

SUN

AT THE MOVIES



Jurassic World: Fallen Kingdom:
Dino delight [39]



PRIDE *in the* VALLEY

Meet the volunteers who made Pride a reality in Santa Maria [12]

BY JOE PAYNE

NEWS Santa Maria balances budget amid pension crisis [7]

ARTS Guadalupe gets a new mural [37]

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MAKING PRIDE: House of Pride and Equality (HOPE) board members, pictured from left to right, are Audy Macdonald, Camille Chavez, Jessie Funes, and Eva Didion. They were able to create Santa Maria's first Pride festival last year, and this year's event on June 30, with the help of a group of dedicated volunteers.

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New Times in San Luis Obispo is looking for its next arts editor, but we're not looking for just any art-ogling, content-wrangling, copy-editing someone.

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Beginning a Pride celebration for a city that has never had one is a big deal, especially for its LGBTQ population. Local nonprofit the House of Pride and Equality (HOPE) brought Santa Maria's first Pride festival to life last year, and this year's event on June 30 is slated to be even bigger and better. For this week's cover, I sat down with HOPE's board and got their firsthand account of what it takes to make Pride happen, and what it means to the Santa Maria Valley's LGBTQ community [12].

Also this week, Santa Maria dips into its reserve fund to balance its budget [7], local singer/songwriter Shawn Clark brings his country sound to Buellton [32], Ruben Espinoza painted Guadalupe's latest mural [37], former *Sun* Editor Ryan Miller has a new children's book out [38], and you'll go psycho for the food at Norman in Los Alamos [42].

Joe Payne,
Managing Editor

Photo by Jayson Mellom > Cover Design by Alex Zuniga

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Political Watch

Sen. **Dianne Feinstein** (D-California) introduced the Bot Disclosure and Accountability Act to the U.S. Senate on June 25 in an effort to regulate social media bots intended to influence U.S. elections. The bill, if passed, would direct the Federal Trade Commission (FTC) to require social media companies to disclose bots on their platforms, prohibit candidates and political parties from using bots, and limit political action committees and corporations or labor unions from using bots in certain political advertising, according to a release from Feinstein's office. "Voters must be able to make informed judgments about the information they receive," Feinstein stated, "and that includes knowing the origin and motives behind these pervasive and fake online personas."

On June 21, Sen. **Kamala Harris** (D-California) introduced a new bill, the Combat Valley Fever Act, to help spread awareness and find methods to combat valley fever, a sometimes fatal fungal lung infection. According to a release from Harris' office, valley fever can result after a fungus that's trapped in soil becomes airborne when the soil is disturbed, and has the most effects on immunosuppressed patients, the elderly, pregnant women, and minority populations. The legislation would direct the Secretary of the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) to work in coordination with the Center for Disease Control (CDC) to fuel research, track outbreaks, and encourage state and local health officials to report cases of valley fever. "We need more resources to combat this disease, raise awareness, and determine the root causes and how best to treat it," Harris stated. "Through the coordination of the USDA, CDC, National Institutes of Health, and respective state and local public health agencies, we can work to help those in rural communities who face the greatest risk." A report issued by the Santa Barbara County Public Health Department on May 8 found there were 56 reported and confirmed cases of valley fever between Dec. 4, 2017, and March 31, 2018. Of those cases, 85 percent were found in North County residents.

State Sen. **Hannah-Beth Jackson** (D-Santa Barbara) saw legislation she authored to help California public schools teach students how to read media sources critically and act responsibly online pass the Assembly Education Committee on June 13. According to Jackson's office, SB 947 would establish a process for students, parents, teachers, and school administrators to create strategies to ensure internet safety, digital citizenship, and media literacy become part of California's basic educational goals and learning requirements. According to the release, "young people need support and training" while learning how to use and "navigate their digital world, particularly when it comes to cyberbullying, sexting, privacy, digital footprints, and fake news." "Misinformation spreads online fast, far, and wide," Jackson stated. "As technology becomes a growing part for our daily lives, we need to teach students how to behave responsibly and ethically online. SB 947 will allow teachers, parents, and students to work together to create best practices for teaching the next generation how to stay safe and informed in the digital age."

Assemblymember **Jordan Cunningham** (R-Templeton) honored Sgt. First Class **Latoya Honaker** as the 35th District Veteran of the Year on June 21. Honaker was recognized for her "notable bravery and service to our country," Cunningham said in a post on his official Facebook page. Honaker served with NATO in Kosovo, completed a ninth deployment in Afghanistan, and now serves at Camp San Luis Obispo as directorate of logistics. "I am proud to shine a light on the work of [Sgt.] First Class Honaker," Cunningham wrote in the post. "Thank you [Sgt.] Honaker and all service members for your service to our nation." ○

Gloria Soto announces candidacy for District 3 City Council seat

Surrounded by dozens of enthusiastic supporters, lifelong Santa Maria resident Gloria Soto announced her candidacy for the City Council's District 3 seat outside the Minami Community Center on June 21.

Business owners, several recent high school graduates, and representatives of various advocacy organizations, including Central Coast Alliance United for A Sustainable Economy (CAUSE), gathered outside Minami at noon that day to show support for Soto's announcement.

Soto, a nonprofit development manager and board member with Future Leaders of America, said that if elected, she would work to represent and advocate for the needs of all Santa Marians in District 3.

"I have grown up in and with this city," Soto said at the event, adding that she could better understand Santa Maria and its longstanding issues as a born and raised resident.

The city, she said, should encourage developers to build housing that young and low-income families can afford to buy and rent. Santa Maria's tight housing market, she told attendees, has resulted in high rates of youth homelessness.

Soto said that at Robert Bruce Elementary, where she attended school as a child, nearly 40 percent of students are considered homeless.

Additional affordable housing units and living wage jobs could deter homelessness and poverty, Soto said. As a councilmember, Soto said she would work to bring tech, ag, and aerospace companies—all of which provide high wage jobs—into Santa Maria.

"My key issues, affordable housing and living wage jobs, are in service to my primary passion," Soto told attendees, "our youth of Santa Maria."

Soto said that as an Allan Hancock College and Chapman University alum, she knows how difficult it can be for graduates to return to Santa Maria after college. With increased collaboration between the city and local school districts, and by improving job and housing opportunities in Santa Maria, Soto said she hopes to change that.

"If our community wants to reduce youth violence and change the odds for our community's future," she said, "it has to invest in its young people. All of them."

Soto is the first to announce candidacy for District 3, which encompasses the southwestern portion of Santa Maria. Mayor Pro Tem and two-term City Councilmember Jack Boysen, who currently represents District 3, announced in a written statement on June 7 that he would not run for re-election.

Santa Marians living in both Districts 3 and 4 will vote on city representatives in November, and candidates will have until Aug. 10 to file candidacy with the county.

—Kasey Bubnash

Rep. Salud Carbajal visits border, child detention facility

On June 25, Rep. Salud Carbajal (D-Santa Barbara) visited the U.S.-Mexico border and a detention facility in Texas to assess the conditions that detained children were being held in and question the federal officials tasked with caring for them.

Carbajal joined Rep. Jacky Rosen (D-Nevada) in crossing over the Paso del Norte Bridge into Ciudad Juárez, Mexico; toured the U.S. Customs and Border Patrol (CBP) Paso del Norte



REPPING DISTRICT 3: Gloria Soto, a lifelong Santa Maria resident and nonprofit development manager, is the first to announce candidacy for the Santa Maria City Council District 3 election in November.

Processing Center after re-entering the country; joined a roundtable with advocates and service providers in El Paso, Texas; and toured the Tornillo Facility for Minors with Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) officials.

During his visit to the CBP facility on the border, Carbajal spoke to two children who he said crossed the border unaccompanied and were seeking asylum. Carbajal said that Department of Homeland Security (DHS) officials told him that the children had been held past the three-day limit for those detained at the border before being passed on to the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS).

"At that point, one of the officials shared with me that they are routinely holding children beyond the three-day legal timeline, because there's a conflict of coordination between the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) and Health and Human Services," Carbajal told the *Sun*. "Because of the lack of housing and placement, people are being held beyond the legal timeline."

Later, while speaking with HHS officials, Carbajal said, "They initially tried to dispute that."

"I told them they need to get together with the Department of Homeland Security and get their story straight, because the result is them violating children's rights," he said. "It's an example of the chaos we've been hearing about. It went from a crisis to a continued chaotic crisis by this administration."

While touring the child detention facility at Tornillo, which Carbajal described as a "tent city," he spoke with several of the children about the conditions there and what they'd like to see improved.

He said that the detained minors complained about being woken up at 5 a.m. in the morning in "a very regimented fashion," being shuttled quickly to short showers, and having limited time for recreation. Outdoor recreation was limited, Carbajal explained, because of the extreme heat in the desert area, and the kids were kept in an "auditorium" most of the day.

"This tent city is a for-profit outfit, which the government contracts with," Carbajal said, adding that the company is usually used to provide services during emergencies and natural disasters. "That's the sort of approach they are taking with the children's welfare. Certainly they are providing a basic level of care, but far from adequate for what we would expect for children."

There were more than 300 children held at the Tornillo facility, Carbajal said, and of those, about 26 were separated from their parents as part of the Trump

administration's zero tolerance policy toward asylum seekers.

Carbajal joined 190 House Democrats on June 19 in introducing the Keep Families Together Act, companion legislation for a bill presented in the Senate by Sen. Dianne Feinstein (D-California), before President Donald Trump signed an executive order on June 20 to end child separation after a bipartisan national outcry.

The bill being pushed by Democrats would prohibit the DHS from separating children, but would also limit criminal prosecution of asylum seekers, provide training for CBP officers, and provide a policy for reunifying parents and children who have been separated.

The president's executive order doesn't address those issues, Carbajal told the *Sun*, especially in reuniting separated families.

Carbajal said his visit to the detention facilities was an emotional experience.

"It's quite disheartening to see an administration, and a complicit Congress, take such a misguided and backward direction in regards to the humane way we should treat immigrants and those seeking asylum," he said. "As a Marine, I signed up to defend our Constitution, and to see this country move in this direction, ... it's unbearable."

—Joe Payne

NEWS continued page 6

Weekend Weather

KSBY NEWS
Microclimate Weather Forecast
Dave Hovde
KSBY Chief Meteorologist

<p>Thursday</p> <p>COASTAL > High 69 Low 50 INLAND > High 78 Low 50</p>	<p>Friday</p> <p>COASTAL > High 72 Low 51 INLAND > High 82 Low 50</p>
<p>Saturday</p> <p>COASTAL > High 72 Low 53 INLAND > High 82 Low 52</p>	<p>Sunday</p> <p>COASTAL > High 72 Low 53 INLAND > High 82 Low 52</p>

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NEWS from page 4

Lompoc City Council places pot tax on November ballot

Lompoc residents will get to decide whether to pass a new tax on cannabis in the Nov. 6 general election following the adoption of two resolutions by its City Council on June 19, effectively reversing their decision this past March to not explore a ballot measure.

At that time earlier this spring, Councilmember Jenelle Osborne blasted the three council members (Jim Mosby, Victor Vega, and Dirk Starbuck) that voted against taxing the nascent industry, which is largely being allowed to operate without regulation in the city.

She said the cannabis tax would be a new revenue stream the city needed and that it “was the reason I supported regulating it locally.” The rest of the council apparently got the message after the resolutions passed 4-0, with Mayor Bob Lingl absent.

The first resolution dealt with actually placing the measure on the ballot while the second passed was concerned with written arguments, as well as directing the city attorney to prepare an “impartial analysis” of the proposed tax ordinance. The second resolution sets a deadline for written arguments for or against the tax to be submitted by July 20.

The proposed rates for taxation are a maximum of 1 percent on gross receipts for cultivation, and a maximum of 6 percent on receipts for retail. An annual flat fee tax of \$15,000 will be applied to manufacturers and distributors with a net income of less than \$2 million, or \$30,000 for those with income exceeding that. Microbusinesses would see an aggregate total tax of up to 6 percent of their proceeds.

The taxes are expected to rake in somewhere

between \$130,000 and \$470,000 annually. The projections pale in comparison to the original estimates of \$700,000 to \$3 million in revenue presented by an outside consultant to the council in March. City staff attributed the drop off to the lower cultivation tax rate and the “flat rate” approaches for manufacturing and distribution.

None of the taxes would apply to medical businesses or transactions.

“I think that is a healthy solution to moving toward a fair tax base that isn’t going to drive away those of you that have put in an application,” Osborne said, seemingly speaking to cannabis operators in attendance the night the council approved the measure. “If you’re serious about this and you’ve planned for this, that fee shouldn’t turn you away. I don’t want to lose you, but again, I’m trying to walk that fine line and balance it.”

The cannabis community in Lompoc is largely in favor of the taxes, according to local activist Joe Garcia, who is also a co-founder of the Lompoc Valley Cannabis Association. He said business owners are willing to do anything to help alleviate public concerns about rising crime rates, enforcement costs, and any other fears related to what he calls the city’s “reefer madness.”

Mollie Culver, with the Santa Barbara County’s Cannabis Business Council, told the *Sun* that the business owners she represented were eager to help contribute to the community and its local economy by developing jobs and attracting tourism.

“We look forward to working with stakeholders to enhance city programs and projects and to provide revenue that will economically benefit public safety, municipal, and residential services while being good neighbors in our shared community,” she said.

—Spencer Cole

Hollister Ranch hearing set amid public backlash

Out of the hundreds of comments submitted to the California Coastal Commission regarding public access to Hollister Ranch, only a handful are positive. As of the *Sun*’s press time, more than 600 hundred public comments had been submitted to the commission, all but three of which were intensely critical of the deal that would limit public access to the small stretch of beach in southern Santa Barbara County.

The settlement wouldn’t have been made public if it weren’t for a judge intervening at the 11th hour once the deal had already been struck, providing for a period of public comment. According to the Coastal Commission, an overwhelming amount of the comments say the settlement failed to secure enough land for public access.

On July 13, in Santa Cruz, the Commission will hold an informational briefing as part of its three days of regularly scheduled meetings. It is the first item on the agenda following general public comment.

The Hollister Ranch deal was reached earlier this year between the California State Coastal Conservancy and the state’s Coastal Commission on one side and the Hollister Ranch Owners Association on the other. It allows for limited public access to what environmentalists say is one of the least tarnished stretches of coastline in the state.

The deal provides public access to about a mile section of beach, but only by ocean “via surfboard, paddleboard, kayak, or soft-bottom boat.” The beach is only a couple miles from Gaviota State Park beach.

Details surrounding the settlement only

came to light earlier this year when Santa Barbara Superior Court Judge Colleen Sterne approved the settlement with one caveat: the public should have at least a theoretical way to stop the deal.

“Because the settlement abandons disputed rights of public access, the court raised the issue of whether, and to what extent, notice must, or should, be provided to the affected public,” Sterne said in her tentative ruling. “The court is concerned that the procedural posture of this case has limited knowledge of this action by the public, and more specifically knowledge of the settlement terms, so that affected members of the public would not have sufficient knowledge of the existence of this action and settlement to exercise rights to request intervention should any affected member of the public want to do so.”

Judge Sterne said the court could then address any motion filed in court disputing the deal.

Members of the public who wish to submit objection with the court must file a motion to intervene by July 23 of this year. The court’s final hearing on whether to provide final approval for the settlement agreement is scheduled for Sept. 10.

The ranch owners association sued the state in 2013, alleging that an easement on the property originally given to the Boy Scouts of America around three decades ago was legally unenforceable. The largely wealthy owners (filmmaker James Cameron has a home there) on the 14,000-acre property always chafed at the easement and had planned legal action to remove any pathway to public access.

The agreement allowing limited access was reached late last year. ○

—Spencer Cole



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'Totally exhausted'

Santa Maria dips into reserve funds to balance budget

BY SPENCER COLE

Santa Maria has a balanced budget for its next two fiscal years, but the equilibrium came at the cost of millions of dollars in precious funds usually reserved for times of economic instability.

Officials say the move was necessary given the city's growing pension payout obligations, which saw a spike of nearly \$4 million in California Public Employees' Retirement System (CalPERS) costs compared to just a half decade ago.

It's a grim reality that Santa Maria and virtually all cities across California are wrestling with as the pension program continues to drive up expenditures and dwarf revenues.

"We've known for several years the obligations are increasing very significantly," the city's Public Information Officer Mark van de Kamp told the *Sun*. "I would actually say they are skyrocketing."

CalPERS is projected to increase in cost by \$1.3 million in the next fiscal year, according to city staff documents. Expected costs will continue to rise at a clip of about \$1.2 million annually for the next five years.

The bump in expenditures is part of the reason the Santa Maria City Council faced an \$8.5 million deficit in the first year of the biennial budget's general fund. And it's why council members ultimately opted to pull funds from the city's Local Economic Augmentation Fund (LEAF) and additional monies from its Economic Stabilization Fund, the latter of which has never been drawn upon except in times of recession.

Van de Kamp explained that LEAF, which at its peak held about \$11.7 million, would give the city an extra \$2.6 million this coming year and an additional \$1.1 million in 2019-20. By then, he said, the reserve would be "totally exhausted."

After that, should Santa Maria need to, it will draw up to \$3 million from its stabilization fund (currently sitting at \$19.8 million total). According to van de Kamp, the city may be able to avoid using money usually saved as reserves in the event of a recession, but only if it opts to not fill vacant positions and thus save cash off what would have been those employees' salaries. Currently, Santa Maria has between 20 and 30 vacancies that it does not plan to fill until the next two-year budget cycle.

On June 19, at the City Council meeting when the budget passed, some on the council expressed concern about digging into the stabilization fund.

"My concern is we won't have the reserve funds when there is a recession," Councilmember Etta Waterfield said at the meeting.

Van de Kamp told the *Sun* that the city had drawn upon the fund a couple of times before, but both instances were during a recession, which is why the move initially drew pause from city staff and officials. There's also the overriding fear of the return to dismal economic conditions that plagued the country during the Great Recession of the late 2000s.

"We're not sure if there will be a recession in the next two years," van de Kamp added, "although there are some people around the state warning there will be."

On Jan. 10 of this year, Gov. Jerry Brown told California's Legislature to not take the state's economic stability for granted.

"What's out there is darkness, uncertainty, decline, and recession," Brown said that day. "So good luck, baby."

His proclamation came alongside the



INCREASING COSTS: Santa Maria's city council opted to dip into two reserve funds in order to balance its budget for 2018-19 and 2019-20. Officials say the move was to offset increasing expenditures that surpassed current revenues. A main driver behind the council's decision was related to the city's pension payout obligations, which are currently running to the tune of roughly \$1.2 million annually.

unveiling of an additional \$5 billion for California's emergency fund, bringing it up to a robust \$13.5 billion in an attempt to prevent layoffs and "soften" other cuts in a potential downturn.

It's a warning cities like Santa Maria are trying to heed.

"History shows us that recoveries don't last forever," van de Kamp said, "so at some point there will be a recession."

Thus, a lot of municipalities are caught between a rock and a hard place because despite the rising pension costs that are sapping funding, the economy overall is doing pretty well. National, state, and local levels are all essentially at full employment; March of this year marked the 90th straight month of economic growth since October 2010; and in December 2017, California's unemployment levels fell to the lowest since the state adopted its current record keeping format.

"So things are looking good for the overall economy," van de Kamp said. "However, in the case of Santa Maria—like so many cities around the state, as well as other agencies—they are all struggling to make ends meet."

That's another reason why Santa Maria's staff and council are so frustrated with the current budget situation, which has left the city with tough choices, such as closing offices at city hall on Fridays so skeleton crews can catch up on work.

"It's worrisome. It's disquieting. It's frustrating that the budget situation is this serious, this deep into the recovery," van de Kamp said. He added that despite the rising CalPERS and pension costs, the city is raking in revenue that exceeds pre-recession numbers for its top money-gathering taxes, which are sales, property, transient occupancy (hotels, motels, etc.), and construction permits.

The increased revenue is one part of Santa Maria's economic picture that is rather rosy compared to the hit the city took during the last recession.

"The Great Recession really clobbered city revenues," van de Kamp explained, noting revenues in the general fund fell by nearly 20 percent during that time. "The local government revenues, which are necessary for government operations, were down tens of millions of dollars. We had to make a lot of huge adjustments."

Even though the revenue levels have recovered, the city still saw considerable population growth over that time—for example, more than 2,000 people moved to Santa Maria in the past year alone. And with

more people, comes more demand for services like police, water, and public transportation, further driving up what van de Kamp calls "the cost of doing business."

