senior Living Community
- ## COMMUNITY ON MY MIND
126. Best Eco-Friendly Business
 127. Best Community Center/Nonprofit
 128. Best Man or Woman Behind the Badge (specify agency)
 129. Best News Source
 130. Best Social Media Presence
 131. Best Kids After-School Program
 132. Best Place to Volunteer
 133. Best Take-It-To-The-Man Local Activist

Spotlight on: Kush Cottage

Mick Buzzwell, owner

BY SPENCER COLE

A new Atascadero-based company says it has a solution to a lot of issues for small-scale vegetable and flower growing operations.

While not specifically designed for it, Kush Cottage's custom greenhouses seem to alleviate a lot of issues that come hand-in-hand with growing cannabis.

"What we do basically is kind of a newer genre in cultivation—what they call, 'mixed light,'" owner Mick Buzzwell told the *Sun*.

Buzzwell and his brother, John—Kush Cottage's two sole employees—build and design their mini-structures on a small plot of land a few miles east of Atascadero. It's a quiet location, surrounded by rolling fields and row upon row of grape vines. It's also the perfect setting to experiment on what they call their "fully automated light deprivation" greenhouses.

"We take the best of what outdoor [growing] has to offer and the best that indoor [growing] has to offer and mix 'em together," Mick said. "It is truly a state-of-the-art grow facility. I mean, it's got complete climate control, and all your lighting, fans, and filters. It is a true year-round grow vehicle."

John explained that the design and size of the structures—the largest units are only 120 square feet—was intended to appeal to those

in an urban setting with limited space and restrictive zoning requirements.

"They've been using this technology in the commercial industry for a long time now, but nobody's making it for the average person in their backyard," John said, before Mick added that all three of their available models (ranging from 8 feet by 8-by-8 feet to 8-by-15 feet) are "backyard legal for just about every place in the U.S."

But it's not just the size that makes a Kush Cottage such an appealing deal for potentially small-time cultivators, according to the Buzzwells.

"You know, we've been growing [cannabis] for years—since the '80s," Mick said, "and inside growing, it's just unsustainable. It's bad for the environment. It's expensive. Then you go outside, and you got your problems there."

One issue that seems to keep popping up in city council and board of supervisors meetings across the Central Coast is smell, particularly with cannabis, which is why the carbon filters are a key selling point for cultivators trying to keep a low profile.

Mick reiterated that the houses weren't designed specifically for cannabis, and that the odor control could be applied to a variety of vegetables.

"You ever smell broccoli when it's about to be harvested? You recognize it instantly," he said.

Another feature to help keep prospective growers from upsetting neighbors is the automated blinds that slide down and cover the arched, half-cylindrical semi-translucent ceilings once the sun sets and the interior lights power up.

"We want to be considerate of light pollution while also providing an environment the individual can completely control," Mick said.

In terms of electricity, he added, the units

are a no-brainer compared to a run-of-the-mill indoor growing operation.

"For a traditional indoor grow, basically for a three-month cycle, you are going to use 1,260 hours of artificial light at a 1,000 watts, with using the Kush Cottage you only use 540 hours of light at 400 watts," Mick said, adding he hoped their structures would provide not just a energy efficient and urban friendly alternative for business owners and new growers, but also help them navigate what can be a complicated environment.

"One of the issues in the cultivation arena is that if you want to build a grow room you

gotta go to the grow store, buy yourself some lights, a fan—that type of thing—and you are completely at the mercy of that guy at the shop telling you what you need or you gotta do a lot of your own research, and that's why a lot of people fail at this," Mick said. "What we came up with is pre-engineered, it's preset—if you do what we say, it will work."

"It takes the thinking out it—there's just no school sweat involved." ○

Staff Writer Spencer Cole wrote this week's Biz Spotlight. Information should be sent to the *Sun* via fax, mail, or email at spotlight@PHOTO BY SPENCER COLE



FULLY AUTOMATED: Atascadero-based Kush Cottage offers customizable and fully-automated light deprivation greenhouses for vegetables and flowers.

Righetti Animal Lovers complete animal emergency training

SCHOOL SCENE

BY KASEY BUBNASH

When Genete Bowen hit and killed a loose dog with her car in early 2007, her life changed.

She didn't know how to help the dog, and quickly realized that there is no emergency number to call when an animal needs immediate medical attention—there are no animal ambulances or first responders specializing in animal care.

Shortly after the accident, Bowen founded DogE911, an organization that provides all-

encompassing animal emergency training to animal owners hoping to better care for their pets during emergencies. DogE911's curriculum includes information on animal prevention care, natural disaster planning and response, first aid, holistic remedies, and critical care.

The classes help animal owners become "their own first responders," Bowen said.

Allan Hancock College student Crystal-Bianca Cabanas joined the organization's Jr. Vet Program in April 2013, just before her freshman year at Ernest Righetti High School.

Since then, Cabanas said she's learned how to perform CPR on most animals, how to provide first aid, and how to help animals during fires, earthquakes, and floods. Cabanas also attended an animal lobbying event in Sacramento, where she met with state legislators and learned about proposed bills that could help further protect animal rights.

As a youth ambassador with the Jr. Vet Program, Cabanas said she also helps teach first aid, disaster preparedness, and animal CPR classes, courses she helped teach at Ernest Righetti High School on May 28.

While most students stayed home to enjoy the Memorial Day holiday, several members of the Animal Lovers Club were at school bright and early

for all-inclusive pet emergency training.

"It was such a great opportunity to have met this group of people and see how involved they are in the community helping the animals," Cabanas wrote in an email to the *Sun*. "These programs, such as DogE911, help enlighten kids and adults about animals' needs."

Members of the Animal Lovers Club, which science teacher Samantha Van Patten started in 2010, work together to care for a variety of animals, including snakes, lizards, a rabbit, a chinchilla, a bird, turtles, a rat, a skink, and a fish. Van Patten said club members, roughly 25 in all, learn to feed, water, clean, and exercise every animal.

"With the Animal Lovers Club we have special needs students, AP students, general ed students, students who are at risk, and even students who know English as a second language," Van Patten told the *Sun* over the phone, the sound of farm goats bleating in the background. "So it seems like everyone coming together with that common goal of making sure animals are cared for and feel loved, it seems like that spans everything. There's no judgement, and we're all there just to love the animals."

Van Patten said her students are always coming up with new ways to better care for the animals. One year it was a sign-in sheet to ensure members were spending enough time with the animals. The next year it was a chore checklist to make sure the animals weren't being overfed and that their cages were being cleaned.

This year, Van Patten said her students raised money to pay for DogE911 training. The seven club members who attended learned to evaluate and properly care for each animal from "head to tail," Van Patten said. They learned to feel for unhealthy lumps, to check pulses, how to stop a bleed, and to watch for behavioral signs of health problems.

"When the kids left, they just felt so much more empowered," Van Patten said. "All of that just empowered them so much more to really care for the animal rather than just cleaning it and feeding it." ○

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.

ATHLETE OF THE WEEK

PHOTO COURTESY OF PRAKHARA HARTER



Sri Chinmoy Oness-Home Peace Run

Athletes running in the Sri Chinmoy Oness-Home Peace Run, an 11,000-mile torch relay aimed at promoting world peace, passed through Santa Maria early on May 30.

The 12 runners from seven countries covered 91 miles that day, according to media coordinator Prakhara Harter. The athletes ran along Highway 1 from Santa Maria to Paso Robles, where they stopped to pass the peace torch and speak at a Boys and Girls Club.

Harter said the runners meet with various schools and youth organizations along the route to share the message of peace, unity, and friendship. Although Harter said the runners did not meet with any organizations in Santa Maria, they stopped in San Diego, Ventura, and stayed a night at the Santa Maria Inn. ○

—Kasey Bubnash



K-911: Genete Bowen, left, an animal emergency medical technician and founder of DogE911, and Jr. Vet Tyler Kreider, right, find the location of a lymph gland on a dachshund named Chloe.

Online Poll

Are you going to vote in the June 5 primary election?

84% Yes.
16% No.
0% Maybe

24 Votes

Vote online at www.santamariasun.com.

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Run from Trump and Pruitt's EPA

BY KEN MCCALIP

Well, Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Director Scott Pruitt finally made the announcement, but will local Mike Stoker, a former Santa Barbara County supervisor, live to regret his recent appointment as Region 9 EPA administrator and his association with President Donald Trump's EPA? Most competent people run the opposite direction from any appointments to the Trump administration. This gives us two alternatives: Stoker either suffers from incompetence or does not keep up on the news.

The EPA news is dismal to say the least, with nearly a dozen ethics investigations underway concerning Pruitt and the current actions of the EPA under his direction. The probes range the gamut from his travel expenses, his personal security detail, his improper connections to lobbyists, his raises and hiring practices, a \$43,000 sound-proof booth for his office, his staff demotions and reassignments, his meeting with the Mining Association, and his conflicts of interest with several appointees to EPA advisory boards. All of these scandals give both the Inspector General's Office and the Government Accountability Office much to do in the coming months.

To deal with the growing number of scandals, Pruitt has decided to set up a legal defense fund that could create more headaches for him if companies regulated by the EPA choose to contribute to it. This goes beyond his earlier defense strategy of blaming his subordinates for all the misdeeds and claiming he knew nothing about any of it!

Pruitt's recent April trip and speech at Harvey Coal Mine in Sycamore, Pennsylvania, is an example of not being a steward of clean air, land, and water. This firm has had to pay millions of dollars in fines in the past for repeatedly discharging contaminated wastewater into the Ohio River, but Pruitt did not stress environmental protections. He raved on about protecting coal mining jobs and what he called "Back to Basics" at the EPA. He seemed to be unaware of the fact that cheap natural gas has done more to eliminate coal jobs than environmental regulations.

Bizarrely, security has been on Pruitt's mind since he became EPA head as he has spent excessive amounts for first-class air travel because he believes he gets "threats" in other than first class, as well as expenditures for a 20-person security detail. Also he had spent \$43,000 for a sound-proof phone booth in his office. Personal expenses on the other hand are not on his mind because he limits them by getting good deals on condominiums from an energy lobbyist. Those employees at the EPA who have questioned his activities have been demoted or sidelined.

Pruitt's recent trip to Marrakesh, Morocco, was arranged and planned by energy lobbyist and longtime friend Richard Smotkin. The trip cost U.S. taxpayers well over \$100,000. This included \$16,217 for airfare as well as expenses for him to spend one night in Paris as an added perk. He used the trip to promote the sale of U.S. liquefied natural gas. Energy sales, of course, are not within the purview of the EPA, but it is within the purview of an energy lobbyist.

Pruitt has used a blip in the Safe Drinking Water Act to hire, with no oversight, industry lobbyists at the EPA as well as to give huge pay bumps to these same types of individuals. Sarah Greenwalt received a \$56,785 bump in yearly pay and Millan Hupp received a \$28,130 bump on top of his existing salary. All of this at the expense of the American taxpayers.

Pruitt's close ties to industry and his use of "pay to play" relationships with the oil industry in Oklahoma has generated hundreds of thousands of dollars for him personally since

2002. *The New York Times* uncovered how attorneys for energy companies wrote letters for Pruitt to forward on to the EPA when he was attorney general in Oklahoma. He was a strong defender at that time of the rights of corporations to pollute, and he repeated lawsuits to weaken the EPA. In addition to questioning the science of global warming, he has challenged our right to breathe clean air and worked against standards for mercury and lead. His appointment to the EPA was a sad day, and he is unfit to lead this government agency.

Amid widening scrutiny of their roles in an array of investigations, two top aides to Pruitt have abruptly quit. First, Pasquale Perrotta, who was chief of security and helped with the unnecessarily large security contingent and secure phone booth, resigned. Second, Albert Kelly, a longtime friend of Pruitt, who with no experience, ran the Superfund program and oversaw the cleanup of hazardous waste sites and was subject to a lifetime ban from the financial industry for banking irregularities, also resigned.

Mike, now that you have caught up on the news, you can run in the other direction or prove to us all that you are incompetent and continue to work for the EPA. ○

Ken McCalip is a North Santa Barbara County native who holds degrees in history, cultural geography, and law. Send your thoughts to letters@santamariasun.com.

LETTERS

Oil companies contribute

I have been following the recent letters regarding the plans of three oil companies to expand production in the Cat Canyon oilfield. Their plans are to use modern, state-of-the-art techniques to increase petroleum production

in a well-established oilfield that has seen safe production for many decades. I find it disappointing that some local groups have chosen to oppose the efforts of those companies to increase local energy production and create jobs, which is a far better proposition than importing foreign crude oil.

I have had experience as an entrepreneur and business owner. In California, one of the greatest barriers to business development is the tangled web of state and local regulations. Unfortunately, our local county may be seen as one of the toughest areas for business, especially the petroleum industry.

We recently opened a sizable industrial recycling plant, which has provided a number of well-paying jobs and has been embraced by their community as an important contributor to the local economy. Local officials worked as our partners to facilitate permitting, construction, and operation of that facility. That business is located in Kansas. This is typical of many companies that move operations out of California in search of a more business-friendly environment.

Our local governments and commissions should evaluate these three projects on the facts. They will use proven technology, the most advanced and proven-safe methods available, to produce energy, which is so badly needed by Californians. In the process, they will also create many well-paying jobs and will generate important county tax revenues in this time of need. Our state and local governments should support responsible businesses instead of hindering them. When I asked to establish a pyrolysis recycling plant here, I was told to provide an experience visibility study and that the project study by the agencies could take up to three years.

Needless to say, the plant is now established in Kansas, where I had to also deal with the same federal agencies as well.

Franziska Shepard
Santa Maria

THIS MODERN WORLD

A FREAK ELECTION TRANSFORMS AN ORDINARY CONSPIRACY-MONGERING SOCIOPATH INTO...
THE UNBELIEVABLE TRUMP

TRUMP DID NOT FIRE COMEY BECAUSE OF RUSSIA! EVEN THOUGH TRUMP SAID EXACT OPPOSITE TO LESTER HOLT!
WHO YOU GONNA BELIEVE--STUPID VIDEO OF TRUMP--OR TRUMP?
ER--TRUMP, SIR.

BAH! TRUMP NOT HAVE TIME FOR FAKE RUSSIA WITCH HUNT! TRUMP FOCUSED ON NORTH KOREA AND TRADE DEALS AND THE ECONOMY!
VERY GOOD, SIR, I HAVE YOUR DAILY BRIEFING RIGHT HERE--

ALSO WHAT ABOUT FOOTBALL PLAYERS WHO NOT STAND FOR ANTHEM? THEY MAKE TRUMP ALMOST AS MAD AS SPYGATE! TRUMP THINK UP THAT NAME, YOU KNOW!
NOT THAT TRUMP IS WORRIED ABOUT ANYTHING! TRUMP TOO BUSY WITH IMPORTANT PRESIDENT THINGS!
EXCUSE ME SIR--

--A NEW REPORT SAYS MORE THAN 4600 AMERICANS DIED IN PUERTO RICO DUE TO THE HURRICANE--
HA! HA! WHAT YOU MEAN, "AMERICANS"? YOU JUST SAID THEY WERE IN PUERTO RICO!
BUT TRUMP KNOW WHAT TO DO--

--TRUMP TWEET ABOUT ROSEANNE-- AND PARDON DINESH D'SOUZA! NO ONE EVEN REMEMBER DUMB REPORT IN TWO DAYS!
THEN TRUMP WATCH TV AND TAKE NAP! IT HARD JOB, BEING PRESIDENT!
YES, SIR.

NEXT TIME, MANY PEOPLE SAYING, STARS ON FLAG SHOULD BE REPLACED...WITH BIG PICTURE OF TRUMP!
IT'S JUST WHAT TRUMP HEARD.

WHAT IS THIS? ROSEANNE'S SHOW CANCELLED AFTER SO-CALLED RACIST TWEET?
WHAT ABOUT ALL THE PEOPLE ON TV SAYING BAD THINGS ABOUT TRUMP? WHY THEY NOT LOSE THEIR SHOWS?
VERY UNFAIR, SIR, NOW ABOUT THAT BRIEFING--

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by TOM TOMORROW

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WHAT ABOUT ALL THE PEOPLE ON TV SAYING BAD THINGS ABOUT TRUMP? WHY THEY NOT LOSE THEIR SHOWS?
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What stinks?

My momma bird taught me to not count canaries before they hatch, which is unfortunately where I'm at with the June 5 election results.

A weekly paper's deadlines aren't always convenient for this bird, but you can check out the results in the *Sun's* news section (page 4). I will have plenty of pithy things to say next week, trust me.

In the meantime, there's still lots to talk about right here in our lovely **Santa Manure Valley**, wait, I mean **Santa Maria Valley!**

I know, I know, that's a hurtful slur that **Central Coasters** from other towns hurl our way (I'm lookin' at you, **Lompton**), but maybe it hurts because it's true.

At least, that's what the **Santa Barbara County grand jury** found when it looked into what stinks in the city of **Santa Maria** (page 7). Turns out there are so many things that make the valley smelly that it's unclear who locals should complain to, and the city hasn't made it any easier for residents to know where to whine.

You smell cow shit? That's one agency. You smell human shit? That's another. Of course everyone can smell the difference, right?

For those of us who were hatched and raised in Santa Maria, it's just a part of life—Santa Maria has always stunk, so why the report now? Are there a bunch of NIMBY-types moving to town and whining to grand juries? Get over it!

It's pretty hilarious to me though that the city had an "odor complaints" page added to its website the same day the report came out, but even funnier is that page also blames some possible odors on a county flood control lake at **Jim May Park**.

That's a pretty solid "sorry, not sorry," followed by some classic "whataboutery" directed at the county. Maybe we stink because of you, **Santa Barbara County!** And your grand jury could use some deodorant too!

Santa Maria is pretty good at pointing the finger elsewhere, just ask the family of **Veronica Perez**, who was killed by a **Santa Maria Area Transit (SMAT)** bus in April (page 8).

"We don't believe we're responsible for this," Assistant City Attorney **Phil Sinco** told us.

The city contracts out its not-so-public transportation to **First Transit**, a company based out of Ohio. So, SMAT bus drivers aren't even city employees.

The *Sun* reached out repeatedly to First Transit's main media line in Cincinnati, and heard nothing back. The city did hook us up with a local company contact, but they didn't call back before press time either.

I wish I could tell you what First Transit's standards were for vetting bus drivers, or if the driver responsible for the accident is still piloting a bus around town. But private companies don't feel accountable to the public or the press in the same way local governments do, especially when their headquarters are halfway across the country.

This sounds like a pretty sweet deal for the city's liability, but it sure stinks for locals who just want to go for a bike ride. ○

The Canary would rather fly. Send your thoughts to canary@santamariasun.com.



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4. Contractions are single words (i.e. "should've, could've, would've").
5. Initials are one word, and acronyms are one word.
6. Numerals count as a single word, but if written out, they fall under rule No. 2 (e.g. 67 funky monkeys counts as three words; sixty-seven funky monkeys counts as four).
7. Punctuation doesn't count, so feel free to use all the semicolons you want, but only if they're correctly used!

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Food & Drink

REVIVING IT UP: Food trucks can help lead to a brick-and-mortar business for many startups. Arqui and Chrystal Trenado launched Cubanissimo a year before opening their restaurant of the same name in Orcutt, its success fueled by the popularity of their truck.

PHOTOS BY JAYSON MELLOM

KEEP ON TRUCKIN'

Local food trucks grow in popularity, but owners caution the job is not as easy as it looks

BY REBECCA ROSE

Rosa Valdez wakes early every morning, donning the bright pink and purple smock she will wear throughout her day.

Her first stop is to Carniceria La Mía in Santa Maria, where she picks up her daily selection of fresh meats, including beef, pork, chicken, and more. She drives her truck down the familiar route west on Betteravia Road, where she parks in a small gravel patch across from a field. Then, she waits.

Farmworkers line up almost as soon as she pulls up. Dozens of orders pour in as Valdez begins to quickly crank out food. Workers in nearby office parks keep her phone lit up throughout the morning, placing orders for pick up at lunch. The pace is almost nonstop until she ends her day at 4 p.m.

"I get tired a little bit," Valdez told the *Sun*. "But it's good. I do it for the people, to make them happy."

It's all in a day's work for Valdez, who's been running the Taco Tichitas food truck in Santa Maria for almost 10 years. She's one of dozens of local food truck owners in Santa Maria and the surrounding areas who enjoy steady business thanks to online buzz and strong word of mouth.

Food trucks are nothing new; the mobile food industry has grown steadily over the last few years, owing to popularity among die-hard foodies and aspiring restaurateurs, many of whom are eager to seek out unconventional ways to break into a notoriously harsh industry.

With an estimated 4,000 trucks nationally, employing more than 14,000 people, the food truck industry has exploded in the last year,

owing largely to a trend in municipal areas such as Austin, Texas, which began loosening permit and regulation requirements in order to encourage growth in the food truck industry. Food trucks now account for nearly \$1 billion in revenue annually, according to industry research firm IBIS World.

