

SUN



On the outside

Prisoners face uncertain future after release under state's realignment law [8]

BY CHRIS MCGUINNESS

AT THE MOVIES



Operation Finale: Going after Adolf [29]

NEWS Law enforcement sound off on new bail reform law [10]

MUSIC Concert pianist brings classics to Lompoc [22]

ARTS Westmont professor will read poetry in Orcutt [24]

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SEPTEMBER 6 - SEPTEMBER 13, 2018 VOL. 19 NO. 27

After the California Legislature passed new prison realignment laws in 2011, the population numbers in county jails changed, but so did the parole responsibilities of certain inmates released into counties from the state system. Since AB 109 was signed by Gov. Jerry Brown, Santa Barbara and SLO counties have worked to help those released re-enter public life in a proactive way with programs for addiction and housing, and for preventing recidivism. For this week's cover story, Chris McGuinness, staff writer for the *Sun's* sister paper, *New Times*, corresponded with a California inmate who will return to the Central Coast later this year once released. McGuinness also spoke with Santa Barbara and SLO county officials about what's available for prisoners when they get out [8].

Also this week, locals have feelings about the oncoming closure of Orchard Supply Hardware [7], county law enforcement is "guardedly optimistic" about new bail reform bill [10], the Lompoc Concert Association begins its 71st season with a concert pianist [22], a Westmont College professor will read his poetry in Orcutt [24], an artistic couple share their work at the Santa Maria Public Library [27], and Arts and Lifestyle Writer Rebecca Rose dishes about her experience on a food-themed talk show [31].

OUT ON THEIR OWN: After serving a sentence in state prison, inmates released under AB 109 must make a new life while hoping to connect to county resources.

Joe Payne,
managing editor

Cover design and illustration by Alex Zuniga

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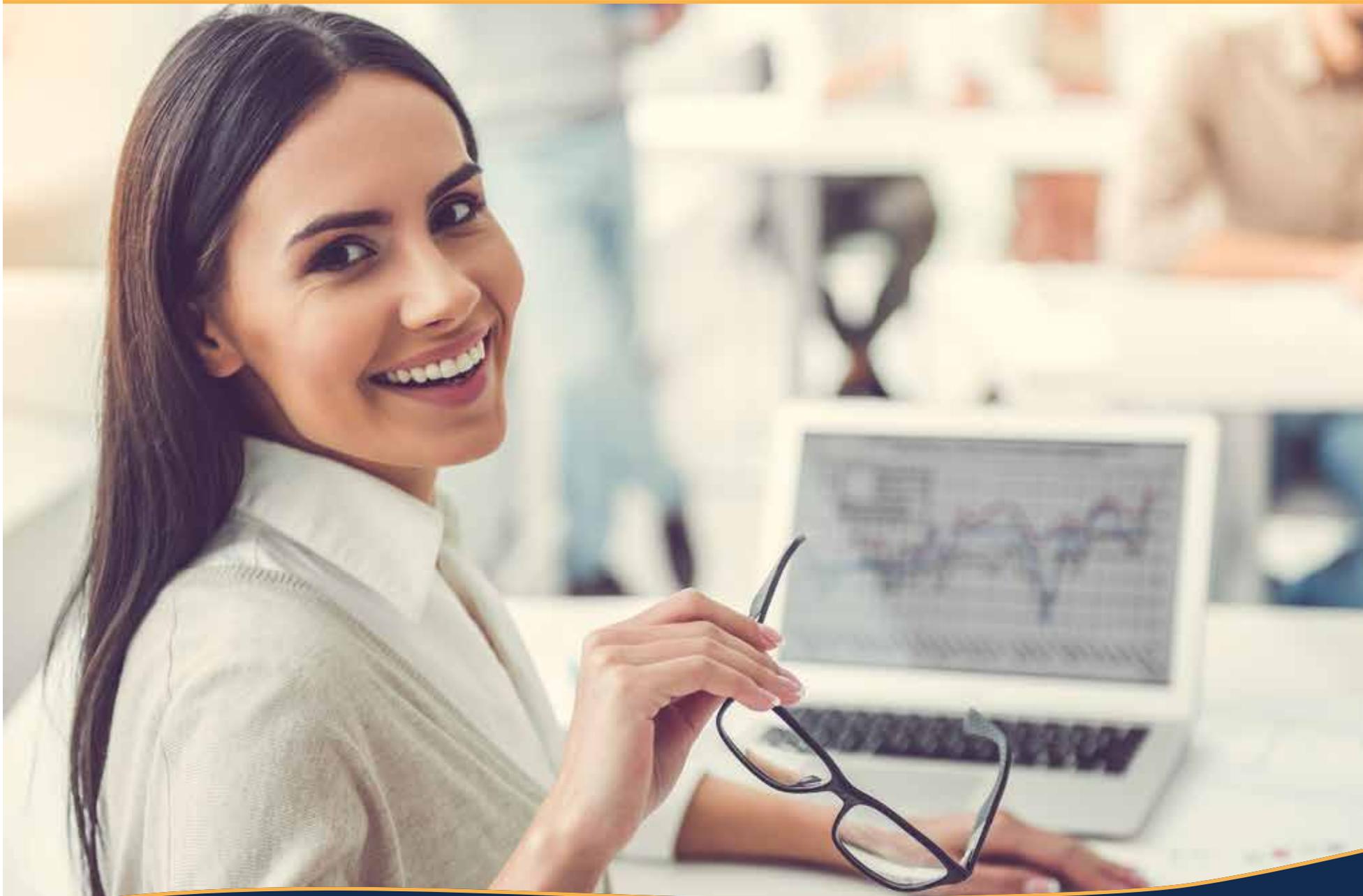
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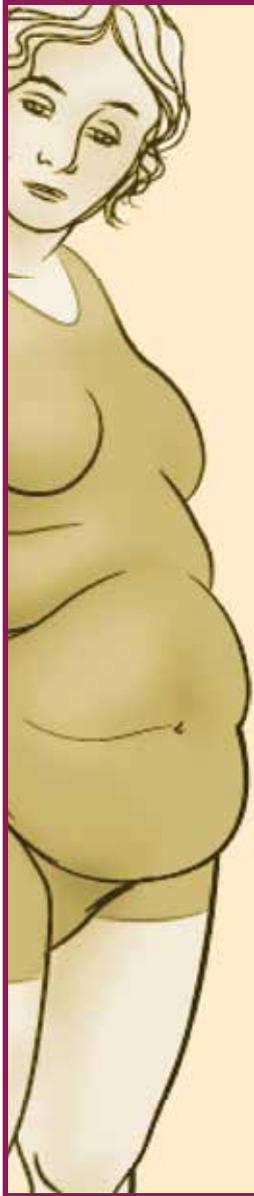
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Political Watch

• The Santa Barbara County Registrar of Voters office issued a call for volunteers to serve as poll workers in the Nov. 6 general election, detailing the need for nearly 170 precinct boards and encouraging large businesses to allow employees the day off to work the polls. County Clerk-Recorder-Assessor and Registrar of Voters **Joseph E. Holland** said in a statement that “poll workers are on the frontline of democracy; without them voting does not happen.” Those who do volunteer to work the polls will receive a stipend of \$180 to \$240 for helping on Election Day and attending training sessions prior. Poll workers must be registered California voters or a lawful permanent resident of the U.S., be able to follow written and verbal instruction, be available for the training class, and be able to serve on Election Day from 6 a.m. to 9 p.m. or until closing procedures have been completed. More information is available at smpolls@co.santa-barbara.ca.us or sbcassessor.com/elections/pollworker.aspx.

• Rep. **Salud Carbajal** (D-Santa Barbara) and Rep. **Don Bacon** (R-Nebraska), both first-term members of the House Armed Services Committee, visited Vandenberg Air Force Base on Aug. 30 as part of a bipartisan congressional exchange program. “This is an effort to continue to build relationships and continue to find common ground,” Carbajal told **KCOY News** in a televised interview at the base entrance. Carbajal and Bacon discussed national security, Carbajal’s proposed Gun Violence Restraining Order Act, and the possibility of a new branch of the military proposed by President **Donald Trump** called the Space Force. The representatives visited Cal Poly SLO’s California Cybersecurity Institute the day prior to discuss the program’s progress. The congressional exchange program also included a visit by Carbajal to Bacon’s district in Nebraska in May, which included discussions about transportation, agriculture, and national defense. “During our first term serving in Congress together, Mr. Bacon and I have not only worked across the aisle on legislative issues related to health care and immigration, but we have also developed a great bipartisan friendship,” Carbajal said in a statement issued before the visit to Vandenberg. “Civility and bipartisanship remain guiding principles of my service to the Central Coast in order to find common ground and improve the lives of families in the 24th District.”

• Republican candidate for California’s 24th District for the U.S. House of Representatives, **Justin Fareed**, received an endorsement from Speaker **Paul Ryan** (R-Wisconsin), according to a Aug. 31 release from Fareed’s campaign. “I’m proud to be endorsing Justin Fareed because he is the type of dynamic leader that the Central Coast deserves in Congress,” Ryan stated. “His fresh voice would be a major asset in Washington, and I know that he will work tirelessly to serve the constituents for the 24th District. We need more young and capable leaders in the House, and Justin Fareed would add tremendous value.”

• State Assemblymember **Jordan Cunningham** (R-San Luis Obispo) received an endorsement from the Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors’ North County representatives, 4th District Supervisor **Peter Adam** and 5th District Supervisor **Steve Lavagnino**, according to a release from Cunningham’s campaign issued Aug. 30. “Jordan has been a great partner in helping Santa Barbara County residents find relief from the fire tax and helping secure tax credits for agriculture in our county,” Adam stated. “He has continued to be a voice of reason for us in Sacramento.” Cunningham is running for re-election for California’s 35th Assembly District, which includes San Luis Obispo County and much of the Santa Maria Valley, in the Nov. 6 general election. Cunningham is challenged by Democratic candidate **Bill Ostrander**, who has received endorsements from U.S. House Rep. **Salud Carbajal** (D-Santa Barbara) and the Sierra Club among others. ○

Farming for Life to use veggies as low-cost diabetes treatment

Santa Barbara County doctors are testing out a new prescription medication to treat residents struggling with type 2 diabetes: veggies.

Sansum Diabetes Research Institute, a Santa Barbara-based diabetes research and health care clinic, was recently awarded a four-year U.S. Department of Agriculture grant to continue its investigation into ways to better help local low-income diabetes patients navigate their symptoms.

The \$400,000 grant, which requires matching funds to be raised locally, will entirely support the official launch of Farming for Life, a program that will use locally grown veggies as a low-cost, alternative treatment option for locals living with diabetes.

Through the program, doctors will be able to prescribe and provide patients with vegetable-based diets, according to David Kerr, director of research and innovation at the Sansum Diabetes Research Institute. A healthy diet can decrease the severity of risk factors associated with type 2 diabetes, Kerr said, and it’s much less expensive and causes far fewer side effects than most diabetes medications.

But not everyone can afford to purchase low-calorie, organic vegetables every week.

About 21 percent of Santa Barbara residents are food insecure, according to the Sansum Diabetes Research Institute. More than half are overweight or obese, and the local incidence of diabetes and prediabetes is even higher than the state’s, which lands at 55 percent. Individuals with diabetes have health care costs that are twice as high as those without the disease, Kerr said.

“So we’re hoping the use of medical prescriptions of vegetables will reduce the economic burden [on diabetes patients] by improving control and not having to buy multiple, expensive medications,” Kerr said, “and also by just in general being healthier.”

The institute is hoping to recruit at least 400 adults with or at risk of contracting type 2 diabetes over the next several years, Kerr said. At recruitment and over the course of programming, measurements will be taken to determine changes in diabetes control, food security, and overall health.

Organic vegetables grown at Fairview Gardens and other local farms will be free to participants in exchange for health and research data. Each week, Farming for Life participants will present their veggie prescriptions to staff at the Fresh Food Pharmacy, located in the Unity Shoppe of Santa Barbara, where they will then select a week’s worth of vegetables—enough to feed their entire families.

Residents throughout Santa Barbara County are welcome to participate, Kerr said, but the institute is still looking for organizations interested in partnering with Farming for Life to bring the program to North County. The institute needs North County doctors, farmers, and food transporters and distributors in order to set up a satellite location in the area.

“And actually we really want to do it in the north because that’s where there are really disproportionate rates of diabetes,” Kerr said, “especially among the Latino population.”

Aside from recruitment, Kerr said the Farming for Life model is ready to go, and he hopes to have the program up and running early in the new year.

Most of the program’s kinks were worked out during the institute’s three-month pilot,

AN APPLE A DAY:

Individuals with diabetes have health care costs that are twice as high as those without the disease, according to the Sansum Diabetes Research Institute. Farming for Life, a program that will use locally grown veggies as a low-cost, alternative treatment option for locals living with diabetes, aims to ease that financial burden.



during which 23 adults with diabetes were prescribed and provided with veggies. Kerr said participants saw real results—weight loss, improved control over diabetes symptoms, and lowered blood pressure.

That’s what happened to Elizabeth, a Lompoc resident and diabetes patient who participated in the Farming for Life pilot program.

Elizabeth, who asked to have her last name omitted for medical privacy reasons, said she largely ate carbohydrates and calorie-dense foods before joining Farming for Life. Her sugar levels were always too high, and she had been planning to quit her diabetes medications. She heard about Farming for Life, and decided to go organic.

At first, Elizabeth said cooking vegetable-based meals was challenging for her whole family. But soon, as she got more familiar with cooking vegetables, she said she started seeing results. Her body started feeling full without carbs, she started to crave veggies, and she started to lose weight. Even her children started eating healthier, and although the pilot program is over, Elizabeth said she still buys and cooks organic vegetables every week.

Soon, she said she might be able to quit taking some of her diabetes medications.

“It’s fun and that’s what I like,” Elizabeth said, adding that while she was skeptical of the program at first, she hopes other diabetes patients will try it out. “So now I’m the voice for them, and I’m trying to recommend the program to my friends.”

Potential program participants who are food insecure and have diabetes or prediabetes can contact Mary Kujan, project coordinator for Farming for Life at (805) 682-7640, Ext. 243, or mkujan@sansum.org.

—Kasey Bubnash

Santa Barbara County fire chief to retire in October

Santa Barbara County Fire Department Chief Eric Peterson formally announced Aug. 31 plans to retire by the end of October.

Peterson, who was appointed to the position in January 2015 by the Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors, said that while he’ll surely miss his work with the fire department, he felt it was time to let someone else step up and take the reins.

“I turn 54 in October and there comes a point where you feel like it’s time to give someone else a shot at it,” Peterson said, “and I’ve kind of reached that point.”

Peterson has worked in the county Fire Department for nearly 32 years, since he started as a firefighter in 1987 and eventually climbed the ranks, serving as an engineer, captain, president of Firefighters Local 2046, training battalion chief, operations battalion chief, fire marshal, and deputy fire chief before his stint as chief.

In that time, Peterson battled some of the most damaging fires in California history, including the Painted Cave, Zaca, Alamo, Whittier, Thomas, and the Holiday, according to a county press release.

Peterson said he expects it will feel strange to leave the department, but he said he’d like to shift his focus to his two young children, and possibly a new career path. Despite some speculation that Peterson might run for elected office, he said, “I don’t have any desire to do that, but I like the idea of staying involved in some way.”

The Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors has not yet named an interim chief, according to a county press release, but one should be chosen before Peterson’s retirement. The search for a permanent chief will begin sometime this month.

Although Peterson said he still has some final touches he’d like to make on the department before he leaves next month—he’d like to

NEWS continued page 7

Weekend Weather

KSBY NEWS
Microclimate Weather Forecast
Dave Hovde
KSBY Chief Meteorologist

<p>Thursday</p> <p>COASTAL > High 76 Low 58 INLAND > High 89 Low 60</p>	<p>Friday</p> <p>COASTAL > High 78 Low 57 INLAND > High 95 Low 59</p>
<p>Saturday</p> <p>COASTAL > High 79 Low 57 INLAND > High 95 Low 59</p>	<p>Sunday</p> <p>COASTAL > High 77 Low 55 INLAND > High 93 Low 59</p>

Friday and Saturday look hot inland as high pressure peaks again, but coastal onshore winds will help elsewhere.



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The last good buy

Liquidation sales commence as customers and employees mourn looming closure of Orchard Supply Hardware

BY KASEY BUBNASH

It's been a little more than 10 years since Kelly White O'Neill became a self-described "serious customer" of Santa Maria's Orchard Supply Hardware (OSH) store.

As an avid gardener, do-it-yourselfer, and the owner of a historic home, O'Neill said she frequently stops in at OSH for its notoriously friendly, knowledgeable workforce and its unbeatable gardening department. She's a loyal user of the OSH rewards program and loves the mom-and-pop atmosphere that she said so many corporate stores lack.

So O'Neill was devastated when parent company Lowe's announced on Aug. 22 that it would be closing all 99 OSH stores in California, Oregon, and Florida by the end of this fiscal year. In a press release, Lowe's cited low earnings and a need to "focus on its core home improvement business" as the key reasons for shuttering the beloved chain.

Massive liquidation sales will run throughout all OSH locations for the next several weeks, according to the release, but devoted customers like O'Neill are

'I've just never liked big, gaping, sprawling stores like that, so I always loved OSH because it was intimate, easy to navigate . . . '

—Kelly White O'Neill

still grappling with the news.

"The main thing for me is I'm kind of mall and big-box impaired," O'Neill said, laughing. "I've just never liked big, gaping, sprawling stores like that, so I always loved OSH because it was intimate, easy to navigate, and it still seemed to have everything you needed."

Most OSH locations offer similar services, but O'Neill said Santa Maria's store was truly something special. It offers a drive-up loading service for larger purchases that O'Neill said she has always loved, and it has a roster of expert employees on deck at all times. That includes one unnamed woman in the paint department who O'Neill said is "a paint savant or something."

Several other local OSH lovers said they'd most miss the store's small-town feel and uniquely helpful staff—especially the paint lady—on the *Sun's* Facebook page on Aug. 29. The loss of its gardening section, holiday decorations, and patio furniture will also be mourned, and most commenters shared the hope that OSH employees would find good jobs elsewhere.

"Lowe's would be stupid not to hire these people," O'Neill said. "They're talented."

A manager at Santa Maria's OSH said employees are not allowed to comment on the liquidation.

OSH currently employs about 4,300 associates, according to Jackie Pardini Hartzell, director of public relations for Lowe's Companies Inc., including those at OSH's stores in Santa Maria, Goleta, and Pismo Beach.

Lowe's, Hartzell said, is working to retain OSH employees throughout the liquidation



TTFN OSH: Orchard Supply Hardware stores are closing, and liquidation sales started on Aug. 23. Sales on all store products will continue well into September.

process, and she said OSH staff will receive preferential status when applying for open positions at Lowe's stores. OSH associates will receive job placement assistance, Hartzell said, and all will be eligible for severance.

