

SUN

AT THE MOVIES



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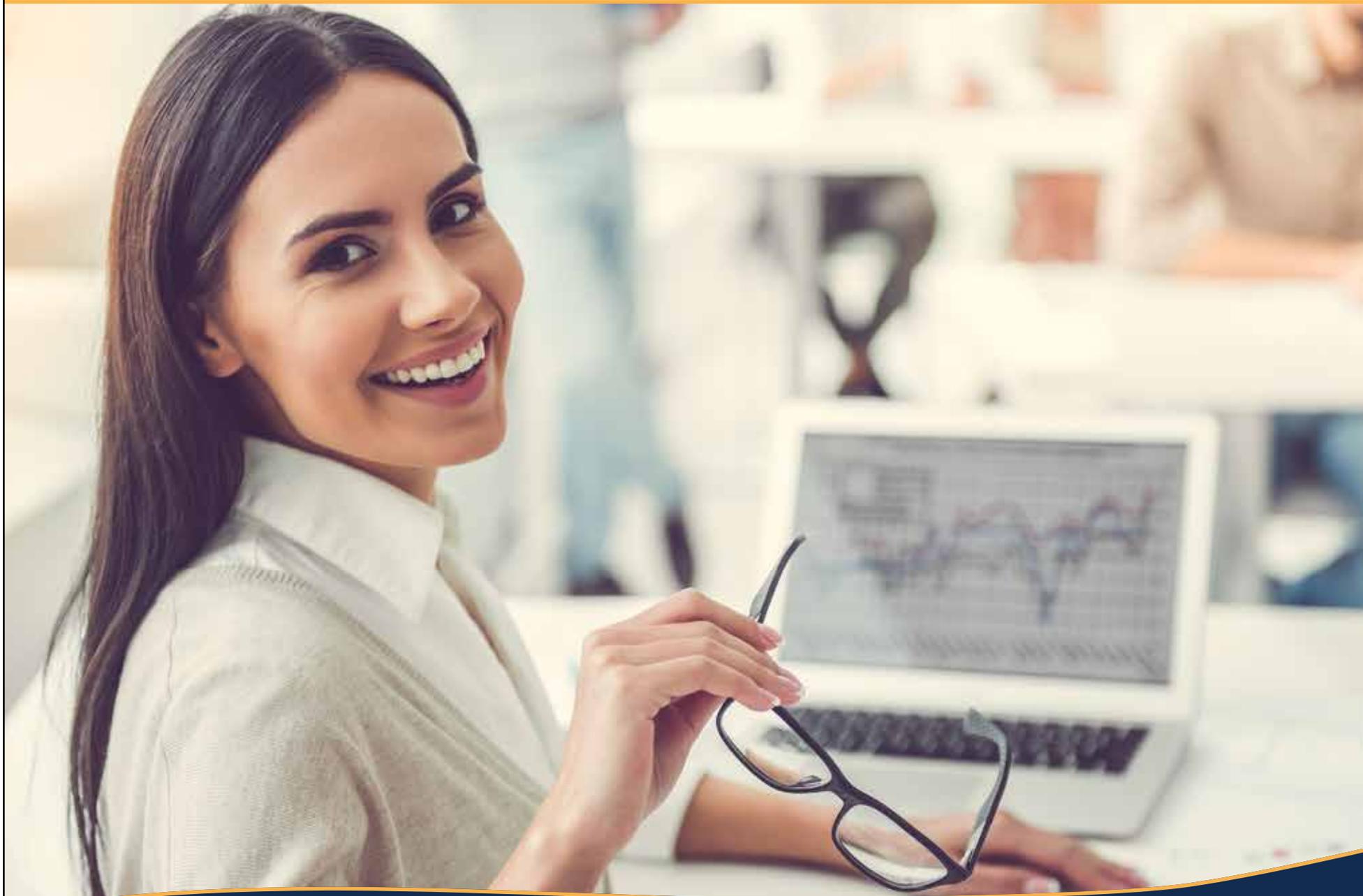
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Political Watch

- The **Santa Maria Valley League of Women Voters** has one more local candidates forum remaining before the November Election. The Oct. 11 event will be held at the Santa Barbara County Government Center at 511 E. Lakeside Parkway in Santa Maria. The forum will feature **Santa Maria City Council** candidates from Santa Maria's third and fourth districts.

- Candidates for national, state, and local offices shared their platforms, some barbed language for their opponents, and bowls of vanilla ice cream at a Sept. 10 political forum and ice cream social event in Santa Maria. The North Santa Barbara County Manufactured Homeowners Team and the Casa Grande Mobile Estates HOA hosted the event at their general meeting at the Casa Grande Mobile Estates clubhouse at 1:30 p.m. Candidates who spoke included current 24 District Rep. **Salud Carbajal** (D-Santa Barbara), challenger and Santa Barbara businessman **Justin Fareed** (R), 35th District State Assembly candidate **Bill Ostrander** (D), current Santa Maria City Council member and District 3 candidate **Dr. Michael Moats**, District 3 challenger **Gloria Soto**, and District 4 candidate and current Councilmember **Etta Waterfield**. Current 35th District Assemblymember **Jordan Cunningham** (R-San Luis Obispo) and Santa Maria District 3 candidate **Raymond Acosta** were unable to attend. Santa Maria City Council District 4 candidate and attorney **Rafael "Rafa" Gutierrez** arrived just as the ice cream social began to speak with voters and answer their questions, explaining he was held up in court.

- Sen. **Dianne Feinstein** (D-California) visited Santa Barbara on Sept. 9 as a guest at the 48th annual Democratic Women of Santa Barbara County luncheon, where Rep. **Salud Carbajal** (D-Santa Barbara) interviewed her on her accomplishments in the Senate and her bid for re-election. According to the *Santa Barbara Independent*, Feinstein spoke about President **Donald Trump** and his U.S. Supreme Court nominee, Judge **Brett Kavanaugh**, saying Kavanaugh could protect Trump from Special Counsel **Robert Mueller's** investigation into Russian meddling in the 2016 election and possible conspiracy with Trump's campaign. "We're at an apex of presidential authority," Feinstein said, according to the *Independent*. "This president believes he is above the law. And this nominee believes that the president cannot be investigated, cannot be tried, is actually supreme." Feinstein is currently running for re-election for a fifth term as a California senator and is challenged by progressive state Sen. **Kevin de León** (D-Los Angeles).

- State Assemblymember **Jordan Cunningham** (R-Templeton) saw his bill to restrict the use of hidden property transfer fees signed into law by Gov. **Jerry Brown** on Sept. 7. According to a release from Cunningham's office, private transfer fees require homebuyers to pay a percentage of a property's sales price when ownership is transferred. Those fees can increase the sales price of home, sometimes up to \$10,000, according to the release. "Housing prices are making homeownership an unreachable goal for ordinary Californians," Cunningham stated. "Here on the Central Coast, housing is particularly expensive. My bill will reduce costs for buyers and helps people qualify for federally backed loans to purchase a home." AB 3041 was supported by the California Association of Realtors and the California Escrow Association, according to the release.

- State Assemblymember **Monique Limón** (D-Santa Barbara) saw legislation she authored to enable greater access to Hollister Ranch and other state beaches pass the state Assembly and Senate on Aug. 30 and become enrolled on Sept. 4. Limón authored the bill to help address public access to the 8.5-mile stretch of beach in South Santa Barbara County that was the subject of a settlement between the Hollister Ranch Owners Association and the California State Coastal Conservancy and Coastal Commission. "After seeing the outpour of thousands of public comments calling for greater access, it was clear that Californians wanted the state to step in," Limón said. "No person should be denied access to the beautiful coastline that our state has to offer." ○

Santa Barbara County declares 'shelter crisis'

Millions of dollars in state funding will be injected into Santa Barbara County over the next two years to combat homelessness.

The county will receive nearly \$10 million from the state following a unanimous decision by the Board of Supervisors on Sept. 11 to declare a "shelter crisis."

The Homeless Emergency Aid Program will bring \$9.4 million in one-time block grant funding beginning in January 2019 and ending in June 2021. Money from the program will be used to prevent homelessness, as well as provide housing and rental assistance, interventions, and emergency aid.

At least 5 percent of funds (\$469,259) must be used for homeless youth.

In order for the county to receive the funding, supervisors had to declare a "shelter crisis" to be eligible. The move allows the region's Continuums of Care (CoC), which the county's Housing and Community Development (HCD) department administers, to allocate funds to unincorporated areas to combat homelessness.

Cities within the county will have to separately declare a crisis to access the monies. Even so, the CoC can still provide aid in those communities.

Kimberlee Albers, the homeless assistance programs manager at HCD, told the supervisors that service-specific funding could be allocated to residents within the cities. However, until a city declares its own crisis, it can't access any funds for rental assistance to prevent homelessness or transition a homeless person to housing. Cities also can't use the money for capital projects until they've declared a crisis.

County staff said they were looking into exploring housing options for the roughly 900 unsheltered residents currently living in the area.

"The most significant gap consistently identified by stakeholders was access to housing units to permanently transition persons out of homelessness," Albers said.

Fifth District Supervisor Steve Lavagnino noted that while the solution wasn't perfect, "you gotta do what you can to improve the situation," he said. "This money is not going to get passed out to the taxpayers here if we refuse this money, it will go to San Luis Obispo and Ventura counties. We'd be stupid not to take this money."

First District Supervisor Das Williams stressed the need for taking action that day but noted the long road ahead.

"There is much yet to be done," he said.

—Spencer Cole

YMCA to take over GenSpan programs on Oct. 1

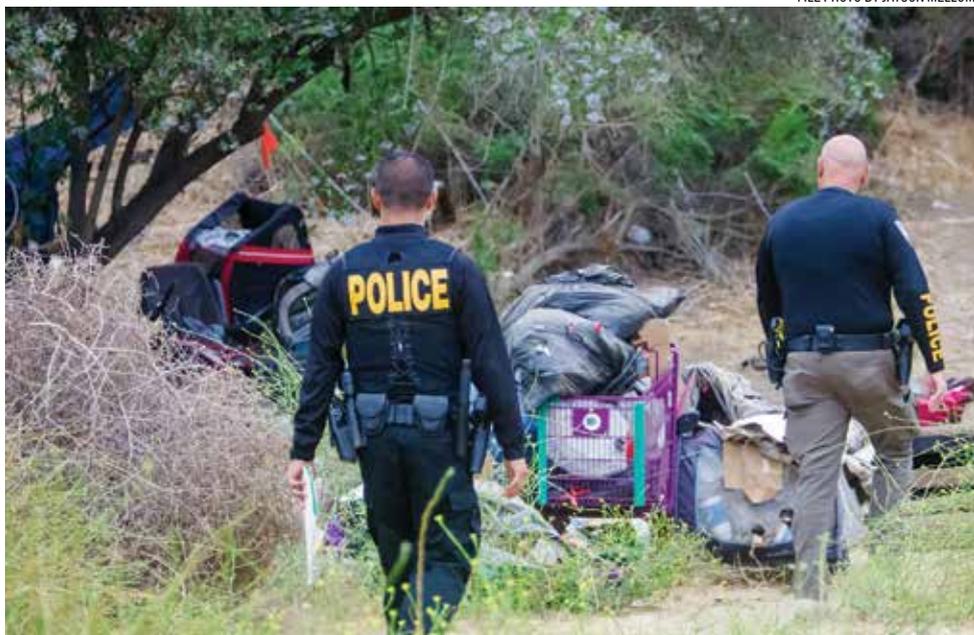
After struggling to find volunteers, the GenSpan Foundation recently announced plans to dissolve its operations by the end of this month.

GenSpan, a nonprofit that has provided social and educational programs in schools throughout Santa Maria since 2001, will continue many of its most popular programs through the Santa Maria Valley YMCA, according to GenSpan Executive Director Brenda Frazier.

Frazier said her upcoming move to Wisconsin and GenSpan's recent difficulty recruiting volunteers were the main factors in its decision to dissolve, a choice that was announced in late August at a YMCA meeting.

"We were kind of fighting a losing battle,"

Frazier told the *Sun*, adding that after the Santa



ADDRESSING A CRISIS: The state of the Santa Ynez riverbed and its homeless population was a key driver in Santa Barbara County pushing for state funding to help address the issue.

Maria-Bonita School District streamlined its volunteer screening process for parents about three years ago, GenSpan started seeing significantly fewer volunteers.

GenSpan used to provide all fingerprinting and tuberculosis testing services for community members hoping to volunteer in schools, according to Maggie White, public information officer for the Santa Maria-Bonita School District. But in an effort to make volunteering easier for parents, the district stopped requiring those tests for parent volunteers who would be working entirely under direct supervision of educators or administrators.

Since those changes were made, GenSpan went from having roughly 145 volunteers to 30, according to Frazier, GenSpan's executive director.

Finding new ways to recruit could be difficult, and Frazier said hiring a new executive director would be, too.

Instead, the YMCA will officially take over GenSpan operations on Oct. 1 in return for an endowment from the nonprofit. Although Frazier said she could not disclose the amount, she said it would be "substantial."

"I chose the YMCA because they have a program similar to ours, where they do after-school programs and work in the schools," Frazier said, adding that she once worked as a YMCA preschool teacher. "So it's full-circle for me."

The YMCA will take the reins on the nonprofit's student field trips to the Elks Rodeo and the Ronald Reagan Presidential Library, Frazier said, and will continue the Christmas Comes Early program, during which students get to eat a buffet dinner and participate in a PCPA program.

It will also continue running GenSpan's gift shop at Merrill Gardens, an assisted living facility, that sells necessary toiletries, stamps, and cards to its residents at a low cost. GenSpan's only paid employee will soon be employed by the YMCA and tasked with managing the shop.

Although Frazier said she's sad to be leaving, she's glad children in Santa Maria will continue to participate in many of GenSpan's programs through the Y.

"It's been a wonderful journey," Frazier said.

—Kasey Bubnash

Jackson, Limón oppose fracking and oil drilling in letter to BLM

A pair of Central Coast state legislators took aim at the fossil fuels industry and the Trump administration by voicing their opposition to a plan that would open California federal lands to oil drilling and fracking.

On Sept. 7, Sen. Hannah-Beth Jackson (D-Santa Barbara) and Assemblymember Monique Limón (D-Santa Barbara) sent a letter to the Bureau of Land Management's (BLM) field office manager, Gabriel Garcia, in Bakersfield. Its contents revolved around the BLM's proposal to open roughly 270,000 acres of federal land and mineral estate in San Luis Obispo, Santa Barbara, and Ventura counties to fracking and oil drilling.

Fracking is a process that involves injecting water, sand, and chemicals at high velocities into the ground to break up rock and extract oil and

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Weekend Weather

KSBY NEWS
Microclimate Weather Forecast
Dave Hovde
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<p>Thurs-</p> <p>COASTAL > High 72 Low 53 INLAND > High 81 Low 52</p>	<p>Friday</p> <p>COASTAL > High 73 Low 53 INLAND > High 84 Low 51</p>
<p>Satur-</p> <p>COASTAL > High 74 Low 53 INLAND > High 85 Low 52</p>	<p>Sunday</p> <p>COASTAL > High 74 Low 53 INLAND > High 85 Low 51</p>

As trough over the West begins to lift, temps may rise over the weekend. Otherwise, night and morning clouds continue along with mild temps.

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Diving into Measure U

Panelists debate necessity of increased public safety sales tax at community forum

BY KASEY BUBNASH

Things got heated—and a little off-topic—at a recent debate on the city's proposed sales tax increase.

At the forum, which was hosted on Sept. 6 by the League of Women Voters of Santa Maria Valley, panelists debated the benefits and costs of Measure U2018, a ballot measure that, if approved, would increase the city's sales tax in an effort to fund public safety services.

At the event, panelists Russ Mengel, a sergeant with the Santa Maria Police Department, and Gale McNeeley, a community activist and founder of Youth Arts Alive, wholeheartedly disagreed on a number of Measure U-related issues. They also touched on other topics, including recreational cannabis and youth needs, while sparring over written questions from some of the nearly 30 audience members in attendance.

While Mengel said Measure U would support much-needed public safety services as the city struggles to recover from its \$8.5 million budgetary deficit, McNeeley questioned the motives behind and necessity of the measure.

"Safety is not the only thing we need," McNeeley said at the forum, which was held at

the Betteravia Government Center.

The Santa Maria City Council voted unanimously on July 3 to put Measure U2018, the Public Safety and Essential Services Measure, on the Nov. 6 general election ballot. The measure, according to a city staff report, would extend the existing sales tax approved by voters in 2012 and increase it from .25 to 1 percent.

If passed, the increased tax is expected to generate about \$18 million annually, all of which city officials say would go toward maintaining local public safety and "quality of life" services.

The current .25 percent tax, Measure U2012, produces nearly \$5 million in local funding each year, City Manager Jason Stilwell said at the City Council meeting on July 3. The measure funds 27 public safety positions, Stilwell said, along with five other city positions, and has helped the city deter gang violence, lower crime rates, and improve emergency response times.

The existing rate is set to expire on Dec. 31, 2021, and Stilwell said Measure U2018 would both expand that deadline and increase funding indefinitely. Without a sunset provision, the hiked sales tax would stay in place until community members choose to vote it out.

At the Sept. 6 debate, McNeeley took issue with the open-endedness of the proposed measure and its massive focus on public safety.

While roughly 90 percent of the measure's profits would be used to support the city's safety efforts, McNeeley said the tax would do little to address Santa Maria's dilapidated downtown and lack of youth-oriented programs. He also said it would hit local small businesses hardest.

"More of the money could be used for youth," McNeeley said, acknowledging that some of the revenue would go toward kids' programs. "The city could sit down with all of the youth

organizations and say, 'What are your needs and what will get you to support our measure?'"