Recent years have seen the trend trickle down from metropolitan areas to smaller suburban communities, as more and more small business owners look for alternative ways to break into the food service industry. A thriving food truck scene can be a boon to smaller local regions, attracting attention from tourists, food bloggers, and Instagrammers with big followings, as well as national media outlets eager to jump on the buzz.

But beyond the hype and artfully filtered social media posts, food trucks are all about local owners, largely family-oriented, looking to bring their unique ideas about food to the communities they serve.

Cooking up a following

At the Lompoc Food Truck Festival on May 16, vendors formed a horseshoe in a parking lot, ready to serve attendees. Food truck fans waited in lines up to 45 minutes long just to get a sample of treats such as Cuban sandwiches, pork adobo, street tacos, hot mini doughnuts, and even aebleskivers.

Inside Alice's Aebleskabels (named for the way the owner's family mispronounced the name of the traditional Danish treat), owner Hilary Meilen hoped customers would take to a familiar dish with her distinct spin on it.

Meilen, whose family is Danish, started her food truck business in Ohio in a renovated FedEx truck. She makes 10 different varieties of aebleskivers, many of her own creation. She said she wanted to expand to more savory options to appeal to the lunchtime crowd.

"People are familiar with the traditional flavors, but not necessarily what we're doing," she said. "Everybody around here is used to the traditional aebleskivers, with the raspberry jam and the powdered sugar. ... Some of our flavors are a little bit unusual. They're some things people might not think of, but once you put it

together they're really tasty."

Some of the more unconventional aebleskiver flavors on her menu include smoked salmon and dill; goat cheese and honey; and pastrami and gruyere, served with a creamy dill sauce. Meilen's gamble on uniqueness might just be paying off, too. Only two weeks after launching in their new California home, Alice booked six events, with more on the way.

Picking a niche idea can be an advantage in a scene crowded with taco trucks and barbecue.

FOOD TRUCKS continued page 16



IT'S NOT YUCK-A AT ALL: Cuban black beans with yucca fries served at Cubanissimo are among the food truck's most popular items.

HOT IN HERE: Alisa Urquhart, left, and Steve Dewing serve up Philly cheese steaks at Lidos food truck in Santa Maria. The truck can be found at the YMCA at 3400 Skyway Drive in Santa Maria on Wednesdays starting at 11 a.m.

FOOD TRUCKS from page 15

At Crave, a truck offering warm mini doughnuts served in paper cones, owner Aurora Kraft is banking on being a stand-out.

“We love doughnuts,” she said. “We love eating them hot and would make them warm. Nothing beats fresh doughnuts.”

Kraft said she and her family looked at some equipment that could handle the output and thought mini doughnuts on the go would do well on the Central Coast. The family, who also owns the Hanohano Shave Ice, launched Crave in 2016, and so far the venture has been a success.

“After about a year, we started seeing profit,” Kraft said. “We saw that if we could connect with our customers and create a following that we could do well.”

The following that food trucks like Crave depend on comes through social media. Instagram and Facebook are the biggest draws. Kraft said Facebook is how they announce where they are going to be on a regular basis.

“The customer is looking for us,” Kraft said. “Part of it is we want to stay fluid and keep it live.”

Part of the allure of food trucks is the thrill of the pursuit. Announcing surprise locations on Instagram and Facebook are part of what drive the food truck frenzy. Patrons must follow their favorite trucks online to find out where they’re going to be and get there before their favorite items run out.



GOING OLD SCHOOL: Lidos food truck is popular with Santa Marians looking for authentic Philly-style cheesesteak sandwiches.

PHOTOS BY JAYSON MELLOM

Not as easy as it looks

For many food truck owners, the ultimate goal is to parlay the hype and popularity of a truck into a brick-and-mortar restaurant.

Cubanissimo launched in 2016 and quickly became one of the most sought-after trucks in the Santa Maria Valley. Thanks to their early success, owners Chrystal and Arquí Trenado opened their first physical location in Orcutt in August last year.

Chrystal said the lessons they learned running the truck helped the couple when they opened the restaurant. She said there are a lot of misconceptions about how easy it is to open and operate a truck.

“You can’t just roll up and park somewhere and hope that people show up,” she said. “You have to be able to build relationships so that you have places to go. You have to know how to do what you’re doing efficiently so you can move people through the line quickly. Those are the biggest hurdles in the beginning.”

But a food truck doesn’t just lead to a restaurant—sometimes it’s the other way around.

When Alisa and Daniel Urquhart’s restaurant Lidos closed in 2006, they transitioned into the catering and food truck business as a way to keep the brand going. Fans, disappointed about the venue closing, were quick to jump on board. Lidos now has a

five-star Yelp rating and a thriving presence in Santa Maria.

But Alisa Urquhart and others caution that the business isn’t as easy as it looks to break into. Those hoping for an effortless jump into the restaurant industry soon find food trucks to be a lot more than they bargained for.

“There is a lot of prep work that goes into each event that has to be done before and after,” she explained. “There’s cleaning, shopping, food prep, maintenance work, filling out permits, insurance. There are a lot of costs that people don’t think about, as there is in owning any small business.”

FOOD TRUCKS continued page 17

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TASTY TREATS ON THE GO: Hilary Meilen moved her converted FedEx truck from Ohio to Solvang to sell her versions of aebleskivers, a popular Danish treat made in a specialty cast iron pan.



MADE WITH LOVE: Rosa Valdez's food truck, Taco Tichitas, feeds farmworkers and many others along Betteravia Road in Santa Maria. The Mexican-born entrepreneur came to the United States more than 25 years ago to work in the same fields she now serves.

PHOTOS BY REBECCA ROSE

FOOD TRUCKS from page 16

Like any small business, things can go terribly wrong. On May 27, Robert Siores, owner of Lompoc's Big Truck Foods, lost one of his food trucks when it was destroyed in an electrical fire resulting in more than \$25,000 in damages.

Barring unforeseen disasters, the business is also notoriously demanding on a day-to-day basis, just like a brick-and-mortar restaurant.

"It can be extremely grueling during busy events or lunch and dinner services," Urquhart said. "Even though you're cooking food nonstop, there are times we can go all day without being able to eat ourselves."

Kraft said food truck work can look deceptively easy owing to its small operation. But days can start hours before a truck even opens, prepping items and cleaning equipment, and often end late into the night.

"It takes up a lot of your free time," Kraft said. "Every weekend we're doing an event. For some people, if you don't have your family with you, it's going to be hard because you're not seeing them. ... It's a real commitment."

Authentic on wheels

Valdez's truck is layered with hand-drawn signs, showing prices and selections of ingredients.



Inside her cramped kitchen, she moves like a concert pianist, her hands flying gracefully over the grill as she completes each order.

"A lot of people told me, 'Your food is so good, you need to [open] a restaurant,'" she said. "I cooked every day but never had a restaurant."

Valdez, who is originally from Guadalajara, came to Santa Maria more than 25 years ago to work in some of same fields where she now feeds workers. The labor was backbreaking she said, so she decided to study English and try to break into a different line of work. She eventually found a steady job in an office until one day a friend approached her with an unusual proposition: She wanted Valdez to buy her food truck.

Valdez had her doubts at first.

"I took the taco truck," she said. "The first year was hard for me. ... I make everything myself. ... The rice, beans, salsa, everything—it was hard."

Despite the physical toll, she stuck with it, finding a niche among farmworkers and others. To this day, Valdez still insists on fresh ingredients and items made from scratch daily, which has earned her a respectful fanbase.

Her food is some of the best of any restaurant, on wheels or otherwise. Breakfast burritos overflow with chorizo, eggs, cheese, and ham; tacos are expertly seasoned and piled high with meats and vegetables. It's rare to stand out in a town with so many quality Mexican restaurants, but Valdez's micro-operation does it with ease.

One of her coveted specialties is her sauce; patrons make sure to stack up on extra orders. Like everything else, Valdez prepares it herself, from a recipe handed down to her by her mother. When asked, she will precisely recite each step, describing in detail how she makes her spicy, flavorful salsas.

Like so many others in the business, Valdez doesn't reap huge profits from the mobile business. She said she has another reason that keeps her coming back every day.

"I like the people," she said. "I like that the people come again for the tacos." ○

Contact Arts and Lifestyle Writer Rebecca Rose at rrose@santamariasun.com.

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LOOSE LEAF: Those who make their own edibles usually use "shake," or loose leaves, stems, and bits of cannabis buds that aren't deemed smokable quality, reducing it all down into butter or oil.

PHOTO COURTESY OF MOANI LEWIS

BEYOND BROWNIES

Locals buy, make a variety of edible cannabis products for treatment and recreation

BY JOE PAYNE

Gummy bears, cake pops, sour belts, chocolate bars, caramel chews, and fruit-flavored sodas. It sounds like a candy shop, but kids aren't allowed to buy these sweet treats.

Comestible cannabis products, known colloquially as "edibles," have been a mainstay for medicinal cannabis users for years. With recreational cannabis now legal in California, the variety and selection of edibles offered by local dispensaries have grown.

The majority of products on the market right now come from LA or Bay Area companies, explained David* with CoExist RX, a local cannabis clinic that offers delivery service.

"Our counties have been a lot stricter, so there are not really big places that you can get those locally legally," he said. "So that's the reason why everything has to be from a bigger area."

Edibles offered by CoExist include colorful gummies, fizzy drinks, chocolate bars, and even a cannabis-infused horchata. They're all popular, David explained, and also include non-psychoactive options for those just looking for pain relief.

The products are made by companies like Simply Meds Edibles, Caligold, and G Drinks, which make their products palatable as well

as potent, David said. The days of edibles with a strong, musty taste are gone, at least for the professionally produced foodstuffs CoExist sells, he explained.

"People aren't really in it for the taste," he said. "They all have a great taste to them, and my personal favorite are the chocolate bars. They taste just like a regular Hershey's chocolate bar and you get a good, quality medicine with each dose you take."

Companies that make edibles are now required to follow strict regulations on the amount of THC—or tetrahydrocannabinol, the psychoactive compound in cannabis—in each package of edibles due to California state law that went into effect this year. Each serving size must have no more than 10 milligrams of THC, and a single package of edible cannabis may not exceed 100 milligrams.

The restriction has had an effect on how the edible cannabis industry portions its products, explained Joe A. Garcia, co-founder of the Lompoc Valley Cannabis Association. Products used to include "pretty large dosages," he said, from 500 to 1,000 milligrams in a package.

"For someone who doesn't use cannabis on a regular basis, doesn't have a high tolerance, 100 milligrams is probably something that would definitely work," he said. "For someone like myself, I need at least 300 milligrams just to feel the effects of the cannabis."

"So for me, commercially, I'm not attracted to the law," he added. "For someone like myself, I would rather make my own edibles so that I

can have higher dosages."

Garcia said that the regulation on dosage limits is largely to address the fact that "a lot of people don't understand how to use edibles."

"Edibles are highly concentrated, so when you eat it, your system is much different than when you're smoking," he said, adding that the delayed onset of the "high" from edibles can lead users to take too much. That's when people feel dehydrated, anxious, and uncomfortable.

"You've just taken a little too much, and you're feeling it," he said. "But I would like to note, nobody has ever fatally overdosed on cannabis."

With limits on the milligrams of THC per package, buying edibles can be pricey for someone who requires regular medicinal cannabis, Garcia said. He knows several edible users make their own at home.

One Lompoc resident, Moani Lewis, has treated her PTSD, anxiety, chronic pain, and mild scoliosis for years with cannabis, mostly through smoking. She tried psychotropic medications, but found that cannabis was "the most effective and allowed me the most freedom in my life."

Lewis said she read a scientific study that showed that smoking or vaporizing cannabis did cause short-term negative bronchial effects, but wasn't linked to lung cancer or emphysema. It was enough for her to make the move to edibles, and the price point on the products offered by local dispensaries led her to start making her own at home.

"I learned very quickly I could do it much cheaper for myself buying the flower product and turning it into edibles," she said. "It ended up much

EDIBLES continued page 20

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Food & Drink

EDIBLES from page 19

cheaper for me, and then I get to make what I like.”

Cannabis can be easily infused into butter or oil, Lewis explained, and with that she can make “just about anything you can eat.” She’s made cookies, brownies, tea, ranch dip, gummies, ice cream, alfredo sauce, and of course chocolate, which she drizzles over strawberries, pretzels, cherries, and other tasty treats.

She also cooks her oil or butter with “a lot of water,” which “pulls out the impurities while you’re cooking,” and provides a taste that isn’t dominated by a “musty, nasty flavor.”

“A lot of my edibles, you can’t even tell that they’re edibles,” she said. “They just taste like normal confectionaries.”

Lewis has a separate fridge in her garage and a set of pots and pans strictly for her cannabis edibles, so there’s no cross contamination with the food she makes for her family. She takes that very seriously, she said, and never makes any of her candies look appealing to kids or too similar to regular candies.

Lewis said that she and other edible users enjoy eating their medication because it’s often quicker and easier to take. Even for those who smoke or vaporize, edibles come in handy when they can’t pack a bowl or a fire up a vape.

“It’s great for, if it’s not publicly acceptable for the moment to medicate, you can just pop an edible,” she said. “It’s convenient.”



HOMEMADE MEDS:

Lompoc resident Moani Lewis makes her own cannabis edibles at home, whipping up cookies, brownies, and even medicated gummy candies.

While local cannabis companies wait on manufacturing licenses from the county or cities like Lompoc that will allow such operations, those who use edibles are stuck buying product made out of the area or making their own.

There’s already at least one company waiting to set up shop and make edibles in Lompoc, Lewis said, that reached out to her about possibly working as a cook.

“It could turn into an actual occupation,” she said, “but right now it’s just a hobby.” ○
* Full name was omitted to protect privacy.

Managing Editor Joe Payne can be reached at jpayne@santamariasun.com.



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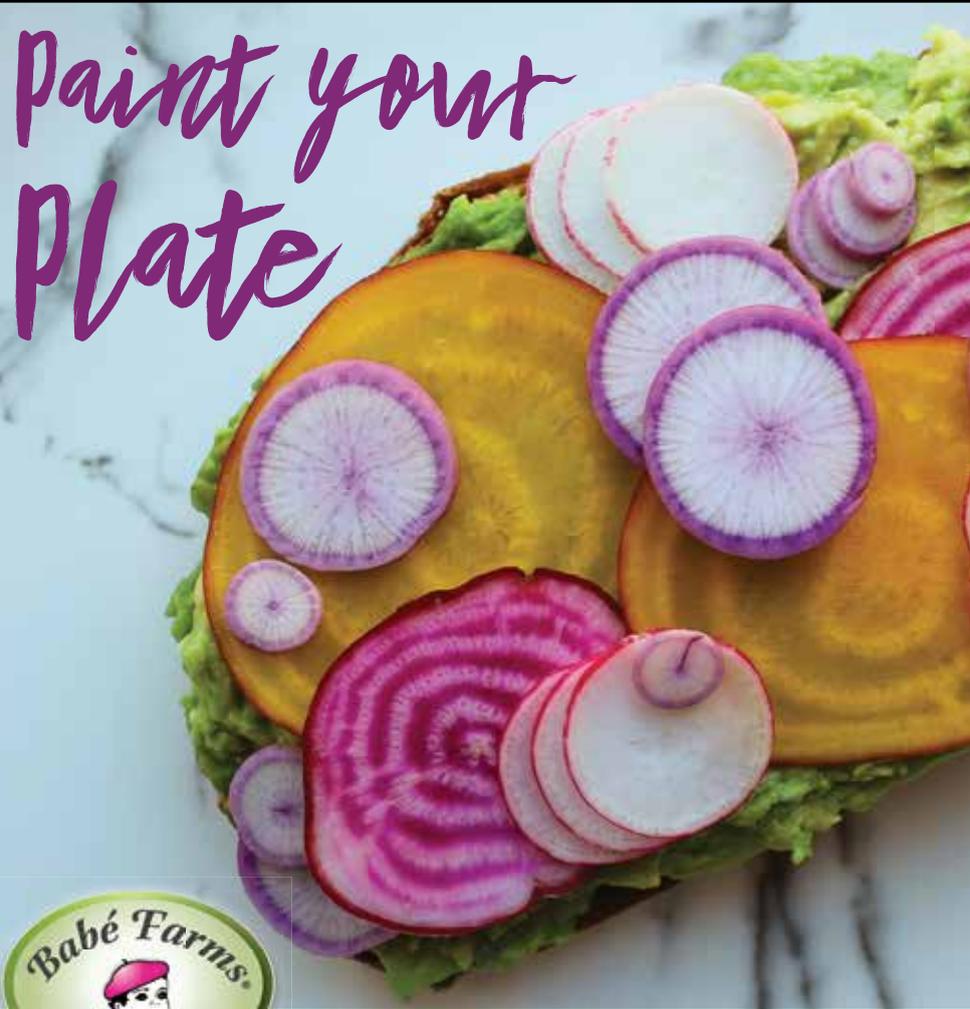
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Applewood smoked bacon, spicy jalapeño bacon, pork sausage, O'Brien potatoes, chef's choice of eggs benedict, rice, vegetables, and chef's choice of additional hot entrees

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Cooked to order with delicious fresh options to choose from including shrimp, spinach, bell peppers, tomatoes, mushrooms, jalapeños, onions, bacon, chorizo, sausage, ham, salsa, cheddar cheese, jack cheese

FROM THE SEA

Oysters, shrimp, littleneck clams, mussels, smoked salmon

SENIORS

\$26⁹⁵

CHILDREN

\$16⁹⁵

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JUNE 17

10am-3pm

Father's Day Brunch



Bottomless
Champagne, Mimosas

CLASSIC BREAKFAST

Huevos Rancheros,
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Bacon & Sausage

OMELET STATION

Ham, Sausage, Bacon, Jack &
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Potato Salad

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Salmon

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Food & Drink THE PERFECT PAIRING

Filmmakers to teach multimedia workshops at International Wine Film Festival

BY KASEY BUBNASH

Santa Maria Valley is gearing up for its third International Wine Film Festival, and this year's festivities will include multimedia workshops for wine industry professionals hoping to expand their marketing skills.

The festival, which is slated for June 29, has grown significantly in its short lifetime, according to founder and director Wil Fernandez. Festival organizers received more than 400 wine-themed film submissions for this year's event, Fernandez told the *Sun*, and filmmakers from across the country are planning to make appearances.

"It's cool to have Santa Maria be put on the map through this kind of niche community and event," Fernandez said.

Although in past years the festival included various full-length and short film screenings—both inside and outside, during the day and at night, once during the summer and again in the winter—Fernandez said the festival format is ever evolving. The workshops, he said, are a new experiment.

Fernandez said he wants local wine connoisseurs to benefit as much as possible

from the creative and innovative filmmakers visiting town for the screenings and tastings in June.

At the workshops, scheduled for 2 p.m. on June 29, wine industry professionals hoping to include videos in their marketing strategies will learn about video production and budgeting basics.

Kendall Busby, a winery marketing and communications professional based in Sonoma will speak at the event, along with Jack Kauffman, a documentary filmmaker known for his profile of the Finger Lakes wine region, and Dina Mande, a creative director based in Paso Robles.

"With the addition of our workshops," Fernandez wrote in a press release, "I hope to help budding filmmakers by encouraging the wine industry to invest in film production to educate and inspire their customers."

Presqu'ile Winery will host the festival's

WINING AND DINING: Attendees of last year's International Wine Film Festival mingle during a film intermission at Presqu'ile Winery.



PHOTO COURTESY OF WIL FERNANDEZ

traditional wine and film pairing event, where attendees will watch the International Wine Film Festival's official short and feature film selections, which were submitted from around the world. Films will be introduced by their producers, and wine will be paired appropriately.

"It's like a multi-sensory experience," Fernandez told the *Sun*.

Although participating winemakers have not yet been announced, Fernandez said Santa Barbara County wines will be showcased alongside several internationally known brands.

Jennifer Harrison, director of the Santa Maria Valley Chamber of Commerce Visitors Bureau, said the International Wine Film Festival is on track to becoming a major draw to the community.

Well-known film festivals bring in tourists, who book overnight stays, eat at local restaurants, and drink at local bars and wineries. Harrison said after several national news stories and its partnership with Santa Barbara's World of Pinot Noir event, the International Wine Film Festival is gaining clout.

"So the festival itself we think is a really great concept," Harrison told the *Sun*. "We got behind this thing because it's new and you don't necessarily think of the Santa Maria Valley when you hear, 'film festival.' So that's really exciting." O

Staff Writer Kasey Bubnash can be reached at kbubnash@santamariasun.com.