"The most important thing is the effort we're making with our associates to help them transition to other Lowe's locations," Hartzell said, adding that 86 percent of all OSH stores are located within a 10 mile radius of a Lowe's. "We're really focusing on that right now."

The decision to close the chain wasn't an easy one to make, Hartzell said. Lowe's only just took ownership of OSH in 2013, after it had been owned by Sears for years. Orchard

started as a nonprofit in San Jose in 1931, and eventually grew into the quaint hardware store chain it is today.

But Hartzell said the decision to close was based solely on OSH's subpar profits. Its 2017 earnings, before interest and taxes, were negative \$65 million on sales of approximately \$605 million, according to Hartzell.

"We're always just looking at our projects and ensuring they meet our profitability standards," Hartzell said, "and ultimately we had to make a difficult decision." ○

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

NEWS from page 5

further the ongoing conversations surrounding local field management and dispatch systems—he said he has no doubt the county will be left in good hands.

"This county is really lucky in that it has a lot of unbelievably dedicated people working to keep it safe," Peterson said.

—Kasey Bubnash

CAUSE hosts community town hall on Santa Maria general plan

A coalition of local activist groups teamed up to host a community town hall to discuss Santa Maria's general plan on the evening of Aug. 30, asking attendees to share their ideas for improving and guiding the city's growth.

Local residents, activists, organizers, and candidates for City Council came together to brainstorm how Santa Maria could improve conditions for residents when the general plan is updated by the city. The Central Coast Alliance United for a Sustainable Economy (CAUSE), Mixteco Indigena Community Organizing Project (MICOP), the Fund for Santa Barbara, and the Santa Barbara County Action Network (SBCAN) organized the forum at the Santa Maria Veterans Memorial Hall with maps and resources available for English, Spanish, and Mixteco speakers.

The city is overdue to update the general plan, which is a years-long process that goes before the City Council for final approval, CAUSE organizer Abraham Melendrez told the crowd gathered. The goal of the town hall was

to create a dialogue with the community and the city, he explained, and have ideas ready to present when the time comes.

"So why is it important to participate?" Melendrez said. "More contact begins a conversation about important topics that will represent the next 20 to 30 years, and we can determine what city we want Santa Maria to be."

Tables of six to eight people each scrawled ideas on poster-size paper regarding improving the city's transportation, housing, environment, and economic development.

One table included organizers with the Santa Maria Valley Democratic Club, District 3 City Council candidate Gloria Soto, and Santa Maria Planning Manager Ryan Hostetter. They shared ideas, narrowed down suggestions, and kept notes on the discussion.

"Alright, the first 15 minutes is how can we improve—in the general plan kind of context—transportation in Santa Maria," said David Dennis, vice president for the Democratic Club.

"Better transportation for youth to get to sports fields or after-school programs," Democratic Club volunteer Elizabeth Schneider said. "It seems like kids live in one direction and stuff is in the opposite direction, and it's too far to walk."

Other ideas they came up with regarding transportation included a mobile phone app for the Santa Maria Area Transit (SMAT) system, connecting the city's bike trails, and including more traffic calming infrastructure.

City Council candidate Soto said she has spoken directly with residents while canvassing in District 3 who complained about the speed of

traffic through neighborhoods and the need for more lighted crosswalks as well.

Hostetter said she came to the meeting to observe and hear from city residents directly on behalf of the Planning Division, but her presence was also an informative one during the brainstorming process.

"The general plan includes goals and policies," Hostetter told the table. "So if you were to have some goals for the city to focus on, say the city kind of allocates its funding based on its adopted goals, where would you like to see that go?"

Hostetter was also able to provide up-to-date information about state versus city programs and laws during the brainstorming session.

One recommendation that came to improve housing was to "apply for redevelopment funds for the downtown to put more apartments above the retail stores."

"Redevelopment funds don't exist anymore," Hostetter explained. "There's some funds for specific topics, like CDBG, community development block grants, which you can use for specific rehab on existing housing."

When asked about the process for rent control to address housing issues in the city, Soto said she had spoken with state Assemblymember Monique Limón (D-Santa Barbara) about the possibility of rent control legislation coming through the state Legislature.

"If the state allows it, then still an individual city would have to decide they wanted to do that," Dennis chimed in. "And it would take, just like this, a large amount of political will because the folks that sometimes fund campaigns don't like those things."

Each table posted their best ideas along the walls of the Veterans Hall before presenting their findings to the crowd in both English and Spanish. There was a general consensus among the groups for mixed-use development downtown, alternative transportation options, and more affordable housing in the city.

The results of the town hall will be taken into account as the city moves forward on updating its general plan, which hasn't officially started yet, Hostetter said. The city is beginning a "request for proposals to get some help to do the analysis to complete it," she explained.

"It takes several years and you have to do an environmental impact report, which takes a long time," Hostetter said. "If you think about it, you're developing a plan for the next 20 to 30 years, and it takes a good three- to five-year window to do something like that."

—Joe Payne

Man killed in Santa Maria

A man was shot, stabbed, and killed near the corner of Sunrise Drive and Bradley Road in Santa Maria on Sept. 1.

The man was still alive when police arrived just before 1 a.m., according to a Santa Maria Police Department press release, but he eventually died on scene from injuries caused by the gunshot and stabbing wounds he sustained. Police have not released the man's name.

It is unclear whether the incident was gang related, according to the Santa Maria Police, and an investigation is ongoing. ○

—Kasey Bubnash



Starting over

PROBATION CHECK: Recently released AB 109 offenders often need help with finding jobs and housing. Without them, they run the risk of reoffending. AB 109 helps fund programs to reduce recidivism.

PHOTO COURTESY OF SANTA BARBARA COUNTY

After serving time in state prison, inmates released under realignment must make a new life **BY CHRIS MCGUINNESS**

The letter was written on a single sheet of ruled notebook paper. Neatly folded and just four paragraphs long. The words, penned in a looping cursive, were hopeful but pleading.

"I am in need of a stable, clean and sober living environment," it stated. "I am totally committed to living life in a productive manner."

The letter was from Dennis, a 56-year-old inmate currently incarcerated in the California Correctional Institution in Tehachapi. He said that he's written similar letters to numerous sober living residences in Santa Barbara and SLO counties, but has received little to no response from any of them.

"I am having a difficult time securing a place to live, much less obtaining any financial assistance," Dennis wrote in a letter to the *Sun's* sister paper, *New Times*. "Frankly, I am very concerned and worried about my immediate condition upon my release."

Dennis has been in custody serving time for a nonviolent felony conviction since August 2016. But on Nov. 24, 2018, he will become one of more than 40,000 individuals released from state prison each year and into the care of county probation officials under the auspices of California's 7-year-old prison realignment law, AB 109. As the clock ticks down to his eventual release, Dennis said he still hasn't found a place to live or a job, and hasn't even figured out just how he'll get from Tehachapi to the Central Coast, where he'll need to report to probation officials. He wants to start his new life in Santa Barbara or SLO, where he is originally from. His letters

described what he called his "unfortunate plight" in a months-long correspondence with the *Sun* and *New Times*.

"I have no resources at all," Dennis wrote.

Since AB 109 was signed into law in 2011, Santa Barbara and SLO counties have been trying to help individuals like Dennis, using an influx of state funding to provide programs, housing, and other resources to help them successfully transition into the community and avoid reoffending. But to get at those resources, Dennis will have to navigate an uncertain no-man's-land between the time he leaves state prison and arrives back on the Central Coast with very little to his name.

"I'm starting life totally over," Dennis wrote.

A new normal

California's state prisons were overflowing with inmates when Gov. Jerry Brown signed AB 109 and a companion bill, AB 117, into law. Under the new laws, referred to as "realignment," newly convicted low-level offenders without prior serious or violent offenses would serve their sentences in county jail instead of state prison.

The law also created a whole new system for certain state prison inmates who are released back into their communities. Previously, inmates released from state prisons would be supervised by the state's parole system. But AB 109 transferred the responsibility of supervising inmates convicted of non-violent, non-serious, and some

sex offenses to California's 58 counties. It's called post-release community supervision (PRCS), and in SLO County, the job of monitoring the PRCS population falls to the Probation Department and its chief officer, Jim Salio.

While realignment was a controversial and divisive issue when it was first approved, in the years since it went into effect, local probation departments like Salio's have had time to adjust to the demands of the PRCS system.

"We've adapted, and it's become the new normal," said Salio, who also serves as president of the Chief Probation Officers of California.

The number of PRCS individuals in SLO fluctuates. According to a 2017 annual report, the department receives an average of 26 new PRCS offenders per quarter, and their total population stood at about 137 in the final quarter of that same year. It's a 12.3 percent increase from the same quarter in 2014. As of Aug. 16, Salio said that population stood at 234 individuals. Santa Barbara County has a slightly larger population of PRCS offenders, an estimated 304 in July 2018. An annual report from the Santa Barbara County Probation Department projected that that number would climb to 320 by June 2019.

The state provides funding to help counties like Santa Barbara and SLO cope with the influx of more offenders to jails and probation departments due to realignment. Each county has flexibility in how it allocates those funds. Every county has a Community Corrections Partnership (CCP) plan, which is created and updated each year by a collection of county stakeholders including law enforcement, probation, social services, and others. According to data from the California Bureau of State and Community Corrections, Santa Barbara County had a total realignment budget allocation of more

than \$13.4 million for the 2017-18 fiscal year, up from \$12.1 million in 2016-17. SLO County received a realignment budget allocation of more than \$8.7 million for the 2017-18 fiscal year, a \$900,000 increase from the previous fiscal year. The SLO Probation Department got more than \$1.2 million of the 2017-18 funding, with the rest being divided up between other county agencies like the Superior Court, the Public Defender's and District Attorney's offices, and county Drug and Alcohol and Mental Health agencies.

Some of that money helps provide programs and resources for PRCS offenders like Dennis.

"Many of them are coming back home to their community," said Santa Barbara County Probation Department spokesperson Karyn Mulligan. "We want these services to be there for them."

A helping hand

"I was a career criminal until I came into this program," Boyd says in a promotional video created by SLO County. Boyd says he was released into SLO County's PRCS program after serving a sentence in the California Men's Colony. He entered the program four years ago and says the services and resources he was able to access helped him break the cycle of crime and addiction that landed him in prison.

"It changed me," he says. "I did a whole 180 from where I was to where I am today."

Boyd's story is the outcome that counties like Santa Barbara and SLO want as a result of the funding they invest in programs for offenders released back into their communities under AB 109. The goal, of course, is to help them lead productive lives and keep them from reoffending. To do that, counties have to meet myriad needs, everything from housing and work to substance

abuse support and education. In SLO County, one of the most important tools in assisting newly released PRCS offenders is its Post-Release Offender Meeting, which is required for every released inmate. The meetings, a collaboration between SLO County's probation and behavioral health departments, act as a hub for PRCS offenders' needs. There, they can be connected with a number of resources, including employment services, vocational training, transportation, substance abuse counseling, tattoo removal, and other support services.

"We tell them that we are here to help them," Salio said. "We really want them to take advantage of those services."

After the post-release meeting, the county also has three regional clinics staffed with a therapist and a case manager to provide ongoing support. In his video testimonial, Boyd said the program helped him pay rent at a sober living facility and enroll in classes at Cuesta College. Prior to that, he hadn't set foot in a classroom for 38 years. Four years after finishing the program, Boyd says he can still rely on help and guidance from the county.

"If I have a problem, I can walk into any of these counselors' offices ... and say, 'I need to talk,'" he said.

Santa Barbara provides similar hubs for its PRCS population. The county operates two Probation Report and Resource Centers where offenders can get needs assessments, participate in classes and programs, and get connected with services to meet their basic needs. In addition, the county is moving to strengthen its PRCS efforts through participation in Results First, an initiative to use public safety performance data and cost-benefit analysis to make decisions about where best to allocate realignment funding.

Santa Barbara County Probation spokesperson Mulligan said the county is also in the process of hiring a community liaison, who will help facilitate communication feedback from the PRCS population.

"We not only want to find out what needs they have, but we want to see how we can tell them about services we provide that they might not know about," she said.

All the funding and services offered in both counties are targeted for a specific goal, keeping PRCS offenders from violating their probation. SLO County Probation's Salio noted that while PRCS offenders generally have a high risk of reoffending, their recidivism rate in SLO County was 31.3 percent in 2017, 6 percent lower than the county's regular felony probation population and more than 10 percent below that of its misdemeanor probation population. Salio said that the lower rate was a direct result of the services the county was able to provide to PRCS offenders with realignment funds.

"Realignment came with a lot of money," he said. "We really invested in those services."

Whether he ends up in Santa Barbara or SLO, it's clear that the chances of soon-to-be-released inmate Dennis' story will end like Boyd's will depend heavily upon getting connected with the programs each county offers.

"Without a place to live or a way to earn money, what would you estimate my chances of success?" he wrote.

Sober living

Even though he hasn't lived on the Central Coast for the last two years, Dennis' main concern is all too familiar to most non-incarcerated residents: housing.

In his letters, Dennis worried about finding a place to live once he was released, specifically a recovery residence home. Dennis said he'd completed a substance abuse program while in prison. Formerly known as "sober living homes," recovery residences give individuals recovering from addiction a semi-structured drug-free living environment and support to stay clean.

Both Santa Barbara and SLO counties acknowledged the vital role recovery residences play for PRCS offenders. Santa Barbara County allocated more than \$1.3 million for sober and traditional housing, while SLO allocated \$384,828 in 2016-17.

availability of beds in residential recovery houses may not be enough to meet the demand of the PRCS population. In its annual report, SLO County stated that it expanded availability to 16 recovery residences with a total of 154 beds. However, the same report also stated that the percentage of offenders who received residential recovery services climbed from just 14 percent in 2012 to 71 percent in 2017. The demand for safe and sober living environments has increased countywide, and is strained even further by a lack of affordable housing.

"Substance abuse and mental health treatment continue to be in high demand both in custody and in the community, stretching capacity to its limits," the report stated.

Santa Barbara County has a similar problem. Its 2017-18 realignment report stated that 11 percent of realigned offenders were able to secure subsidized housing last year. In an attempt to expand availability, the county added new sober living options in the Lompoc area and tasked a committee of various community stakeholders to inventory existing housing options and make recommendations to the Community Corrections Partnership group.

"Maintaining long-term supportive housing and substance use continue to be substantial barriers for the realigned population," the report stated.

Whether Dennis ends up finding a recovery residence remains up in the air as he waits for his release. Of the 23 residences he wrote to from prison asking for information and placement, he said he's received only two responses. One was from the *Sun* and *New Times* notifying him that he'd mistakenly written to a newspaper instead of a sober living facility, and the other was from a jail fellowship in Fresno. As his release looms, he worries about ending up on the street.

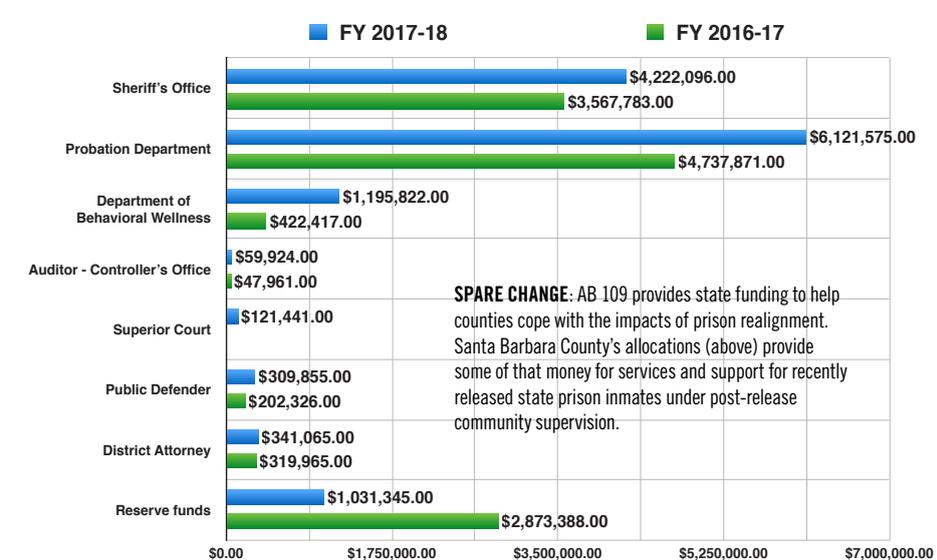
"To be homeless at 56 years old would be a challenge I do not want to face," he wrote.

In between

While both Santa Barbara and SLO counties have invested their realignment funding into a host of programs and services that could help address many of the concerns Dennis has, his letters indicate that he hasn't heard much about those opportunities in the run-up to his release from state prison in Tehachapi.

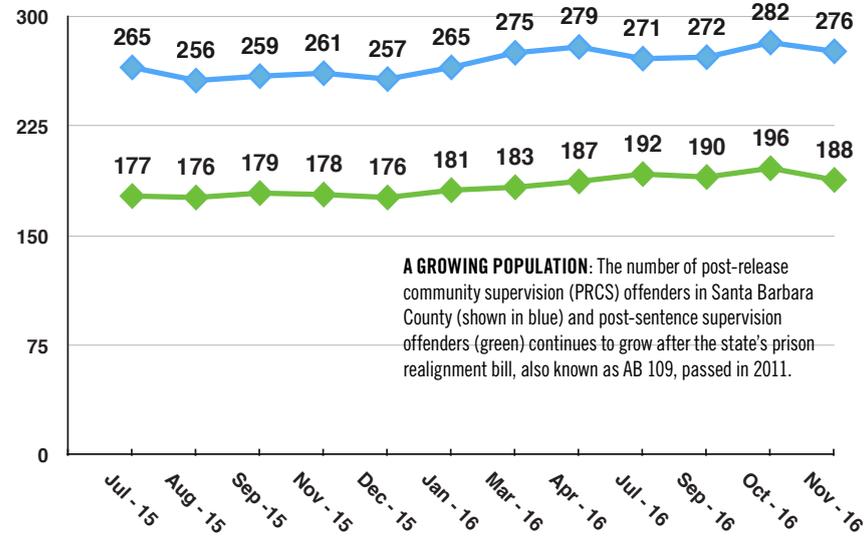
"This institution's pre-release social workers have informed me that I am on my own in regards to obtaining any assistance," he wrote. "I can ask [county] probation for some help once I am released. Basically, they are telling me that, initially, I will be on the street."

Under realignment, the Department of Corrections' responsibility for a PRCS-



SPARE CHANGE: AB 109 provides state funding to help counties cope with the impacts of prison realignment. Santa Barbara County's allocations (above) provide some of that money for services and support for recently released state prison inmates under post-release community supervision.

