

Sun

AT THE MOVIES



Green Book: Unlikely pair [29]

Human blowtorches

Local fire artists use bodies, props, and breathing to guide flames [10]

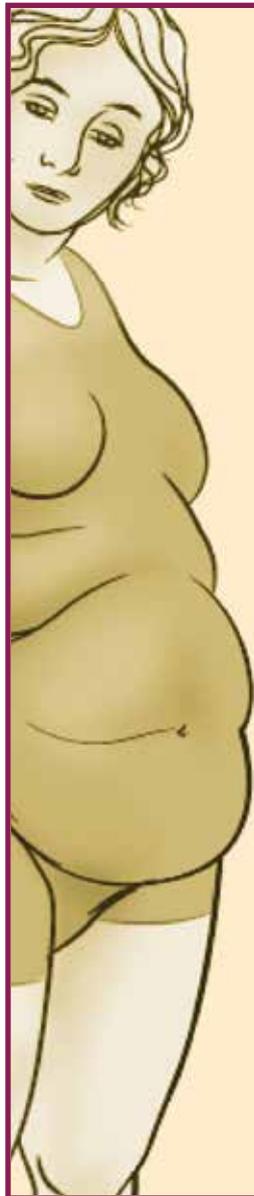
BY SPENCER COLE
PHOTOS BY JAYSON MELLOM



NEWS Guadalupe faces unfair practices charge [6]

MUSIC Orchestras bring seasonal sounds [23]

ARTS Photographers share 'lifescapes' in Los Olivos [26]



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NOVEMBER 29 - DECEMBER 6, 2018 VOL. 19 NO. 39

We all know that kid who couldn't help but play with matches growing up. Well, they're all grown up now, and still playing with fire. At least, that's what members of the Ignite Fire Dance troupe do for special events across the Central Coast. For this week's cover story, photographer Jayson Mellom captured images of their high-temperature antics while Staff Writer Spencer Cole spoke to the Central Coast flow artists and fire breathers who make up the group [10].

Also this week, the city of Guadalupe is awaiting a decision on an unfair practices charge [6], local orchestras prepare holiday programs [24], a pair of photographers share their work in a dual exhibit [26], a local artist breaks glass to create her mosaics [27], and the SLO Farmers Market looks back on decades of fun [31].



FIRE-BREATHERS: Samantha Jones and Shayne Mastriano from Ignite Fire Dance spit flames at an event in Avila Beach during October.

*Joe Payne,
 managing editor*

Photo by Jayson Mellom > Cover Design by Alex Zuniga

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—Daniel Herman, former Minister of Culture of the Czech Republic

“I was filled with HOPE...

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—Richard Swett, former U.S. congressman

“Absolutely

THE NO. 1 SHOW
in the world.”

—Kenn Wells, former lead dancer of English National Ballet

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—Olevia Brown-Klahn, singer and musician

“I just wish there is a way that I could
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—Jim Crill, veteran producer, watched Shen Yun 4 times

“A MUST-SEE”

—Broadway World



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Political Watch

Gov. **Jerry Brown** announced his appointment of **Joshua Groban**, 45, to the California Supreme Court on Nov. 14 to fill the vacancy left by retiring Associate Justice **Kathryn Mickle Werdegar**. “Josh Groban has vast knowledge of the law and sound and practical judgement,” Brown stated. “He’ll be a strong addition to California’s highest court.” The nomination was submitted to the State Bar’s Commission on Judicial Appointments for confirmation. Groban, a Democrat, has served as a senior advisor to Gov. Brown since 2011, and worked Brown’s 2010 campaign as legal counsel. Groban studied at Harvard Law School and has also lectured at the UCLA School of Law since 2015. “Serving the people of California over the past eight years has been the privilege of a lifetime,” Groban stated. “I am truly humbled by this nomination and, if confirmed, I look forward to working alongside the highest court’s truly exemplary jurists.”

Sen. **Kamala Harris** (D-California) toured areas affected by the Camp Fire on Nov. 18, including Paradise and Middletown. In Middletown, Harris met with local officials, survivors, firefighters, and first responders and was briefed on current response efforts and ongoing concerns regarding wildfires. “These wildfires claimed precious lives, devastated communities, destroyed thousands of homes, and forced thousands of Californians to evacuate. My heart aches for the families who lost everything, including loved ones,” Harris said in a statement. “I am incredibly grateful to the firefighters who have been hard at work fighting these fires. The road to recovery for these communities won’t be easy, and we have a responsibility to give them the federal support they desperately need.”

Sen. **Dianne Feinstein** (D-California) issued a statement following the use of tear gas by U.S. Customs and Border Protection to quell a crowd of migrants at the U.S.-Mexico border—including women and children—on Nov. 25. In the statement released Nov. 26, Feinstein said the use of force was “horrifying” for affecting “mothers and young children as they seek refuge in the United States.” “These families have traveled thousands of miles,” she said. “They’re exhausted, hungry, and not a threat to national security. They’re simply seeking the opportunity to request asylum from the U.S. government and make a better life away from violence and poverty.” Feinstein also criticized President **Donald Trump** over his administration’s immigration policies and approach toward asylum seekers. “Our immigration policies must be implemented in a lawful, humane way,” Feinstein said.

State Sen. **Hannah-Beth Jackson** (D-Santa Barbara), chair of the Joint Legislative Committee on Emergency Management, and Assemblymembers **Monique Limón** (D-Santa Barbara) and **Marc Levine** (D-San Rafael), co-chairs of the Assembly Select Committee on Natural Disaster Response, Recovery, and Rebuilding, convened a joint informational hearing on Nov. 27 in Carpinteria to examine the state’s emergency alert system. “As California faces increasingly catastrophic wildfires, we need to take every step possible to ensure residents are notified clearly, quickly, and effectively during an emergency event,” Jackson stated before the hearing. “This year, we passed a series of bills to improve our emergency alert systems but there is still more to be done.”

Assemblymember **Jordan Cunningham** (R-San Luis Obispo) honored the Comfort Inn in Morro Bay with Small Business of the Month for the 35th Assembly District. The inn is owned by **Jalpa** and **Hemant Patel** of Morro Bay, according to a release from Cunningham’s office, who have helped promote tourism on the Central Coast. “Tourism is an increasingly important part of the Central Coast economy,” Cunningham stated. “I am proud to honor business owners, like Hemant and Jalpa Patel, who are committed to pushing the industry forward and creating jobs in our region.” ○

InSight mission aided by Cal Poly technology, engineers

NASA’s InSight lander successfully touched down on the surface of Mars on Nov. 26 to enormous fanfare worldwide. The mission’s engineers, including a team from NASA’s Jet Propulsion Laboratory, were able to stay in contact with the vessel thanks to two cube satellites that were tested and prepped by Cal Poly engineers and students just before launch.

The twin communication satellites, dubbed “MarCo” or “Mars Cube One” were the first “CubeSats” to reach another planet from Earth, according to Ryan Nugent, a staff aerospace engineer at Cal Poly. The MarCos are roughly a foot tall, 8 inches wide, and 4 inches deep, much smaller than normal satellites, which are similar in size to an average car.

The team at Cal Poly began prepping the satellites back in late February and continued the work up until May, when the instruments were sent down to Vandenberg Air Force Base before InSight launched aboard a United Launch Alliance Atlas V rocket.

The two satellites separated from the main craft after breaking Earth’s orbit but continued on their way to the red planet. Over the next few months, the cube sats were relatively silent as they calculated and followed their coordinates.

On Nov. 26, the MarCo’s softball-sized radios kicked on and began transmitting information from NASA’s Mars Reconnaissance Orbiter, which has been orbiting the planet since 2006.

In past missions, the orbiter received the information from NASA’s landers while the craft descended to the red planet’s surface. There was a problem however: The orbiter could only either receive or send information, so engineers at JPL and NASA headquarters had to wait around four hours to learn whether their half-a-billion-dollar spacecraft had successfully landed or crashed 33 million miles away.

The MarCos in theory would fix that, and on Nov. 26, their dual transmitting radios were put to the test. The twin satellites passed with flying colors, according to NASA officials, who said post launch they received minute-by-minute updates from the CubeSats.

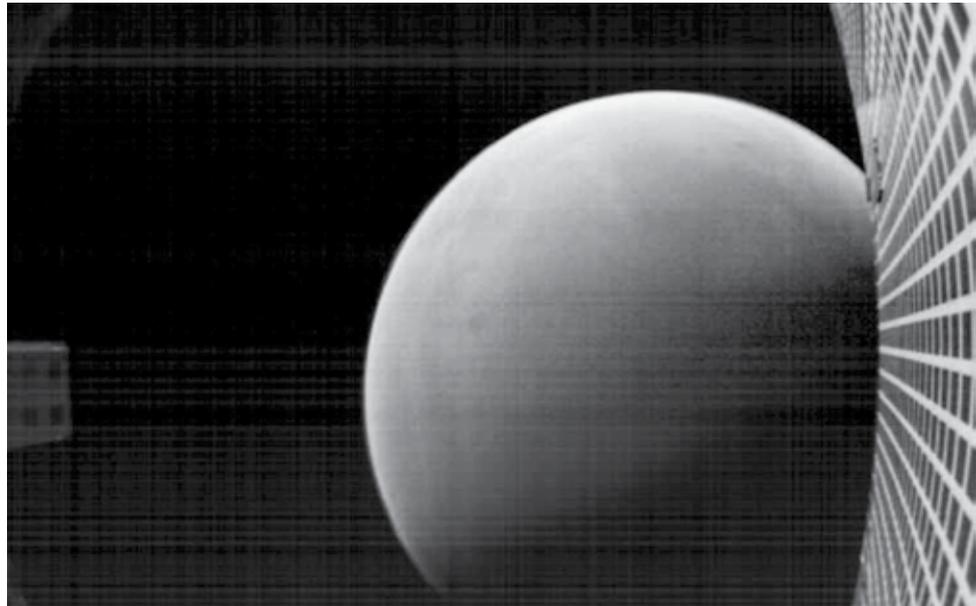
Farah Alibay, a systems engineer at JPL for four years, told the *Sun* in May, just before the mission launched, that the satellites’ success would be critical for similar missions in the future.

“A lot of people in the CubeSat community are looking at this mission to be a sort of pioneer and to see what they can achieve,” she said. “Once we know the capabilities, we can start dreaming even bigger.”

According to NASA and JPL officials, the InSight (Interior Exploration using Seismic Investigations, Geodesy, and Heat Transport) mission will revolve around the lander using two main instruments—a seismometer and a heat probe (the Heat Flow and Physical Properties package). The seismometer will be used to measure the red planet’s seismic activity, or “marsquakes,” and by doing so will help scientists ascertain Mars’ planetetary thickness and what the interior is composed of. The heat probe—which is described by the mission’s engineers as a “self-hammering nail”—should show JPL just how much internal heat the planet possesses or produces.

The CubeSats’ mission objective is independent of InSight’s.

—Spencer Cole



TOUCHDOWN: NASA’s InSight mission, which successfully landed on Mars on Nov. 26, is aided by two cube satellites that were tested and prepared at Cal Poly, SLO. Pictured: An image of Mars captured by one of the cube satellites.

Santa Maria high school district and Faculty Association to hold fact-finding hearing

The Santa Maria Joint Union High School District (SMJUHS) has been negotiating contracts with its teachers union for more than a year, and since the groups declared an official impasse in early October, little has been accomplished.

Even with a state mediator, the parties were, again, unable to agree on a few key topics this month, including faculty salary increases for the 2018-19 school year, and proposed changes to the district’s teacher transfer process. After another unsuccessful meeting on Nov. 26, the groups agreed to move on to a fact-finding hearing, one of the last-ditch stages of the negotiation process that includes both groups pleading their cases to a panel of three judges, who will then recommend a settlement strategy.