Still hungry?



| International Wine Film Festival schedule | |
|--|--|
| Workshop: Tell your winery story with video | The Stars of Wine + Film |
| June 29 | June 29 |
| 2 to 5:30 p.m. | 7:30 to 9:30 p.m. |
| Graciosa Hall, 300 E. Clark Ave., Orcutt. | Presqu'ile Winery, 5391 Presquile Drive, Santa Maria |
| Tickets and more details available at winefilmfestival.com . | |

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JUNE 7 - JUNE 14
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NO PAINT, NO GAIN

Summer Fest on the Green takes place June 16 from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. at St. Andrew United Methodist Church, located at 3945 S. Bradley Road, Santa Maria. This family-friendly event includes carnival games, raffle prizes, face painting, a free lunch, and more. Admission is free. More info: (805) 937-2470.

PHOTO COURTESY OF ST. ANDREW UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

SPECIAL EVENTS

SANTA YNEZ VALLEY

THE LOS OLIVOS JAZZ AND OLIVE FESTIVAL

Guests can enjoy olive-themed dishes, tastings from local wineries, live music, and more. **June 9**, 1-4 p.m. \$10-\$70. jazzandolivefestival.org. Lavinia Campbell Park, 2398 Alamo Pintado Ave., Los Olivos.

OLD SANTA YNEZ DAY Features booths, food, a parade, and more. Proceeds benefit Santa Ynez Valley schools. **June 10**, 11 a.m.-4 p.m. 805-688-3448. solvangusa.com/events/old-santa-ynez-day/. Downtown Santa Ynez, Saquinto St., Solvang.

SANTA MARIA VALLEY/LOS ALAMOS

SUMMER FEST ON THE GREEN This family-friendly event includes carnival games, raffle prizes, face painting, a free lunch, and more. **June 16**, 11 a.m.-3 p.m. Free. St. Andrew United Methodist Church, 3945 S. Bradley Road, Santa Maria, 805-937-2470.

TRILOGY AT MONARCH DUNES VINTNER FESTIVAL

Guests can enjoy tasting wines from local winemakers and passed appetizers prepared by Chef Charles Weber. **June 16**, 1-4 p.m. \$20-\$40. trilogylife.com. Trilogy at Monarch Dunes, 1640 Trilogy Pkwy, Nipomo, (805) 621-7838.

SOUTH COAST SLO COUNTY

GALA DE ARTE'S ONE YEAR ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION Enjoy live music, free food and wine, live painting, giveaways, and more. **June 8**, 5:30 p.m. Free. 805-550-9963. theartgalanipomo.com/. Gala De Arte Plaza, 136 N Thompson Ave. B, Nipomo.

SEVENTH ANNUAL BENEATH THE SURFACE DIVE AND BEACH CLEANUP

Includes interactive and educational booths, free tri-tip (first come, first served), and more. Volunteers needed. **June 9**, 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Free. 805-595-7280. centralcoastaquarium.com/index.php/programs/beneath-the-surface/. Central Coast Aquarium, 50 San Juan St., Avila Beach.

SAN LUIS OBISPO

THE HEMP AND CANNABIS FAIR A celebration of legal marijuana. Features hemp and cannabis products, accessories and tools, harvest equipment, and more. **June 9**, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. and **June 10**, 11 a.m.-5 p.m. \$15 weekend pass / \$10 veterans. 541-201-8497. thcfair.com. Alex Madonna Expo Center, 100 Madonna Rd, San Luis Obispo.

NORTH SLO COUNTY

AWAKENING WAYS SPIRITUAL COMMUNITY 10TH ANNIVERSARY CONCERT AND PARTY

Enjoy live music from Burning James and the Funky Flames. This family-friendly, alcohol-free event includes dancing, kid activities, vendors, food trucks, a silent auction, desserts, and more. All ages welcome. **June 10**, 2-5 p.m. \$10; Free for children ages 12 or under. 805-460-0762. awakeningways.org. Pavilion on the Lake, 9315 Pismo Ave., Atascadero.

THIRD ANNUAL CHILI COOKOFF Taste and judge chili and enjoy other foods, local wines, and live music by Tennessee Jimmy. Prizes awarded to winners. **June 10**, 5:30-8:30 p.m. \$25-\$30. 805-591-4204. iggpra.org. Terra Mia Vineyards, 1593 Arbor Rd., Paso Robles.

NORTH COAST SLO COUNTY

SIP TO SAVE THE SEA Enjoy fudge, cheese, and wine from the Pacific Coast Wine Trail. Features live music by Robert Malone. Bid on unique silent auction baskets and support Surfrider SLO. **June 9**, 5-7 p.m. \$35. 805-924-3131. pacifccoastwinetrail.com/. The Garden Shed, 2024 Main St., Cambria.

FUNDRAISERS

SANTA YNEZ VALLEY

PCPA'S SUMMERFEST 2018 Includes wine, beer, and food tastings from restaurants and wineries throughout the Central Coast. **June 16**, 6-11 p.m. \$103. 805-922-8313. pcpa.org/Summerfest2018. Solvang Festival Theater, 420 2nd St., Solvang.

SOUTH COAST SLO COUNTY

ARROYO GRANDE LIBRARY BOOK SALE Sponsored by Friends of the Arroyo Grande Library. Proceeds support library projects and programs. **June 9**, 10 a.m.-3 p.m. 805-473-7164. FOTAGL.org. Arroyo Grande Library, 800 W. Branch, Arroyo Grande.

THIRD ANNUAL AGUMCC GOLF TOURNAMENT Proceeds will be used to improve educational programs and outdoor

activities at the Children's Center. **June 9**, 9 a.m.-1:30 p.m. \$75 per player; \$300 per team. Sponsorship: \$100-\$600. 805-481-2223. worshipweekly.com/agumcc.html. Monarch Dunes Golf Course, 1606 Trilogy Parkway, Nipomo.

NORTH COAST SLO COUNTY

PROJECT SURF CAMP FUNDRAISER WITH BAY BETTY A dance party to benefit Project Surf Camp, a local non-profit organization that helps disabled children and adults experience the benefits of ocean play. **June 15**, 9 p.m.-midnight Free. 805-234-3161. thesirenmorrobay.com. The Siren, 900 Main St., Morro Bay.

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, 6:30-7:30 p.m. \$36 for 4-week session. Oasis Senior Center, 420 Soares Ave., Orcutt, 805-928-7799.

BEADING WORKSHOP Thursdays, noon oasisorcutt.org. Oasis Senior Center, 420 Soares Ave., Orcutt, 805-928-7799.

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. Oasis Senior Center, 420 Soares Ave., Orcutt, 805-928-7799.

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.

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

SOUTH COAST SLO COUNTY

ART AND WINE ACRYLIC POUR WORKSHOP

Enjoy a glass of wine and learn the basics of acrylic pouring. **June 11**, 6-8 p.m. \$40; \$65 for 2; \$30 each for 5 or more. 805-550-9963. theartgalanipomo.com. Gala De Arte Plaza, 136 N Thompson Ave. B, Nipomo.

COOKING CLASS: FATHER'S DAY CAJUN NIGHT OUT Enjoy learning how to prepare French bread brochette, cabbage and carrot coleslaw, red beans with andouille and rice, and fresh berries with cream. Please bring an apron, knife, and cutting board. **June 8**, 5:30-8:30 p.m. \$60. 805-773-7063. pismobeach.org/recreation. Pismo Veterans Memorial Hall, 780 Bello St., Pismo Beach.

INTUITIVE CIRCLE Mediumship development. First Tuesday, Wednesday, Saturday of every month, 6:30-8:30 p.m. through July 1 \$15-\$35. 805-489-2432. halcyonstore.com. Halcyon Store Post Office, 936 S. Halcyon Rd., Arroyo Grande.

SAN LUIS OBISPO

ADULT POTTERY CLASSES Enjoy using clay to create handmade pottery. Tuesdays-Fridays, 10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. and Tuesdays-Saturdays, 6-8 p.m. through Dec. 20 \$50 for 2 classes. 805-896-6197. anamcre.com. Anam Cre Pottery Studio, 1243 Monterey St, San Luis Obispo.

ADULT WORKSHOP: RE-ENERGIZE YOUR CREATIVE JOURNEY The objective of this workshop is to provide intermediate and advanced artists with the opportunity to re-energize your creativity and kickstart

SUBMIT YOUR EVENTS

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. Submissions require logging in with your Google, Facebook, or Twitter account. You can also email 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 cwiseblood@newtimeslo.com.

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BLURRED LINES

Poetic Justice Project presents Crossing The Line on June 17 at 7 p.m. at the Oasis Senior Center, located at 420 Soares Ave., Orcutt. This multimedia play tells the story of peace activist Dennis Apel, who was imprisoned after protesting at Vandenberg Air Force Base in observance of the 70th anniversary of the bombing of Hiroshima. Tickets are \$15. More info: (805) 264-5463.

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your artmaking. The focus will be on helping artists hone in on your own personal artistic style. With David Limrite. **June 8, 9 a.m.-4 p.m., June 9, 9 a.m.-4 p.m. and June 10, 9 a.m.-4 p.m.** \$345 members; \$375 general. 805-543-8562. sloma.org/education. San Luis Obispo Museum of Art, 1010 Broad St., San Luis Obispo.

CABARET SINGING AND PERFORMANCE CLASS Learn the art of singing in a Cabaret style and setting. Find your key and style with a skilled accompanist. You may start anytime during the semester. Wednesdays, 6:30-9:30 p.m. \$185 for 12 week class or \$20 per night as a drop-in student. 805-772-2812. cuesta.edu/communityprograms. Cuesta College Community Programs, Highway 1, San Luis Obispo.

FILM AND TV ACTING CLASSES Film and TV acting classes for all ages and skill levels. Offers optional showcases for major Hollywood talent agents and casting directors. Sundays, 12-8:45 p.m. Cost varies per class. 310-910-1228. actorsedge.com. Mission Cinemas, 1025 Monterey St., SLO.

GOLDEN ACRYLICS PAINT LECTURE/ DEMONSTRATION WITH JUDY GITTELSOHN An educational presentation on acrylic paints, gels, and mediums. This demo covers different types of pigments, viscosities, paints, and more. **June 16, 10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.** Free. 805-747-4200. Art Central, 1329 Monterey St., San Luis Obispo.

JUNE MAKE AND TAKE: KOI ON LILY PAD Join guest instructor Jennifer Hope to learn advanced throwing, hand building, and carving techniques in ceramics with a different theme and set of techniques offered each month. **June 9, 11 a.m.-1 p.m. and June 16, 11 a.m.-1 p.m.** \$16 per week; \$40 for 3 weeks. 805-242-1285. slomakerspace.com. SLO MakerSpace, 81 Higuera St., Ste. 160 and 180, San Luis Obispo.

OIL PAINTING WORKSHOP WITH SUSAN JENKINS This class includes measuring, drawing, and painting a rooster. All levels are welcome. **June 10, 12:30-5 p.m.** \$75. 805-747-4200. artcentralartsupply.com/. Art Central, 1329 Monterey St., San Luis Obispo.

PLANTS, PLACES, AND TREES IN 360 DEGREES: A GOLDEN PAINTS WORKSHOP BY JUDY GITTELSOHN This workshop introduces participants to various techniques and methods. All levels welcome. **June 16, 1:30-4:30 p.m.** \$60. 650-248-5381. artcentralartsupply.com. Art Central, 1329 Monterey St., San Luis Obispo.

SEA GLASS WIRE MOBILE Create a wire sea glass mobile. Learn how to wire wrap sea glass and add bead accents to adorn your mobile. **June 12, 5:30-8:30 p.m.** \$56. 805-549-1222. creativemetime.com. San Luis Coastal Adult School, 1500 Lizzie St., San Luis Obispo.

SHIRLEY HORACEK: FLOWER POWER A workshop featuring alcohol inks and yupo. Most materials will be provided. **June 9, 1:30-4:30 p.m.** \$25. 805-929-1614. Art Central, 1329 Monterey St., San Luis Obispo.

OLD WORLD DRAWING AND PAINTING WITH JASON MAYR All levels welcome. The course begins with drawing techniques and progresses through black and white, limited palette, to full palette. Every other Monday, 9 a.m.-1 p.m. through Nov. 19 \$35-\$40. 805-772-2504. artcentermorrobay.org. Art Center Morro Bay, 835 Main St., Morro Bay.

PAINT PARTY No artistic experience necessary. All materials and supplies provided. Outside food and drinks welcome. Saturdays, 7-9:30 p.m. \$40. 805-772-9095. foreverstoked.com/paintparty.html. Forever Stoked, 1164 Quintana Rd., Morro Bay.

ZEN DOODLE ADULT COLORING BOOK GROUP Relax and unwind with adult coloring books. Fridays, 10 a.m.-noon Free. 805-772-2504. artcentermorrobay.org. Art Center Morro Bay, 835 Main St., Morro Bay.

ZENTANGLE WORKSHOP June 9, 10 a.m.-1 p.m. \$20-\$37. 805-772-2504. artcentermorrobay.org. Art Center Morro Bay, 835 Main St., Morro Bay.

SPECIAL ART EVENTS

SOUTH COAST SLO COUNTY

ART IN THE PARK AT DINOSAUR CAVES Enjoy food, art, live music, a demo from Central Coast Kenpo Karate, and more. **June 10, 10 a.m.-5 p.m.** Price varies. 805-704-7083. artintheparkshellbeach.com. Dinosaur Caves Park, 2701 Price St, Pismo Beach.

BOOK SIGNING Featuring Arroyo Grande history writer Jim Gregory and his new book *Central Coast Aviators in World War II*. **June 9, 12:1-30 p.m.** Free; books will be available for \$20 each. 805-305-3375. arroyograndehistory.com. IOOF Hall, 128 Bridge St., Arroyo Grande.

CENTRAL COAST AVIATORS OF WORLD WAR II: BOOK SIGNING Enjoy a reading and book signing by Arroyo Grande historian Jim Gregory. **June 9, 12:1-30 p.m.** Free; \$20 for book. 805-305-3375. arroyograndehistory.com. IOOF Hall, 128 Bridge St., Arroyo Grande.

SAN LUIS OBISPO

JULIA MORGAN BUILDING TOUR Member docents will guide you through our historic building and grounds. Tours may also be arranged by appointment. Mondays, 2-5 p.m. Free. 805-541-0594. themondayclubslo.org. The Monday Club, 1815 Monterey St, San Luis Obispo.

POETRY READING WITH STEPHEN KALINICH Kalinich is best known for his songwriting collaborations with The Beach Boys, P.F. Sloan, Paul McCartney, and other artists. Q&A follows. **June 12, 7 p.m.** Free. 805-710-1577. facebook.com/beachboysmuseum. Kreuzberg Coffee Company, 685 Higuera Street, San Luis Obispo.

EXHIBITS

SANTA YNEZ VALLEY

BIRDS OF THE TRI-COUNTY REGION Three artists share their perspectives of bird species that can be found in the tri-county region (Ventura, Santa Barbara, and San Luis Obispo). In the Valley Oak Gallery. **Through July 30** Wildling Museum of Art and Nature, 1511-B Mission Dr., Solvang, 805-688-1082, wildlingmuseum.org.

HEAD IN THE CLOUDS: PAINTINGS BY LAUREL SHERRIE Sherrie's paintings include skylscapes that reveal emotional connections to things we witness in the sky. **Through July 5** 805-688-7265. winermerchantcafe.com. Los Olivos Wine Merchant Cafe, 2879 Grand Ave., Los Olivos.

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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 RIVER'S JOURNEY: ONE YEAR, SIX ARTISTS, NINETY-TWO MILES Featuring the work of Connie Connally, Holli Harmon, Libby Smith, Nicole Strasburg, Nina Warner, and Pamela Zwehl-Burke. **Through July 9** 805-686-8315. wildlingmuseum.org. Wildling Museum of Art and Nature, 1511-B Mission Dr., Solvang.

THE ROADSIDE SERIES: ATTRACTIONS AND DISTRACTIONS Featuring the work of artist Nancy Yaki, who began her Roadside Series as a study of landscapes while driving to and from work. This series also includes special presentations, panel discussions, film screenings, and workshops. **Through Aug. 5** Elverhoj Museum of History and Art, 1624 Elverhoj Way, Solvang, 805-686-1211, elverhoj.org.

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.

SUMMER BLOOM A collection of plein air and studio paintings by pastel artists Deborah Breedon and Kris Buck. ongoing Gallery Los Olivos, 2920 Grand Ave., Los Olivos.

VALLEY VISTAS This landscapes exhibit features works by Dave DeMatteo, Dirk Foslien, Joe Mancuso, Sheryl Knight, Nancy Phelps, Barron Postmus, Merv Corning, and Eyvind Earle. **June 16-Aug. 1** solvangantiques.com. Solvang Antiques, 1693 Copenhagen Dr., Solvang.

LOMPOC/VANDENBERG

INTO THE WOODS Featuring artists Debby Fuller and Gabriel Bustamante. **Through July 1**, 12-5 p.m. Cypress Gallery, 119 E Cypress Ave., Lompoc, 805-705-5328, lompocvalleyartassociation.com.

SANTA MARIA VALLEY/LOS ALAMOS

COLOR AND MOTION: AN ARTISTS PERSPECTIVE See the work of local artist Kathy Badrak on display at the Terry Dworaczyk office of

Ameriprise Financial. This exhibit is one of a continuing series of shows to spotlight local art and artists. ongoing 805-938-9724. ampf.com. Ameriprise Financial, 2605 S Miller St., Suite 104, Santa Maria.

TAFFY FRENCH GRAY AT VALLEY ART GALLERY Gray is the gallery's featured artist for the month of June. **Through July 1** Free. Valley Art Gallery, 125 W. Clark Ave., Orcutt, 805-937-2278, valleygallery.org.

SOUTH COAST SLO COUNTY

ART BY SLOPE AT DANA ADOBE A collection that culminates art and history to educate the community. Fridays. **Through Sept. 30** 805-929-5679. danaadobe.org. DANA Adobe Cultural Center, 671 S. Oakglen Ave., Nipomo.

FROM ARTISTS, FOR ARTISTS, BY ARTISTS Featuring fine art oils and pastels from Corynn Wolf, acrylics from Ryan Adams, and works from various mediums by Marc Wolf ongoing Free. 805-773-6563. Puffers of Pismo, 781 Price St., Pismo Beach, puffersofpismo.com/.

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

ELECTRIC ABSTRACTIONS Showcasing the digital art of Daniel Leighton, Robert Chapman, and Jayne Behman. Mondays, Wednesdays-Sundays, 11 a.m.-5 p.m. **through June 10** Free. 805-543-8562. sloma.org/exhibits. San Luis Obispo Museum of Art, 1010 Broad St., San Luis Obispo.

FIGURATIVELY TEACHING: STUDENTS OF DAVID LIMRITE Showcasing the works of artist David Limrite's devoted students. Mondays-Saturdays, 10 a.m.-5 p.m., Mondays-Fridays, 10 a.m.-5:30 p.m. and Mondays-Sundays, 12-4 p.m. **through July 2** Free. 805-747-4200. artcentralslo.wordpress.com/. Art Central, 1329 Monterey St., San Luis Obispo.

PASSION FOR COLOR AND PATTERN

Featuring still lifes by artist Patti Robbins. Mondays, Wednesdays-Sundays, 11 a.m.-5 p.m. **through June 17** Free. 805-543-8562. sloma.org/exhibits. San Luis Obispo Museum of Art, 1010 Broad St., San Luis Obispo.

SELECTIONS: BAY AREA Ruta Saliklis, curator and director of exhibitions at SLOMA, is showcasing oil



PHOTO COURTESY OF AMY DONALD

TRILOGY TASTINGS

Trilogy at Monarch Dunes is hosting its Vintner Festival on June 16 from 1 to 4 p.m. Guests can enjoy tasting wines from local winemakers and passed appetizers prepared by Chef Charles Weber. Admission ranges from \$20 to \$40. Trilogy at Monarch Dunes is located at 1640 Trilogy Parkway, Nipomo. More info: trilogylife.com.

paintings by Anne Subercaseaux and a metal sculpture by Flora Davis. Mondays-Sundays. **through Aug. 19** Free. 805-543-8562. sloma.org/exhibits/. San Luis Obispo Museum of Art, 1010 Broad St., San Luis Obispo.

CALLS FOR ARTISTS

SAN LUIS OBISPO

55 FICTION CONTEST Accepting brief stories, 55 words or less, with headlines no longer than 7 words. See site for more details. **Through June 14** newtimeslo.com. New Times, 1010 Marsh St., San Luis Obispo, 805-546-8208.

CALL FOR ENTRIES: HOME SWEET HOME Juried

artists with physical, mental, or developmental disabilities to delve into subjects, themes, and motifs that have to do with "home." Entry form online. **Through July 1** \$15 per piece. 805-543-8562. sloma.org. San Luis Obispo Museum of Art, 1010 Broad St., San Luis Obispo.

CALL FOR ENTRIES: SLO PART-TIME PLAYERS 10-MINUTE PLAYS Accepting submissions of 10-minute plays with 5 or fewer characters (1-3 preferred), few or no props, simple staging, and an emphasis on the text. Writers should have theater experience (please include brief description). Email submissions to celestegoyer@gmail.com. ongoing Free. Mission Plaza, 989 Chorro St, San Luis Obispo.