But instead of asking community members for their genuine input on Santa Maria's greatest needs, McNeeley said the city paid a polling company \$25,000 to create a pair of surveys in favor of support for increased public safety services.

In the surveys—one of which was an 18-minute phone interview that the private polling company conducted with 460 Santa Maria residents, and the other a written questionnaire that more than 800 residents completed—locals were asked to share what they thought the city needed more of.

In both surveys, city officials said residents listed gang suppression and crime prevention efforts, prompt 911 response times, fully staffed fire stations, and the continuation of at-risk youth programs as their top priorities.

But the questions, McNeeley said, led only to answers the city wanted.

When an attendee asked why it cost the city so much to conduct a survey of so few residents, Mengel refuted McNeeley's claims. He said the professionally developed questionnaires were necessary to accurately assess the feasibility of getting a sales tax extension and increase passed. "Honestly, it was a good expenditure of funds," Mengel said. "If it had not occurred, I could see it being more expensive to go out and try to get a consensus just based on local knowledge or expertise."

Some questions submitted at the forum, including one about Santa Maria's recreational cannabis prohibition, led the panelists slightly astray throughout the debate. But despite the



EXTEND AND ENHANCE: Measure U2018, which would raise an existing Santa Maria sales tax and extend its deadline indefinitely, will be on the Nov. 6 general election ballot. Most of the money produced by the ballot measure would go toward public safety efforts.

lively discussion egged on by a hot crowd, the audience grew somber during closing arguments, when Mengel listed the city's recent crime statistics: 35 murders in the last six years, 240 forcible rapes and 741 robberies in the last five, and more than 800 calls for fire service just last week.

The manpower required to investigate many crimes is vast, Mengel said. Some detectives are still assigned to homicide cases dating back as far as 2015 and are expected to be tied up in court for at least two years.

"Some work has to be done in this community," Mengel said. "We want to see downtown be viable, but it's going to come through public safety. It's going to take cleanup, it's going to take enforcement, and it's also going to take nontraditional resources to help address some of the issues that exist in that area." ○

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

NEWS from page 4

gas. The fossil fuel industry says the practice is relatively safe, while environmentalists argue it pollutes water supplies and contributes to an increase in earthquakes.

"This plan is overly broad, is insensitive to local community needs, and its health considerations dangerously imperils entirely new population centers to significant adverse health consequences [sic]," the letter says.

Jackson and Limón pointed to adjacent population centers at risk from any new oil and gas operations, including coastal areas "heavily visited by tourists," along with neighborhoods, and community facilities, like primary schools. They said the plan "trammels the intention" of local residents trying to protect their homes from adverse environmental and health impacts.

The letter also criticized the limited 30-day window the BLM gave the public to comment on the proposal. The deadline to submit any comments closed on Sept. 7.

Jeff Kuyper, executive director of Los Padres Forest Watch, also questioned the short time frame the federal agency gave members of affected counties to voice their opinion. The environmental nonprofit is against the plan.

"Central California residents are concerned about the impacts of drilling and fracking near our region's most treasured forests, wildlife refuges, national monuments, and nature preserves," Kuyper said. "We need to tell the Trump administration loud and clear that we're not willing to pollute and industrialize these iconic landscapes."

After the deadline closed for public comment, the BLM's Garcia told the *Sun* that the agency still needed to conduct an Environmental Impact Statement and that more public meetings about proposed drilling and fracking would be held within the next year.

Garcia added it was unlikely that many fracking or drilling projects would go forward in Santa Barbara County because so far the BLM had received little interest from potential bidders.

—Spencer Cole



REOPENED FOR BUSINESS: Library and city staff celebrate the grand reopening of the Library Shop on Sept. 11, just two months after the Friends of the Santa Maria Public Library closed its used bookstore and moved out of the space in July. Pictured center, left: Library Director Mary Housel. Pictured center, right: Mayor Alice Patino.

Library and city staff celebrate Library Shop's reopening

Roughly 15 community members were all smiles at the Santa Maria Public Library's grand reopening of its used bookstore on Sept. 11.

The bookstore, which recently changed management amid controversy, is stocked with roughly 2,500 donated or discarded books, DVDs, magazines, encyclopedias, and art, according to Mary Housel, director of the Santa Maria Public Library. While the store's proceeds will flow entirely back into the library, Housel said prices are low—ranging from about 50 cents to \$2—and it runs on the honor system.

The store's true mission, she said, is to give everyone an opportunity to read.

"So in a way," Housel said at the celebration, "this event is supporting freedom and all the other things America stands for."

Although the Library Shop officially opened its doors under library management on Aug. 13, the Sept. 11 event gave city and library staffers an opportunity to celebrate both the store and the library's 10-year anniversary in its current location.

Several city officials, including Mayor Alice Patino and City Manager Jason Stilwell, helped library staff and the Santa Maria Valley Chamber of Commerce celebrate the grand opening with a ribbon cutting ceremony and cookies. Housel even offered each attendee a free book as party favors after mentioning a recent influx of donations.

"All donations help the library," Housel told attendees.

The Library Shop was vacated in July after the Friends of the Santa Maria Public Library—its original manager—refused to sign a proposed memorandum of understanding

with the city and library in April 2016, a revised version again in 2018, and lease agreements in March and May of this year.

Through the lease, the city would have charged the Friends—a nonprofit that helps support the library financially—\$2,051 each month for the space it had used pro bono for a decade.

The groups still disagree about the legality of the proposed contracts, which would have given library administration managerial control over some of the nonprofit's operations, access to its financial records, and would have forced the Friends to use all its net proceeds to "support library operations."

In several emails to the city throughout negotiations, Friends members expressed concerns over the proposed contracts, citing a state law that gives a nonprofit's board of directors complete managerial control over the organization's business and affairs. Little was accomplished during those discussions regarding language and rent, which was eventually lowered to \$833 a month, according to the library director.

In an email sent on May 23, the city gave the Friends 30 days to sign a contract or move out of the library lobby. Two months later, the Friends left without signing.

The Friends moved into an office space at 1000 S. Broadway, where members sell books on Amazon. The group also has an upcoming book sale scheduled for Sept. 20 through 22 in Shepherd Hall.

While Friends members have said repeatedly that they will continue supporting the library through other fundraising endeavors, Housel maintains that an agreement or lease is essential to protecting the library legally. Recent behavioral issues with unvetted Friends volunteers caused liability issues for the library and city, Housel wrote in an email to the *Sun* on Aug. 24. ○

—Kasey Bubnash



A cres of asphalt cover what used be rows of cauliflower and strawberry fields along Santa Maria's Betteravia Road. The Enos Ranch development shot up quickly just off Highway 101 last year, raising steel beams and vaulted white walls in a matter of months. But the towering cranes and churning cement mixers are mostly gone, and the corporate box stores and chain restaurants are open for business.

With some of it still in progress, the development is one of the largest in Santa Maria's recent history, rivaled only by the Crossroads shopping center across Betteravia, completed in 1999. Enos Ranch is part of a longstanding effort supported by the city to help assert Santa Maria as a retail destination for the greater Central Coast and establish the Betteravia area as a major shopping hub in the city.

And Santa Maria prides itself on getting things done.

At Mayor Alice Patino's State of the City address in July of 2017, she remarked on the realignment of Bradley Road during late 2016 and early 2017, which was necessary for the Enos Ranch project to break ground. Patino called the rerouting of one of the city's main arteries a "major accomplishment" that was done "in record time."

"We're really proud that we can do things in Santa Maria and be more expeditious than we already are," she added. "Development is very important."

While city officials tout how quickly the project has moved forward, the revenue it's generated, and what's still to come, Enos Ranch isn't without its detractors. Critics have voiced concern over the city's deference to corporate retailers while a development focus in the downtown core has appeared to slow. Others point to congestion in an already well-trafficked part of town, the lack of long-term high-wage jobs spurred by the project, and a development that makes Santa Maria appear like "Anytown, USA."

And despite the concerns, Enos Ranch has already seen its fair share of locals eager to shop at the city's newest commercial complex.

Crunching numbers

Enos Ranch has already help contribute to a bump in tax receipts for the city to the tune of \$2 million in additional funds, according to a recent city report.

Santa Maria's fourth quarter financial report released in August of this year details that sales tax receipts increased by more than 8 percent for that period. Finance Director Mary Harvey wrote in the report that Enos Ranch contributed

BIG BOX BELTWAY

Santa Maria celebrates Enos Ranch as a revenue and retail attractor, while some locals question the city's development priorities

BY SUN STAFF • PHOTOS BY JAYSON MELLOM

to the added funds by way of consumer goods, restaurants, and the hotel industry.

That boost in revenue came up at a recent forum on an upcoming city ballot measure that would indefinitely increase the city's sales tax.

"Thank goodness for Enos Ranch," said Russ Mengel, a sergeant with the Santa Maria Police Department and panelist at a Sept. 6 forum on Measure U. Mengel said the sales tax revenue collected at Enos Ranch is imperative to supporting the city's public safety services.

Santa Maria Public Information Officer Mark van de Kamp told the *Sun* that Enos Ranch helped the city's regional shopping appeal. He said specific sales tax information on the development was not available because California state law prohibits a city from divulging tax records about a specific taxpayer.

Van de Kamp did note that sales tax revenue is one "of the most volatile" revenue components in the city's budget.

"Economic factors can contribute to wide swings in receipts," he said.

City staff estimated that there would be a modest increase in overall sales tax revenues for 2018-19 to \$23.4 million, and to \$23.6 million in 2019-20. The forecast is based in part on an analysis conducted by a city-hired consultant.

Suzanne Singh is the economic development director for the Santa Maria Valley Chamber of Commerce. She told the *Sun* that Enos Ranch's impact on the city and the region as a whole was major.

"I don't think it's gonna slow," Singh said of the increase in sales tax receipts. She described the shopping center as a "regional attraction"

that was not only drawing customers but also potential investors capable of bringing with them higher-wage jobs.

"We've got quite a few groups of developers looking to come into Santa Maria and do other projects, so [Enos Ranch] has been extremely beneficial for our city overall," Singh added.

She declined to provide details about the potential projects because negotiations between the city and business owners are ongoing.

"But there's a lot going on," Singh said.

Development vs. identity

Some Santa Maria residents aren't swayed by added revenue. Community-minded activists point to the amount of development in the city—and where it's centered—as a cause for concern.

At the Sept. 6 forum on Measure U, Santa Maria resident Gale McNeeley expressed worry that the Enos Ranch development has taken, and will continue to take, attention and money from the effort to revitalize downtown.

Plans to redesign the area around Broadway and Main streets, and thus re-attract residents, business owners, and consumers to Santa Maria's downtown shops, have been in the works for years.

In October 2017, the city hosted two downtown design workshops where community members discussed their priorities for Santa Maria's downtown. In January 2018, the city asked similar questions in an online survey, which hundreds of residents completed. That month, the City Council approved downtown's first mixed-use development since the city took aim at revitalization. It's a multi-story building on Broadway and Main Street that promises to provide space for retail, commercial, and housing. It's a type of project that's never existed in Santa Maria before, the Chamber of Commerce's Singh explained.

Still, McNeeley said at the forum that little progress has been made downtown, and the city's



ON THE CLOCK: SLO-based developer NKT Commercial applied for development permits for Enos Ranch in 2015. Now, just three years later, the first commercial phase of the project is nearing completion.

use of a flourishing, safe, and comfortable space to gather is years out of reach. That is especially true now, McNeeley said, with the corporations at Enos Ranch diverting business and community focus that could have been put toward supporting local businesses and development in the area that should be the heart of the city.

“The mayor, when she ran for mayor, she said that small businesses were the core of the community and she wanted to work for small businesses,” McNeeley said at the forum. “And then she and the City Council put all the business out in Enos Ranch instead. You see what’s happening to the downtown as a result of that?”

But Santa Maria Community Development Director Chuen Ng said that a vibrant downtown can, and will, coexist with big-box developments like Enos Ranch.

While Enos Ranch is a freeway-oriented development where consumers from in and out of town might go to make a quick purchase or to grab some fast food on the road, Ng said the ideal downtown would offer an entirely different set of services.

Downtown, he said, should be a place where residents can walk around for hours, visit multiple stores and restaurants, or go out on a date. It should be a place where people can gather for concerts and other community events, where people want to spend time eating on a patio outside, or working at a cafe.

That, Ng said, is not something the businesses at Enos Ranch will ever provide.

“I think they’re two totally different developments,” he said. “Ultimately we want [downtown] to be a destination, a place the city can be proud of, where residents want to go to, where people gather.”

That kind of atmosphere, Ng said, takes time to create. In an area as challenging as downtown Santa Maria, where a giant mall and traffic-heavy streets rub shoulders with the historic buildings and small businesses that are present in most downtowns, revitalization and beautification has been especially difficult.

But a streetscape plan that would improve Broadway and Main streets using a Caltrans grant is in its draft form, Ng said. And although he said he couldn’t get too specific, the city is in the midst of talking with some “interested users” about the future of downtown.

Planning for the revitalization of downtown is pretty much over, Ng said, and the city just needs developers and business owners to move into the area.

“To some extent, I’m done talking about planning,” Ng said. “I just want to see something get built.”

Low-wage workforce

While some of Santa Maria’s activist base is concerned about development, others question how Enos Ranch will help the city’s blue-collar backbone.

Lucas Zucker is the policy director for Central Coast Alliance United for a Sustainable Economy (CAUSE), an organization focused on housing and public transportation issues affecting the poor and working class in Santa Maria. Zucker said the city is wracked by a lack of affordable housing, which threatens to displace underemployed workers.

While developments such as Enos Ranch do bring in much-needed jobs, there’s a reason to be cautious, Zucker explained.

“They are often very low-wage retail jobs,” Zucker said. “If we’re not creating the affordable housing for that workforce then we get the problem, as is the case in Santa Maria, where you have a very high cost of living, low wages, and a significant rent burden.”

Big-box retailers such as Enos Ranch occupants Dick’s Sporting Goods, Old Navy, and Petco pay starting salaries ranging between \$9 and \$13 an hour in California, according to estimates from the employment website glassdoor.com. That amounts to an annual income of less than \$30,000 for the average full-time retail worker. Once housing costs factor in, it becomes an even gloomier picture. According

to the website RentCafe, which tracks local rent prices, the average price of a one-bedroom apartment in Santa Maria is hovering around \$1,500 a month.

Zucker said that many working-class Santa Marians haven’t seen their incomes raise with rents rates.

“Affordable housing is at the heart of this,” he said. “Even if we are trying to raise wages, those are being eaten up by housing costs that are increasing even faster than wages. There’s almost no point.”

Corporate developments like Enos Ranch may deliver sales tax revenue and jobs, Zucker added, but the bulk of that economic activity doesn’t stay within the community. And with the steady rise in popularity of online shopping giants such as Amazon, more and more brick-and-mortar retailers are shutting their doors. Most recently, parent company Lowe’s announced it would close all Orchard Supply Hardware (OSH) stores, including Santa Maria’s, citing a lack of profits.

“It may not be the best long-term investment to just invest in places where people can go for cheap shopping,” Zucker said. “We need to invest in something that’s more than shopping.”

The Chamber of Commerce’s Singh argued



NOD TO HISTORY: The historic Smith-Enos House currently sits at the location of a future Santa Maria park, where the restored house will serve as a centerpiece with interpretive information about the city’s agricultural history.

that while Enos Ranch may not provide the high, “living-wage” jobs that some say the city should be pushing for, the business hub is a piece of the foundation for future growth.

“Sometimes the people that are skeptical are those that haven’t been anywhere else, are afraid of change, or NIMBYs—nobody wants anything in their backyard,” she said. “But they want the places to shop.”

For community activist and local artist Ruben Espinoza, the development isn’t necessarily a negative, but he would have liked to see a more complete illustration of the city’s overall character at Enos Ranch.

“I see the growth that’s happening and it’s nice,” he said. “But it’s becoming like

an ‘Anytown, USA.’ It’s starting to look like Simi Valley or Glendale. Those big-box stores like Costco, you see them in Oxnard. The uniqueness of Santa Maria and the culture here is being removed.”

The city’s Latino roots are what make Santa Maria distinct, he said, but the city’s plans for expansion seem to cater to or attract more outsiders. He said he’d like to see more of a focus on issues that affect Santa Marians more directly, like affordable housing, adding that it often feels like community concerns fall on deaf ears.

“I feel like we were heard, but not listened to,” Espinoza said. “I think the developers have their ear. They’re the ones that have the power because they are the ones who are spending the money and creating the jobs. But it’s the residents who are having these things imposed on them.”

Down the road

The city has responded to some of the complaints about Enos Ranch, mainly the traffic congestion created along Betteravia Road and the off-ramp from Highway 101. Santa Maria recently put out a bid to contractors to widen the off-ramp since the number of right-

turn lanes was reduced from two to one, often backing up cars onto the highway.

The Chamber of Commerce’s Singh said that the traffic issues are all part of the redevelopment process and that locals can look to the LA area for what unmanageable congestion looks like.

“There’s always a trade-off when you grow, but usually the growing pains are better than not growing at all,” she said.

Santa Maria is also considering plans to address another common complaint from local motorists—the need for more access points to the city’s Costco store along Bradley Road.

Bradley is also the future site of several car dealerships that were approved for development

earlier this year. The auto complex will be the new home of the Honda and Toyota dealerships, along with Home Motors and two other unnamed auto dealers, according to Santa Maria Community Development Department Principal Planner Neda Zayer.

“They could move forward for building permits at any time, but have not yet submitted any,” she told the *Sun* via email.

The auto dealerships represent some of the last commercial development in the Enos Ranch area. The rest of the land is slated for community facilities and high density housing.

The main developer of Enos Ranch, SLO-based NKT Commercial, sold the planned residential portion of the land at the corner of Battles Road and College Drive to the Towbes Group.