GRAPH BY SANTA BARBARA COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF PROBATION



A GROWING POPULATION: The number of post-release community supervision (PRCS) offenders in Santa Barbara County (shown in blue) and post-sentence supervision offenders (green) continues to grow after the state's prison realignment bill, also known as AB 109, passed in 2011.

GRAPH COURTESY OF THE BUREAU OF STATE AND COMMUNITY CORRECTIONS

bound inmate is over once they are released. Documents from a 2017 training presentation showed that inmates do meet with correctional counselors, who along with other staff conduct pre-release assessments and reports, which are then delivered to county probation officials. When it comes to the offenders themselves, the presentation simply stated that they are given \$200, less the cost of release clothing, and public transportation to their designated release program.

"We don't do a lot with them. It's up to the county," said California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation spokesman Luis Patino. "We do a little on the pre-release efforts,

but the whole supervision effort really goes to the county."

Whatever preparation he does get for life outside of prison, Dennis expressed a determination to try and make up for his past mistakes and hope that the support he might get from whichever county he ends up in would help him do just that.

"I am 56 years old and starting completely over in life," he wrote. "I am sincere in my endeavor to live life in a far better way." ○

Chris McGuinness is a staff writer at the Sun's sister paper to the north, New Times, and can be reached at cmcguinness@newtimesslo.com.

PHOTO BY COURTESY OF SLO COUNTY



A NEW NORMAL: Probation departments like those in SLO and Santa Barbara counties work with other agencies to provide support and assistance to offenders released back into the community under the state's prison realignment efforts.

Fair treatment

State bail-reform bill draws mixed reaction

BY SPENCER COLE

A newly signed bill ending cash bail in California drew a relatively mixed reaction from state representatives, activists, and local law enforcement.

On Aug. 28, Gov. Jerry Brown signed Senate Bill 10, or the California Money Bail Reform Act, into law, effective Oct. 1, 2019.

"This a transformative day for our justice system," state Chief Justice Tani Cantil-Sakauye stated after Brown's signing. "Our old system of money bail was outdated, unsafe, and unfair."

California officials aligned with the effort expressed their support as the week progressed, including gubernatorial candidate Gavin Newsom. "A person's checking account balance should never determine how they are treated under law," he stated, adding the practice of cash bail "criminalizes poverty."

The state's branch of the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) originally endorsed the bill but reversed course following late amendments. In a statement, the organization said SB 10 failed to create substantial reductions in pretrial detention and didn't "provide sufficient due process nor adequately protect against racial biases and disparities" in the justice system.

"We oppose the bill because it seeks to replace the current deeply flawed system with an overly broad presumption of preventative detention," the ACLU said. "This falls short

of critical bail reform goals and compromises our fundamental values of due process and racial justice."

Santa Barbara County District Attorney Joyce Dudley told the *Sun* that lawmakers in Sacramento had to find a compromise that could get as many parties as possible on board.

"It might be one of those situations where nobody is completely happy right now, but I do think the spirit of wanting to change this law is the right spirit," she said. "It just didn't seem fair to me that poverty should be the reason you'd be kept in custody."

Locally, opinions were mixed about a law that its opponents say are nebulous and will kill California's bail industry in favor of taxpayer-funded programs.

"It's putting us out of business," said Tim Romero, a Santa Maria bail bondsman with more than 20 years of experience. Romero's company, Santa Maria Bail Bonds, has been around since the 1970s. It's stayed in his family's hands that entire time.

There are 17 licensed bail agents operating in the county, according to the California Department of Insurance.

Romero told the *Sun* he thought SB 10 would result in more people being held in jail longer without the opportunity to post bail.

Dudley did not dismiss that potential adverse side effect.

"Much of this decision about letting people go or keeping them incarcerated is going to be based upon judicial discretion," she said, "and if judges end up incarcerating more people, then the jail population will increase."

The Sheriff's Office has long grappled with housing and staffing issues at the Santa Barbara County Jail. A grand jury report critical of the office's practices released earlier this year pointed to the jail as a cause for concern due

to those problems. And now the office and its sheriff, Bill Brown, will essentially have to take a wait-and-see approach as the law goes into effect.

"I don't think that the sheriff is going to be in a really good position to know at this point how that will affect the number of people inside the jail," Dudley said.

In an email, Brown told the *Sun* that the impact to the jail system at this point was "unknown," citing rules, crime definitions, and procedures that need to be established and put into action by California's Judicial Council and counties.

"To some extent, the devil will be in the details that have not yet been developed," Brown wrote. "Significant additional funding will also need to be provided by the state to the courts and the counties for appropriate pretrial screenings and supervision."

Brown said that if the counties will have available funding for the programs replacing cash bail, he would be "guardedly optimistic the new system will hold serious and serial criminals more accountable than the current one, thereby enhancing public safety."

He called the bail reform move "a paradigm shift."

SB 10's opponents still have a pathway to repeal it, assuming they gather enough signatures for a ballot initiative in 2020. The law would then be put on hold until voters decided its fate.

On Aug. 29, the American Bail Coalition (ABC) came out in support of just such an initiative it said was launched that day. The effort is led by the coalition's industry partners and some victim advocacy groups.

"We are building a substantial wall that will hopefully prevent this reckless legislation from ever becoming law," ABC Executive Director Jeff Clayton said.

The group and its allies have about three months to gather more than 366,000 signatures.

One of those adversaries could be Assemblyman

Jordan Cunningham (R-San Luis Obispo), of Templeton. The 35th District Assemblyman declined an interview on bail reform by the *Sun's* sister paper, *New Times*, in April of this year, but he submitted a letter to the paper revealing some of his beliefs on the subject.

In the letter, Cunningham, a former prosecutor, said the law would put public safety and crime victims at risk, impose "considerable unfunded costs on local governments" for the establishment of pretrial agencies, and would remove an incentive for felons to appear in court.

"This proposal, in my view, ultimately would make our communities less safe," he wrote.

Cunningham voted "no" on the last iteration of the bill.

District Attorney Dudley agreed with Cunningham that the incentive for some criminals to return to court could be diminished by the law.

"If you don't come back for your court date, then a warrant is issued, and you can be taken into custody as soon as law enforcement has contact with you. That is really the only incentive for people to come back," she said.

Many people do return to court on their scheduled day, and Dudley said this was because they think it's the right thing to do and they "want to deal with the charge that they have in front of them." Others simply want to make sure they get some of their bail money back.

However, there will always be outliers. And no-cash bail could create issues for law enforcement if felons stop showing up to court.

"Those that would not return but would if they could get their bail money back, I'm afraid that those will be criminals and instead of being in custody, they'll be on our streets," Dudley said. ○

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

Spotlight on: K9 For Gaby

Gabriela Leon

BY SPENCER COLE

The first time Gabriela Leon, 22, (Gaby for short) suffered a severe seizure, she was only 11 years old. She almost died.

It wouldn't be the last time.

"I've never had a full year of being free from them," she said. The recurring epileptic issues eventually forced her to stop pursuing her education at Ernest Righetti High School as a freshman. Gaby told the *Sun* that she's tried, and failed, several times to get her GED. But every time she seemed to get in a rhythm of balancing the many facets of her life, another seizure set her back.

It would take doctor's 10 years to identify what triggered the tremors: a chemical imbalance in her brain. Even worse, one side of Gaby's brain is smaller than the other.

"I was born like that," she said.

And none of the prescriptions given to her thus far have managed to completely work.

Medical teams explained to Gaby that she could have surgery to help alleviate the issue; one of the options included a VNS Implant. It's called a Vagus Nerve Stimulator and is used to treat seizures when drugs aren't always effective. The device is similar to a pacemaker in that it is implanted in the chest and is programmed to stimulate a nerve, but in this case, it'd be implanted in the neck to help prevent convulsions.

However, there are many risks involved with the procedure and there's no guarantee that the action will completely end Gaby's seizures. And that's before even considering the operation's astronomical cost, with numbers in the six-figure range, which would barely be covered by her insurance, Medi-Cal.

About a year ago, Gaby suffered a grand

mal, or catastrophic, seizure. Like when she was 11, the tremors caused her muscles to contract violently, and she lost consciousness. While recovering in the hospital, Gaby was introduced to a service animal, a dog that would visit and help monitor the patients.

It gave her an idea: *Maybe this is what I need.*

And she's not just looking for companionship. According to her neurologist, Gaby qualifies for a service animal, and a dog like the one she seeks could potentially give her the freedom she craves.

"This medical condition has kept me away from the public," she explained, adding that since her first seizure she's lived a "secluded life" due to fears of embarrassment and humiliation in front of friends and strangers.

Moreover, her incapacitating seizures put an enormous strain on her parents, including her mother, Maria.

"I want my family to be free," Gaby said. "They've gone through hell, especially my mom, in the last 11 years."

With a service dog, Gaby would be able to live alone and potentially go about her life as any other young adult. The animals are trained to sense changes in sweat and saliva in humans to identify potential oncoming seizures. Moreover, major tremor events can sometimes result in the affected individual drowning in their own saliva, which is why the dogs know to lap up the excess until help arrives.

The dogs also know how to call for aid, literally, and can serve as a calming agent when paramedics arrive. That's something Gaby is particularly keen on because a seizure is stressful enough before a team of EMTs swarm all over her to administer treatment.

The cost of a service dog is roughly \$21,000, a large chunk of the cash (around \$17,000) goes directly to training, while the rest would go to purchasing the pup.

Unfortunately, Gaby's Medi-Cal does not cover service animals.

For a year now, she has attempted to raise funds to buy the dog. But after initially raising around

\$300 on her GoFundMe account, she hit a snag and has seen only one donation in months. Gaby has since turned to making T-shirts emblazoned with the words "K9 for Gaby" and selling those and things like chocolate to reach her goal.

She's also made a Facebook page to centralize her fundraising efforts, and said she hoped the move would help drive more traffic to her online fundraiser.

"There's many ways a service animal can help someone in my position," Gaby said, "but for me, it's having stability."

To donate to K9 For Gaby, visit gofundme.com/gabyseizurealertdog.

Highlights:

- On Sept. 22, United Way will host a Common Ground Santa Barbara County volunteer training event from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Unitarian Society of Santa Barbara at 1535 Santa Barbara St., Santa Barbara. Common Ground is a United Way program dedicated to recruiting, training, and educating volunteers to work with nonprofits on teams with AmeriCorps members to house vulnerable individuals and families experiencing homelessness. RSVP at commongroundsbcc.org or contact Debra at cgvolunteers@gmail.com or at (805) 451-5604. A suggested \$10 donation from all attendees will help cover continental breakfast, lunch, and planning, a United Way spokesperson said.

- The Santa Maria Valley Chamber of Commerce will host its annual awards gala on Sept. 13 from 6 to 9 p.m. at the Marian Theatre (PCPA) at Allan Hancock College. This year's awards will honor local businesses, community members, and nonprofits. "The variety of businesses and individuals selected each year is a testament to the strength of our community," Chamber President and CEO Glenn Morris said in a statement. ○

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.

PHOTOS COURTESY OF GABY LEON



BORN THIS WAY: Gaby Leon has had multiple seizures since her first major episode when she was 11. She says a service dog will help give her the freedom and security she craves as a young adult.



HELP NEEDED: Santa Marian Gabriela Leon is looking for donations to help her purchase a service animal to help deal with chronic seizures. Despite qualifying for a service animal, her insurance, Medi-Cal, does not cover the expenses.

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Local Boy Scout works to bring Santa Maria-style barbecue to homeless shelter

BY KASEY BUBNASH

It's not every day a teenager devotes his free time to raising thousands of dollars for a community project, but 13-year-old Alexander Andrade isn't your average teen—he's a Boy Scout.

Wait—haven't we heard this before? Alexander, a freshman at Ernest Righetti High School and member of Orcutt Troop 95, isn't the only community-minded Andrade in town. He's following closely behind his older brother, Joseph, on the path to becoming an Eagle Scout, the most honorable rank a Scout can reach.

At the beginning of this year, Joseph raised nearly \$4,000 to help build a children's library in the Harvest Community Center.

Now it's Alexander's turn, and becoming an Eagle Scout is no small feat.

The process includes the completion of a mandatory Eagle Scout project, Alexander said, during which Scouts are required to develop and complete a meaningful community service project. Alexander chose a fairly large-scale task.

He plans to install a massive Santa Maria-style barbecue pit behind the Good Samaritan homeless shelter on Morrison Avenue.

The pit, which would be located just outside the Good Sam's kitchen, will cost about \$5,000 to build, and Alexander said he hopes to be finished with the project in December.

Although several individuals and businesses have already donated to Alexander's GoFundMe page in the few weeks since he started raising money, the funds add up to roughly \$1,300 all together, and Alexander still has a long way to go.

Aside from monetary donations, Alexander said he's also accepting materials like rebar, firewood, fire bricks, concrete, and cinder blocks.

"We need quite a bit of stuff to make this project possible," Alexander said.

The seed for Alexander's Eagle Scout project was first planted a few years ago, when Troop 95 helped serve food at Good Sam. He saw the small, dilapidated grill the cooks were using, and thought it'd be nice to help the shelter and its patrons in a lasting way.

As a Santa Maria native, Alexander said he's spent many of his favorite weekends gathering with family and friends around barbecues, eating perfectly grilled tri-tip and enjoying the cool evenings.

But not everyone can afford that luxury, and Good Sam's new barbecue pit, he said, would not only help feed thousands who check into the shelter over the next several years, but would give them a unique opportunity to gather.

"It's just having a safe environment and being able to hang out with friends and family," Alexander said.

The Good Sam feeds about 140 guests a night in Santa Maria alone, according to David Bickham, the nonprofit's outreach volunteer coordinator. The shelter also shares its kitchen with Community Action Commission, he said, another nonprofit that provides nearly 2,000 Meals on Wheels to Central Coast residents each day.

Both organizations are excited about the opportunity to serve Santa Maria-style barbecue, Bickham said, and to throw out the old rusty grill the cooks are using now.

"Even when that thing is cooking the whole shelter gets excited," Bickham said, "and everyone can smell it, and they know a good dinner is coming."

The project was approved by Good Sam's

board of directors and the city of Santa Maria in late August, Bickham said. When the project is finished, he said the shelter hopes to host a grand opening for its guests and community members. If the Scouts can raise enough money, Bickham said he also plans to put picnic tables all around the pit.

"It really creates a sense of community for our guests," Bickham said. "It gives them a taste of Santa Maria and their community."

Community members interested in making monetary donations can visit Andrade's GoFundMe page. For any other donation inquiries, call (805) 260-7843. ○

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

PHOTO COURTESY OF ALEXANDER ANDRADE



A TASTE OF COMMUNITY: Boy Scout Alexander Andrade (pictured) is working to raise about \$5,000 to install a Santa Maria-style barbecue pit behind the Good Samaritan homeless shelter on Morrison Avenue.

ATHLETE OF THE WEEK

PHOTO COURTESY OF ANDREW MASUDA



Migel Gomez

The path to college—and college soccer—wasn't entirely straightforward for Migel Gomez.

After dropping out of Cabrillo High School to do farm work, the now college junior eventually attained his GED, attended Allan Hancock College, and transferred to UC Santa Barbara—all while dominating on the soccer field.

Gomez played a historic last season at Hancock, according to Hancock Public Affairs Director Andrew Masuda, who said Gomez racked up 24 goals and 30 assists throughout his short time at the community college.

And it didn't take long for Gomez to make a name for himself in Santa Barbara. Gomez scored a goal in his first game as UCSB's forward on Aug. 26, Masuda said, helping his team beat UC Riverside 3-1. ○

—Kasey Bubnash

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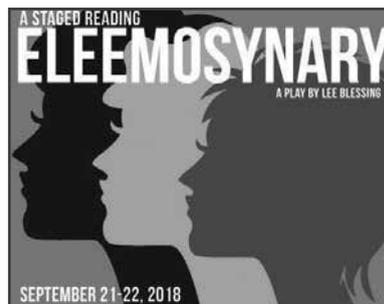
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What should be done to address homelessness?

- 40% More affordable housing.
- 33% More funding for social programs.
- 13.5% Stricter anti-paahandling laws.
- 13.5% Broader camping environment.

15 Votes

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VERIFIED

Checking the facts on the library debate

BY MARY HOUSEL

Facts matter, especially to a professional librarian who is trained to separate opinion and perception from facts. In the last two months, the city of Santa Maria Public Library has received a multitude of attention for requiring the Friends of the Santa Maria Public Library to sign a memorandum of understanding (MOU) defining the roles of the city and the Friends, and for issuing a lease for the Friends to sign for their use of space in the library lobby area as a Library Shop.

Three of the four Friends of the Library groups serving the libraries in the Santa Maria Public Library system along with the Library Foundation have all signed the MOU and nothing has changed in their level of control other than a better understanding between the city and the nonprofit groups of each other's roles and responsibilities. The library has MOUs or leases with all other groups that use space in or do business with the library, including the Santa Maria Joint Union High School District, Moxie Café, Allan Hancock College, Central Coast Literacy Council, and the Santa Maria Valley Genealogical Society. MOUs are a common document in use to assure mutual roles are defined for a better working relationship.

In an effort to correct the information shared in the "Frenemies" editorial (Aug. 23), which was based on a letter composed and sent to members of the Friends of the Santa Maria Public Library in June, I ask readers to visit the city of Santa Maria Rumor Control page, which has the facts about many of the issues raised by the Friends. See cityofsantamaria.org.

My goal in this piece is to correct some of the incorrect information shared in the Canary's editorial "Frenemies."

The Library Shop, when run by the Friends of the Library, incurred administrative overhead due to the shop being managed by a paid employee, Nancy Marriott. Nancy is cited in "Frenemies" as a longtime Friend and supporter of the library. She served as the Friends Library Shop manager until the shop closed and she continues to work for the Friends of the Library as a paid employee. The gross proceeds of the shop mainly went to the overhead of paying an employee and operating costs. In 2017, the library gave more than \$20,000 of donated materials and free space for the Friends' use. The shop netted a revenue of \$7,346. Interesting to compare this net revenue to that of the Orcutt Friends of the Library, which generated a net revenue of \$6,882 for the Orcutt Branch in 2017. The revenue was from book sales without a physical shop space or a paid employee.

In response to the Friends board of directors' statement that the memorandum takes away all the nonprofit's rights to determine how to obtain and disperse funding and resources and requires the Friends to disband upon the demand of the librarian, that is simply unsubstantiated and an incorrect interpretation of the document. The actual wording in the MOU assigns the Friends the role and responsibility "to disband, allowing for a new Friends group to be established in the future, if the Friends (1) cease to actively fundraise for and/ or promote the library, and (2) thereby cease to

support the goals and objectives of the library as determined annually by Library Administration." The words "upon the demand of the library" do not exist in the MOU. Is fundraising and promoting the library not an unrealistic expectation for the Friends of the Library?