STAGE

SANTA YNEZ VALLEY

THE HUNCHBACK OF NOTRE DAME AT SOLVANG FESTIVAL THEATER Music by Alan Menken. Lyrics by Stephen Schwartz. Book by Peter Parnell. Presented through special arrangement with Music Theatre International. **June 14-July 8** Solvang Festival Theater, 420 2nd St., Solvang, 805-928-7731.

SANTA MARIA VALLEY/LOS ALAMOS

CROSSING THE LINE This multimedia play tells the story of peace activist Dennis Apel, who was imprisoned after protesting at Vandenberg Air Force Base in observance of the 70th anniversary of the bombing of Hiroshima. **June 17**, 7 p.m. \$15. 805-264-5463. Oasis Senior Center, 420 Soares Ave., Orcutt.

SOUTH COAST SLO COUNTY

HOT CHILD IN THE CITY A cabaret style variety show featuring live music, dancing, skits, and more. Wine and dessert included with admission. Fridays, Saturdays, 7-9 p.m. **through June 16** \$16-\$20. 805-473-0377. The Studio of Performing Arts, 805 Grand Ave., Grover Beach.

LESS MISERABLE A comedic twist on the Victor Hugo classic. **Through June 10** \$21-\$28. 805-489-2499. americanmelodrama.com. Great American Melodrama, 1863 Front St., Oceano.

THE MIX TAPE An original musical comedy set in the late '90s. **June 14-Sept. 15** 805-489-2499. americanmelodrama.com. Great American Melodrama, 1863 Front St., Oceano.

ARTS continued page 28

FOXCEE WEST ON THE CENTRAL COAST (CONNECTION TO DRAKE)



NEW!!! Reality Show on the Central Coast to be featured on KSBY television and other Networks.

Santa Maria will never be the same thanks to Big Daddy Hollywood Production



Seeking new cast member & Businesses to promote during the show

For more information or auditions contact: (901) 830-6368

Email: bigdaddyhollywoodp@gmail.com

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IVORY DeVILLE

JUNE 9 with **THE HEATHEN APOSTLES**
 \$15/20

HARMED BROTHERS

JUNE 16 with **InPLANES**
 \$15/20

BOOM FOREST

JULY 7
 \$12/17

JACKIE BRISTOW

JULY 9
 \$12/17

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LAST CHANCE!

Vote in the *Sun's*
18th Annual Best of
Northern Santa Barbara
County Readers Poll by
5pm Monday, June 11th!



*Get
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foot
on the
gas!*

**CRUISE ON OVER TO
SANTAMARIASUN.COM
TO VOTE FOR YOUR
FAVORITES**

Or fill out the ballot
in this week's paper.

*It's a race to
the finish!*

**Voting ends Monday,
June 11, 2018 at 5pm!**



Alex Madonna Expo Center

June 9-10

Sat 10-5
Sun 11-4:30

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THE 66TH ANNUAL



Flower Festival

Ryon Park, Lompoc, CA
June 20-24, 2018

PARK ENTRY \$5 PER DAY
CHILDREN 12 & UNDER FREE

FOOD BOOTHS • ARTS & CRAFTS
COMMERCIAL VENDORS • FREE LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

Wednesday • June 20th

Community Appreciation/Free Admission All Day
Sponsored by KCOY TV

8:00-10:00 p.m. - "WHISKEY STONE" (Heavy Rock)

Thursday • June 21st

Free Admission Until 1:00 p.m.

8:00-10:00 p.m. - "DYLAN ORTEGA" (Country)

Friday • June 22nd

Free Admission Until 1:00 p.m.

6:00-7:30 p.m. - "STORM" (R&B/Blues/Rock)

8:00-10:00 p.m. - "MOLLY RINGWALD PROJECT" (80's Rock n Roll)

Saturday • June 23rd

Parade Day - Starts @ 10:00 a.m. sharp

3:15-5:15 p.m. - "RICHIE RAY" (Reggae)

5:30-7:30 p.m. - "JACOB COLE" (Rock Variety)

8:00-10:00 p.m. - "CHINA GROVE" (Doobie Brothers Tribute Band)

Sunday • June 24th

Fiesta Sunday - Sponsored by La Buena 105.1 FM

11:45-1:45 p.m. - "805 CALI TEJANA" (Cumbia/Various Mix)

2:00-4:00 p.m. - "MARIACHI AUTLENSE" (Mariachi)

4:00-6:00 p.m. - "KOMBINADO" (Cumbia/Various Mix)



Available at Festival Office Only:

1-Day Presale Park Entry Pass \$4

4-Punch Presale Park Entry Pass \$15



Carnival Presented by BUTLER AMUSEMENTS, INC.



CARNIVAL

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Pre-Sale \$20

NOW until 12 Noon on June 20, 2018

or \$30 at the Park

FOR TICKET INFORMATION:

WWW.LOMPOCVALLEYFESTIVALS.COM



SANTA MARIA VALLEY/LOS ALAMOS

ANNIE The Tony Award-winning family musical. Proceeds from a special performance on June 7 benefit women's scholarships. Wednesdays-Sundays, 7-9 p.m. and Saturdays, Sundays, 2-4 p.m. through July 1 \$20-\$38. 805-786-2440. slorep.org/shows/annie/. San Luis Obispo Repertory Theatre, 888 Morro St., San Luis Obispo.

COMEDY NIGHT AT 7 SISTERS

Enjoy live stand-up comedy from local and touring comics with locally brewed beverages. Second Saturday of every month, 7-9 p.m. Free. 805-868-7133. 7Sisters Brewing Company, 181 Tank Farm Rd. Suite 110, San Luis Obispo, 7SistersBrewing.com.

IMPROV COMEDY SHOW

Fast-paced improv comedy shows performed by the ensemble of Central Coast Comedy Theater. All shows are based on audience suggestions making every show unique. Saturdays, 8-10 p.m. \$5. centralcoastcomedytheater.com. Kreuzberg Coffee Company, 685 Higuera Street, San Luis Obispo, 805-430-0260.



CULTURE & LIFESTYLE

LECTURES & LEARNING

LOMPOC/VANDENBERG

COMMUNITY FOOD CENTER The center is a food pantry offering nutritional classes. Wednesdays, 3-5 p.m. Free. 805-967-5741, Ext. 107. El Camino Community Center, W. Laurel Avenue and N. I Street, Lompoc.

WORLD WAR I: ON THE HOME FRONT This special presentation, part of an ongoing WWI remembrance

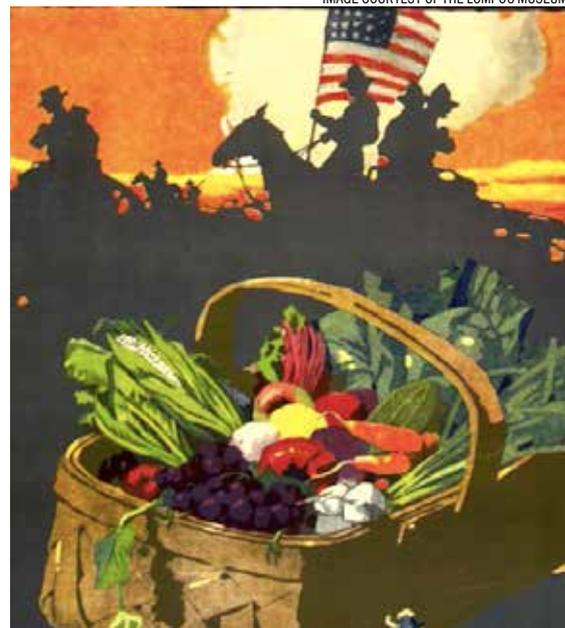


IMAGE COURTESY OF THE LOMPOC MUSEUM

WORLD AT WAR

On The Home Front, part of the Lompoc Museum's World War I Remembrance series, takes place June 11 from 7 to 9 p.m. at Stone Pine Hall. This presentation includes a discussion on the effects the war had on life at home and how food restrictions and other programs were critical for victory. Stone Pine Hall is located at 210 S. H St., Lompoc. More info: (805) 736-3888.

series, includes a discussion on the effects of WWI on life at home and how programs like war gardens, food restrictions, and Liberty Bonds helped win the war. June 11, 7-9 p.m. Free. 805-736-3888. facebook.com/lompoc-museum. Stone Pine Hall, 210 South H St., 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.

CLUBS & MEETINGS

SANTA MARIA VALLEY/LOS ALAMOS

BOARD OF LIBRARY TEENS Join the Board of

Library Teens (BOLT). This club meets on the second Saturday of each month to create a vision for the Teen Zone and decide on upcoming teen programs. June 9, 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. 805-928-7799. oasisorcutt.org. Oasis Senior Center, 420 Soares Ave., Orcutt.

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.

TEENS: ANIME CLUB This monthly meeting welcomes all fans of anime and/or manga. June 8, 4:30-5:30 p.m. Free. 805-925-0994. engagedpatrons.org. Santa Maria Public Library, 421 S. McClelland St., 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

BISHOP PEAK CHAPTER OF THE EMBROIDERER'S GUILD OF AMERICA

Welcoming those who work with all forms of needlework. Bring a sack lunch. Third Saturday of every month, 10 a.m.-2 p.m. through Nov. 17 Free. Grover Beach Community Center, 1230 Trouville Ave., Grover Beach, (805) 773-4832.

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

HELP4HD SUPPORT GROUPS Help4HD Support Groups is the Help 4 Huntington's disease support group. Second Monday of every month, 12-1:30 p.m. Free. 354-0708. help4hd-international.org. Bethel Lutheran Church, 624 E. Camino Colegio, Santa Maria.

TRUAMA 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.

SOUTH COAST SLO COUNTY

GENERAL GRIEF SUPPORT GROUP (SOUTH COUNTY) Hospice SLO County is offering this support group for those grieving the death of a loved one. Held in the Church Care Center. Drop-ins welcome. Tuesdays, 10-11:30 p.m. through June 29 Free. 805-544-2266. hospiceslo.org. New Life Pismo, 990 James Way, Pismo Beach.

SPOUSE AND PARTNER LOSS SUPPORT GROUP (SOUTH COUNTY)

A Hospice SLO support group for those grieving the loss of a partner or spouse. This group provides the opportunity to connect with individuals in a similar situation. Held in Room 16. Drop-ins welcome. Thursdays, 5-6:30 p.m. through June 30 Free. 805-544-2266. hospiceslo.org. New Life Pismo, 990 James Way, Pismo Beach.

CREATE & LEARN

SANTA MARIA VALLEY/LOS ALAMOS

CARD MAKING Tuesdays, 9 a.m. 805-928-7799. oasisorcutt.org. Oasis Senior Center, 420 Soares Ave., Orcutt.

KNITTING AND CROCHETING Wednesdays, 9:30 a.m. 805-928-7799. oasisorcutt.org. Oasis Senior Center, 420 Soares Ave., Orcutt.

SOUTH COAST SLO COUNTY**SEWING CAFE CLASSES AND WORKSHOPS**

Sewing Cafe offers various classes and workshop. Call for full schedule. ongoing Sewing Cafe, 541 Five Cities Dr., Pismo Beach, 805-295-6585.

SAN LUIS OBISPO

FUSED GLASS WORKSHOP With instructor Sheri Klein. All materials provided. Registration required. **June 9**, 2-4 p.m. Free. 805-781-5989. slolibrary.org. San Luis Obispo Library, 995 Palm St., San Luis Obispo.

MIND & BODY**SANTA MARIA VALLEY/LOS ALAMOS**

CANDLELIGHT RESTORATIVE YOGA Release and open your body with breath, props, and meditation. Mondays, 7-8 p.m. yogaformankind.com. Yoga for Mankind, 130 N Broadway, Suite B, Orcutt.

GENTLE YOGA Tuesdays, Thursdays, 8:30 a.m. 805-928-7799. oasisorcutt.org. Oasis Senior Center, 420 Soares Ave., Orcutt.

ONE WITH THE MOVEMENT AND FLOW WITH THE BODY A workshop intended to build alignment and cleanse. Hosted by Celene Bond, Kaya Bond, and Sara Garofalo. **June 9**, 1-3 p.m. \$25. 805-680-6542. yoga4mankind.org/events/one-with-the-movement-flow-with-the-body/. Yoga for Mankind, 130 N Broadway, Suite B, Orcutt.

REFLEXOLOGY AT OASIS Tuesdays, 9 a.m. 805-928-7799. oasisorcutt.org. Oasis Senior Center, 420 Soares Ave., Orcutt.

SOUND HEALING WITH ACUPUNCTURE Join Lorne Johnson and Lisa Jay for a relaxing, healing, and rejuvenating workshop that combines acupuncture with sound healing. Includes a brief talk on the history and benefits of acupuncture, Chinese medicine, aromatherapy, and sound healing. **June 10**, 3-5 p.m. \$35. 805-680-6542. yoga4mankind.org/events/sound-healing-with-acupuncture/. Yoga for Mankind, 130 N Broadway, Suite B, Orcutt.

TAI CHI AT OASIS Tuesdays, Thursdays, 9:45 a.m. 805-928-7799. oasisorcutt.org. Oasis Senior Center, 420 Soares Ave., Orcutt.

YOGA BASIC 101 WORKSHOP FOR JUNE

Participants can use this workshop to strengthen and increase flexibility, learn basic standing postures and sun salutations, build confidence in their practice in a safe and supportive environment, and more. Tuesdays, 7-8 p.m. through June 26 \$49. 805-680-6542. yoga4mankind.org/events/yoga-basics-101-workshop-for-june/. Yoga for Mankind, 130 N Broadway, Suite B, Orcutt.

SOUTH COAST SLO COUNTY

KUNDALINI YOGA Gentle yoga classes with a focus on meditation and chanting in the Kundalini Yoga (as taught by Yogi Bhajan). All levels of experience welcome. Thursdays, 6:30-7:45 p.m. through Dec. 31 \$12 per class; \$40 for 4 classes. 626-864-4810. branchmillorganics.com/classes-offered/. Branch Mill Organic Farm & Retreat Center, 2815 Branch Mill Rd., Arroyo Grande.

SENIOR BODY FITNESS Please bring your own weights and bands. Mondays, 11 a.m.-noon \$1 per class. 805-598-7108. Cortina Apartments, 241 Courtland St., Arroyo Grande.

SILVER SNEAKERS ZUMBA Appropriate for all ages and fitness levels. An easy-to-follow dance fitness class. Mondays, Wednesdays, Fridays, 9-10 a.m. Free for members; \$6 to drop-in. 805-441-7932. Oceano Community Center, 1425 19th St., Oceano, adulted. luciamarschools.org.

WATER EXERCISE FOR ALL AGES These classes help relieve joint pain, enhance your breathing, and increase your range of motion. Mondays, Wednesdays, Thursdays, 6:30-7:30 p.m. 805-481-6399. 5 Cities Swim School, 425 Traffic Way, Arroyo Grande, 5cityesswimschool.com.

SAN LUIS OBISPO

AFRICAN DANCE An all levels dance class where you can learn traditional dances from Guinea and West Africa. Accompanied by live drumming. Wednesdays, 6:30-7:45 p.m. \$5-\$10. afrodance.net. Performance Athletics Gymnastics, 4484 Broad St., San Luis Obispo, 805-547-1496.

AIKIDO FOR EVERYONE A Japanese martial art designed to stop violence with minimum harm. This class welcomes beginning and experienced students of all levels. Tuesdays, 5:45-7 p.m. \$65 for 3 months. 805-549-1222. aikidosanluisobispo.com. San Luis Coastal Adult School, 1500 Lizzie St., San Luis Obispo.

CONDITIONING EXPRESS Raise your heart rate and increase muscular endurance through specific circuits of moves using a variety of equipment and your own body weight. Tuesdays, 6:45-7:30 a.m. through Aug. 9 \$66. 805-549-1222. San Luis Coastal Adult School, 1500 Lizzie St., San Luis Obispo, ae.slucsd.org/.

CULTURE continued page 30

MY 805 TIXTickets on sale now at:
My805Tix.com**The Rising Suns**

SATURDAY, JUNE 9TH

Mattie's Bar & Eatery, Pismo Beach

**Soundhouse Acoustic**

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 13TH

Mattie's Bar & Eatery, Pismo Beach

**The Cliffnotes Band**

SATURDAY, JUNE 16TH

Mattie's Bar & Eatery, Pismo Beach

**Summer Sipping Wine Passport**

SAT & SUN, JUNE 23RD-24TH

Foxen Canyon Winery, Santa Maria

**Pancake Breakfast Fundraiser**

WEDNESDAY, JULY 4TH

Avila Beach Community Center, Avila Beach

**34th Annual CC Renaissance Festival**

SAT & SUN, JULY 21ST & 22ND

Laguna Lake Park, SLO

**The Sunny Write Trio**

SUNDAY, JULY 29TH

Old Santa Rosa Chapel, Cambria

**The McNaughtstys**

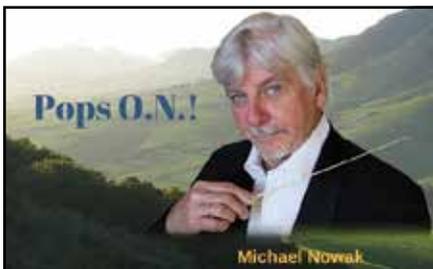
FRIDAY, AUGUST 31ST

Tooth & Nail Winery, Paso Robles

**2018 Tour & Taste of the Valley**

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 1ST

Orcutt Union Plaza, Brought to you by Boys & Girls Club of SM

**4th Annual Pops ON!**

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 2ND

PAC, SLO

**Poncho Sanchez**

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 16TH

CPAC, Cuesta College SLO

**The Cimo Brothers**

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 21ST

Old Santa Rosa Chapel, Cambria

**Central Coast Live! Halloween**

FRI & SAT, OCTOBER 26TH & 27TH

California Mid-State Fairgrounds, Paso Robles

**10th Annual New Times Music Awards**

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER, 2ND

The Fremont, SLO

Interested in selling tickets with My805Tix?Contact us for a demo at info@My805Tix.comPOWERED BY: *NewTimes* & **SUN**

A CONSCIOUS MOVEMENT COMMUNITY Ecstatic Dance SLO presents this safe, supportive, and non-verbal free flowing space for movement expression. Check Facebook page for more info. **June 17**, 4-6 p.m. \$10-\$20. San Luis Obispo Vets' Hall, 801 Grand Ave., San Luis Obispo, 805-781-5930.

GENTLE YOGA Includes exercises involving the Egoscue Method, foundation training, active isolated stretching, and more. Mondays, Wednesdays, 5:30-6:30 p.m. 805-549-1222. ae.slucsd.org. San Luis Coastal Adult School, 1500 Lizzie St., San Luis Obispo.

METABOLIC CONDITIONING Exercises include weights, kettle bells, stability balls, and other props. Tuesdays, Thursdays, 8:05-9 a.m. through Aug. 9 \$88. 805-549-1222. San Luis Coastal Adult School, 1500 Lizzie St., San Luis Obispo, ae.slucsd.org/.

STRENGTH FOR 50+ Join Cassandra for this exercise program designed to promote muscle strength, flexibility, and coordination. This class is best suited for students ages 50 and over. Mondays, Wednesdays, 9:15-10:15 a.m. through Aug. 8 805-459-1222. ae.slucsd.org. San Luis Coastal Adult School, 1500 Lizzie St., San Luis Obispo.

OUTDOORS

SOUTH COAST SLO COUNTY

THE COAST GUARD AUXILIARY: BOATING SAFELY SEMINAR Covers boating law, safety equipment, navigation, general problems/solutions, trailering, and launching. **June 16**, 8 a.m.-5 p.m. \$40. 805-235-6690. Port San Luis Harbor District, 3900 Avila Beach Dr., Avila Beach.

SAN LUIS OBISPO

WADDELL RANCH LOOP HIKE WITH ECOSLO A strenuous, docent led, six-mile hike. Sturdy shoes, water, and snacks advised. **June 9**, 9 a.m.-noon Free. 805-544-1777. ecoslo.org/events/. Waddell Ranch: Irish Hills Open Space, Madonna Rd. and Devaul Ranch Dr., San Luis Obispo.

WALKING TOUR: VICTORIAN HOUSES, OLD WEST LIVES A guide leads attendees through houses and gardens of SLO and discusses the different kinds of visual language early residents used. **June 8**, 1-3 p.m., **June 10**, 1-3 p.m. and **June 16**, 1-3 p.m. \$10-\$20. 805-470-0983. Dallidet Adobe and Gardens, 1185 Pacific St., San Luis Obispo, historycenterslo.org.

SPORTS

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. Ernest Righetti High School, 941 E. Foster Rd., Orcutt, 805-937-3738.