"That amount of people may not sound like a lot, but each of them wants and needs, and deserves, their city services, and we are a full service city," van de Kamp said. "But the cost of providing services is outpacing revenues."

Hence the city's turn to reserves normally meant for "rainy days," or in a worst case scenario, recessions. But as those funds are slowly drained dry by the steady trickle of pension payout and basic operations, Santa Maria will need to address its growing funding problem.

Van de Kamp cited the Enos Ranch Business Center as a positive for the city's economy, driving up sales and property tax revenues while encouraging development. He said the council had also directed staff to conduct a fee study to see if the city should begin charging fees for some services that it currently offers for free or at too low a price.

"We believe there is room for adjustment, but it needs to be defensible," van de Kamp added.

The city also has several capital projects set for future years, including a new landfill that is expected to last for a century.

At the meeting on June 19, one citizen brought up how revenues from recreational marijuana could help offset some of the rising costs. The city currently bans recreational cannabis in all forms within its limits. When asked by the *Sun* if the topic would be reconsidered, van de Kamp said the council had "not indicated they are going to change their minds."

On July 3, city staff plans to bring a document to the council that would allow them to choose whether to put a measure on the November general election ballot regarding Measure U, which provides crucial dollars for city services, including public safety. The funding runs out after this fiscal year. The process, van de Kamp added, was ongoing.

"We don't have a lot of details right now, but we've been doing a lot of community outreach," he said.

In the end, Santa Maria has many options to mull in the coming years and months as it weighs the costs of doing business.

"We're still 10 years into this [since the recession]," van de Kamp said. "Even though we're being conservative, we've still done some good things. ... But we're still facing a lot of problems. ○

Staff Writer Spencer Cole can be reached at scole@santamariasun.com.

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Spotlight on: Quilting Angels

Janie Walker, philanthropy committee

BY SPENCER COLE

The long-arm sewing machine gives off a high-pitched whine as Janie Walker adjusts her nearly completed quilt beneath a two-inch steel needle.

“What I’m doing is pretty much putting together a sandwich,” she says. Walker’s fingers deftly glide across the quilt’s surface, below is a layer of padding, which is protected by two sides of exterior cloth. Once completed, it will be sent off for sterilization and distribution.

The Santa Maria Sewing Superstore on Main Street may be relatively empty this June weekday morning, but Walker and the Quilting Angels, the philanthropy arm of the Central Coast Quilters Guild, are humming with activity.

As many as eight members make the bimonthly trip to the store to put together quilts that are then shipped off to local charities. The “long-arm team,” as they call themselves, is represented by just five folks today, but they still expect to put out dozens of quilts.

“We quilted three quilts the first day and we thought we were really hot stuff,” Walker explains. That was 10 years ago, and now if the angels don’t do 20 in a day, it’s considered

somewhat of a failure.

“We think we are slacking off,” she adds, “even when the team fluctuates like this since we all are volunteers.”

Walker said the group produces about 50 quilts per month and made more than 600 just for donations to local charities this year. Marian Regional Medical Center received around 200, while dozens were given to the 5 Cities Homeless Coalition, the Homeless Shelter Overflow group, and SLO Foster Care. Around 60 of the quilts were reserved for auction.

Deb Cowgill, who heads the Olde Towne Quilters of Nipomo, told the Sun those last quilts usually take a bit longer than the regular batches.

“We want the sale quilts to look a little nicer since people are actually buying them,” she says, while adding her “signature” pattern to a quilt.

“I’m known for my dog bones,” she adds, as she uses her machine to create small arc patterns that resemble canine treats.

Quilting, she says, is all about consistency. “You don’t want any big gaps between patterns.”

It’s something Mary Jane Anderson knows well. The 10-year guild veteran laughs as she puts the finishing touches on her own project, which is about half the size of the other quilts being worked on today.

“I’m quicker than the others, but then again, I use probably half as much material,” she says.

Anderson joined the group for the sociability, among other reasons, and the charitable side being the primary one.

“Just knowing that you are doing something



PHOTO BY SPENCER COLE

COMMUNITY QUILTING: The Quilting Angels are a philanthropy arm of the Central Coast Quilters, a nonprofit of around 200 members focused on community projects and charitable donations. Pictured: Janie Walker works on her latest project for donation.

for somebody and that it’s useful,” she explains, “you feel like you are a part of something.”

That combination of community and charity is a common theme among the Quilting Angels, who continually joke with one another as they piece together donation after donation.

“Charity work is good for the heart and soul,” Walker says. “What we do is as much for us as for the recipients.”

Santa Barbara and San Luis Obispo county residents can do their part by joining a local guild (there are seven between Paso and Lompoc) or by attending one of their auctions.

On Saturday, Aug. 18, Nipomo’s Olde Towne Quilters will host an auction and bake sale at St. Joseph’s Catholic Church at 298 S. Thompson Road. The auction begins at 1 p.m.

Recently, the Central Coast Quilters held an event at the Madonna Expo Center in San

Luis Obispo to fundraise for the next year. According to Walker, the economic impact from the showcase is considerable for the area.

She says big draw events like that one are key to attracting a younger audience.

“We need to get more young people involved,” she explains, adding that many parents don’t know how to sew, but because of popular TV shows like Project Runway, the craft is making its way back into the mainstream. “That’s what interests them, and then if we can get them to participate in one of our events and they see their quilts hanging, that motivates them to keep doing it.”

Sewing began to lose popularity in the 1970s, when ready-to-wear clothes became cheaper than those you could make at home.

“I think that was the demise of the sewing industry because they had China, Taiwan, and the Philippines mass producing,” Walker says. “That took out the garment industry; the people that do it now just want to do it to do it.”

Most of the guild members got back into the practice because they’ve been sewing for decades and they missed having a creative outlet, she notes.

“We didn’t need to do it, but still desired to do the craft,” she adds. “It truly is an artist’s endeavour—it’s just like anything else from ceramics, to painting, to sculpting.

“And I like that part: it keeps you engaged; it’s social; it’s fun; and it’s great for the community.” ○

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

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June is a joy

BY HELEN ANN THOMAS

June was not exactly busting out all over with hobnobbing opportunities for *moi*. Social schedules were no doubt crammed with graduation and wedding dates that are not part of my world. So I was especially delighted to be able to go to a Santa Maria Noontime Rotary special occasion—the outgoing president’s step down dinner—on Tuesday evening, June 19, at the Radisson Hotel.

It was a regal affair. Much ado was made about Noontime Rotary president **Heather Weare’s** outgoing status. Known affectionately as “Your Royal Highness” by her fellow Rotarians, she was outfitted with symbols of royalty—a purple cape with fake ermine trim, a “golden” crown (that continually tilted windward), and a scepter—appropriate accessories for her last presiding moments over the club and souvenirs of what has been a happy year for her.

Heather obligingly circled the ballroom and bid farewell as Madame President to the 70 or so who came to her celebration.

Immediate past president **Jason Diani** was chairperson of this fun event. He exceeded, introduced guests like Rotary District Governor **John Weiss** from Morro Bay and gave out awards for a variety of achievements. **Tom Martinez** and **Fred Pratt** were among those acknowledged. Jason also made presentations to Heather and her husband **Chris Edwards**.

Virginia Perry Souza introduced everyone’s favorite historian, **Shirley Contreras**, who was given the Community Service Award for, as Virginia said, “keeping our Santa Maria history alive.” The ever-gracious Shirley (a



Hobnobbing with Helen

Massachusetts native) told all of us that she was, “So glad I found Santa Maria.”

A skit, putting Heather on “trial” for taking too many vacations, was a hoot. Among the cast were **Scott Dunn** (who played an attorney), **Lynda Gannt** (perfect as a judicious judge), and playwright **John Henning** (who definitely has a future in dinner theater), who played yet another attorney. Heather, sitting on the hot seat, was all smiles. On this

night, nothing could faze her, not even accusations of a dubious nature.

The step down dinner attracted **Ron and Mary Nanning**, **Frank Culley**, and **Yvonne Biely** with daughter **Jennifer** (whom we all know from her duties at the Country Club) and grandson **Britton Morgan** (with wife Nikki). Everyone was delighted to see **Hardy Hearn** looking fit as a fiddle with wife **Judy**, looking cute as June bug in her blue outfit. We can always count on Judy for fashion fun.

I enjoyed chatting with **Sharon Henning**, **Scheryn Pratt**, and **Bob Frias**. **Scott Dunn** and **Lynette Muscio** displayed a ton of kilowattage on their smiling faces—they were all aglow in anticipation of their September wedding. Will they have an honor guard of fellow Rotarians? Just a thought.

Jo Grande, who sat at my table, is almost as jazzed about the recently founded Orcutt Community Theater as she is about Rotary. Jo is involved in helping ensure the theater’s success.

If there is an outgoing president, of course, there is an incoming one as well. As Heather and her board relinquished their roles in club



THREE CHAMBER AMBASSADORS: Pictured left to right: Pastor Dave Brogren and Julie and Jim Colegrove at the Chamber of Commerce’s monthly mixer.

leadership, incoming president **Michelle Shipman** stepped forward and introduced her board.

Tokens of appreciation were passed around. Thanks and hugs were exchanged. Heather, holding onto her errant crown, said that she was happy to come back in the future and redo her role as president. She liked the job!

“Thank you,” Michelle told Heather, “for being awesome and so much fun.”

All night long, the ballroom reverberated with positive vibes. Jason, you need to know you did good. This was really a fun evening.

Outdoor mixer

The Santa Maria Valley Chamber of Commerce’s June monthly mixer, hosted by **Morris & Garritano Insurance**, was a pleasant surprise. Held outdoors, on Thursday, June 21, in the north side parking lot of the Community Bank Building at Miller and Broadway, the mixer attracted about 70 business-minded locals.

This was the perfect way to celebrate summer solstice:

sipping wine on a sunny afternoon, amid dappled sunlight filtered through the trees, whilst chatting with the likes of **Janet Silveria** (president and CEO of Community Bank), **Diane Aleman-Stevens** (Chamber Ambassador and volunteer-extraordinaire), and **Sara Holloway** (marketing coordinator for Morris & Garritano).

Aside from networking and socializing opportunities, the mixer featured beer and ale from Orcutt’s **Naughty Oak Brewery**, wine from the fabulous **Presqu’ile Winery**, and hors d’oeuvres from **Testa Catering**. The latter included an artistically arranged charcuterie plate with crostini, flatbread with caramelized onions, chocolate-covered strawberries, and cheesecake. That mix of potent potables and food is hard to beat.

Former Chamber President **Ed Carcarey** of **Emerald Wave Media** emceed and announced raffle prize winners, while Chief Ambassador **Erika Weber** circulated among the crowd.

The annual Chamber trade show is scheduled for August, so we have more good Chamber stuff coming up. Hooray! ○

If you want to hobnob with Helen, you can reach her at column151@gmail.com.



PRESIDENTS ROW, PLUS ONE: Pictured left to right: Santa Maria Noontime Rotary members Jason Diani, Michelle Shipman, Heather Weare, and John Weiss. Jason is immediate past president of the club, while Heather is outgoing president, Michelle is the incoming president, and John is a district governor.



ROTARIAN ROUNDUP: Pictured left to right: Fred and Sheryn Pratt and Sharon and John Henning at the Santa Maria Noontime Rotary step down dinner on June 19.

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PRIDE IN PRIDE: House of Pride and Equality (HOPE) board members (pictured left to right) Audy Macdonald, Camille Chavez, Jessie Funes, and Eva Didion overlook the Town Center West parking lot where they're planning to hold Santa Maria's 2nd annual Pride event on June 30.

Living with Pride

House of Pride and Equality (HOPE) volunteers ready to celebrate Pride a second time in Santa Maria

BY JOE PAYNE

The soft, rhythmic thumping sound of the gray and white pit bull/lab mix Banjo's tail on Jessie Funes and Audy Macdonald's living room couch underscores the chatter of the meeting, a sign of appreciation for all the attention he's getting.

A group of volunteers and board members for the House of Pride and Equality (HOPE) fill the room to discuss one thing—Pride, scheduled for June 30 in downtown Santa Maria, which is less than two weeks away. The couple's north Santa Maria house serves as the nonprofit's home base, and the small group assembled here has plenty left to organize and accomplish.

Volunteer Gilberto Marquez shows the poster designs he's prepared for the event, which are geared to the festival's theme.

"The whole idea of this is that the theme is History of Hope, and we're gonna have 50 people that changed history in the LGBT political scene or just history in general," he says. "And these are gonna be hung up all over the event."

Banjo jumps off the couch and ambles to the front door as another volunteer walks in. Funes introduces the volunteer to the group before the meeting moves forward while the newcomer finds a spot on the couch.

Macdonald scrawls the various tasks and steps left to accomplish on a large piece of paper

hanging from the wall, marking down names and deadlines with a green marker.

"OK, so the pins are done," Macdonald says.

"Any feedback on the pins?" Funes asks the group.

"They're really nice," a volunteer says.

"Good," Macdonald laughs, "'cause there's no changing them now."

The upcoming Pride Celebration and Resource Fair will be the second ever celebration of its kind in Santa Maria. Before then, the valley's LGBTQ (Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, and Queer or Questioning) community had to commute to San Luis Obispo or Santa Barbara to attend a Pride festival. That all changed last year, when HOPE's organizers decided to start a celebration in town.

That event happened in August, but this year's Pride is scheduled for the last Saturday in June, so it's part of LGBTQ Pride Month. The celebration is at the same venue—the Town Center West parking lot at Main Street and Broadway—and will include many of the festivities that were at Santa Maria's first ever Pride, but the scope and scale of the event this year is already much more expanded.

For a few of HOPE's board members and volunteers, who either grew up in Santa Maria or called the valley home for decades before Funes and Macdonald moved to town and started HOPE, the festival marks a big change for the conservative-leaning agricultural town. But from the reception last year to the

amount of engagement already swelling for the upcoming event, they see it as a promising sign of achieving HOPE's mission of growing LGBTQ visibility and serving as a beacon of positivity in the community.

New in town

Funes and Macdonald moved to Santa Maria from Sonoma County almost three years ago. Originally from the LA area, when the married

couple came to town, they immediately started looking for things to do and people to meet.

They connected with a loose group of friends, mostly Spanish speakers, many of whom were either gay or lesbian.

"We were learning that a lot of people were not necessarily out or necessarily exposed to a Pride before," Funes told the *Sun*. "Not even their first Pride or anything like that."

One person they met was Eva Didion, a social worker who has lived in Santa Maria with

PHOTO BY JOE PAYNE



FESTIVAL OF LOVE: HOPE organized the first ever Pride event in Santa Maria last year in August (pictured). This year's event happens on the last Saturday of June, which is LGBTQ Pride Month.

her wife for decades and was originally born in Germany. Now a board member, Didion was happy to meet the couple for their fresh perspective and youthful energy.

"I met Jessie and Audy through an acquaintance," Didion said. "You just look at them and you're just interested in meeting them, especially in Santa Maria."

"The queers I met in Santa Maria—and excuse me if you're uncomfortable with that word, but it's easier for me—they were middle-aged, they were anglo, and upper-middle class," she added. "And that's not Santa Maria at all."

They started hosting get-togethers at their home, mostly celebrating birthday parties, and continuing to meet new people. There were dinners out, karaoke nights, and friendly games at Rancho Bowl.

The first real "event" that was planned was called Noche de Jotería at their house, which included a LGBTQ-themed loteria game.

"In Spanish, 'joto,' it's kind of like when people say, 'That F-in' queer,'" Funes explained. "It's a slur, but just like that same way in English, you reclaim it."

Eventually, the group of friends became an organization, or collective identity, which they dubbed HOPE. The "E" for equality was to reflect that the organization was welcoming to the valley's Latinx (a gender-neutral term for Latino/Latina) population, which wasn't always felt in similar groups based out of Santa Barbara or SLO.

"I think that was the other piece that other people felt, that they were not necessarily included at the table or the conversation when it comes to queerness in the bigger perspective," Funes said. "We kind of just made the space. And to this day, it may not seem like a big deal, but this little corner is a representation of what we're trying to create."

The group's membership has expanded and contracted over time as people get new jobs, new boyfriends or girlfriends, or move away, they explained. But Funes and Macdonald's living room is the place where everyone is welcome, whether for the first time or as a returning member.

Camille Chavez is a current board member for HOPE, but she wasn't always. She started attending meetings and became more involved over time, mostly because she found something with HOPE that she didn't anywhere else, including LA, where she lived previously.

"I've lived in several places where I've tried to find a queer group of people where I felt comfortable with everything that I am and just to be who I am and what I am," Chavez said. "I was raised here and I went to St. Joe's, so I was like one gay person out of like three in our entire school, and it was a brave act to be out. So I think, for me, I was constantly joining different groups and showing up and not feeling like it was my space."

Chavez said that Funes and Macdonald—the respective president and secretary on HOPE's board—were "inclusive and welcoming," and that they're the "backbone of HOPE," and provide a "family" atmosphere. It's a big part of why she believes in the group, she said, and its central mission of creating space and visibility for the LGBTQ community in Santa Maria.

"That's why I became more involved with this group than I've ever been with any other group," she said. "And it makes me feel good to know that the little gay kids at St. Joe's now can drive down and see a Pride happening. It's cool that all these people who wouldn't otherwise be exposed to it are now having that exposure."

Making it happen

One of the things that surprised Funes and Macdonald about Santa Maria when they moved was that a city of its size didn't have a Pride event of its own.

"If Santa Maria has 106,000 people, then we at least, at least, have 10,000 queer folk in the community," Funes said. "And out of that 10,000, hopefully some are out, and some are



HOME FOR HOPE: HOPE board members and volunteers held a meeting recently in preparation for Pride on June 30. The nonprofit also holds regular get-togethers on the third Wednesday of each month.

not, but that's a big population. That's bigger than Santa Barbara and San Luis."

For locals like Didion, who went years without mentioning her wife at work, it was just an accepted part of life in the valley. They always went to Pride events outside of town.

"I never would have thought, and my wife, who's quite a bit older than me, and a lot of people in our circle, would have never thought that Santa Maria was ready for something like this," Didion said. "And these two, being new to the community, didn't know that, so it was not a barrier to them."

That's why, when HOPE organized Santa Maria's first Pride event last year, locals like Didion and Chavez were a bit worried about the turnout.

"We didn't know what to expect," Chavez said. "I even woke up that morning, going to help set up, and I'm like, 'I'm preparing for this to not go very well.' I was doing that so I wouldn't be emotionally let down."

The turnout definitely defied expectations.

The group designed commemorative buttons, and ordered 300 to be made, thinking it was a generous estimate. The event began at 11 a.m., and all the buttons were gone before 1 p.m., but the event didn't end until close to 4 p.m.

"I think it's safe to say that more than 700 people showed up," Macdonald said. "Some people said that we had close to 1,000 people there."

The festivities included music, dance, a drag show, a tent with activities for kids, food trucks, and booths for various community groups and businesses.

Visitors included LGBTQ couples, of course, but also their families, friends, and straight locals who wanted to visit and join the celebration. Rep. Salud Carbajal (D-Santa Barbara) made an appearance and gave a short speech before presenting Macdonald and Funes with an official recognition for spearheading Santa Maria's first Pride.

"Pride last year, on all levels, it was overwhelming the amount of support and allyship," Macdonald said.

For Didion and her wife, who was an original member of the Gay Liberation Front in LA, it was an emotional moment.

"My wife cried, and she's a tough cookie," Didion said.

After curbing her expectations, Chavez was definitely hit by the gravity of how successful the event was.

"I'm so happy for the young people who get to experience that here in their hometown, because I didn't get to experience that," she said. "I felt humbled and overwhelmed. Blown away I think is the feeling; blown away at the presence, all the people that came, all the people who showed up."

Bigger and better

This year's Pride festival is going to expand on last year's event in just about every way, according to HOPE's board.

The event will take up a larger footprint in the Town Center West parking lot, for starters.

"Pride is to celebrate and have fun, but a main goal of it is to create a resource fair,"

Macdonald said. "Our goal is to have 50 resource booths this year. Last year we had closer to 35."

There's also going to be a larger stage that HOPE is renting from the city's Recreation and Parks Department, which will feature a variety of acts.

There's going to be live music, a fashion show for youth, a drag show competition, and even a salsa dancing class.

Everything begins at 11 a.m. with a performance of a traditional Mixteco dance by a group based in LA. The opening is an embrace of Santa Maria's significant Mixteco population, Funes explained.

"Indigenous people are left out overall, so how great that we're having them open our ceremony," she said. "But every ceremony is like a blessing, like a prayer, so how great for Pride."