The statement that the city refused to make concessions was not accurate. The Friends requested a lower rent of \$833 per month (\$10,000 year), which the city agreed to. The rent could have been offset by the Friends decreasing the grant amount they give to the library annually. The original rent amount of \$2,051 cited in Kasey Bubnash's Aug. 23 article ("A strained friendship") was negotiated to \$833, however, the Friends failed to report that fact to their membership or the press.

One of the main sticking points with the Friends was their desire to retain all control of the volunteer program including hiring, training, scheduling, and dismissing volunteers. The city of Santa Maria Public Library has always performed the task of accepting volunteer applications, vetting volunteers, sending them to the shop manager for further review, and training in city policies to assure all volunteer requirements were conveyed to potential volunteers. The library volunteer policy and handbook are on the library's website and include training in customer service, volunteer misconduct, and much more that assures patrons of all ages are well served and have a safe experience when visiting the library. Again, see cityofsantamaria.org.

At one time, the Friends hired a handful of volunteers without communicating to or getting approval from the library volunteer coordinator. When misbehavior occurred and patrons

complained, the library immediately stepped in to determine that volunteers had been hired by the Friends who had not been properly vetted or trained. Rather than addressing the misbehavior, the Friends board defended it and thus incurred further liability for the city. The public often considers volunteers as employees, and consequently the library has a comprehensive volunteer policy and program in place to assure that volunteers are thoroughly trained and potential liabilities are addressed.

It is time to move past our differences and embrace the great things happening at the library with the opening of Moxie Café that brings healthy new food options for library visitors, a reopening of a city-run book shop that allows those of lesser means to have books that their children can enjoy without hurting their limited pocketbooks, and many other exciting new programs in the works for children and teens. There is every reason for the Friends to join in and support all of these great new opportunities for the patrons and their children. ○

Mary Housel is the city librarian for the Santa Maria Public Library and its branches. Send your thoughts to letters@santamariasun.com.

LETTERS

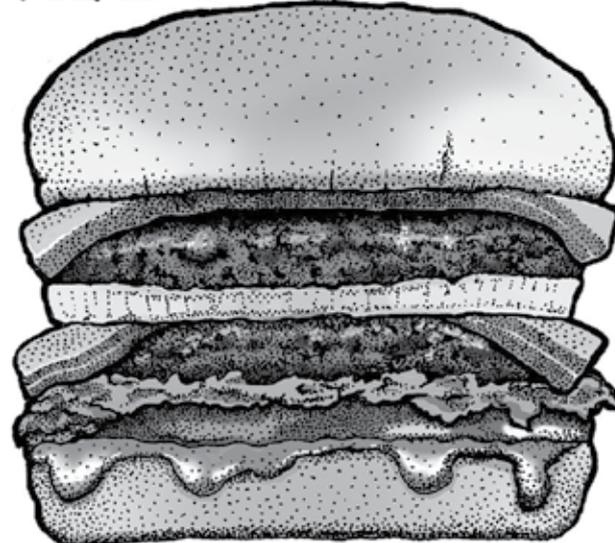
Hold priests accountable

Catholic priests have for years abused children and are again in the headlines. I understand people believing in the traditions, liturgy, fellowship, and music of the church. I also know that pedophiles outside the church face court and jail time. What needs to be done is a total outing of these pedophile priests, bishops, and hierarchy and start fresh with what parishioners expect of their faith and in their bearers of the word.

Libby Breen Orcutt

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Boxed in



Everybody loves choices, right? But what happens when you only get a very superficial range to choose from? What if they're all pretty much the same?

That's what **Santa Maria's** handy types and do-it-yourselfers are asking themselves now that **Orchard Supply Hardware (OSH)** is closing down (see page 7).

While OSH may be a multi-state chain, customers loved the Santa Maria location because it was smaller in size than the monolithic **Home Depot** off Betteravia and felt more like a small-town hardware store. The staff there was friendly, remembered your name, and shared knowledge and advice on projects you had at home.

The decision to shut it all down came from parent company **Lowe's**, which said that OSH wasn't meeting "profitability standards." Well, I wonder why that might be. Maybe they did elsewhere what they did in **Santa Maria**—open a Lowe's literally down the street from an OSH, becoming their own competition.

Now all those customers will either have to support a local hardware store (gasp!) or wander through the dueling box stores on Betteravia, which are big enough that you begin to wonder why they haven't built a monorail or a gift shop selling postcards.

Now the OSH shopping center will have two empty anchor stores. **Michaels** was the first to go, moving to a bigger spot near Highway 101. It's another example of businesses on Broadway getting undercut by all the big-box-store development just off the highway. **Michaels** made it to the area just in time for **Costco** to move out of its longtime Santa Maria location into its new digs as part of Enos Ranch as well.

But apparently Santa Maria's voracious consumer culture isn't too pleased with Costco's new setup either. According to a recent story in the *Santa Maria Times*, the city is looking at redesigning the street around Costco so locals have more options to pull in their cars. That one stop light just isn't enough and gets too congested, so they need more, more, more!

But wait, there's even more! Santa Maria also needs to redesign the onramp from Highway 101 on to Betteravia. They need more lanes, more visibility, and it's going to cost more money to accommodate all the extra traffic for the already congested artery. We're talking somewhere around \$1 million!

Speaking of congested and expensive, overcrowding has been so bad in the **California** prison system that state lawmakers approved a realignment law years ago that let non-serious offenders out earlier. AB 109 not just releases those inmates, but also puts them under supervision by county parole departments, which try to connect them with services that reduce recidivism (see cover story on page 8).

That meant a lot of more funding for the **Santa Barbara County's Sheriff's Office, Probation Department, and Behavioral Wellness**. Well, at least the state is giving our local agencies more money for all the extra work.

Released inmates will have lots of chances for counseling and other support, but they run into the same lack of choices we all face locally when it comes to housing. One inmate awaiting release to the Central Coast told the *Sun's* sister paper, *New Times*, that he hasn't heard back from a single sober living home in Santa Barbara or SLO counties.

It's kind of hard to get back on your feet when you're living on the street. At least there are plenty of box stores to sleep behind. ○

The Canary still buys birdseed at Costco. Send your thoughts to canary@santamariasun.com.

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HOT STUFF

SEPT. 6 - SEPT. 13
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SMELL THE ROSES

Artist's Choice, a new group show at the Judith Hale Gallery in Solvang, opens Sept. 15 and runs through Nov. 12. Featured artists include Mary Kay West, Dirk Foslien, Sheryl Knight, Grace Schlesier, and Vic Riesau. The gallery is located within Solvang Antiques at 1693 Copenhagen Drive, Solvang. More info: (805) 686-2322 or solvangantiques.com.

IMAGE BY MARY KAY WEST/ COURTESY OF SOLVANG ANTIQUES

STRING ART All supplies and wine are included. **Sept. 12**, 6-8 p.m. \$40 for 1; \$65 for 2. 805-550-9963. theartgalanipomo.com/events. Gala De Arte Plaza, 136 N Thompson Ave. B, Nipomo.

GROUP ART AND WINE Class descriptions available online. **Sept. 8**, 6-8 p.m. 3 for \$96; 5 for \$150. 805-550-9963. theartgalanipomo.com. Gala De Arte Plaza, 136 N Thompson Ave. B, Nipomo.

MIXED MEDIA WORKSHOP FOR ADULTS: GELLI PLATE PRINTING AND COLLAGE Using acrylics and gelli plates, guests will create several prints and explore various ways to introduce collage into their finished pieces. **Sept. 10**, 12:30-3 p.m. \$35. 805-668-2125. Lila Creative Community, 1147 East Grand Ave. Suite 101, Arroyo Grande, lila.community.

PLAY, EXPLORE, CREATE 2 Activity options include drawing, pastels, watercolor, tempera, collage, printmaking, sewing, and more. For ages 5 to 6. Tuesdays, Thursdays, 9-10:30 a.m. & 1:30 p.m.-4 a.m. **through Sept. 8** \$20 for 1 day; \$35 for 2. 805-668-2125. Lila Creative Community, 1147 East Grand Ave. Suite 101, Arroyo Grande, lila.community.

SPECIAL ART EVENTS

SANTA YNEZ VALLEY

10TH ANNIVERSARY PHOTOGRAPHY COMPETITION The theme of this year's competition is "Nature Regenerated." This year's guest judge will be Bill Dewey, whose extensively photographed the tri-counties through its many cycles of fire and regeneration. **Through Nov. 5** Wildling Museum of Art and Nature, 1511-B Mission Dr., Solvang, 805-688-1082, wildlingmuseum.org.

SANTA MARIA VALLEY/LOS ALAMOS

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

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

ARTS continued page 18

SPECIAL EVENTS

SANTA YNEZ VALLEY

SOLVANG NATIONAL DRIVE ELECTRIC WEEK SHOWCASE A variety of makes and models will be on display. The community is invited to attend and learn the benefits of electric vehicle use. **Sept. 8**, 10 a.m.-3 p.m. Free. City Parking Lot One, 470 Alisal Dr., Solvang, solvangcc.com.

LOMPOC/VANDENBERG

WORLD WAR I: LOMPOC GOES TO WAR The 11th in a series of programs on World War I. This month's program reports on almost a year of intensive research to tell the stories of the Lompoc men who served in the Great War. **Sept. 11**, 7-9 p.m. Free. 805-736-3888. facebook.com/Lompoc-Museum. Stone Pine Hall, 210 South H St., Lompoc.

SANTA MARIA VALLEY/LOS ALAMOS

CARING TOGETHER SYMPOSIUM A symposium for mental health professionals, family caregivers, and the community members that support them. "Finding Gratitude and Positive Meaning in Family Caregiving", with Barry J. Jacobs, is the keynote presentation. **Sept. 8**, 8:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Free. eventbrite.com. Santa Maria Public Library, 421 S. McClelland St., Santa Maria, 805-925-0994.

FORUMS FOR VOTER EDUCATION Presented by the League of Women Voters of Santa Maria Valley. Speakers include Gale McNeeley, Russ Mengel, Jordan Cunningham, and Bill Ostrander. **Sept. 6**, 6:30 p.m. and **Sept. 12**, 6:30 p.m. Santa Barbara County Government Center, 511 E. Lakeside Parkway, Santa Maria.

RAFAEL GUTIERREZ SENIOR: A SENIOR TOWN HALL MEETING Rafael "Rafa" Gutierrez, Candidate for Santa Maria City Council in District 4, invites the community to this meeting. Join Rafa for an evening of good conversation and ideas for Santa Maria's future. Refreshments will be served. **Sept. 12**, 5:30-7 p.m. Free. 805-406-4997. Elwin Mussell Senior Center, 510 Park Ave., Santa Maria.

SOUTH COAST SLO COUNTY

WINE, WOMEN, AND SHOES A strolling boutique shopping, and food and wine tasting event that includes a silent and live auction, a fashion show, and more. **Sept. 9**, 1-5 p.m. 805-226-5400. winewomenandshoes.com/event/rise/. Avila Beach Resort, 6464 Ana Bay Dr., Avila Beach.

FUNDRAISERS

SANTA MARIA VALLEY/LOS ALAMOS

16TH ANNUAL SANTA MARIA 'A' ALL FORD CAR SHOW Proceeds from the show support the Allan Hancock College Automotive Technology Scholarship Program. This event includes a raffle to win a Santa Maria style barbecue pit. **Sept. 8**, 7 a.m.-4 p.m. \$5-\$100. 805-598-8133. Historic Old Town Orcutt, S. Broadway and Union Ave., Orcutt.

FALL CRAFT FAIR Featuring local crafters and vendors of jewelry and knitted items. Guests can enjoy food, games, kids activities, and more. **Sept. 15**, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. 805-264-2128. odox.org. Orthodox Church of the Anunciation, 877 Francine Ln., Santa Maria.

SOUTH COAST SLO COUNTY

CATCH OF THE CENTRAL COAST This fundraiser for Central Coast Aquarium features a gourmet, multi-course wine dinner inspired by the bounty and flavors of the Mexican coast. **Sept. 8**, 5-10 p.m. 805-595-7280 ext. 1002. Avila Beach Resort, 6464 Ana Bay Dr., Avila Beach.

EYE WILL SURVIVE: A DISCO BENEFIT Proceeds benefit I Care International and the SLO Noor Foundation. Guests can enjoy appetizers, drinks, entertainment by DJ Manuel Barba, and more. **Sept. 8**, 6-9 p.m. 805-595-7600. Avila Bay Athletic Club, 6699 Bay Laurel Place, Avila Beach.

ARTS

CLASSES & WORKSHOPS

SANTA YNEZ VALLEY

SUNFLOWER FAMILY CRAFT This

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.

art class is for kids of all ages. All supplies are included. Please RSVP online. **Sept. 8**, 11 a.m.-1 p.m. \$5 per child (one adult admission included). 805-686-8315. wildlingmuseum.org/home-new/calendar/kidkraft/. Wildling Museum of Art and Nature, 1511-B Mission Dr., Solvang.

TEEN ART A local artist teaches this art workshop. Open to middle and high school students only. **Sept. 14**, 4-5:30 p.m. Free. 805-925-0994. engagedpatrons.org. Santa Maria Public Library, 421 S. McClelland St., Santa Maria.

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

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

SOUTH COAST SLO COUNTY

ART AND WINE PEONIES CANVAS All supplies and a glass of wine provided. **Sept. 7**, 6-8 p.m. \$40 for 1; \$65 for 2. 805-550-9963. theartgalanipomo.com/events. Gala De Arte Plaza, 136 N Thompson Ave. B, Nipomo.

ART AND WINE: BASICS OF ACRYLIC POURING All supplies and wine are included. **Sept. 10**, 6-8 p.m. \$40 for 1; \$65 for 2. 805-550-9963. theartgalanipomo.com/events. Gala De Arte Plaza, 136 N Thompson Ave. B, Nipomo.

ART AND WINE: CACTUS FLOWER CANVAS Create a colorful cactus and flower canvas with instructing artist Wendy Thrasher. All materials and a glass of wine are provided. **Sept. 6**, 6-8 p.m. \$40 for 1; \$65 for 2. 805-550-9963. theartgalanipomo.com/events. Gala De Arte Plaza, 136 N Thompson Ave. B, Nipomo.

ART AND WINE: FALL BOHO COWSKULL NAIL

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SUBMIT
YOUR
EVENTS



Inspired Dinner Series
SATURDAY,
SEPTEMBER 8
A Pop-up Dining Establishment
Location TBD



Catch of the Central Coast
SATURDAY,
SEPTEMBER 8
Avila Bay Athletic Club



Eye Will Survive
Disco Benefit
SATURDAY,
SEPTEMBER 8
Avila Bay Athletic Club



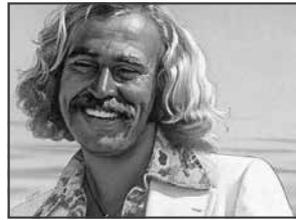
Point SLO Lighthouse Tours
EVERY WEDNESDAY
AND SATURDAY
Point San Luis Lighthouse



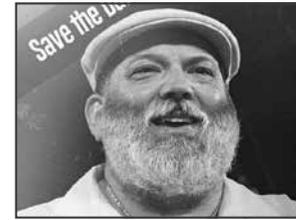
Santa Maria All-Ford Car Show
Santa Maria BBQ Pit
Raffle Tickets
NOW THROUGH SEPT 6



Of Mice & Men
NOW THROUGH SEPT 16
By the Sea Productions



Tribute to Jimmy Buffet
TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 11
Morro Bay Wine Seller



Poncho Sanchez
SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 16
CPAC, Cuesta College



New York's
David Massengill
TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 18
Morro Bay Wine Seller



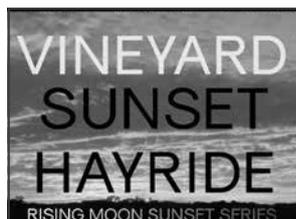
Tribute to Bob Dylan
THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 20
7Sisters Brewing Co.



Eleemosynary, A Staged Reading
by Lee Blessing
FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 21-22
Cambria Center for the Arts



Avila Apple Festival Gala Dinner
SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 22
Avila Beach Community Center



Vineyard Sunset Hayride
SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 22
Doce Robles Winery & Vineyard



11:00 - 1:30
Wednesday Sept. 26
St. Patrick's Church Hall
501 Fair Oaks Ave.
Arroyo Grande



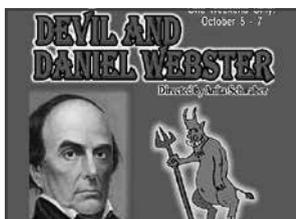
The Jason Harnell Solo Drum Experience
FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 28
Cuesta College



A Concert for Hope
SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 29
Presqu'ile Winery



Burning James and the Funky Flames
SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 29
Point San Luis Lighthouse



The Devil & Daniel Webster
FRI-SUN, OCTOBER 5-7
By the Sea Productions



Morro Bay Wild
SATURDAY, OCTOBER 13
Wildlife Rehabilitation Center



Cuesta Choirs: Autumn Blessings
SATURDAY, OCTOBER 13
CPAC at Cuesta College



Nashville's
Claudia Nygaard
TUESDAY, OCTOBER 16
Morro Bay Wine Seller



Arts Obispo - The Blend
FRIDAY, OCTOBER 19
Tooth & Nail Winery



The Epic Big Band Blowout Concert
FRIDAY, OCTOBER 19
CPAC at Cuesta College



Cuesta Acoustic Guitar Concert
SATURDAY, OCTOBER 20
CPAC at Cuesta College



Wine Maker Dinner at Riverstar Vineyards
SATURDAY, OCTOBER 20
Riverstar Vineyards



The Cimo Brothers
SUNDAY, OCTOBER 21
Old Santa Rosa Chapel



Cuesta Wind Ensemble
SUNDAY, OCTOBER 21
CPAC at Cuesta College



Chicago Duo Small Potatoes
TUESDAY, OCTOBER 23
Morro Bay Wine Seller



Halloween Harvest Costume Ball
FRI & SAT, OCTOBER 26 & 27
CA Mid-State Fairgrounds



20th Annual Vocal Jazz Festival
FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 2-3
CPAC at Cuesta College



Autumn Wine Stroll
SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 3
Paso Robles Downtown Wineries



Mozart & The Masons Chamber Concert
SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 3
King David's Lodge of SLO



In Concert! Roy Zimmerman
THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 29
7Sisters Brewing Co.

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- 5473 Overpass Rd · Santa Barbara

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ARTS from page 16

SOUTH COAST SLO COUNTY

TRIOLOGY ART GROUP SOIREE AND HIGH SCHOOL ART SCHOLARSHIP FUNDRAISER
 Enjoy an afternoon of art, wine, and hors d'oeuvres. Features paintings, photography, ceramics, and jewelry from more than 25 artists. 20% of all sales benefit scholarships. **Sept. 9, 2-6 p.m.** Free. (651) 605-5955. The Monarch Club at Trilogy Monarch Dunes, 1645 Trilogy Parkway, Nipomo.