SOUTH COAST SLO COUNTY

LADIES GOLF NIGHT Offering swing and putting instruction from 5 to 6:30 p.m. and live music and refreshments to enjoy from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. Thursdays, 5-8:30 p.m. through Aug. 30 \$10. 805-481-5215. Pismo Beach Golf Course, 25 West Grand Avenue, Grover Beach, pismobeachgolf.com.

KIDS & FAMILY

SANTA MARIA VALLEY/LOS ALAMOS

AFTERNOON STORY TIME An afternoon program featuring stories, movies, and a craft open to children aged 6 or older. Tuesdays, 3:30-4:30 p.m. through July 24 Free. 805-925-0994. engagedpatrons.org. Santa Maria Public Library, 421 S. McClelland St., Santa Maria.

BEAR-Y WONDERFUL STORY TIME Features stories, songs, finger plays, digital storytelling, and a book-on-DVD. Open to preschoolers ages 3 to 5 and their families. No registration required. Wednesdays, 10:30-11 a.m. through July 25 Free. 805-925-0994. engagedpatrons.org. Santa Maria Public Library, 421 S. McClelland St., 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.

PLAY, MOVE, AND LEARN WITH YOUR TODDLER A learning experience just for toddlers and their caregivers. This high-energy story time helps toddlers learn and grow through stories, movement, and music. Thursdays, 10-11 & 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Free. 805-925-0994. cityofsantamaria.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. 805-688-1115. Buellton Library, 140 W. Highway 246, Buellton.

SANTA MARIA VALLEY RAILWAY HISTORICAL MUSEUM The Santa Maria Valley Railway Historical Museum features a locomotive, boxcar, caboose, 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.

SUMMER MAKERSPACE Kids can enjoy creating, building, and using their imagination during these Library Maker Events in the library's Learning Center. Saturdays, 10 a.m.-3 p.m. through Aug. 25 Free. 805-925-0994. engagedpatrons.org. Santa Maria Public Library, 421 S. McClelland St., Santa Maria.

SUMMER READING KICK-OFF EVENT This family-friendly maker event welcomes all ages. Guests will have the opportunity to sign up for the 2018 Summer Reading Program. **June 9**, 10 a.m.-3 p.m. Free. 805-925-0994. engagedpatrons.org. Santa Maria Public Library, 421 S. McClelland St., Santa Maria.

SUMMER READING PROGRAM Kids can earn prizes for reading. Visit any Santa Maria branch library for details. Mondays-Saturdays, through July 28 Free. 805-925-0994. cityofsantamaria.org. Santa Maria Public Library, 421 S. McClelland St., Santa Maria.

SOUTH COAST SLO COUNTY

BEGINNER'S QI GONG AND YOGA For adults and children 11 and older. Features breathing techniques to help alleviate stressors. **June 10**, 9:45-11:30 a.m. Free. 805-534-1600. Morrocco Method Headquarters, 800 Farroll Rd., Grover Beach, morroccomethod.com.

OCEANO DUNES VISITOR CENTER Enjoy exhibits of dune and lagoon plant and animal species. End your visit with a stroll behind the center to the fresh-water lagoon. Thursdays, 12-4 p.m., Fridays, 12-4 p.m., Saturdays, 12-4 p.m. and Sundays, 12-4 p.m. through Dec. 30 Free. 805-474-2667. Oceano Dunes Visitor Center, 555 Pier Ave, Oceano.

TOM KNIGHT FAMILY CONCERT AND PUPPET SHOW This show is part of the 2018 Summer Reading Program. All ages are welcome. **June 12**, 2-2:45 p.m. Free. 805-781-4796. slolibrary.org. Arroyo Grande Library, 800 W. Branch, Arroyo Grande.

WHAT'S YOUR SUPERPOWER?: YOUTH CLASSES FOR AGES 7-11 Enrichment program to address the challenges youth face in school/life which interferes with learning, relationships, well-being. Discover inner resources ("superpowers") to reduce stress/anxiety, nurture compassion, regulate difficult emotions through mindfulness, movement, yoga, and social-emotional learning. Mondays, 3:45-4:45 p.m. 805-270-5523. mindfulkindfullyuniversity.com. Oak Park Professional Centre, 530 Camino Mercado, Ste 576, Arroyo Grande.

SAN LUIS OBISPO

AIKIDO FOR KIDS AGE 4-13 AIKI-MITES (age 4-6) class is 3pm on Tuesdays. AIKI-KIDS (age 7-13) classes are Tuesdays/Thursdays at 4pm. Call to observe or pre-register. Tuesdays, Thursdays \$50-\$75 monthly. 805-544-8866. aikidosanluisobispo.com. Budo Ryu, 3536 South Higuera St., San Luis Obispo.

DRAMA AND IMAGINATIVE PLAY CLASS: AGES 5-8 Sing, dance, play games, and create stories and characters. Saturdays, 11-11:45 a.m. \$120 for 10 weeks. 805-709-0761. pyjamadrama.com/us. SLO Movement Arts Center, 2074 Parker St., San Luis Obispo.

DRAMA AND PLAY CLASSES: AGES 2-4 Build language, develop motor skills, and practice cooperation, concentration, and problem solving. Mondays, 10:15-11 a.m. \$120 for 10 weeks. 805-709-0761. pyjamadrama.com/us. SLO Movement Arts Center, 2074 Parker St., San Luis Obispo.

FAMILY POTTERY NIGHT Classes include instruction and materials. Tuesdays, Thursdays, Saturdays, 6-8 p.m. through Dec. 20 \$50 for 2 classes; \$30 to glaze only. 805-896-6197. anamcre.com. Anam Cre Pottery Studio, 1243 Monterey St, San Luis Obispo.

FREE ADOPTION INFORMATION SESSION Free sessions on adoption information at our San Luis Obispo office located at 1540 Marsh Street, Ste 130. The FCCA has placed over 5,100 waiting children into forever families since 1983. First Thursday of every month, 6-8 p.m. Free. 805-542-9084. fcadoptions.org. Family Connections Christian Adoptions, 1540 Marsh St. #130, San Luis Obispo.

KIDS PARTY PARADISE Kids aged over 4 can enjoy games, an obstacle course, pizza, dessert, crafts, a movie, and more. No gymnastics experience required. **June 9**, 5:30-10:30 p.m. Starts at \$34. 805-547-1496. performanceathleticsslo.com. Performance Athletics Gymnastics, 4484 Broad St., San Luis Obispo.

POTTERY FOR KIDS Offering children the opportunity to use the pottery wheel and sculpt. Tuesdays, Thursdays, Saturdays, 1:30-5 & 6-8 p.m. through June 12 \$30. 805-896-6197. anamcre.com. Anam Cre Pottery Studio, 1243 Monterey St, San Luis Obispo.

PUPPET SHOW WITH TOM KNIGHT Enjoy the music and puppetry of the Tom Knight Puppet Show. For all ages. Part of the 2018 Summer Reading Program. **June**

13, 10:30-11:30 a.m. Free. 805-681-5783. slolibrary.org. San Luis Obispo Library, 995 Palm St., San Luis Obispo.

PYJAMA DRAMA: DRAMA AND IMAGINATIVE PLAY CLASSES Drama and imaginative play develops skills that can last a lifetime like the confidence to be brave, desire to share ideas with others, and the joy of solving problems with friends by your side. Saturdays, 11-11:45 a.m. and Mondays, 9:30-11 a.m. \$12. 805-709-0761. pyjamadrama.com. SLO Movement Arts Center, 2074 Parker St., San Luis Obispo.

SUMMER GYMNASTICS CAMP Performance Athletics Gymnastics offers camps for kids ages 3 to 13 (toilet trained). Kids can enjoy gymnastics (no experience necessary), games, crafts, outdoor time, and more. Full and half day options available. **June 11-Aug. 10**, 8:30 a.m.-5:30 p.m. Starts at \$40. 805-547-1496. performanceathleticsslo.com. Performance Athletics Gymnastics, 4484 Broad St., San Luis Obispo.

SUMMER READING KICK-OFF PARTY Features kids activities, face painting, balloon animals, a barbecue, live music from Ichimi Daiko, and more. All ages welcome. **June 8**, 12:30-3 p.m. Free. 805-781-5783. slolibrary.org. San Luis Obispo Library, 995 Palm St., San Luis Obispo.

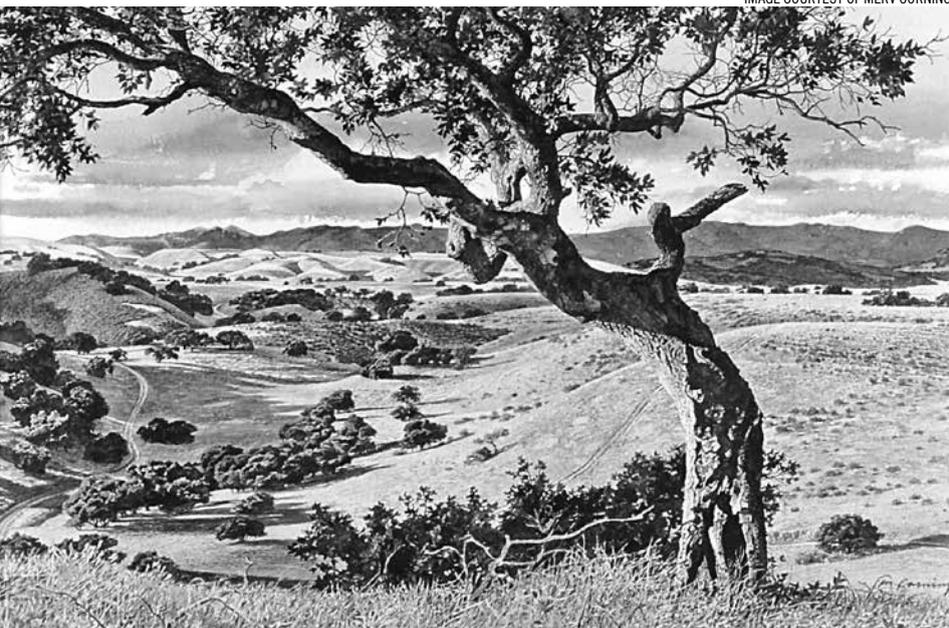
SUMMER ROBOTICS CAMP (GRADES 2 THROUGH 5) Learn about robot building and programming from the SLOHS SLOBotics team camp counselors. **June 11-15**, 12:30-4 p.m. \$135. slohsstore.myschoolcentral.com. San Luis Obispo High School, 1499 San Luis Dr., San Luis Obispo, 805-596-4040.

TOM KNIGHT FAMILY CONCERT AND PUPPET SHOW This show is part of the 2018 Summer Reading Program. All ages are welcome. **June 13**, 10:30-11:15 a.m. Free. 805-781-5775. slolibrary.org. San Luis Obispo Library, 995 Palm St., San Luis Obispo.

SPIRITUAL

SANTA MARIA VALLEY/LOS ALAMOS

HOPE COMMUNITY CHURCH SERVICES Join Hope



TREE'S COMPANY

Valley Vistas opens on June 16 and runs through Aug. 1 at the Judith Hale Gallery. This landscapes exhibit features works by Dave DeMatteo, Dirk Foslén, Joe Mancuso, Sheryl Knight, Nancy Phelps, Barron Postmus, Merv Corning, and Eyvind Earle. The gallery is located within Solvang Antiques at 1693 Copenhagen Drive, Solvang. More info: solvangantiques.com.

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. Hope Community Church, 3010 Skyway Dr. Suite F, 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. 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.

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. Coventree: Books and Gifts, 722 E Main St., Santa Maria.

SOUTH COAST SLO COUNTY

CHANNELING With Mike Smith. Receive channeled messages from spirit guides and love ones. Second Saturday of every month, 6:30-7:30 p.m. \$35. 805-489-2432. Halcyon Store Post Office, 936 S. Halcyon Rd., Arroyo Grande.

DRUM CIRCLE With Julie Jensen. You may bring your own drum if you wish. Those without drums are welcome. Additional instruments will be available for use. Third Friday of every month, 6:30-8 p.m. Donations accepted. 805-489-2432. Halcyon Store Post Office, 936 S. Halcyon Rd., Arroyo Grande.

DRUM MEDICINE JOURNEY With Julie Jensen. Every third Monday, 6:30-8 p.m. \$30. 805-489-2432. Halcyon Store Post Office, 936 S. Halcyon Rd., Arroyo Grande.

INTUITIVE CIRCLE CLASSES Explore your gift of receiving and giving intuitive information during these classes hosted by Julie Jensen. Every other Tuesday, 6:30-8 p.m. \$25. 805-489-2432. Halcyon Store Post Office, 936 S. Halcyon Rd., Arroyo Grande.

MEDIUMSHIP DEVELOPMENT Learn the basics of communicating with spirit in a safe environment with Mike Smith. Tuesdays, 6:30-7:30 p.m. \$15. 805-480-2432. Halcyon Store Post Office, 936 S. Halcyon Rd., Arroyo Grande.

SUNDAY FOR SPIRIT PSYCHIC READINGS Features an assortment of psychic readers. Sundays, 1-5 p.m. Vaires. 805-489-2432. Halcyon Store Post Office, 936 S. Halcyon Rd., Arroyo Grande.

YOUTH SERVICES The City Church Central Coast holds youth services for junior high school students. Mondays, 6:30 p.m. Free. 805-929-8990. thecitycc.org. Faith Life Community Church, 726 W Tefft St, Nipomo.

SAN LUIS OBISPO

BUDDHIST BOOK STUDY GROUP Includes a discussion of *Karma: What It Is, What It Isn't, and Why It Matters* by Traleg Kyabgon. Meditation instruction will be available. Wednesdays, 7-9 p.m. through June 21 Free. 805-438-3949. BodhiPath SLO, 3484 Gregory Ct., San

IMAGE COURTESY OF MERV CORNING

LUIS OBISPO

SAN LUIS OBISPO

ADOPT A GRANDPARENT Seeking volunteers who can connect with older adults that need a little extra help with errands, outings, chores, and more. RSVP required. Third Saturday of every month, 10-11:30 a.m. through June 16 Free. 805-547-7025 ext. 20. wilshirehcs.org. Wilshire Community Services, 285 South St. Suite J, San Luis Obispo.

FELINE NETWORK OF THE CENTRAL COAST Seeking volunteers to provide foster homes for foster kittens or cats with special needs. The Feline Network pays for food, litter, and any medications needed. Volunteers also needed to help with humanely trapping and transporting feral cats for spay/neuter. ongoing 805-549-9228. felinenetwork.org. San Luis Obispo, Citywide, SLO.

HOSPICE SLO COUNTY THRESHOLD SINGERS SEEK NEW VOICES Sing for individuals experiencing life-limiting or end-of life conditions. Third Sunday of every month, 2-4 p.m. Free. 805-544-2266. hospiceslo.org/services/hospice-slo-county-threshold-singers. Hospice SLO County, 1304 Pacific St., San Luis Obispo.

MEALS ON WHEELS Meals on Wheels, San Luis Obispo, needs noon time drivers. Must have own car to deliver prepared meals. Mondays-Fridays, 11 a.m.-2 p.m. 805-235-8870. San Luis Obispo, Citywide, SLO.

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. through Sept. 30 Vandenberg Village Farmers' Market, 120 Burton Mesa Blvd., Lompoc.

SANTA MARIA VALLEY/LOS ALAMOS

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, 12-2:25 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/. Nipomo Farmers Market, Via Concha Road, Nipomo.

SAN LUIS OBISPO

FARMERS MARKET Farmers Market in SLO is the largest Farmers Market in California. Thursdays, 6:10-9 p.m. Downtown SLO, Higuera St., San Luis Obispo.

ROCKIN' ROSÉ: CRAFT WINE MARKET Features local, boutique winemakers and central coast cider producers. Guests can enjoy food, drinks, live music, and more. Presented by Rock the Vine. **June 10**, 12-5 p.m. \$20-\$25. 209-417-7748. SLO Brew Rock, 855 Aerovista Pl., San Luis Obispo.

SLO FARMERS MARKET Hosts over 60 vendors. Saturdays, 8-10:45 a.m. World Market Parking Lot, 2650 Main St., San Luis Obispo.

FESTIVALS

SOUTH COAST SLO COUNTY

PISMO BEACH BEER FEST Fathers get in for free with paid offspring (must be 21) in celebration of Father's Day. Admission includes beer samples, access to live music events, and more. **June 16**, 4-8 p.m. \$30. 805-481-4898. pismobeerfest.com. Pismo Beach Vets' Hall, 80 Main Street, Pismo Beach.

EVENTS

SANTA YNEZ VALLEY

WINE TASTING WITH THE SUMMER PASS Taste at your own pace from 14 Santa Ynez Valley tasting rooms. Each tasting consists of 4 to 5 wines. No blackout dates. Reservations are not required. Through Aug. 31 \$50. 800-563-3183. santaynezwinecountry.com. Participating Wine Tasting Rooms, Santa Ynez Valley, Santa Ynez, Buellton, Los Olivos, Solvang.

SAN LUIS OBISPO

FRIDAY NIGHT PINT NIGHT Buy logo glass for \$8 and bring it in every Friday for \$2 off refills. Wine offered at happy hour pricing. Fridays, 4-10 p.m. Free. 805-868-7133. 7sistersbrewing.com/events-page. 7Sisters Brewing Company, 181 Tank Farm Rd. Suite 110, San Luis Obispo. ☪



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FRIDAY

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ZIGGY MARLEY



ROBERTO TAPIA

FRIDAY

JUNE 29

8 PM

FRIDAY

JULY 6

5:30 PM



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Live Music

SANTA YNEZ VALLEY

BAD POCKET LIVE No outside alcohol or food allowed. **June 15**, 6-9 p.m. Free. Cold Spring Tavern, 5995 Stagecoach Rd., Santa Barbara, 805-967-0066, coldspringtavern.com/entertainment.html.

CONNER CHERLAND AT BOTTLEST **June 7**, 6-8:30 p.m. Bottlest Winery, Bar & Bistro, 35 Industrial Way, Buellton, 805-686-4742, bottlest.com.

CRAFTED: LIVE MUSIC SERIES Features artists from all genres of music. Thursdays, 6 p.m. and Fridays, Saturdays, 8 p.m. 805-686-4742. bottlest.com. Bottlest Winery, Bar & Bistro, 35 Industrial Way, Buellton.

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.

GREEN FLAG SUMMER LIVE No outside alcohol or food allowed. **June 16**, 1-4 p.m. Free. Cold Spring Tavern, 5995 Stagecoach Rd., Santa Barbara, 805-967-0066, coldspringtavern.com/entertainment.html.

HOODLUM FRIENDS LIVE No outside alcohol or food allowed. **June 16**, 5-8 p.m. Free. Cold Spring Tavern, 5995 Stagecoach Rd., Santa Barbara, 805-967-0066, coldspringtavern.com/entertainment.html.

THE JUST DAVE BAND LIVE **June 8**, 8 p.m. Maverick Saloon, 3687 Sagunto St., Santa Ynez, 805-686-4785, mavericksaloon.org.

KAITLYN CHUI LIVE No outside alcohol or food allowed. **June 9**, 1-4 p.m. Free. Cold Spring Tavern, 5995 Stagecoach Rd., Santa Barbara, 805-967-0066, coldspringtavern.com/entertainment.html.

LITTLE JOHNNY AND THE GIANTS LIVE No outside alcohol or food allowed. **June 17**, 4:30-7:30 p.m. Free. Cold Spring Tavern, 5995 Stagecoach Rd., Santa Barbara, 805-967-0066, coldspringtavern.com/entertainment.html.

LIVE OAK MUSIC FESTIVAL This three-day, family-friendly festival features Michael Franti & Spearhead, Proxima Parada, Mavis Staples, JD McPherson, Big Bad Voodoo Daddy, Joe Purdy, Flavia Coelho, The Dustbowl Revival, Eilen Jewell, Rainbow Girls, Aki Kumar, Amanda Anne Platt & The Honeycutters, Inga Swearingen & Guy Budd, and more. **June 14**, 7-10 p.m., **June 15**, 8 a.m.-11:30 p.m., **June 16**, 8 a.m.-11:30 p.m. and **June 17**, 8 a.m.-10 p.m. \$15-\$150. 805-781-3020. liveoakfest.org. Live Oak Camp, Highway 154, Santa Barbara.

THE NOMBRES LIVE No outside alcohol or food allowed. **June 9**, 6-9 p.m. Free. Cold Spring Tavern, 5995 Stagecoach Rd., Santa Barbara, 805-967-0066, coldspringtavern.com/entertainment.html.

Kid's got croon

Dylan Ortega brings country sound to Santa Maria's Concerts in the Park

BY JOE PAYNE

A smooth, deep country voice is something you expect from a bearded, whiskey-drinking, flannel-wearing, guitar-strumming dude singing under the lights at your favorite cowboy bar. But Dylan Ortega, the Santa Ynez Valley native with an album-ready voice isn't swigging Jim Beam or singing at saloons—he's only 19 years old.