The fact-finding process could take anywhere from 30 to 60 days, according to Kenny Klein, the district’s public information officer, who said each party is now tasked with picking one panelist, and then working together to choose a third, neutral judge.

At the hearing, the date of which will likely be announced sometime after the new year, the SMJUHS Faculty Association and district will both present arguments to the panel. Based on those presentations, the panel will vote on a recommendation for a settlement. If the groups still cannot agree using the recommendation, Klein said the district will implement its last best offer: a 2 percent raise for the 2018-19 school year.

Klein said this is the second time the district and Faculty Association have had to hold a fact-finding hearing in the last five years.

Although Klein said the 2 percent raise would be in addition to increases to the district’s salary schedule and schedule steps, and health benefits, the Faculty Association continues to hold out in hopes of a 3.75 percent salary increase.

Faculty Association President Matt Provost said in a previous interview with the *Sun* that the union made its request based on what the district received from recent changes in state cost of living adjustments. The district gets about \$2.44 million from the state based on cost

of living adjustments, according to the district, money that is used to offset spikes in fuel, school supplies, utilities, and pension costs.

This school year, Provost said Santa Maria’s high school district is getting about 3.7 percent more in state funding because of increased cost of living adjustments. That, plus the district’s growing student enrollment and expanded state funding in other areas, makes for a financially stable district, Provost said.

Still, district officials continue to blame rising pension costs for lower than usual salary increases.

The district has about 400 teachers and 370 classified employees, most of whom are enrolled in retirement plans through the California Public Employees Retirement System (CalPERS) or the California State Teachers’ Retirement System (CalSTRS).

Both programs are in trouble, and employers across the state, including the district, are being forced to contribute more to pay off existing retiree benefits. By the 2019-20 school year, the district’s CalSTRS and CalPERS costs will have

NEWS continued page 6

Weekend Weather

KSBY NEWS

Microclimate Weather Forecast

Dave Hovde

KSBY Chief Meteorologist



<p>Thursday</p>  <p>COASTAL > High 60 Low 52 INLAND > High 60 Low 50</p>	<p>Friday</p>  <p>COASTAL > High 64 Low 46 INLAND > High 64 Low 42</p>
<p>Saturday</p>  <p>COASTAL > High 62 Low 46 INLAND > High 61 Low 41</p>	<p>Sunday</p>  <p>COASTAL > High 59 Low 44 INLAND > High 58 Low 35</p>

A major storm lingers into Thursday then a brief and windy Friday break before more rain possible on Saturday.

Cutting to save

Guadalupe awaits state decision on allegations of unfair practices and failing to honor union contract

BY KASEY BUBNASH

Guadalupe city employees were suddenly informed last year that they would no longer be eligible for merit-based salary step increases. Now the city is fighting an unfair practices charge filed by union representatives of those employees, and both parties are awaiting a judge's decision on the case.

The complaint, which is being handled by the California Public Employment Relations Board, was filed recently by Santa Barbara-based field representatives of Service Employees International Union (SEIU) Local 620, a workers union that represents 11 Guadalupe city employees.

In the complaint, SEIU claims that Guadalupe City Administrator Cruz Ramos unfairly denied salary advancements that were due to two city employees, and suspended the possibility of merit-based salary increases for all employees in June 2017 without prior notice.

In an email sent to Guadalupe city employees on June 14, 2017, Ramos wrote that "in lieu of 'furloughs' there will be no step increases this upcoming fiscal year due to a continuing budget deficit."

Ramos wrote that the decision was an effort

to take control the city's spending, reduce its long-standing \$700,000 deficit, and help pay the ever-increasing yearly costs of California Public Employees Retirement System (CalPERS) contributions. She also wrote that the city would continue working to find other ways to reduce expenses and address its financial shortfalls.

"The city regrets this action," she wrote, "as our employees are all hard-working, dedicated employees."

SEIU field representative Robert MacLeod said that while the city is legally obligated to notify all employees of upcoming contractual changes to their salaries or terms of employment, Guadalupe officials failed to do that, and also failed to "meet and confer in good faith" with employees once the announcement was made. Instead of meeting with the union and its members, negotiating, and outlining the upcoming changes, MacLeod said Guadalupe simply "acted unilaterally."

"Which," he said, "we feel is a violation of our contract with them and several laws."

The change itself also directly defies the city's memorandum of understanding with SEIU employees, MacLeod said, which gives employees the right to be considered for salary step increases based on yearly performance and merit assessments. The city's memorandum of understanding with SEIU, a copy of which was included in SEIU's complaint, clearly lists a several-step salary increase process for employees deemed satisfactory by their supervisors.

But according to the complaint, two employees, account clerk Esther Britt and wastewater treatment plant manager Carlos

Ostos, were denied due wage advancements about a month after Guadalupe's June 2017 email announcement, which MacLeod said was the city's only official notification of the changes to the SEIU.

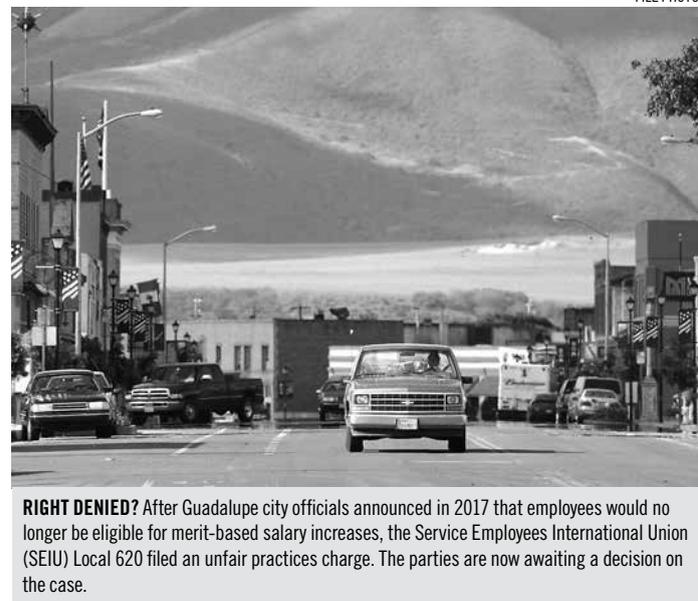
Four more employees will be denied increases this year if the city's decision stands, according to the complaint.

The case went to a California Public Employment Relations Board hearing recently, and closing comments were heard a few weeks ago, MacLeod said. The city and SEIU are waiting for a judge's decision, which MacLeod said will likely come sometime after the new year.

The union is seeking a simple remedy, MacLeod said. Representatives want Guadalupe city employees deserving of salary increases to be granted them retroactively—regardless of whether or not the city can afford it—and all employees to be considered for merit-based increases in the future. Based on the hearing, MacLeod said things are looking up for SEIU employees.

"I'm very optimistic we will get some kind of award," MacLeod said.

Although Guadalupe City Administrator



RIGHT DENIED? After Guadalupe city officials announced in 2017 that employees would no longer be eligible for merit-based salary increases, the Service Employees International Union (SEIU) Local 620 filed an unfair practices charge. The parties are now awaiting a decision on the case.

Ramos did not respond to the *Sun's* request for comment, Guadalupe City Council members met in closed session to discuss the case on Nov. 5. Guadalupe City Attorney Philip Sinco addressed the case in a statement to the *Sun* on Nov. 16.

"The city and SEIU participated in a hearing on SEIU's allegations before an administrative hearing office in September, and are awaiting a decision from the administrative hearing officer," he wrote. "Since this matter has not been concluded, the city has no further comment." ○

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

NEWS from page 5

increased by more than \$4.5 million since 2015-16, according to the district.

The groups are also struggling to agree on contractual language regarding the district's voluntary transfer program, which Provost said allows teachers to voluntarily jump to schools with open positions. Senior-most teachers are chosen over others who apply for the positions, and Provost said it allows teachers some much-needed freedom to move around, while maintaining job and salary security.

It's one of the few liberties teachers are allowed without administrative oversight, and Provost said the district's contract this year would have eliminated the program entirely.

But district Assistant Superintendent Kevin Platt said in a statement on Nov. 26 that the way teachers transfer now—to any school within the district regardless of past experience and without principal approval—does not serve students well.

"To be clear, we are not saying that teachers cannot transfer, we believe teachers who are interested in transferring should be interviewed and selected," Platt wrote in the statement. "Department chairs and principals should have the ability to select their teams, and all teachers, regardless of seniority, should have the same opportunity to compete for a position."

—Kasey Bubnash

Local chambers of commerce back new economic organization

A new nonprofit economic development organization says its intended goal is to create a Central Coast "super region" spanning from Vandenberg Air Force Base in Lompoc to Camp Roberts north of Paso Robles.

More than a dozen Central Coast chambers of commerce, including San Luis Obispo,

Santa Maria Valley, Solvang, and Templeton, rolled out the welcome mat for nearly 200 area business leaders at The Cliffs Resort in Pismo Beach on Nov. 26 to announce the Hourglass Project, the name of the new economic development group.

The guest list included companies representing the technology and energy industries, as well as Rep. Salud Carbajal (D-Santa Barbara), Assemblymember Jordan Cunningham (R-Templeton), and the presidents of Cal Poly, Cuesta, and Allan Hancock colleges.

The tenor among the crowd and speakers during the event was filled with optimism relating to how the Central Coast can best weather its uncertain economic future.

"This is our opportunity to think outside of our own special interests and focus on how we are stronger as a region," Rep. Carbajal said.

One key point of focus for the Hourglass Project will be fostering a regional cooperative economy, with cities and communities working with one another rather than competing and "stabbing everybody in the back," according to the event's keynote speaker, Tom Clark. Clark is known as "the godfather of regionalism" for his work helping the Denver, Colorado, metropolitan area recover from an economic recession in the 1980s.

"This is about being friends with each other," he added.

Clark and the speakers representing the new nonprofit called on private industry in particular to help jumpstart the regional initiative.

"They live in this community and have the capacity to move money faster than anybody else," he explained.

Assemblymember Cunningham pointed to how government could help with transitioning the Central Coast to its "next phase" after the Diablo Canyon Power Plant and its nuclear reactor shutters in 2025. The assemblyman co-

authored and helped pass a bill (SB 1090) with Sen. Bill Monning (D-Carmel) that ensured the plant could in theory stay open until that year.

Cunningham said it was important for the region to keep those "high skilled" workers once the plant closed and to provide them with opportunities at companies like Mindbody. But to do that, he added, the region would have to have jobs that enticed those workers to stay, as well as some form of stability in terms of available housing and water.

"We have tremendous potential on the Central Coast if we solve our water issues and we solve our housing issues," Cunningham said. "We have the best weather in the world, one of the best universities in the world, two of the best community colleges in the world, but hundreds of thousands of graduates that moved, and keep moving away."

"There's a lot of people that would love to come back here and raise a family but they need jobs," he added.

—Spencer Cole

State approves Dignity Health merger with conditions

The California Attorney General's Office approved a planned merger between Dignity Health and Catholic Health Initiatives, but not before setting several additional conditions on the deal.

According to the conditions set by the Attorney General's Office, the newly formed organization, called Common Spirit Health, will operate nearly 140 hospitals in 16 states, including 30 hospitals in California. That includes the Marian Regional Medical Center in Santa Maria and French Medical Center in SLO and Arroyo Grande Community Hospital. The new organization must maintain emergency and women's health care services for the next 10

years, among other conditions.

"Our office carefully reviewed this transaction to protect patients and our communities here in California, and our office will monitor compliance with the conditions," Sean McCluskie, chief deputy to the attorney general, said in a written statement on the decision.

In addition to maintaining those services, the conditions also includes stronger protections for financially needy individuals struggling with the high cost of health care.

The decision by the Attorney General's Office comes after a lengthy public comment process on the proposed merger. In addition to receiving more than 500 written comments from the public, the office also held 17 public meetings across the state, including a meeting in Santa Maria and one in SLO in September. At those meetings, some residents raised concerns that the merger would negatively impact the availability and quality of health services for women, LGBTQ individuals, and the poor.