Towbes proposed a three-story apartment complex near Enos Ranch called the Easton Plaza Apartments, which the Planning Commission approved in February 2017. The complex will include 318 apartments of one- to three-bedroom units as well as thousands of square feet of shared lawn and recreational facilities.

Requiring high-density housing in the area was part of Santa Maria’s general plan and the Enos Ranch specific plan, along with community facilities like parks and schools.

In 2017, the Santa Maria-Bonita School District acquired the land that neighbors the site of the proposed apartment complex along College Drive, paying NKT Commercial nearly \$5.9 million from Measure T bond money. The district put forward plans to the city’s Planning Commission for a campus with two-story buildings and sports fields.

NKT Commercial gifted the last remaining piece of land between College Drive and Bradley Road to Santa Maria to be the location of a new park. That park will be the home of the Smith-Enos House, the historic farmhouse that sat at the top of the hill, visible to Highway 101 commuters for more than a century.

The house currently sits at the future park’s location, and the city plans to put a new roof on the building before winter, explained Recreation and Parks Department Director Alex Posada. There are already volunteers who want to paint the house, Posada said, but the restoration will require a fundraising effort that will be spearheaded by the department’s nonprofit arm, the People for Leisure and Youth (PLAY).

The restored home will serve as the park’s centerpiece, with interpretive historical exhibits, Posada said. An events building is in the planning stages for the park as well. That idea came from the city’s outreach to community groups, Posada said, that wanted to see an indoor space for large events available for organizations and residents.

Santa Maria’s proposed design for the building is a barn theme, after the barn that sat behind the farmhouse long before the development began, he said. It’s a nod to the old Santa Maria and its rural identity right in the middle of the new, large-scale development.

“In the time that I’ve been here, Santa Maria has always kind of strived to be the economic hub on the Central Coast as far as retail goes, being the place where people go to shop,” Posada said. “I think this project strengthens that position, but it was also done on really the last piece of agricultural land in the city limits, so our goal was to preserve a little bit of history, keeping in mind that there was an agricultural past and trying to honor some of those families that made the valley what it is today.” ○

Staff Writers Kasey Bubnash and Spencer Cole, Arts and Lifestyle Writer Rebecca Rose, and Managing Editor Joe Payne all contributed to this story. The *Sun* editorial staff can be reached at mail@santamariasun.com.

Spotlight on: The Terroir Project

**Jeffers Richardson,
director at Firestone
Walker's Barrelworks**

BY SPENCER COLE

Local beer lovers will have a chance to taste seven different one-off beers on Sept. 29 at West Ranch in Los Olivos as part of Firestone Walker's Terroir Project, led by its craft Buellton location, Barrelworks.

The event, which runs from noon to 4 p.m., will feature beers created from a recipe that draws both from the grain and the grape.

"The Terroir Project is a collaborative experiment into the emergent world of beer-wine hybrids," Barrelworks Director Jeffers Richardson said. "It's an exploration into how 'terroir'—or sense of place—drives what we taste."

In all, seven breweries participated in the process, including Sierra Nevada Brewing Co. and St. Louis-based Side Project Brewing. The beermakers were held to strict criteria for how they could make their beverages. All recipes had to use the same grain bill and allow the brew to mature in barrels for the same amount of time; the beer had to have the same co-fermented percentage of wort and grapes; and most

importantly, the grapes used in the brew had to be grown within 100 miles of each brewery.

"Obviously, it was a little easier for some of us to source local wine grapes, but everyone pulled it off," Richardson said. "This really gives us a baseline for how these local ingredients shape the finished product. We are all making the same hybrid beer—and yet the outcomes will be quite different."

Ideas for the project first bubbled to the surface in 2016, when brewers from each of the companies began casually discussing the topic and a recipe evolved from there. It was deemed a reasonable and noble challenge by the brewmasters and a chance to try something new.

Barrelworks Master Blender Jim Crooks is no stranger to straddling the lines between wine and beer. For example, Barrelworks' Bretta Rosé uses mostly local Santa Maria raspberries as a key part of its fermenting process.

"It's just got this amazing pink rosé hue and the aroma of freshly picked raspberries," Crooks told the *Sun*, who added that the different fruit used by blenders set different beers apart in the same way different varieties of hops would.

It's why he and many in the craft beer community are so excited for Sept. 29, when they'll finally get to try the beer-wine hybrids.

"I can't wait to taste what everyone came up with," Richardson said. "I think this is going to be a real eye-opening experience for brewers and consumers alike."

Tickets for the event are \$65 and include Terroir Project tastings from the seven participating breweries: Beavertown (London),

Barrelworks, Garage Project (Wellington, New Zealand), Jester King (Austin), Side Project (St. Louis), Sierra Nevada (Chico), and Trillium (Boston). A portion of the proceeds will benefit the Pacific Conservatory Theatre (PCPA).

Tickets also include tastings from guest breweries such as Russian River Brewing Company and The Bruery along with guest wineries like Andrew Murray Vineyards, Foxen, Thacher, and Whitcraft. Admission also includes a commemorative tasting glass and live music. To buy tickets, visit firestonebeer.com.

Highlights:

- Solvang is set to host its annual Danish Days from Sept. 14 to 16. The weekend celebration features food, dancing, parades, and live entertainment, all honoring the city's Danish heritage.

- Doc Burnstein's Ice Cream Lab (with locations in San Luis Obispo, Santa Maria, and Arroyo Grande) was recently featured on *Martha and Snoop's Potluck Dinner Party* hosted by Martha Stewart and Snoop Dogg.



PHOTO COURTESY OF FIRESTONE WALKER BREWING COMPANY

FROM GRAIN AND GRAPE: Firestone Walker Brewing Company will be one of seven breweries presenting a one-time beer-wine hybrid on Sept. 29 at West Ranch in Los Olivos.

The company, along with SLO Baked Bakery, provided a massive, 2-foot-by-5-foot ice cream sandwich made with more than 60 gallons of vanilla ice cream and 50 pounds of cake. The show aired on Sept. 5.

- Leadership Lompoc Valley will host its annual kick-off banquet on Sept. 28 at La Purisima State Historic Park beginning at 6 p.m. The event costs \$35 per person to attend. Its organizers recommend attendees bring a flashlight and wear comfortable shoes. ○

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

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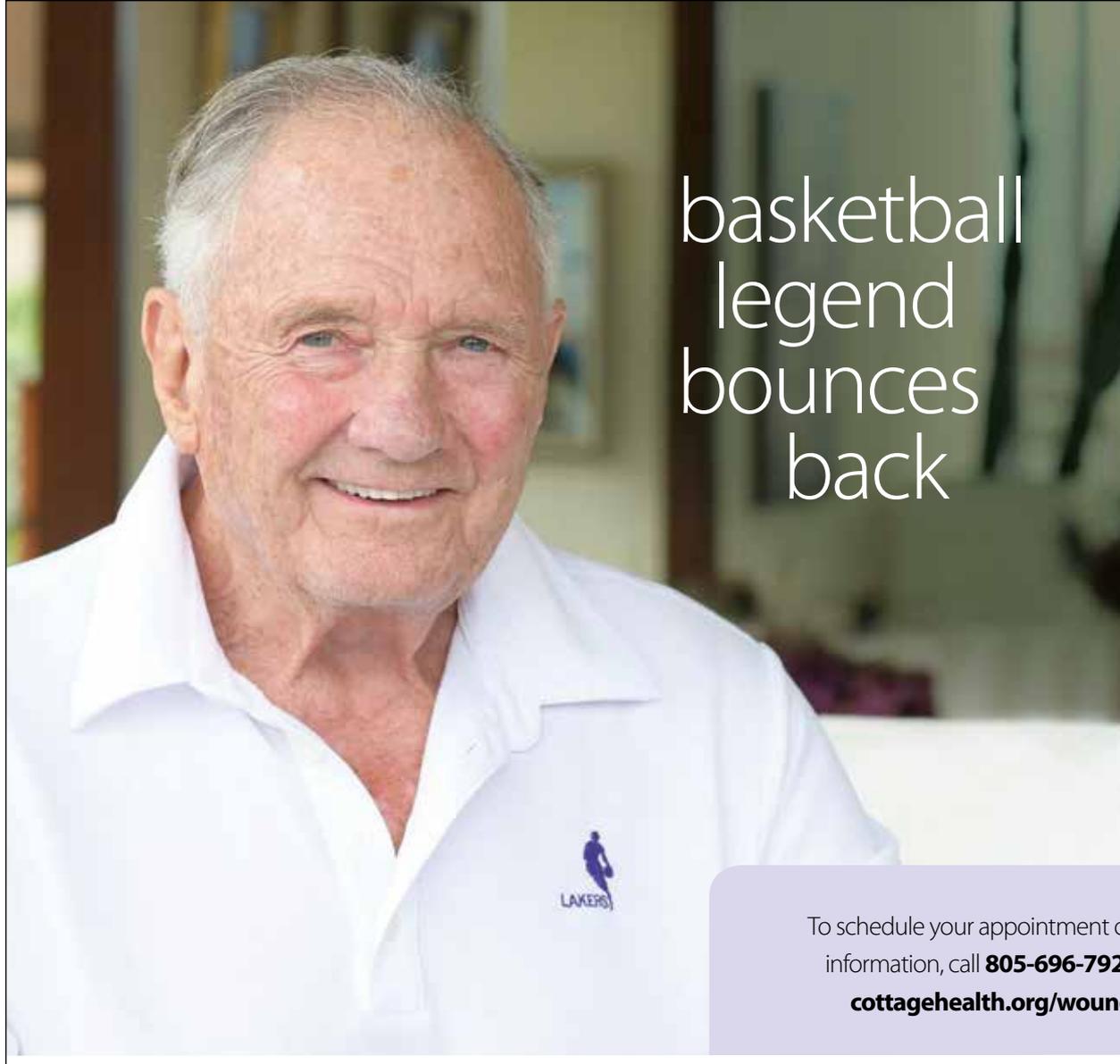
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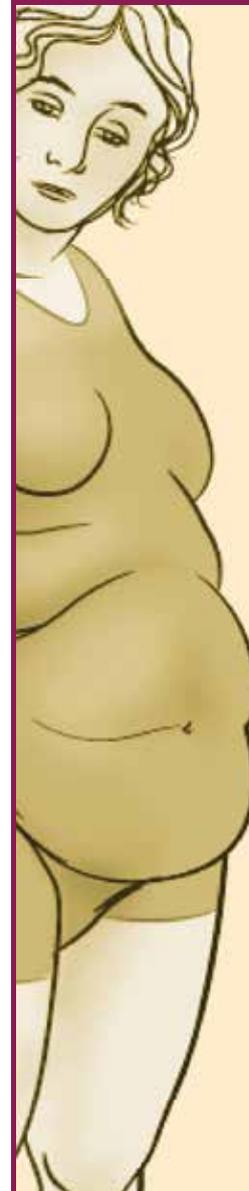
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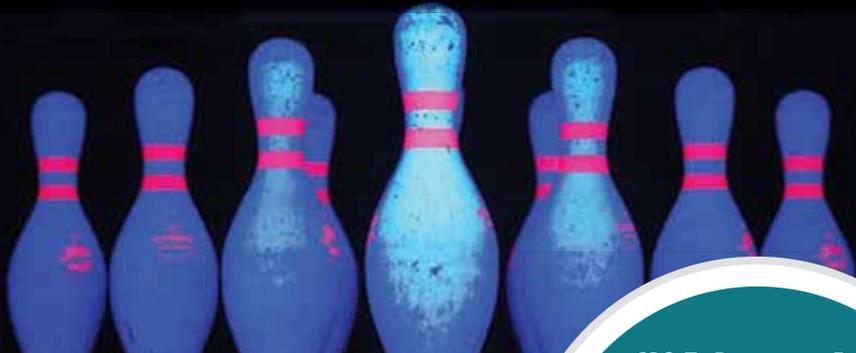


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California universities may be required to offer abortion medications

BY KASEY BUBNASH

Each month, roughly 519 UC or CSU students seek medication abortions at off-campus clinics. And since 2000, more than 1.5 million women in the United States have terminated pregnancies through the use of abortion medication.

That's all according to a fact sheet released by the office of state Sen. Connie Leyva (D-Chino), the author of bill that would require each of the state's public university student health centers to offer abortions via medication by Jan. 1, 2022.

Senate Bill 320, which passed the state Senate on Aug. 30, will either be signed into law or vetoed by Gov. Jerry Brown by the end of September.

"It's probably one of the most radical pieces of reproductive legislation that has been put forward in the country," Steven Ho, an incoming junior at UC Santa Barbara, told the *Sun*, adding that it felt empowering to see so many lawmakers show support for the bill. "California is really paving the way for reproductive justice."

Ho, who serves as internal vice president for UC Santa Barbara's Associated Students, said that while the university's student governing body has yet to take official action on SB 320, he and a few other members are planning an informal canvassing event in support of the legislation. That typically includes providing community members around campus with the governor's contact information, Ho said, and sometimes, doughnuts.

Although Ho originally became interested in the bill because it was inspired by a UC Berkeley student resolution, he said he continues to back its effort to ease many of the challenges his peers face when seeking abortions.

Nearly 51 percent of all UC and CSU students are considered low-income, according to a study published by UC San Francisco in 2017. While only one-third of UC students and two-thirds of CSU students have access to reliable methods of transportation, 22 of the state's 34 campuses are at least 30 minutes away from abortion providers. And only 15 percent of the those providers are open on the weekends, according to the study.

"This is a step toward eliminating those barriers," Ho said.

Medication abortions are also considered to be less invasive than other methods.

Women who are up to 10 weeks pregnant are eligible for medication abortions, according to the Aug. 30 SB 320 analysis. Patients typically take two pills, mifepristone and misoprostol, within a 72-hour period, causing the uterus to empty and bleed heavily. Although the method is almost always effective, complications and incomplete abortions can occur.

Toni Molle, director of public affairs for the CSU's Office of the Chancellor, said that because CSU doctors don't provide inpatient care and don't have hospital admission privileges, campuses would need to establish agreements with local hospitals for students who experience complications from the medication.

Molle also said that while student health centers do provide many reproductive health care services, campuses would need funding

ATHLETE OF THE WEEK



PHOTO COURTESY OF TOM MOTT

Chase Artopoulos

The St. Joseph Knights were down 24-30. Only seconds remained. But in his typical fashion, quarterback Chase Artopoulos (pictured, No. 9) remained calm and helped his team gain 82 yards in less than 50 seconds.

The Knights beat out Bakersfield Garces Memorial High School with a tie-breaking kick on Aug. 31, and head football coach Pepe Villasenor said the win wouldn't have been possible without Artopoulos' renowned focus and determination.

"I'm most impressed with his composure," Villasenor said. "He never gets too high, he never gets too low."

Artopoulos, a senior at St. Joseph High School, led his team to win its first three games this season. He becomes a better player with each and every practice, Villasenor said, and with an above 4.0 grade point average, several ivy leagues are showing considerable interest in Artopoulos' game.

"He's an incredible student athlete," Villasenor said. ○

—Kasey Bubnash

for the implementation of additional medical equipment, medication, and other needs associated with offering abortion medication.

Although each student health center would be provided with a privately funded \$200,000 grant to cover costs associated with the implementation of SB 320, Molle said that "one-time" funding would not address the need for ongoing staff training and maintenance. Still, Molle said CSU administrators have been working with the bill's author on many of these issues.

Director of media relations at the UC's Office of the President, Claire Doan, said UC leaders share similar concerns about funding.

"According to a UC analysis," Doan wrote in a statement, "even after taking into account the funds pledged by private sources, the bill would have a significant, ongoing impact on the university budget, including student fees."

Neither UC or CSU have taken official stances on the bill, and both agreed that health care in all forms should be easily accessible to students.

While public universities would be required to offer medication abortions through the bill, participation would be optional for private and community colleges. If passed, Allan Hancock College will not be opting in, according to spokesman Phil Hamer.

"Our health center is nurse-run, and we don't have staff that would be licensed to perform abortions and have no plans to hire practitioners that would be able to," Hamer wrote in a statement. "Doing so would take away resources from the many services we currently provide to our students." ○

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.

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Boycott In-N-Out, really?

California Democratic Party Chairman Eric Bauman is calling for a boycott of In-N-Out because they donated \$25,000 to the Republican party. What has California come to? I know that California is a Democratic “controlled” state, but to boycott a company because they donated a modest donation (for a national company) to an opposing party is really showing the arrogance of California’s “senior” Democratic representatives.

Why is it that anything someone does for the Republican Party is not only bad, but needs to be punished? This is one of many reasons that Justin Fareed is going to get my vote, plus any other Republican I can find to vote for. This attitude that the Democrats deserve California to worship them has got to stop! I don’t know about you, but I’m eating at In-N-Out tonight.

Alan Eft Orcutt

Veterans deserve better

The late Sen. John McCain will be remembered for his integrity, most notably demonstrated by his penchant for straight talk. There was a great irony locally when Bruce Porter wrote a column in the Sept. 2 *Santa Barbara News-Press*, simultaneously praising Sen. McCain’s integrity while contorting the truth and assailing 3rd District County Supervisor Joan Hartmann for something that never happened. If one is to use John McCain’s legacy as a comparison, facts matter.

Mr. Porter falsely asserts that Ms. Hartmann kicked county veterans department caseworkers out of their office space at the Bettervia Government Center in Santa Maria. Facts reveal that when another county supervisor (who served years prior to Ms. Hartmann’s election) renovated his office at Bettervia, he encroached on the available space used by veterans’ caseworkers, leaving them with a less than 200-square-foot single office to use.