The event is designed to be as inclusive as possible, Funes said, whether it's to Santa Maria's indigenous or transgendered population. There's no alcohol at Pride, so it's a welcoming event for families. There's also a whole area reserved just for youth, too.

A lot of the organization for the festival's youth tent is done by the kids themselves, including Gay Straight Alliance (GSA) clubs from local high schools, Chavez explained.

The youth will enjoy art projects, a makeup demonstration, and a chance to share their "coming out" stories.

Those experiences can be incredibly beneficial for a young person who is gay, bi, or trans, Chavez explained. Being a part of the Pride festival gives them a sense of belonging as well.

"There are all these things where there are youth being exposed to adults who are not ashamed to be themselves, where we're open about who we are, and that's liberating and it helps other people to be comfortable with who they are, to own it," she said. "I think so many times people think that to be queer or gay will end in tragedy, and that isn't the case. There's so much happiness and vibrancy in our community."

Another expanded attraction actually happens after Pride, a fundraiser event for HOPE that begins at 6 p.m. This year's event is called We Are One, and includes a drag show by SLO Queerdos at Presqu'ile Winery, where there will be wine, beer, and food available.

The fundraiser is more of an afterparty, and is a 21 and older only event. Last year's fundraiser had a greater turnout than was expected, and so HOPE needed a bigger venue this year for its fundraiser.

"Pride is completely free for everyone of all ages, but in order to keep putting on Pride, it takes money," Chavez said. "So the afterparty is our way to hopefully get back money so we're able to put it on next year."

At the meeting in Funes and Macdonald's living room, their dog Banjo moves around the circle of volunteers as they discuss the logistics of Pride and the We Are One fundraiser. Everyone takes a turn patting his head as Macdonald confirms schedules and commitments and Funes updates on things like sponsorships and progress with promotions.

The small living room has a warmth to it, and everyone sitting here appears comfortable and energetic. There's laughter among the questions and answers, and everyone is responsible for some aspect of the upcoming event as the meeting comes to an end.

"How's everybody feeling going into Pride?" Macdonald asks.

"Excited!" ○

Contact Managing Editor Joe Payne at jpayne@santamariasun.com.

Schools await Governor's approval of \$300 million for career tech education

FILE PHOTO COURTESY OF LEEANNE DELRIO



CAREER READY: The Santa Maria Joint Union High School District offers Career Technical Education courses in agriculture and natural resources, arts, information and communication technologies, energy, family and consumer sciences, health science and medical technology, architecture and engineering, business and finance, manufacturing and product development, hospitality, and recreation and tourism.

BY KASEY BUBNASH

Since the Santa Maria Joint Union High School District was awarded \$2 million through the state's Career Technical Education (CTE) Incentive Grant in 2016, it has transformed the way local high schools educate.

The district was able to add a multitude of career-oriented courses, improve its existing pathways, and break ground on its new Agricultural Education and Career Technical Education centers, according to CTE Incentive Grant Coordinator LeeAnne DelRio. The goal, DelRio said, is to give students the tools and training necessary to be successful immediately after high school, whether or not they plan to attend college.

"We're really trying to break the cycle of poverty by offering these pathways to high wage jobs," DelRio told the Sun.

But the original grant funding was scheduled to come to an end after three years, and DelRio said the district has a lot of work left to do.

"We're doing a great job, we just need to continue this funding for at least five more years," DelRio said. "But it should be a more consistent funding source."

And right now, that kind of consistent funding is more than just a possibility.

This year's state education finance bill, Assembly Bill 1808, would direct \$300 million in permanent funding to CTE programs, according to the bill text. Half would go toward funding the CTE Incentive Grant, and half to the California Community Colleges Chancellor's Office.

California State Senators passed the bill unanimously on June 18, and it was presented to Gov. Jerry Brown the following day. He has until mid-July to approve or deny the bill.

"I absolutely am hoping it passes," DelRio said. "I think it's vital to the success of our students."

Successful CTE programs are expensive to run, DelRio said. Facilities, classroom equipment, and technology need constant updates to stay in line with industry standards. CTE teachers need in-depth trainings, which DelRio said can be costly and time consuming, and many existing CTE courses need systematic improvements.

Local officials like DelRio are throwing out the traditional career tech teaching model, and are instead working to provide kids with new opportunities through CTE pathways, including industry certifications and free college credits.

"The old vocational classes—people used to say they were for kids who weren't college bound,"

DelRio said. "But these kids need choices."

Most Santa Maria Joint Union High School District graduates can't afford university tuition alone without high paying jobs, DelRio said, and CTE pathways give students the tools they need to attain those jobs right out of high school. CTE courses are beneficial to all students, DelRio said, regardless of their long-term career goals.

Roughly 5 million skilled labor positions nationwide are estimated to open up within the next 10 years, according to Assemblyman Jordan Cunningham (R-San Luis Obispo), who said much of the nation's baby-boomers will soon retire, or already have.

Cunningham, who recently led a campaign to save CTE funding, said the need for improved career-oriented and technical education is only growing.

"I think the demand for this is tremendous," Cunningham told the Sun, adding that the state reviewed roughly 800 million CTE Incentive Grant applications before the most recent round of grants were awarded in 2016. "There is a real need for this and the demand is out there."

Although Cunningham said the career tech funding included in this year's education finance bill is \$200 million less than what he originally wanted, its permanence is key. If approved, Cunningham said the funding should be reenacted each year the state education finance bill is renewed.

With a sustainable source of funding, Cunningham said that schools all along the Central Coast, many of which are famous for their CTE programs, would be better able to appropriately budget.

"This has been the most inspiring and bipartisan thing I've worked on so far in my time in the Assembly," Cunningham said. "I am really pleased." ○

Staff Writer Kasey Bubnash writes School Scene each week. Information can be sent to the Sun via mail, fax, or email at kbubnash@santamariasun.com.

ATHLETE OF THE WEEK

PHOTO COURTESY OF JOSE NEVAREZ, JR.



Orcutt National Brewers

After months of intensive practice, the Orcutt National Brewers put their skills to good use on the baseball diamond not once, not twice, but three times this season, taking home three little league championship titles.

The Brewers—self-titled the Brew Crew—ended their season with 18 wins, three losses, and one tie game.

"I'm just really proud of the way the whole team played and how they came together as a team and how they all backed each other up," Head Coach Jose Nevarez, Jr. said.

After winning both league and city championship games, the Brew Crew beat the Santa Maria Northside White Sox 13 to 12 in the Santa Maria Elks Valley Minor Division Championship game on June 11.

"Not every kid can say that they've made it to a championship game ever," Nevarez said, "and so for them to go to three and win them all in one season, it's just really memorable." ○

—Kasey Bubnash

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Online Poll

Do you support Immigration Customs and Enforcement (ICE) raids in Santa Barbara County?

41% Yes.
32% Just for violent offenders.
27% No.
0% Don't care.

37 Votes

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

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Trump's not a Republican

BY MICHAEL SMITH

Steeped in blatant lies, outrageous hyperbole, and just plain nonsense, Donald Trump severely degrades the office of the presidency and lessens worldwide respect for the United States.

First, there's the corruption. Ulysses Grant, Warren Harding, and Richard Nixon, heretofore considered the most corrupt presidents in American history, must be celebrating Trump. Look no further than the Trump International Hotel in downtown Washington, D.C., which is doing brisk business since opening in 2016 (Ivanka Trump recently declared she had earned more than \$4 million from the hotel last year) and is benefitting Trump despite the fact that federal officials cannot profit from government leases (the Trump organization, from which the president still earns money, leases the space from Uncle Sam).

Trump also continues to support Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Secretary Scott Pruitt, who appears to be using his office for his own enrichment, taking subsidized housing from fossil fuel lobbyists, using his influence to gain employment for his wife and spending taxpayer dollars on first class travel to places he really has no business going.

Just as Grant, Harding, and Nixon are happy, Ronald Reagan must be weeping as he witnesses Trump's assault on free trade and immigration. While I'm certain Reagan would be applauding tariffs against China, he would be appalled that Trump has levied taxes on goods coming from our staunchest allies, Canada, Mexico, and the European Union.

After all, NAFTA, the North American Free Trade Agreement, signed by Clinton in 1993, is the ultimate statement of the free trade policies promulgated by Republicans such as Reagan and George H.W. Bush for many years and supported by a majority of Republicans in both the Senate and House of Representatives at the time of the law's enactment. Although it has its problems, NAFTA has succeeded in increasing North American trade more than 300 percent in 25 years.

On immigration, Reagan, who was governor of California, knew the value of immigrants coming across our southern border. In 1986, he signed into law the Immigration Reform and Control Act, which gave amnesty to nearly 3 million undocumented immigrants, the vast majority migrant workers from Mexico. Recent studies suggest that most of these immigrants eventually obtained better paying jobs and became naturalized, thus achieving the American Dream.

Likewise, Reagan must be dismayed at Trump's consistent praise of dictators around the world. He would be incensed to hear that Trump places the murderous thug Vladimir Putin within the same moral equivalency as American leaders (Trump famously said, "You think our country is so innocent?" when asked about Putin by Bill O'Reilly).

And, while Trump must be given credit for seeking talks with another murderous thug, Kim Jong Un, Ronald Reagan would have never heaped praise on the tin pot dictator ("He loves his people") or saluted a North Korean general.

And, while Trump must be given credit for seeking talks with another murderous thug, Kim Jong Un, Ronald Reagan would have never heaped praise on the tin pot dictator.

And, he most certainly would not have done so after insulting and dismissing the leaders of the free world by leaving the G-7 summit early in order to meet with Kim, without serious guarantees that North Korea would begin to take steps toward denuclearization. To date, they have only given vague generalities about disarmament.

Finally, and most disgracefully, there are the lies. It would be forgivable if Trump simply misspoke or tweaked the facts to fit his policies, as many presidents have done, but Trump flat out tells whoppers (more than 3,000 and still counting, according to *The New York Times*) that are easily fact checked. For example, he recently claimed that "thousands" of people, including parents, had pleaded with him to ask Kim Jong Un for the remains of American soldiers killed in the Korean War.

Now, anyone with the ability to add and subtract would tell you that parents of Korean war veterans would be upward of 100 years old. In fact, many Korean war veterans are in their 90s. This was simply a lie, not unlike his contention that 3 to 5 million

undocumented immigrants voted against him in the 2016 election, or that the crowd size at his inauguration was the largest ever, never mind that pictures clearly showed a larger crowd at the 2008 inauguration of Barack Obama. That more than 40 percent of the American people still approve of this man is a mystery to me. ○

Michael Smith is a resident of Santa Maria. Send your thoughts to letters@santamariasun.com.

WRITE NOW! We want to know what you think about everything. Send your 250-word letter to Sun Letters, 2540 Skyway Drive, Suite A, Santa Maria, CA 93455. You can also fax it (805) 347-9889 or e-mail it (letters@santamariasun.com). All letters must include a name, address, and phone number for verification purposes; may be edited for space or clarity; and will be posted to santamariasun.com.

LETTERS

Cancer survivors don't discriminate

Cancer impacts people and families from all walks of life, and all races, religions, and political persuasions, including my own family.

Treatment is difficult and expensive, and far too few resources are available to support the doctors, health care providers, and facilities that care for patients battling this terrible disease.

So when community members step up to help, be they individuals, foundations, organizations, or businesses, they deserve our appreciation.

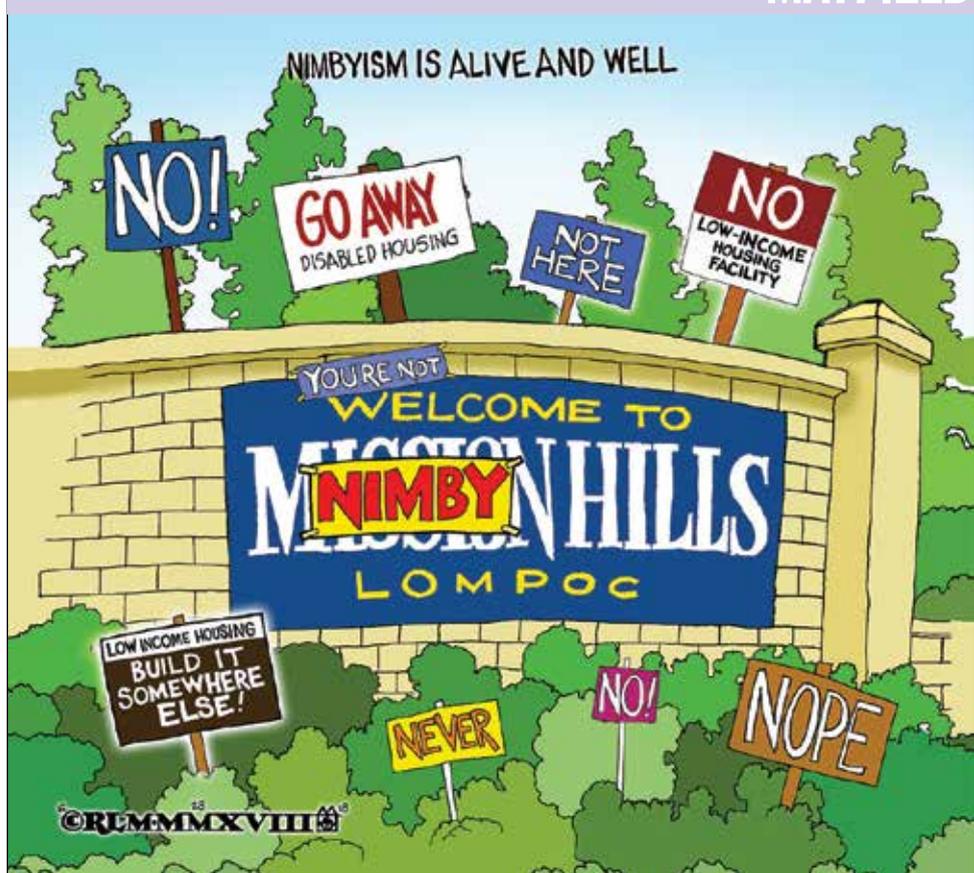
That's why Food and Water Watch's attack on AERA Energy's \$20,000 donation to Mission Hope Hospital's Cancer Center is so astonishing ("AERA Energy's efforts and greenwashing don't fool cancer survivors," May 24). Various sectors of our community can and should air their divergent views on many issues, but on the topic of fighting cancer, we would do well to set our differences aside.

AERA is to be commended for its generosity; we hope it serves as an inspiration for others to do the same.

Anne L. Cremarosa
founder and president, Santa Maria Business Development Center

LETTERS continued page 17

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Embrace the change

And then, there were two. Is anyone else excited to see another young, Hispanic professional stepping up to the plate to run for **Santa Maria City Council**? Local nonprofit manager **Gloria Soto** is running to fill **Jack Boysen's** soon-to-be-vacated District 3 seat, and I must admit, I'm all aflutter!

It's not just that she's young and progressive, like District 4 challenger **Rafael Gutierrez**, that's got my heart racing. Soto actually mentioned affordable housing in her announcement speech, saints be praised!

I don't know if you've noticed, but it sure seems like most of the residential projects that are going up around town lately are luxury apartments. What the hell! Santa Maria needs affordable housing, and fast. Just ask anybody trying to find a place to live in the city, it ain't easy, and rents just keep climbing.

Our business-as-usual City Council has had its collective fingers in its ears on this issue for too long. They hemmed and hawed before deciding to finally allow accessory dwelling units (a nicer way of saying "granny units") in the city at the end of last year, but they only did that at the behest of the state.

Our City Council doesn't like being forced to do *anything* of Moonbeam, Gov. **Jerry Brown**, rubber stamps. But maybe, just maybe, it's the right thing to do! They've got to do *something* to help Santa Maria's housing situation.

As it stands now, fewer and fewer residents are owning their homes and more and more are renting. This is true across the state, in **Santa Barbara County**, and in **Santa Maria** proper. Granny units are a Band-Aid on the issue, but at least it's a step in the right direction.

Santa Marians need more than a new **Costco** and a massive corporate stripmall (Hooray, more minimum wage jobs!) for economic stability. They need to know the roofs over their heads aren't going to cost them an arm and a leg. And some still wonder why there are so many homeless people in town.

Santa Maria hasn't stopped growing, but the housing market hasn't kept up with the pace.



People's incomes haven't kept up either, which is compounded by the fact that Santa Maria leads the county in unemployment.

We've got real issues here, people. Santa Maria is changing, and the City Council needs to do more to deal with it. They need to adapt, and be willing to change, or at least see things from a different point of view.

You can see it in the way City Council members snubbed the city's first **Pride** event last year. They were all invited beforehand by **House of Pride and Equality (HOPE)**, but not a one showed up.

Well, I personally challenge all of them—Mayor **Alice Patino**, **Etta Waterfield**, **Mike Cordero**, **Michael Moats**, and **Boysen**—to actually embrace the city's **LGBTQ population** and participate in **Pride** on June 30 this year. These folks have been a part of Santa Maria all along its colorful history, and they're just finally standing up unafraid and celebrating who they are (see page 12).

Guess who *did* make it to **Pride** last year? Rep. **Salud Carbajal** (D-Santa Barbara), who celebrated the milestone in Santa Maria's history.

I know, some in Santa Maria might wish they didn't have to see or hear about it. That might be how they feel about the humanitarian crisis at the border right now, as well, another issue Carbajal isn't afraid to address and cast a spotlight on (see page 4). These things are real, and they're not going away.

Last week I issued a call to local conservatives and Republicans, that if they were shocked and appalled by President **Donald Trump** and his administration's decision to rip children from parents at the border, to speak up. So far, I've only heard from **Michael Smith** (see commentary on page 15), who pointed out that Trump is far from typical for the **GOP**, but it's crickets from the rest of you.

We can't pretend these problems don't exist, whether it's lack of housing or the immigration crisis, and we do need to speak out about them. Name-calling and dehumanizing each other isn't going to solve anything, but coming together over common values, you know, like liberty and justice for *all*, just might do the trick. ○

The Canary still wants to hear from you. Send your thoughts to canary@santamariasun.com.

bright spot in Santa Maria's economy, and we look forward to working with them.

Billy Mann
member, SEIU Local 620, Santa Maria

Theodore American

President Theodore Roosevelt's thoughts in 1907 on being an American should be our motto for all newcomers today, as follows:

"In the first place, we should insist that if the immigrant who comes here in good faith becomes an American and assimilates himself to us, he shall be treated on an exact equality with everyone else, for it is an outrage to discriminate against any such man because of creed, or birthplace, or origin. But this is predicated upon the person's becoming in every facet an American, and nothing but an American. ... There can be no divided allegiance here. Any man who says he is an American, but something else also, isn't an American at all. We have room for but one flag, the American flag. ... We have room for but one language here, and that is the English language. ... And we have room for but one sole loyalty, and that is a loyalty to the American people."

Justin Ruhge
Lompoc

LETTERS from page 15

Support jobs in Santa Barbara County

It's been rough going lately for working people in the Santa Maria area. According to the California Employment Development Department, the unemployment rate here is 6.3 percent—80 percent higher than the average for Santa Barbara County.

So it's good news when opportunities for well-paying jobs with good benefits come along, especially when they don't necessarily require a college degree, especially in rural areas. AERA Energy's planned redevelopment of its East Cat Canyon oilfield is one of those rare opportunities for people in the county, including the hardworking men and women who are members of our union.

According to the UC Santa Barbara Economic Forecast Project, it's estimated that the project will create \$1 billion in total economic activity, including significant revenues to the county. This means more funding that could be used not only for essential public services but for important projects, in turn supporting a wide range of even more local jobs, workers, and their families well into the future.

AERA's East Cat Canyon project will be a

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TUESDAY, JULY 10
Morro Bay Wine Seller



Nate Lipscomb Memorial Golf Tournament
SATURDAY, JULY 21
Monarch Dunes Golf Club



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SAT & SUN, JULY 21 & 22
Laguna Lake Park



Masquerade Gala
SATURDAY, JULY 28
Monarch Trilogy Club



The Sunny Wright Trio
SUNDAY, JULY 29
Old Santa Rosa Chapel



The Sunset Winos
SATURDAY, AUGUST 4
Rava Winery



Veterans Benefit Concert
SUNDAY, AUGUST 5
Veterans Memorial Building



The Cinders Blues Band
THURSDAY, AUGUST 9
7 Sisters Brewing Co.