In a Nov. 21 written statement on the decision, Dignity Health President and CEO Lloyd Dean said the organization would maintain its facilities and services, and characterized the attorney general's review as "extensive" and "an important step forward."

"This review process offered a chance to hear directly from people in our communities, and we heard over and over how important our services are to the areas we serve," Dean said. "Our alignment and the consent of the Attorney General's Office will help ensure we can continue providing care for many years to come." ○

—Chris McGuinness

Spotlight on: Angel of Hope memorial

Suzanne 'Sam' de St. Jean, coordinator

BY JOE PAYNE

Every year since she lost her son to a motorcycle accident in 2012, Suzanna "Sam" de St. Jean returns to the same place at the Santa Maria Cemetery in early December.

It's not where her son is buried, but the Angel of Hope statue is there, and so is a brick with his name on it. There are Angel of Hope statues across the U.S., de St. Jean explained, where parents who've lost children gather to mourn and heal together.

A special memorial service is planned this year for Dec. 1 at 1 p.m. at the statue, where locals can join together and honor their lost family, de St. Jean explained.

"I can't tell you the amount of people that are so blessed by having this memorial here in Santa Maria," she said. "Because other families, their child has died elsewhere, but at least they have a place here in Santa Maria they can go."

The idea of Angel of Hope comes from a story by Richard Paul Evans called *The Christmas Box*, about a woman who lost a daughter and mourned at an angel statue, de St. Jean explained. The statues have spread to cemeteries across the U.S., she said, and allow mourning parents to buy bricks that are engraved with the names of lost family members.

One larger brick is placed near the statue, she explained, and another smaller one gets to go home with the family. She first became involved with Angel of Hope as an organization after she lost her son, de St. John explained, going through the process of getting the bricks made.

"It's been very helpful and healing because we were pretty lost when Michael died," she said. "And we didn't have anything to hold onto, and we could go there and see his brick."

The program was started in town by Lori Macagni and her husband, Danny Macagni, former Santa Maria police chief, who lost a newborn, de St. John explained. When the couple decided to move away from town, they asked de St. John and her husband if they would take over the responsibilities for the organization.

From signing people up and ordering their bricks to maintaining the location, the de St. Johns oversee everything for Angel of Hope.

"We're responsible for maintaining the angel, and that brings us such pride and joy," she said. "Sometimes when we're there cleaning up, we'll have families come who have lost a child. You find peace there."

Anyone who buys a brick gets to have a small ceremony to place it when the time comes, de St. John said. They can choose to have a private ceremony, but many prefer an open ceremony, she said. Families that visit the statue often make friends with other visitors there, she explained, as they connect over similar experiences or losses.

At the Dec. 1 ceremony, those who have a brick around the Angel of Hope will also receive a small booklet and carnation flowers to place around the statue and in its outstretched arms. The event is so families from across town can all come together and support each other and heal, de St. John explained.

The ceremonies are cathartic for parents like

her, de St. John said, and being able to facilitate and organize them has meant a lot, too.

"It helps me heal, it really does," she said. "It's never going to bring closure, but it helps me heal and bless others as we've been blessed, by this beautiful statue and the memories we will always have."

Highlights:

- The city of Lompoc demolished the former Moore Mill & Lumber site at 320 North D St. to allow the construction of a new transit operations and fleet maintenance facility, which will serve as home base for the City of Lompoc Transit (COLT) staff and 14 transit vehicles. In a Nov. 20 media release, the city detailed an overcrowding issue that would be remedied by moving transit operations and fleet maintenance to the new facility, which the city projects will raise nearby property values once completed. The project is currently slated for completion by 2020, according to the city, and funding will come from state and federal transit and transportation grants.

- The Kiwanis Club of Santa Maria-Noontime delivered baskets brimming with Thanksgiving dinner ingredients to local families in need on Nov. 20, sharing turkeys, ham, pies, and more items collected by members. "Kids and their families need Kiwanis, now more than ever before, and the Thanksgiving basket is an example of how our club can meet a need in our community," Randy Beal, the club president, said in a statement. More information is available at kiwanis.org.

- The Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors adopted a recommendation to reduce the cost of an annual County Parks day-use pass for veterans who served in the U.S. Armed Forces or Reserves. The pass, which was previously \$50 for local veterans and \$60 for non-locals, is now only \$10 for veterans regardless their county of residence. The pass is accepted at and available for purchase at the Cachuma Lake Recreation Area and the Jalama Beach County Park with a valid California driver's license or I.D with a veteran designation. More information is available at countyofsb.org/park. ○

Managing Editor Joe Payne wrote this week's Biz Spotlight. Information should be sent to the Sun via fax, mail, or email at spotlight@santamariasun.com.

PHOTO COURTESY OF SUZANNE DE ST. JEAN



BEACON OF HEALING: Local nonprofit Angel of Hope welcomes locals who have lost children to attend a Dec. 1 memorial service at 1 p.m. at the Santa Maria Angel of Hope statue.



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PHOTOS BY HELEN ANN THOMAS

November notables

BY HELEN ANN THOMAS

The Great Gatsby Gala—hosted by the Santa Maria Philharmonic Society on Saturday, Nov. 17, at the Radisson—positively delighted guests with a mix of creative decorations, xylophone and guitar music in the atrium, and a musical welcome (**Jim Enos** at the piano) with chilled sparkling wine in the foyer.

Doesn't that sound like the makings of a fun time? The effervescent **Diane Beebe** greeted guests, many clad in the suggested '20s and '30s era attire, while **Debra Hood** and **Linda Barth** made last-minute adjustments to the silent auction tables and centerpieces, and Dr. **Lynne Garrett** circled the area to ensure things were going well.

Dino Donati (the owner of the Grocery "the price is right" Outlet) and his team were responsible for the wonderful period backdrops in the ballroom and the cardboard facsimile of a '30s roadster that was parked in the bar.

People scrambled to "get in" the roadster (fitted with chairs) and have their photos taken by friends. Among these were Dr. **Robert and Louise Hammond**, **Barbara Karamitsos**, and **Nancy Johnson**, who posed together amid great frivolity.

During dinner, **Jed Beebe** (board president)



Hobnobbing with Helen

presented Johnson with a bouquet of flowers and a glass trophy, acknowledging her as a Legacy Award Honoree. Nancy is a civic activist who has had a finger in many a nonprofit pie. She is also an advocate for the arts and, I learned, a flautist who once played with the SLO Symphony.

Robert and Sandra Dickerson, **Charlie and Judy Markline**, and **Dennis McLaughhey**, were among the revelers. **Jim and Kelly White O'Neill**, I hope I see you again soon.

The evening was capped by robust dancing to the music of a DJ. I could

not resist doing the Charleston, wobbly knees be damned, and all the zippy numbers that followed.

About 140 were at this event. Tickets were \$100, and included excellent wines with dinner.

Bo Prescott, event coordinator extraordinaire, it was an absolutely fantabulous evening. Or, in the words of the late Cole Porter, "what a swell party" it was.

Party at the inn

If you dropped by the Kent Room of the Santa Maria Inn on Sunday evening, Oct. 28, you would have seen members and guests of Rotary South dressed as prominent people from the 1920s and '30s.

Rotary South schedules its annual fundraiser around Halloween, so that members and guests can indulge their desire to be someone else.

Pat Haley was a sensational Harpo Marx.

Bill Thompson's name tag said "Albert Einstein." **Cynthia Ellis** was a perky Billie Holiday.

Georgia Shore (former general manager for the *Sun*) arrived as a super-sophisticated Gloria Swanson, accompanied by her dashing paramour, Joseph Kennedy (aka **Richard Neblett**). There were two Ernest Hemingways and more than one Frida Kahlo.

Kathy Boysen was a '30s chanteuse (she actually sang throughout the evening) and her spouse, City Councilman **Jack Boysen**,



GOING FOR A SPIN: Dr. Robert Hammond (pictured, far left), Barbara Karamitsos (center, back), Nancy Johnson (center, front), and Louise Hammond (right) at the Santa Maria Philharmonic Society's Great Gatsby Gala on Nov. 17 at the Radisson.

came as the husband of a '30s chanteuse.

David and Lisa Long, **Ken and Diane Parker**, and **Diane Balay** were among the revelers. **Frank Ortiz** looked very happy as an Al Capone type, while wife **Scottie** came (I think) as his "moll."

The \$40 tickets included a buffet of heavy appetizers and a no-host bar (after a glass of complimentary sparkling wine). Between 55 and 60 congregated in the inn's Kent Room for this cocktail party and wine raffle.



GOING BACK IN TIME: Pictured left to right: Frank Ortiz, Nicolette Reeves, and Jay Conner at Rotary South's costume cocktail party on Oct. 28 at the Santa Maria Inn. Ortiz is a retired Santa Maria fire captain and Reeves is president of the club.

Fun at the crab feed

I have never been to a crab feed before. I can see how one could become addicted. Law Enforcement for the Special Olympics sponsored its annual fundraiser on Nov. 2, from 5 to 8 p.m., at the Veterans Memorial Center. About 230 came to chow down.

Wine, beer, and soda were available at a hosted bar. Tickets were \$40, and if you didn't get your money's worth, it was your fault. There was lots and lots of food passed around by a seeming army of willing helpers.

The band Rock Odyssey played throughout the evening and, of course, there was dancing.

City Councilmember Dr. **Michael Moats** and his wife, **Susan**, were at the Noontime Kiwanis table, along with Dr. **Roland Miller**. Other community activists out and about were **Marisol Cruz**, **Paul Klock**, and **Doug Dougherty**.

Retired law enforcement officer **Howard Coolidge**, who helped tend bar, has been involved with this from the get-go, about 10 years ago.

All in all, dear readers, this was a notable November, wouldn't you say? ○

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



SUPPORTING SPECIAL OLYMPIANS: Pictured left to right: Brooke Bradford, Doug Dougherty, and Dr. Roland Miller at the early November crab feed in support of the Special Olympics. Dougherty is executive director for the OASIS Senior Center.

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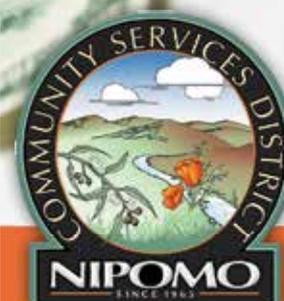
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Engulfed in flames

Local fire artists find peace
in the middle of infernos

BY SPENCER COLE
PHOTOS BY JAYSON MELLOM

“Don’t try this at home,” Shayne Mastriano says before guzzling a mouthful of highly refined lamp oil. He’s careful not to swallow the liquid that his peers claim tastes like a combination of candle wax and coconut oil.

Mastriano sidles over to join his troupe of fellow fire artists assembled in the backyard of a large house at the end of a cul de sac in Arroyo Grande. It’s sunset. And the fire artists are growing restless, even before they all filled their mouths with flammable oil.

The group is well known across the Central Coast, from Santa Maria to San Luis Obispo, under the moniker Ignite Fire Dance—a name that has grown in stature over recent months.

At the end of October, some of the troupe’s antics were featured on Comedy Central’s *Tosh.O* after a video of them went viral. They were filmed moving a ball of fire up a parking garage with nothing but their lungs, oil, and will power.

“I feel like a lot of us have been doing this a long time and I really wanted to see us come together as a performance troupe, and breathing has really done that,” member Johnathon Felch whispers as the group settles into place.

It takes precision to breathe flames, let alone in coordination with multiple fuel sources and flame welders. Most novices practice for months with water just to get the right technique down so they can successfully spray the liquid out as a fine mist.

“You’re concentrating on the shape of your mouth, the position of your tongue, the pressure from your lungs, and creating tension with your core,” Mastriano explained moments earlier. “And you have to concentrate on your breathing because you can only breathe through your nose.”