Ortega became known locally after he was a finalist at the Teen Star Santa Barbara competition in 2014 and again in 2015, but a lot has happened since then. He graduated high school, recorded an EP of original songs, and opened for Billy Currington at a show in May. He's going to headline the first concert in Santa Maria's Concerts in the Parks series starting on June 10.

The booking came as a bit of a surprise, Ortega told the *Sun*, because he didn't apply to perform in the concert series like most bands. The city's Recreation and Parks Department reached out to his booker and asked him to open the series, he said.

"I'm actually not sure how they heard of us, but we actually received an email through our website one night and they asked us to play," he said. "That was kind of cool."

It's a far cry from his early teenage years, when Ortega didn't sing much, he explained. He grew up listening to lots of classic rock and Johnny Cash with his father, though, including while on a long road trip the two took to Wyoming.

On that trip, his father suffered a heart attack, and passed away within a year, Ortega said. His whole world changed after his father died, he said, and he turned to creativity for solace.

"I was in a pretty dark time in my life, and I actually had discovered music and started writing my own songs," he said. "I was in vocal ensemble in Santa Ynez High School, and from there it just kind of all flourished into what I do now."

Singing in a group helped Ortega come out of his shell, he said, and build his vocal skills.

Performing regular concerts also helped him get comfortable in front of crowds. The members of the ensemble also had chances to perform solo, he said.

"We actually had a solo night, and it was supposed to be a jazz solo night, and I ended up doing a country song and everybody was kind of shocked by that," he said.

Ortega wrote his first song when he was 15 years old, he explained, titled "I Still Love You." The song was about his "first love," he said. Later, a Nashville producer named Jeff Huskins, who played in bands like Little Texas, reached out to Ortega about cutting an album.

The result was a four-track EP named after his first song. They're working on a full-length album now, Ortega said, with his guitar player and collaborator Roy Bilke.

Bilke performs with Ortega locally, and will be at the Concerts in the Park performance in Santa Maria.

"I connected with him on Craigslist; I was looking for a guitar player at the time and he answered the ad and we became best friends," he said. "He's a



LIVE OUTSIDE: Santa Ynez Valley-based country singer/songwriter Dylan Ortega will open Santa Maria's annual Concerts in the Parks series on June 10 at Rotary Centennial Park.

super talented singer/songwriter and guitar player as well."

Most recently, Ortega and Bilke recorded an acoustic version of his song "I Still Love You," he explained.

"Originally we did the full production out in Nashville as a kind of rockin' pop song, and I was in the studio one night, and took everything else away and just left the piano, the acoustic guitar, and some slide guitar," he said. "I just really loved the way it sounded and made the song sound a lot more intimate. It's originally what I had pictured when I wrote the song."

Ortega and his friends also shot and edited a music video for the new version of the song. They used an iPhone and a drone to create a low budget but fun music video that's posted on YouTube.

"I love making stuff like that," he said. "I'm really not good with technology; I try to stay away from it as much as I can. But it's really cool when three hillbillies can get together and make something cool like that."

The sets that Ortega and Bilke prepare for local shows include originals peppered among a bunch of covers from the American country music songbook. From Cash or Dwight Yokam to more contemporary artists like Dierks Bentley or Alan Jackson, Ortega likes to explore music that fits his deep voice but also appeals to a wide range of country fans.

"We do a lot of modern stuff too," he said. "It's a good blend of new and old, and we try to keep it interesting for everybody."

They also have a regular gig at Flying Flags RV Resort for its Summer Concerts series. Ortega used to work there, he explained, and so has a good relationship with the owners.

They have three shows left there this summer, from 6 to 8 p.m. on June 30, July 14, and Aug. 4. More information is available on Ortega's website.

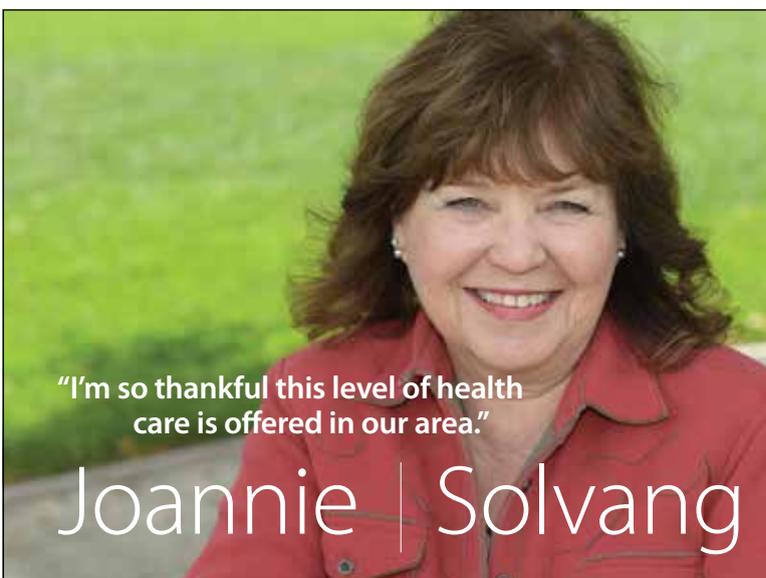
"It's definitely cool when you're outdoors because you get the weather," he said. "I think the majority of our stuff is outdoor during the summer, and the summer is our busiest time because that's when people are throwing events."

Catch the show

The Santa Maria Recreation and Parks Department and People for Leisure And Youth present the 15th annual Concerts in the Park series beginning on June 10 with a performance by Dylan Ortega and an opening set by Karen Sweeney at Rotary Centennial Park, 2625 S. College Drive, Santa Maria. More info: (805) 925-0951, Ext. 2263, or dylanortegamusic.com.

MUSIC LISTINGS continued page 34

LOCAL NOTES continued page 35



"I'm so thankful this level of health care is offered in our area."

Joannie | Solvang

Joannie had cataract surgery at Santa Ynez Valley Cottage Hospital. Soon after, she had clearer, brighter and more colorful vision.

A few years ago, Joannie Jamieson noticed her eyesight had diminished due to clouding of the lens inside her eye. She needed cataract surgery.

Fortunately, great health care was nearby at Santa Ynez Valley Cottage Hospital. There, she had outpatient cataract surgery and artificial lens implants.

She noticed a profound improvement in her vision when she got home. She suddenly saw a brighter, clearer, more colorful world.

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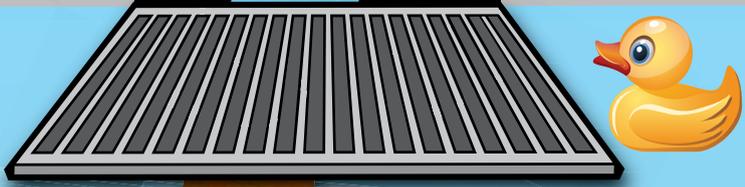
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DRAINS TO WATERWAYS

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City of Santa Maria

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LIVE OAK

Music Festival

June 15-17, 2018

Friday

JD MCPHERSON
NIKI J. CRAWFORD
INGA SWEARINGEN & GUY BUDD
BRYAN TITUS TRIO

Saturday

BIG BAD VOODOO DADDY
RAINBOW GIRLS
AKI KUMAR
JOE PURDY
AMANDA ANNE PLATT
& THE HONEYCUTTERS

Sunday

MAVIS STAPLES
THE DUSTBOWL REVIVAL
EILEEN JEWELL
FLAVIA COELHO
THE SONS OF THE SOUL REVIVERS

SPECIAL BENEFIT
CONCERT WITH
MICHAEL FRANTI
& SPEARHEAD
with Próxima Parada
Thursday, June 14,
7pm, Live Oak Camp

LiveOakFest.org
Live Oak Camp, HWY 154
KCBXfm
Central Coast Public Radio



Featured Art by Kris Doe



Creativity Blooms Daily at the Discovery Museum



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smvdiscoverymuseum.org Tues-Sat 10-5, Sun 12-4

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Sugarland
still the same 2018 tour

NEXT TUESDAY

JUNE 12TH AT 6:30PM Brandy Clark & Clare Bowen



JUNE JAM

The Santa Maria Valley Senior Club presents Tunes on a June Afternoon on June 10 from 1:30 to 4 p.m. at the Elwin Mussell Senior Center, located at 510 Park Ave., Santa Maria. This dance concert features live music by Riptide Big Band and vocalist Bob Nations. Admission is free. More info: riptidebb.com.

Slightly Stoopid
with special guests **Stick Figure** and **pepper**

Sunday, June 24TH at 5:30pm

MUSIC LISTINGS from page 32

ODDLY STRAIGHT LIVE No outside alcohol or food allowed. **June 8**, 6-9 p.m. Free. Cold Spring Tavern, 5995 Stagecoach Rd., Santa Barbara, 805-967-0066, coldspringtavern.com/entertainment.html.

PULL THE TRIGGER LIVE **June 16**, 8 p.m. Maverick Saloon, 3687 Sagunto St., Santa Ynez, 805-686-4785, mavericksaloon.org.

RAWHIDE LIVE **June 15**, 8 p.m. Maverick Saloon, 3687 Sagunto St., Santa Ynez, 805-686-4785, mavericksaloon.org.

SOLVANG SUMMER CONCERT SERIES Featured acts include The Soul Cats, Cuesta Ridge, Bear Market Riot, Grass Mountain, LiveWire, Rock Cats Rock, Low Down Dudes, Unfinished Business, and more. Wednesdays, 5-8 p.m. and **June 15**, 5-8 p.m. through Aug. 22 Free. facebook.com/solvang3rdwednesday. Solvang Park, Mission Dr. and First St., Solvang.

THE SONS OF THE SOUL REVIVERS LIVE Enjoy live music from this award-winning gospel quartet. **June 16**, 7:30 p.m. \$10-\$20. littlevillagefoundation.com. St. Mark's in the Valley Episcopal Church, 2901 Nojoqui Ave., Los Olivos.

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 COCIBILLI No outside alcohol or food allowed. **June 10**, 4:30-7:30 p.m. Free. Cold Spring Tavern, 5995 Stagecoach Rd., Santa Barbara, 805-967-0066, coldspringtavern.com/entertainment.html.

TOM BALL AND KENNY SULTAN LIVE 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

15TH ANNUAL FREE CONCERTS IN THE PARK SERIES Enjoy live music in the park. Picnics welcome. Featured acts include Unfinished Business, Drive-In Romeos, The Band August, and more. Sundays, 1-3 p.m. through Sept. 9 Free. 805-925-0951 ext.2260. Rotary Centennial Park, 2625 South College Dr., Santa Maria.

THE CCS JAZZ BAND LIVE Central City Swing, a 17-piece jazz band, performs. **June 12**, 7:30-9:30 p.m. Free; donations accepted. 805.264.1023. centralcityswing.com. Unity Chapel of Light Church, 1165 Stubblefield Rd., Orcutt.

THE DALES LIVE **June 8** Free. 805-937-8110. presquilewine.com. Presqu'ile Winery, 5391 Presqu'ile Dr., Santa Maria.

DYLAN ORTEGA LIVE Part of the 15th annual Concerts in the Park Series. Features an opening performance by Karen Sweeney. **June 10**, 1-3 p.m.

Free. 805-925-0951. cityofsantamaria.org. Centennial Park, 2625 South College Dr., 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, osullivanpub.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.

LIVE MUSIC AT ROONEY'S Live music or a DJ every Friday night. Fridays, 9 p.m. Free. 805-934-3777. rooneyirishpub.net. Rooney's Irish Pub, 241 S Broadway St., Ste. 101, Orcutt.

LOCAL MUSIC AT MOXIE CAFE Enjoy live music from Central Coast artists. Thursdays-Saturdays, 5:30-7:30 p.m. through July 31 Free. Moxie Cafe, 1317 W. McCoy Ln., Santa Maria, 805-361-2900, moxiecafe.com.

TUNES ON A JUNE AFTERNOON! Featuring Riptide Big Band. Presented by the Santa Maria Valley Senior Club and funded by Community Foundation of SLO County. **June 10**, 1:30-4 p.m. Free. 775-813-5186. RiptideBB.com. Elwin Mussell Senior Center, 510 Park Ave., Santa Maria.

THE WAVEBREAKERS BAND LIVE Enjoy covers of popular hits ranging from the '50s to the '80s. **June 8**, 5:30-7:30 p.m. Free. 805-489-8269. Moxie Cafe, 1317 W. McCoy Ln., Santa Maria, moxiecafe.com.

THE WHITE BUFFALO LIVE Doors open at 5:30 p.m. No outside food or beverages allowed. **June 8** 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, 805-773-4994.

CENTRAL COAST FIDDLERS JAM SESSION The Central Coast Fiddlers invite musicians, dancers, and listeners to this jam session. All string instruments welcome. Refreshments available. **June 10**, 1:15-3:30 p.m. Free. 805-737-2238. centralcoastfiddlers.org. Arroyo Grande Community Center, 211 Vernon St., Arroyo Grande.

FRIDAY MUSIC NIGHT AT AVILA BEACH RESORT Enjoy acoustic music from local artists with food and drinks from Mulligan's. Fridays, 5-8

MUSIC LISTINGS continued page 35

15TH ANNIVERSARY FREESTYLE EXPLOSION CONCERT

DEBBIE DEB THE JETS NU SHOOZ TAYLOR DAYNE EXPOSE STEVIE B LISA LISA

Doors: 5:30 PM Show: 7:00 PM

SATURDAY, JULY 7TH

Jackson Browne
Jeff Young Bob Glaub Mauricio Lowak Greg Leisz Chavonne Stewart Alotbea Mills Val McCallum

FRIDAY AUGUST 3RD AT 7PM

STEVE MILLER BAND

PETER FRAMPTON

AUGUST 15TH AT 6:30PM

LIFE TOUR

CULTURE CLUB

the B-52s

THOMPSON TWINS TOM BAILEY

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 23RD AT 6PM

BON IVER w/ PERFUME GENIUS ... **AUG 08**
JACK WHITE **AUG 19**
DAVID BYRNE **AUG 24**
REBELUTION w/ STEPHEN MARLEY. . . **SEP 09**
LUIS MIGUEL **JUST ADDED!** ... **SEP 11**
ALANIS MORISSETTE **SEP 27**
RISE AGAINST w/ AFI, ANTIFLAG. . . **SEP 29**
BANDA MS **SEP 30**
JIM GAFFIGAN **OCT 06**
KEITH URBAN w/ LINDSAY ELL. . . **OCT 08**
STING / SHAGGY **OCT 09**

MUSIC LISTINGS from page 34

PHOTO COURTESY OF DYLAN ORTEGA



MAKING IT HAPPEN: Dylan Ortega, 19, just released an acoustic single and has a full album in the works.

Those outdoor events allow for bigger crowds, too. The Central Coast has a large population of country music fans, which was clear when Ortega opened for Billy Currington in May at the Avila Beach Golf Resort. He said the crowd had to be in the thousands.

Ortega was invited to open for Currington after the concert's promoters received a good word about him from Jay Turner and Jessie Chavez at Sunny Country 102.5 FM. Meeting Currington was a dream come true, he said, and after the show he got a boost in downloads for his songs.

"I've been so blessed, not only here in the Santa Ynez Valley, but now I'm starting to get a lot of friends up in the North County too," he said. "Everybody's just so supportive of my music, and they're the reason I'm doing what I'm doing, and I just can't thank them enough, for sure." ○

Managing Editor Joe Payne is a little bit country. Contact him at jpayne@santamariasun.com.

MUSIC LISTINGS from page 34

p.m. Free. 805-595-4000. Avila Beach Resort, 6464 Ana Bay Dr., Avila Beach.

LIVE MUSIC AT LIDO Tuesdays, Thursdays, Fridays, 5-8 p.m. Free. 805-773-4300. thedolphinbay.com. Lido Restaurant at Dolphin Bay, 2727 Shell Beach Rd., Pismo Beach.

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.

PISMO BEACH PACIFIC BREEZE CONCERTS Features local bands and activities. Second Sunday of every month, 1-4 p.m. Free. 805-773-7063. Dinosaur Caves Park, 2701 Price St, Pismo Beach.

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

SIZZLIN' SUMMER CONCERT SERIES Concerts include acts that perform various genres, from traditional rock to blues. Sundays, 3-6 p.m. through Sept. 30 Free. 805-473-4580. groverbeach.org. Ramona Garden Park Center, 993 Ramona Ave., Grover Beach.

SLIGHTLY STOOPID LIVE June 14, 4:30-10 p.m. \$43.03-\$172. 805-329-5729. californiarootspresents.com/avila-beach-resort/. Avila Beach Resort, 6464 Ana Bay Dr., Avila Beach.

WEDNESDAYS: LIVE MUSIC Enjoy live music in the fireplace room. Wednesdays, 6-9 p.m. Seaventure Restaurant, 100 Oceanview Ave, Pismo Beach, 805-773-4994.

SAN LUIS OBISPO

BLUES CONCERT WITH VALERIE JOHNSON This concert is part of the 2018 Summer Reading Program. All ages welcome. June 16, 2-3 p.m. Free. 805-781-5783. San Luis Obispo Library, 995 Palm St., San Luis Obispo.

CAL POLY CLARINETFEST Featuring the Cal Poly Clarinet Ensemble and guest artists in both solo and ensemble performances. June 10, 6 p.m. Free. 805-756-2406. music.calpoly.edu/calendar/. Cal Poly Davidson Music Center, Room 218, Cal Poly, San Luis Obispo.

CAL POLY JAZZ NIGHT CONCERT June 9, 8 p.m. \$14 general; \$9 students and Jazz Federation members. 805-756-4849. music.calpoly.edu/calendar/. Spanos Theatre, Cal Poly, San Luis Obispo.

CAL POLY STUDENT INSTRUMENTAL RECITAL A free recital presented by Cal Poly Music Department student instrumentalists. June 7, 11 a.m. Free. 805-756-2406. music.calpoly.edu. Cal Poly Davidson Music Center. Room 218. Cal

Poly, San Luis Obispo.

CAL POLY STUDENT VOCAL RECITAL A free recital presented by Cal Poly Music Department student vocalists. June 7, 7:30 p.m. Free. 805-756-2406. music.calpoly.edu. Cal Poly Davidson Music Center, Room 218, Cal Poly, San Luis Obispo.

CHRIS BELAND LIVE June 16, 6-8 p.m. Free. 805-868-7133. 7SistersBrewing.com. 7Sisters Brewing Company, 181 Tank Farm Rd. Suite 110, San Luis Obispo.

FRESH PICKED CONCERT SERIES Featuring various musical acts during the Downtown SLO Farmers Market. First Thursday of every month, 6:30-8:30 p.m. through Oct. 4 Free. DowntownSLO.com. Union Bank, 995 Higuera St., San Luis Obispo, (805) 783-5140.

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 LINNAEA'S Hosted by the SLO County Jazz Federation. Second Tuesday of every month, 7-9 p.m. Free. 805-543-1200. Linnaea's Cafe, 1110 Garden St., San Luis Obispo, linnaeas.com.

JAZZ VESPER CONCERT Featuring the Ron McCarley Quartet and special guest Kathryn Loomis. Reception follows. June 10, 4-5:45 p.m. Donations appreciated. 805-543-5451. fpclslo.org. First Presbyterian Church of San Luis Obispo, 981 Marsh St., San Luis Obispo.

JOSH NELSON LIVE See pianist John Nelson in concert. A multi-media presentation combining video and light complements his original music and the artwork on view. June 10, 5-6 p.m. \$20. 805-543-8562. sloma.org. San Luis Obispo Museum of Art, 1010 Broad St., San Luis Obispo.

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.

MUSIC AT MATTIE'S: CLIFFNOTES BAND June 16, 7-10 p.m. Free; \$5 for drink special. Mattie's Bar & Eatery, 558 Price St., Pismo Beach, 805-295-5295, mattiespismo.com.

MUSIC AT MATTIE'S: SOUNDHOUSE ACOUSTIC June 13, 6-9 p.m. Free; \$5 for drink special. Mattie's Bar & Eatery, 558 Price St., Pismo Beach, 805-295-5295, mattiespismo.com.

MUSIC AT MATTIE'S: THE RISING SUNS June 9, 7-10 p.m. Free; \$5 for drink special. Mattie's Bar & Eatery, 558 Price St., Pismo Beach, 805-295-5295, mattiespismo.com.

NOACH TANGERAS LIVE June 8, 6-8 p.m. Free. 805-868-7133. 7SistersBrewing.com. 7Sisters

Brewing Company, 181 Tank Farm Rd. Suite 110, San Luis Obispo.

NOAH DAVID LIVE A Pint Night performance. June 15, 6-8 p.m. Free. 805-868-7133. 7SistersBrewing.com. 7Sisters Brewing Company, 181 Tank Farm Rd. Suite 110, San Luis Obispo.

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

THE RAY CHANG TRIO LIVE Enjoy live jazz in the upstairs dining room. Every other Saturday, 7:30-9:30 p.m. through Aug. 25 Free to dinner guests. 805-594-1500. Mee Heng Low Noodle House, 815 Palm St., San Luis Obispo.