The Salty Suites
SATURDAY, AUGUST 11
Morro Bay Wine Seller



Tribute to Leon Russell
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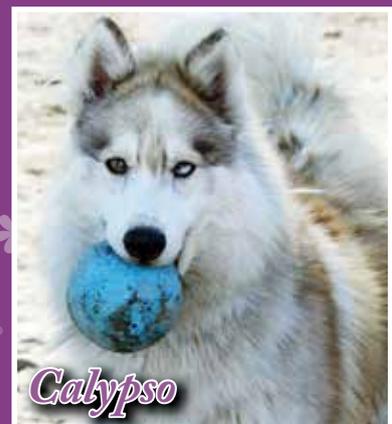
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GO, DOG. GO!

The 9th annual Bark for Books: Los Alamos Dog Races take place June 30 at Ferrini Park, Los Alamos. Proceeds of this event benefit the Los Alamos Public Library. Registration is \$20 per dog. Admission is free for spectators. The races conclude with an awards ceremony and raffle drawing. More info: (805) 344-1014 or facebook.com/losalamoslibrary.

SPECIAL EVENTS

SANTA MARIA VALLEY/LOS ALAMOS

NINTH ANNUAL LOS ALAMOS DOG RACES: BARK FOR BOOKS This year's judges include 3rd District Supervisor Joan Hartmann, Solvang City Manager Brad Vidro, and local dog lover Lyla Oyakawa. The races are followed by an awards ceremony and raffle drawing. Proceeds benefit the Los Alamos Public Library. **June 30, 10:30 a.m.** \$20 per dog; free for spectators. 805-344-1014. facebook.com/losalamoslibrary. Ferrini Park, Bell and Centennial St., Los Alamos.

SANTA MARIA'S SECOND ANNUAL PRIDE CELEBRATION AND RESOURCE FAIR Features food vendors, kids activities, art exhibits, a youth lounge, a resource booth, and more. **June 30, 11 a.m.-4 p.m.** Free. 805-316 1356. houseofprideandequality.org. Town Center West, Broadway and Main, Santa Maria.

SISTER'S VINTAGE POP-UP MARKET A summer pop-up event. **June 30, 9 a.m.-4 p.m.** Free. 805-357-9415. Sister's Gift & Home, 349 Bell St., Los Alamos, facebook.com/sistershome/.

SAN LUIS OBISPO

BRUNCH BY THE LAKE Enjoy food trucks, coffee, live music, a boat parade, and more. First Saturday of every month, 9 a.m.-noon through Aug. 4 Free. Laguna Lake Park, 504 Madonna Rd., San Luis Obispo.

CIRCUS VARGAS This family-friendly show features acrobats, clowns, jugglers, contortionists, and more. **June 29-July 9, 4:30-6:30 & 7:30-9:30 p.m.** \$15-\$72. 877-468-3861. circusvargas.com/. Madonna Inn, 100 Madonna Rd, San Luis Obispo.

FAMILIES BELONG TOGETHER

RALLY A gathering to peacefully protest the separation of families at the border. All are welcome. Please bring signs to wave. **June 30, 10 a.m.-1 p.m.** San Luis Obispo County Courthouse, 1050 Monterey St., San Luis Obispo, 866-249-9475, slcourts.net.

FUNDRAISERS

SANTA YNEZ VALLEY

SANTA YNEZ VALLEY SUMMER CLASSIC BENEFIT DINNER Guests can enjoy alfresco

gourmet dining, wines, silent and live auctions featuring lifestyle packages, entertainment by DJ Marc Dillon, and more. **June 30, 5:30-8:30 p.m.** \$150. 805-688-4454. smitv.org. St. Mark's in the Valley Episcopal Church, 2901 Nojoqui Ave., Los Olivos.

SANTA MARIA VALLEY/LOS ALAMOS

WE ARE ONE DRAG SHOW Come support local drag queens and kings as they raise money to keep Santa Maria Pride going annually. All proceeds benefit House of Pride and Equality. **June 30, 6-10 p.m.** \$20. 805-316-1356. houseofprideandequality.org/after-party/. Presqu'ile Winery, 5391 Presqu'ile Dr., Santa Maria.

HOLIDAY EVENTS

SANTA YNEZ VALLEY

SOLVANG ROTARY 4TH OF JULY PARADE AND BARBECUE This year's theme is "American Heroes". The parade features floats, cars, marching children, horses, motorcycles, and more. A free concert and barbecue follows the parade at noon. **July 4, 11 a.m.-2 p.m.** solvangrotary.com. Solvang Park, Mission Dr. and First St., Solvang.

LOMPOC/VANDENBERG

4TH OF JULY FIREWORKS SPECTACULAR Features family-friendly activities, onsite food and drinks, prize giveaways, and more. Presented by the City of Lompoc Recreation Division and community sponsors. **July 4, 5-10 p.m.** \$5-\$8. 805-875-8100. explorelompop.com/event/fourth-july-fireworks/. Lompoc High School, 515 W. College Ave., Lompoc.

SANTA MARIA VALLEY/LOS ALAMOS

4TH OF JULY FIREWORKS SHOW

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.

AND STREET FAIR Features live music from Nothing But Trouble. Picnicking is permitted, but no barbecuing, tailgating, glass containers, or tent canopies will be allowed. Refreshments will be for sale from local food trucks. Concludes with the Community Fireworks Show. **July 4, 5:30 p.m.** 805-925-0951. cityofsantamaria.org. Sierra Vista Park, 809 Panther Drive, Santa Maria.

SOUTH COAST SLO COUNTY

4TH OF JULY DOGGIE PARADE AND COSTUME CONTEST All dogs must be registered to walk in the parade. **July 4, 11 a.m.-noon** Free; donations appreciated. 805-627-1997. avilabeachcc.com. Avila Beach Promenade, 404 Front St., Avila Beach.

4TH OF JULY PANCAKE BREAKFAST **July 4, 8-11 a.m.** \$7; \$3 for children under 6. 805-627-1997. avilabeachcc.com. Avila Beach Community Center, 191 San Miguel Street, Avila Beach.

PISMO BEACH 4TH OF JULY FIREWORKS CELEBRATION Celebrate with music, food, and more. VIP seating on the pier available. **July 4** 805-773-7034. Pismo Beach Pier, West end of Pomeroy, Pismo Beach.

NORTH SLO COUNTY

ATASCADERO 4TH OF JULY BLUEGRASS FREEDOM FESTIVAL A benefit concert with Snap Jackson and the Knock on Wood Players. Other acts include Little Black Train, Blue Js, BanjerDan, and the Toro Creek Ramblers. This event is sponsored by the Atascadero Colony Days Committee. **July 4, 4-9 p.m.** Donations accepted. atascaderofourthofjuly.com. Atascadero Lake Park, 9305 Pismo Ave., Atascadero, 461-5000.

ATASCADERO FOURTH OF JULY BLUEGRASS FREEDOM FESTIVAL This festival features food, beer, wine, cider, family-friendly activities, bounce houses, boat rides, and more. Guests can

enjoy live music by Snap Jackson & the Knock On Wood Players, The Blue Js, and Little Black Train. **July 4, 4-8:30 p.m.** Free. 805-466-4086. atascaderofourthofjuly.com. Atascadero Lake Park, 9305 Pismo Ave., Atascadero.

CAYUCOS LIONESS CLUB 4TH OF JULY BINGO Proceeds benefit Junior Lifeguard scholarships and swimming lessons for Cayucos Elementary School students. **July 4, 1-4 p.m.** \$1 per bingo sheet (with three cards). 805-995-1432. cayucoslioness.org. Cayucos Vet's Hall, 10 Cayucos Dr., Cayucos.

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 oasiorcutt.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.

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

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



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ART FULL OF LOVE

The opening reception for CORE Winery's annual Art Show for Vocational Training Center (VTC) Artists takes place June 30 from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. This event is sponsored by the Ian M. Hasset Foundation. Guests can enjoy wine, appetizers, and meeting the VTC artists behind the featured works. The exhibit will remain on display through Aug. 1. More info: (805) 878-1334 or ianmhassett.com.

PACIFIC HORIZON CHORUS WELCOMES WOMEN SINGERS Visit site or come by in person to see if these music lessons are right for you. Tuesdays, 6:30-9 p.m. 805-441-1405. pacifichorizon.org. SLO United Methodist Church, 1515 Fredericks St., San Luis Obispo.

SPENCER POULTER: PORTRAIT DRAWING AND PROPORTION TRAINING Use charcoal pencils and acrylic paint to create gestural images of the human form with an emphasis on the face. Features a clothed male model. **July 8**, 12:30-3:30 p.m. \$45. 559-250-3081. artcentralartsupply.com/current-workshops.php. Art Central, 1329 Monterey St., San Luis Obispo.

TEEN SUMMER ART CAMPS Class descriptions and registration online. Mondays-Fridays, 1-4 p.m. through Aug. 3 \$195 per student. 805-543-8562. sloma.org. San Luis Obispo Museum of Art, 1010 Broad St., San Luis Obispo.

YOUTH AND TEEN SUMMER ART CAMPS Enjoy creating comic book heroes, sculpting in clay, and more. All materials provided. Mondays-Fridays, through Aug. 3 \$195-\$225. 805-534-8562. sloma.org/education/youth-summer-art-camps.php. San Luis Obispo Museum of Art, 1010 Broad St., San Luis Obispo.

YOUTH SUMMER ART CAMPS Class descriptions and registration online. Mondays-Fridays, 9 a.m.-noon through Aug. 3 \$195 per student. 805-543-8562. sloma.org. San Luis Obispo Museum of Art, 1010 Broad St., San Luis Obispo.

SPECIAL ART EVENTS

SANTA MARIA VALLEY/LOS ALAMOS

ANNUAL ART SHOW FOR VTC ARTISTS This artist reception exhibits works from artists at the Vocational Training Center. Enjoy meeting the artists, wine from CORE, appetizers, and more. Sponsored by the Ian M. Hasset Foundation. **June 30**, 6:30-8:30 p.m. Free. 805-878-1334. CORE Winery, 105 W Clark Ave., Orcutt.

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

SOUTH COAST SLO COUNTY

CREATIVE SPIRIT OF WOMEN ART EXHIBITION AND SALE Featuring artists Gayle Rappaport-Weiland, Teressena Bakens, Paula Delay, Patti Robbins, Jayne Behman, Andrea Toso Martin, and Mary Velasquez. **June 30**, 12-5 p.m. and **July 1**, 11 a.m.-3 p.m. Free. 805-773-8057. Seaside Gallery, 580 Cypress St., Pismo Beach, theseasidegallery.com.

KIDS SEWING CAMP Includes projects for ages 8 and up. Four sessions will be offered. Call for more info. **July 1-Aug. 1** Sewing Cafe, 541 Five Cities Dr., Pismo Beach, 805-295-6585.

LILA CREATIVE COMMUNITY: OPENING DODDLE CELEBRATION Come celebrate the opening of LiLA Creative Community, a new community art center. Light refreshments will be available. Guests can enjoy family-friendly art

activities. **July 7**, 12-5 p.m. Free. 805-668-2125. LiLA Creative Community, 1147 East Grand Ave. Suite 101, Arroyo Grande, lila.community.

SAN LUIS OBISPO

ART AFTER DARK A free, self-guided tour of galleries and non-traditional art venues (salons, jewelers, museums, etc.) showcasing the work of local visual, literary, and performing artists. First Friday of every month, 6-9 p.m. through Nov. 2 Free. 805-544-9251. artsobispo.org/art-after-dark. Downtown SLO, Higuera St., San Luis Obispo.

ART AT HIGH NOON: MARCIA HARVEY Meet artist and arts instructor Marcia Harvey to discuss contemporary printmaking and the works of California artist Beth Van Hoesen. **July 5**, noon Free. 805-543-8562. sloma.org. San Luis Obispo Museum of Art, 1010 Broad St., 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. themondayclubslslo.org. The Monday Club, 1815 Monterey St, San Luis Obispo.

MOVIES THAT ROCK: LA BAMBA This screening of *La Bamba* is part of Movies That Rock, a series that showcases classic films with a musical theme. **June 29**, 11 a.m.-1 p.m. Free. 805-781-5778. slolibrary.org. San Luis Obispo Library, 995 Palm St., San Luis Obispo.

SOAP AND CIDER Ellowyn Isaacson from Foxen Canyon Soap Company instructs this class on the fundamental chemistry of soap making. **June 29**, 7 p.m. \$40 (includes all materials and refreshments). gopherglen.com. Gopher Glen Organic Apple Farm, 2899 See Canyon Rd., San Luis Obispo.

EXHIBITS

SANTA YNEZ VALLEY

THE BEAUTY OF LIGHT This exhibit features landscapes by local artists Sheryl Knight and Linda Mutti. **July 1-31**, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Free. 805-688-7517. gallerylosolivos.com/. Gallery Los Olivos, 2920 Grand Ave., Los Olivos.

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 skylines 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.

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 Ronnie Connolly, 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.

[3]**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.

[3]**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. Through Aug. 1 solvangantiques.com. Solvang Antiques, 1693 Copenhagen Dr., Solvang.

LOMPOC/VANDEMBERG

[3]**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, lompovalleyartassociation.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.

HOWARD RAMSDEN AT VALLEY ART GALLERY Ramsden is the gallery's featured artist for the month of July. **July 1-Aug. 1** Free. Valley Art Gallery, 125 W. Clark Ave., Orcutt, 805-937-2278, valleygallery.org.

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

ART AFTER DARK SLO Unites visual, literary, and performing artists with the community and participating venues. Visit site for full list of programs and events. First Friday of every month, 6-9 p.m. 805-544-9251. artsobispo.org. SLO County, Countywide, San Luis Obispo.

COLOR RHYTHM: INGRID BRINK AND SUSAN MALMGREN Brink and Malmgren are two Los Osos artists that use watercolor, acrylic, and collage. Through Aug. 29, 6-9 p.m. 805-542-9000. sloart.com. Frame Works, 339 Marsh 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.

FLORA AND FAUNA: BETH VAN HOESEN PRINTS A collection of prints and rare paintings by artist Beth Van Hoesen. Mondays-Sundays. through Aug. 19 Free. 805-543-8562. sloma.org/exhibits/. San Luis Obispo Museum of Art, 1010 Broad St., San Luis Obispo.

Saturday
JUNE 30TH

11AM-4PM

SANTA MARIA'S 2ND ANNUAL
PRIDE! 30
JUNE 2018
11AM - 4PM
PRIDE CELEBRATION & RESOURCE FAIR

DJ SUZ AT THE LATIN TENT,
LOCAL PERFORMERS, SALSA CLASS,
FOOD VENDORS & MORE...

ALL AGES
FAMILY FRIENDLY
FREE EVENT

TOWN CENTER WEST
PARKING LOT
(BROADWAY & MAIN)

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FACEBOOK.COM/HOUSEOFPRIDEANDEQUALITY

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PARTY
6PM**

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Drag Show
JUNE 30TH, 2018
6PM
\$20
Tickets at
Weareondragshow.com

HouseOfPrideAndEquality.com

Sun

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ROBERTO TAPIA



BRIAN REGAN

FRIDAY

JUNE
29

8 PM

FRIDAY

JULY
6

5:30 PM

FRIDAY

JULY
13

8 PM

THUR/FRI

JULY
19/20

8 PM



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MONARCH DUNES GOLF CLUB

JULY 21st 2018

PROCEEDS BENEFIT:

Angels
Foster Care



Free Event
 For visitors, donations welcomed

CELEBRATING OUR 27TH YEAR

Central Coast
 "Cooler"



ANTIQUE TRUCK SHOW



Saturday, July 21 • Nipomo, California
 9 am - 4 pm • Nipomo High School

www.Central-Coast-ATHS.org

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.

SANTA MARIA VALLEY/LOS ALAMOS

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

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. fcaoptions.org. Family Connections Christian Adoptions, 1540 Marsh St. #130, San Luis Obispo.

CLUBS & MEETINGS

SANTA MARIA VALLEY/LOS ALAMOS

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.

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

HOMESHARESLO COFFEE CHAT Learn about homesharing, share your housing stories, and network with others. First Wednesday of every month, 10:30-11:30 a.m. Free. 805-215-5474. homeshareslo.org. Coffee Bean, 345 Five Cities Dr., Pismo Beach.

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.

SAN LUIS OBISPO

BOARD GAME NIGHT AT CAPTAIN NEMO Refreshments available on site for purchase. Tuesdays, 5-8 p.m. Free. 805-544-6366. Facebook.com/CaptainNemoGames. Captain Nemo Games, 563 Higuera St., San Luis Obispo.

CHESS CLUB OF SLO COUNTY For those who want to play chess. Boards provided. Thursdays, 6:30 p.m. through Aug. 2 Free. slochess.com. Carl's Jr., 195 N. Santa Rosa, San Luis Obispo.

DUNGEONS AND DRAGONS AT CAPTAIN NEMO Refreshments available on site for purchase. Wednesdays, 5-8 p.m. Free. 805-544-6366. Facebook.com/CaptainNemoGames. Captain Nemo Games, 563 Higuera St., San Luis Obispo.

FRIDAY NIGHT MAGIC AT CAPTAIN NEMO Refreshments available on site for purchase. Fridays, 5-8 p.m. 4 Booster Buy In. 805-544-6366.

CULTURE & LIFESTYLE continued page 27

ARTS from page 20

INTRODUCING PASTELS: WELCOMING THE CENTRAL COAST PASTEL SOCIETY An exhibition of pastel artists from the newly formed Central Coast Pastel Society. Come by and meet the artists during the July 6 reception. July 6, 6-8 p.m. and July 6-31 Free. 805-747-4200. artcentralartsupply.com/introducing-pastels.php. Art Central, 1329 Monterey St., San Luis Obispo.

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

CALL FOR ENTRIES: HOME SWEET HOME Juried exhibition for California Disabled Artists. This exhibit invites 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

[3] 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. Through July 8 Solvang Festival Theater, 420 2nd St., Solvang, 805-928-7731.

SANTA MARIA VALLEY/LOS ALAMOS

VANYA AND SONIA AND MASHA AND SPIKE AT MARIAN THEATRE Presented by special arrangement with Dramatists Play Service, Inc., New York. June 28-July 7 Marian Theatre, 800 S. College Dr., Santa Maria, 805-928-7731, pcpa.org.

SOUTH COAST SLO COUNTY

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

SAN LUIS OBISPO

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.

BROADWAY: A TRIBUTE A luncheon and show presented by Kelrik Productions. Features local talent. June 30, 1-3 p.m. \$29-\$59. 800-838-3006. kelrikproductions.org/broadway-a-tribute-madonna-inn. Madonna Inn, 100 Madonna Rd, San Luis Obispo.

BY THE SEA PRODUCTIONS PRESENTS THE MURDER ROOM This murder mystery farce can be described as a blend of Agatha Christie and Monty Python. Fridays, Saturdays, 7-9 p.m. and Sundays, 3-5 p.m. through July 15 \$20. 805-776-3287. bytheseaproductions.org. By The Sea Productions, 545 Shasta Ave., Morro Bay.

CUESTA DRAMA PRESENTS CHARLOTTE'S WEB A family-friendly performance of the timeless story. July 6-8 \$15. 805-546-3198. Cuesta College Cultural and Performing Arts Center, Highway 1, San Luis Obispo, cuesta.edu.

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.



CITY OF SANTA MARIA
DOWNTOWN FRIDAYS
 Every Friday through 9/28/18
LETTUCE entertain YOU!
FRESH. FUN. FRIDAYS.
 Friday's 5:30PM to 8:30PM

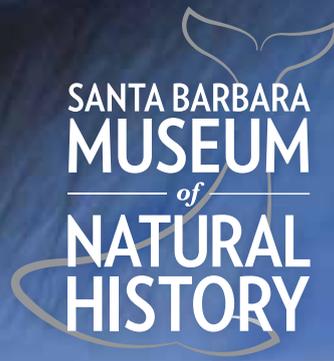
What's Your Take? We know you've got an opinion. Everybody's got one!

This week's online poll 6/28 - 7/5

How can Santa Maria better balance the budget?

- Raise the sales tax.
- Expand city limits.
- Allow/tax recreational weed.
- Cut staff and services.

Enter your choice online at: SantaMariaSun.com



POWERED by Science

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**BETTER
THAN EVER**

Following extensive renovations as part of the Museum's Centennial Campaign, the beloved Mammal and Bird Halls and new Santa Barbara Gallery are now open!

Discover Your



Photo by Chris Johns

50 GREATEST PHOTOGRAPHS



Now–Sept. 3, 2018

This exhibition transports visitors behind the lens of some of National Geographic's most engaging images. From Steve McCurry's unforgettable Afghan girl, to Michael "Nick" Nichols's iconic photograph of Jane Goodall and a chimpanzee, to Thomas Abercrombie's never-before-seen view of Mecca, the exhibition features 50 of the magazine's most remembered and celebrated photographs from its almost 130-year history.