Safety is of the upmost importance, not just due to the risk of a random spotfire in a backyard or park, but also for each fire breather’s health.

“The most dangerous part about breathing fire is not catching yourself on fire or anything like that,” Mastriano says. “It’s giving yourself chemical pneumonia through breathing in the unlit fuel vapors or molecules that get into your lungs.”

Fortunately, this isn’t Mastriano’s—or anyone in attendance tonight for that matter—first rodeo.

“Mm (1). Mmm (2). Mmmm (3),” Fire artist Levi Morin counts behind closed lips.

Whoosh.

Flames erupt from five mouths, forming an amorphous blob of fire and heat above their heads. The sound is reminiscent of a high-powered blowtorch.

“It’s a little bit more empowering [breathing fire],” Morin says, before wiping excess oil from his face. “Once you’ve played with fire, there’s levels of danger and satisfaction that are achieved with breathing it over just spinning props. It’s embracing your inner child, being a pyro, and of course, that big *boom*.”

He makes an explosion gesture with his fists. “It’s like setting fireworks off in your backyard when you’re a kid.”

Gwendolyn Hodgson, decked out in a Kitana costume from the video game *Mortal Kombat*, says she was drawn to fire artistry for myriad reasons but in the end, it came down to the comfort and peace it offered.

“I just want to be able to dance and have fun and flow,” she says. “I kept wanting to perform and have community—be a part of something that’s deeply rooted—and this is something that helps me be comfortable in front of other people.”

Samantha Jones, who goes by the stage name “Sami Kat,” understands such a perspective all too well. As a sword swallower and fire eater, it’s important to be comfortable and confident in yourself and the people around you, especially when you’re licking live flames out of existence.

“It’s all about timing, and uh, saliva,” she explains, before demonstrating how to properly extinguish a burning torch with her tongue. “You definitely want to inhale before you ever eat because if you don’t, you get fire in your lungs, and well ... just don’t overthink it.”

SUPER POWERED: The shared love of fire, flow arts, and performance is what brings members of Ignite Fire Dance together, exciting locals with their flamethrower-like skills.

LIGHT ME UP: Torches, poi rings, and orbitals are all tools that flow artists like Garrett Donaldson use in performances, which can also incorporate fire.



FIERY SKY: Ignite Fire performers use a special mix of lamp oil to shoot flames across the sky.



Contact Staff Writer Spencer Cole at scole@santamariasun.com.

Fantastic fire

Learn more about the fire-filled flow by checking out Ignite Fire Dance on social media. Find them @ignitefiredance on Instagram, Facebook, and YouTube.



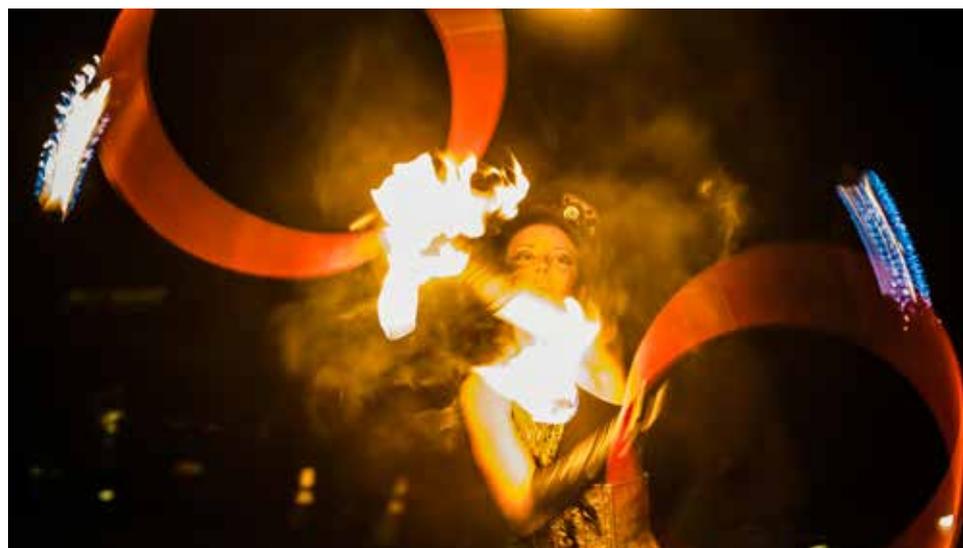
SPINNING CIRCLES: Garrett Donaldson flows in an Arroyo Grande backyard. Kevlar poi on the end of chains are soaked in white gas before they're lit on fire.



SUNSET PLAY: Just before twilight in Shell Beach, Shayne Mastriano performs fire artistry with orbitals while fellow Ignite Fire Dance member Levi Morin tosses and twirls a fire flowerstick.



DANCE PREP: Garrett Donaldson, Levi Morin, Shayne Mastriano, and Johnathon Felch (left to right) prepare their fire torches, poi, and wands for a performance at Spyglass Park in Shell Beach.



HOOPS ON FIRE: Nikki Kaminski spins two firehoops at a wedding in San Luis Obispo for Ignite Fire—a fire performance company based out of Santa Maria.



EAT IT: Sword-swallower Samantha Jones sticks a fire wand in her mouth. Getting burned is inevitable, she said—it's just a matter of degree.



FIRE BREATHER: Fire artist Gwendolyn Hodgson from Ignite Fire Dance helps spit a fireball at a group practice in Arroyo Grande.



IGNITED: The Ignite Fire Dance troupe performs fire artistry at weddings, birthday parties, special events, and festivals on the Central Coast and beyond.



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Hancock president discusses future without Measure Y

BY KASEY BUBNASH

Allan Hancock College lost out on millions of dollars on Election Day, and although officials are already working to find backup funding, renovations are going to be a challenge.

Despite an extensive campaign effort and what appeared to be vast community support, Santa Barbara County residents voted against Hancock's proposed \$75 million bond on Nov. 6, leaving the school with little additional funding to renovate many of its oldest buildings, replace its fine arts facilities, and enhance classroom technology and equipment as planned.

The results—a "no" from more than 52 percent of voters—came as a shock to many, including Hancock President and Superintendent Kevin Walthers.

While Walthers said many Santa Maria Valley voters are understandably wary of measures that increase taxes, several business and property owners who would have been directly impacted by Hancock's Measure Y supported it. Local conservative politicians, including a few Santa Maria City Council members and members of the Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors, publicly endorsed the bond, as did various "tax-skeptical" organizations, including the Santa Barbara County Taxpayers Association.

And after spending roughly \$90,000 to a launch a sizeable social media outreach campaign, mail informational cards to every home in the area, and canvass a large portion of the county, Walthers said he thought Measure Y had a good chance of passing.

"So it really—when you see the results come in, you're like, 'Oh wow, how did we misread this?'" Walthers said.

Several community members, however, did not support the bond, and actively worked to derail its passage throughout Hancock's campaign. That includes Hancock Trustee Dan Hilker, who helped write a scathing argument against the bond in the county's official voter guide. Hilker called Measure Y "shoddy," and said it was "thrown together last minute" in a Facebook post on Oct. 27, and claimed the fine arts building could be completed using internal monies.

Although Hilker could not be reached for a comment before the Sun's press time, Walthers said Hilker's campaign against Measure Y could be at least partially to blame for its failure to pass.

"I think what was in the voter guide was huge," Walthers said.

Now it's back to the drawing board for Hancock administrators and officials, who, after spending years developing plans for Measure Y and getting it on the ballot, will have to find new ways to fund the facility improvements that Y would have paid for.

Hancock had secured \$24 million in state funding to replace its aging fine arts facilities, and now that Measure Y failed, Walthers said the college must find a new way to fund the other half of the project or risk losing the state money.

Although Hancock already secured a \$10 million gift dedicated to the fine arts project, it's still unclear just how the school will come up with the other \$14 million without Measure Y. Walthers said the state also underestimated the total costs of the project, so Hancock will likely need to come up with more than originally thought.

Hancock's financial team is working to find reserve funds that could be used on the fine arts project, Walthers said, although that would result in money being taken from something else. Measure I, a Hancock bond approved by

ATHLETE OF THE WEEK

PHOTO COURTESY OF JIM RISINGER



Dominic Marshall

He may be just 7 years old, but Dominic Marshall can already kick through a slab of wood a few inches thick.

It's a feat that could seem almost impossible to most, but for kids like Marshall, who trains for about three hours a week at Rising Sun Martial Arts Academy, breaking barriers is all part of daily life.

Since Marshall joined the program about two years ago, his kicking skills have improved by leaps and bounds, and he's become increasingly focused and determined to be the best, according to instructor Jim Risinger.

"He shows up early and never misses class," Risinger said, adding that his dedication will soon result in a promotion to green belt. "His excitement and enthusiasm have just increased so much over the last three months." ○

—Kasey Bubnash

voters in 2006, is capped, and remaining money from that won't be available for several years.

The school may have to consider applying for a loan, though Walthers said the yearly costs and interest rates would be steep. He also said that while administrators may consider putting another bond on the next ballot, that would be too late to save the state's \$24 million.

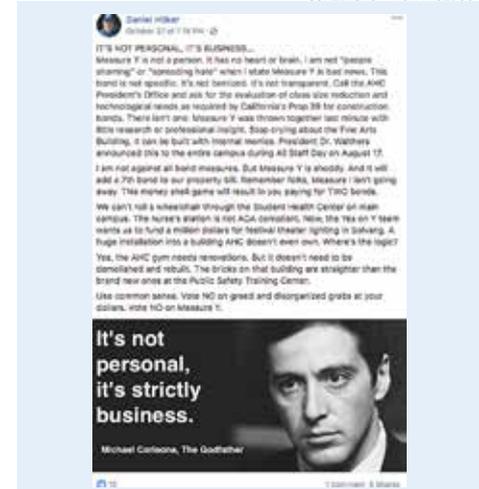
"As long as we can come up with the rest of the project dollars, the \$24 million will stay," Walthers said. "But if we have to wait until some future time when we can go out for another bond, that money will go away."

While Walthers said the fine arts building is Hancock's main focus right now, the other projects Measure Y would have funded—including improvements to the physical education facilities, PCPA theater in Solvang, and Public Safety Training Complex in Lompoc—are also priorities, and changes that are needed.

"They're all things that are pretty critical if the community wants us to continue to produce students who can transfer to Cal Poly or go somewhere to get a four year degree or join the workforce here in Santa Maria," Walthers said. "We've got to update the facilities that were built in the '60s. That's just the reality of where we are." ○

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.

SCREENSHOT FROM FACEBOOK



A DISSIDENTING OPINION: Allan Hancock College Trustee Dan Hilker, who wrote several Facebook posts opposing Measure Y, also helped write the argument against the bond that was included in the county's official voter guide.

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AWW ALTERNATIVE WEEKLY NETWORK
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Serving in government can teach a lot

BY RON FINK

Twenty-three years ago, I began my voluntary service with the city of Lompoc. I always felt that it was every citizen's duty to give something back to the community, and at the time there was a need for someone to serve on the Water Commission.

The city operates its own water utility, as well as all other so-called Enterprise Fund services such as wastewater, electric, and trash pickup. A few years later, the Water Commission was incorporated into what's now known as the Utility Commission.

An opening occurred on the Planning Commission and I applied. I have been a commissioner for 16 years, and during that period we have held public hearings on many large and small projects.

In the first few years several "market rate" housing developments that appeared promising were brought to the commission for consideration and ultimately approved. Only two were ever built, and several large projects remain in limbo today.

In the meantime, several "low income" projects by nonprofit developers have been approved and built. These projects usually cost between \$450 to \$550 a square foot to build; at these prices you could construct high-end custom homes.

Over the years the cumulative total for low-income, multi-family units has reached 76 percent of the available housing stock. This is very discouraging considering that other communities' average 5 percent, but at no time was either the commission or the council ever advised that this out-of-balance condition was occurring.