SAN LUIS OBISPO

ARRANGIARSI: FILM SCREENING AND DIRECTOR Q&A This film tells the tale of one man's journey to find himself and the greatest pizza on earth. **Sept. 8, 4:15-6:15 p.m.** \$12. 310-998-7993. Palm Theatre, 817 Palm St, San Luis Obispo, thepalmtheatre.com.

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 AFTER DARK: ANAM CRE POTTERY STUDIO Participate in the studio's monthly Raku Firing. Choose from a selection of pieces to glaze and fire or make your own pottery in advance. Food and drinks will be available. First Friday of every month, 6-8 p.m. **through Nov. 2** \$35. 805-896-6197. anamcre.com. Anam Cre Pottery Studio, 1243 Monterey St, San Luis Obispo.

ART DEMO WITH TRACY TAYLOR Please join artist Tracy Taylor for this art demonstration. Drinks and light refreshments will be available for purchase. **Sept. 8, 6-9 p.m.** Free. 805-704-5690. The4Cats.com. The 4 Cats Cafe and Gallery, 1531 Monterey St., San Luis Obispo.

BEY-DAY-"IN BEYONCE WE TRUST": DRAG SHOW For ages 18 and over. **Sept. 9, 7 p.m.** SLO Brew, 736 Higuera St., San Luis Obispo, 805-543-1843, slobrew.com.

THE HUB BY ARTS OBISPO: RIBBON CUTTING AND GALLERY RECEPTION The community is invited to attend this ribbon cutting ceremony for The HUB, ARTS Obispo's new gallery. The HUB will feature creative workshops, demos, storytelling, poetry, and art-wine pairings. **Sept. 6, 5-9 p.m.** Free. 805-544-9251. artsobispo.org/contact-us. ARTS Obispo HUB, 1040 Court St., San Luis Obispo.

OPEN STUDIOS ART TOUR GALLERY RECEPTION ARTS Obispo, celebrating its 20th anniversary, invites the community to meet the artists behind the Open Studios Art Tour. **Sept. 7, 5:30-8:30 p.m.** Free. 805-544-9251. artsobispo.org/open-studios-art-tour. ARTS Obispo HUB, 1040 Court St., San Luis Obispo.

THROWING LARGE WITH SCOTT SEMPLE
 Semple has traveled the world studying and demonstrating his throwing techniques to all ages and skill levels. **Sept. 7, 2-6 p.m.** \$40. 805-896-6197. Anam Cre Pottery Studio, 1243 Monterey St, San Luis Obispo, anamcre.com.

EXHIBITS

SANTA YNEZ VALLEY

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

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

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

THE SANTA YNEZ VALLEY ARTS ASSOCIATION: SECOND SATURDAY ARTISANS Applications to be a featured artist will be accepted throughout the series. Second

ARTS continued page 20



CAL POLY FOOTBALL



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SEPT 14

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FRIDAY

SEPT 21

8 PM

FRIDAY

SEPT 28

8 PM

FRIDAY

OCT 5

8 PM



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Saturday of every month, 12-5 p.m. Free. 805-688-7338. santaynezvalleyarts.org. Santa Ynez Valley Grange Hall, 2374 Alamo Pintado, Los Olivos.

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

SANTA MARIA VALLEY/LOS ALAMOS

BEVERLY JOHNSON AT VALLEY ART GALLERY Johnson is the gallery's featured artist for the month of September. **Through Oct. 1** Free. Valley Art Gallery, 125 W. Clark Ave., Orcutt, 805-937-2278, valleygallery.org.

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.

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.

ART AFTER DARK: LAUREN RAY BURN Featuring local artist and teacher Lauren Rayburn, who uses a sumi brush and nib and pen to draw her figures in black and gold ink. **Sept. 7**, 6-9 p.m. Free. A Satellite Of Love, 1335 Walker St., San Luis Obispo, 805-439-1604, asatelliteoflove.

CYNTHIA MEYER: LOCAL COLOR Enjoy landscape, light, and architecture captured on a sunny day in SLO. ongoing, 6-9 p.m. Free. 805-210-8687. secretslo.com. Sauer-Adams Adobe, 964 Chorro St., San Luis Obispo.

LOCAL ARTIST ORIGINALS Featuring original oils and watercolors from artists Jerry Scott, Marguerite Costigan, and Ken Christensen. **Sept. 7-Oct. 1**, 6-9 p.m. 805-542-9000. sloart.com. Frame Works, 339 Marsh St, San Luis Obispo.

MOOD INDIGO ART EXHIBIT: ART AFTER DARK Artist Patti Sullivan displays new abstract paintings and collages. **Sept. 7**, 6-9 p.m. Free. 805-801-1856. Ascendo Coffee, 974 Monterey St., San Luis Obispo.

PRESSING MATTERS 2018 Social activist, art teacher, and printmaker Juan R. Fuentes serves as this exhibit's juror. **Through Oct. 14** Free. 805-543-8562. sloma.org/exhibits. San Luis Obispo Museum of Art, 1010 Broad St., San Luis Obispo.

TRIBUTARIES A roving exhibition of artists with diverse practices who share a common geography. **Through Sept. 19** Free. 805-546-3202. Harold J. Miossi Gallery, Highway 1, San Luis Obispo, cuesta.edu/student/campuslife/artgallery/.

STAGE

SANTA YNEZ VALLEY

ARCADIA AT SOLVANG FESTIVAL THEATER By Tom Stoppard. Presented by special arrangement with Samuel French Inc. **Through Sept. 9** Solvang Festival Theater, 420 2nd St., Solvang, 805-928-7731.

SOUTH COAST SLO COUNTY

GOLD FEVER AT THE ROUGH AND READY A spoof of traditional melodramas by Neil LaVine. Wednesdays-Sundays, 7-9:30 p.m. **through Sept. 16** \$21-\$28. 805-489-2499. americanmelodrama.com. Great American Melodrama, 1863 Front St., Oceano.

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

SAN LUIS OBISPO

A FUNNY THING HAPPENED ON THE WAY TO THE FORUM Stephen Sondheim's musical romp about desperate lovers and scheming neighbors. Wednesdays-Saturdays, 7-9 p.m., Saturdays, Sundays, 2-4 p.m. and Sundays, 7-9 p.m. **through Sept. 9** \$20-\$39. 805-786-2440. slorep.org. San Luis Obispo Repertory Theatre, 888 Morro St., San Luis Obispo.

IMAGE COURTESY OF THE TRILOGY ART GROUP



GROUP GALA

The Trilogy Art Group Soiree and High School Scholarship Fundraiser takes place Sept. 9 from 2 to 5 p.m. at the Trilogy Monarch Dunes' Monarch Club in Nipomo. Guests can enjoy an afternoon of art, wine, and hors d'oeuvres. More than 25 artists will display and sell their work. Admission is free. More info: (651) 605-5955.



COME TOGETHER

The Santa Maria Public Library hosts Caring Together, a symposium for mental health professionals, family caregivers, and community members that support them, on Sept. 8 from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Barry J. Jacobs will present the keynote presentation, Finding Gratitude and Positive Meaning in Family Caregiving. Admission is free. More info: (805) 925-0994.

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.

NORTH COAST SLO COUNTY

OF MICE AND MEN Based on John Steinbeck's novella about two friends and their struggle to live the American dream. Directed by Kelli M Poward. **Through Sept. 16** \$15-\$20. 805-776-3287. St. Peter's by-the-Sea Episcopal Church, 545 Shasta Ave., Morro Bay, stpetersmorrobay.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. Second Thursday of every month, 6-7 p.m. Free. Santa Maria Public Library, 421 S. McClelland St., Santa Maria, 805-925-0994.

LAND TRUST LUNCH AND LEARN: AGRICULTURAL EASEMENTS 101 Bring your lunch and come learn about the Land Trust from Land Trust Executive Director, Chet Work. **Sept. 11**, 12:30-1:30 p.m. Free. 805-966-4520. Santa Barbara Foundation North County Headquarters, 2625 Miller St. #101, Santa Maria.

CLUBS & MEETINGS

SANTA MARIA VALLEY/LOS ALAMOS

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

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

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

SANTA MARIA TOASTMASTERS WEEKLY MEETING Toastmasters International is a worldwide nonprofit educational organization that empowers individuals to become more effective communicators and leaders. Tuesdays, 6:30-8 p.m.

805-264-6722. santamaria.toastmastersclubs.org/. Toyota of Santa Maria, 700 E Beteravia Rd., Santa Maria.

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

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

SUPPORT GROUPS

SANTA MARIA VALLEY/LOS ALAMOS

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

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

CREATE & LEARN

SANTA MARIA VALLEY/LOS ALAMOS

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

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

MIND & BODY

SANTA MARIA VALLEY/LOS ALAMOS

BASIC YOGA 101 WORKSHOP Build strength and increase flexibility during this series. Includes basic standing postures and sun salutations. Learn about yoga, meditation, and alignment Tuesdays, 7-8 p.m. **through Sept. 25** \$49. 805-680-6542. yoga4mankind.org/event-workshops/. Yoga for Mankind, 130 N Broadway, Suite B, Orcutt.

GENTLE YOGA Tuesdays, Thursdays, 8:30 a.m. oasisorcutt.org. Oasis Senior Center, 420 Soares Ave., Orcutt, 805-937-9750.

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

SOUTH COAST SLO COUNTY

BEGINNER'S CHI GONG AND YOGA For adults and youth ages 11 and up. Includes stand up exercises, breathing techniques, and more.

Sundays, 9:45 a.m. Free. 805-534-1600. Morrocco Method Headquarters, 800 Farroll Rd., Grover Beach, morroccomethod.com.

QI GONG CLASSES Beginners welcome. For all ages over 12. Sundays. **through Sept. 30** Free. 805-534-1600. Morrocco Method Headquarters, 800 Farroll Rd., Grover Beach, morroccomethod.com.

QI GONG FOR LESS STRESS AND MORE ENERGY Use the gentle standing movements of qi gong to lower stress and increase flexibility. Mondays, 9-10 a.m. **through Oct. 15** \$57 for series; \$10 per class. 805-440-4561. balancedlivingayurveda.com. Oceano Community Center, 1425 19th St., Oceano.

QI GONG: STANDING MOVEMENTS

Use gentle standing movements to lower stress and increase flexibility. Wednesdays, 4-5 p.m. **through Oct. 10** \$54 for the series; \$10 drop in fee. 805-440-4561.

balancedlivingayurveda.com. Shell Beach Veterans Memorial Building, 230 Leeward Ave., Pismo Beach.

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, Scitiesswimschool.com.

SPORTS

SANTA MARIA VALLEY/LOS ALAMOS

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

SAN LUIS OBISPO

BEGINNING FENCING CLASSES FOR KIDS AND ADULTS Learn the art and sport of fencing with the San Luis Highlanders Fencing Club. Equipment provided. Limited to ages 10 and over. Reservations required. Mondays, 6:30-8

p.m. **through Oct. 29** presentation of \$50. 805-542-9802. sanluishighlanders.org. First Presbyterian Church of San Luis Obispo, 981 Marsh St., San Luis Obispo.

CAL POLY FOOTBALL VS. BROWN Sept. 14, 7 p.m. Alex G. Spanos Stadium, 1 Grand Ave., San Luis Obispo, 805-756-7297.

CAL POLY FOOTBALL VS. WEBER STATE The 2018 Cal Poly football season kicks off with this game. Ages 13 and under get in for free for Youth Night. **Sept. 8**, 6 p.m. Alex G. Spanos Stadium, 1 Grand Ave., San Luis Obispo, 805-756-7297.

CAL POLY VOLLEYBALL VS. UCLA The first 250 attendees to this 2018 home opener will receive a free shirt. **Sept. 6**, 7 p.m. **Sept. 7**, 7 p.m. Mott Athletics Center, 1 Grand Ave, San Luis Obispo, 805-756-7297.



KIDS & FAMILY

SANTA MARIA VALLEY/LOS ALAMOS

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

LEGO CLUB Either build to the assigned challenge or just hang out and build with friends. **Sept. 13**, 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.

ROAMING REPTILES Educating the public about reptiles, amphibians, and invertebrates with help from ambassador animals. **Sept. 12**, 4-5 p.m. 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, caboose, railroad artifacts, and diorama. Second and fourth Saturday of every month. 12-4 p.m. ongoing 805-714-4927. Santa Maria Transit Center, Miller and Boone St., Santa Maria.

IMAGE COURTESY OF THE FRIENDS OF THE SANTA MARIA PUBLIC LIBRARY



THE GREAT WAR

The Lompoc Museum presents World War I: Lompoc Goes to War on Sept. 11 from 7 to 9 p.m. at Stone Pine Hall, located at 210 S. H St., Lompoc. This presentation reports on almost a year of intensive research to tell the stories of Lompoc residents who served in World War I. Admission is free. More info: (805) 736-3888.

SOUTH COAST SLO COUNTY

DRAGONFLY CIRCLES (AGES 7-11) IN AG This enrichment program promotes social, emotional, and physical well-being. Learn how to respond to stressful emotions and situations in a healthy, balanced, and positive way. Register thru AG Recreation. Thursdays, 3:45-4:45 p.m. **through Dec. 13** 805-270-5523. mindfulkindfullyouniversity.com/dragonfly-circles/. Women's Club of Arroyo Grande, 211 Vernon St., Arroyo Grande.

FAMILY FUN FAIR ON GRANDPARENT'S DAY Featuring a barbecue lunch, kids activities, and entertainment by MBHS Dance Fusion, the Coastal Performing Arts Foundation, and Route 66. **Sept. 9**, 12-4 p.m. Free. 805-591-0563. facebook.com/Family-Fun-Fair-on-Grandparents-Day. South Bay Community Center, 2180 Palisades Ave, Los Osos.

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.

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

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

SOUTH COAST SLO COUNTY

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

HOUSE OF GOD CHURCH SERVICES Join Pastor Joseph and Amanda Anderson every Sunday for prayer, healing, and more. Sundays, 9:30-11 a.m. 805-888-7714. House of God Church, 946 Rockaway Ave., Grover Beach.

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

SANTA MARIA VALLEY/LOS ALAMOS

GUADALUPE NATIVE GARDEN BEAUTIFICATION DAY Seeking volunteers interested in gardening and helping to beautify the Guadalupe Native Garden. This event is led by Judith Evans. Third Saturday of every month, 9 a.m.-noon **through Dec. 15** Free. 805-343-2455. dunescenter.org/event/guadalupe-native-garden-beautification-days/. Guadalupe Native Garden, Corner of Campondonico and 7th Ave., Guadalupe.

FOOD & DRINK

FARMERS MARKETS

LOMPOC/VANDEMBERG

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

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

SANTA MARIA VALLEY/LOS ALAMOS

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

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

SOUTH COAST SLO COUNTY

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

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



MONSTER MASH

Mannerly Monsters, a new Preschool Storytime series at the Santa Maria Public Library, started Sept. 5 and continues every Wednesday at 10:30 a.m. through Oct. 10. This weekly meeting is open to preschoolers ages 3 to 5 and their families and features stories, songs, video screenings, and more. The library is located at 421 S. McClelland St., Santa Maria. More info: (805) 925-0994.

IMAGE COURTESY OF MOLLY GERALD

Live Music

SANTA YNEZ VALLEY

2018 FIRESTONE SUMMER CONCERT SERIES Guests can enjoy food, wine, and live music. Big Tom's Backyard tri-tip sandwiches will be available for purchase. No outside alcohol allowed. First Friday of every month, 6-9 p.m. **through Sept. 28** Firestone Vineyard, 5017 Zaca Station Rd., Los Olivos, 805-688-3940, firestonewine.com.

BACK POCKET LIVE Influences include Janis Joplin, Sheryl Crow, and Pink Floyd. **Sept. 7, 6-9 p.m.** Free. Cold Spring Tavern, 5995 Stagecoach Rd., Santa Barbara, 805-967-0066, coldspringtavern.com/entertainment.html.

CHILL DAWGS LIVE **Sept. 16, 1-5 p.m.** Maverick Saloon, 3687 Sagunto St., Santa Ynez, 805-686-4785, mavericksaloon.org.

CROWN ROYAL AMBASSADORS/PHANTOM POMPS **Sept. 14, 8 p.m.** Maverick Saloon, 3687 Sagunto St., Santa Ynez, 805-686-4785, mavericksaloon.org.

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.

THE EXCELLENT TRADESMEN LIVE Enjoy a mix of retro-country and neo-surf originals and classics. **Sept. 15, 5-8 p.m.** Free. Cold Spring Tavern, 5995 Stagecoach Rd., Santa Barbara, 805-967-0066, coldspringtavern.com/entertainment.html.

GREEN FLAG SUMMER LIVE No outside food or drinks allowed. **Sept. 8, 1-4 p.m.** Free. Cold Spring Tavern, 5995 Stagecoach Rd., Santa Barbara, 805-967-0066, coldspringtavern.com/entertainment.html.

JIM RANKIN LIVE No outside food or drinks allowed. **Sept. 15, 1-4 p.m.** Free. Cold Spring Tavern, 5995 Stagecoach Rd., Santa Barbara, 805-967-0066, coldspringtavern.com/entertainment.html.

JUST DAVE BAND LIVE **Sept. 15, 8 p.m.** Maverick Saloon, 3687 Sagunto St., Santa Ynez, 805-686-4785, mavericksaloon.org.

LOW DOWN DUDES LIVE No outside food or drinks allowed. **Sept. 16, 4:30-7:30 p.m.** Free. Cold Spring Tavern, 5995 Stagecoach Rd., Santa Barbara, 805-967-0066, coldspringtavern.com/entertainment.html.

NATE LATTA LIVE **Sept. 9, 1-5 p.m.** Maverick Saloon, 3687 Sagunto St., Santa Ynez, 805-686-4785, mavericksaloon.org.

THE NOMBRES LIVE Performing rock and country. No outside food or drinks allowed. **Sept. 8, 6-9 p.m.** Free. Cold Spring Tavern, 5995 Stagecoach Rd., Santa Barbara, 805-967-0066, coldspringtavern.com/entertainment.html.

PULL THE TRIGGER LIVE **Sept. 8, 8 p.m.**

MUSIC LISTINGS continued page 23

Tradition of excellence

Lompoc Concert Association opens 71st season with acclaimed concert pianist Thomas Pandolfi

BY JOE PAYNE

Lompoc may still be a relatively small town, but for nearly a century, it's been part of a much bigger musical tradition.

The fact is illustrated by the Lompoc Concert Association, which opens its 71st season this year on Sept. 15. The organization began in 1947, explained the association's president, Molly Gerald, and has operated in tandem with similar music groups across the country ever since.