This exhibition is organized and traveled by the National Geographic Society.

Thank you to our Business, Foundation, and Media Sponsors

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47

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92.9 KJEE

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GET HANDS-ON

at the Sea Center on Stearns Wharf

Feel the tickle of a sea anemone tentacle or cradle a hermit crab in the palm of your hand. See baby sharks still in their translucent egg cases, explore interactive exhibits that highlight a shark's world, and enjoy the ever-popular shark touch pool!



Natural Curiosity



EXPLORE LIKE NEVER BEFORE!

Newly renovated dioramas have been brought back to their former glory, and then some. We've even added some brand new dioramas, lots of specimens, stories, and dozens of kid-friendly features like touchable bones, skulls, and more for our youngest learners. Visit today and explore our region's natural world like never before!



The Art of Natural History

Rare Treasures from the Museum's Antique Print Collection

Now–Sept. 3, 2018

John and Peggy Maximus Gallery

See how artists and scientists viewed the natural world spanning 300 years in this summer exhibit highlighting historic prints from the Museum's art collection.





We SOAR with Your SUPPORT

BE PART OF THE EGGCITEMENT

at the Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History!

After years of planning and ten months of construction, we've reopened our exhibit halls, and will open our permanent outdoor pavilion and renovated entry and backyard this fall. We've come a long way since we hatched more than a century ago as the Museum of Comparative Oology. The \$20 million Centennial Campaign we launched with the community's generous support is almost at cruising altitude. Help us reach our final goal, and we'll recognize your contribution with a beautiful museum-quality replica egg. Your egg will be on display at the Museum until June 2019. Then it's yours to keep as a souvenir of your generosity and the heights we have achieved together.

To become a Centennial donor or for more information visit sbnature.org or call the development office at 805-682-4711 ext. 110.

Available Eggs



\$5,000 +
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\$2,500-\$4,999
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\$1,000-\$2,499
GREAT BLUE HERON



\$500-\$999
PEREGRINE FALCON



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BEAUTY AND THE BEACH

Beach Beauties, an exhibit showcasing featured artist Taffy French-Gray, runs through July 1 at Valley Art Gallery, located at 125 W. Clark Ave., Orcutt. This exhibit features works that depict scenes on the beaches of the Central Coast. The gallery is open Tuesdays through Fridays from noon to 6 p.m. and Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. More info: (805) 937-2278 or valleygallery.org.

CENTRAL COAST
PRIDE
Pride in the Plaza

Sunday, July 8 • 12:00 - 5:30 PM
The Mission Plaza



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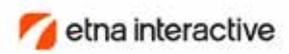


(2 SHOWS)

Featuring Stars From Rupaul's Drag Race
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The SLO Guild Hall

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GUADALUPE CULTURAL ARTS & EDUCATION CENTER



The Guadalupe Cultural Arts and Education Center provides the history of Guadalupe, and the surrounding areas. This Center holds educational cultural awareness of diverse community groups and ethnic arts, presentations and educational classes.

We invite schools, clubs and social groups to tour our facility.
Artist and presenters are welcome to schedule exhibits.



Guadalupe Cultural Arts & Education Center

Open to the public: Tuesday – Saturday, 10am – 4pm

For all questions please contact Karen Evangelista at 805-478-8502
Email: karen@guadalupeculturalcenter.com

1055 Guadalupe St., Guadalupe CA

www.GuadalupeCulturalCenter.com



CULTURE & LIFESTYLE from page 22

Facebook.com/CaptainNemoGames. Captain Nemo Games, 563 Higuera St., San Luis Obispo.

MAGIC: THE GATHERING AT CAPTAIN NEMO
NEMO Magic: The Gathering (Standard/Type 2). Refreshments available on site for purchase. Mondays, 5-8 p.m. 2 Boost Buy In. 805-544-6366. Facebook.com/CaptainNemoGames. Captain Nemo Games, 563 Higuera St., San Luis Obispo.

MINIATURE GAMING AT CAPTAIN NEMO
Refreshments available on site for purchase. Please park in reserved spaces. Thursdays, 5-8 p.m. Free. 805-544-6366. Facebook.com/CaptainNemoGames. Captain Nemo Games, 563 Higuera St., San Luis Obispo.

OPEN GAMING AT CAPTAIN NEMO Board games, card games, and more. Bring any games you'd like. Refreshments available on site for purchase. Please park in Reserved spaces. Sundays, 11 a.m.-4 p.m. and Saturdays, 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Free. 805-544-6366. facebook.com/pg/CaptainNemoGames. Captain Nemo Games, 563 Higuera St., San Luis Obispo.

OVEREATERS ANONYMOUS Meets at various locations in SLO County: Arroyo Grande, Oceano, San Luis Obispo, Morro Bay, Cambria, Atascadero, and Paso Robles. No dues/fees. Mondays-Sundays, 6-7 p.m. Free. oacentralcoast.org. San Luis Obispo, Citywide, SLO.

SLO CHESS CLUB All ages and skill levels welcome. Plays at the giant chess board in Morro Bay on Saturdays. Boards generally provided. Thursdays, 6:30-10 p.m. and Saturdays, 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Free. 805-215-4963. slochess.com. Carl's Jr., 195 N. Santa Rosa, San Luis Obispo.

SLO PING PONG CLUB New players of all skill levels welcome. Tuesdays, Thursdays, 7-10 p.m. and Sundays, 4-7 p.m. through Aug. 1 \$20. 805-540-0470. Ludwick Community Center, 864 Santa Rosa, San Luis Obispo.

SLO SKIERS MONTHLY MEETING A local non-profit sports and social club for adults. First Wednesday of every month, 7-8 p.m. Free; \$40 for membership. 805-528-3194. slokieters.org. SLO Elks Club, 222 Elks Lane, San Luis Obispo.

SLO TABLE TENNIS All ages and skill levels welcome. Tuesdays, Thursdays, 7-10 p.m. and Sundays, 4-7 p.m. Free. 805-215-4963. Ludwick Community Center, 864 Santa Rosa, San Luis Obispo.

NORTH SLO COUNTY

GOLDEN STATE CLASSICS CAR CLUB
Monthly meeting for Golden State Classics of Paso Robles. First Tuesday of every month goldenstateclassics.org. Paso Robles Elks Lodge, 1420 Park St., Paso Robles, 805-239-1410.

PHOTOGRAPHY AT STUDIOS ON THE PARK Learn, interact, and share with a diverse community of photographers. Every other Tuesday, 7-9 p.m. through Nov. 13 \$5; Free for Paso Robles Art Association members. 805-748-5815. pasoroblesartassociation.org/guilds/. Studios on the Park, 1130 Pine St., Paso Robles.

NORTH COAST SLO COUNTY

COLORING CLUB FOR ADULTS Rediscover the childhood pleasure of coloring. Last Thursday of every month, 4-5 p.m. through Oct. 25 Free. 805-

927-4336. slolibrary.org. Cambria Library, 1043 Main St., Cambria.

SURFSIDE TENNIS CLUB Saturdays, 9 a.m. Free the first month; \$30 per year afterwards. surfsidetennisclub.teamopolis.com. Los Osos Middle School, 1555 El Moro St., Los Osos, 534-2835.

SUPPORT GROUPS

SANTA MARIA VALLEY/LOS ALAMOS

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 a.m. 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. Free. 805-544-2266. hospiceslo.org. New Life Pismo, 990 James Way, Pismo Beach.

SAN LUIS OBISPO

#METOO: DROP-IN SUPPORT GROUP FOR WOMEN These monthly support groups are for adult women who have experienced sexual harassment or sexual abuse. The focus of the group is to create a safe place for participants to share, be connected with local resources, and get support in the healing process. First Tuesday, Friday of every month, 12-1 p.m. RISE, 51 Zaca Ln., Ste. 100, San Luis Obispo, 805-226-5400.

CHILD LOSS SUPPORT GROUP Hospice SLO County is offering this support group for those grieving the loss of a child. This group provides the opportunity to connect with individuals in a similar situation. Drop-ins welcome. Thursdays, 6-7:30 p.m. Free. 805-544-2266. hospiceslo.org/support-groups. Hospice SLO County, 1304 Pacific St., San Luis Obispo.

FAMILY CAREGIVER SUPPORT GROUP A support group for those who are caring for a loved one, no matter the diagnosis. This group provides the opportunity to connect with individuals in a similar situation. Drop-ins welcome. Every other Friday, 2:30-4 p.m. Free. 805-544-2266. hospiceslo.org. Hospice SLO County, 1304 Pacific St., San Luis Obispo.

NAR-ANON: LET IT BEGIN WITH ME Nar-Anon is a support group for those who are affected by someone else's addiction. Tuesdays 805-458-7655. naranoncentralca.org/meetings/meeting-list/. San Luis Obispo, Citywide, SLO.

CREATE & LEARN

SANTA MARIA VALLEY/LOS ALAMOS

CANVAS CREATIONS FOR TEENS This workshop is open to middle and high school students. Canvas and art supplies provided. Mondays, Tuesdays, 10 a.m.-noon through July 10 Free. 805-925-0994. engagedpatrons.org. Santa Maria Public Library, 421 S. McClelland St., Santa Maria.

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.

NORTH COAST SLO COUNTY

BASIC COMPUTER HELP Come to learn basic computer skills. Call to sign up. Thursdays, 8:30-10 a.m. Free. 805-772-6394. Morro Bay Library, 625 Harbor St., Morro Bay.

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.

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

GENTLE YOGA Tuesdays, Thursdays, 8:30 a.m.

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

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

SOUTH COAST SLO COUNTY

COMPLIMENTARY YOGA Free for resort guests and locals alike. Sundays, 8:30-9:30 a.m. through Oct. 28 Free. 805-773-5003. thedolphinbay.com. The Spa at Dolphin Bay, 2727 Shell Beach Rd., Pismo Beach.

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.

REMINDFUL MONDAYS MEET-UP: EXPLORING MINDFULNESS Experience the benefits of secular mindfulness and meditation to overcome depression, anxiety, and stress. Location is subject to change. First Monday of every month, 6-7 p.m. Free; donations accepted. 805-270-5523. Torchell Mind & Body, 530 Camino Mercado, 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, 5citieswimschool.com.

SAN LUIS OBISPO



SANCTUARY

The Pacific Conservatory Theatre presents *The Hunchback of Notre Dame*, a musical based on the Victor Hugo novel featuring songs from the Disney film, through July 8 at Solvang Festival Theater, located at 420 2nd St., Solvang. The cast includes Nick Tubbs as Quasimodo, Amani Dorn as Esmeralda, Erik Stein as Frollo, and Jeff Salsbury as Phoebus. More info: (805) 928-7731 or pcpa.org.

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.

AIKIDO SELF DEFENSE FOR ADULTS Taught by fifth degree black belt instructor Mary Tesoro. Tuesdays, 5:45-7 p.m. \$65 for 3 months. 805-549-1222. ae.slcsud.org. San Luis Coastal Adult School,

CULTURE & LIFESTYLE continued page 29

BE A PART OF OUR LARGEST PUBLICATION OF THE YEAR

Our 18th Annual Best of Northern Santa Barbara County Readers Poll results will be published on August 2nd



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1222. ae.slcsud.org. San Luis Coastal Adult School, 1500 Lizzie St., San Luis Obispo.

BELLS AND BEERS Admission includes the workout class and a beer or cider. **July 8**, 12-1 p.m. \$15-\$25. 805-868-7133. 7SistersBrewing.com. 7Sisters Brewing Company, 181 Tank Farm Rd. Suite 110, 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.slcsud.org/.

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

OUTDOORS

SOUTH COAST SLO COUNTY

PISMO BEACH GROUP WALK/VOLKSMARCH Learn about Volksmarching while walking a 5K or 10K around Pismo. **June 30**, 8-11 a.m. Free; \$3 per walker for AVA credit. 805-714-1552. beachboardwalkers.org/traditional-events. Pismo Lighthouse Suites, 2411 Price St., Pismo Beach.

SAN LUIS OBISPO

HEART OF SLO WALKING TOUR: THE PEOPLE AND PLACES THAT MADE HISTORY A guide-

led tour through Downtown SLO, Chinatown, and Tiger Town. Learn about various historical figures including Frank Mitchell and Frances Milne. Mondays, Thursdays-Sundays, 10 a.m.-noon through July 2 \$20 adults; \$10 under 18 and students. 805-470-0983. eventbrite.com. History Center of San Luis Obispo County, 696 Monterey St., San Luis Obispo.

LAWLESS SAN LUIS: BANDITS, BUNCO, AND CRIMES OF PASSION Learn about the local history of crime and frontier justice between the years 1850 to 1950. **June 28**, 1-3 p.m. and **June 30**, 1-3 p.m. \$10-\$20. 805-470-0983. eventbrite.com. History Center, 696 Monterey St., San Luis Obispo.

MODERN MASTERS OF ARCHITECTURE

Learn secrets of SLO's nationally known buildings through exploring the language of modern architecture. **June 29**, 1-3 p.m. and **July 1**, 1-3 p.m. \$10-\$20. 805-470-0983. historicities.com. History Center, 696 Monterey St., San Luis Obispo.

POST-4TH OF JULY BEACH CLEANUPS Join ECOSLO for a morning of cleanup and data tracking of debris at Cayucos Pier at 7 a.m. and Pirate's Cove/Cave Landing at 9 a.m. **July 5**, 7-9 & 9-11 a.m. 805-544-1777. bit.ly/post-fourth. SLO County, Countywide, San Luis Obispo.

VICTORIAN HOUSES, OLD WEST LIVES Learn about various types of Victorian architecture and the stories behind them. **July 2**, 1-3 p.m. \$10-\$20. 805-470-0983. historicities.com. Dallidet Adobe and Gardens, 1185 Pacific St., San Luis Obispo.

SPORTS

SANTA MARIA VALLEY/LOS ALAMOS

[3]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

5TH ANNUAL FREE MOVIES IN THE PARK

Featured films include *Back to the Future*, *Grease*, *Black Panther*, and more. Venues include Sierra Vista Park, Preisker Park, Rotary Centennial Park, and more. Saturdays. through Aug. 18 Free. 805-925-0951 ext.2260. Rotary Centennial Park, 2625 South College Dr., Santa Maria.

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.

BABYNAUTS STORY TIME

For babies up to 12 months and their caregivers. This story time features music, movement, and visual media. Fridays, 11-11:30 a.m. through July 13 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.

BILINGUAL STORY TIME: HORA DE CUENTOS

This story time features stories, songs, and rhymes in both Spanish and English. Saturdays, 11-11:30 a.m. through July 28 Free. 805-925-0994. engagedpatrons.org. Santa Maria Public Library, 421 S. McClelland St., Santa Maria.

LEGO CLUB

Includes a Lego building challenge to win a prize. Legos provided. **June 28**, 4-5 p.m. 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.

READALoud

The Buellton Library presents ReadAloud, a play-reading group for adults, teens and children 9 and up. Fridays, 4-5 p.m. Free. 805-688-3115. Buellton Library, 140 W. Highway 246, Buellton.

READING BUDDIES

Kids attending this program will partner with a teen and read aloud to them. Mondays-Thursdays, 3-5 p.m. through Aug. 2 Free. 805-925-0994. engagedpatrons.org. Santa Maria Public Library, 421 S. McClelland St., Santa Maria.

SANTA MARIA VALLEY RAILWAY HISTORICAL MUSEUM

The Santa Maria Valley Railway Historical Museum features a locomotive, boxcar, caboosé, 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 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.

TEEN GAMING FRIDAYS

An afternoon of Wii U gaming and/or tabletop gaming. **June 29**, 4-5:30 p.m. Free. 805-925-0994. engagedpatrons.org. Santa Maria Public Library, 421 S. McClelland St., Santa Maria.

SOUTH COAST SLO COUNTY

BILINGUAL STORYTIME

Enjoy storytelling and songs in both English and Spanish. First Tuesday of every month, 10:30-11 a.m. Free. 805-473-7161. slolibrary.org. Arroyo Grande Library, 800 W. Branch, Arroyo Grande.

CULTURE & LIFESTYLE continued page 30

“MAY WE THINK OF FREEDOM, NOT AS THE RIGHT TO DO AS WE PLEASE, BUT AS THE OPPORTUNITY TO DO WHAT IS RIGHT.”

– Peter Marshall

Happy 4th of July

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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.

STORYTIME WITH AUTHOR WENDY WAHMAN Featuring Wahman's books *Don't Lick the Dog* and *Nanny Paws*. **June 29**, 10:30-11:30 a.m. Free. 805-547-1733. whizkidsslo.com. Whiz Kids, 3979 S. Higuera 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. Through Aug. 10, 8:30 a.m.-5:30 p.m. Starts at \$40. 805-547-1496. performanceathleticslo.com. Performance Athletics Gymnastics, 4484 Broad St., San Luis Obispo.

VEX ROBOTICS WORKSHOP Create your own Vex Robots with 4-H experts. Registration required. For ages 8 to 14. Part of the 2018 Summer Reading Program. **June 28**, 2-4 p.m. Free. 805-781-5783. slolibrary.org. San Luis Obispo Library, 995 Palm St., San Luis Obispo.

SPIRITUAL

SANTA MARIA VALLEY/LOS ALAMOS

HOPE COMMUNITY CHURCH SERVICES Join Hope Community Church for Sunday morning and Wednesday night services. Children care provided for infants and children under 4. Sundays, 10:30 a.m. and Wednesdays, 6:30 p.m. Free. 805-922-2043. hopesm.com. 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. CoventTree: Books and Gifts, 722 E Main St., Santa Maria.

SOUTH COAST SLO COUNTY

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 DEVELOPMENT Explore your innate gifts of receiving and giving intuitive information with Julie Jensen. First Tuesday of every month, 6:30-8 p.m. \$25. 805-489-2423. 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.

VOLUNTEERS

SOUTH COAST SLO COUNTY

AMPSURF LEARN TO SURF CLINIC Volunteers and participants needed for these Learn to Surf clinics for those living with disabilities. Volunteers don't need to know how to surf. **July 7**, 6:30 a.m.-1 p.m. Free. ampsurf.org. AmpSurf, 340 Pomeroy St., Pismo Beach, 805-773-0302.

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. First 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

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LOMPOC FARMERS MARKET Features fresh fruit and vegetables, flowers, entertainment, and activities for the whole family. Fridays, 2-6 p.m.

SOUTH COAST SLO COUNTY

ARROYO GRANDE FARMERS MARKET Includes produce, artists and musicians. Saturdays, 12:25 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.

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

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

BUBBLE AND RAW BAR Visit Foremost's new Bubble Bar where guests can get bubbles by the

IMAGE COURTESY OF LAUREL SHERRIE



SUNRISE TO SUNSET

Head in the Clouds, an exhibit showcasing artist Laurel Sherrie, runs through July 5 at Los Olivos Wine Merchant Cafe, located at 2879 Grand Ave., Los Olivos. Sherrie's paintings include skylines that explore emotional connections we have to various things we witness in the sky. More info: (805) 688-7265 or winemerchantcafe.com.

Lompoc Farmers Market, Ocean Avenue and I Street, Lompoc.

LOMPOC'S OLD TOWN MARKET Features live entertainment, a farmers market, food booths, vendors, free kids activities, and more. Presented by the Lompoc Valley Chamber of Commerce and Visitors Bureau. Fridays, 5-8 p.m. through Aug. 10 Free. explorelompop.com. Lompoc Old Town Market, 100 South H St, 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.

glass or by the bottle along with a bites from a special raw menu created by Chef Thomas Drahos. Thursdays-Saturdays, 5-9 p.m. through May 24 805-439-3410. foremostlo.com/. Foremost Wine Co., 570 Higuera St. Ste 105, 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.

WOODSTOCK'S SLO PINT NIGHT With the first pint as low as \$5, Woodstock's gives half-off refills in the same glass. Wednesdays, 8-11 p.m. Free. 805-541-4420. woodstocksslo.com. Woodstock's Pizza, 1000 Higuera St, San Luis Obispo.