To make matters worse, now that they are aware of it, the state of California has required the city of Lompoc to absorb even more low-income units!

We have made some mistakes; most were associated with traffic and circulation. The intersection of Central Avenue and H Street has become severely congested, and each project we add to this general area only makes it worse. This congestion extends itself all the way from the Wye to Pine Avenue on weekdays.

However, the traffic studies included in staff reports always paint a rosy picture and indicate that "intersection improvements are planned to ease traffic flow." So far it hasn't happened, but it's still included as a mitigation measure in every project's Environmental Impact Report for the last 15 years.

Another mistake was to allow several boutique wineries to locate in an industrial park. The support services for this type of industry differ greatly from the type of businesses this light industrial area was intended to serve.

A major planning issue related to this industry was an inadequate consideration during the planning process of the cumulative load that 20-plus wine production facilities would place on the wastewater system, which is now frequently clogged by debris and undersized for the flow volume during the grape crushing season.

Early on I realized that both the general plan and zoning ordinance were inconsistent and way overdue for modernizing. Previous commissions had tried to list specific business types that would be allowed in each commercial district such as a furrier, business offices, shoe repair shops, and many others that just don't exist anymore.

But as I discovered, government isn't designed to do anything with any sort of urgency, so it has taken 13 years to finally overhaul both documents. Hundreds of hours of public hearings, tedious and

sometimes contentious discussion, and numerous rewrites by both consultant and staff were required to complete these projects.

More than once, commission recommendations on the general plan were rejected by the City Council and returned for additional work. In the meantime, the folks on both the council and commission changed, and new ideas required more debate before the documents were ready to return to the council for adoption.

The zoning ordinance has taken the same path—changes of focus by the council, last-minute changes requested by one concerned citizen who had not attended any other meetings, and changes in state law that required overhaul of already completed sections of the plan.

Mayor Bob Lingl appointed me to the Planning Commission and decided not to run for re-election, so at the end of his term, I voluntarily resigned; my commitment was to him, and that commitment has ended with his retirement.

Having served for 16 years as a commissioner, I feel that it may be time to step aside and allow some new ideas to flow into the process. But finding someone willing to devote the time necessary to review lengthy and very technical staff reports and attend public hearings might be difficult.

This person must also accept the fact that timely results and the satisfaction associated with seeing the results of your effort are inconsistent with government service; for example, it will take several years to see if changes to the general plan and zoning ordinance produce the desired result.

It has been an interesting 23 years; we will have to see what the future holds. ○

Ron Fink is a resident of Lompoc. Send your thoughts to letters@santamariasun.com.

LETTERS

Trump dishonored the military

Trump showed his true colors this past Veterans Day weekend. The president of the United States had time to meet with Vladimir Putin overseas, but he didn't have time to visit the Aisne-Marne American cemetery in France, the final resting place of 2,289 U.S. troops killed during World War I?

The White House said the cancellation was due to rain. I am retired military. I was an avionics technician on a CH-53 Sea Stallion helicopter when I served in the Marines. Contrary to right-wing propaganda, every helicopter in the Army, Navy, Marine Corps, Air Force, or Coast Guard, can fly in the rain.

How is it other world leaders except the United States of America managed to find a method of transportation to arrive and honor those who gave the ultimate sacrifice during WWI? Walk me through this. Our commander in chief could not honor America's fallen soldiers on Veterans Day because he was afraid of getting his orange toupee wet? Does anyone really believe the billionaire playboy could not find an umbrella? It wasn't raining in Washington, D.C., when Trump returned from France. Why didn't he visit Arlington National Cemetery? Trump has flown overseas several times during his presidency. Why has he never visited our troops?

Finally, Trump supporters who often use this platform to lecture readers about patriotism and honoring our flag, please start with the president of the United States, especially when he refuses to carry out the traditional duties of the commander in chief on Veterans Day and tells heroes like Sen. John McCain, a former POW

and Navy pilot who was shot down in Vietnam, he liked people who were not captured. Myself, I prefer presidents who don't have five military deferments and aren't afraid of a little rain.

Jose Luis Castellanos
Santa Maria



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



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



Point SLO Lighthouse Tours
EVERY WED & SAT
Point San Luis Lighthouse



SLO Blues Baseball
2019 SEASON PASSES
Sinsheimer Stadium



Tours for Paddlers
SATURDAYS, NOV 17-DEC 29
Point San Luis Lighthouse



Roy Zimmerman
THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 29
7Sisters Brewing Co.



Victorian Christmas Open House
THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 29
Friends of the Price House



Fox and Bones
FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 30
Morro Bay Wine Seller



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



Anne of Green Gables
NOVEMBER 30-DECEMBER 16
By the Sea Productions



SLO Blues Society: Earl Thomas
SATURDAY, DECEMBER 1
SLO Veteran's Hall



SLO Wind Orchestra: Make a Joyful Noise
SATURDAY, DECEMBER 1
CPAC at Cuesta College



Hanukkah Downtown
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 2
Mission Plaza



North County Chorus: Winter Concert
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 2
CPAC at Cuesta College



Beer Soap Making Class
THURSDAY, DECEMBER 6
Naughty Oak Brewing Co.



Yhana Rose Album Release
FRIDAY, DECEMBER 7
Morro Bay Wine Seller



Cuesta Jazz Ensembles
FRIDAY, DECEMBER 7
CPAC at Cuesta College



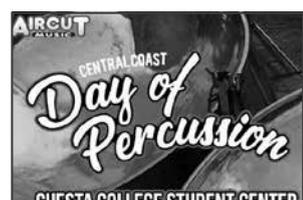
Winter Songs Concerts: Central Coast Youth Chorus
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 8-9
United Methodist Church

MY805TIX BOX OFFICE IS NOW OPEN

We're happy to announce Boo Boo Records is the official Box Office for My805Tix events. They're located at 978 Monterey St., San Luis Obispo. Call them at 805-541-0657.



Christmas on the Trail 2018 Wine Passport
SATURDAY, DECEMBER 8
Foxen Canyon Wine Trail



Central Coast Day of Percussion
SATURDAY, DECEMBER 8
Cuesta College Associated Student Center



The Bow Ties Bluegrass Band
SATURDAY, DECEMBER 8
Atascadero Lake Pavilion



Holiday Concert: Cuesta Choirs & Wind Ensemble
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 9
CPAC at Cuesta College



Beer Yoga
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 9
Naughty Oak Brewing Co.



Combopalooza
TUESDAY, DECEMBER 11
CPAC at Cuesta College



Tribute to Eric Clapton
TUESDAY, DECEMBER 11
Morro Bay Wine Seller



Chamber Music Concert
WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 12
CPAC at Cuesta College



Wine & Dine
SATURDAY, DECEMBER 15
Wild Coyote Estate Winery



Cen-Cal Pro Wrestling Presents: 'Twas the Fight Before Christmas
SATURDAY, DECEMBER 22
The Graduate



Planet Lucha
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 23
Santa Maria Radisson Hotel



Rava Wines NYE Champagne and Cabaret Soiree
MONDAY, DECEMBER 31
Rava Wines & Event Center



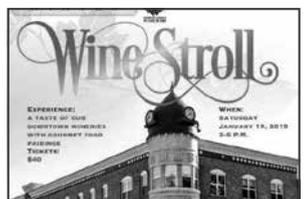
60's Rock & Soul NYE Bash
MONDAY, DECEMBER 31
Embassy Suites by Hilton, SLO



Central Coast Aquarium Winter Break Camp
DAYS VARY-JANUARY 2-11
Central Coast Aquarium



SLO Jewish Film Festival
JANUARY 5-6, 2019
The Palm Theater



Winter Wine Stroll
SATURDAY, JANUARY 19
Downtown Paso Robles



Calendar Girls
JANUARY 25-27
By the Sea Productions



SLO Blues Society: Tommy Castro
JANUARY 26, 2019
SLO Veteran's Hall



Hard Day's Night - A Tribute to the Beatles
SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 2 2019
Rava Winery & Event Center



SLO Blues Society: Albert Castiglia
FEBRUARY 23, 2019
SLO Veteran's Hall

A PARADE THAT BRINGS TO *Light* COMMUNITY

ENJOY THE PAGEANTRY & GLITTER OF STREAMING FLOATS AS SANTA CLAUS LIGHTS UP THE WAY

The annual Parade of Lights has become a favorite event for families throughout the Santa Maria Valley. Our local Rotary clubs, which have been involved since 1995, are sponsoring the Canned Food Drive that benefits the Salvation Army. So join your friends and family to cheer on the participants and enjoy what has become one of Santa Maria's premier events. It will have you looking at the Holidays in a more cheerful light.

Saturday, December 1st • 5:20pm-7:20pm
Downtown Santa Maria



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President & CEO

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OPINION

Who do you believe?

It's hard for some to keep the facts straight in this "post-truth" age of "fake news" and hyper-partisan demagoguery.



THE CANARY

It certainly wasn't easy for the demagogue-in-chief, President Donald Trump, who preceded a visit to areas of California hit hardest by the Camp Fire and Woolsey Fire with a tweet blaming the state's wildfires on poor forest management.

While he was criticized by fire chiefs and organization heads like Harold Schaitberger of the International Association of Fire Fighters, who said Trump's comments "are reckless and insulting to the firefighters and people being affected" besides being untrue, that didn't stop the Trump Train from rolling right off the rails.

During his Nov. 17 visit to Paradise, Trump claimed that the president of Finland told him about "raking" the forests to prevent wildfires while outgoing Gov. Jerry Brown and governor-elect Gavin Newsom stood by in confusion.

Trump is trying to politicize the issue in his usual bombastic style. He's not the first to do this.

As California's wildfires have continued to grow in size and scope of destruction, the blame game has been ongoing. Conservatives blame lefty environmentalists for tying their hands regarding controlled burns in forests and other areas, while the lefties blame increased urban development and climate change exacerbating drought conditions.

That argument came to a head locally at the Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors meeting on Oct. 2, where the county Fire Department asked to increase the use of prescribed fire and vegetation removal.

Familiar faces from both sides of the political spectrum traded barbs of blame back and forth when 2nd District Supervisor Janet Wolf chimed in. Wolf, an environmentally minded south county lefty herself, lost her home and everything in it in 1990 during the Painted Cave Fire. She said that both sides needed to see the merit in each other's arguments.

"We don't want this to devolve into two different camps," she said. "We really need to be coming together."

Amen, sister!

But there's a flip side to this coin. Beware anyone who tells you that "both sides" are to blame for disagreements like this. That's an easy way of not taking a hard look at the issue.

For the most part, conservatives still dig in their heels regarding human-caused climate change, saying it's not real despite the overwhelming scientific consensus. The environmentally minded folks on the left, however, have actually heard out the other side's argument regarding forest management.

That's why our own state Sen. Hannah-Beth Jackson (D-Santa Barbara) authored bills to address forest management and other wildfire prevention and response methods, three of which were signed by Gov. Brown. One of the bills aims to make it easier for landowners and local governments to collaborate with state and federal agencies to mitigate wildfire risks, with prescribed burns and an eye toward future development.

Massive wildfires continue to hit California hard, from our area to those nearby, and how to fight them is up for debate. I'm wary of anyone who'd rather cast blame than discuss the facts and reach a consensus. But in the case of using rakes for forest management, who are you gonna believe? ☹

The Canary has a hard time believing any of it. Send your thoughts to canary@santamariasun.com.

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HOT DATES

NOV. 29 - DEC. 6
2017

WINTER IS COMING

The annual Los Olivos Old Fashioned Christmas and Holiday Market takes place Dec. 1 from 4 to 8 p.m. Participating locations will feature live entertainment, arts and crafts, displays by local artisans, holiday activities, and more. Admission is free. More info: (818) 468-1971 or losolivosca.com.