"All over the U.S., community concerts have a long history in big and small cities," Gerald said. "I think at the time when a lot of them started it was such a different time, and this was a way to bring live entertainment from bigger places into communities."

For this season's opening concert, the Lompoc Concert Association has invited acclaimed concert pianist Thomas Pandolfi to perform a program of classical works.

Pandolfi will share some of the most well-known repertoire from the classical piano tradition at Lompoc's First United Methodist Church, the association's regular venue. The program will include works by Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart (1756-1791), Ludwig van Beethoven (1770-1827), and Frédéric Chopin (1810-1849).

They are composers that Pandolfi's fingers know well, he told the *Sun*, from his childhood through his years at Juilliard and as a working concert pianist.

"I've loved music from the very earliest age and it's always had a very emotional impact on me, so no matter how many times I've performed certain works or hear them as a listener, the emotions that I feel that they conjure up, it's always fresh for me," Pandolfi said. "It has a very strong hold over me in that way, and I hope I can always convey that to the audience."

The amount of work it takes to be a true concert pianist is staggering, and Pandolfi is an impressively prolific example. Since he released his first album in 2006, Pandolfi has released 10 more, exploring classical composers like Chopin and Franz Liszt (1811-1886) but also some from the American art music tradition, like George Gershwin (1898-1937).

The Lompoc Concert Association works with two different booking agencies, Gerald explained, and a panel of board members decides on the season's guests. "We try to keep the caliber just as high as we can within our budget," Gerald said. "We were just glad to hear about [Pandolfi]. He's young and very well regarded nationally and has performed international concerts as well."

The focus on quality acts is part of why the Lompoc Concert Association has always had members and a regular audience, Gerald explained, but that respect for quality goes beyond just the performers.

In the 1950s, the association bought a Chickering concert grand piano from an LA department store. The instrument stayed at the association's old venue, the Lompoc Theatre, and fell into disrepair over the years. But the association's current home for concerts, First United Methodist, approached the association

Catch the show

The Lompoc Concert Association opens its 71st season with a concert by Thomas Pandolfi in concert on Sept. 15 at 7:30 p.m. at the First United Methodist Church, 925 North F St., Lompoc. Cost is \$25, \$5 for students. More info: (805) 588-5971 or lompoconcert.org.



KEYMASTER: The Lompoc Concert Association opens its 71st season on Sept. 15 with a concert by Juilliard-trained concert pianist Thomas Pandolfi from Washington, D.C.

several years ago with an offer: An anonymous donor would foot the \$35,000 bill for a full restoration if the piano would stay at the church.

The association jumped at the opportunity, Gerald said, so performers like Pandolfi would have a historic and sterling instrument to play.

"It was a really big deal," she said. "It's enjoyed by all the performing arts groups as well as that church, so it was a gift for the community for the Methodist Church to take that on. ... It is wonderful for Lompoc that we have that piano."

Pandolfi has more than a little experience with historic instruments himself. He performed on a historic Erard, built in 1877, at a concert at The Frederick Collection's Historical Instrument Collection.

"It was pretty fascinating to perform on that," he said. "I've also performed on a 1928 Erard, which was owned by [Ignacy Jan] Paderewski."

He also has another connection with Paderewski, the Polish-born concert pianist who retired in Paso Robles and opened a winery. Pandolfi was a featured artist at the annual Paderewski Festival a few years ago.

The Lompoc Concert Association doesn't just book classically trained performers. The next show in the season will be a performance by the country group Nashville Legacy on Oct. 19.

The range of performers that the association programs reflects the musical tastes of its members and the greater music-going community in Lompoc, Gerald said. But classical and art music is still a big driver in the valley, which supports ensembles like the Lompoc Pops Orchestra and the Lompoc Valley Master Chorale.

Pandolfi's concert will definitely please the classical-loving crowd. He will explore three of the most lionized composers in the classical piano

LOCAL NOTES continued page 23

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LOCAL NOTES from page 22

realm: Mozart, Beethoven, and Chopin. The first half will include two piano sonatas by Mozart and Beethoven, including Beethoven's iconic "Pathétique" sonata.

"The first half I put together pairing two sonatas of Mozart and Beethoven, each written when the respective composer was 27 years of age," he said. "So it will be an interesting juxtaposition of those two sonatas. They're

vastly different."

The second half will include various works all by Chopin, who Pandolfi said is one of his "desert island" composers, or one he would choose to study and perform if relegated to only one of the great composers.

"[Chopin's music] was the perfect marriage of brilliant virtuosity with this amazing poetic, expressive lyricism, which is I think really unsurpassed," he said. "He seems to really go to the heart or depth of emotions in such a way that almost

no other composer does, at least at the piano."

The First United Methodist Church where Pandolfi will perform for the Lompoc Concert Association seats up to 400 people, and the organization's devotees usually fill out about 200 of those seats, Gerald said. Tickets are always available at the door, and there are discounts for students on the ticket price.

The season opener is a great chance to see a world-class artist in small-town Lompoc. Fans of classical piano music from across the Central

Coast shouldn't hesitate to make the drive and hear Pandolfi performing on such a fine instrument.

"I encourage fans of Mozart, Beethoven, and Chopin; fans of the piano; and fans of Thomas Pandolfi to come out to this concert," Pandolfi said. "I think they'll have a very enjoyable afternoon of music." O

Managing Editor Joe Payne will be at the concert. Contact him at jpayne@santamariasun.com.

MUSIC LISTINGS from page 22

Maverick Saloon, 3687 Sagunto St., Santa Ynez, 805-686-4785, mavericksaloon.org.

RINCON LIVE Enjoy wine, food, live music, and more. **Sept. 7**, 6-9 p.m. Firestone Vineyard, 5017 Zaca Station Rd., Los Olivos, 805-688-3940, firestonewine.com.

TERESA RUSSELL AND COCOBILLI LIVE Performing blues and rock. No outside food or drinks allowed. **Sept. 9**, 4:30-7:30 p.m. Free. Cold Spring Tavern, 5995 Stagecoach Rd., Santa Barbara, 805-967-0066, coldspringtavern.com/entertainment.html.

THUNDER ROSE LIVE This group performs a blend of rock'n'roll and blues. **Sept. 14**, 6-9 p.m. Free. Cold Spring Tavern, 5995 Stagecoach Rd., Santa Barbara, 805-967-0066, coldspringtavern.com/entertainment.html.

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

LOMPOC/VANDENBERG

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

THOMAS PANDOLFI LIVE Opening performance of the Lompoc Concert Association 2018-19 season. **Sept. 15**, 7:30 p.m. \$5-\$25. 805-588-5971. lompoconcert.org. First United Methodist Church, 925 North F St., Lompoc.

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.

AMARIS LAURETTE TAYLOR LIVE **Sept. 6**, 5:30-7:30 p.m. Free. Moxie Cafe, 1317 W. McCoy Ln., Santa Maria, 805-361-2900, moxiecafe.com.

BENDER AND JACK LIVE **Sept. 8**, 5:30-7:30 p.m. Free. Moxie Cafe, 1317 W. McCoy Ln., Santa Maria, 805-361-2900, moxiecafe.com.

BILL WOODS LIVE **Sept. 15**, 5:30-7:30 p.m. Free. Moxie Cafe, 1317 W. McCoy Ln., Santa Maria, 805-361-2900, moxiecafe.com.

BOB CLARK LIVE **Sept. 14**, 5:30-7:30 p.m. Free. Moxie Cafe, 1317 W. McCoy Ln., Santa Maria, 805-361-2900, moxiecafe.com.

THE CALIFORNIA HONEYDROPS WITH PROXIMA PARADA All ages welcome. **Sept. 7**, 5:30 p.m. \$22-\$25. Presqu'ile Winery, 5391 Presqu'ile Dr., Santa Maria, 805-937-8110, presquilewine.com.

JAZZ JAM Instrumentalists and vocalists are welcome to join in with the house trio. Third Saturday of every month, 6-9 p.m. Free. 805-937-6400. Ca' Del Grevino Cafe and Wine Bar, 400 E. Clark Ave., suite A, Orcutt.

L'ENFANT TERRIBLE LIVE **Sept. 15** Presqu'ile Winery, 5391 Presqu'ile Dr., Santa Maria, 805-937-8110, presquilewine.com.

T-BONE RAMBLERS LIVE **Sept. 14** Presqu'ile Winery, 5391 Presqu'ile Dr., Santa Maria, 805-937-8110, presquilewine.com.

THE WAVEBREAKERS LIVE Performing popular hits from the 1950s to the 1980s. **Sept. 7**, 5:30-7:30 p.m. Free. 805-361-2900. moxiecafe.com/. Moxie Cafe, 1317 W. McCoy Ln., Santa Maria.

SOUTH COAST SLO COUNTY

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

CENTRAL COAST FIDDLERS JAM SESSION The Central Coast Fiddlers invite musicians, dancers, and listeners to this jam session. All string instruments welcome. Genres include classic country, bluegrass, and oldies. Refreshments available. **Sept. 9**, 1:15-3:30 p.m. Free. 805-937-2238. centralcoastfiddlers.org. Arroyo Grande Community Center, 211 Vernon St., Arroyo Grande.

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

MARIACHI APTULENCE AND A BALLET FOLKLORICO LIVE This concert is sponsored by Santa Maria Refinery and will benefit Jazz Jubilee by the Sea. **Sept. 9**, 1 p.m. Free. 805-473-2250. arroyograndevillage.org/summer-concert-series. Heritage Square Park, 201 Nelson St., Arroyo Grande.

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.

SACHA CARLSON LIVE Enjoy live music, food, and more. **Sept. 7**, 5-8 p.m. Free. The Place Arts Co-op, 1699 Pacific Coast Highway 1, Oceano, 8051234567.

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.

SAN LUIS OBISPO

AARON PORTER LIVE **Sept. 15**, 6-8 p.m. Free. 805-868-7133. 7SistersBrewing.com. 7Sisters Brewing Company, 181 Tank Farm Rd. Suite 110, San Luis Obispo.

BRASSTRACKS LIVE **Sept. 13**, 10 p.m. \$10. SLO Brew, 736 Higuera St., San Luis Obispo, 805-543-1843, slobrew.com.

CABARET 805 AT 7SISTERS BREWING Enjoy lounge music, beer and non-alcoholic beverages, and more. Family-friendly. **Sept. 11**, 6:45-9 p.m. Free. 805-868-7133. 7SistersBrewing.com. 7Sisters Brewing Company, 181 Tank Farm Rd. Suite 110, San Luis Obispo.

COLLIE BUDDZ LIVE For ages 18 and over. **Sept. 6**, 7-11 p.m. SLO Brew Rock, 855 Aerovista Pl., San Luis Obispo, 209-417-7748.

E-40 LIVE With Nef the Pharaoh and OMB Peezy. **Sept. 7**, 8 p.m. The Fremont Theater, 1035 Monterey St., San Luis Obispo, 805-546-8600, fremontslo.com.

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.

FRESH PICKED CONCERT SERIES Beer and wine will be available for purchase from Central Coast Brewing and Chamisal Vineyards. **Sept. 6**, 6:30-8:30 p.m. Free. 415-394-6500. downtownslo.com. Harvest Stage, 995 Higuera St., San Luis Obispo.

JOY POLLOI LIVE **Sept. 7**, 6-8 p.m. 7Sisters Brewing Company, 181 Tank Farm Rd. Suite 110, San Luis Obispo, 805-868-7133, 7SistersBrewing.com.

KBONG LIVE For ages 21 and over. **Sept. 15**, 10 p.m. \$14. SLO Brew, 736 Higuera St., San Luis Obispo, 805-543-1843, slobrew.com.

PINT NITE AND JOY POLLOI **Sept. 7**, 6-8 p.m. Free. 805-868-7133. 7SistersBrewing.com. 7Sisters Brewing Company, 181 Tank Farm Rd. Suite 110, San Luis Obispo.

PINT NITE WITH JOANMARIE & THE WAVEBREAKERS Central Coast vocalist JoanMarie Asher teams up with Tom Bringle and Wendy Stockton of The Wavebreakers for an evening of bluegrass-inspired covers and originals. **Sept. 14**, 6-8 p.m. Free. 805-868-7133. 7SistersBrewing.com. 7Sisters Brewing Company, 181 Tank Farm Rd. Suite 110, San Luis Obispo.

ROYAL GARDEN SWING ORCHESTRA: BROWN BAG CONCERT This group, which consists of 10 professional musicians from the SLO County area, is celebrating its 29th year. **Sept. 7**, 12:12-4:45 p.m. Free. 805-543-5451. First Presbyterian Church of San Luis Obispo, 981 Marsh St., San Luis Obispo, fpcslslo.org.

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

SONGWRITERS AT PLAY: LAUREN HATCHER Guests can enjoy pop-rock anthems and tender ballads. Special guests include Cleo Millenia, Edie Irving, Sara Biklen, and Amalia Fleming. **Sept. 13**, 6:30-9 p.m. Free. 805-204-6821. songwritersatplay.com/calendar/. 7Sisters Brewing Company, 181 Tank Farm Rd. Suite 110, San Luis Obispo.

SONGWRITERS AT PLAY: SARA PETITE Includes short sets by Donna Phillips, Tim Jackson, and guest host Craig Louis Dingman. **Sept. 6**, 6:30-9 p.m. Free. 805-204-6821. songwritersatplay.com/calendar/. 7Sisters Brewing Company, 181 Tank Farm Rd. Suite 110. San Luis Obispo.

STEEL PANTHER LIVE **Sept. 8**, 8 p.m. The Fremont Theater, 1035 Monterey St., San Luis Obispo, 805-546-8600, fremontslo.com.

SUMMER JAZZ CONCERT SERIES Fridays, 6:30-9 p.m. **through Sept. 28** \$5-\$15. 805-547-0278. The4Cats.com. The 4 Cats Cafe and Gallery, 1531 Monterey St., San Luis Obispo.

TOMORROWS BAD SEEDS LIVE **Sept. 12**, 10 p.m. \$15. SLO Brew, 736 Higuera St., San Luis Obispo, 805-543-1843, slobrew.com.

THE ZOMBIES LIVE **Sept. 13** The Fremont Theater, 1035 Monterey St., San Luis Obispo, 805-546-8600, fremontslo.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

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

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

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

SOUTH COAST SLO COUNTY

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

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DYNAMIC DUO

Moxie Cafe presents Bender and Jack on Sept. 8 from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. Admission is free. Moxie Cafe offers live, complimentary music every evening Thursday through Saturday. The restaurant is located at 1317 W. McCoy Lane, Santa Maria. More info: (805) 361-2900 or moxiecafe.com/music.

Arts Briefs

Grants program offers \$50,000 for local arts

The Santa Barbara County Office of Arts and Culture is offering \$50,000 in grants for arts programs through the Arts Making Impact (AMI) Grant Program.

The grants are open to local arts programs, artists, schools, community groups, and other cultural organizations. Applications are currently sought for programs that provide transportation access, materials, education, or create arts programs and services for underserved populations. The grants are overseen by the Santa Barbara County Arts Commission. Previous recipients include the Santa Maria Discovery Museum, Solvang Art Music, Cuyama Blue Sky Center, Lompoc Mural Association, and the Orcutt Children's Art Foundation.

AMI is a partnership between the County Arts Commission, Office of Arts and Culture, and Santa Barbara Bowl Foundation. Submissions are due no later than Oct. 1. For more information and to fill out an application, visit sbac.ca.gov/county-grants.

PHOTO COURTESY SANTA BARBARA ARTS COMMISSION



Solvang unveils new public art sculpture

As part of a loan from The Mollie B. Squire Foundation, the city of Solvang recently unveiled a new public sculpture.

The work, titled *The Golden Stein*, is located at the center median of First Street, between Copenhagen Drive and Molle Way. The sculpture takes the place of a hundred-year old oak tree that lost a branch and was removed in 2017.

For more information on the sculpture, contact (805) 688-5575.

Wildling Museum adds two new board members

The Wildling Museum of Art and Nature announced the addition of two new board members, Jim Balsitis and George Rose.

Balsitis, who currently serves as the director of facilities at Old Mission Santa Barbara, is a Wildling Museum member who donated time and services as the lead contractor on the museum building project, including a new art-hanging system as well as maple paneling in the gallery. Rose is a professional photographer who spent two decades working as a staff photographer for the *Los Angeles Times*. He has been published in *Rolling Stone*, *Time*, *Newsweek*, and *USA Today*. He also served as a photographer for the National Football League and is a contributor to Getty Images.

For more information on the Wildling Museum's board of directors, visit wildlingmuseum.org.

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

Natural way

Poets Paul J. Willis and Garland Thompson Jr. read their work in Orcutt

BY REBECCA ROSE

“Intrigued by the intersection of faith and nature,” is how poet Paul Willis describes himself on his website. A cursory glance at his body of work reveals it’s an apt label.

“[Poetry] is always there as a way for people to connect with themselves and one another,” Willis said. “And to connect to the world beyond them, and to the spiritual world.”

Willis and Garland Thompson Jr., an actor, playwright, and performance poet based out of Monterey, are set to take the stage at CORE Winery in Orcutt for a reading on Sept. 8, part of the winery’s ongoing Second Saturday poetry readings. Thompson was the poet laureate of Monterey in 2008, and currently serves as president of the Monterey County Film Commission’s board of directors. His reading will include a selection from his book *Garland at Eighteen*.

Willis is a former poet laureate of Santa Barbara who currently serves as a professor of English at Westmont College. California born and raised, Willis’ work addresses a profound connection between his personal faith and his deep love of the natural world. Both he and his wife are avid hikers, frequenting trails in the Sierra Nevada and Yosemite National Park, where they met.

He has published several books of poetry including *Visiting Home*, *Say This Prayer Into the Past*, *Rising From the Dead*, and *Getting to Gardisky Lake*. Willis’ work has appeared in numerous publications, including the 1996 edition of *Best American Poetry*, *Poetry* magazine, and *Christian Century*. He has been nominated for a Pushcart Prize four times.

But the path to poetry wasn’t always a straight line for the scholar.

“I was writing eco-fantasy novels,” Willis said. “I got a Ph.D. on how [William] Shakespeare used forests in his plays. And I went to my first teaching job in New York, 33 years ago now, trying to figure out if I was going to be a scholar or a creative writer or something else.”

He quickly made friends with other professors who were themselves poets and was intrigued by their work. Willis started working on poetry while he was writing novels of his own, which led him to some revelations about the medium.

“I think poetry is an art of compression in some ways,” he said. “Novel writing is act of extension. I would be writing a scene for a novel and I’d find a good image or metaphor and say, ‘Good, the scene is over.’ That’s good for a novel but not so good for a poem.”

So Willis transitioned to poetry, a format ripe for isolating the solitary moments one finds when exploring hiking trails and parks, as Willis and his wife are so fond of doing. Poems spring from simple ideas such as a word or a feeling that might pop into his head. His last book of poems was written while he was the artist in residence at North Cascades National Park in Washington.