WOODSTOCK'S SLO TRIVIA NIGHT For trivia aficionados and fun-lovers in general alike. Tuesdays, 9-11 p.m. Free. 805-541-4420. woodstocksslo.com/events/. Woodstock's Pizza, 1000 Higuera St, San Luis Obispo. ☺



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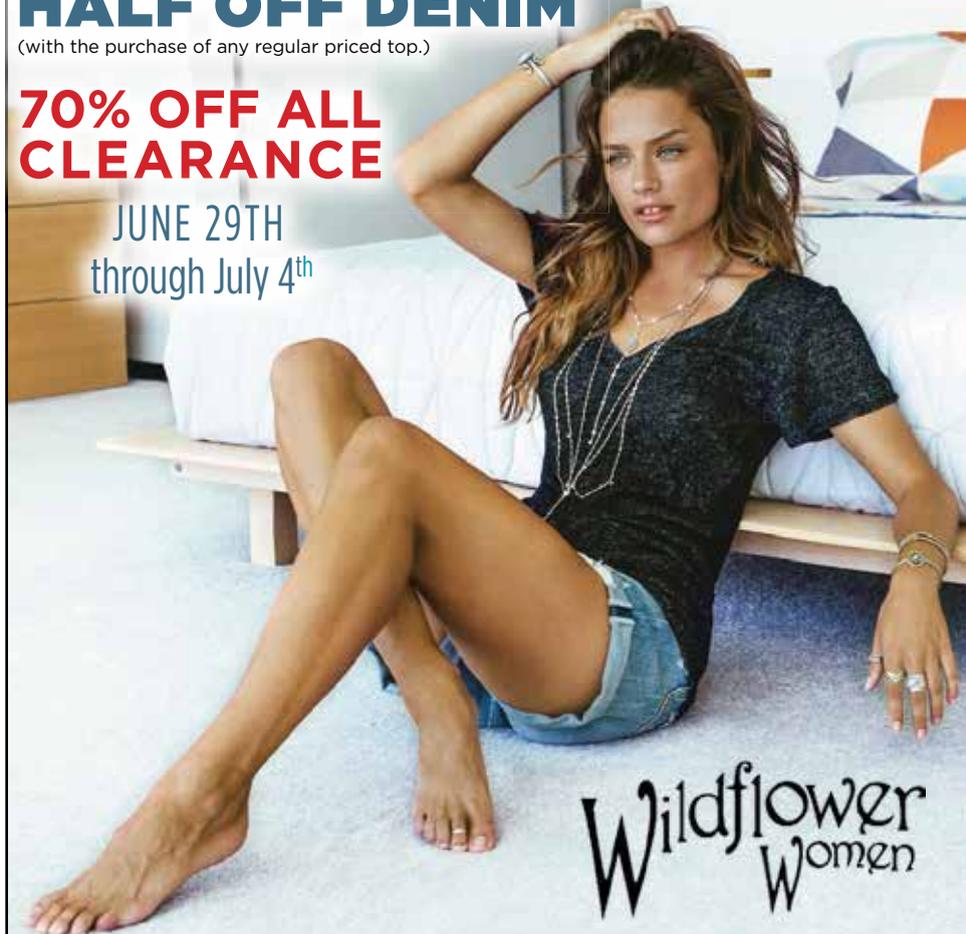
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Live Music

SANTA YNEZ VALLEY

BRAIDS AND DREADS LIVE No outside food or beverages allowed. **June 30**, 1-4 p.m. Free. Cold Spring Tavern, 5995 Stagecoach Rd., Santa Barbara, 805-967-0066, coldspringtavern.com/entertainment.html.

CHRIS AYER LIVE Part of Bottlest's Crafted series. **June 30**, 7:30-10:30 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.

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

THE JIMI NELSON BAND LIVE **June 30**, 8-11 p.m. Maverick Saloon, 3687 Sagunto St., Santa Ynez, 805-686-4785, mavericksaloon.org.

JUMPIN BLUE LIVE No outside food or beverages allowed. **June 30**, 5-8 p.m. Free. Cold Spring Tavern, 5995 Stagecoach Rd., Santa Barbara, 805-967-0066, coldspringtavern.com/entertainment.html.

LED ZECUTIVES LIVE No outside food or beverages allowed. **June 29**, 6-9 p.m. Free. Cold Spring Tavern, 5995 Stagecoach Rd., Santa Barbara, 805-967-0066, coldspringtavern.com/entertainment.html.

LOS SPINDLEROS LIVE Enjoy a blend of folk, Americana, and acoustic. This concert is part of the 2018 Solvang Summer Concert Series. **June 29** Free. Solvang Park, Mission Dr. and First St., Solvang.

MIKE SHELTON LIVE Part of Bottlest's Crafted series. **June 28**, 6-8:30 p.m. Bottlest Winery, Bar & Bistro, 35 Industrial Way, Buellton, 805-686-4742, bottlest.com.

SHAWN CLARK LIVE Part of Bottlest's Crafted series. **June 29**, 7:30-10 p.m. Bottlest Winery, Bar & Bistro, 35 Industrial Way, Buellton, 805-686-4742, bottlest.com.

SOLVANG SUMMER CONCERT SERIES Featured acts include The Soul Cats, Cuesta Ridge, Bear Market Riot, Grass Mountain,

MUSIC LISTINGS continued page 33

Clark's country

Shawn Clark brings his classic country croon to Bottlest Winery's Crafted music series

BY JOE PAYNE

Time can be a motivator, but for Santa Margarita-based singer/songwriter Shawn Clark, it granted him perspective.

Originally from Texas, Clark grew up playing guitar since he was 12 years old, jamming in garage rock bands and playing "post hardcore" music with friends. In his early 30s, he began experimenting with folk influences, and before moving to the Central Coast five years ago, Clark spent a lot of time with his grandfather, who listened to classic country greats like Hank Williams Sr., George Jones, and Johnny Cash.

"He listened to all that stuff," Clark said. "When I moved out here, he had just passed, and I was missin' him and missin' my family, so I just started listening to the kind of music he was listening to."

There was something familiar about that kind of country, Clark said, from the beautiful simplicity of the chord structures to the heartfelt vocal melodies. He started learning the iconic songs of Williams and Cash, exploring the genre through some of its most characteristic voices.

One artist stuck out among all the others though, Townes Van Zandt, Clark said. "Townes Van Zandt does this version of 'Dead Flowers' by the Rolling Stones," he said. "I did that song, and I was like, 'This is amazing.' That's kind of how I dipped my toe into country music."

After he put together a whole set list of country songs, Clark approached a bar in Atascadero. The venue couldn't pay him, but he was willing to play for free beer.

He's performed on the Central Coast ever since, and the Santa Margarita-based artist is playing more gigs in Santa Barbara County. He has an upcoming show at Bottlest Winery, Bar, and Bistro in Buellton, as part of the venue's live music series, Crafted. Clark has performed there before, and said it's a good venue for his bare-bones solo sets.

"It's just a fun gig," he said. "I don't know anybody down there, but I like Bottlest, it's a really kind of neat hidden-away place, but it's a good spot."

Clark sings with a smooth baritone, reminiscent of artists like Van Zandt and others who explored heartache and country life over strumming acoustic guitars.

Once he immersed himself in the style, experiences in life inspired Clark to write his own songs that emulated the truth telling of country's great artists.

"I went through a major relationship change, somebody left me, so I kind of decided to write about it and get the pain out that way," he said. "I didn't realize that I needed country music so much at that point, but I did. It pretty much saved me."

Before he knew it, Clark had an album on his hands. A small group of collaborators were a part of the project and went on tour with him after

PHOTO COURTESY OF SHAWN CLARK



BORN TO CROON: Shawn Clark will bring his original songs and country covers to Bottlest Winery's live music series, Crafted, on June 29. His baritone voice is suited to the classic country sound he emulates in his songwriting.



SHAWN SOLO: Shawn Clark performs solo across the Central Coast and often with collaborators, which he calls the Shawn Clark Family Band.

its release, which he calls the Shawn Clark Family Band. The first album was titled *Tumbleweed*, which he followed up with *Cactus Rose* in 2016.

For the past year or so though, Clark has been "kind of on hiatus," he said. He's working on starting a business and just got married a couple weeks ago, he said.

"I've been still playing a lot of shows, but I decided I needed to get married and start a business," he said. "So now what I'm doing is kind of revamping the band and getting a third album, which should be out by the end of the year."

Looking back on his beginnings in music and growing up in Texas, it's a bit of a surprise that Clark even went toward country music. It was all around him growing up, he said, so he turned to other music in youthful rebellion.

"I kind of always hated country, I really didn't like it, I was a rock and roll guy," he said. "But I think really what I was searching for was something real. I love real music. I love when somebody can share their heart but also do it in a very artistic way and be real about where they're at in life."

Clark said that the "old time" country artists like Williams, Van Zandt, and Jones really grabbed him with their songwriting.

"It's just deeper than any music I've ever heard," he said.

He also said that being from Texas, and having a "twang" to his low voice led him there naturally.

"I didn't really want to get into it," he said. "It just felt like it was an old shoe that fit really well that I might as well put on."

That's why his music doesn't sound like commercial country, but the stripped-down folk style at the heart of the tradition. Going for that "real" sound doesn't just mean steel strings and wooden guitars, but opening up about his personal life in his lyrics.

Like most country artists, Clark's songwriting is largely biographical. From the painful breakup to life on the road, exploring those feelings with his songs is something he finds therapeutic.

"Sometimes you have something inside of you, and I can't get rid of it until I write about it," he said. "If there's something I can't stop thinking about, if I write a song about it, I can get it out of my head. And now, it's kind of encompassed in that song, and I don't have to think about it or

Catch the show

Shawn Clark performs live as part of Bottlest Winery, Bar, and Bistro's music series, Crafted, on June 29 from 7:30 to 10 p.m. at 35 Industrial Way, Buellton. More info: (805) 686-4742.

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LOCAL NOTES from page 32

worry about it anymore, it's just there in that song. It's weird."

After emulating the artists that brought him around to country music in *Tumbleweed* and *Cactus Rose*, Clark is looking to do something a bit different with the album he has in the works now. He wants to fuse all the influences that brought him to where he is today.

"This album, I just want it to be exactly what I always wanted to do," he said. "I want it to be very western sounding, a little southwestern sounding, but a little bit experimental, kind of throw in who I am rather than just being straight country. Throw in my experiences from my Nirvana days, not that it's going to sound like Nirvana, but just be a little more experimental with this album and see what I can do."

In the meantime, you can find Clark performing regular gigs solo across the Central Coast, like his upcoming show at Bottlest. He often plays at Luna Red in San Luis Obispo, too. He will bring a band together for a performance at the Midstate Fair, on the Mission stage.

While he has the freedom to explore many styles as a solo performer, Clark constantly comes back to the familiar feeling of country music, he said.

"I have an affinity for that style and it's always going to be a part of me." ○

Managing Editor Joe Payne never left his folksy phase. Contact him at jpayne@santamariasun.com.

MUSIC LISTINGS from page 32

LiveWire, Rock Cats Rock, Low Down Dudes, Unfinished Business, and more. Wednesdays, 5-8 p.m. and **June 29**, 5-8 p.m. through Aug. 22 Free. [facebook.com/solvang3rdwednesday](https://www.facebook.com/solvang3rdwednesday). Solvang Park, Mission Dr. and First St., Solvang.

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.

THE TEX PISTOLS LIVE July 7, 8 p.m. Maverick Saloon, 3687 Sagunto St., Santa Ynez, 805-686-4785, mavericksaloon.org.

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

LOMPOC/VANDENBERG

DISCO DINNER TO BENEFIT LOMPOC YOUTH THEATER Proceeds of this dinner and dance benefit Lompoc Youth Theater's production of *Schoolhouse Rock: Live! Jr.*. **June 29**, 5-8:30 p.m. \$49. 512-213-8181. eventbrite.com. The Ellery Room Bar and Grill, 4300 Clubhouse Rd., Lompoc.

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.

BIG KAHUNA'S DANCE The Santa Maria Valley Sr. Club is sponsoring this event, with funding from the Community Foundation of SLO County, which features live music provided by the Riptide Big Band. **July 8**, 1:30-4 p.m. Free. 775-813-5186. riptidebb.com. Elwin Mussell Senior Center, 510 Park Ave., Santa Maria.

THE CRISPTONES LIVE Part of the 15th annual Concerts in the Park Series. The Crisptones perform a blend of classic and country rock. **July 8**, 1-3 p.m. Free. 805-925-0951. Rotary 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](https://www.facebook.com/cadelgrevino). Ca' Del Grevino Cafe and Wine Bar, 400 E. Clark Ave., suite A, Orcutt.

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

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

LIVE MUSIC AT O'SULLIVAN'S Featuring live entertainment from local and touring alternative, indie, rock, punk, reggae, ska, alt-country, and other left-of-center musicians

several times throughout each month. ongoing Free. O'Sullivan's Pub, 633 E. Main St., Santa Maria, 805-925-0658, osullivanspub.net.

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

LIVE MUSIC AT ROONEY'S Live music or a DJ every Friday night. Fridays, 9 p.m. Free. 805-934-3777. rooneysirishpub.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.

THE T-BONE RAMBLERS LIVE Enjoy a blend of classic rock and blues. **June 29**, 4-6 p.m. Free. Presqu'ile Winery, 5391 Presqu'ile Dr., Santa Maria, 805-937-8110, presquilewine.com.

TOM MUTCHLER LIVE June 30, 5:30-7:30 p.m. Free. Moxie Cafe, 1317 W. McCoy Ln., Santa Maria, 805-361-2900, moxiecafe.com.

SOUTH COAST SLO COUNTY

ACOUSTIC SUNDAYS Sundays, 3-6 p.m. Seaventure Restaurant, 100 Oceanview Ave, Pismo Beach, 805-773-4994.

BANJERDAN AT MULLIGAN'S BAR & GRILL Enjoy live music from multi-instrumentalist BanjerDan (Dan Mazer). **July 6**, 8-11 p.m. Free. 805-595-4001. Avila Beach Resort, 6464 Ana Bay Dr., Avila Beach.

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

MUSIC LISTINGS continued page 35

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Beach Resort, 6464 Ana Bay Dr., Avila Beach.
LAST PACIFIC BREEZE CONCERT This last concert of the series features the Zongo All-Stars. Includes kids activities. **July 8**, 1-3:30 p.m. Free. 805-773-7063. Dinosaur Caves Park, 2701 Price St, Pismo Beach.

LIVE MUSIC AT LIDO Tuesdays, Thursdays, Fridays, 5-8 p.m. Free. 805-773-4300. thedolphinsbay.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.

MONARCH CLUB SUMMER CONCERT SERIES Featured acts include Shaky Groundz, Unfinished Business, Drive-In Romeos, The Brass Factory, and more. First Friday of every month, 6-8 p.m. through Oct. 5 trilogyresort.com. Monarch Club, 1645 Trilogy Pkway., Nipomo, 805-343-9459.

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.

PRIMUS AND MASTODON LIVE **June 28**, 5-10 p.m. \$40-\$85. 805-924-1142. otterproductionsinc.com. Avila Beach Resort, 6464 Ana Bay Dr., Avila 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.



PHOTO COURTESY OF THE CRISPTONES

FREE PARKING

The Crisptones perform July 8 from 1 to 3 p.m. at Rotary Centennial Park, located at 2625 S. College Drive, Santa Maria. This concert is part of the 15th annual Concerts in the Park series. This group performs a blend of classic and country rock. Admission is free. More info: (805) 925-0951.

THREE4ALL LIVE **June 30**, 3 p.m. Harry's Night Club And Beach Bar, 690 Cypress St., Pismo Beach, 805-773-1010, harryspismo.com.

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

B AND THE HIVE LIVE B and The Hive (formerly Girls and Boys), featuring vocalist Brianna Lee, create original music that blends rock, pop, and soul. **July 6**, 6-8 p.m. Free. 805-868-7133. 7SistersBrewing.com. 7Sisters Brewing Company, 181 Tank Farm Rd. Suite 110, San Luis Obispo.

BRENT DANNELLS LIVE Enjoy live jazz in the upstairs dining room. Every other Thursday, 7-9 p.m. through Aug. 30 Free to dinner guests.

805-594-1500. Mee Heng Low Noodle House, 815 Palm St., San Luis Obispo.

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

THE COMPLICATED ANIMALS LIVE This Brazilian American duo performs their self-coined indie nova genre, a blend of indie pop and Brazilian bossa nova. **July 7**, 6-8 p.m. Free. 805-868-7133. 7SistersBrewing.com. 7Sisters Brewing Company, 181 Tank Farm Rd. Suite 110, San Luis Obispo.

CRAIG LOUIS DINGMAN LIVE Guitarist and songwriter Craig Louis Dingman performs in the upstairs dining room. Every other Thursday, 7-9 p.m. through Aug. 23 Free to dinner guests. 805-594-1500. Mee Heng Low Noodle House, 815 Palm St., 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 UNITY CONCERT HALL Hosted by the SLO County Jazz Federation. First Wednesday of every month, 7-9 p.m. Free. 805-543-1200. Unity Concert Hall, 1130 Orcutt Road, San Luis Obispo.

THE LATA JAZZ QUARTET LIVE Enjoy live jazz in the upstairs dining room. Every other Friday, 8-10 p.m. through Aug. 31 Free to dinner guests. 805-594-1500. Mee Heng Low Noodle House, 815 Palm 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.

MAX MACLAURY LIVE A Pint Night performance. **June 29**, 6-8 p.m. Free. 805-868-7133. 7Sisters Brewing Company, 181 Tank Farm Rd. Suite 110, San Luis Obispo, 7SistersBrewing.com.

MINT + CRAFT SUMMER MUSIC Each performance of this free concert series takes place on the Monterey Street patio. Sundays, 12:30-2:30 p.m. through Aug. 26 Free. Monterey Street Patio, 848 Monterey St., San Luis Obispo, 415-394-6500.

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.

MUSIC LISTINGS continued page 36

55 Fiction

Thank you for your entries!

The contest is closed for the year.
 We're reading through all the stories
 and the winners will be published
 in our July 19th publication.

**55 Fiction: brief stories, fifty-five words or less,
 with a headline no longer than seven words.**

See our website for all the details.

SANTA BARBARA BOWL

MUSIC

**15TH ANNIVERSARY
FREESTYLE EXPLOSION
CONCERT**

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

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

SATURDAY, JULY 7TH

Jackson Browne

Jeff Young Bob Glaub Mauricio Lewak Greg Leisz
Chavonne Stewart Alethea Mills Val McCallum

FRIDAY, AUGUST 3RD AT 7PM

08 08 18

BON IVER

WITH VERY SPECIAL GUEST
PERFUME GENIUS

SANTA BARBARA CA

STEVE MILLER BAND

PETER FRAMPTON

AUGUST 15TH AT 6:30PM

LEON BRIDGES

GOOD THING TOUR

SEPT 12TH AT 7PM

JASON MRAZ
AND **BRETT DENNEN**

SATURDAY, SEPT 15TH AT 6:30PM

MIGUEL

THE ASCENSION TOUR

WITH SPECIAL GUEST DVSN

NONCHALANT SAVANT

JACK WHITE AUG 19
DAVID BYRNE AUG 24
REBELUTION W/ STEPHEN MARLEY SEP 09
LUIS MIGUEL SEP 11
CULTURE CLUB / THE B-52'S SEP 23
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
ARCTIC MONKEYS W/ MINI MANSIONS OCT 19

MUSIC LISTINGS from page 35

downtownslo.com/. Harvest Stage, 995 Higuera St., San Luis Obispo, 805-541-0286.

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

SONGWRITERS AT PLAY: CHARLES MOTLEY Local writer Charles Motley, formerly of CAMP, plays alt. rock and acoustic pop originals. Special guests include Megan Steinke and Bob & Wendy. **June 28**, 6:30-9 p.m. Free. 805-204-6821. songwritersatplay.com/calendar/. 7Sisters Brewing Company, 181 Tank Farm Rd. Suite 110, San Luis Obispo.

TWICE COOKED JAZZ TRIO LIVE Talented local artists Twice Cooked Jazz Trio perform lively gypsy jazz for the enjoyment of dinner guests in the unique upstairs dining room at historic Mee Heng Low Noodle House, 815 Palm Street, SLO. Every other Wednesday, 7:30-9:30 p.m. through Aug. 29 Free to dinner guests. 805-594-1500. Mee Heng Low Noodle House, 815 Palm St., San Luis Obispo.

WATER TOWER LIVE The group is promoting their new album *Fly Around*, a collection of songs rooted in bluegrass and folk. **June 30**, 6-8 p.m. Free. 805-868-7133. 7Sisters Brewing Company, 181 Tank Farm Rd. Suite 110, San Luis Obispo, 7SistersBrewing.com.

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

80'S DANCE NIGHT PARTY Featuring DJ Davey D. **June 29**, 8:30 p.m. Moxie Cafe, 1317 W. McCoy Ln., Santa Maria, 805-361-2900, moxiecafe.com.