PHOTO COURTESY OF NICOLE AZAR

SPECIAL EVENTS

LOMPOC/VANDENBERG

DINING IN THE DARK: SHINING A LIGHT ON RECOVERY

This fundraising event includes dinner, a live and silent auction, a raffle, and more. Proceeds benefit Ladies Recovery 4 Life. **Dec. 1**, 5 p.m. \$75. ladies-recovery-4-life.org/. Hilton Garden Inn, 1201 N. H St., Lompoc, 805-735-1880.

SANTA MARIA VALLEY/LOS ALAMOS

2018 FREEDOM MONUMENT VETERANS MEMORIAL CEREMONY AND FELLOWSHIP LUNCHEON

To remember our fallen with a wreath ceremony and honor all Veterans who have served. The ceremony will be followed by a fellowship luncheon. **Dec. 7**, 10 a.m.-1 p.m. Free; RSVP required for luncheon. 805-925-2403 ext: 814. santamaria.com/events. Abel Maldonado Community Youth Center, 600 S. McClelland St., Santa Maria.

VITILANT BLOOD DRIVE EAGLE SCOUT PROJECT

An opportunity to give a life saving gift by donating blood. Sign up for an appointment. **Dec. 1**, 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Free. 805-347-9627. JoAnn Fabric and Craft Vitilant Blood Drive, 1535 South Bradley Rd, Santa Maria, bloodhero.com.

SOUTH COAST SLO COUNTY

PROJECT PARADISE FUNDRAISER

Canned food, bottled water, blankets, jackets, sleeping bags, and more are being collected for homeless families. Drop-off locations include Dr. Cory Moore in Arroyo Grande, Burdine Printing in Arroyo Grande, and Collections Clothing in Pismo. Deadline is Dec. 5. **Through Dec. 5** Historic Village of Arroyo Grande, Branch and Short St., Arroyo Grande.

SAN LUIS OBISPO

ECOWATCH! MOVIE NIGHTS

Films range in topics of environmental conditions and opportunities, the global village, and local healthy communities. **Nov. 29**, 6-9 p.m. and **Dec. 6**, 6-9 p.m. Free. 805-543-9900. slogreengoods.com. Green Goods, 111 South St., San Luis Obispo.

SLO HOSPICE: LIGHT UP A LIFE One of the remembrance ceremonies for Light Up A Life. Visit site for full details and other dates and locations. **Dec. 4**, 6 p.m. Donations start at \$15. hospiceslo.org/events. Mission San Luis Obispo de Tolosa, 751 Palm Street, San Luis Obispo, 781-8220.

SLOMA CURATED CRAFT BOUTIQUE Shop for handmade gifts. Featured artists are Alice Sennett, Barry Lundgren, David Gurney, Dianna Draz, Elena Mary Siff, Jim Valentine, Kathleen DePalma, Kathy Briles, Kathy Friend, Kenny Standhardt, Larry LeBrane, Linda Lewis, Michael Rhode, Priscilla Beadle, Randy Stromsoe, Roseann Martin, Sharon Harris, and Zelma Rose. **Through Dec. 30**, 11 a.m.-5 p.m. Free admission. 805-543-8562. sloma.org. San Luis Obispo Museum of Art, 1010 Broad St., San Luis Obispo.

HOLIDAY EVENTS

SANTA YNEZ VALLEY

BUELLTON WINTERFEST Festivities include breakfast with Santa, 20 tons of real snow, a vendors showcase, wine, beer, food, and more. Also features a light parade and tree lighting. **Dec. 2** solvangusa.com. Downtown Buellton, Ave. Of The Flags, Buellton.

EIGHTH ANNUAL HOLIDAY BOUTIQUE

Browse local artists and craftspeople to find unique gifts or something special for yourself. Booths will be placed throughout the museum. **Dec. 2**, 1-5 p.m. Free. 805-686-8315. wildlingmuseum.org/8th-annual-holiday-boutique-dec-2/. Wildling Museum of Art and Nature, 1511-B Mission Dr., Solvang.

GINGERBREAD WONDERLAND Features gingerbread houses decorated by local artisans and students. **Dec. 1**, 4-8 p.m. 818-468-1971. losolivosca.com. St. Mark's in the Valley Episcopal Church, 2901 Nojoqui Ave., Los Olivos.

JULEFEST CANDLELIGHT TOURS A behind-the-scenes historic walking and caroling tour of the downtown village of Solvang by costumed tour guides. Concludes with a private hot cocoa

and cookies reception with Santa Claus. Tours leave from Solvang Park. Saturdays, 4-6 p.m. **through Dec. 22** \$25; free for ages 2 and under. solvangusa.com. Downtown Solvang, Mission Dr., Solvang.

LOS OLIVOS OFFICIAL CHRISTMAS TREE LIGHTING

The tree is located near the flagpole. **Dec. 1**, 6 p.m. 818-468-1971. losolivosca.com. Lavinia Campbell Park, 2398 Alamo Pintado Ave., Los Olivos.

LOS OLIVOS OLDE FASHIONED CHRISTMAS

Features arts and crafts, displays by local artisans, holiday activities and entertainment, and more. **Dec. 1**, 4-8 p.m. 818-468-1971. losolivosca.com. Town-wide, Participating locations, Los Olivos.

SANTA CLAUS IN ST. MARK'S PARLOR Bring your cameras for photo opportunities. **Dec. 1**, 4-8 p.m. 818-468-1971. losolivosca.com. St. Mark's in the Valley Episcopal Church, 2901 Nojoqui Ave., Los Olivos.

SHOP, MINGLE, AND JINGLE Features multiple merchant-driven events and happenings in celebration of Solvang Julefest. Fridays-Sundays. **through Dec. 16** solvangusa.com. Downtown Solvang, Mission Dr., Solvang.

SOLVANG JULEFEST PARADE Features more than 400 participants and 50 entries, who make their way down Mission Drive other adjacent streets. Guests can enjoy a visit with Mr. and Mrs. Claus in Solvang Park after the parade. **Dec. 8**, 11 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Free admission. 805-688-6144. solvangusa.com. Solvang Park, Mission Dr. and First St., Solvang.

SOLVANG JULEFEST TREE LIGHTING Enjoy free live entertainment with dancing ballerinas, bands, caroling, and the arrival of Santa Claus to Solvang. **Dec. 7**, 5-6:30 p.m. Free. solvangusa.com. Solvang Park, Mission Dr. and First St., Solvang.

TOYS FOR TOTS DROP-OFF Please bring a new, unwrapped toy. **Dec. 1** 818-468-1971. losolivosca.com. St. Mark's in the Valley Episcopal Church, 2901 Nojoqui Ave., Los Olivos.

LOMPOC/VANDENBERG

2018 LOMPOC VALLEY CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PARADE

This year's theme is "Miracle on H Street". The parade route starts on H St. and finishes on S. I St. **Dec. 1**, 6 p.m. Free. 805-875-8100. explorelom poc.com. Old Town Lompoc, 100 South H St, Lompoc.

THIRD ANNUAL HOLLY JOLLY JUBILEE

Festivities include carolers, vendors selling stocking stuffers and gifts, an Ugly Sweater Competition for all ages, food, letters to Santa, and more. Takes place in the Chamber parking lot. **Dec. 8**, 12-5 p.m. 805-736-4567. Lompoc Valley Chamber of Commerce and Visitors Bureau, 111 South I St., Lompoc.

TREE LIGHTING IN CENTENNIAL PARK

Immediately follows the Children's Christmas Parade. Guests can enjoy hot cocoa and a visit with Santa. **Dec. 1**, 6:30 p.m. 805-875-8100. explorelom poc.com. Old Town Lompoc, 100 South H St, Lompoc.

VICTORIAN CHRISTMAS OPEN HOUSE

Lompoc's first two-story wooden structure, built in 1875, will be decorated for the holiday season. Tours presented by the Lompoc Valley Historical Society. Saturdays, 10 a.m.-1 p.m. **through Dec. 8** 805-735-4626. lom pochistory.org. Fabing McKay Spanne House, 207 N. L St., Lompoc.

SANTA MARIA VALLEY/LOS ALAMOS

24TH ANNUAL SANTA MARIA CHRISTMAS PARADE OF LIGHTS

The parade is expected to include nearly 2, 500 participants including local city and law enforcement personnel. **Dec. 1** Free. smparadeoflights.org. Town Center West, Broadway and Main, Santa Maria.

CHRISTMAS ON THE TRAIL

Passport includes 20 pours of wine which can be redeemed at any 13 wineries along the Foxen Canyon Wine Trail. Event includes live entertainment and food trucks. **Dec. 8-9**, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. \$45-\$60. Foxen Canyon Wine Trail, Foxen Canyon Rd., Santa Maria.

DECEMBER ORCUTT STROLL

Stroll the town as the streets are filled with carolers and luminarias. **Nov. 30**, 5-9 p.m. santamaria.com. Nagy Wines, 145 S Gray St., Ste. 103, Orcutt, 805-286-7228.

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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HARLEY-DAVIDSON HOLIDAY KICK-OFF PARTY Festivities include photos with Santa on a Harley, a holiday treat bar, free gift wrapping, and more. **Dec. 1**, 9 a.m.-6 p.m. santamariaharley.com. Santa Maria Harley-Davidson, 2022 Preisker Lane, Santa Maria, 805-928-3668.

HOLIDAY OPEN HOUSE AND ETHNIC FOOD FAIR Orthodox Church of the Annunciation is holding its Annual Holiday Open House and Ethnic Food Fair. Features home made delicacies. **Dec. 1**, 10 a.m.-2 p.m. 805-264-2128. ODOX.ORG. Orthodox Church of the Annunciation, 877 Francine Ln., Santa Maria.

OLD TOWN ORCUTT CHRISTMAS PARADE Enjoy floats, costumed characters, Christmas treats, and more. **Dec. 8**, 12-3 p.m. Free admission. santamaria.com. Historic Old Town Orcutt, S. Broadway and Union Ave., Orcutt.

SANTA MARIA TREE LIGHTING CEREMONY Enjoy the lighting of the tree on the corner of Cook and Broadway. Hosted by The People For Leisure And Youth, Inc. Includes a Christmas carol sing-along. **Dec. 1**, 4:30-6 p.m. santamaria.com. Town Center West, Broadway and Main, Santa Maria.

SOUTH COAST SLO COUNTY

52ND ANNUAL SOUTH COUNTY HOLIDAY

PHOTO COURTESY OF TAZ DOUGHERTY



FREEDOM AND FELLOWSHIP

The 2018 Freedom Monument Veterans Memorial Ceremony and Fellowship Luncheon takes place Dec. 7 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Abel Maldonado Community Youth Center, located at 600 S. McClelland St., Santa Maria. Admission is free but guests are required to RSVP for the luncheon. More info: (805) 925-2403 or santamaria.com.

PARADE An old fashioned community parade. Parade will begin at the 16th St. and Grand Ave. intersection. **Dec. 1**, 10-11 a.m. Free. 805-473-4580. City of Grover Beach, 154 S 8th St., Grover Beach, groverbeach.org.

BIG BAND CHRISTMAS An evening concert of the most popular songs from the 1940s, '50s, and '60s. Featuring special guests The Satin Dollz. **Dec. 9**, 5-7 p.m. \$49-\$59. 805-489-9444. clarkcenter.org/event/big-band-christmas/. Clark Center for the Performing Arts, 487 Fair Oaks Ave., Arroyo Grande.

CHRISTMAS CRAFT BOUTIQUE AND BAKE SALE **Dec. 6**, 5-7 p.m., **Dec. 7**, 9 a.m.-3 p.m. and **Dec. 8**, 9 a.m.-1 p.m. 805-481-9691. Grandmother's Club, 1241 Farroll Ave., Arroyo Grande.