Of the county’s three veterans department offices (located in Lompoc, Santa Barbara, and Santa Maria), the Santa Maria office has the biggest constituent caseload, yet they had the smallest office space. Many veterans have unique needs, like physical disabilities, and some suffer the effects of PTSD. Therefore, the caseworkers desire easily accessible and private office space to meet their needs. Knowing this, upon her election to office, Ms. Hartmann strongly encouraged county General Services to find a more suitable space for our veterans department in Santa Maria. As a result, they relocated from their small single office at Bettervia, which often has parking challenges, to a nearly 1,200-square-foot county-owned facility off Foster Road.

The new facility has private offices for discreet case management, ample parking, and above the required amount of ADA parking spaces, all to the benefit of our local veterans. Unlike Mr. Porter, who seems to be in campaign mode a bit early, I applaud Supervisor Hartmann for her leadership in better serving the needs of our veterans.

Chris Brooks
retired sergeant, U.S. Army
Vandenberg Village

The public good and oil profits

Recent letters and articles in local papers have promoted more oil development over and through the Santa Maria groundwater basin. Who will profit and who will be hurt by these

new high-pressure intrusions through our diminishing drinking water aquifers? Aera Energy and ERG Resources, two oil companies, have recently been flooding the media with promises of good jobs, community progress, and prosperity for us all if Santa Barbara County will approve their plans to dramatically increase high-pressure oil and gas drilling upstream from Santa Maria.

Oil company proposals and environmental impact statements to the county are riddled with false, incomplete, and rosy assumptions to justify new dangerous drilling activity that will severely injure our health and environment long after they have grabbed their oil profits and left town. Our land and water will be further poisoned and squandered. These new projects will provide few new jobs in the energy industry and are dwarfed by the hundreds of new good-paying jobs created by clean and safe solar and wind energy development in our area in recent years.

Our water supply is threatened by drought and overuse. Our climate is threatened by increasing production and burning of fossil fuels. It is time to conserve our resources and consume responsibly. It is time to live within our means and produce and use our own energy. No more oil leaks and spills. No more natural gas explosions in our homes and businesses. No more oil-soaked pelicans and seals. Please tell your county Board of Supervisors to stop this new onslaught of extreme oil development. Monterey County, San Luis Obispo County, and Ventura County have taken action to stop dangerous oil extraction and encourage safe energy development. Can Santa Barbara County do the same?

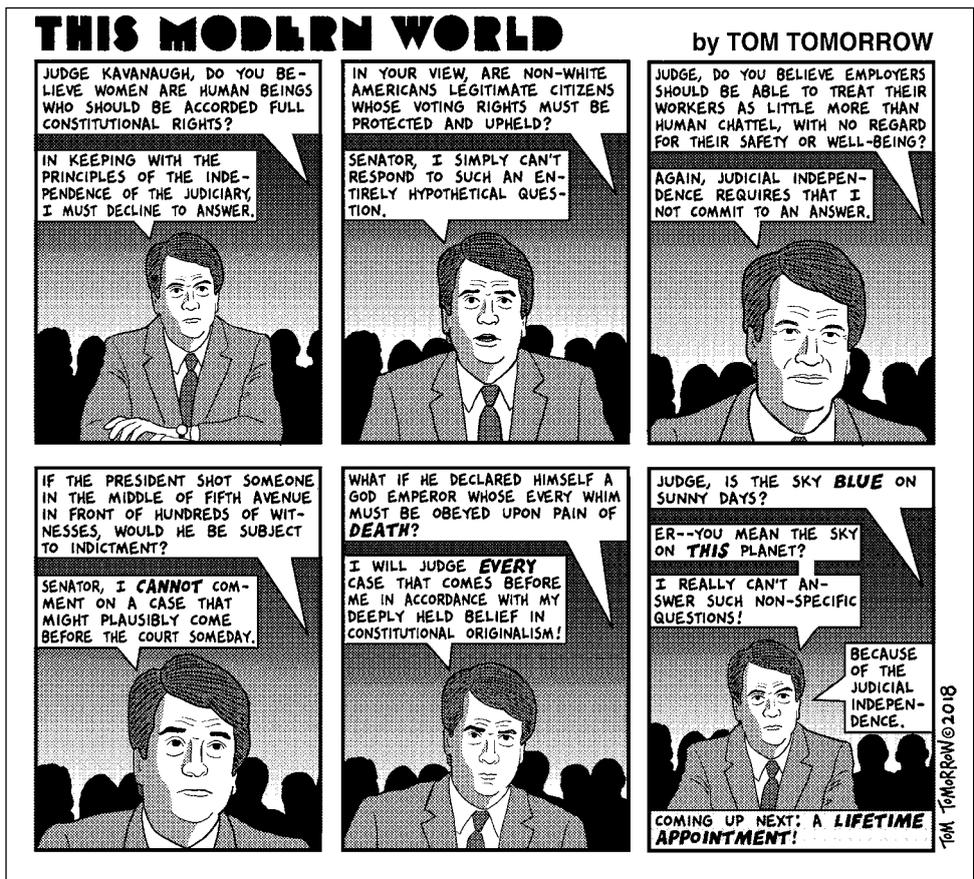
Larry Bishop
Buellton

No excuse for Trump

Some opinions regarding politics or politicians in general never change among many individuals, even in view of the behavior of those politicians and their policies. Such is the case of a recent letter in the Sun’s Aug. 16 Opinion section (“Too much Kool-Aid”) that

Robert P. Sutton
Vandenberg Village

LETTERS continued page 15



Blame game

Let's play a game. Here are the rules: Pick whatever it is that bothers you about a community, and blame it on something you hate!

It seems like a lot of **Central Coasters** are playing that game right now. You don't have to look much farther than the pages of the *Sun* to see what I'm chirping about.

How about the knock-down drag-out fight between **Santa Maria Police Department Sgt. Russ Mengel** and city resident **Gale McNeeley** over Measure U, the proposed sales tax increase on the November ballot (see page 7).

According to McNeeley, ever the thorn in **Santa Maria's** side, the city doesn't need more sales tax revenue for the police department or revenue-generating big-box developments like **Enos Ranch** (see page 10). If Santa Maria wants to keep kids out of gangs, it needs arts programs, parks, and fountains for crying out loud. Fountains!

Mengel, on the other hand, says public safety comes first, which is no surprise coming from a cop. But when asked about gaining revenue from possibly allowing recreational cannabis businesses in the city, he did a full-court blame-game press.

If you believe Mengel, **Denver, Colorado**, is basically a smoking hole in the ground since the state legalized pot and the city allowed recreational weed businesses to set up shop.

"It's devastated the Denver area," he said. "The businesses, it hurt them. Many of them are leaving and going to different places."

I wonder when was the last time he visited Denver, but I think the city's doing just fine. According to *The Gazette* in **Colorado Springs**, cannabis is the business not just in Denver, but the whole state. Cannabis accounted for "\$1.51 billion in 2017, generating more economic output than 90 percent of all other industries in the state," the paper reported earlier this year.

To be fair, police departments like Santa Maria's can still treat weed like a menace to society all they want. In the same article, *The Gazette* pointed out that the black market did boom in Colorado, and enforcement of illegal grows was up.

That's why I wouldn't be surprised if we see more of the same in **Santa Barbara County**, which has had more applications for growing permits than any other county in California. We'll see what the **Sheriff's Office** and Sheriff

Bill Brown and other law enforcement agencies turn up in the not-too-distant future.

But McNeeley did make a good point about pot in his battle with Mengel, that Santa Maria was being "more moralistic than realistic" about it. A city is free to enforce or tax weed all it wants, but can still have all kinds of problems without having legal pot shops.

Take a look at **Lompoc**, and the state of homelessness there illustrated so clearly in the **Santa Ynez riverbed**. That problem was there long before the **Lompoc City Council** agreed to allow recreational cannabis in the city proper. The county **Board of Supervisors** just declared a shelter crisis (see page 4) to help acquire some state funding for the cleanup there and the homelessness problem rampant across the county, for crying out loud! Legal cannabis didn't create that problem, but tax revenue from it could help assuage the problem without the city having to declare a "crisis."

But even then, that added cash flow won't solve the issue. That's the problem with the blame game—there's hardly ever one reason why problems arise, and never one magic bullet cure. Lompoc is the "City of Arts and Flowers," everything McNeeley could ask for (including the fountains), but it's still got issues.

Talking about issues, I wonder if the ongoing feud between the **Santa Maria Public Library's** director, **Mary Housel**, and the **Friends of the Santa Maria Public Library** is over. Housel contributed a pretty lengthy opinion piece last week ("Checking the facts on the library debate," Sept. 6) to rebut some of what I said previously ("Frenemies," Aug. 23) and claims from the Friends.

Housel and the library just celebrated its own shop on Sept. 11 (see page 7), basically the same thing the Friends did, just without any friends. Aw, how sad.

But so far, I haven't heard a peep from the Friends since Housel's op-ed. Maybe they're too busy planning their upcoming book sale, which will happen Sept. 21 and 22 at the library (see page 26). Or maybe they're tired of playing a back-and-forth blame game with her. ○

The Canary is tired of all the games too. Send your thoughts to canary@santamariasun.com.



LETTERS from page 14

Fact checking Justin Ruhge

I am responding to the letter "Too much Kool-Aid" (Aug. 16) by Justin Ruhge. There seems to be a pattern to his frequent letters and this one is no exception.

First, he insults the person who wrote the commentary he is responding to (Ken McCalip's "Misdeeds in La-La Land," Aug. 9) and then proceeds to spout his dogma and outright lies. He never attributes the source of his BS, but he often quotes Fox Fake News talking points word for word.

He claims MSNBC makes "accusations without substance." I guess he never watches MSNBC or he would know that they have actual reporters who go out and interview real people about real news. As a Fox Fake News devotee, he wouldn't understand the concept.

Then he gets into the Fox dogma: The national debt doubled under Obama. It did not. All Obama did was put the cost of George W's illegal war in Iraq into the budget, whereas Bush had been paying for it on the national credit card, so to speak.

Mr. Ruhge then says that Trump didn't increase the national debt. Absurd! The

nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office says that Trump's tax break for the rich will add at least \$1 trillion to the national debt. That's 1,000 times \$1 billion, or a million times \$1 million. And who will pay for what amounts to corporate welfare? We, the middle class and our children and their children will pay.

Now the BIG LIE. "Obama gave away billions of dollars to Iran because they are Muslim." Here are the facts. The Shah of Iran ordered \$400 million in military aircraft and paid for it. He was deposed before delivery. The U.S. held onto that money to ensure the return of the captive Americans. Iran then sued in international court for \$10 billion to cover interest, fees, etc. When it looked as if we would lose the court battle and have to pay the whole \$10 billion, Obama made a deal to give them back the \$400 million plus \$1.1 billion in interest. This had nothing to do with the prisoner exchange that was going on at about the same time

These are the facts. Unfortunately, Mr. Ruhge cannot say the same. It would appear that he has the same dubious relationship with the truth as Mr. Trump.

Dan Dennis Orcutt

BOOTS & BREWS

COUNTRY MUSIC FESTIVAL

SEPT. 29TH 1PM TO 9PM

MADONNA INN
SAN LUIS OBISPO

JAKE OWEN



FRANKIE BALLARD

CARLY PEARCE

TYLER RICH

BOOTSANDBREWS.COM



HOT STUFF

SEPT. 13 - SEPT. 20
2018

DANE DAYS

The 82nd annual Solvang Danish Days celebration takes place Sept. 14, 15, and 16. This festival features live entertainment, arts and crafts, kids activities, food, beer, the Danish Days Parade, and more. Admission is free. VIP packages are available for \$55. More info: solvangdanishdays.org.

Expo Center, 100 Madonna Rd, San Luis Obispo.

NATIONAL DRIVE ELECTRIC WEEK: RIDE AND DRIVE Dealer and private electric vehicles available for test drives. Also features electric bikes. EV drivers will be available to answer questions about their experience with their vehicles, including pros and cons of leasing versus owning, "range anxiety", and why they drive an EV. **Sept. 15**, 9 a.m.-3 p.m. Free. 805-704-1549. carbonfreeslo.org. Madonna Inn Expo Center, 100 Madonna Rd., San Luis Obispo.

NORTH SLO COUNTY

3RD ANNUAL SHOWDOWN CORNHOLE TOURNAMENT Proceeds benefit the Atascadero High Greybots. Features breakfast, lunch, raffles, a costume contest, and a Jenga challenge. **Sept. 22-23**, 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Entry info online. visitatascadero.com/events. Sunken Gardens, 6505 El Camino Real, Atascadero.

FALL FAMILY FUN FEST Features family-friendly activities including crafts, a 32-foot inflatable obstacle course, seasonal treats, face painting, opportunities to meet firefighters and police officers, and more. **Sept. 22**, 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Free. 805-237-3988. prcity.com. Centennial Park, 600 Nickerson Dr., Paso Robles.

MORRO BAY KAYAK WINE TOUR Dinner and wine served on the dunes on the outer bank of the bay. Enjoy Lone Madrone wines while watching the sunset. **Sept. 22**, 4-8 p.m. \$110. 805-238-0845. lonemadrone.orderport.net. Lone Madrone Winery, 5800 Adelaida Rd, Paso Robles.

FUNDRAISERS

SANTA MARIA VALLEY/LOS ALAMOS

THE DUNES CENTER SEPTEMBER RUMMAGE SALE Features gently used clothing (for men, women,

boys, girls, and infants), toys, sporting goods, kitchenware, crafts, art, and household items for sale. Proceeds support the Dunes Center. **Sept. 22**, 8 a.m.-1 p.m. Free. 805-343-2455. dunescenter.org/event/rummage-sale/. Far Western Tavern, 899 Guadalupe St., Guadalupe.

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.

LIONESS CLUB OF CAYUCOS ANNUAL ENCHILADA SALE Proceeds benefit numerous club projects, including Hardie Park Pool equipment, swimming lessons for all Cayucos School students, and scholarships for graduating high school seniors, the Mutt Mitt Program, and others. Mondays-Sundays, 8 a.m.-8 p.m. **through Oct. 9** \$10 for 2 beef, chicken or cheese enchiladas; \$55 for a tray of 12. 805-995-1432. cayucoslioness.org. St. Joseph's Catholic Church, 298 S. Thompson Ave., Nipomo.

SOUTH COAST SLO COUNTY

6TH ANNUAL CHARITY RUMMAGE SALE All proceeds benefit Friendship Bridge, a non-profit organization empowering Guatemalan women to find solutions to poverty through micro-loans. **Sept. 21**, 12-3 p.m. and **Sept. 22**, 9 a.m.-3 p.m. Friendship Bridge, 467 Ramona St., Grover Beach, 805-545-8949.

SWINGIN' BY THE SEA A fundraising event to support the Chapman Estate property. Features plein air artists-in-action, artwork, unique Estate-only experiences for auction, docent tours, food and beverage samplings from local vendors, and live music. **Sept. 22**, 11:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m. \$125 table seating; \$100 chair seating. 805-741-8899.

PHOTO COURTESY OF SOLVANG DANISH DAYS
brownpapertickets.com. Chapman Estate, 1243 Ocean Blvd., Shell Beach.

SAN LUIS OBISPO

18TH ANNUAL ROTARY HOMES OF DISTINCTION TOUR Take an exclusive look into 5 homes. Proceeds fund local student scholarships and nonprofits. Hosted by Rotary Club of SLO **Sept. 16**, 11 a.m.-4:30 p.m. \$25. 805-546-8806. slorotary.org. Rotary Homes of Distinction Tour, San Luis Obispo, San Luis Obispo.

80'S FOR ANIMALS Features a costume contest, cruelty-free appetizers, drinks, music, a live and silent auction, and more. **Sept. 22**, 6-10 p.m. \$40. 805-543-3786. greenerpasture-sanctuary.org/events.html. Odd Fellows Hall, 520 Dana St., San Luis Obispo.

AN EVENING WITH BILL MCKIBBEN: YES ON G CAMPAIGN FUNDRAISER Join McKibben, Mayor Heidi Harmon, and other local leaders to hear how SLO County can help lead the transition away from fossil fuels. **Sept. 17**, 6 p.m. \$40-\$100; \$10 for students and seniors. 510-844-7160 x 313. protectslo.nationbuilder.com. Cuesta College Cultural and Performing Arts Center, Highway 1, San Luis Obispo.

MOTHER EARTH GRAND CELEBRATION FUNDRAISER: VOTE YES ON MEASURE G Enjoy live music, food, and auctions featuring paintings by Marcia Burtt and other local artists and other items from artisans. Erin English Band performs. **Sept. 15**, 4-8 p.m. \$125. 805-441-4897. protectslo.nationbuilder.com/mother_earth. Tiber Canyon Ranch, 280 W Ormonde Rd, San Luis Obispo.

NORTH COAST SLO COUNTY

24TH DENIM AND DIAMONDS The Templeton Education Foundation presents this event to raise funds for Templeton schools. **Sept. 22**, 5-10 p.m. \$80 per single ticket; \$1,000 per table. eventbrite.com. Hummingbird House, 4015 Almond Dr., Templeton, (805) 226-8575.

25TH SILVER ANNIVERSARY GOLF TOURNAMENT Proceeds to benefit the SLO County Builders Exchange Scholarship Fund. Admission includes green fees, golf cart, range balls, a breakfast burrito, a barbecue lunch, beverages, and a goodie bag. **Sept. 21**, 7:15 a.m.-4 p.m. \$130 per person; limited to 144 players. 805-503-8902. slocbe.com. Morro Bay Golf Course, 201 State Park Rd., Morro Bay.

CALENDAR continued page 18

SPECIAL EVENTS

SANTA YNEZ VALLEY

82ND ANNUAL DANISH DAYS This festival features live entertainment, arts and crafts, kids activities, food, beer, the Danish Days Parade, and more. **Sept. 14-16** solvangdanishdays.org. Danish Days, Town-wide, Solvang.