“I spent a lot of time hiking,” he said. “When you’re alone, you have the freedom to just stop and really take a good look at a tree or flower and see what comes to mind. It’s very similar to plein air painting that artists do.”

Willis lists his influences as William Shakespeare, William Wordsworth, and William Stafford, who once lived and worked at the former Los Prietos Civilian Public Service Camp in Los Padres National Forest. Willis holds a yearly reading of Stafford’s poems on the site where Stafford, a noted pacifist, served as a conscientious objector during World War I.

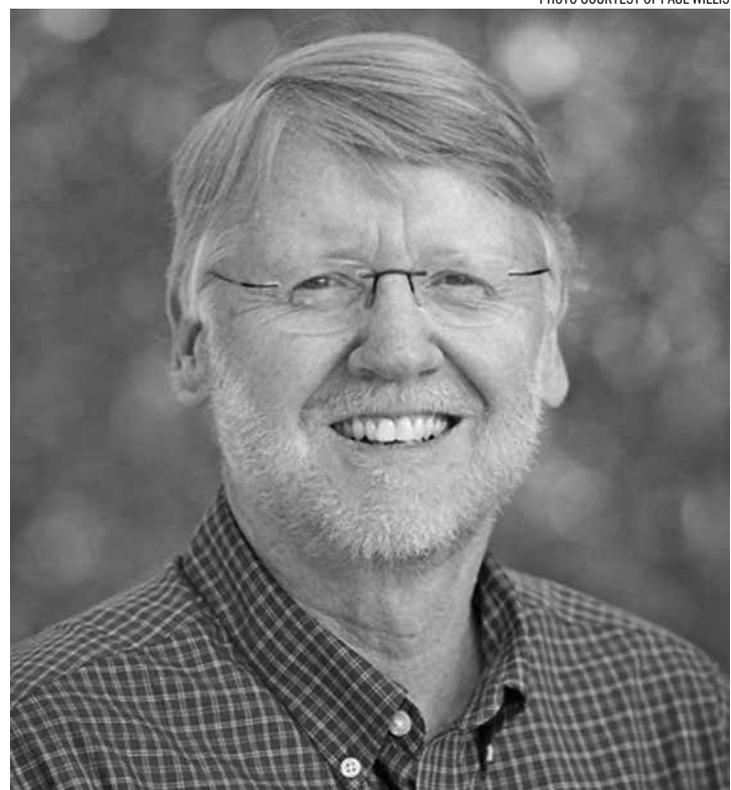
“I admire Shakespeare for his versatility,” Willis said. “Especially the way he can mix the serious and the comic so easily and adeptly ... Wordsworth for his attention to nature obviously but also for his attention to people. He is really a poet of encounter and often pays attention to overlooked people in his work.”

Willis’ poetry often elicits a sense of calm surrender in the wake of natural splendor. In his piece “Sierra Says,” Willis allows himself to disappear into his immense surroundings, weaving an intricate story of life beyond man’s existence. “Meadow says, shooting star/Snow says, suncup/Granite says, old bones,” one stanza reads. In these messages, Willis conveys a connection between the human and non-human, interweaving both worlds as one experience to the casual reader.

The professor’s poetic work is evocative but not reactionary, marked by a keen ability to put a reader immediately in a scene plucked right out of the author’s memory or imagination. Willis, however, doesn’t necessarily consider himself a “nature” poet, although it’s a subject matter that never stops inspiring him.

“People who know me tag me as a nature poet,” he said. “But I come back and say, ‘What else is there to write about, really?’”

Arts and Lifestyle Writer Rebecca Rose keeps it all natural. Contact her at rose@santamariasun.com.



MAN OF MANY WORDS: Poet Paul Willis, an English professor at Westmont College, blends his love of nature with his faith to produce evocative poems that capture the balance between the physical and spiritual world.

BIRDS ON CAMPUS

by Paul J. Willis

Mourning doves repeat themselves.
No end of loss,
no end of loss.

Corvus on a black Corvette.
There never yet
was a car named Crow.

Juncos spread across the lawn.
Linebackers shifting
position before the snap.

Acorn woodpeckers knock out
little redwood rooms.
Habitat for acornity.

Scrub jay.
What can I say?
What can I say?

—From *Getting To Gardisky Lake*

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Two of a kind

Floyd and Barbara Snyder's latest exhibit takes over Shepard Hall at the Santa Maria Public Library

BY REBECCA ROSE

For its latest public art exhibit, the Santa Maria Public Library hosts two unique artists who have made a name for themselves on the Central Coast.

Floyd and Barbara Snyder's collaborative work speaks to a kind of inside joke, but there's nothing to laugh at when it comes to their captivating work. The joke is a wink and a nod to locals who live their lives in the skin of the world the Snyders portray. It's a world that can sometimes blend into the background, lost among the daily routine of Central Coast life. But in the Snyders' gaze, the everyday becomes the extraordinary.

The couple works largely in "giclée" printing, a word that loosely translates from French meaning "to spray." The process utilizes fade-resistant inks for artists to make large-scale reproductions of their work. The result is highly saturated pieces that have little to no quality loss from their original format.

Shepard Hall is filled with examples of how the Snyders have each mastered the giclée technique. The gallery includes pieces such as *Golden Dolphin*, a giclée photograph printed on canvas by Floyd. His composition is subtle, using the high points of the buildings and the long path of the dock to draw the viewer's eye into the canvas.

Barbara's *Blue Macaw* is a striking animal portrait, marked by a strong demarcation of color in the lines of the bird. Barbara takes her time with the image, capturing the bird's gaze at just the right moment between curiosity and steely animosity. She understands the use of harmonious colors to not just carry the viewer's gaze but to help tell a broader story about each image.

The Snyders do a remarkable job with landscapes, but some of their real strength comes in their other nature work. Floyd's *Red Sunflowers Large* conveys a conversation about color and symmetry, striking in its bold use of white in a simple background. For both artists, the devil really is in the details; it's when you get up close to the canvas that you see the intricacy of each stroke. Floyd especially has a ginger love of fine details, noted in the carefully marked lines in the seams of each and every petal.

A star standout in this show is

Spiny Cactus by Barbara. The artist shows an unbridled attack on form, creating movement out of centuries-old rocks. She constructs a symphony of wavy lines, each one taking a different path through the canvas. The curves of the cactus bend achingly towards a blue sky, warped by ripples carrying it off to another part of the world. The rocky landscape swirls below all of it, effortlessly merging into the life forms that creep their way out of its doomed soils.

The connection between all of this work is found in the title of the show. Peace and Tranquility refers to what lurks behind the banalities of our modern existence, the Snyders quietly proclaim. It takes a moment, but once you realize the artists are capturing a world anyone can find outside their doors, the feeling is easy to find. ○

Arts and Lifestyle Writer Rebecca Rose is extremely prickly. Contact her at rrrose@santamariasun.com.

IMAGES COURTESY OF BARBARA SNYDER



PRICKLY PORTRAIT: Barbara Snyder's *Spiny Cactus*, a giclée photograph printed on canvas, is on display through Sept. along with more of her and her husband, Floyd Snyder's, work at the Santa Maria Public Library.



POLLY WANT A PICTURE: *Blue Macaw* is one of more than a dozen images that are free to view at the Santa Maria Public Library's Shepard Hall. The gallery is currently featuring the work of the couple Floyd and Barbara Snyder in the show *Peace and Tranquility*.

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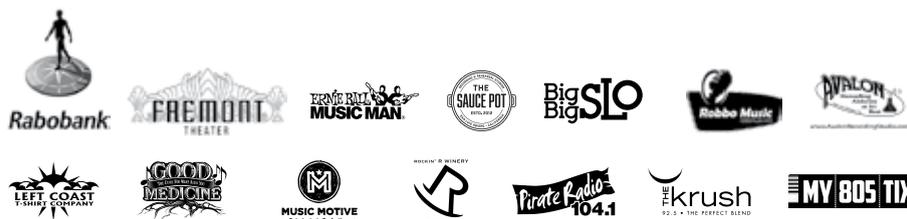
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Work it out

Rebecca gives her personal trainer a run for his money

BY REBECCA ROSE

For many years now I've warned my enemies that I would get back in peak physical condition and come for them. Well that day has finally come as I, Queen of Couch Surfing, have taken on a personal trainer.

I legitimately felt bad for the man. Here is someone who has devoted his profession to the art of personal fitness forced to endure me, a person who thinks watching a marathon of *One Tree Hill* counts as cardiovascular activity. I have the physical strength of a sea slug suffering from a Victorian-era consumptive disease.

It took some convincing at first to get my trainer to take me on as a client. Mostly because after describing my daily food and exercise routine, I had to convince him I wasn't secretly a mummy who comes to life when the museum is lifted from the enchanted curse.

The sessions started out fine. I was asked to keep a food diary, which I mistakenly had thought a "food diary" was something a lonely tomato writes to opine about how a hot piece of lettuce hasn't asked them to the school dance yet. Apparently it's a list of the foods you consume every day. Who knew?!

The first few entries of my food diary were pretty much like, "Had two glasses of chardonnay at a wine tasting, three Mentos, six of these weird dumpling things some chef asked me to try, and a dry bagel someone left in the breakroom." We were off to a banging start.

He asked me a lot of questions about my exercise habits and the amount of physical activity I get on a daily basis.

"Well, I do a lot of online shopping," I explained (it's true).

"That's not ... exercise," he retorted.

"Well, it is draining," I replied. "I mean, have you ever tried combining a Sephora coupon with your daily membership reward points?"

He stared at me for five minutes in utter silence.



Rebecca Rose
Generation X-It

I then told him I was "exhausted" just thinking about my online shopping cart dilemmas and asked for some water and a quiet place to lie down for 20 minutes. That was our first day.

The next day, he asked me what my personal goals were.

"I want people to look at me and immediately hate me," I said. "I want them to absolutely fear me, but also smile in my face because they know I can destroy them."

"I ... I just meant, 'What are your goals' in terms of weight loss or fitness," he stammered.

"I know," I said.

The day after that I had a miraculous breakthrough. I couldn't hold back my joy at what I had achieved.

"You've challenged me in a way I never thought possible," I told my trainer. "I never had any idea I was capable of pushing my body to this level. I hit my breaking point and went beyond the pain. It was outstanding."

"I literally just told you you can't wear heels when you're working out here," he replied.

"Yes, yes you did," I said. "See, we did it together."

Things continued to be extremely challenging for me.

At one point, I stopped moving altogether and collapsed on the floor.

"This is too much," I whined. "I need to stop."

My trainer immediately rushed over.

"Don't worry, Rebecca," he assured me. "If the weights are too heavy we can—"

"No," I whimpered in my state of exhaustion.

"My eyeliner is smudged from all the sweat. I need to go re-apply it."

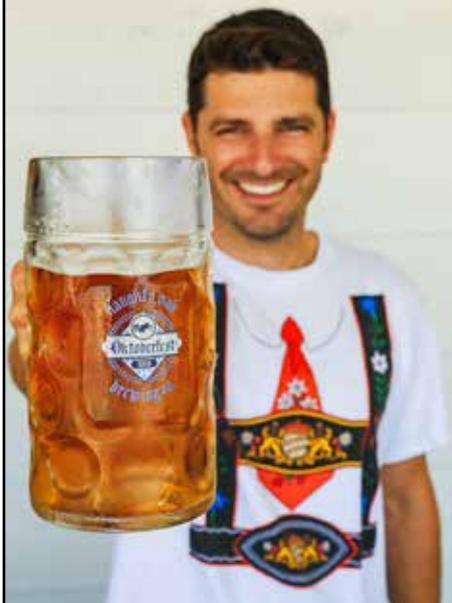
"Please, Rebecca, please not this again," he muttered, through what I assumed were tears of pride at witnessing my exceptional stamina.

"I may need you to call 911," I gasped, desperately reaching for my makeup bag.

After that, my trainer asked for a weeklong break. It's probably because he is so blown away by all my progress. After all, he's probably never had a client quite as dedicated to fitness as me. ☹

Rebecca Rose is contemplating dessert. Contact her at rrrose@santamariasun.com.

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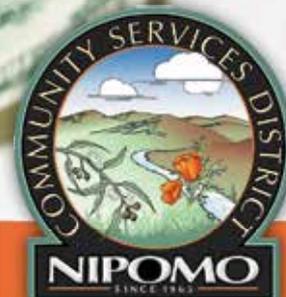
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Film Reviews

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

ALPHA

What's it rated? **PG-13**
 What's it worth? **Rent it**
 Where's it showing? **Parks Plaza**
 Albert Hughes (*Menace II Society, From Hell, The Book of Eli*) helms this adventure story set 20,000 years ago in the last Ice Age, about a young man named Keda (Kodi Smit-McPhee), who, after a steppe bison hunting expedition with his clan goes awry, finds himself alone and struggling to survive. After he encounters a lone wolf, he begins to forge the bond that will develop canines into man's best friend. This mostly charming fantasy adventure that imagines the first human-canine partnership will definitely appeal to adolescents. There's some beautiful cinematography, but there's also a lot of computer-generated graphics, mostly of the prehistoric wildlife, which sadly is pretty clunky and pulled me out of the story. The tale itself is saccharine sweet and too sappy overall. Finally, having read some about the theoretical roots of the human-canine alliance, the story itself feels contrived. I'm usually a sap for films like these, but in this case it never suspended my disbelief.

The film's been getting better reviews than I'm giving it—84 percent on rottentomatoes.com—and audiences seem to like it too (79 percent), so if this sounds like your kind of film, it's probably worth a trip to the theater. I think the big screen will do better justice to the cinematography than the small, but honestly, the film has too many flaws for me. I'd say at most it's worth a rental at Redbox. (96 min.)
 —Glen Starkey

CRAZY RICH ASIANS

What's it rated? **PG-13**
 What's it worth? **Matinee**
 Where's it showing? **Movies Lompoc, Parks Plaza**
 Jon M. Chu directs this rom-com based on Kevin Kwai's best selling novel about native New Yorker and Chinese economics professor Rachel Chu (Constance Wu), who travels to Singapore to meet her boyfriend, Nick Young's (Henry Golding), ridiculously wealthy family. Once there, Rachel realizes Nick's the most eligible bachelor in Asia, and all the single women are out to undermine her. While it doesn't stray far from the usual rom-com antics, the glitz and gaudy world of Singapore's oldest and richest families adds just the right amount of zip and pop to this fun and fancy flick. (120 min.)
 —Anna Starkey

KIN

What's it rated? **PG-13**
 What's it worth? **Matinee**
 Where's it showing? **Movies Lompoc**
 Brother duo Jonathan and Josh Baker direct Myles Tritt as Eli Solinski, a 14-year-old adopted son who is having trouble in school and often finds himself scavenging for metal to sell. However, one of Eli's many

FILM REVIEWS continued page 30

SCORING

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

In search of justice

Chris Weitz (*About a Boy, The Golden Compass, The Twilight Saga: New Moon*) directs Matthew Orton's historical script about a team of Israeli agents led by Peter Malkin (Oscar Isaac) who hunt down and bring to justice Adolph Eichmann (Ben Kingsley), the architect of Hitler's "Final Solution." (123 min.)

Glen: Moral ambiguity permeates Matthew Orton's script about the capture of Adolph Eichmann. It questions whether the Israelis were too aggressive and indiscriminate about their pursuit of former Nazis. It tries to humanize Eichmann, employing moral relativism. This ambiguity makes the story more interesting but also infuriates. If ever there was a historical event so clearly unambiguous in its moral depravity, it's the Holocaust. That said, if you can set aside the film's obsession with contriving a moral equivalence and ignore some clumsy plot choices, *Operation Finale* is entertaining and most assuredly well acted. Ben Kingsley plays Eichmann with a regality and ever-so-slightly-submerged menace. He's a man who has rationalized his actions, at least in his public persona. He was "just following orders," simply a man at a desk "doing paperwork," not an active participant. He's also supposedly crafty, and after his capture when he's initially questioned by interrogator Zvi Aharoni (Michael Aronov), he maintains his cover story. The first weak plot turn is how quickly and easily he gives up his identity. It's a strange choice that sends viewers mixed signals—is Eichmann a master manipulator or is he so egotistical that he's easily twisted? Much of the story surrounds the team's work at getting Eichmann to sign a document agreeing to a trial in Israel. Aharoni is unsuccessful, but Malkin (a charming Oscar Isaac playing him as a man who uses humor to hide his inner pain) believes he can do it. At its heart, this story is supposed to be a battle of wills fought with chess-like cunning. Instead, it's about unnecessary red tape and a series of unexpected setbacks. Because the story's outcome is well-established history, the film requires a lot of manufactured drama to lead us to the conclusion we all know is coming.
Anna: Kingsley is a beast in this and pretty much every role he takes on, and Eichmann presents him with a complicated character to suss out. He's a man that seems to love his wife and children and their small life in a rural suburb of Buenos Aires, who follows

OPERATION FINALE

What's it rated? **PG-13**
 What's it worth, Anna? **Matinee**
 What's it worth, Glen? **Rent it**
 Where's it showing? **Stadium 10 (Arroyo Grande)**

routine and has a seemingly wholly un-noteworthy existence. What lies beneath the facade is a simmering evil, a man who will cut with a quickness and sharpness that only when blood appears do you know what's happened. The attempt at eliciting sympathy for Eichmann from the audience falls flat pretty quickly, and while we may be distracted briefly by a tender moment between Eichmann and his young son or his pleas for news of his family's safety, the monster in the man is never forgotten. Through flashbacks we see some of his horrendous deeds, and we learn what ghosts follow Malkin. I thought Isaac was a great choice for Malkin, and a solid counter to Kingsley's menace. It seems nothing can go smoothly with this mission, and when their flight out of Argentina gets delayed by a week and a half, the extraction team is forced to hole-up in their safe house and pray they can ride out the days and get the signature they need from Eichmann. Everyone on the team suffers from their own hauntings; some wear revenge on their sleeves, others carry it closer to their hearts. Overall this story is a gripping one, and while there are some things about the film I didn't like, there was plenty here—character work especially—that shined. If anything, it gave me a brief dive into a story in history I knew little about.
Glen: As good as the performances are, and as riveting as the historical basis of the story is, *Operation Finale* isn't Oscar material and the film knows it, otherwise the producers would have held it back for Oscar season. No, I think the only reason the film worked as well as it did was its source material. It's a pretty incredible tale, escaping Nazi Germany with dozens of other high-ranking Nazi officers; living in Argentina, a country and government apparently amenable to Nazi philosophy; a daring infiltration by foreign spies; an abduction and interrogation; a harrowing last-minute extraction and return to Israel; a



ON THE HUNT: A team of Israeli operatives, led by Peter Malkin (Oscar Isaac, center), works on a plan to bring Nazi SS Officer Adolph Eichmann to justice.

worldwide trial that revealed Nazi atrocities in all their unfiltered horrors; and, finally, justice for a man at the center of it all. How could it be anything short of amazing, right? And yet *Operation Finale* never quite rises to its potential for me. It's worth a matinee if historical drama is your passion, but despite excellent performances, high production values, and competent direction, I'd have been happier renting this. It's a lit fuse that fizzles out instead of explodes.
Anna: While the escape is harrowing and the time in the safe house is taut with worry of their discovery, I agree that this film never quite rises to the level of great. It does however convey a truly fascinating slice of history, and if anything it made me want to learn about the real-life mission and trial. Because much of the meat of the film happens in the smallness of the safe house, there is no cinematic aesthetic that demands a view on the big screen. Like you, I would have been OK with a home viewing on this one. That being said, there's a lot of good going on here, and while I wouldn't recommend that you rush to the next available showing, that doesn't mean it should be skipped altogether. Both Isaac and Kingsley are strong in their roles, and despite the constant tension there are some genuinely fun moments, mostly thanks to one-liners via Nick Kroll who plays Rafi Eitan, another member of the team hell-bent on getting Eichmann to Israel. I'd recommend a matinee especially for fans of historical films, but if the subject material doesn't strike your fancy, wait a few months for it to show up at Redbox. ○
Sun Screen is written by Senior Staff Writer Glen Starkey and his wife, Anna. Comment at gstarkey@newtimesslo.com.