HOLIDAY HARMONY Includes snow play, cookie decorating, bounce houses, crafts, and music. The Tree Lighting Ceremony will take place at 6 p.m. Santa will be available for photos. **Dec. 7**, 5:30-7:30 p.m. Free. 805-773-7063. pismo beach.org/73/Recreation. Pismo Beach Pier, West end of Pomeroy, Pismo Beach.

HOLIDAY TREE LIGHTING Festivities include cocoa, coffee, cookies, caroling, kids activities, and visits with Santa. **Dec. 7**, 5:30-7 p.m. Free. 805-473-4580. Ramona Garden Park Center, 993 Ramona Ave., Grover Beach, groverbeach.org.

NEEDS 'N WISHES HOLIDAY FUNDRAISER Features visits with Santa, free refreshments, Christmas shopping opportunities, fresh baked goods, and live entertainment all day. Please bring your change to help the homeless. Sponsored by People Helping People and South Bay Seniors. **Dec. 8**, 10 a.m.-7 p.m. Free. 805-528-2626. South Bay Community Center, 2180 Palisades Ave, Los Osos.

SANTA'S WORKSHOP: FINE ART AND CRAFT FAIRE Includes more than 40 artists and crafters offering handcrafted gifts. Santa will be present for visits. Live music provided by Critical Mass. **Dec. 1**, 10 a.m.-3 p.m. 805-473-4580. Ramona Garden Park Center, 993 Ramona Ave., Grover Beach, groverbeach.org.

VICTORIAN CHRISTMAS OPEN HOUSE Showcasing Victorian-style decorations and refreshments created from authentic Victorian

recipes. Period dress and hats are encouraged. **Nov. 29**, 4-7 p.m. 805-773-4854. Price Anniversary House, 100 Rancho Pismo Dr., Pismo Beach.

SAN LUIS OBISPO

43RD ANNUAL HOLIDAY PARADE **Dec. 7**, 7 p.m. Free. downtownslo.com. Mission Plaza, 989 Chorro St, San Luis Obispo.

BREAKFAST WITH SANTA Bring your children to enjoy breakfast with Saint Nick. Includes crafts, photos with Santa, games, and more. **Dec. 1**, 8:30-11:30 a.m. Free. 805-544-1373. sloucc.org. United Church of Christ (Congregational) of San Luis Obispo, 11245 Los Osos Valley Rd., San Luis Obispo.

CASKMAS Featuring 20 breweries from across the state, food, cask pours, live music, and Christmas sweaters. **Dec. 1**, 7-11 p.m. \$50-\$65. 805-548-2337. libertinebrewing.com/caskmas. Libertine Brewing Company, 1234 Broad St., San Luis Obispo.



DOWNTOWN MENORAH LIGHTING The menorah is lit all eight nights of Hanukkah outside the Mission. **Dec. 2-9**, 5 p.m. Free. jccslo.com. Mission Plaza, 989 Chorro St, San Luis Obispo.

HANUKKAH DOWNTOWN Includes a free community party the first night which features menorah making, dreidel spinning, carousel, treats, and more. Presented by JCC Federation of SLO. **Dec. 2-9**, 5 p.m. Free. jccslo.com. Mission Plaza, 989 Chorro St, San Luis Obispo.

HIVE FOR THE HOLIDAY Enjoy music, treats, drinks, boutique specials, and a raffle. 100% of raffle ticket sales will benefit THMA. **Dec. 8**, 3-6 p.m. Free; \$1 raffle tickets. 805-439-2255. Hive Natural Beauty Collective, 2033 Santa Barbara Ave., San Luis Obispo, hivebeauty.com.

HOLIDAY MARKET Enjoy holiday cheer while browsing unique, locally made gifts. Includes home décor, jewelry, cards, clothing, and more. **Dec. 2**, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Free. Melissa Traynor, 104 Twin Ridge Dr., San Luis Obispo, 4088575573.

HOLIDAY OPEN HOUSE An open house hosted by Central Coast Archery. **Dec. 8** 805-439-1570. centralcoastarchery.com. Central Coast Archery,

SPECIAL EVENTS continued page 20

December 8th & 9th
 Winter Craft Show featuring handmade items from local artisans!
 We will have face painting and...
SANTA is coming to Ragged Point! He will be there to take photos with all the kids!
 Photos and Personalization will be available for purchase
 For the parents there will also be BBQ, Beer & Wine on hand!
 Enjoy our tree lighting ceremony!
 Listen to live music by Bobby Santa Cruz on the 8th and Rockin' B's on the 9th!

1.805.927.4502
www.raggedpointinn.com

GUADALUPE CULTURAL ARTS & EDUCATION CENTER

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

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

Guadalupe Cultural Arts & Education Center
 Open to the public: Tuesday – Saturday, 10am – 4pm
 For all questions please contact Karen Evangelista at 805-478-8502
 Email: karen@guadalupeculturalcenter.com
1055 Guadalupe St., Guadalupe CA
www.GuadalupeCulturalCenter.com



Jillian Davenport, MD, FAAP

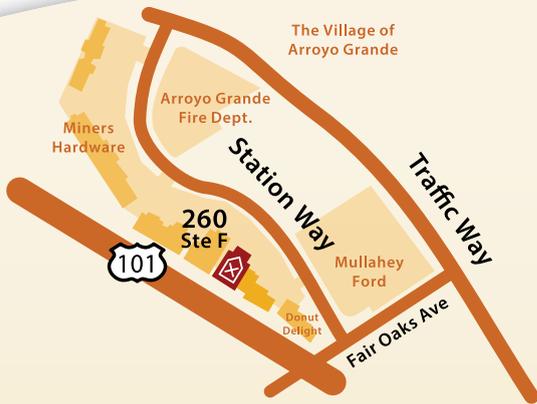
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Welcoming Pediatrician Dr. Jillian Davenport to CHC Station Way Pediatrics in Arroyo Grande

We are thrilled to have Board Certified and award-winning Pediatrician, Dr. Jillian Davenport join our team! Dr. Davenport completed her Residency at UCSF Benioff Children's Hospital in San Francisco, CA. She was a researcher for The Children's Hospital of Philadelphia and The

Scripps Research Institute in La Jolla, CA. Dr. Davenport volunteered with Puentes de Salud, a free clinic serving South Philadelphia's Latino immigrant population, and comes to CHC from private practice in Atascadero, CA where she provided primary and acute care.



260 STATION WAY, SUITE F
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Musical Lineup *(subject to change)*

Fri 11/30

7pm-10pm
Chris Beland - Soloist
10pm-1am
Nothing But Trouble

Sat 12/1

7pm-10pm
Noach Tangeras - Soloist
10pm-1am
DJ Sparx

Tues 12/4

6pm-7pm
The Band Steele
Sunny Country Event

\$5
Thursday
Margaritas
Karaoke with
Wacky DJ REE
CAR-D-OH at 9pm



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HOLIDAY TREASURES BOUTIQUE Monday Club members present this boutique which features vintage finds, home decor, jewelry, handcrafted art, functional gifts, and more. Refreshments will be served. **Dec. 2**, 11 a.m.-5 p.m. and **Dec. 3**, 1:30-4 p.m. Free. 805-541-0594. themondayclubslslo.org. The Monday Club, 1815 Monterey St, San Luis Obispo.

SANTA CLAUS'S ARRIVAL Santa Claus will arrive in SLO on the Pacific Surfliner. Children can greet him at the station and walk together over to the nearby SLO Railroad Museum for photos and more. **Dec. 1**, 2:30 p.m. slormm.com. San Luis Obispo Railroad Museum, 1940 Santa Barbara Ave, San Luis Obispo, (805) 548-1894.

SANTA'S HOUSE IN MISSION PLAZA Children who visit Santa receive a complimentary activity book, toy, and candy cane. Through Dec. 24 \$5-\$8 for photos. downtownslo.com. Mission Plaza, 989 Chorro St, San Luis Obispo.

ARTS

CLASSES & WORKSHOPS

SANTA MARIA VALLEY/LOS ALAMOS

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

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

BEADING WORKSHOP Thursdays, noon 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.

CREATIVE ART TUESDAYS Meet other artists and support and critique others' works. Tuesdays, 1-4 p.m. \$1. Oasis Senior Center, 420 Soares Ave., Orcutt, 805-937-9750.

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

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

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

INTRODUCTORY BALLET 2 Wednesdays, 6

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.

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

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

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

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

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

SOUTH COAST SLO COUNTY

FOAM AND WOOD STAMPS Make stamps to use for holiday gift wrapping and more. **Dec. 7**, 5:30-7:30 p.m. \$20. LiLa Creative Community, 1147 East Grand Ave. Suite 101, Arroyo Grande, 805-668-2125, lila.community.

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

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

PRINTING WITH LEAVES AND FEATHERS Gelli plate printing with leaves and feathers. Prints can be used for gifts, gift cards, and gift tags. Reserve your spot by phone or email. **Dec. 8**, 11:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m. \$45. 805-668-2125. LiLa Creative Community, 1147 East Grand Ave. Suite 101, Arroyo Grande, lila.community.

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.

SAN LUIS OBISPO

PHOTO COURTESY OF THE SANTA MARIA CHRISTMAS PARADE OF LIGHTS



RIGHT DOWN SANTA CLAUS LANE

The Rotary Clubs of Santa Maria and Nipomo, the Santa Maria Times, and KCOY present the 24th annual Santa Maria Christmas Parade of Lights on Dec. 1. The parade is expected to include nearly 2,500 participants including local city and law enforcement personnel. More info: smparadeoflights.org.

3PCS MEETING, DEMONSTRATION, AND WORKSHOP WITH LAVONE STIRLING LaVone is an award-winning California artist whose pastel paintings have been published in magazines, books, and more. Advanced sign-up for workshop required. **Dec. 8**, 10 a.m.-4:30 p.m. \$50. artcentralartsupply.com/current-workshops.php. Art Central, 1329 Monterey St., San Luis Obispo, 805 747 4200.

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

AFTER SCHOOL POTTERY Kids can come and learn to sculpt, hand build, and throw on the wheel. 2 sessions are needed to complete the pottery. Tuesdays, Thursdays, Saturdays. through Jan. 1 \$50 for 2 sessions. 805-896-6197. anamcre.com. Anam Cre Pottery Studio, 1243 Monterey St, San Luis Obispo.

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

DATE NIGHT POTTERY Guests can enjoy sharing wine, throwing pots on the wheel, and more. Fridays, Saturdays, 6-8 p.m. \$30 per person. 805-896-6197. Anam Cre Pottery Studio, 1243 Monterey St, San Luis Obispo, anamcre.com.

FILM AND TV ACTING CLASSES Film and TV acting classes for all ages and skill levels. Offers optional showcases for major Hollywood talent agents and casting directors. Sundays, 10:30 a.m.-9 p.m. \$165-\$175. 310-910-1228. actorsedge.com. Mission Cinemas, 1025 Monterey St., SLO.

HOLIDAY GARLANDS WITH INFINITE POSSIBILITIES: TRACY TAYLOR Materials include string, hole punch, letter stamps, and glitter. Snacks and punch provided. **Dec. 1**, 11 a.m.-1:30 p.m. \$35. 805.704.5690. artcentralartsupply.com/current-workshops.php. Art Central, 1329 Monterey St., San Luis Obispo.

INTRO TO IMPROV Learn the fundamentals of improvising as an ensemble. Build acting technique, practice teamwork skills, and gain confidence while playing theater and improv games. No class on Nov. 21. Wednesdays, 6-8 p.m. through Dec. 5 \$225. eventbrite.com. Tigerlily Salon Studio, 659 Higuera St., San Luis Obispo, 805-541-9911.

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

PINE NEEDLE BASKET WEAVING CLASS Explore the art of pine needle basket weaving. Guests are asked to bring their own scissors and lunch. All other materials are provided. **Dec. 1**, 9:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m. \$100 members; \$130 general. 805-541-1400 x 303. slobg.org. San Luis Obispo Botanical Garden, 3450 Dairy Creek Rd., San Luis Obispo.