SLO FARMERS MARKET: FRESH PICKED CONCERT SERIES Enjoy live music during the SLO Farmers Market on the first Thursday of every month. First Thursday of every month, 6:30-8:30 p.m. through Oct. 4 Free. downtownslo.com/. Harvest Stage, 995 Higuera St., San Luis Obispo, 805-541-0286.

SONGWRITERS AT PLAY: FRANKIE BOOTS Boots' influences include country, rock, blues, gospel, and bluegrass. Special guests include Uncle Barnaby, Bliss Hippy, Dan Grant, and Steve Key. June 14, 6:30-9 p.m. Free. 805-204-6821. songwritersatplay.com/calendar/. 7Sisters Brewing Company, 181 Tank Farm Rd. Suite 110, San Luis Obispo.

SONGWRITERS AT PLAY: THE STEREO CHICKENS June 7, 6:30-9 p.m. Free. 805-868-7133. 7SistersBrewing.com. 7Sisters Brewing Company, 181 Tank Farm Rd. Suite 110, San Luis Obispo.

SONGWRITERS AT PLAY: THE TAPROOTS Featuring Tom Walters and Nico Cass. Special guests include Tim Jackson, Matt Yaki, Craig Louis Dingman, Carolyn Birch, and Steve Key. June 7, 6:30-9 p.m. Free. 805-204-6821. songwritersatplay.com/calendar/. 7Sisters Brewing Company, 181 Tank Farm Rd. Suite 110, San Luis Obispo.

NORTH SLO COUNTY

THE CHAD LAND COVER BAND LIVE June 9, 5-9 p.m. Free; donations suggested. 805-461-1393. Last Stage West, 15050 Morro Rd, Highway 41 at Torro Creek Road, Atascadero, laststagemusic.net.

CHRISTIE LENÉE LIVE 2017 International Fingerstyle Guitar Champion Christie Lenée performs instrumental, folk-pop, and rock. June 13, 6-10 p.m. \$15. 805-204-6821. Socrates Coffee House, 5985 Traffic Way, Atascadero.

THE CLIFFNOTES TEE OFF TO ROCK Enjoy drinks, dinner, and live music from the Cliffnotes. June 13, 5:30-8 p.m. Free. 805-238-4722. pasoroblesgolfclub.com/. Paso Robles Golf Club, 1600 Country Club Dr., Paso Robles.

AN EVENING WITH COLE PORTER North County Theatre Works with the Templeton Performing Arts Foundation presents Cole Porter's song book performed live by the cast of *Anything Goes*. June 13, 7-9 p.m. \$10. 805-391-7003. eventful.com/pasorobles/events/evening-cole-porter. Studios on the Park, 1130 Pine St., Paso Robles.

SATURDAY LIVE FEAT. NATALY LOLA Wine and lunch offerings available for purchase. No outside alcohol please. June 9, 1-4 p.m. Free. 805-227-4812. vinarobles.com. Vina Robles Winery, 3700 Mill Rd., Paso Robles.

SONGWRITERS AT PLAY: NOAH DAVID Enjoy a blend of funk, reggae, and rock. Special guests include Craig Louis Dingman, BanjerDan, Will Breman, and Steve Key. June 10, 1-4 p.m. Free. 805-204-6821. songwritersatplay.com/calendar/. Sculpterra Winery, 5015 Linne Rd., Paso Robles.

SUMMER GRILL AND CHILL Featuring preparations from Executive Chef Randal Torres. June 16, 11 a.m.-2 p.m. \$12-\$14. 805-227-4812. vinarobles.com. Vina Robles Winery, 3700 Mill Rd., Paso Robles.

SYMPHONY OF THE VINES: MUSIC FOR OBOE AND STRINGS Oboist Jessica Hoffman, accompanied by violin, viola, and cello, performs a program which includes Albinoni's "Oboe Concerto", Ravel's "Piece En Forme de Habenera", and Mozart's "Oboe Quartet". June 10, 4-5:30 p.m. \$30 adults; \$27 seniors; \$15 students. 805-235-0687. symphonyofthevines.org. Cass Winery And Vineyard, 7350 Linne Rd., Paso Robles.

THIRSTY THURSDAY AT TREANA WITH THE CLIFFNOTES Enjoy drinks, dinner, and live music. June 14, 5-8 p.m. Free. 805-238-6979. hopefamilywines.com. Hope Family Wines - Treana Winery, 1585 Live Oak Rd., Paso Robles.

TRAIN WRECK FRIDAY: BEAR MARKET RIOT

Community grill available. No pets or outside alcohol please. Lawn chairs recommended. June 15, 5:30-8:30 p.m. \$15; Free to Wine Club members and children under 6. 805-238-9940. pomarjunction.com/events/. Pomar Junction Vineyards & Winery, 5036 S. El Pomar Dr., Templeton.

THE WHITE BUFFALO LIVE Enjoy a mix of alternative country, country, roots rock, and folk. June 10, 8-11 p.m. \$23-\$25. Sweet Springs Saloon, 990 Los Osos Valley Rd., Los Osos, 805-439-0969.

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. Oasis Senior Center, 420 Soares Ave., Orcutt, 805-928-7799.

LINE DANCING Mondays, 6:30-9 p.m. \$5. Oasis Senior Center, 420 Soares Ave., Orcutt, 805-928-7799.

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

CONTRA DANCE WITH CALAMITY HOUSE Featuring caller Kelsey Hartman. Calamity House includes Phil Curnow on keyboard, George Ellis on fiddle, and Hans Langfeldt on guitar, bouzouki, and mandolin. Families, couples, and singles welcome. June 9, 6:30-10 p.m. \$10 for adults; \$5 for members and students with ID; Free for ages 16 and under. 805-602-2929. cccds.org. Odd Fellows Hall, 520 Dana St., 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.

KARAOKE/OPEN MIC

SANTA YNEZ VALLEY

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

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

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 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. ○

Arts Briefs

Elverhoj Museum welcomes new assistant director

Jody Williams (pictured) has been hired to fill the newly created position of assistant director at the Elverhoj Museum of Art and History in Solvang.

Williams is originally from the Santa Ynez Valley where she attended Solvang School and Santa Ynez Valley Union High School. She earned her BA in the History of Art and Visual Culture at UC Santa Cruz, graduating with double honors and Phi Beta Kappa. Williams also interned at the Santa Barbara Museum of Art. Williams has worked in the wine industry for the past 13 years, including a decade at The Wandering Dog Wine Bar in Solvang, which she co-owns with her husband and in-laws.

PHOTO COURTESY OF ELVERHOJ MUSEUM



"After graduation, my plan was to start working in a museum and one day become a curator of art," Williams said in a release. "But I also wanted to move home to the Santa Ynez Valley rather than a big city. I am thrilled to now be able to do both, and am having a great time learning more about the area's Danish heritage while also getting to work with contemporary artists."

The Elverhoj Museum of History and Art is located at 1624 Elverhoj Way in Solvang. For more information, call the Museum at (805) 686-1211 or visit elverhoj.org.

Melodrama rolls out *The Mix Tape*

The Great American Melodrama in Oceano will present a new musical comedy, *The Mix Tape*, from June 14 through Sept. 15.

Set on the Central Coast, *The Mix Tape* takes place in the 1990s and features parody versions of classic pop songs. The comedy script is penned by Colleen Perry and Melodrama Artistic Director Dan Schultz.

In the musical, Molly McGinnis (Graham Galloway) has earned a full scholarship to study music at the famous Pacific Coast University. She quickly meets her new best friend (Randa Meierhenry), her goth roommate (Anna Wentworth), and a new love interest (Steve Makropoulos). Things get complicated when the evil dean (Ashley Whiting) cancels Molly's scholarship; Molly must choose between leaving school or working as an unpaid assistant. Perry directs the production, with musical direction by Thomas Buckley and choreography by Sydney Abenido.

Following each performance of *The Mix Tape* is the Melodrama's Blue Collar Vaudeville Revue, which features comedy sketches and songs that celebrate the working men and women in the United States. Performances are Wednesday through Fridays at 7 p.m., Saturdays at 3 and 7 p.m., and Sundays at 6 p.m. Tickets are \$21 to \$28, with discounts available for groups, seniors, students, active military, and children.

For more information and to purchase tickets, call the Melodrama Box Office, at (805) 489-2499, or visit americanmelodrama.com. The Great American Melodrama is located on Highway 1 in Oceano. ○

Arts Briefs is compiled by Arts and Lifestyle Writer Rebecca Rose. Send information to rose@santamariasun.com.

LA woman

Los Angeles poet Suzanne Lummis, whose work spans decades, will read in Orcutt

BY REBECCA ROSE

Suzanne Lummis is deeply flattered when someone is aware of her historic career in poetry.

Deeply humble yet giddily verbal about her work, in a short amount of time she offers great insight into the world of California poetry.

Lummis, along with fellow poet Dan Gerber, is set to appear at CORE Winery's monthly poetry readings, hosted by author Michael McLaughlin.

Lummis is a storied poet based in Los Angeles, who has published work in *The New Ohio Review*, *Plume*, *The Hudson Review*, *Ploughshares*, *Hotel Amerika*, *The Antioch Review*, *The American Journal of Poetry*, and *The New Yorker*. She also went through the UCLA Extension Writers Program. Her most recent poetry collection is *Open 24 Hours*, published by Lynx House Press. Lummis is also active in the ongoing poetry scene of Southern California; she founded The Los Angeles Poetry Festival with Sherman Pearl, which ran from 1989 to 2011.

The perennial poet has an interesting family background as well. Her grandfather, Charles Fletcher Lummis, served as the very first city editor of the *Los Angeles Times* in 1885. Lummis said he got the position after walking across the country to California from Ohio.

"He started in 1884 and arrived in 1885," Lummis said. "What he'd done is accepted a job offer out there. ... So, he just decided to walk to work. He did a column along the way."

Lummis was just shy of her ninth birthday when she wrote her first poem. She was visiting Mexico and was reading a book given to her by her parents called *Favorite Poems Old and New*.

"It was the anthology of poetry for children in those days," she said. "Both of my parents were great lovers of art. My father was a great lover of beauty in all of its forms. He loved Oscar Wilde and the 19th century poets."

While she never met a poet as a young woman, Lummis declared herself a poet and was determined to pursue the art, she explained. Despite her passion for the genre, she said she fell away from it for a long stretch of time.

"Nobody could show me how to transition from writing very childish poetry that rhymed and sounded like children's poetry of the age," she said. "I didn't know how to write poetry that dealt with other kinds of concerns. ... I went a long stretch of time with having lost my writing and not even knowing who I was."

Lummis found herself and her writing again when she spent an allowance to buy a small book of T.S. Eliot's poetry, *The Lovesong of J. Alfred Prufrock*. But Lummis said it was her time at CSU Fresno, under the tutelage of famed poet Peter Levine, that helped propel her writing to the next level.

Levine, an acclaimed poet who won the Pulitzer Prize for poetry in 1994, was an exacting and blunt instructor who never wavered from holding his students to a higher standard.

Poetry night

Suzanne Lummis and Dan Gerber will read selections from their work at CORE Winery on June 9 at 7:30 p.m. The venue is located at 105 W. Clark Ave., Orcutt. More info: (805) 937-1600.



GRACEFUL WORDS: Los Angeles-based poet Suzanne Lummis, who recently published *Open 24 Hours*, is set to appear at CORE Winery on June 9.

"It was one of the best English departments in California, if not the U.S.," Lummis said. "Levine [would go on to be] one of the most important influential teachers of the second half of the 20th century and the U.S. poet laureate for a year or so. That was all in the future at the time. We now know he was one of the most influential poetry writing teachers."

She said Levine was much tougher than any teacher she had worked with before. He told the truth, bluntly, if a poem didn't work. Lummis said her fellow students were all beginners and needed the critiques.

"That was his approach," she said. "With a lot of poetry professors they think, unlike dance or theater or visual arts, they have to treat you with kid gloves. I think that's actually harmful and not quite honest. With Levine, you just got told why what you were doing was not working."

Lummis has a strong affinity for American film, specifically the film noir genre. She developed a class for the Writers' Program at UCLA called Poetry Goes to the Movies: Writing the Poem Noir. She also hosts a web series, *They Write by Night*, produced by poetry. la, which delves into film noir and crime fiction, and poets influenced by the the genres.

To this day, she is still good natured about the long, arduous process of writing, revision, and rejection. When speaking about her poem, "How I Didn't Get Myself to a Nunnery," published in *The New Yorker* in 2014, Lummis has an unusual perspective about the poem's journey.

"That had gotten rejected a couple of times," she said. "Thank God. I am so grateful ... because then it went to [Poetry Editor] Paul Muldoon at *The New Yorker* and they snapped it up. Sometimes it's a good thing." ○

Arts and Lifestyle Writer Rebecca Rose embraces rejection. Contact her at rrose@santamariasun.com.

How I Didn't Get Myself to a Nunnery

by Suzanne Lummis

That girl they found ensconced in mud and loam, she wasn't me. Small wonder, though, they jumped. To a conclusion. Water puffs you up, and we pale Slavic girls looked much alike—back then. Deprivation smooths you out. Yes, that was the season of self-drowned maids, heart-to-hearts with skulls, great minds overthrown. And minds that could be great if they could just come up for air. Not in that town. Something stank.

But me, I drifted on. I like rivers. And I'm all right with flowers. I floated on a bed of roses—well, OK, rue and columbine. It bore me up not down. That night I made a circle with my thumb and finger, like a lens, and peered through it at the moon—mine, all mine. My kissed-white moon. "Moon River wider than a..." Mancini/Mercer wrote that, sure, but I wrote it first.

You wonder where I'm going with all this? Where water goes. It empties into sea. Sold! I'd take it—the sea or a fresh life. Some other life. A good man—good enough, fair—fished me out. He'd come to quench his thirst. No sun-god prince, of course, like him I'd loved, still loved. (Some loves don't die, not even murder kills them.) I married his thatched hut, hatched chicks—kids running underfoot. Don't cry for me,

Denmark. I'd learned the art of compromise back there, in the black castle—then came blood, ghosts. Something in me burst. If not lover, father, king, then whom can you trust? Alone, I took up some playing cards. I played them into skinny air. A voice said, *Swim or drown*. It said: Your house caught fire, flood, caught fear—it's coming down. No one loves you now, here. By land or water, girl, get outta town.

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CREATE: Carrie Whitaker works on shaping and molding a piece during a class or “tribe” at Pottery Coast in Grover Beach.

Break the mold

Pottery Coast creates artists’ community in Grover Beach

BY RYAH COOLEY

In a nondescript industrial area on Front Street in Grover Beach, a hub for artists is tucked away, just out of sight. The words “Channel Island Arts Inc.” in faded paint are just above a newer, brighter coat of paint that reads “Pottery Coast.”

The creative makers spot was opened just a few months ago by owners Greg and Susan Bass after Susan struggled to find a place to commune with other artists that was also set up with everything a ceramicist needs.

The two moved to the Central Coast to raise their family 18 years ago, but the art bug bit her after she attended an art fair seven years ago. Shortly after that, she decided to take a ceramics class with a friend and was instantly hooked.

“There’s something about clay, that earth element, when you touch it,” Susan said.

She wanted to do more, but most ceramics classes offered at schools and colleges were seasonal, and studios tended to limit artists to just a few hours to drop in and work on projects. So for five years, Susan toured pottery studios in California, Nevada, and New York to get ideas. She wanted to open the perfect space to create on the Central Coast as part of her Master of Fine Arts project at Sierra Nevada College.

“Pottery is community; it’s something you do together,” Susan said.

In that spirit of togetherness, Pottery Coast offers memberships where artists are given their own access code and can come in and work seven days a week from 10 a.m. to 9 p.m., along with different

classes called “tribes,” where artists can gather and work at the same time or get a little instruction from Susan.

Until a year and a half ago, the building housed Channel Island Arts Inc., a bronze foundry that made just about every bronze statue in the SLO area (including the Cal Poly mustang) for several decades. To honor that legacy, the Basses have kept the old sign up, and Susan made a special

bronze glaze, along with her other homemade glazes that are available for artists to use. From the prized large gas kiln, to an outdoor area for glazing, to a series of stations with potter’s wheels, to a cabinet filled with every tool a ceramicist could need, to another cabinet filled with vino to help get the artistic juices flowing, the Basses have carefully stocked the space with just the right things in just the right layout for a piece to start as a lump of clay and come

out of the kiln shiny and newly transformed into a work of art.

“People can come in and practice all they want,” Greg said. “It’s all to build an arts community.”

Right now, Pottery Coast is the only high-fire studio between Pasadena and San Jose and has 50 members so far. Greg and Susan said they think they’ll end up capping the number of memberships at somewhere between 64 to 78.

“I think art can do a lot for a community,” Susan said. “And it’s right by the beach.” ◻

New Times Arts Editor Ryah Cooley is admiring that vase, that one, over there at rcooley@newtimeslo.com.

Come together

Pottery Coast is located at 480 Front St. in Grover Beach, inside the historic Channel Island Arts Inc. building. They offer wheel and handbuilding tribes, memberships, and open studio hours seven days a week. Memberships are \$99 a month and give access to the studio every day from 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. Visit potterycoast.com for more information.



LEARN: Susan Bass, owner of Pottery Coast in Grover Beach, teaches a student how to properly use the potter’s wheel during a class.



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Cozy up

Rebecca Rose has a secret pleasure



Rebecca Rose
Generation X-It

I am at an age now where nothing new impresses or excites me.

I've seen dinosaurs fight each other to death, watched alien spaceships blow up national landmarks and major world cities, and cheered for men in giant robot suits beating the crap out of giant dinosaur aliens. Whatever. It no longer gives me a thrill.

What I do love is a good cozy mystery. A cozy mystery is a broad term that refers to mystery television or book series and movies that feature a charming or quirky lead (a lonely widow novelist, a private detective, a quirky person with a weird trait, a spinster, a mismatched duo, etc.). Some of the best are written by Agatha Christie, featuring characters such as Miss Jane Marple (the unwed elderly dame of St. Mary Mead), but it's Jessica Fletcher of Cabot Cove in *Murder She Wrote* who serves as the go-to archetype for the genre.

Generally speaking, cozy mysteries are self-contained, meaning characters never refer to past incidents of murders or crimes, and each story picks up without having to rely on backstory or any mythos involving past cases or crimes. Which is great for me because at my age, I can barely remember what happened in the last scene I just watched, much less recall some complicated backstory from three seasons ago.

Cozy mysteries rely on self-containment, otherwise the reader would be in a constant state of panic. If *Murder She Wrote*, for example, were to actually acknowledge its own contiguous past, Cabot Cove would have a per capita murder rate higher than Medellin in the 1980s. That's why no one ever acknowledges all the grotesque violent deaths and the propensity of neighbors and loved ones to suddenly butcher their closest friends and family over unsettled wills and petty revenge schemes.

No one new ever shows up in town asking the local innkeeper, "Hey, isn't this the place where

half a dozen people were ruthlessly slaughtered last week by a local hairdresser who was trying to keep her husband from finding out she was pregnant by the mailman? Cool. Where's a good place to get some clam bisque?" That's not how cozy mysteries work.

Also, cozy mysteries never let the viewer feel any real stress (aside from seeing several viciously murdered corpses here and there). There are no

trials, because in the world of the cozy mystery, our hero makes some random connection between the real killer and the crime, gathers all the suspects in one room, literally announces all the flimsy evidence they have, and then dangles it in front of the real killer, who (instead of saying, "LOL, good luck proving that in court; I'm calling my lawyer"), jumps out of their chair and boldly confesses. Bing bang boom, everything is wrapped up with a neat bow.

Cozy mysteries are to me what porn is for some people. They both serve a very specific need. And just like porn, cozy mysteries offer no real-life applicabilities whatsoever. Just like four college cheerleaders aren't ever going to show up randomly at your house to give you a sponge bath, I'm never going to trip over a dead body in the library of an English estate and help solve who did it with a dashing British detective and my spinsterly aunt who likes to knit. This is my fantasy world. Where most people escape to Hogwarts to fight wizards or Hobbitland (I don't care what it's really called) to fight dragons or whatever, I escape to remote English villages in the late 1930s to solve the mystery of who killed Lady Greanghithwick.

And just like porn, there are certain cozy mysteries I will watch over and over because honestly, it just does the trick. Why venture outside my comfort zone and risk being disappointed by some weird new detective series on BBC One when I can just rewatch a Poirot movie I've seen 700 times? I know exactly when and where my excitement is going to peak. ○

Rebecca Rose is lost in a quaint English hamlet. Send your thoughts to rrose@santamariasun.com.

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Film Reviews

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

ADRIFT

What's it rated? **PG-13**
Where's it showing? **Parks Plaza**
See Sun Screen.