SANTA MARIA VALLEY/LOS ALAMOS

BOOGIE ON DOWN WITH RIPTIDE BIG BAND Santa Maria Recreation and Parks and the Santa Maria Valley Senior Club present this dance concert featuring Riptide Big Band and In Time Trio. Funded by the Community Foundation of SLO County. **Sept. 23**, 1:30-4 p.m. Free. 775-813-5186. RiptideBB.com. Elwin Mussell Senior Center, 510 Park Ave., Santa Maria.

RAISE THE WOOF: BENEFITING SBC ANIMAL CARE FOUNDATION Guests can enjoy standup comedy, a 3-course dinner, beer, wine, soda, a silent auction and drawing, and more. Featuring live music by the Clark Street Flyers. **Sept. 22**, 5 p.m. \$75; \$125 per couple; \$420 for private table of 6. 805-298-2968. woofraise.com. Masonic Lodge, 700 E. Lakeview Blvd., Santa Maria.

SOUTH COAST SLO COUNTY

AVILA APPLE FESTIVAL AND GALA DINNER Features live music by Brett Mitchell and Matthew Evans, wine tastings by members of the Avila Wine Trail, local beers and cider, a multi-course, apple-inspired menu prepared by Debbie Collins, and live and silent auctions. **Sept. 22**, 5-9 p.m. \$100-\$800. 805-627-1997. Avila Beach Community Center, 191 San Miguel St., Avila Beach, avilabeachcc.com.

SAN LUIS OBISPO

APPLES AND HONEY FESTIVAL Guests can enjoy food, crafts, activities, and more. Live entertainment includes the Charles Paddock Zoo Show and Tell and Bonnie Lee book storytelling. **Sept. 16**, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Free. jccslo.com/. Mitchell Park, 1445 Santa Rosa St., San Luis Obispo, 208-901-0104.

INSPIRED HOME AND GARDEN EXPO OF SLO Meet local experts, view pop-up rooms, attend home improvement seminars, learn about new products and services, and more. **Sept. 15**, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. and **Sept. 16**, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Free. 805-772-4600. inspiredexpos.com. Alex Madonna

SUBMIT
YOUR
EVENTS

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

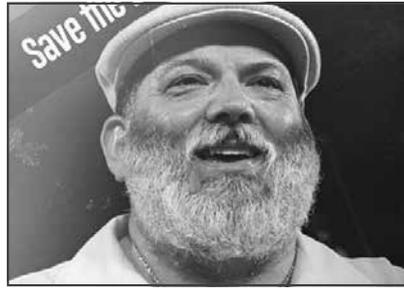
Submit events online by following the link on the calendar widget at santamariasun.com. Submissions require logging in with your Google, Facebook, or Twitter account. You can also email calendar@santamariasun.com. Deadline is one week before the issue date. Submissions are subject to editing and approval.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

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



Poncho Sanchez
SUNDAY,
SEPTEMBER 16
CPAC, Cuesta
College



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



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



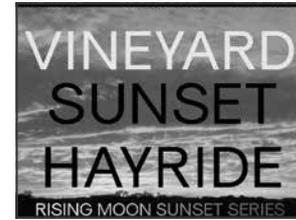
Tribute to Bob Dylan
THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 20
7Sisters Brewing Co.



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



Fall Wine Club Pickup Party
SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 22
Four Sisters Ranch
Vineyards and Winery



SLO Wind Orchestra:
Movies & Video Games POPS
SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 23
CPAC at Cuesta College



7th Annual Empty Bowls Luncheon for 5CHC
WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 26
St. Patrick's Church Hall



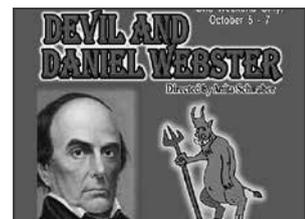
The Jason Harnell Solo Drum Experience
FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 28
Cuesta College



A Concert for HOPE!
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



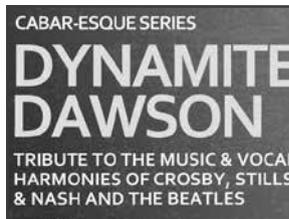
Inspired Dinner Series
SATURDAY, OCTOBER 6
A Pop-up Dining Establishment
The Yard



Tribute to Laura Nyro
TUESDAY, OCTOBER 9
Morro Bay Wine Seller



SLO Tease Burlesque HUNGER
FRI. & SAT. OCTOBER 12 & 13
South Bay Community Center



Cabare-esque Series: Dynamite Dawson
FRI. & SAT. OCTOBER 12 & 13
Cambria Center for the Arts Theater



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



Phil Lee & Eric Brace
THURSDAY, OCTOBER 25
7Sisters Brewing Co.



Halloween Spaghetti Dinner/Bingo Night
FRIDAY, OCTOBER 26
Avila Beach Community Center



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



Holiday Dinnertainment
NOVEMBER 30-DECEMBER 23
Cambria Center for the Arts Theatre

ARTS

CLASSES & WORKSHOPS

SANTA MARIA VALLEY/LOS ALAMOS

AFTER SCHOOL ART CLASSES Learn the elements of design and how to paint and draw from life during this 5 week course. For ages 7 and up. Wednesdays, 3-5 p.m. **through Oct. 19** \$125 for 5 weeks. 805-910-9548. Bobette Stanbridge, 210 W. Fesler St., Santa Maria, bobetteart.com.

AFTERNOON ART TIME: SEPTEMBER Art class for kids ages 6 to 12. **Sept. 19**, 4-5 p.m. Free. 805-925-0994. engagedpatrons.org. Santa Maria Public Library, 421 S. McClelland St., Santa Maria.

BALLROOM, LATIN, AND SWING LESSONS Marie King and Kings of Swing offer dance lessons for all ages and skill levels. Couples and singles welcome. Wednesdays, 6:30-7:30 p.m. \$36 for 4-week session. 805-343-4421. Oasis Senior Center, 420 Soares Ave., Orcutt.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

SOUND CIRCLE For those who have always wanted to play music, but believe they are "non-musical". All levels of experience are welcome. Featuring easy-to-use hand pan drums. Wednesdays, 6:30-7:45 p.m. **through Dec. 5** \$75 (for 6 classes). 805-710-9808. luciamarschools.asapconnected.com/. Branch Mill Organic Farm & Retreat Center, 2815 Branch Mill Rd., Arroyo Grande.

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

ARTS continued page 20



THE CASA DIFFERENCE

COURT APPOINTED SPECIAL ADVOCATES

Whatever their age, children who are removed from their home because of abuse or neglect face a frightening, profound unknown.

We make sure they don't face it alone.

We stand by them. We are there whenever they need us, for as long as it takes to reach a safe, permanent home.

Be there for a child. Become a CASA volunteer.

ONE CHILD AT A TIME

ONE LIFE CHANGED AT A TIME

Join us at an Info Session in Santa Maria:

Friday, September 14th at 4 pm

Tuesday, September 18th at 5:30 pm

RSVP online at sbcasa.org/volunteer

Hospice Volunteer Training



Central Coast
Home Health and Hospice
Fridays | 9am-3pm | Sept. 28, Oct. 5, 12 & 19
San Luis Obispo

Lunch provided | Pre-registration required
Volunteers provide companionship, emotional support, practical assistance or respite care to patients and families.

For more information or to register, please call Central Coast Hospice at (805) 540-6020

JOIN THE FIGHT FOR ALZHEIMER'S FIRST SURVIVOR.



SANTA MARIA

Waller Park

Saturday, September 29, 2018

9 AM Check-In | 10 AM Opening Ceremony

act.alz.org/santamaria

Contact Whitney McMullen: wcmcmullen@alz.org · 805.892.4259 x101



START A TEAM

alz.org/walk
800.272.3900

NATIONAL PRESENTING SPONSOR
Edward Jones



WELCOME NEW MEMBERS
August 2018

Stephens & Stephens LLP
505 S. McClelland Street, Santa Maria
(805) 922-1951

Joy by the Spoonful
Santa Maria, CA
(805) 868-9570

Sun Opta
1333 S. Blosser, Santa Maria
(805) 346-7841

Farmers Insurance - Edwin Velasquez
930 S. Broadway, Ste. 104, Santa Maria
(805) 928-8004

Farmers Insurance - Laura Mohajer
930 S. Broadway, Ste. 104, Santa Maria
(805) 928-8004

Hubbell Real Estate Group
1017 S Broadway, Santa Maria
(805) 266-7066

Q-Nails
3564 Skyway Dr., Bldg. 3-C, Santa Maria
(818) 534-6283

Crushed Grape Wine & Gifts
491 Madonna #1 & #2, San Luis Obispo
(805) 544-4449

La Tradicional Ice Cream Shop
530 E. Betteravia Rd., Ste B-2, Santa Maria
(805) 345-1241

Goodwill Industries of Ventura and Santa Barbara County
130 Lombard Street, Oxnard
(805) 981-0130

Goodwill Workforce Services
210 E. Enos Drive, Ste. E, Santa Maria
(805) 982-5282

Xtreme Electronics
614 W. Main Street, Santa Maria
(805) 878-9837

The Chamber encourages everyone to support businesses like these who have demonstrated a commitment to their local community! Find these members and others like them at santamaria.com/list.

(805) 925-2403 | santamaria.com

CHUMASH

CASINO RESORT

ALWAYS AMAZING. NEVER ROUTINE.



PAQUITA LA DEL BARRIO



AIR SUPPLY

FRIDAY

SEPT
14

8 PM

FRIDAY

SEPT
21

8 PM

FRIDAY

SEPT
28

8 PM

FRIDAY

OCT
5

8 PM



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

ARTIST TALK: ART AS ALCHEMICAL PORTAL TO NATURE Susan Rowland's talk uses depth psychology and alchemy to show what modern western life has repressed and explores the notion that imagination is the most important natural resource, one that connects us to non-human nature as an essential part of our being. **Sept. 23, 3-4 p.m.** \$5 members; \$10 general admission. 805-686-8315. wildlingmuseum.org. Wildling Museum of Art and Nature, 1511-B Mission Dr., Solvang.

SOUTH COAST SLO COUNTY

SOUTH COUNTY POETRY An open mic follows each month's featured poet. Fourth Sunday of every month, 5:30-7:30 p.m. Free. 805-268-9216. CanDoJack.com. South County Poetry, St. Barnabas' Episcopal Church (annex), 301 Trinity Way off Traffic Way, Arroyo Grande.

EXHIBITS

SANTA YNEZ VALLEY

COMMUNITY DAY AT THE WILDLING Wildling offers free admission during Community Day. Enjoy drop-in art activities, current exhibits, and more. Third Wednesday of every month. Free. 805-688-1082. wildlingmuseum.org. Wildling Museum of Art and Nature, 1511-B Mission Dr., Solvang.

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.

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 ARTIST'S 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. amp.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.

CALLS FOR ARTISTS

SAN LUIS OBISPO

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

STAGE

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

STAGE READING: THE WHITE ROSE SLO REP's Ubu's Other Shoe Staged Reading series presents this staged reading of Lillian Groag's *The White Rose*. **Sept. 14-15**, 7-9 p.m. and **Sept. 15**, 2-4 p.m. \$15. 805-786-2400. slorep.org. San Luis Obispo Repertory Theatre, 888 Morro St., San Luis Obispo.

IMPROV COMEDY SHOW Fast-paced improv comedy shows performed by the ensemble of Central Coast Comedy Theater. All shows

FILE PHOTO COURTESY OF THE GREAT AMERICAN MELODRAMA



'90S NOSTALGIA

The last chance to see The Mix Tape at the Great American Melodrama in Oceano is this weekend as the show closes Sept. 15. This musical comedy features parody versions of various '90s pop songs. The final performances are Sept. 13 and 14 at 7 p.m. and Sept. 15 at 3 and 7 p.m. Tickets range from \$21 to \$28. More info: (805) 489-2499 or americanmelodrama.com.



PERFUME PERFECTION

Perfumer and aromatherapist Susan Farber hosts a natural perfume workshop on Sept. 15 from 1 to 4 p.m. at the Wildling Museum of Art and Nature in Solvang. Participants will learn how to make fragrances using botanical essences gathered from around the world. Admission is \$85. All materials are provided. More info: (805) 686-8315 or wildlingmuseum.org.

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.

SLOLIO: A GATHERING OF TRUE STORIES AT LINNAEA'S This monthly storytelling event is open to anyone who has a true story to share based on a theme and that can be told without notes. The theme of September is "Test Time". **Sept. 19**, 7-9 p.m. Free. 805-995-2867. slolio.org. Linnaea's Cafe, 1110 Garden St., San Luis Obispo.

CULTURE & LIFESTYLE



LECTURES & LEARNING

SANTA YNEZ VALLEY

TED AND CONVERSATION The Solvang Library screens an 18-minute talk from the TED Talks series. Afterwards, the audience explores the topic together over tea and coffee. Third Thursday of every month, 10-10:50 a.m. Free. 805-688-4214. Solvang Library, 1745 Mission Dr., Solvang.

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.

SOUTH COAST SLO COUNTY

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

PRESENTATION ON ISAAC J. SPARKS Part of the center's Sunday Speaker Series. The life of Isaac J. Sparks is the focus this presentation by Wanda Porter. **Sept. 16**, 2-3 p.m. Free for DANA members; \$5. 805-929-5679. DanaAdobe.org. DANA Adobe Cultural Center, 671 S. Oakglen Ave., Nipomo.

CLUBS & MEETINGS

SANTA MARIA VALLEY/LOS ALAMOS

ANIME CLUB FOR TEENS A club for teens

interested in anime and manga. **Sept. 21**, 4:30-5:30 p.m. Free. 805-925-0994. engagedpatrons.org. Santa Maria Public Library, 421 S. McClelland St., Santa Maria.

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

DCSMV MONTHLY MEETING Speaker sessions open to the public. Meeting for registered Democrats only. Third Thursday of every month, 5:30-8:30 p.m. Free. santamariademocrats.info. IHOP, 202 Nicholson Ave, Santa Maria.

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.

THE SANTA MARIA VALLEY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY The Santa Maria Valley Genealogical Society holds meetings open to the public. Third Thursday of every month, 2-4 p.m. SMVGS.org. Family History Center, 908 Sierra Madre, Santa Maria.

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

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

SOUTH COAST SLO COUNTY

BISHOP PEAK CHAPTER OF THE EMBROIDERER'S GUILD OF AMERICA Welcoming those who work with all forms of needlework. Bring a sack lunch. Third Saturday of every month, 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Free. Grover Beach Community Center, 1230 Trouville Ave., Grover Beach, (805) 773-4832.

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

CULTURE & LIFESTYLE continued page 21

SUPPORT GROUPS

SANTA MARIA VALLEY/LOS ALAMOS

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

SOUTH COAST SLO COUNTY

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

SPOUSE AND PARTNER LOSS SUPPORT GROUP (SOUTH COUNTY)

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



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.

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

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

SOUTH COAST SLO COUNTY

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

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.

CANDLELIGHT RESTORATIVE YOGA Release and open your body with breath, props, and meditation. Mondays, 7-8 p.m. yogaformankind.

com. Yoga for Mankind, 130 N Broadway, Suite B, Orcutt.

GENTLE YOGA Tuesdays, Thursdays, 8:30 a.m. 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, unitiesantamaria.net/.

REFLEXOLOGY AT OASIS Tuesdays, 9 a.m. oasisorcutt.org. Oasis Senior Center, 420 Soares Ave., Orcutt, 805-937-9750.

TAI CHI AT OASIS Tuesdays, Thursdays, 9:45 a.m. oasisorcutt.org. Oasis Senior Center, 420 Soares Ave., Orcutt, 805-937-9750.

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.

COMPLIMENTARY YOGA

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

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

MINDFUL MEETUP: FOR RESILIENCE AND WELL-BEING Experience how the practices of mindfulness, self-compassion, and self-care are the essential life skills to transform your well-being. Subscribe online for updates. **Sept. 13**, 6-7 p.m. 805-270-5523. mindfulkindfullyouiversity.com/meetup/. Coffee Bean, 354 Five Cities Dr., Pismo Beach.

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

CULTURE & LIFESTYLE continued page 22

PHOTO COURTESY OF EXPLORE LOMPOC



BARREL NECESSITIES

Flying Goat Cellars in Lompoc hosts its Harvest Lunch and Barrel Tasting on Sept. 15 from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Guests can enjoy barrel samples, library wines, lunch, and mingling with the winemaker and staff. Admission ranges from \$50 to \$70. More info: (805) 736-9032.



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NEW TIMES AND SUN ARE HIRING ADVERTISING SALES REPS!

New Times in San Luis Obispo and the Sun in Santa Maria are expanding their sales departments.

We are looking for energetic self-starters, who are competitive and want to help local businesses succeed. Sales experience preferred.

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We are looking for individuals who care about building relationships and partnering with local businesses. If you have the heart, we have the tools to train you to be a successful Ad Consultant. You must be self-motivated, ambitious and an independent person who also wants to be part of a great team. Successful reps will have a sincere desire to help our clients assess their needs and work together to create marketing campaigns that increase their business.

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- Experience in business, customer service, or related field.
- College degree preferred.

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- 1) Why are you interested in working for New Times Media Group?
- 2) Why should we hire you?
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(805) 937-1766

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Bunny Maxim

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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, adulated.luciamarschools.org.

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

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.

KIDS & FAMILY

SANTA MARIA VALLEY/LOS ALAMOS

AFTERNOON STORY TIME Story time for kids ages 6 and up. Features stories, movies, and a craft. Tuesdays, 3:30-4:30 p.m. through Oct. 9 Free. 805-925-0994. engagedpatrons.org. Santa Maria Public Library, 421 S. McClelland St., Santa Maria.