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

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. kreuzbergcalfornia.com. Kreuzberg Coffee Company, 685 Higuera Street, San Luis Obispo. ○

PHOTO COURTESY OF DJ DAVEY D



DANCE, DANCE, DANCE

Moxie Cafe hosts its 80's Dance Party, featuring DJ Davey D, on June 29 from 8:30 p.m. to 12:30 a.m. This event features drinks, appetizers, a costume contest, and more. Moxie Cafe is located at 1317 W. McCoy Lane, Santa Maria. More info: (805) 361-2900 or moxiecafe.com.

Arts Briefs

PCPA presents comedy 'Vanya and Sonia and Masha and Spike'

The Pacific Conservatory Theatre (PCPA) presents *Vanya and Sonia and Masha and Spike*, a comedy by playwright Christopher Durang, opening June 28.

In the play, three siblings reunite in the family's Bucks County, Pennsylvania, home. Vanya and Sonia bicker and pine about the dashed dreams and squandered hopes of their lives while their fortune-telling maid warns of impending dangers. Their movie star sister, Masha, suddenly swoops in with her new boy-toy, Spike, and threatens to sell the family estate, complete with a cherry orchard. Meanwhile, Nina, an aspiring actress from next door, catches Spike's attention and Masha's jealousy is not easily concealed in the company of this young and attractive threat. However, Nina has inspired Vanya to stage his avant-garde play, which he has secretly written.

Vanya and Sonia and Masha and Spike runs in the Marian Theatre June 28 through July 7, then at the Solvang Festival Theater July 12 through 22. The production is directed by Mark Booher and features Anne Guynn as Sonia, Polly Firestone Walker as Masha, Sam Bravo as Spike, and Peter S. Hadres as Vanya. For tickets, call (805) 922-8313 or visit pcpa.org.

PHOTO COURTESY LUIS ESCOBAR REFLECTIONS PHOTOGRAPHY STUDIO



Solvang Library hosts parade craft workshop

The Solvang Library will host two sessions of a parade craft workshop to help participants create an entry for the city's annual 4th of July parade.

The two workshops currently scheduled are June 30 from 10 a.m. to noon and 2 to 4 p.m. Materials will be provided and all ages are welcome to participate. Children ages 7 and younger must be with an adult or teen supervisor. Reservations are requested.

The library is located at 1745 Mission Drive, Solvang. More info: (805) 688-4214

Roblar Winery hosts painting in the vineyard

Roblar Winery in Santa Ynez is hosting a painting in the vineyard day on July 1 from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. No experience in art is required.

Participants are guided step-by-step by a trained artist through the entire session. The cost is \$65, which includes all supplies as well as a tasting of Roblar wines.

Roblar is located at 3010 Roblar Ave., Santa Ynez. Call Gypsy Studios at (805) 990-2105 or email events@gypsysstudiosart.com to make a reservation. ○

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

Small town, big heart

Ruben Espinoza creates a new mural in Guadalupe

BY REBECCA ROSE

Artist Ruben Espinoza faced a bigger challenge than usual when working on his latest mural.

As part of the Squire Foundation's Artist in Residence Program, Espinoza was tasked with installing a brand new mural on the side of the building that once housed the historic Far Western Tavern in Guadalupe, now located in Old Town Orcutt. The seasoned muralist was up for the job, until he came face-to-face with the blustering winds many in the region are all too familiar with.

"It was very, very windy," he said. "And it was unexpected. I know Guadalupe is windy, but I didn't think it would be that windy. I was trying to hold down my tarp, even with four buckets of paint, it was still flying off. Plus, I could only work with a small amount of paint, if the brush was soaked in paint, it would fly everywhere."

But a little spot of bad weather isn't enough to thwart Espinoza, who has spent the past few years in Santa Maria working to bring art to more public spaces. In addition to a recent utility box art project, Espinoza also unveiled a mural at the Old Orcutt Barber Shop last year. So when the Squire Foundation's Artist in Residence Program and the Dunes Center in Guadalupe came together to create a public art installation, Espinoza was a prime candidate.

Engage in art

To view Ruben Espinoza's new mural at the former Far Western Tavern in Guadalupe, visit 899 Guadalupe St., Guadalupe. More info: (805) 343-2455 or admin@dunescenter.org

The Squire Foundation is a nonprofit centered on civic and educational programs for artists and curators that supports emerging and experimental artistic styles, according to the organization's mission statement. The foundation approached Espinoza based on a recommendation and he eagerly accepted.

"I enrolled in the Artist in Residence Program at the Squire Foundation," he explained. "They have a program in Santa Barbara, but this time they are going to have it in Guadalupe."

Espinoza said the program provides housing for artists while they create installations and art works. The program also encourages the public to come and see the artist while they are creating work and to ask questions, highlighting the importance of community engagement. The goal for both organizations is to share public art, which helps bring the broader community together.

The original Far Western building in Guadalupe was built in 1912 and was named The Palace Hotel. In 1958, the Minetti family turned it into the Far Western Tavern where it remained until it moved to Old Town Orcutt in 2012. The family donated the Guadalupe building to the Dunes Center with the idea of converting it to a museum.



SMALL TOWN, BIG HEART: Muralist Ruben Espinoza was approached by the Squire Foundation to create a mural at the Guadalupe building that once housed the Far Western Tavern and will be the future home of the Dunes Center. The project is a collaboration with the Dunes Center to create community engagement through art.



MURAL, MURAL ON THE WALL: Ruben Espinoza has spent the past few years in the Santa Maria area helping to create and promote public art. He has works in Old Orcutt, Santa Maria, and at Allan Hancock College.

"We are excited to continue the tradition of art with the building that holds a special place in the heart of this town," Dunes Center Executive Director Doug Jenzen stated in a press release. "Those who frequented the old Far Western Tavern may remember the remarkable murals on the walls in the bar. Those murals still remain and we're looking to continue that tradition by adding another piece of art that community can enjoy together."

Espinoza said he first approached the mural by researching Guadalupe, to learn about its history. In his research, he came across an article about Japanese-American Harry Masatani, who owned Masatani's Market in Guadalupe.

"I was really moved by his story," Espinoza said. "He came here when he was a kid and was later put in [a Japanese] internment camp. The article talked about his big heart and how much he gave back to the community."

From there Espinoza pitched a few ideas until landing on a concept that seemed perfect: small town, big heart. He said he then went to the new location of the Far Western Tavern to study the artwork on the walls. His mural was influenced by what he found.

"I took pictures of the paintings," he said. "The artist uses a lot of pastels, and the work is very western in style. So for my work I also used pastels, but very subdued ones. The style is Western and so is the lettering on the mural."

Espinoza joined members of the Squire Foundation and Dunes Center at a reception to unveil the mural on June 24. The unveiling marks the end of his residency, which is designed to help support the artist through the completion of their work. Espinoza said being part of the storied history of Guadalupe's murals was an honor and special achievement as an artist.

"It's really surreal," he said. "At the same time, I'm loving it." ○

Arts and Lifestyle Writer Rebecca Rose is often blown away. Contact her at rrrose@santamariasun.com.

IMAGE AND PHOTO COURTESY OF RYAN MILLER

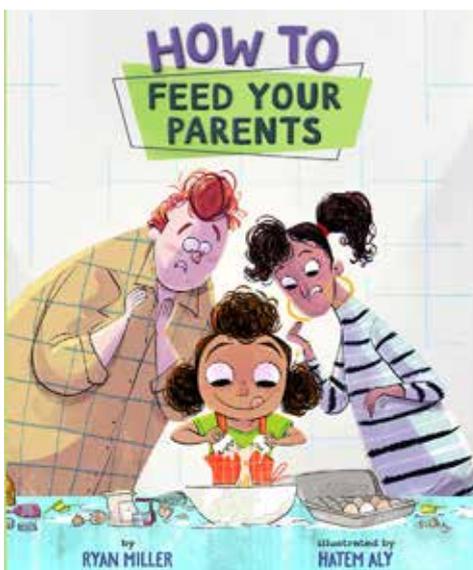
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BASED ON THE VICTOR HUGO NOVEL
AND SONGS FROM THE DISNEY FILM

“EPIC!”
SANTA MARIA TIMES

MUSIC BY ALAN MENKEN
LYRICS BY STEPHEN SCHWARTZ
BOOK BY PETER PARNELL



TELL ME A STORY: Ryan Miller, former writer and editor for the *New Times* and *Sun*, recently published his first book. *How to Feed Your Parents* is a story about a young girl who learns to cook to inspire her parents to try new foods.

JUN 28 - JUL 7 MARIAN THEATRE SANTA MARIA
JUL 12 - 22 SOLVANG FESTIVAL THEATER

Vanya & Sonia & Masha & Spike

THE TONY AWARD WINNING COMEDY!

BY CHRISTOPHER DURANG

ADULT LANGUAGE

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Fun with food

Former Central Coast journalist and editor Ryan Miller publishes his first book

BY REBECCA ROSE

Ryan Miller isn't used to being interviewed by journalists. In fact, he's used to things being the other way around.

"It's interesting being on this side of things," he said during an interview with the *Sun*.

Central Coast residents may remember Miller as an editor for both the SLO *New Times* and the *Sun*. But now, three years after moving to Sacramento to be close to friends and family, Miller is back on the literary scene.

The former journalist has written his first book, a children's book about cooking. *How to Feed Your Parents*, inspired by Miller's own children, is an illustrated short book written to get kids excited about cooking and eating healthier.

Miller's roots in SLO and Santa Maria extend back to when he was a journalism student at Cal Poly. He went on to work as a journalist and editor at the *Sun* and *New Times* until moving to Sacramento in 2015 to work in marketing.

"It's always been a dream goal of mine to write children's books," Miller said. "I always wanted to be a writer. I told my mom when I was 4 years old that I wanted to be a writer [and] a journalist. ... In college I had some book ideas going, for older readers, but I just always had something going on. I tried sending them places before but didn't get any interest."

The father of three said he spent a lot of time reading and studying children's books and getting to know the market. Miller said he reads to his kids at night as much as possible, which helped him learn what kinds of books work best for young children.

"Humor for sure," he said. "Kids love to laugh. The books that they ask for over and over are the books that really make them laugh. ... Another my kids really respond to is books with strong female protagonists."

In Miller's book, Matilda Macaroni finds herself longing to taste fancy dishes, but her parents are reluctant to try anything new. Hooked on chicken nuggets, hamburgers, and noodles (all popular dishes with picky kid eaters, Miller pointed out), the Macaronis hesitate to try anything out of the ordinary. In

her determination, young Matilda enlists the help of her grandmother and babysitter, who teach her fundamentals of cooking safety and some new recipes.

The book also includes a recipe for quiche that Miller said was created by him, his wife, and their three children working together. He said the idea for the premise of *How to Feed Your Parents* came from his own children.

"My oldest daughter got really interested in cooking several years ago," Miller said. "So my wife and I decided, 'Let's just teach her how to do it safely, so she can use a kitchen knife to chop things or she can use the stove safely if there's an adult around.' One of the things I emphasize in my book is that there is always an adult present."

Miller credits a Sacramento comic book store for giving him the inspiration to complete the book. The book was written over a series of open writing nights at Empire's Comics Vault.

"Writing is really solitary," he said. "So here you can come write with other people. I would go on those nights and work on a book or do freelance writing. And it was a great way to be committed and have an excuse to go write."

Next, Miller set out to pitch the book to agents and publishers. It eventually landed at Sterling Children's Books in New York City, which now features *How to Feed Your Parents* as its lead title for the season. *How to Feed Your Parents* was illustrated by Hatem Aly, who also illustrated *The Inquisitor's Tale*, a 2017 Newbery Honor Book.

Miller said he is planning to attend some Central Coast-based events in September to help promote the book and do more outreach about the value young children can get out of learning to cook.

"With my kids, if they have a hand in selecting and preparing what we're going to eat, they are far more willing to try it and taste it and enjoy it," he said. "Because they feel some ownership with it, it's not just mom and dad telling them to eat their vegetables." ○

Arts and Lifestyle Writer Rebecca Rose could eat chicken nuggets every day. Contact her at rrrose@santamariasun.com.

Foodies and kiddies

Ryan Miller's first book, *How to Feed Your Parents*, is scheduled to be released on Aug. 7. To preorder the book, visit Amazon.com. More info: standingintheshallows.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.

INCREDIBLES 2

What's it rated? **PG**
 What's it worth? **Matinee**
 Where's it showing? **Parks Plaza, Movies Lompoc**
PICK From Writer/Director Brad Bird (Ratatouille) comes the sequel *Incredibles 2*, 14 years after the original film premiered. Everyone's favorite family of superheroes is back in *Incredibles 2*—but this time Helen (voice of Holly Hunter) is in the spotlight, leaving Bob (voice of Craig T. Nelson) at home with Violet (voice of Sarah Vowell) and Dash (voice of Huck Milner) to navigate the day-to-day heroics of normal life. It's a tough transition for everyone, made tougher by the fact that the family is still unaware of baby Jack-Jack's emerging superpowers. When a new villain hatches a brilliant and dangerous plot, the family and Frozone (voice of Samuel L. Jackson) must find a way to work together again.

It's been more than a decade since the *Incredibles* first burst onto the scene and delighted audiences with its unique nostalgia-drenched take on what was then just an emerging powerhouse genre in contemporary cinema. That's more than a decade of *Avenging*, *Dark Knightin'*, *Deadpooling*, and world-saving that the crime-fighting family and the world missed out on during their absence. Hell, when the movie premiered Tobey Maguire was still Spiderman. Yes, there have been five Spiderman movies since the first *Incredibles* came out. I still have trouble believing that even though I just wrote it, which is why I was all the more impressed with Bird's follow-up for his super-powered family. It should be commended how he and the animation team at Disney's Pixar managed to be true to the original without kowtowing to modern trends. And while the film may be a shade darker than the first iteration, this new installment delivers on just about everything it promises and should leave families entertained until the next chapter arrives in theaters (which hopefully comes sooner than a decade and a half).

The new super villain that the *Incredibles* (well, mainly Helen) are up against this time is the Screen Slaver, a nemesis who uses our enslavement to technology to hypnotize his victims using any screen around. In this state, the Screen Slaver can get anyone to do his evil bidding and they won't even remember it later. At the same time, the Screen Slaver is very anti-technology and thinks people are overly dependent on it at the expense of

FILM REVIEWS continued page 40

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

More of the same

J.A. Bayona (*The Orphanage*, *The Impossible*, *A Monster Calls*) directs this follow up to *Jurassic World* (2015), which was about an island dinosaur park and a genetically modified hybrid dinosaur that goes on a killing spree and brings down the park. Three years later, the island has been abandoned and left to the dinosaurs, but then the island's dormant volcano rumbles to life, threatening to kill all the dinosaurs. Claire Dearing (Bruce Dallas Howard) and Owen Grady (Chris Pratt) mount a rescue mission, but do the powers that be have an ulterior motive to funding their attempt? (128 min.)

Glen: It wouldn't be wrong to call this new entry into the *Jurassic* series formulaic, paint-by-numbers, and rote, but should we expect anything more? After all, like most franchises, its purpose is to sell tickets and give audiences what they want, which is more of the same. Don't go into *Fallen Kingdom* expecting anything fresh or original, but if you have a hankering for more dino mayhem, condemnation of human hubris and greed, a child in peril and in need of a savior, and pithy dialogue wrapped in a slick, well-directed-and-acted, ultra-expensive blockbuster—booyah! You got it! After the opening set piece on Isla Nublar where we see mercenaries doing nefarious stuff and then a cut to a U.S. Senate meeting trying to determine if the island's remaining dinosaurs should be rescued or left to perish in the volcano, we're introduced to our Dinosaur Protection Group, led by Claire, which also includes feisty dino veterinarian Zia Rodriguez (Daniella Pineda) and nerdy tech expert Franklin Webb (Justice Smith). Claire gets a call from *Jurassic Park* founder John Hammond's former partner Benjamin

JURASSIC WORLD: FALLEN KINGDOM

What's it rated? **PG-13**
 What's it worth, Anna? **Matinee**
 What's it worth, Glen? **Matinee**
 Where's it showing? **Hi-Way Drive-In, Movies Lompoc, Parks Plaza**



T-REX! The dinos are back and badder than ever in this sequel to *Jurassic World*.

Lockwood (James Cromwell), promising a well-funded humanitarian mission to save as many dinosaurs as possible before the volcano blows. There's just one catch: Lockwood and his right-hand man Eli Mills (Rafe Spall) really want her to save Blue, the velociraptor trained by Owen. Faster than you can say "sexual tension," Claire has enlisted Owen and they're off to Isla Nublar to meet Ken Wheatley (Ted Levine), who's leading the security team. Do things go as planned? It wouldn't be a *Jurassic World* movie if they did! The action is exciting, the characters are engaging, and the dinosaurs are ferocious! Mission accomplished.

Anna: I've been hooked on all things *Jurassic* since day one, from mad crushing on Sam Neill as Dr. Allen Grant as a 9-year-old, through the rough waters of *Jurassic Park III*, and onto the storyline revamp the *Jurassic World* movies have presented. While my heart still beats most strongly for classic beasts like the iconic T-Rex and raptors, the new hybrid dinos make for one hell of a predator. The film opens up with a scene especially meant for fans of the original: Dr. Ian Malcolm (Jeff Goldblum) is in front a Senate hearing in an attempt to dissuade them from stopping the extinction

of the creatures trapped on Isla Nublar, saying that humans have played God so badly, they have created their own pathway toward extinction of their own species. Claire's bleeding heart for the creatures she once cared for can't be overcome by any logic behind that appeal, and her focus is concise—save the dinosaurs whatever the cost, even if that means begging an ex-boyfriend to come along. Cue action, adventure, gigantic scary creatures, one-liners up the wazoo, and everything else you can expect from this particular film formula. But hey, if the formula results in two hours of a rollicking good time watching bad dudes get chomped on, I'm in! Even though I couldn't hold out for the epilogue to see what's in store (seriously, those credits were like 15 minutes long!), you can bet my butt will be planted in that seat opening weekend and a childlike smile of wonder will be all over my face. **Glen:** Speaking of childlike wonder, *Fallen Kingdom's* child in question is Lockwood's granddaughter Maisie (Isabella Sermon), a precocious little girl who has the run of her grandfather's sprawling estate and drives her nanny, Iris (Geraldine Chaplin), crazy. Lockwood is of ailing health and loves Maisie but can't keep up, and it's not long before the little girl begins to suspect Eli Mills has a hidden



PAWN? Claire Dearing (Bryce Dallas Howard) is hired to mount a rescue mission to save dinosaurs on a volcanic island, but what's driving the rescue mission?

agenda beyond her grandfather's wish to save the dinos. After the action on the island, we return to Lockwood's estate for the final act, and though sprawling, with dinos in the middle of it all, the estate quickly turns claustrophobic and deadly. It's exactly the ending the film is calling for. In fact, all the way through, I kept thinking, "This is exactly the right piece of dialogue, freshly introduced character, or moment of action." That's both a compliment and a criticism because as well-crafted as the whole affair is, it feels like film writing by committee, aimed at the least common denominator audience. This is a big, fun, entertaining, summer popcorn movie that audiences will like but critics will condemn thanks to the law of diminishing returns. You can only throw the same thing at the screen so many times before it becomes surprise-free, and I'd say we're just about there. But if you're interested, see it on the big screen for full effect. **Anna:** I personally prefer when the island is the main locale, but as for creating the feeling of being trapped, the mansion certainly did the trick. The change in location also introduces a big group of animals to the world outside of their island, and the population at large to the possibility of dinosaurs roaming among them if they were to escape. By this point, you would think everyone would take a lesson from past events and learn that if things can go wrong with dinosaurs and humans mixing, they will. Alas, the power of greed continues to overpower common sense, and Henry Wu's (B.D. Wong) genetic handiwork continues to wreak havoc around every corner. Fantastic cinema *Jurassic World: Fallen Kingdom* is not—I'll still watch the original anytime over the other films in the franchise—but it absolutely delivers a polished piece of dino magic meant to be seen on the big screen. ○

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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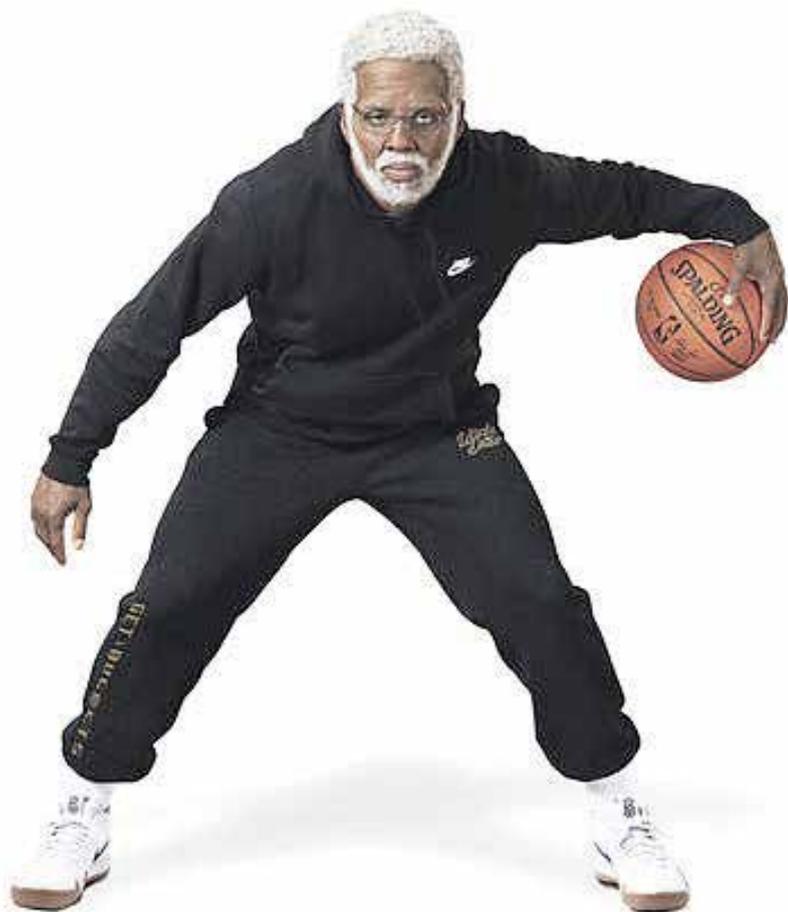
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SLAM DUNK: Dax (LilRel Howery) attempts to get his old basketball team together to win a local street tournament in *Uncle Drew*.