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FILM REVIEWS from page 29

outings for metal leads to an unexpected discovery: a futuristic gun of unknown origins. What starts as a fun prop to pose with in front of the mirror soon gets some use when Eli's brother comes into the picture.

Eli's brother, Jimmy Solinski (Jack Reynor), is freshly released from jail and needs to repay his debt to a dangerous group. His haphazard mission to acquire enough cash—\$60,000, to be exact—goes awry. Desperate to both protect Eli's life and hide him from the truth, Jimmy takes Eli on a road trip to Tahoe.

Overall, *Kin* is a journey that may not be worth taking. You'll likely feel as if you're watching two separate movies mashed together; it borders on family drama and uneventful sci-fi. In one scene, the brothers' eventual road trip companion Milly (Zoë Kravitz) asks who exactly these brothers are, with their \$60,000 and a space gun. It's a question I think most of the audience was asking throughout the film. We never get a clear answer.

A last-minute twist seems to set up *Kin* for a more structured sequel. Unfortunately, the film would have benefited a lot if the angle was introduced earlier on. If you are interested in genre-blending movies and don't mind waiting for a plot to develop into something interesting, *Kin* is a fine choice. If not, it may be better to opt out. (105 min.)

—Ashley Ladin

MISSION: IMPOSSIBLE-FALLOUT

What's it rated? PG-13

What's it worth? Full Price

Where's it showing? Parks Plaza

PICK Writer-director Christopher McQuarrie (*The Way of the Gun*, *Jack Reacher*, *Mission: Impossible—Rogue Nation*) helms this action-packed sixth installment of the *Mission: Impossible* franchise, starring Tom Cruise as super spy Ethan Hunt. The new film ties together narratives and characters from earlier films, including IMF (Impossible Mission Force) team members Luther Stickell (Ving Rhames) and Benji Dunn (Simon Pegg), Hunt's *Rogue Nation* love interest and fellow spy Ilsa Faust (Rebecca Ferguson), and Hunt's ex-wife Julia Meade (Michelle Monaghan) from *Mission: Impossible III*.

In addition to great action sequences, the film manages to conjure up emotional elements as well, since Hunt must protect both Julia and Ilsa and prove to the powers-that-be that saving both the one and the many is the real job of the IMF. It also culminates in the mother of all action finales. If you like this series, *Fallout* is a worthy successor. (147 min.)

—Glen Starkey

THE MEG

What's it rated? PG-13

What's it worth? Stream it

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

Jon Turkeltaub (*Phenomenon*, *Instinct*, *National Treasure*) directs Jason Statham as former Naval Captain Jonas Taylor, whose career and marriage were destroyed after he abandoned part of his crew during a failed exploration of the Mariana Trench in what he claimed was an attack by a 70-foot shark. Five years later, when a sub crew is stranded in what may be

doesn't go to plan, she wishes to skip ahead to 30. Though the logistics aren't clear—some magic dust seems to be involved—Jenna wakes up the next day in a New York apartment as her 30-year-old self. She is an editor at *Poise* magazine, dates an attractive hockey player, and wears designer everything. However, Jenna quickly learns the woman she turned into isn't exactly who she had hoped to become.

The romance kicks in when Jenna reunites with her childhood friend Matt. There aren't any traditional steamy scenes (that would just be weird), but you'll still find yourself happily rooting for the two. Unsurprisingly, they keep each other young.

For a movie that borders on silly most of the time, I'm always surprised how emotional it can be. First, it deals with the desire to be older and surer of yourself, then the need to be young and innocent again. No matter what stage of life you're in, it's easy to long for a different time and different place in life.

Little moments throughout the film also prove unexpectedly poignant. In one scene, Jenna visits her childhood home and her parents (who usually can't even get a phone call) in search of her youth. Billy Joel's "Vienna" plays over the montage-esque sequence and is guaranteed to draw out a few tears. I usually catch myself humming the melody a day or two after a good *13 Going on 30* re-watching.

PHOTO COURTESY OF NEW LINE CINEMA

HAIL MARY:
Sister Irene (Taissa Farmiga) is sent to investigate the suicide of another young nun and discovers a malevolent spirit, in *The Nun*.



an attack by the supposedly long-extinct 70-foot Carcharodon Megalodon, Taylor is recruited to attempt a rescue.

Man, did I want this to be good. Action hero Jason Statham (*The Transporter*, *The Italian Job*, *Crank*) is a badass, Raimi Wilson (*The Office*, *Juno*, *The Rocker*) is usually hilarious, and who doesn't love a humongous shark? Sadly, *The Meg* is a steaming pile of chum. A good shark movie should make you afraid to go in the ocean and play on your irrational fears. *The Meg* just makes me afraid to go back to the multiplex, at least until we get closer to Oscar season. (113 min.)

—Glen Starkey

THE NUN

What's it rated? R

Where's it showing? Parks Plaza

NEW Corin Hardy (*The Hollow*) directs this horror thriller about a novice nun (Taissa Farmiga) and a priest (Demian Bichir) with a haunted past who are sent to Romania by the Vatican to investigate the suicide of a young nun, who may have been affected by a malevolent spirit. (96 min.)

—Glen Starkey

OPERATION FINALE

What's it rated? PG-13

Where's it showing? Arroyo Grande's Stadium 10
See Sun Screen.

PEPPERMINT

What's it rated? R

Where's it showing? Parks Plaza

NEW Pierre Morel (*District B13*, *Taken*, *The Gunman*) directs Chad St. John's (*London Has Fallen*) action-thriller script about young mother (Jennifer Garner) with nothing to lose, out to avenge the deaths of her husband and daughter who were killed in a drive-by shooting. (102 min.) ○

—Glen Starkey

Sun movie reviews are compiled by New Times Senior Staff Writer Glen Starkey. Contact him at gstarkey@newtimeslo.com.

Guilty
PLEASURES

13 GOING ON 30

When? 2004

What's it rated? PG-13

Where's it available? Netflix

Thirty, flirty, and thriving. It's a headline in fictional *Poise* magazine, a mantra that young Jenna Rink (Jennifer Garner) uses as a wish, and a phrase I've always been captivated with. When I first saw *13 Going on 30*, I was going through the same awkward pre-teen years Jenna finds herself in at the start of the movie—being 30 didn't sound like a bad trade to me either. Even now, out of my awkward phase and into my young 20s, I still find the idea of 30 appealing.

This movie likely shaped my fixation on 30 more than I would like to admit. *13 Going on 30* is a relatively tame (yet addicting) rom-com with a wild premise and great characters. Jenna Rink is an unpopular 13-year-old girl who wants to skip past her adolescent struggles to what she believes is the good part of life. Her childhood best friend, Matt Flamhaff (Mark Ruffalo), is just as dorky, yet doesn't get caught up in their social status.

After Jenna's 13th birthday party

IMAGE COURTESY OF REVOLUTION STUDIOS



THIRTY, FLIRTY, AND THRIVING:
13 Going on 30 follows the journey of a 13-year-old girl who successfully wishes herself into a 30-year-old woman.

Do I feel bad about the number of times I've seen Jenna navigate the whirlwind of a pre-teen mind in a 30-year-old body? Maybe a bit, but that probably won't affect my viewings in the future. There are sparkles in the credits, "Thriller" dance breaks at expensive parties, and a perfectly wholesome love story. Netflix knows to never take a guilty pleasure off my queue. ○

—Ashley Ladin

Talking food

What it's like to take part in a culinary talk show

BY REBECCA ROSE

I was recently invited to participate in a filming of the locally produced food-themed talk/lifestyle show *Taste Buds*. Hosted by Teri Bayus, *Taste Buds* is a fun and informative look at Central Coast dining featuring on-location filming at some of the region's best and most popular restaurants. The show lets viewers get an inside look at their favorite spots through stories shared by the chefs and owners themselves, all while chowing down on some of their best dishes.

For the episode of *Taste Buds* I participated in, I was invited to join Teri and her friend Meagan Friberg to enjoy some (very) good wine and (even better) food at The Great American Fish Company in Morro Bay.

Full confession: I've done television appearances before but *never* where I was asked to eat and discuss food. I had a mini panic attack, envisioning clips of myself shoveling forkfuls of lobster into my mouth and spitting food everywhere as I tried to talk through a mouthful. What a horror show. My first promise to myself was to not let any camera catch me eating, period. That turned out to be a lot easier than I thought, for reasons I will get to in a moment.

When we arrived, we first set up outside. Filming anything amounts to a lot of "sit around and wait," but at least with a food and wine show, that waiting involves wine. I was offered a rosé (probably to help the host and guests remember my name), which was a perfect sipping wine to accompany a seafood tasting.

One thing to remember when drinking wine on camera is production crews are a stickler for continuity. Every time I downed a sip of my delicious rosé, a production assistant had to rush over and wipe off the lipstick and refill the glass (poor me). As you can see, it's a hard life being in front of the camera.

The Great American Fish Company is owned by George League, whose family owns and operates a string of successful restaurants on the Central Coast and beyond. Once we had finished up our wine toasts, the "taste buds" and Bayus were off to check out the kitchen and meet League. League is a character himself and has a wealth of stories from the past five decades in the restaurant business that could keep you entertained for hours.

League got his start with a fleet of abalone ships, making his way as a commercial fisherman until the product literally dried up, leaving him with few options. From there, he decided to try his hand at the restaurant business, facing a series of rejections from banks until an old college friend put in a good word with a local banker. Ever since then, League has been a fixture in the Morro Bay restaurant world, with his family following suit.

These are just a few of the things I learned while filming. The idea of *Taste Buds* is to enjoy a casual meal while getting to know the guest, all while several cameras are filming literally every single thing coming out of (and going into) your mouth. So no pressure at all, really.

Back to that earlier point about eating. You'd think getting a chance to sit around and film a show like this would be an easy way to fill your belly with delicious food. Think again. To film the transitions, the restaurant manager brought in a new tray of food each time. Once we had passed around the dish and each of us had taken a bite or two and shared our thoughts, boom, the dishes were whisked away and the table wiped down so we could film another segment with a new dish.

The secret is to sneakily take as many bites as you can before the next shot. Our courses were decadent and remarkable, so it was very hard to say goodbye to them as they were shuffled off to the table where the crew got to chow down on them (they totally deserved it for all their hard work).

We started with a lobster bisque, which I think might be one of the best bisques I have ever had in my life. The recipe is more than 40 years old and one that the venue keeps tight lips on, like most of their dishes. A good bisque is creamy but not overpowered by cream, well seasoned, and rich with the taste of fresh seafood. You don't want to taste soup, you want to taste the essence of the crustacean the bisque is made with. The Great American Fish Company's lobster bisque is so well balanced and has a perfect velvet texture that it's hard to imagine a way to improve the dish.

We were next treated to a seared ahi salad, which was full of a lot of surprises. The tuna was expertly seared; the outside had a warm and flavorful crust with a good balance of heat from the peppercorn while the inside was still raw. I love the contrast in the textures and flavor in this dish, with the sweetness of the mango salsa paired perfectly with the subtle spice in the fish. The dish was also served with beets, which is a brilliant idea as it matches the consistency of the fish so well.

After being served a massive king crab leg—which I was terrified to attempt to eat on camera but did anyway—we had a rather remarkable piece of fish, simply yet elegantly prepared. The

mesquite grilled halibut is flaky and ridiculously fresh; the smokiness of the mesquite serves as a great way to take the edge off the fish flavor, for those who may be averse to eating seafood. There's a nice element of heat in this dish, too, one that finishes at the end, leaving your palate unscathed.

By the end of a few hours of filming and talking about seafood, it could be easy to run out of things to say. Plus, in between segments, you always have to stop and redo your hair or makeup and most importantly make sure your teeth don't have any stray bits of food stuck between them. Halfway through filming, I was wearing butter from the crab down the front of my shirt, so I was pretty much a lost cause. But it was still fun to sit down and play celebrity

EATS continued page 32



FEELING CRABBY: The Great American Seafood Company in Morro Bay features cioppino, a fish stew that originated in San Francisco and draws heavily from similar Italian dishes. The stew typically involves a little of everything from the "catch of the day," such as scallops, salmon, crab, mussels, clams, and prawns.



LIGHTS, CAMERA, ACTION: Filming on the second season of the local lifestyle show *Taste Buds* is underway now, hosted by Teri Bayus, a local media personality, writer, and entrepreneur.



NO TEAR FOR THIS SEAR: Seared Ahi tuna salad is featured on the menu at The Great American Seafood Company in Morro Bay, recently the site of a taping of the local talk show *Taste Buds*. The venue elevates the classic dish by incorporating beets and a mango salsa.

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EATS

EATS from page 31

television star, if only for a few hours.

And yes, I am always perpetually ready for my closeup, Mr. DeMille. ○

Arts and Lifestyle Writer Rebecca Rose does not sign autographs but will take a selfie with you. Contact her at rrose@santamariasun.com.

Rebeccamendations:

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

• Pork scallopini (pictured lower right) from my favorite Santa Maria restaurant, **The Century Room** at the Santa Maria Inn, is a memorable and refined dish suitable for any palate. Served with mashed potatoes, Brussels sprouts, baby carrots, and capers and finished with a demi-glace sauce, the dish is a good dinner bargain at \$22. Plus, the Brussels sprouts are crisp on the outside and fork tender in the center. Try it at **801 S. Broadway, Santa Maria**.

• **Root 246** at **Hotel Corque** is offering a pretty intriguing prix fixe menu during the upcoming Danish Days festival in Solvang. For \$28, they will offer three courses, including a starter of a traditional dish called Smørrebrød, which is smoked whitefish, pickled shallots, and fresh dill served on rye bread, and an entree of Flæskesteg, a roasted local pork dish with cabbage and potatoes. For more information and to purchase tickets, visit solvangdanishdays.org.

• Poke bowls have arrived at **Hill Haven Provisions**. Made with ahi or salmon, the bowls

include avocado, edamame, pickled ginger and/or cucumber, watermelon radish, wakame, masago, and sesame seeds dressed in their housemade ponzu sauce. Here's hoping the poke bowl trend continues in the Santa Ynez Valley. Visit Hill Haven at **448 Atterdag Road, Solvang**.

• **Thai Villa** in Nipomo has one of the best tom kah soups I have ever had. Served in a huge bowl, the dish comes loaded with mushrooms, lemongrass, cabbage, and a perfectly balanced broth made with chili paste and coconut milk. It's enough for two, unless you want to be greedy and take home what you can't finish. I'm not saying that's what I do at **626 W. Tefft St**.

• The 2015 Santa Maria Valley pinot noir by **J. Wilkes** is the kind of special local wine the region is famous for. Receiving 90 points from *Wine and Spirits*, this pinot was also hailed by *Wine Spectator* as "rich, savory, and open-textured." A two-pack with the winery's 2016 Santa Maria Valley chardonnay is available online for \$52 at shop.jwilkes.com. ○

PHOTO BY REBECCA ROSE



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\$1995 4726 Hartnell Road – 3 + 2, South Point Estates 1stry hm in gated community, L/R, F/P, Kitchen nook area w/access to lg yd, 2car grg, w/d hkups, grdnr inc. 1 pet neg w/dep.

\$1850 2038 Trinity Drive – 3 + 2, Single stry hm near West Gate Ranch w/lgr mstr ste, Kitchen w/Island & eat-in dining area, ldry rm/hkups, 2car grg, yd/grdnr, no pets.

\$1850 819 E. Hermosa Street – 2 + 2, Centrally located 1stry hm, lg F/R inc sm office area, skylights, huge mstr ste, ldry rm/hkups, lg yd/grdnr, up to 2 small pets neg w/dep.



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\$2000 4397 Aquarius Road – 3 + 2, North Vandenberg Village hm, cstm kitch, cstm tile in entry, kitch, dining area, 2car atch grg, yd care incl, no pets please.

\$1900 4251 Vanguard – 3 + 2, North Vandenberg located in Cabrillo school district, 2car att grg, good size L/R, Formal dining area w/F/P, kitch has breakfast bar, addtnl dining/family area w/slider to backyd, lawn care incl.

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2303 Signal Avenue, Santa Maria, CA 93458
\$412,000 • www.2303Signal.info
Newcastle @ Willow Creek North West Santa Maria, CA Home for Sale. 4 Bedroom, 2 Bath 1799 SF Interior, 4792 SF Lot, Single Story Home Built in 2004. Open Floor Plan w/Vaulted Ceilings & Gas Fireplace. Master Suite w/Private Bath, Tile Roof, Stucco Exterior, Indoor Laundry & Attached 2 Car Garage. No HOA Fees.

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1917 Ybarra Avenue, Santa Maria, CA 93458
\$430,000 • www.1917Ybarra.info
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312 Jala Court, Santa Maria, CA 93454
\$380,000 • www.312Jala.info
Cul-De-Sac Via Rubio Estates Home For Sale! Two Story 1665 SF Single Family Home Built in 2001 w/3 Bedrooms & 2.5 Baths. No HOA Fees in this Tucked Away Enclave of Homes. High Ceilings Accentuate the Spacious Feeling Upon Entry into the Living Room that Features a Focal Point Gas-Start Wood-Burning Fireplace. Bedrooms are Located Upstairs for Privacy. Indoor Laundry. Walking Distance to Shopping.

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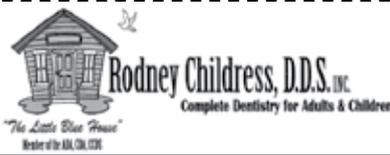
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