DEADPOOL 2

What's it rated? **R**
What's it worth? **Full Price**
Where's it showing? **Movies Lompoc, Hi-Way Drive-In**
PICK David Leitch (*Atomic Blonde*) directs this sequel about irreverent former mercenary-turned-mutant superhero Wade "Deadpool" Wilson (Ryan Reynolds), who this time around convenes a team of fellow mutants to protect a supernaturally-gifted young boy, Russell "Firefist" Collins (Julian Dennison), from the vengeful, time-traveling mutant Cable (Josh Brolin).

Deadpool 2 makes fun of itself, Superman, the X-Men, the Marvel Universe, Marvel's competitor DC Comics, Batman—you name it. No one and nothing is safe from skewering. Heck, even Barbra Streisand and *Yentl* get it right in the kisser. Ka-pow! I wouldn't have it any other way. (119 min.)

—Glen Starkey

HEREDITARY

What's it rated? **R**
Where's it showing? **Parks Plaza**
NEW When Ellen, the matriarch of the Graham family, passes away, her daughter's family begins to unravel cryptic and increasingly terrifying secrets about their ancestry. The more they discover, the more they find themselves trying to outrun the sinister fate they seem to have inherited. Making his feature debut, writer-director Ari Aster unleashes a nightmare vision of a domestic breakdown that exhibits the craft and precision of a nascent auteur, transforming a familial tragedy into something ominous and deeply disquieting, and pushing the horror movie into chilling new terrain with its shattering portrait of heritage gone to hell. (127)

—A24

HOTEL ARTEMIS

What's it rated? **R**
Where's it showing? **Parks Plaza**
NEW *Hotel Artemis* is an original, high-octane action-thriller starring Jodie Foster as The Nurse, who runs a secret, members-only hospital for criminals. Jodie Foster is joined by an all-star cast that includes Sterling K. Brown, Sofia Boutella, Jeff Goldblum, Brian Tyree Henry, Jenny Slate, Zachary Quinto, Charlie Day, and Dave Bautista. (97 min.)

—Global Road Entertainment

FILM REVIEWS continued page 41

SCORING

FULL PRICE...It's worth the price of an evening show
MATINEE.....Save a few bucks, catch an afternoon showing
RENTAL.....Rent it
STREAMING...Wait 'til Netflix has it
NOTHING.....Don't waste your time

Romance and the sea

Baltasar Kormákur (*Contraband*, *2 Guns*, *Everest*) directs this true story of survival about Tami Oldham (Shailene Woodley) and Richard Sharp (Sam Claflin), two free-spirited lovers and avid sailors who set off to cross an ocean only to encounter a catastrophic hurricane that leaves their sailboat in ruins and Richard gravely injured. Can Tami find the will to save them? (120 min.)

Glen: Imagine if romance novelist Nicholas Sparks (*The Notebook*, *The Choice*, *The Best of Me*) decided to write a disaster-at-sea story and you'll have a pretty good idea about *Adrift*. It opens post disaster, as Tami awakens in the hull of a sailboat half submerged in water. She's got a large cut on her head and is badly bruised. She's frantically searching for her fiancé Richard, but she also knows she has to pump out the water before her boat sinks. From there, the film proceeds to flash back five months to when Tami meets Richard. The film repeatedly moves through time, cutting between their romance and her struggle to survive and help a severely injured Richard, who can do nothing to help Tami besides provide advice and emotional support. The romance part of the film is pretty sappy, and the disaster part of the film is fairly harrowing, but compared to what I consider the gold standard of lost-at-sea films, Robert Redford's phenomenal *All is Lost* (2013), *Adrift* is just OK. There's plenty of drama, and Tami's struggle to survive and save Richard and herself is certainly potent, but the film relies too much on emotional manipulation. As a true story, it's an amazing tale of survival, but as a film, it's good but not great. What really saves the film is a raw, powerful, and committed performance by Woodley.

Anna: Woodley really does give it her all, and I appreciate her choices for the role. Getting lost at sea isn't pretty business, and this decidedly gorgeous woman plays in the down and dirty with heart. That being said, I got a bit bored with the back-and-forth storyline. Tami and Richard's five-month-long relationship burned quick and bright but hardly comes off as more than young love mixed with a passion for wandering. Tami has a pretty strong opinion on heading home—she's not interested and doesn't intend to go anytime soon. When a job offer interrupts her and Richard's plans to sail to Japan, Tami is less than willing at first to journey back to San Diego. Why such resistance

to a stop-off in her hometown? I'm afraid we never really get an answer, just a few family anecdotes and a vague reasoning for liking to be lost. Richard's backstory is barely addressed. We learn early that he lost his mother at a young age, and while the script tries to attach some yearning to that, it quickly gets stepped over and lost in the storyline. I too consider Redford's *All is Lost* as the finest lost-at-sea film out there, but perhaps that comparison isn't fair—this isn't meant to be that story. Yet, I'm still not won over because this film feels less internal, and the timeline switchbacks cut up the drama of life onboard an ill-fated

sailboat and the choices Tami and Richard must make. It's not a bad film, but for me it fell short of great pretty quickly.

Glen: Director Kormákur knows his way around seafaring disaster—his *The Deep* (2012) is about a fisherman trying to

survive after his boat capsizes off the coast of Iceland—but his CGI storm in *Adrift* isn't as impressive as the CGI of *The Perfect Storm* (2000). It's all these little things that undermine *Adrift*: the romance feels too easy, even with the argument about whether the couple should accept \$10,000 and two first-class return tickets from San Diego to Tahiti in exchange for piloting the luxury sailboat to California for Richard's friends, a rich British couple; the CGI is good but not great, leading to distraction and pulling viewers out of the drama; and there's a



SURVIVORS: With no help in sight, Richard (Sam Claflin) and Tami (Shailene Woodley) must rescue themselves through ingenuity and sheer force of will.



INTO THE STORM: Avid sailors Richard Sharp (Sam Claflin) and Tami Oldham (Shailene Woodley) set off on a cross-ocean adventure but encounter a devastating hurricane.

twist near the end that won't be a surprise for those familiar with Tami's adventure, but that might seem like a gimmick or trick to those—like me—who were unfamiliar with her tale. It's a film that's worth seeing, and if you're a fan of the genre, hit a matinee, but I think I would have been pleasantly surprised to rent this film at Redbox or even wait for it to show up on a streaming service.

Anna: If you want an incredibly gripping true tale of a lost-at-sea survival story, check out the book *Alone: Orphaned on the Ocean* about 11-year-old Terry Jo Dupperault, who survives for four days floating on a cork raft after her family is murdered by their captain. It's amazing, and Tami's story would probably be more gripping if told from a firsthand account instead of a dramatized one, but I'm guessing that a documentary wouldn't draw the crowds like a big Hollywood film. Either way we are left with a film that makes an earnest effort to tug at your heartstrings but instead chokes them out with a little too much schmaltz. The storm that brought their boat down was meant to be epic but falls short of its predecessors such as *A Perfect Storm*, as you mentioned. I don't think I saw *The Deep*, and if I did it must have fallen into forgettable, but Kormákur certainly likes an ocean theme from what I can tell. The CGI doesn't warrant a trip to the big screen. For me this one can be safely viewed curled up at home when a little adventure and sentimentality is needed. ○

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

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GIRL SQUAD: Sandra Bullock (left) stars as Debbie, estranged sister of conman Danny Ocean, leading a team of female criminals trying to steal a necklace worth more than \$150 million in *Ocean's 8*.

FILM REVIEWS from page 40

SOLO: A STAR WARS STORY

What's it rated? **PG-13**
 What's it worth? **Matinee**
 Where's it showing? **Parks Plaza, Movies Lompoc**
PICK Ron Howard (*Splash, Cocoon, Backdraft, Apollo 13, A Beautiful Mind, The Da Vinci Code*) directs this Han Solo (Alden Ehrenreich) origin story, set long before the rebellion, which explores how the cocky pilot met both Chewbacca (Joonas Suotamo) and notorious gambler Lando Calrissian (Donald Glover). The film also stars Woody Harrelson as Tobias Beckett, a smuggler; Thandie Newton as Tobias' wife Val Beckett; Emilia Clarke as Qi'ra, Han's childhood friend; Paul Bettany as crime lord Dryden Vos; Jon Favreau as alien Rio Durant; and Linda Hunt as the voice of Lady Proxima.

Solo started with two different directors who were fired over "creative differences" before Howard took over, so there's a somewhat disjointed and uneven artistic vision here, but that doesn't stop the film from being a lot of fun. We meet Han and Qi'ra living in a slum and dreaming of getting out. The opening set piece is a rousing chase and escape in which we see both Han's recklessness and bravado. Things don't quite go as planned, and Han ends up in the imperial army, where his wisecracking nature does him no favors, but that's also where he meets Tobias and Chewy, who team up for a big heist that leads to another big set piece, this one involving a cargo train.

There's plenty of action, lots of one-liners, and showdowns between the good guys and the bad guys, not to mention some double crosses and surprises. In the same tradition of Episodes IV through VI, *Solo* offers up a classic space Western. It's not going to win any prizes for originality, but for Star Wars nerds, reverence for the series pays off here as we see the little bits of Han's backstory we've learned from the original films play out. I was wholly entertained.

Frankly, I wasn't sure about Ehrenreich as Han. I grew up watching Harrison Ford and I couldn't imagine anyone else in the role. There is a passing resemblance between the young Ford and Ehrenreich, but instead of doing an impersonation of Ford as Han, Ehrenreich makes the character his own.

Glover, on the other hand, seems intent on channeling Billy Dee Williams as Lando Calrissian, but he does it so well, it's a treat to watch. Glover's star is certainly shining brightly right now. He was great as the host of *Saturday Night Live* a few weeks ago, and his music video for "This is America" has people talking.

These two characters are interesting enough and the actors have so much natural chemistry together that I would happily see another film with the pair. The story ends in a way that's begging for a sequel, and I'd love to see Lando

and Han meet for another adventure. *Solo* is basically a popcorn movie—uncomplicated, emotionally one note, and with little more than entertainment in mind. It's not the kind of film that sticks with you or challenges viewers in any way, but if you're looking for an engaging space romp, I think *Solo* delivers. Be warned, however; it's one of those rare films with a higher rottentomatoes.com critic rating (71 percent) than audience score (59 percent), so not everyone has liked the film as much as I have.

If you're the rare person who's new to the Star Wars franchise, you'd be better off starting here rather than the joyless *Episode I: The Phantom Menace*. *Solo* at least knows how to have fun. (145 min.)

—Glen Starkey

OCEAN'S 8

What's it rated? **PG-13**
 Where's it showing? **Parks Plaza, Movies Lompoc, Hi-Way Drive-In**
NEW Upon her release from prison, Debbie (Sandra Bullock), the estranged sister of legendary conman Danny Ocean, puts together a team of unstoppable crooks to pull off the heist of the century. Their goal is New York City's annual Met Gala and a necklace worth more than \$150 million. (110 min.) ○

—Warner Bros. Pictures

Sun movie reviews were compiled by New Times Arts Editor Ryah Cooley. You can contact her at rcooley@newtimeslo.com.

HULK

What's it rated? **PG-13**
 When? **2003**
 Where's it available? **DVD**

Before Edward Norton and Mark Ruffalo donned those infamous purple trunks for films set in the Marvel Cinematic Universe, Eric Bana took on the role of Bruce Banner in director Ang Lee's vastly underappreciated—dare I say, incredible—*Hulk*.

Lee, largely known for directing *Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon, Broken Mountain, and Life of Pi*, didn't approach his adaptation of Stan Lee and Jack Kirby's green giant as a superhero movie per se, which was against the grain at the time of its release. Today audiences are spoiled with genre bending comic book films from every corner of the spectrum, from comedies (*Guardians of the Galaxy, Thor: Ragnarok*) to neo-Westerns (*Logan*).

One could argue that this all began with *The Dark Knight* in 2008, a crime thriller above anything else—basically *Heat* except some of the characters wear costumes. But back in 2003, only a year after Sam Raimi's *Spider-Man* had cemented the formula for what a superhero film should be for nearly a decade, Lee decided to use Marvel's Hulk books as the source material for a modern, Frankenstein-esque Greek tragedy full of somber characters with earnest, uncontrived ambitions.

BUT—this is a big but—at the same time, Lee boldly set out to make *Hulk* the most seamless transition of

a comic book to screen than had ever been done before. Lee attempts this by splitting almost every shot of the film into panels of the same scene but from different angles. But these panels don't just linger on forever within scenes as they change almost immediately (think *Requiem for a Dream*). I can understand how some might find the constant perspective shifting headache inducing, but it never bothered me. Although I'm not going to argue that the panels achieve Lee's goal, I don't think they hurt the film either.

And Lee does warm the audience up to the style right away during the opening credits sequence, which showcases Danny Elfman's score as well. I'm not sure how Lee predicted Elfman would mesh well with Hulk, given the whimsical nature of most of his music (including his work on *Batman* and *Spider-Man*). Maybe it wasn't his choice at all; it could



have been a studio mandate given Elfman's experience with superhero films. Whether or not that's the case, he ended up being the perfect pick. There isn't an ounce of quirk in this score. If I hadn't known it was Elfman, my best guesses would have been Hans Zimmer or James Horner.

As far as performances go, the two standouts are Nick Nolte and Sam Elliot. Nolte plays David Banner, Bruce's father with a super power of his own, while Elliot plays Thaddeus Ross, a four-star general hell-bent on containing the Hulk. Both characters are antagonists opposed to Bruce, but their conflicts with each other are just as interesting. And of course, Arroyo Grande resident Lou Ferrigno (*The Incredible Hulk*) makes a cameo. Don't miss it! (138 min.) ○

—Caleb Wiseblood

PHOTO COURTESY OF UNIVERSAL



FROM BANA TO BANNER: Eric Bana plays scientist Bruce Banner, the titular character's less angry alter-ego, in director Ang Lee's *Hulk*.



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Dog days

The Doggy Door and Community Craft wine bar in Los Olivos are a perfect pair

BY REBECCA ROSE

I am so eager to try more of the Doggy Door hot dogs that I've fallen in love with that I arrive 30 minutes early for my interview with owner Andrew Scherer.

This is simultaneously a fault of my ongoing eagerness and my growling stomach. You would not believe how little food a food writer actually eats during a busy day running around and interviewing chefs and restaurateurs in an area as big as the one I cover. I think that morning I was lucky enough to scarf down an Altoid and a chai tea.

While I waited for Scherer, I wandered around Los Olivos, a town I feel like I could navigate blindfolded at this point. I had come here to learn more about Doggy Door, a charming hot dog stand I had been tipped

Stay in the doghouse

The Doggy Door is located at Community Craft, 2446 Alamo Pintado Ave., suite C, Los Olivos. More info: (805) 686-1158 or doggydoorcatering@gmail.com.

off about a while ago and since learned to appreciate. I was told the owners wanted to give people an option for a cheap snack to go along with the overflow of wine in town. Walking around town that day, it was quickly obvious how much of a void there was in that department.

When I finally sit down with Scherer, it's the first thing he points out to me.

"We wanted to supply a grab-and-go food stop for Los Olivos, which there isn't," he explained. "We have less than a handful of restaurants and you're average cost is going to be a little high. We wanted something fast and easy." Thus the Doggy Door was opened.

Scherer and his wife, Erin, are owners of Community Craft (which recently celebrated its one-year anniversary), a boutique wine bar that specializes in hyperlocal and

international wines. It's a charming spot that's inviting and effortless, one affixed with more of a feel of a neighborhood bar than a stuffy wine tasting room.

"We were first interested in opening a local wine shop that focused on wineries that don't have representation in town," Scherer explained. "We wanted to provide something that wasn't already available. We did local producers to give them a spotlight as well as a little bit of wine from around the world."

Community Craft features dozens of local and international wines, including Field Recordings, Scratch, Kings Carey, Wonderwall, Sandhi, Hilliard Bruce, Liquid Farm, Bonacorssi, Ground Truth, Jaffurs, and many more. The space is stylish but laid back, with a perfect long bar to rest a couple of dogs on while sipping on a nice pinot noir.

Once the wine bar was in place, the couple realized they were missing something—food. They thought about ways to incorporate affordable eats into their venue. Hot dogs seemed like a good idea, but the Scherers had no intentions of serving your average meat and bun. They wanted something that matched the caliber and quality of the wines they were serving.

So they opted for stylized hot dogs, loaded with fresh ingredients and packaged in playful themes. Hot dogs (100 percent Vienna beef) such as the nacho, BBQ, Reuben, and classic grace their menu, priced around \$6 each.

The nacho is a play on traditional nacho chips. Served with a black bean salsa made with cilantro, black beans, corn, salt and pepper, onion, tomato, and sriracha aioli, the dog is



IT'S A YES FROM ME, DOG: Doggy Door in Los Olivos is open in front of Community Craft, whose owner said he opened the food hut as a way to give visitors cheap eats while enjoying local wines.

topped with a big layer of nacho chip crunch.

Another popular item is the Reuben, a play on a classic Reuben sandwich.

"The Reuben has been a great success," Scherer said. "We've underestimated the sauerkraut fan club. We do a Russian dressing, so you get the sweet relish in there with little ketchup and mayo, sauerkraut, brown mustard, parmesan cheese, onion, and classic Lays crunch on top."

My personal favorite is the pesto. Scherer starts with a helping of fresh arugula, topped with tomato, parmesan cheese, pesto aioli, and sour cream chip crunch. I've had about five of them so far (chill; it wasn't all at once) and I think they are divine. It really is an ideal way to snack on something that isn't greasy or fried if you don't have the time or bank account to sit at one of the marquis restaurants in town but you don't want to starve to death while drinking your way through Central Coast pinots.

Honestly, I'm not really sure how to pair wine with hot dogs. I am not dismissing the possibility that there is an excellent opportunity to dive into what varietals go best with the different toppings and flavors, but for my

EATS continued page 44

PHOTO BY REBECCA ROSE



DOGGONE GOOD: The pesto hot dog at Doggy Door in Los Olivos is packed with fresh ingredients, including arugula, tomato, parmesan cheese, pesto aioli, and a sour cream chip crunch.

PHOTO COURTESY OF DOGGY DOOR



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PHOTO BY REBECCA ROSE



THE WINE IS MINE: Community Craft offers a wide selection of local and international wines. Owner Andrew Scherer said he tries to stock the wine bar with local brands not featured in other venues.

PHOTO COURTESY OF CRUMBLES



PHOTO COURTESY OF FAR WESTERN TAVERN



on steakhouse menus. The ones at **The Far Western Tavern** (pictured) are prepared lightly fried and served with fresh herbs. Pair them with a grilled artichoke and a round of drinks at the bar at **300 E. Clark Ave., Orcutt.**

EATS from page 42

money, they all probably work great. But I'll be sure to sample as many varieties as I can, just so I can let you know for sure. ○

Arts and Lifestyle Writer Rebecca Rose can be seen hot doggin' it just about anywhere. Contact her at rose@santamariasun.com.

Rebeccamendations:
What's new, what's fun, and what to try

• Chef James Gentry has moved over to **Crumbles Cafe and Bake Shop**, where he is serving up sinful looking treats such as lemon meringue tarts (pictured). See what he's doing at **1635 S. Broadway, Santa Maria.**

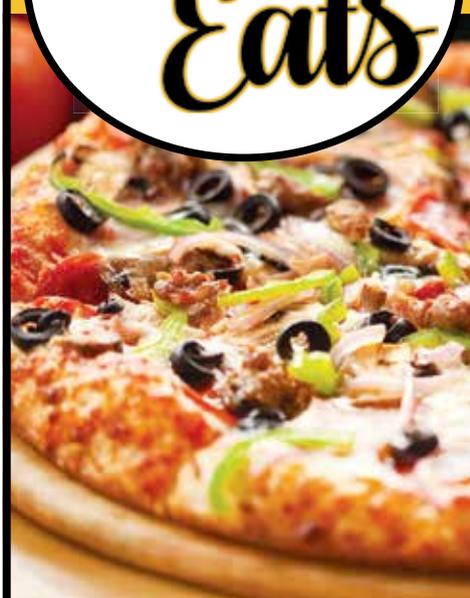
- A little bird told me that **Norman** in Los Alamos (at the newly refurbished Skyview Inn) has hired a new chef, but I can't say just yet who it is. Keep reading for more details soon. Check out the new menu at **9150 Highway 101, Los Alamos.**
- If you've never had sweetbreads, you've never truly lived. (That's my culinary hot take for the day.) Sweetbreads are the thymus gland, typically from veal, and are often found

- **Vino et Amicis** ("wine and friends") is now open and serving local wines in Orcutt. They have a big selection and offer a variety of specials during the week. Try a bottle of Westerly Wines' Côte Blonde, which is 95 percent syrah and 5 percent viognier, available there now. The wine bar is located at **165 S. Broadway St., Orcutt.**
- **Bell's** in Los Alamos (one of my favorite new places) is serving King Ora salmon for dinner, served with a beurre blanc, trout roe, and wilted spinach for \$26. Get over there before they run out at **406 Bell St., Los Alamos.** ○



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