BABYNAUTS STORY TIME This story time is for babies up to 12 months old and their caregivers. Fridays, 10-10:30 a.m. through Oct. 12 Free. 805-925-0994. engagedpatrons.org. Santa Maria Public Library, 421 S. McClelland St., Santa Maria.

BILINGUAL STORY TIME/ HORA DE CUENTOS This story time features stories, songs, and rhymes in both Spanish and English. Wednesdays, 5:30-6 p.m. through Oct. 10 Free. 805-925-0994. engagedpatrons.org. Santa Maria Public Library, 421 S. McClelland St., Santa Maria.

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

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.

PRESCHOOL STORY TIME Features stories, songs, finger plays, digital storytelling, and a book-on-DVD. For kids ages 3 to 5 and their families. Wednesdays, 10:30-11 a.m. through Oct. 10 Free. 805-925-0994. engagedpatrons.org. Santa Maria Public Library, 421 S. McClelland St., Santa Maria.

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

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

SOUTH COAST SLO COUNTY

DRAGONFLY CIRCLES (AGES 7-11) IN AG This

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. mindfultkindfulyouuniversity.com/dragonfly-circles/. Women's Club of Arroyo Grande, 211 Vernon St., Arroyo Grande.

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

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

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

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

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

SOUTH COAST SLO COUNTY

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

GUIDED SOUND HEALING MEDITATION With Julie Jensen. Third Monday of every month, 6:30-8 p.m. \$25. 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.

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

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

REFUGE RECOVERY Refuge Recovery is a non-theistic, Buddhist-inspired approach to treating and recovering from addictions of all kinds. Open to people of all backgrounds and respectful of all recovery paths. Wednesdays, 7-8 p.m. Free; donations welcome. The Haven (classroom), 621 E Grand Ave, Arroyo Grande, (805) 202-3440.

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



CHOOSE YOUR POISON OAK

Naughty Oak Brewing Company celebrates Oktoberfest on Sept. 21 and 22. Guests can enjoy games, live entertainment, food, drinks, and specialties throughout both days. The brewery is located at 165 S. Broadway, suite 102, Orcutt. More info: (805) 287-9663 or naughtyoak.com.

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/VANDENBERG

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

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

SANTA MARIA VALLEY/LOS ALAMOS

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

SOUTH COAST SLO COUNTY

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

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

SAN LUIS OBISPO

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

NATIONAL DRIVE ELECTRIC WEEK: SLO FARMERS MARKET Check out several models of electric cars and bikes, talk to their owners, and get general information on EVs and their

operation. **Sept. 13**, 6-9 p.m. Free. 805-704-1549. carbonfreeslo.org. San Luis Obispo Farmers Market, Broad and Higuera, San Luis Obispo.

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

EVENTS

SAN LUIS OBISPO

7SISTERS BREWING CO. ONE YEAR ANNIVERSARY PARTY Features special beers all night, wine tasting, live music with B and The Hive, a drag show with SLO Queerdos, and more. **Sept. 21**, 4-11:45 p.m. Free. 805-868-7133. 7SistersBrewing.com. 7Sisters Brewing Company, 181 Tank Farm Rd. Suite 110, San Luis Obispo.

BUBBLE AND RAW BAR Visit Foremost's new Bubble Bar where guests can get bubbles by the glass or by the bottle along with a bites from a special raw menu created by Chef Thomas Drahos. Thursdays-Saturdays, 5-9 p.m. 805-439-3410. foremostlo.com/. Foremost Wine Co., 570 Higuera St. Ste 105, San Luis Obispo.

FLAVORS OF THE CREAMERY An afternoon of food and drink tastings. Featuring live music by Dave Aguillo. **Sept. 16**, 12-4 p.m. Free; food and drinks for purchase within restaurants. Creamery Marketplace, 570 Higuera St., San Luis Obispo, 805-781-3133, creameryslo.com.

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

TASTE OF SLO: WALKING FOOD TOUR Visit five different destinations in downtown SLO per tour. All food and drinks are included. Mondays, Saturdays, 1-4 p.m. **through Sept. 5** \$85. 320-420-9853. tasteofslowalkingfoodtour.com. Downtown SLO, Higuera St., San Luis Obispo.

TGIF @ TMC Proceeds benefit the Monday Clubhouse Conservancy Fine Arts Awards Program. Enjoy music, food, drinks, and more. **Sept. 14**, 5:30-8:30 p.m. \$25 in advance; \$30 at the door. 805-541-0594. themondayclubslo.org. The Monday Club, 1815 Monterey St, San Luis Obispo.

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

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



Live Music

SANTA YNEZ VALLEY

ALASTAIR GREENE BAND LIVE Sept. 23, 4:30-7:30 p.m. Cold Spring Tavern, 5995 Stagecoach Rd., Santa Barbara, 805-967-0066, coldspringtavern.com/entertainment.html.

THE BRAMBLES LIVE Sept. 22, 1-4 p.m. Cold Spring Tavern, 5995 Stagecoach Rd., Santa Barbara, 805-967-0066, coldspringtavern.com/entertainment.html.

THE BRYAN TITUS TRIO LIVE Sept. 21, 6-9 p.m. 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.

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

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.

HOLLYWOOD HILLBILLIES LIVE Sept. 21, 8 p.m. Maverick Saloon, 3687 Sagunto St., Santa Ynez, 805-686-4785, mavericksaloon.org.

JACOB COLE AND THE ECHOES LIVE Sept. 22, 6-9 p.m. 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.

LIVE MUSIC ON THE PATIO Local acts perform every Saturday. Saturdays, 5-8 p.m. Maverick Saloon, 3687 Sagunto St., Santa Ynez, 805-686-4785, mavericksaloon.org.

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.,

MUSIC LISTINGS continued page 24

Beyond the tavern

Tales from the Tavern concert series expands to include all-day Ya Ya Festival

BY JOE PAYNE

More than a decade ago, Siblings Ron and Carole Ann Colone decided to start a concert series in Santa Ynez Valley, a place where they say live music was sorely lacking at the time.

The music-going community of the valley and the greater Central Coast was waiting for it, they said. The very first season of their series, which they dubbed Tales from the Tavern in 2003, sold out in an hour.

"I just think it was a new thing in the community for people, a new experience," Ron said. "It was really part of a collective effort, a collective will to bring more live music to the valley."

The series has been a sold-out success ever since, bringing singer-songwriters to the valley for intimate shows that prize storytelling artists over flashy bands or famous faces. They've cultivated an audience of sponsors and true music fans, they said, just as much as a roster of talented performers.

Now the Colones are bringing something else new to the Santa Ynez Valley, an all-day music festival at the Solvang Festival Theater, called the Ya Ya Festival, on Sept. 22. The event is presented by Tales from the Tavern; the Artist Advocacy Foundation, the Colones' nonprofit; and their partner, local businessman Jonathan King, who came up with the festival's name. The festival will feature some of the most beloved artists that have performed for Tales from the Tavern over the years.

The Ya Ya Festival's headlining performers include Dave Alvin & The Guilty Ones, Michael on Fire, Ruthie Foster, and Steve Poltz. The Colones have always carefully curated the lineup for their concert series, something that has ensured not just an excited audience, but artists motivated to perform for them as well.

"These musicians who make their living on the road, they're not household names, they're not the image-based artists," Carole Ann said. "These are people who are working people who are making their living on the road and they've heard of Tales from the Tavern. They want to work here because they've heard about our audience."

One of the Ya Ya Festival's headliners is another Colone sibling, Ron and Carole Ann's brother, Michael, who's performed for years as Michael On Fire. They all used to tour together, Michael explained, when Carole Ann played in his band and Ron handled transportation and other management duties for his group.

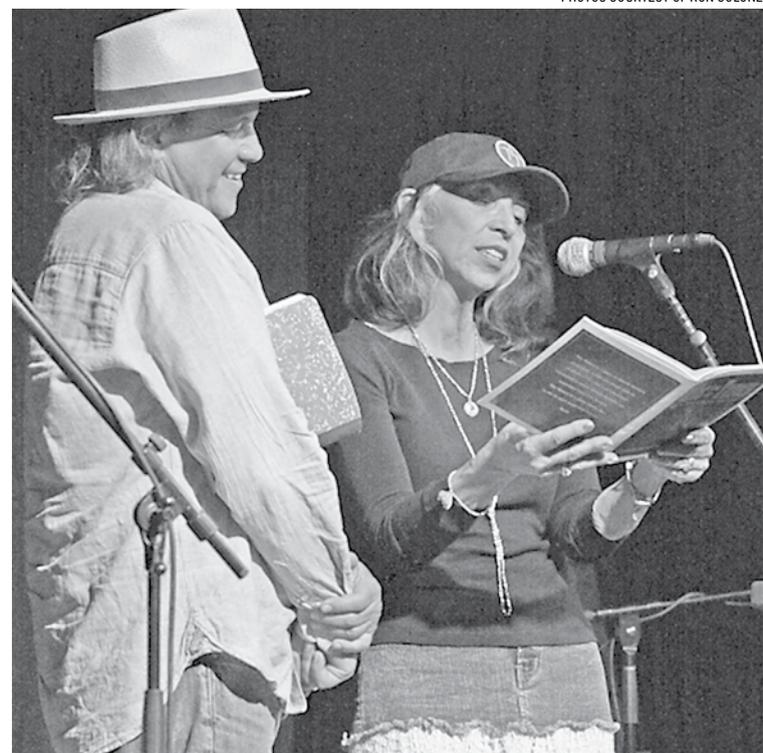
Across years of touring, they all knew firsthand what made a bad gig, Michael explained, and so when Ron and Carole Ann moved to Santa Ynez and decided to start Tales from the Tavern, they tried to remove every annoyance that artists face. They called their brother to be the first featured act, and he offered his guidance and ideas as well before the season began.

They created a dream experience for the artists, he explained.

"When I go there it's always really exciting because I know I'm walking into a professional environment," Michael said. "People know they can go in there and get, whether they like the artist or not, they know they are going to get something that is honest. They don't have any amateurs in there."

That curated experience was present from the beginning of Ron and Carole Ann's efforts to bring live music to the valley, but it's also something they've had to cultivate to throughout the years.

LOCAL NOTES continued page 24



SIBLINGS FOR SONGS: Ron (pictured left) and Carole Ann Colone (right) spent years touring with their brother's group before moving to the Santa Ynez Valley and starting the Tales from the Tavern concert series that celebrates working singer-songwriters.



BACK IN THE VALLEY: Michael on Fire is one of the headlining groups at the Ya Ya Festival in Solvang, which is part of the Tales from the Tavern concert series. Siblings Ron and Carole Ann Colone began the series in 2003 with their brother Michael's group headlining the first show, and now, the all-day festival.

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Shepard Hall at the SM Public Library
421 McClelland St, Santa Maria

LOCAL NOTES from page 23

New festival in town

Tales From the Tavern and the Artist Advocacy Foundation present the Ya Ya Festival featuring Dave Alvin & The Guilty Ones, Ruthie Foster, Michael on Fire, and Steve Poltz live on Sept. 22 from 2 to 10 p.m. at the Solvang Festival Theater, 420 2nd St., Solvang. More info: (805) 688-0383 or talesfromthetavern.com.

“We really made it our business to try and communicate to the audience what the audience’s role is in creating a great gig,” Ron said. “And after two years, people were starting to come to us going, ‘I get it, I get it. How great

it’s going to be tonight depends in part on me being a good listener.”

The Colones’ judgement on which artists to bring in partly explains the loyal audience base. Artists like Steve Poltz have become favorites in the valley, Ron explained, and newcomers are always greeted with a listening crowd.

The Ya Ya Festival will bring an artist “new to the valley,” Ron explained, named Ruthie Foster, an acclaimed blues singer and guitarist. Foster is a veteran who was in the Navy band, he said, and signed to Atlantic Records before walking away from her contract after differences with the label over her artistic direction.

“She went this really rootsy route,” he said.

“She’s amazing, she’s great.”

The daylong festival will also include more than just the music in the Solvang Festival Theater’s famous outdoor amphitheater, but also local groups performing in the courtyard before and between the main stage acts.

The festivities begin at 2 p.m., the Colones explained, and there will be plenty to see and do in the courtyard beyond just the music.

“People will walk into this world of wonder,” Ron said. “There’ll be food and drink and booths with clothing and jewelry and arts and crafts and all kinds of stuff going on, on a small scale, obviously.”

Part of the mission of the Ya Ya Festival is

to provide a music festival experience, but not at the multi-day scale that requires camping and days of setup and tear-down. It’s a one-day celebration, the Colones said, that rests on the foundation of their concert series but strives for more.

“Tales from the Tavern is such a quiet, intimate listening concert,” Ron said. “Ya Ya Festival is Tales from the Tavern trying out its outside voice. We’re looking for energy and fun.”

“Yes,” Carole Ann added, “spirit in the whole event.” ○

Managing Editor Joe Payne uses his outside voice inside. Contact him at jpayne@santamariasun.com.

MUSIC LISTINGS from page 23

Santa Barbara, 805-967-0066, coldspringtavern.com/entertainment.html.

SALT MARTIANS LIVE Sept. 23, 1:15-4 p.m. Cold Spring Tavern, 5995 Stagecoach Rd., Santa Barbara, 805-967-0066, coldspringtavern.com/entertainment.html.

STEVE AND THE REGULARS LIVE Sept. 23, 1-5 p.m. Maverick Saloon, 3687 Sagunto St., Santa Ynez, 805-686-4785, mavericksaloon.org.

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

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.

THE YA YA FESTIVAL Enjoy live music from Dave Alvin & The Guilty Ones, Ruthie Foster, Michael On Fire, and Steve Poltz. This event also features arts and crafts, food and drink, and clothing and jewelry vendors. **Sept. 22,** 2-10 p.m. \$60. talesfromthetavern.com/tftt-concerts/. Solvang Festival Theater, 420 2nd St., Solvang, 805-928-7731.

LOMPOC/VANDENBERG

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

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

SANTA MARIA VALLEY/LOS ALAMOS

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.

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.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

SOUTH COAST SLO COUNTY

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

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

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

GENERATIN GAP

PERFORMANCE Featuring Alisa Mounts, Gary Liwanag, Bob Barr, Jim Miller, and Doug Shelton. **Sept. 21,** 5:30-8:30 p.m. Free; tips welcome. 805-489-9099. branchstreetdeli.com/livemusic. Branch Street Deli, 203 E. Branch St., Arroyo Grande.

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

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

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

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

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

SMOOTH SUNDAY LIVE MUSIC Fourth Sunday of every month, 2-5 p.m. **through Oct. 28** Free with wine purchase. 805-627-1443. morovino.com. Morovino Winery, 468 Front Street, Avila Beach.

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

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.

ANNUAL CPAC BENEFIT: PONCHO SANCHEZ AND HIS LATIN JAZZ BAND Admission includes salsa dance lessons to the first 50 attendees, refreshments, wine tasting, silent auction, raffles, and more. **Sept. 16,** 3-6 p.m. \$40. Cuesta College Cultural and Performing Arts Center, Highway 1, San Luis Obispo, 805-546-3198, cuesta.edu.

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

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

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.

KCPR PRESENTS: FLAMINGOSIS AT SLO BREW Enjoy electronic music with jazz influences. For ages 18 and over. Features opening support from UNIIQU3. **Sept. 19,** 10 p.m.-midnight slobrew.com/live. SLO Brew, 736 Higuera St., San Luis Obispo, 805-543-1843.



PHOTO COURTESY OF THE MAVERICK SALOON

PHANTOM THREAD

The Maverick Saloon presents The Phantom Poms, a Goleta-based rockabilly and blues group, on Sept. 14 at 8 p.m. Special guest performers include Crown Royal Ambassadors. The Maverick Saloon is located at 3687 Sagunto St., Santa Ynez. More info: (805) 686-4785 or themavsaloon.com.

LIVE AT SLO BREW: PATO BANTON Reggae artist Pato Banton performs. For ages 18 and over. **Sept. 16,** 7-11 p.m. slobrew.com/live. SLO Brew, 736 Higuera St., San Luis Obispo, 805-543-1843.

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.

SONGWRITERS AT PLAY: BOB DYLAN TRIBUTE Performers are Miss Leo, Archie Logsdon, Holly Ann Lewis, David Foster Evans & Debra Windsong, Bruce Goldish, Loren Radis, Steve Kindel, Dan Grant, and Nick Rolan. **Sept. 20,** 6:30-9 p.m. \$10. 805-204-6821. songwritersatplay.com/calendar/. 7Sisters Brewing Company, 181 Tank Farm Rd. Suite 110, San Luis Obispo.

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.

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.

TIM JACKSON LIVE Sept. 22, 6-8 p.m. Free. 805-868-7133. 7SistersBrewing.com. 7Sisters Brewing Company, 181 Tank Farm Rd. Suite 110, San Luis Obispo.

TRIBUTE TO BOB DYLAN Presented by Songwriters at Play. Performers include Miss Leo, Archie Logsdon, Holly Ann Lewis, David Foster Evans & Debra Windsong, Bruce Goldish, Loren Radis, Steve Kindel, Nick Rolan, and Dan Grant. **Sept. 20,** 6:30-9 p.m. \$10. 805-868-7133. 7Sisters Brewing Company, 181 Tank Farm Rd. Suite 110, San Luis Obispo, 7SistersBrewing.com.

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



PHOTO COURTESY OF COLD SPRING TAVERN

THUNDER ONLY HAPPENS

Cold Spring Tavern presents Thunder Rose on Sept. 14 from 6 to 9 p.m. This group performs a blend of rock’n’roll and blues. Admission is free. No outside food or beverages are allowed. Cold Spring Tavern is located at 5995 Stagecoach Road, Santa Barbara. More info: (805) 967-0066 or coldspringtavern.com.