FILM REVIEWS from page 39

actually living life, which seems a bit ironic.

I would have liked to have seen a deeper exploration of gender roles, but I kind of get that doing so would have made the movie even longer (and at 118 minutes, this one is asking a lot of its younger audiences, even with multiple action scenes and an endless array of power displays). The film is certainly not without its missteps, specifically in how it handles Frozone's wife, Honey (voice of Kimberly Adair Clark), who we only hear nagging her husband and we never see. She really does just feel like a recycled gag from 2004's *Incredibles*. How hard would it have been to design a character and give her some meaningful screen time besides reducing her to some cheap foil for Jackson's Frozone to briefly interact with?

As for the villain reveal of the Screen Slaver, it's not going to come as a shock to seasoned moviegoers but may catch a few distracted parents, and especially kids, off guard. That being said, I have to hand it to Bird for how he packages an action sequence and his apparent skill at pairing together super powers for battles like a sommelier with fine wine. The folks over at Marvel Studios could learn a lot from these films in terms of crafting fight scenes that, although almost always formulaic, can still be delivered in ways that make them feel fresh. Bird proves that multiple times throughout *Incredibles 2* (just watch Elastigirl interact with her bike and try to tell me that's not some *cool* out-of-the-box thinking for a chase scene involving a human being essentially made of indestructible rubber). I also wanted to take a minute to commend Bird's choice to leave cell phones out of the picture, allowing his film to flex its muscles without pocket-sized distractions. It truly speaks to the traditionalist bent of the series, which seems to draw from 1950s era super hero shows and comics, as much as even earlier, "Golden Age" science fiction classics. Bird gives audiences a glimpse of how his generation and those before him viewed the future, and while those dreams may be dated, they still come across as new, exciting, and utterly unique, and that's pretty incredible. (118 min.)

—Spencer Cole

JAWS

What's it rated? **PG**

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

The classic 1975 film *Jaws* takes audiences to a summer night on fictional Atlantic resort Amity Island, where Chrissie (Susan Backlinie) decides to take a moonlight skinny dip while her friends party on the beach. Yanked suddenly below the ocean surface, she never returns. When pieces of her wash ashore, Police Chief Brody (Roy Scheider) suspects the worst, but Mayor Vaughn (Murray Hamilton), mindful of the lucrative tourist trade and the approaching 4th of July holiday, refuses to put the island on a business-killing shark alert. After the shark dines on a few more victims, the mayor orders the local fishermen to catch the culprit. Satisfied with the shark they find, the greedy mayor reopens the beaches, despite the warning from visiting ichthyologist Hooper (Richard Dreyfuss) that the attacks were probably caused by a far more formidable great white. One more fatality later, Brody and Hooper join forces with flinty old salt Quint (Robert Shaw), the only local fisherman willing to take on a great white—especially since the price is right. The three ride off on Quint's boat "The Orca," soon coming face-to-teeth with the enemy. (124 min.)

—Universal Pictures

JURASSIC WORLD: FALLEN KINGDOM

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

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

See *Sun* Screen.

SICARIO: DAY OF THE SOLDADO

What's it rated? **R**

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

NEW In *Sicario: Day of the Soldado*, the series begins a new chapter. In the drug war, there are no rules—and as the cartels have begun trafficking terrorists across the U.S. border, federal agent Matt Graver (Josh Brolin) calls on the mysterious Alejandro (Benicio Del Toro), whose family was murdered by a cartel kingpin, to escalate the war in nefarious ways. Alejandro kidnaps the kingpin's daughter to inflame the conflict—but when the girl is seen as collateral damage, her fate will come between the two men as they question everything they are fighting for. (122 min.)

—Columbia Pictures

PHOTO COURTESY OF COLUMBIA PICTURES



HOSTAGE: In *Sicario: Day of the Soldado*, a kingpin's daughter becomes a bargaining chip in the midst of the drug war.

UNCLE DREW

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

Where's it showing? **Parks Plaza, Movies Lompoc**

NEW After draining his life savings to enter a team in the Rucker Classic street ball tournament in Harlem, Dax (LilRel Howery) is dealt a series of unfortunate setbacks, including losing his team to his longtime rival (Nick Kroll). Desperate to win the tournament and the cash prize, Dax stumbles upon the man, the myth, the legend Uncle Drew (NBA All-Star Kyrie Irving) and convinces him to return to the court one more time. The two men embark on a road trip to round up Drew's old basketball squad (Shaquille O'Neal, Chris Webber, Reggie Miller, Nate Robinson, and Lisa Leslie) and prove that a group of septuagenarians can still win the big one. (103 min.)

—Lionsgate

THE FIRST PURGE

What's it rated? **R**

Where's it showing? **Parks Plaza, Hi-Way Drive-In (Starts July 4)**

NEW Behind every tradition lies a revolution. Next Independence Day, witness the rise of our country's 12 hours of annual lawlessness. Welcome to the movement that began as a simple experiment: The First Purge. To push the crime rate below 1 percent for the rest of the year, the New Founding Fathers of America (NFFA) test a sociological theory that vents aggression for one night in one isolated community. But when the violence of oppressors meets the rage of the marginalized, the contagion will explode from the trial-city borders and spread across the nation. (112 min.)

—Universal Pictures

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

EVIL UNDER THE SUN

When? **1982**

What's it rated? **PG**

Where's it available? **iTunes, YouTube, Amazon Prime**

I have a deep love for cozy mysteries of all sorts but one movie stands above all the rest as my favorite of all time: *Evil Under the Sun*.

The film, based on the Agatha Christie novel of the same name, features Belgian detective Hercule Poirot (Peter Ustinov) who is summoned to help find a missing diamond by Sir Horace Platt (Colin Blakely). The diamond was a gift for Arlena Marshall (Dame Diana Rigg) but when they broke up and Marshall returned the diamond, Platt discovers it is a fake. Believing Marshall to have swapped out the real one for the fugazi, Platt sends Poirot to retrieve it from an island resort in the Adriatic Sea run by Daphne Castle (Dame Maggie Smith). That's where he finds Marshall on her honeymoon with the wealthy Kenneth Marshall (Denis Quilley) and his young daughter. It immediately becomes apparent Marshall is carrying on with Patrick Redfern (Nicolas Clay) right in front of them all, including Redfern's anemic wife Christine (Jane Birkin). Then, of course, someone is murdered.

I own it and watch it quite regularly, which is an accomplishment for a film where I already know whodunnit and why. But it's not so much the actual mystery, brilliantly constructed by Christie as usual, that makes this movie so rewatchable. It's the stellar cast of absolute film legends, camping it up in

full 1980s splendor, and the covet-worthy fashions that keep me wanting to see it over and over.

This is a film that features Rigg (who would later go on to star in her own cozy mystery series, *The Mrs. Bradley Mysteries*) and Smith playing out a lifelong showbiz feud. It's a film that has the late great Roddy McDowall camping it up as a soon-to-be hasbeen writer. Not to mention the always charming Ustinov, who played Poirot in three movies decades ago and still holds up as one of the best to ever take on the role. And *Clay in that speedo*. So many screen icons, so little time to fangirl.

The costumes are another huge part of what make this film legendary. Birkin was such a fashion icon at the time that one of the most famous pieces of fashion in history is named after her, the Hermès Birkin bag. And in this film, Birkin cements why she was one of the most sought after muses in fashion. Her looks are masterpieces, from the demure



evening gown she sulks around in for the dinner party, to the show-stopping number she parades around in. Not to give anything away, but one of her amazing looks even becomes a sticking point for Poirot as he tries to piece the mystery together.

There is no higher fashion peak than watching Rigg in a Chinese straw hat spilling all the tea on her enemies, as they cower at her feet. I watch this film just so I can mimic her epic bitch face during the dance number.

Aside from A&E's stellar *Poirot* series, *Evil Under the Sun* is quite simply one of the best-filmed adaptations of a Christie novel ever. (117 min.)

—Rebecca Rose

PHOTO COURTESY OF COLUMBIA-EMI-WARNER/UNIVERSAL PICTURES



WHODUNNIT: Dame Diana Rigg is a doomed fashion icon in 1982's *Evil Under the Sun*.

Storm into Norman

Norman at the Skyview Los Alamos Hotel is a must-see

BY REBECCA ROSE

By now you're probably familiar with all the restaurants and wine bars Los Alamos has to offer on Bell Street. But now it's time to look on the other side of the highway.

On the east side of Highway 101, at the top of a short steep drive, sits Norman, the restaurant housed in the newly renovated Skyview Los Alamos hotel.

If you're starting to connect the dots between "old motel in a remote area" and the name "Norman," you're not imagining things. The name is a devilishly whimsical nod to Alfred Hitchcock's *Psycho* and Norman Bates, the chilling character forever loyal to his mother. But there's nothing scary about the food served up inside.

The tightly executed menu is the work of Chef Will Hanco, who formerly worked at Full of Life Flatbread under Chef Clark Staub. Hanco is a rugged, laid back sort who seems to fit in well with the California modern ranch style at Skyview.

The decor inside Norman is distinct from the more western-influenced style of the rest of the motel. It's more Hollywood glam meets French bistro on the riviera. Sitting outside on the beautiful patio overlooking the rolling hills of Los Alamos feels like a galaxy away from life in the Santa Maria Valley. It's luxurious but not intimidating; the kind of venue I'd feel comfortable in wearing a pair of jeans or an evening gown.

The bar is backed by a long line of windows that open up to serve customers outside. Inside, the bar really adheres to the 1950s vibe Norman aspires to. Cocktails are old school cool, including the Old Fashioned, Manhattan, and Negroni, to name a few. My favorite is the French 75, which is lemon juice and gin topped with bubbly Champagne. The bar smells herbaceous, thanks to a variety of fresh ingredients that go in almost every drink.

The menu is compact (for now) but still manages to offer a variety of options ranging from beef to seafood and even has some vegan and vegetarian selections. What's nice about Hanco's menu is that everything is far from dull or predictable.

My first surprise was the shrimp cocktail. Many of my friends and colleagues have heard me bemoaning the sad state of this classic menu item in contemporary restaurants. (Mixing

four chopped up baby shrimp into a giant vat of unseasoned cocktail sauce is not a "shrimp cocktail," and you should be banned for life from the food industry for doing so.)

But Norman does not cut corners. I had five hearty-sized Mexican prawns, but the real eye-opener was the sauce. Because, as Hanco explained, they use their housemade ketchup in the cocktail sauce, there is an ever-so-slight hint of allspice that hits the palate. The dish offers the heat of the horseradish and warmth of the nutty spice balanced with the creamy slices of avocado and chilled shrimp. It's a simple dish with a nice, complex flavor.

I nixed the salad in favor of soup—roasted tomato and red pepper (although the roots and fruits salad with Babe Farms beets looked amazing). The soup was delicate and well balanced, and Hanco said one of the things he might do is incorporate more vegan or vegetarian soups, which is a smart idea for soup fans such as myself.

Hitchcockian Hitching Post

Norman is located at 9150 Highway 101, Los Alamos. More info: (805) 344-0104.

EATS continued page 42



HOLLYWOOD HAVEN: The interior of Norman at the Skyview Los Alamos hotel is a casually elegant affair, with nods to old school Hollywood glam.



A DORK FOR PORK: The pork chop at Norman is sous vide and then wrapped in a layer of caul fat. The final dish comes served with a fresh summer succotash of corn, okra, tomatoes, snap peas, and is topped with stone fruit.



BOTTOMS UP: The bar at Norman features a range of classic cocktails starting at \$12. Selections include the French 75, a lemon-flavored drink topped with a splash of Champagne.



BIG SHRIMPIN': The shrimp cocktail at Norman has big Mexican prawns in a sauce made with the venue's housemade ketchup.

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EATS

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But it was the pork dish that was the star of the evening. Hanko told me they first sous vide the pork, which results in a tender juicy chop. The pork is then wrapped in caul fat and seared. The dish is served with a succotash of corn, snap peas, okra, cherry tomatoes, and more seasonal vegetables and then served with sliced stone fruit. It's a nice spin on the "pork chops and applesauce" classic, paying homage to local fruits and vegetables.

The pork is not aggressively seasoned, allowing the aromatics to blossom on the palate. The combination of the sweet corn and peas pairs nicely with the bright acidity of the tomato and the dish offers a good range of texture. It's one of those great dishes that really shines with one big bite of all the ingredients together.

Locality is another priority for Hanko. The chef said he wants to source as many items as possible from Los Alamos and the surrounding area, and he's off to a good start with several dishes already featuring Babe Farms products. For Hanko, it's the first opportunity he's had to put his own personal stamp on a menu and he's chosen a smart and intriguing direction to take it in. Norman has a lot of potential, considering where they are starting from, and it will be fun to watch the venue grow as Hanko experiments more with ideas and ingredients.

My advice is to grab your biggest pair of sunglasses and your prettiest caftan, order a few of their vintage-style drinks, and spend the day lounging poolside reminiscing about old lovers you met in Paris. Trust me, there's nothing scary about this Norman. ○

Arts and Lifestyle Writer Rebecca Rose is old fashioned. Contact her at rrose@santamariasun.com.

Reccamendations:

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

• Local chefs are still memorializing the late Anthony Bourdain. On July 14, chefs Brooke Stockwell and James Owens, of Solvang's K'Syrah Catering and Events, will host a dinner in his honor. The meal will feature their take on some of Bourdain's favorite foods, including Cacio e Pepe and Korean Fried Chicken. The event runs from 6 to 9 p.m.; tickets are \$50. More info: ksyrah-solvang-anthony-bourdain-tickets-july-14.eventbrite.com.

PHOTO BY REBECCA ROSE



• Big thanks to the Pacific Conservatory Theatre (PCPA), which invited me to their

EATS continued page 44

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EATS

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annual **Summerfest**, which helps raise money for their internship program. Featuring local wineries and eateries, the event included tastings of tacos from **555 Lounge & Bar** at the Santa Ynez Marriott, corn on the cob from **Root 246**, salad from **Hill Haven Provisions**, and many more.

• I recently stopped into **Naughty Oak Brewing Company's** Santa Ynez location to check out what's new and found a few new favorites. Fog Monster is a New England IPA made with some of the Australia's Summer Hop owner **Steve Kitts** was so excited about when he spoke to me last year about his upcoming beers. Try some for yourself at **3569 Sagunto St., suite 101, Santa Ynez.**

• Speaking of great events, I was lucky enough to attend the **Vintner Festival** in Nipomo at the Monarch Club. In addition to discovering some great new wines at the festival, I also happened to sample some of the grub and drinks at the bar at **Adelina's Bistro**, next to where the event was hosted. The bar serves barrel-aged cocktails (pictured), starting at \$10, which are really unique and flavorful. Get your drink on at **1645 Trilogy Parkway, Nipomo.**

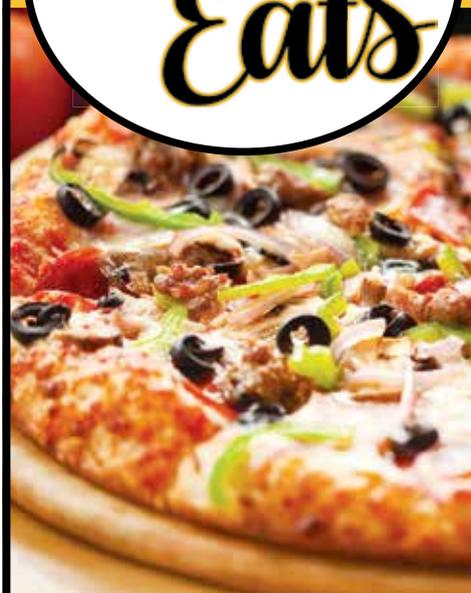
• Did you know you can mix and match the flavors of the flatbread pizzas at **Pizzeria Bello Forno**? Well, you do now. I recently shared a half-and-half of the salumi along with the smoked speck and pineapple (pictured on page 42). The salt and smokiness of the speck offers a nice contrast to the pineapple, which is thinly sliced so it's not as clunky and obtrusive as other versions of the pineapple on pizza. Try it at **119 E. Clark Ave., Orcutt.** ○



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\$1895 1326 Sapphire – 3 + 2, Morro Estates 1stry hm w/mostly tile thru-out, formal L/R, D/R, F/P, lg mstr ste, open kit, ldry rm/hk-ups, 2car grg, yd/grdnr, no pets.

\$1895 938 Alba Court – 3 + 2, Pacific Crest 1stry hm w/open kit, L/R, F/P, F/R, ldry rm/hkups, oversized 2car grg, sm yd/grdnr, 1 small dog considered w/add'l dep.

\$1850 1246 Eliza Drive – 3 + 2, Strawberry Creek 1stry hm w/open flrpln w/Satillo tile/carpet, open kit, ldry rm/hkups, 2car grg, covr'd porch, yd/grdnr, no pets.



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\$3000 714 St. Andrews Way – 4 + 2.5, Country Club hm on ¾ acre, D/R, stp dwn L/R, w/gas F/P, sep lndry rm w/wshr & dryer, wtr softner unit incl, grdnr, sm pet neg w/dep.

\$2000 4195 Arcturus Avenue – 3 + 2, Immaculate in north VV, freshly painted, all newer laminate wood flrng thru-out except bdrms that have newer crpt, F/P in formal L/R-Dining area, kitch w/refrig, cook top, microwave, brkfst bar, F/R-D/R, walking distance to schools, no pets.

\$2000 1229 Village Meadows – 3 + 2.5, Gorgeous Meadows 2stry hm w/unique upgrades, 2car att grg, d/s w/wood flrng, tile in 3 bthrms, L/R w/gas F/P, kitch flrpln has center isld, opens to D/R, lndry rm w/w/d incl, backyd well maintained, pool, tennis courts, play ground access, no pets.

\$1600 1223 Riverside Drive – 3 + 2.5, 2stry in NE, L/R w/F/P, D/R exits to covrd patio, all applc incldng fridge, u/s has all 3 bdrms incl spacious mst ste attc to mstr ba, double car atch grg w/opener, close to schools & shopping.

\$1400 209 Village Circle – 2 + 2, Gated Twnhm w/unique flrpln, one level on second flr w/3 balconies, 1car grg, L/R is bright and open w/vaulted celing, F/P, lrg slider to balcony, kitch w/lots of cabnts, gas cooktop, pntry, lndry rm w/w/d hkups, pool access, no pets.

\$1350 835 E. Cypress – 2 + 1.5, spacious 2stry townhm, lots of storage, F/P in L/R, w/d in unit, sm enclosed yd, carport, wtr paid.

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