MUSIC

MUSIC LISTINGS from page 24

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

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Arts Briefs

Local artisans sought for Guadalupe Makers Market

Local nonprofit Peoples' Self-Help Housing is seeking crafters and artists for the first ever Makers Market in Guadalupe on Oct. 20.

Peoples' Self-Help Housing is looking for vendors for photography, fine art, pottery, clothing, jewelry, decor, and food. Priority will be given to those artists who live, work, or attend/attended school in Guadalupe or have an otherwise strong connection to the community.

The deadline for the application is Sept. 14. The market will take place at the Guadalupe Maple Cottage, located at 945 Guadalupe St. Admission is free. To apply to be a vendor or artisan or to find out more about the event, visit pshhc.org/makersmarket.

Oceano's Melodrama to present *Scary Poppins*

The Great American Melodrama is set to present *Scary Poppins*, a musical spoof recounting the story of Jack and Jill Peabody and their nanny, Mary Poppins' twin sister, Scary.

Jack and Jill (played by Ben Abbott and Annali Fuchs-Wackowski, respectively), live with their widowed father in London. Professor Peabody (Jeff Salsbury), an inventor who spends little time with his children, hires Scary Poppins as their nanny, a frightening creature with mind control powers and more. *Scary Poppins* is directed and choreographed by Eric Holt and written by Ben Millet. The production also includes the *Halloween Party Vaudeville Revue*, a holiday-themed costume party with original and parody songs.

The Halloween show runs from Sept. 20 through Nov. 11. The theater is located at 1863 Front St., Oceano. Tickets are \$21 to \$28. For more information or to buy tickets, visit americanmelodrama.com or call (805) 489-2499.

Book sale to benefit Santa Maria Public Library

The Friends of the Santa Maria Public Library will hold a book sale to raise money for the library from Sept. 21 through 22 in the library's Shepard Hall.

A variety of books on topics including history, art, religion, science, and more will be for sale ranging in price from \$1 to \$5. Greeting cards and a set of Great Books will also be available for purchase.

The sale is scheduled to take place from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on both days at the library. The general public is invited, and there is no admission fee. The Friends will hold a special preview night from 4 to 7 p.m. on Sept. 20, limited to members only.

A \$5 coupon will be available to anyone purchasing \$10 worth of books or more. The library is located at 421 McClelland St., Santa Maria. For more information, visit cityofsantamaria.org.

PHOTO BY JOE PAYNE



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

Pour it up

Local artists use acrylic pour painting process to create work

BY REBECCA ROSE

Paint has a mind of its own. Artists know this frustrating truth about the medium all too well. Sometimes it's hard to blend; sometimes it decides to dry into a different color. It's a sneaky element of the artistic process. But for some artists who specialize in a technique called acrylic pour or paint pour, their work is all about the unpredictable path their paints take.

"I just think it's fun and different," said artist and pour painter Beverly Johnson. "It's a different way of engaging with paint and art."

Acrylic pour or paint pour is a technique that involves a few supplies including paint, a pouring medium, canvas, and a few tools to help bring out the colors and shapes in the work. Acrylic paints are mixed with a pouring medium (which allows them to stay wetter longer and flow together) and poured over a blank canvas. Artists then manipulate the medium either by physically moving the canvas or by using tools such as palette knives to swipe over the paint, creating dynamic shapes and unusual new colors.

It may sound easy, but the technique can be tricky to master, especially when attempting to create certain shapes or effects. Shapes known as "cells," especially large or colorful ones, are highly prized in acrylic pour paintings. Cells are circular shapes that emerge when a tool is swiped over the pour, releasing the paint trapped underneath. Artists go to great efforts to perfect their pouring and swiping techniques as well as experiment with different pouring media and recipes to get the desired effects.

Johnson, who is featured as September's artist of the month at Valley Art Gallery, spent years working as a painter until she decided to try something new and explore the pouring technique.

"I'm always looking for something a little different," Johnson said. "I started creating some really cool images. Now I just keep experimenting and coming up with new images on the canvas."

Johnson, who frequently paints on silk fabric, said she connects to the process because of its unexpected results. Artists never know what's going to come out of the process because there is always an element of surprise in how the paint, medium, canvas, and tools will react together.

One technique she uses is called a "dirty pour," where paints mixed with products to thin them out are layered color by color into a cup. The pouring medium helps the colors stay crisp rather than muddying as they are layered together. Once poured onto a canvas, the colors then separate, creating distinct color blends, streaks, and cells.

While artists may sometimes use stencils or other tools to create less abstract images, rarely, if ever are traditional paint brushes used in paint pouring. The idea is to think outside the box and come up with new or inventive ways to manipulate the pour on the canvas. Techniques include spinning the canvas, pulling string through the poured paint, or tilting the canvas in multiple directions.

"There's little bit of control where I can create some images," Johnson said. "But I do not use a paint brush at all."

Kristen Bates is a local artist who became drawn to abstract painting when she was pursuing an arts degree at Chico State. She drew her inspiration for her work, which she described as "nature-based abstracts," from the scenery on the Central Coast.

Drawn to images of water, but unable to achieve the effects she was looking for in her work, Bates turned to the internet, where she discovered an artist in Norway who made tutorial videos of her acrylic pours. Bates, who had brain surgery in 2015, spent a year in recovery, practicing and studying the techniques.

Without the aid of paint brushes, the pouring medium becomes an essential tool for the artist. Along with the paints, a silicone-based product is added, which helps generate the large and more intricate cells many are looking for when they pour paint. Many pour painters recommend treadmill lubricant, which is 100 percent silicone and doesn't have a harsh smell.

Some artists, such as Bates, spent months (or years) perfecting their recipes for product-to-paint ratios or color mixes and are tight-lipped about sharing them.

"It took me over a year to perfect that concoction," she said. "I use it



CELLEVISION: Kathy Badrak's acrylic pour work features techniques that help highlight cells, spherical colorful shapes that appear when paint is swiped with a large or small flat tool.

Pouring in

Beverly Johnson is currently featured as the artist of the month at Orcutt's Valley Art Gallery, 125 W. Clark Ave., suite 101. More info: (805) 937-2278.

every time, and I can subtract or add elements to it and get different effects."

Unlike traditional painting, the blending of colors occurs on the canvas, leaving little room to perfect or manipulate color before it is laid down. The pouring medium helps slow the drying process, which then allows artists to move and shape the paints until they achieve the desired look.

Kathy Badrak is widely known for her gourd art, sculptures made from carving and painting dried hard-shelled gourds. For her, acrylic pouring offers a chance to explore another avenue of creative expression from her usual line of work.

"The acrylic pour is such a different way to work," she said. "For me, it was a release. It was an adventure, an exploration of color and texture ... it is so totally different."

The pour does what it wants, Badrak explained. Approaching most new art projects often entails having a design in mind before starting. But each pour is truly one of a kind.

"There are certain elements you can control," Badrak said. "I can decide I'm going to do a dirty pour with blues, yellows, and greens, but that's all I can do."

While the element of control might be difficult for some painters to give up, Badrak said the pouring process can be relaxing. The expectations of creating a perfectly specific work are gone, she said.

"I find it very peaceful," Badrak said. "It's just a very enjoyable way to paint and make art." ○

Arts and Lifestyle Writer Rebecca Rose watches it all fall out; still has her money. Contact her at rose@santamariasun.com.

PHOTO COURTESY OF KRISTEN BATES



POUR ME: Artists such as Kristen Bates manipulate acrylic poured on canvas to create unusual works of abstract art.

PHOTO COURTESY OF BEVERLY JOHNSON



POURTRAITS: Beverly Johnson, who is featured as September's artist of the month at the Valley Art Gallery, specializes in acrylic pour painting, a style that does not use brushes or traditional paint methods.

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Out of the nest

Mary Kay West captures the beauty of birds and nature in classical realism paintings

BY REBECCA ROSE

If you're looking for broad, long-winded conversations about symbolism or complex theory behind works of art, don't ask Mary Kay West.

West, a skilled classical realist painter, prefers to keep it simple when discussing her art.

"Honestly, I don't intellectually analyze my work," she said. "That's not the way I do it. I just love, appreciate, and am moved emotionally by the simple beauty of nature. That's why I paint. So that I can just be in the present."

From Sept. 15 to Nov. 12, West and fellow artists Dick Foslien, Sheryl Knight, Grace Schlesier, and Vic Riesaualong will participate in Artist's Choice, a new exhibit at the Judith Hale Gallery in Solvang. The show highlights work of the artists' own choosing, meaning there is no connected theme, but rather an opportunity to see what the artists are most proud of or personally favor.

The images West selected provide a window into the soul of a longtime artist with an undying penchant for illuminating the beauty of nature around her.

West was born in Asheville, North Carolina, the daughter of famed watercolorist Elizabeth Phillips. She grew up painting alongside her mother, eventually becoming a successful painter in her own right. Looking to be closer to her granddaughter, West moved to Los Alamos several years ago. She now teaches painting classes in her home studio and shows her work at galleries along the California coastline. She has worked as a set and costume designer as well as a mural painter.

West is also an artist member of the California Art Club, and for the past three years she has been juried into the Gold Medal Show in Pasadena.

"That's probably one of the things I'm proudest of," she said. "I am so honored just to be part of something like that."

West is a proud classical realist, a painter versed in traditional methods of the masters of European and American art. The term classical realism finds its roots in the work of Richard Lack, a Minnesota artist who worked under R. H. Ives Gammell during the 1950s.

Lack's study with Gammell traced its way back to Jean-Léon Gérôme, a French painter and sculptor known for his famous atelier, which refers to studying under a master. Lack was heavily influenced by Gérôme's school as well as Boston impressionists, eventually starting his own school and coining the term. The phrase expresses the merging of the drawing style of 19th century European

painters and the signatory color styles of Boston impressionists.

Carrying on the classical realism tradition, West spent four years studying under painter Benjamin Long at the Fine Arts League of Asheville. Long is a famous painter hailed as an expert in classical realist painting and highly skilled in the traditional methods of the old masters. Long passed on his knowledge to a small handful of students at his atelier, including West, in the hopes of keep the style alive for generations to come.

West learned to use and make her own art materials in the same way the old masters did hundreds of years ago. She still uses those traditional methods while incorporating some modern paints for convenience.

Now, West proudly carries on the style in Long's honor.

"When I graduated from his tutelage, he made me promise to continue on and not let this tradition die," she said. "I'm continuing to do that, so when I paint, all of my paintings are on birch or mahogany panels, and I use the traditional pigments."

In the South, the traditional style Long heralded is extremely popular, and West found a natural home for her work. West's paintings

are something more than the average landscape or still life. She hovers on the edge of hyper realism, with feet planted firmly in the traditions of painters who came hundreds of years before her.

"It is kind of a different style," she said. "I hope people connect with it and really get the feeling of what it represents."

Except for birds, which she uses photographs to recreate, West paints all of her images from real life. It's in nature where she finds her deepest inspiration, but more than that, West aims to honor the natural world with her work.

The exhibit at the Judith Hale Gallery will feature one painting that West is particularly proud of. The image depicts a branch of nectarines that fell from a neighbor's tree. She said the painting captures a simple moment of beauty during spring occurring right in her yard. Those personal moments are what make people feel bonded to nature, West explained.

"That's when we feel like we are truly connected," she said. "When we realize there is a bigger meaning in life." ○

Arts and Lifestyle Writer Rebecca Rose wants to fly fly away. Contact her at rrose@santamariasun.com.

PHOTOS COURTESY OF MARY KAY WEST



TWEETY BIRD GO TWEET: Mary Kay West's work at the Judith Hale Gallery (featured from Sept. 15 to Nov. 12) includes many birds, a favorite subject of hers to paint.

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Film Reviews

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

THE MEG

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

What's it worth? **Stream it**

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

Jon Turteltaub (*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 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, Rainn 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.

Wilson plays Jack Morris, the moneyman behind Mana One, a research center trying to prove that under a freezing cloud of hydrogen sulfide at the bottom of the Mariana Trench lies an even deeper unexplored world. Soon his submersible crew—Taylor's ex-wife Lori (Jessica McNamee), Toshi (Masi Oka), and The Wall (Ólafur Darri Ólafsson)—are stranded six-miles below, so after encouragement by head researcher Dr. Minway Zhang (Winston Chao) but against the advice of team physician Dr. Heller (Robert Taylor), Morris travels to Thailand to recruit Jonas Taylor, who now spends his days drunk on beer while simultaneously retaining his amazing six-pack abs.

Taylor agrees to attempt the rescue after he learns his ex-wife Lori is on board, but he almost immediately falls for Zhang's daughter Suyin (Bingbing Li). Long story short, his rescue opens a hole in the hydrogen sulfide cloud, and up swims a shark so big it can bite a whale in half.

What's not to like, right? Well, first of all, the film's minor attempts at humor fall flat. If this film had approached its story with the sort of campy hilarity of, say, *Piranha 3D* (2010), it might have been salvaged. Instead, it plays it straight, and another movie—2010's *Deep Blue Sea* with Thomas Jane—already told a similar story better.

Then there's the CGI shark, which looks really sinister but seems to be of inconsistent size, probably because different teams of CGI programmers were working on different scenes. I'll take the old rubber shark from *Jaws* (1975) any day over this series of ones and zeros. *The Meg* has none of the menace and psychological terror of a film like *Open Water* (2003) or *The Shallows* (2016), and none of the fun of *Sharknado* (2013).

And don't even get me started about the science. Wouldn't a giant shark species thought to be extinct for 2 million years but trapped in total darkness at the bottom of the sea evolve into a sightless creature?

FILM REVIEWS continued page 29

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

Plain vanilla

Pierre Morel (*District B13*, *Taken*, *The Gunman*) directs Chad St. John's (*London Has Fallen*) action-thriller script about a 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: Welcome to the end-of-summer dumping ground, where terrible films try to squeeze the last few bucks out of the film-going public.

Peppermint had potential. Pierre Morel directed the wildly successful 2008 Liam Neeson vehicle *Taken*, which injected effective emotion and real drama into the often-tired action genre. Sticking a strong female lead like Garner into a vigilante role usually reserved for a male star might have added a feminist twist to the proceedings.

But alas, Morel's direction is pretty standard and wholly underwhelming, especially in close-quarter fight scenes that worked so well with Neeson in *Taken*, and instead of a female lead turning the action genre on its head, we basically get a woman in a man's role acting just like a man. Sure, there's a little subplot with Garner's Riley North acting as guardian angel to the residents of L.A.'s skid row, but nothing much is made of it. There's even less made of the five-year backstory in which Riley, after the death of her family and being denied justice by a corrupt system, goes on a world tour where

she supposedly learned all manner of combat techniques. The entire backstory is given mere minutes and one video clip of her cage fighting in some Asian country. This feels like fly-by-night, in-and-out, no-time-for-a-second-take filmmaking.

Anna: It certainly would have made for a more interesting overall story if we got to see what Riley went through to become a badass vigilante; at least it may have offered some dimension to this very flat film. Riley's life is quickly summed up in the first few scenes: She's a doting mother and wife trying to do it all. Her boring bank job just helps the young parents scrape by, and the rival Stepford mothers of the school look down on Riley and her family with disdain. That's pretty much what we get as far as setup goes in this film, except for a loose string side plot involving Riley's husband, Chris, that sets up the drive-by shooting. I like Garner, and while I have no doubt the woman could kick my ass to the pavement no problem, there just isn't much for her to do here except emote sadness and kill off

anyone who steps in the way of her vengeance. It's a totally forgettable film that at almost two hours starts to feel a bit like a chore. Frankly, I'm surprised audiences have rated it so highly on Rotten Tomatoes. It isn't painful, but it isn't fun—I'd much rather re-watch *Taken* than this underwhelming attempt at vigilante justice.

Glen: Part of the story has to do with the two LAPD detectives working Riley's case—Stan Carmichael (John Gallagher Jr.) and Moises Beltran (John Ortiz)—who worked both her family's murders and the vigilante killings she commits upon her return five years later. There's a bit of intrigue concerning dirty cops within the LAPD, and to further convolute the proceedings, FBI agents Lisa Inman (Annie Ilonczeh) and Li (Eddie Shin) also join the investigation after Riley kills Judge Stevens (Jeff Harlan), who corruptly let the original killers go free. As for those drug-dealing gangbangers who've become Riley's targets, it's hard to keep track of who's who or



BEFORE THE STORM: Riley North (Jennifer Garner, right) spends one last moment with her family—husband Chris (Jeff Hephner) and daughter Carly (Cailey Fleming)—before they're murdered, starting her on a path to vengeance.

to even care. Aside from distinctive-looking character actor Richard Cabral, the bad guys are interchangeable Hispanic men. Even the drug kingpin Diego Garcia (Juan Pablo Raba) is forgettable. The gulf between the Rotten Tomatoes' critic and audience score is vast—14 percent critics to 82 percent audience—so clearly some viewers are liking *Peppermint* even if critics aren't. If you're a Jennifer Garner fan or you love revenge flicks, maybe this is worth a trip to the theater, but I'd have been fine waiting for it to show up on Netflix. It's wholly forgettable.

Anna: I agree, and while action movies can gain a lot from a view on the big screen, the tight yet sloppy way the fight scenes are shot leaves quite a bit to be desired. I doubt you'll lose much if you wait and watch at home. There doesn't seem to be enough here for me to justify the ticket price even for a matinee. Even the film's name seems derived from a scene that ended up on the cutting room floor. The filmmakers must have been so eager to get to Garner kicking bad-dude butt that they decided developing a backstory was a waste of time. While Riley's motivation is clear, her path to the end result isn't, and what's meant to be surprising in the end falls flat—the script backs itself into a corner it can't get out of. If you need a dose of female badassery, how about a re-watching *The Long Kiss Goodnight* or the more recently made *Atomic Blonde*? I'm guessing you'll be much more satisfied and have movie money left to see something that rises above mediocre. ○

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



BAD JUDGE: After getting no justice from the system, including dirty Judge Stevens (Jeff Harlan, left), Riley North (Jennifer Garner) takes matters into her own bloodied hands.

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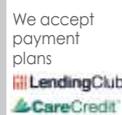
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FILM REVIEWS from page 28

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

Corin Hardy (*The Hallow*) 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.

Though there's some good acting and dark foreboding throughout, the story drags and there's an over-reliance on jump scares, not to mention logic problems and plot holes. (96 min.)

—Glen Starkey

PEPPERMINT

What's it rated? R
What's it worth? Stream it
Where's it showing? Movies Lompoc, Parks Plaza
See Sun Screen.

THE PREDATOR

What's it rated? R
Where's it showing? Movies Lompoc, Parks Plaza
NEW Co-writer and director Shane Black (*Kiss Kiss Bang Bang*, *Iron Man 3*, *The Nice Guys*) helms this new



PHOTO COURTESY OF BRON STUDIOS

WHODUNIT? Mommy blogger Stephanie (Anna Kendrick, left) seeks answers about her new friend Emily's (Blake Lively, right) sudden disappearance, in *A Simple Favor*.

installment in the Predator franchise. This time around, autistic youngster Rory McKenna (Jacob Tremblay) finds a device left by earlier alien predators on Earth and inadvertently calls a new breed of predator—one made deadlier via genetic upgrades from other species its hunted throughout the universe—to return to Earth for another hunt. The only thing that stands between the predator and the end of humanity is a group of ex-soldiers, led by Rory's dad, Quinn (Boyd Holbrook), and angry biology teacher Casey Bracket (Olivia Munn), who joins the fight.

—Glen Starkey

A SIMPLE FAVOR

What's it rated? R
Where's it showing? Movies Lompoc, Parks Plaza
NEW Paul Feig (*Bridesmaids*, *The Heat*, *Spy*) directs Jessica Sharzer's (*Nerve*) screenplay based on Darcey Bell's crime-drama novel about mommy blogger Stephanie's (Anna Kendrick) best friend Emily's (Blake Lively) sudden disappearance.

—Glen Starkey



PHOTO COURTESY OF TWENTIETH CENTURY FOX

HANDSOME ON HIS PLANET? An alien hunter (Brian A. Prince) comes to Earth to harvest human trophies, in *The Predator*.

THE WIFE

What's it rated? R
Where's it showing? Parks Plaza
NEW Björn Runge (*Daybreak*, *Mouth to Mouth*, *Happy End*) directs Jane Anderson's (*How to Make an American Quilt*) screenplay based on Meg Wolitzer's novel about Joan Castleman (Glenn Close), wife of famed author Joe Castleman (Jonathan Pryce), who's awarded the Nobel Prize for Literature. During their trip to Stockholm to claim his prize, she begins to ruminate on her life choices. ○

—Glen Starkey

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

BINGEABLE

up as marvels of special effects and storytelling, seven years after the last installment premiered.

The first two films were directed by Chris Columbus (*Mrs. Doubtfire*, *Home Alone*), who really captured the child-like feel of the first two books, where the wizarding world is new and unfamiliar to Harry. *Sorcerer's Stone* and *Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets* established early that the Hogwarts castle is a character in and of itself, thanks to the incredible set design of Stuart Craig.

Columbus knew that he needed to get the casting right for these films. You're always taking a gamble on child actors, especially when you know they're going to grow up along the span of a franchise, but Radcliffe, Grint, and Watson were perfect choices. Radcliffe blossomed as an actor; Grint always had the strongest comedic sense of the three; and Watson's talent launched her into the limelight despite sometimes being a bit of an overactor (there, I said it).

But Columbus also surrounded these kids with the best of the best of British actors, from Coltrane as Hagrid to Richard Harris as Albus Dumbledore, Hogwarts' headmaster. The rest of the teachers at Hogwarts are important as well, from the pitch-perfect Maggie Smith as the shrewd Minerva McGonagall to the beloved performance by the late Alan Rickman as Severus Snape.

As the films progress, Harry matures and the directors change. *Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban* saw Alfonso Cuarón (*Y Tu Mamá También*) bring an artfulness to the series, where Harry connects with two of his deceased parents' closest friends, Remus Lupin (David Thewlis) and Harry's godfather Sirius Black (Gary Oldman). Director Mike Newell (*Four Weddings and a Funeral*) took on *Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire*, bringing a comedic element that explored the awkwardness of early teenage years. That film ends on a heavy note, with the death of Hogwarts student Cedric Diggory (Robert Pattinson) and the return of Voldemort.

The franchise's last four installments were realized by Director David Yates, who's now directing the prequels to the series. His first crack at it was *Harry Potter and the Order of the Phoenix*, which opened up Harry's world to the complexity of politics and authoritarianism as a wizarding war began. The decision to split the last book in the franchise, *Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows*, into two parts was frustrating when the movies first came out (we waited so long!), but makes sense given the scope and complexity of Rowling's saga as it came to an end.

For those who never bothered to read the series, the films are a great introduction to an immersive world that hooked so many literature and cinema fans in the early 2000s. And whether you're a Slytherin or a Gryffindor, a return to the films will have you dusting off your wand and shouting "EXPECTO PATRONUM!" ○

—Joe Payne

HARRY POTTER

When? 2001-2011
What's it rated? PG to PG-13
Where's it available? Amazon, YouTube, iTunes, Black Gold Library System
"You're a wizard, Harry."
Those lines, delivered so perfectly by Robbie Coltrane as Rubeus Hagrid in *Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone*, are what herald the true beginning of an eight-movie saga that follows the young Harry Potter (Daniel Radcliffe) through his education at the wizarding school Hogwarts, adventures with his friends Ron Weasley (Rupert Grint) and Hermione Granger (Emma Watson), and their life-or-death battle with the dark wizard Voldemort (Ralph Fiennes).
The Harry Potter series was an incredible cinema undertaking, especially considering it began the same year as Peter Jackson's interpretation of the Lord of the Rings trilogy. They still hold



PHOTO COURTESY OF WARNER BROS. PICTURES

MOVIE MAGIC Daniel Radcliffe (center) stars as the titular character in the Harry Potter saga, based on J.K. Rowling's book series, which spans eight films as Harry and friends Ron (Rupert Grint, right) and Hermione (Emma Watson) attend wizarding school and battle an evil dark wizard.

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PHOTO COURTESY OF RAINA HUANG

Big bite

Competitive eater Raina Huang brings her unique talents to Santa Ynez and Lompoc

BY REBECCA ROSE

How much of your favorite food do you think you could eat during one sitting?

If you're a fan of competitive eating, a popular event that's gained steam over the years, you might have a chance to put your skills to the test. From Sept. 15 through 18, Raina Huang, a rising YouTube star in competitive eating, will host and compete in three separate events in the Santa Ynez and Lompoc valleys. The event includes a timed challenge to beat the world record for most aebleskivers eaten in five minutes, an attempt to eat her way through all 26 burgers on Tom's Burgers alphabet menu, a hot dog eating challenge at the Doggy Door in Los Olivos, and a chance to tackle Lompoc's Mariscos La Rancherita's Bacon Anaconda Burrito.

Huang is a popular YouTube and Instagram personality, with fans following her from across the globe. But it all started over a lunch with coworkers. "I generally ate a lot my whole life, but I thought

Crazy fun

Competitive eater Raina Huang will attempt the Danish Days Aebleskiver Eating Contest on Sept. 15 at 11:30 a.m. at the Danish Days Midgaard Pavilion in parking lot 2, downtown Solvang. On Sept. 15 she will be at Tom's Burgers, 115 E. College Ave., suite 13, Lompoc, at 5 p.m. for the burger challenge. On Sept. 16, Huang will compete in the hot dog challenge at the Doggy Door, 2446 Alamo Pintado Ave., suite D, Los Olivos. Time TBD. The Bacon Anaconda Burrito challenge takes place at 11 a.m. on Sept. 18 at 1410 Burton Mesa Blvd., Lompoc. Admission is free and open to the public for all events. Huang is on Instagram at [instagram.com/rainaiscrazy](https://www.instagram.com/rainaiscrazy).

it was normal," Huang said. "I was eating with some coworkers one day, and they said, 'You eat a lot, girl.' I never heard of food challenges or contests before but they told me to go try it out."

She entered a nearby burrito eating challenge and did well enough to feel like she could try again. But it was putting that video on YouTube that changed everything. Interest in Huang's eating skills skyrocketed thanks to the attention from her videos.

"I've only been doing this for about a year, and it's booming," she said. "I am constantly looking for content to film."

The quest for new content for her popular YouTube channel has sent her on the road searching for bigger and better challenges. She's produced videos featuring the entire menus of Chik-fil-A, Five Guys, and Panda Express. She has nearly 90,000 subscribers to her YouTube page, which

frequently features Huang chowing down on In-N-Out burgers, Subway sandwiches, and more.

"I always wanted to be some sort of entertainer," said Huang, who also acts, sings, and models. "I just wanted to do something with social media, and this happened to work out for me."

She eats massive amounts of food in her videos, many times by scooping large handfuls of the product into her mouth or soaking them in water. To combat any physical side effects of eating so much food (that's typically fried or filled with cheese and sauces), Huang said she spends a lot



CRAZY GAL: Raina Huang, who dubbed her website and Instagram "RainalsCrazy," is a YouTube star who competes in timed eating events. She is set to host several events in the Santa Ynez Valley from Sept. 15 through 18.

of time doing cardiovascular activities such as swimming or walking. She also said that during long stretches of competitions she doesn't eat a lot other than the challenge food, which makes sense because who could feel hungry after consuming 5 pounds of pasta or a 10-pound burger?

The competitive eater recently competed in a challenge to consume more than 1,600 Pocky sticks, a thin wafer stick covered in chocolate. In less than 50 minutes, Huang devoured 1,512 of the sweets. Huang's favorite food to eat is Asian food because she grew up eating it and has no trouble tackling the big portions.

"When it comes to American burgers or things like pancakes, it's hard because I didn't grow up eating that," she said. "Also, doughnuts. I actually really hate donuts ... they're super sweet, and it's really hard for me to eat a lot of them."

In Solvang and Lompoc, Huang will tackle some pretty hefty challenges, including the aebleskivers contest and an attempt to make her way through Tom's Burgers famous A-to-Z burger menu. Mariscos La Rancherita's Anaconda Burrito challenge features a bacon-wrapped burrito nearly 2 feet long stuffed with a variety of meats and vegetables, a challenge many have tried and failed.

The famed Danish treat is proving an interesting challenge for Huang, who had never

heard of it before learning of the competition. The Aebleskiver Eating Contest takes place as part of Solvang's annual Danish Days, which happens Sept. 14 through 18. The event, located at Danish Days Midgaard Pavilion in parking lot 2, Solvang, is free and open to the public. Anyone is welcome to join in and attempt to beat Huang's eating prowess.

It seems like a dream come true (for me at least) to travel all over the country, eat food to your heart's delight, and get famous for it. But Huang is pleasantly grounded and practical about her newfound fame. She's not as viciously competitive as some might expect, despite often being challenged by men who can't believe a woman like her can actually eat so much food. She said she tries to stick to the fun aspects of her challenges, focusing less on winning or setting records than putting on a show for her fans.

"I just want to make people happy and give them something fun to watch," Huang said. "I'm not the best eater. In a lot of my videos, I definitely fail. As long as I make the video fun, I'm OK with that." ○

Arts and Lifestyle Writer Rebecca Rose is ready to leave the rat race and become professional competitive eater. Contact her at rrose@santamariasun.com.

EATS continued page 32

PHOTO COURTESY OF TOM'S BURGERS



BIG STUFF: Competitive eater Raina Huang will try to eat her way through Tom's Burgers' alphabet menu, possibly making it to the F burger, which stands for "frustrating how well our international burger has caught people's imagination," with bacon, Ortega chili, and Swiss cheese.

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EATS

EATS from page 30

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

• Congratulations are in order for the **Garagiste Festival**, which was named Best Wine Festival in the U.S. in a poll by the readers of *USA Today*. The festival, founded in Paso Robles, features small-production winemakers (fewer than 1,000 cases annually). The festival also runs the Garagiste Festival: Southern Exposure, which takes place in Solvang. For more information, visit californiagaragistes.com.

• The **Succulent Cafe** in Solvang recently rolled out a new counter menu display, which makes it so much easier to order off their scrumptious and hearty breakfast menu. Try the braised short hash with poached eggs, peppers, onions, and potatoes for \$16 or their Succulent Biscuit made with cinnamon and cumin pulled pork, bacon gravy, and fresh pineapple chutney for \$13 at 1557 Mission Drive.

• Head out to **Figueroa Mountain** brewery's Los Olivos taproom on Sept. 15 to check out the **Chef's Touch BBQ Rig**, a food truck serving up authentic Texas-style barbecue (pictured). Wash it down with a couple of pints of the brewery's Butterfly Rye Lager, a light and breadly lager at 2363 Alamo Pintado Ave., Los Olivos.

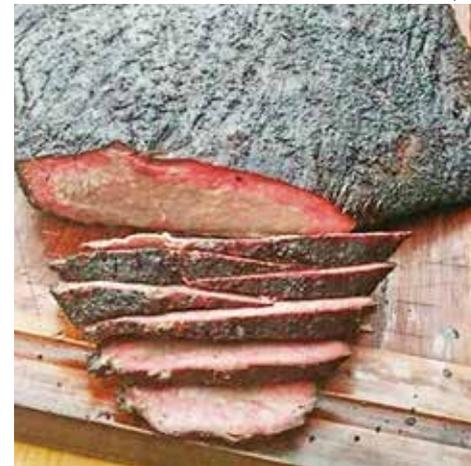
• **Community Craft** in Los Olivos hosts a blind tasting every Thursday evening at 6 p.m. Don't be afraid if you're an amateur; it's all about tasting and having fun (and learning a thing or two about wine). Come test your palate at 2446 Alamo Pintado Ave., suite C.

• **Riverbench Winery** in Santa Maria is set to host a winemaker dinner on Sept. 29 at 6 p.m.

to celebrate their limited production Tributary pinot noir. **Brian Collins** of **Ember Restaurant** will present a three-course dinner paired with the 2010, 2013, and a 2017 Tributary that has yet-to-be released. Tickets are \$125 to \$150; to purchase, visit riverbench.com. Riverbench is located at 6020 Foxen Canyon Road, Santa Maria.

• On a more personal note, RIP to the late great **Burt Reynolds**, who died on Sept. 6 after suffering a heart attack. In a wild weird way, Reynolds helped launch my career as a writer. I grew up in his hometown where I was introduced to community theater and the fine art of self-expression through the local theater he founded and built. I wouldn't be writing this column without him. In his honor, I Rebeccamend we all watch *Smokey and the Bandit*, the best movie ever made about driving beer around the country. RIP, see you eastbound and down, Burt. ○

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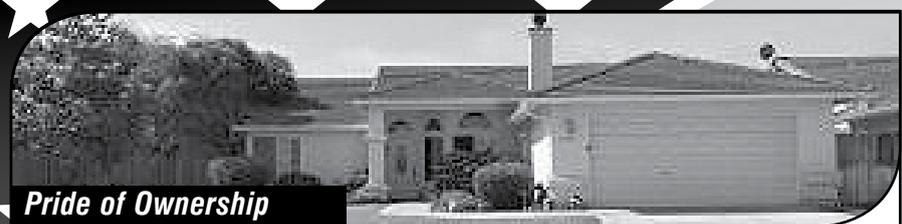
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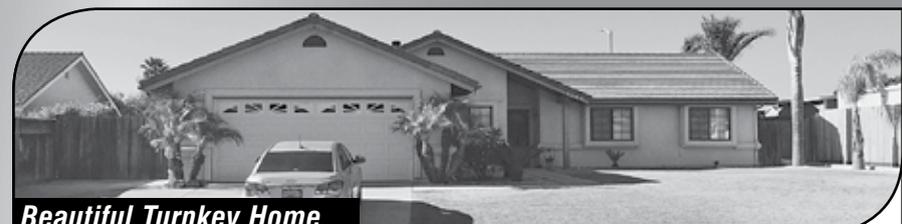
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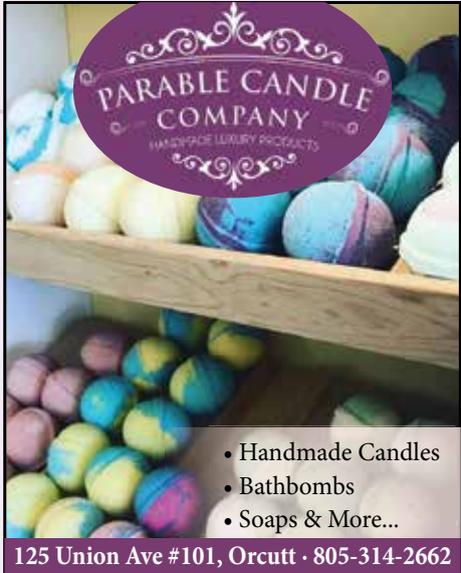


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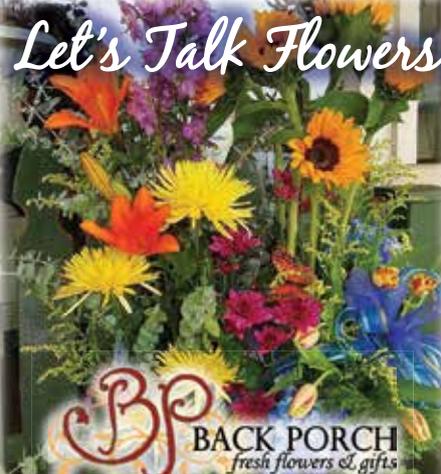
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