SLO NIGHTWRITERS MONTHLY MEETING: PUBLIC WELCOME The organization's goal is to provide a venue for SLO County writers to connect. Features a variety of guest speakers. Second Saturday of every month, 6:30-8:30 p.m. \$5 for guests; free with membership. United Church of Christ (Congregational) of San Luis Obispo, 11245 Los Osos Valley Rd., San Luis Obispo, 805-544-1373.

SPECIAL ART EVENTS

SANTA YNEZ VALLEY

HOLIDAY ART SHOW Art demos take place every Saturday. Artists include Dirk Foslien, Richard Myer, Mary Kay West, and Kieth Batcheller. Saturdays, 12-4 p.m. **through Dec. 15** 805-686-2322. solvangantiques.com. Solvang Antiques, 1693 Copenhagen Dr., Solvang.

OLDE FASHIONED CHRISTMAS ARTISAN BOUTIQUE **Dec. 1**, 1-8 p.m. 818-468-1971. losolivosca.com. Santa Ynez Valley Grange Hall, 2374 Alamo Pintado, Los Olivos.

SANTA MARIA VALLEY/LOS ALAMOS

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

org. Valley Art Gallery, 125 W. Clark Ave., Orcutt.

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

SANTA BARBARA PRINTMAKERS JURIED EXHIBITION Opening reception takes place Nov. 14 from 4 to 6 p.m. **Through April 1**, 2019 smartscouncil.org. Betteravia Gallery, 511 E. Lakeside Parkway, Santa Maria.

SOUTH COAST SLO COUNTY

MAKE YOUR OWN STAMPS Make a wood and foam stamp that can be used to print wrapping paper, cards, and gift tags for the holidays or all year long. Space is limited. **Dec. 7**, 5:30-7:30 p.m. \$20. 805-668-2125. LiLa Creative Community, 1147 East Grand Ave. Suite 101, Arroyo Grande, lila.community.

PAPER BEADS Come repurpose magazines and discarded book pages into one-of-a-kind paper beads. **Dec. 1**, 11:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m. \$40. 805-668-2125. LiLa Creative Community, 1147 East Grand Ave. Suite 101, Arroyo Grande, lila.community.

THIRD ANNUAL CRAFT FAIR Features young, local artisans from ages 7 to 13. Items cost up to \$5. **Dec. 8**, 10 a.m.-noon 805-473-7163. slolibrary.org. Arroyo Grande Library, 800 W. Branch, Arroyo Grande.

EXHIBITS

SANTA YNEZ VALLEY

FELICE WILLAT: FEATURED ARTIST **Dec. 1-Jan. 1** Gallery Los Olivos, 2920 Grand Ave., Los Olivos, 805-688-7517, gallerylosolivos.com.

FOLDED ART: ORIGAMI ANIMALS Featuring origami animals by artist Robert Salazar. In the Oak Gallery (second floor). **Through March 20**, 2019 Wildling Museum of Art and Nature, 1511-B Mission Dr., Solvang, 805-688-1082, wildlingmuseum.org.

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

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

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

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

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

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

SANTA MARIA VALLEY/LOS ALAMOS

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

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

LEE-VOLKER COX: FEATURED ARTIST Cox is the gallery's featured artist for the month of December. **Dec. 4-29** Valley Art Gallery, 125 W. Clark Ave., Orcutt, 805-937-2278, valleygallery.org.



WELCOME NEW MEMBERS October 2018

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(805) 862-2964

Borjas Law: 937 E. Main Street #206, Santa
Maria
(805) 994-0885

Budget Blinds of Santa Maria
(805) 739-8838

Certified Freight Logistics: 1344 White Court,
Santa Maria
(805) 928-9900

Cuyama Buckhorn LLC: 4923 Primero Street,
New Cuyama
(661) 766-2825

Deja Vu Antique Mall: 315 S. Broadway St,
Orcutt
(805) 314-2409

Foxen Canyon Soap Company
(805) 723-0223

Gold Coast Collision #1: 1134 W. Cook St,
Santa Maria
(805) 928-7448

Gold Coast Collision #2: 136 Inger Drive,
Santa Maria
(805) 614-7448

KleinDance Arts: 3546 Skyway Dr., Ste. A,
Santa Maria
(805) 268-2530

Mai Dental Care: 703 E. Chapel St, Santa Maria
(805) 867-7724

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C, Santa Maria
(805) 270-3911

Rod Media
(805) 478-4848

Santa Barbara County Farm Bureau: 180
Industrial Way, Buellton
(805) 688-7479

Taqueria Carmelita #2: 306 S. Blosser Rd,
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(805) 260-6189

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DEC
14

8 PM



TERRY FATOR



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MONDAY

DEC
31

9 PM

FRIDAY

JAN
11

6 PM



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ATTENTION, NORTHERN SANTA BARBARA COUNTY NONPROFITS The Sun wants to help make your wishes come true.

We want to know what your organization needs most!

Send us your **WISH LIST** by Dec. 6 detailing the items your organization could really use – from paper towels, paper, and pens to volunteers and cold, hard cash. Get creative! The more fun your list is to read, the more likely it is to get selected for publication. Lists will be published in our Dec. 20 publication.

Email your list to Managing Editor Joe Payne at jpayne@santamariasun.com by Dec. 6 or mail them to the Sun at: 2540 Skyway Drive, Suite A, Santa Maria, CA 93455



SOUTH COAST SLO COUNTY**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.

STAGE**SANTA MARIA VALLEY/LOS ALAMOS**

PETER PAN A family-friendly musical based on the J.M. Barrie tale. **Through Dec. 23** \$33.50-\$50; discounts available. 805-922-8313. pcpa.org. Marian Theatre, 800 S. College Dr., Santa Maria.

SOUTH COAST SLO COUNTY

HOLIDAY EXTRAVAGANZA Includes *A Christmas Carol*, a fractured fairy tale opera, and more. Wednesdays-Sundays. **through Dec. 31** \$24-\$30. 805-489-2499. americanmelodrama.com. Great American Melodrama, 1863 Front St., Oceano.

SAN LUIS OBISPO

A CHRISTMAS STORY SLO Rep presents its annual adaptation of the holiday classic which follows Ralphie Parker and his quest for a genuine Red Ryder BB Gun. Wednesdays-Sundays, 7-9 p.m. and Saturdays, Sundays, 2-4 p.m. **through Dec. 23** \$20-\$39. 805-786-2400. slorep.org. San Luis Obispo Repertory Theatre, 888 Morro St., San Luis Obispo.

THE NUTCRACKER 2018 Presented by the Civic Ballet. Accompanied by a live orchestra. All ages welcome. **Dec. 8, 2 & 7** p.m. and **Dec. 9, 2** p.m. \$18-\$60. 805-756-4849. pacsl.org. Performing Arts Center, 1 Grand Ave., San Luis Obispo.

THE SANTALAND DIARIES David Sedaris's thorny account of what it's like to work as an elf in Macy's Santaland. Sundays, 9:30-11:30 p.m. and Saturdays, Sundays, 7-9 p.m. **through Dec. 15** \$20-\$39. 805-786-2400. slorep.org. San Luis Obispo Repertory Theatre, 888 Morro St., San Luis Obispo.

AUDITIONS**SANTA MARIA VALLEY/LOS ALAMOS**

ORCUTT COMMUNITY THEATER ANNOUNCES AUDITIONS FOR THE ELEPHANT MAN Open auditions, all roles available. At KDA Studios on Skyway. **Dec. 2, 3-6** p.m. and **Dec. 3, 6-9** p.m. Free to audition. 805-268-2993. Orcutt Community Theater, 941 E. Foster Rd., Orcutt, orcuttcommunitytheater.com.

CULTURE & LIFESTYLE**LECTURES & LEARNING****LOMPOC/VANDENBERG**

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

CLUBS & MEETINGS**SANTA MARIA VALLEY/LOS ALAMOS**

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

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

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

SANTA MARIA TOASTMASTERS WEEKLY MEETING Toastmasters International is a worldwide nonprofit educational organization that empowers individuals to become more effective communicators and leaders. Tuesdays, 6:30-8 p.m. 805-264-6722.

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

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

SOUTH COAST SLO COUNTY

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

SUPPORT GROUPS**SANTA MARIA VALLEY/LOS ALAMOS**

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

CREATE & LEARN**SANTA MARIA VALLEY/LOS ALAMOS**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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.

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 YNEZ VALLEY**

FARM AND DALE'S TRAIN The train leaves near the flagpole. **Dec. 1, 4:30-8** p.m. \$5; includes entry for one parent/guardian may ride with child or group of children. 818-468-1971. losolivosca.com. Lavinia Campbell Park, 2398 Alamo Pintado Ave., Los Olivos.

PHOTOS AND VISITS WITH SANTA Mr. and Mrs. Claus will be in Solvang Park for photos. **Dec. 1, 12-4** p.m. and **Dec. 7-8, 12-4** p.m. Free. solvangusa.com. Solvang Park, Mission Dr. and First St., Solvang.

**ELEPHANT IN THE ROOM**

Orcutt Community Theater is holding open auditions for its upcoming production of The Elephant Man on Dec. 3 from 6 to 9 p.m. at KDA Studios, located at 3546 Skyway Drive, Santa Maria. All roles are available. The theater is also seeking a cellist. More info: (805) 268-2993.

SANTA MARIA VALLEY/LOS ALAMOS

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

BABYNAUTS STORY TIME Story time for babies up to 12 months old and their caregivers. Fridays, 10-10:30 a.m. through Dec. 14 Free. 805-925-0994. Santa Maria Public Library, 421 S. McClelland St., Santa Maria.

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

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

HOMEWORK HELP For grades K through 6. Mondays-Thursdays, 4-7 p.m. through June 6 Free. 805-925-0994. cityofsantamaria.org. Santa Maria Public Library, 421 S. McClelland St., Santa Maria.

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

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

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.

TEEN GAMING FRIDAYS An afternoon of gaming for middle and high school students. **Nov. 30, 4-5:30** p.m. Free. 805-925-0994. cityofsantamaria.org. Santa Maria Public Library, 421 S. McClelland St., Santa Maria.

SPIRITUAL**SANTA MARIA VALLEY/LOS ALAMOS**

FREE WOMEN'S EXERCISE CLASS Open to all women regardless of denomination. Class includes stretching, aerobics, and floor exercises while listening to uplifting, spiritual music. Free childcare

offered on site. Mondays, Wednesdays, Fridays, 9-10 a.m. Free. 805-922-1919. cornerstonesm.org. Cornerstone Church, 1026 E Sierra Madre Ave., Santa Maria.

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.

FOOD & DRINK**FARMERS MARKETS****LOMPOC/VANDENBERG**

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

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

SANTA MARIA VALLEY/LOS ALAMOS

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

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

PHOTO COURTESY OF THE LOMPOC POPS ORCHESTRA

Live Music

SANTA YNEZ VALLEY

BACK POCKET LIVE Influences include Janis Joplin, Sheryl Crow, and Pink Floyd. No outside food or drinks allowed. **Dec. 1**, 5-8 p.m. Free. Cold Spring Tavern, 5995 Stagecoach Rd., Santa Barbara, 805-967-0066, coldspringtavern.com/entertainment.html.

BLOWN OVER LIVE A Sublime cover band. **Dec. 2**, noon Maverick Saloon, 3687 Sagunto St., Santa Ynez, 805-686-4785, mavericksaloon.org.

THE BRAMBLES LIVE This duo performs Americana and folk ballads. No outside food or drinks allowed. **Dec. 8**, 1-4 p.m. Free. Cold Spring Tavern, 5995 Stagecoach Rd., Santa Barbara, 805-967-0066, coldspringtavern.com/entertainment.html.

DENNIS RUSSELL LIVE Themes include water, dreams, deserts, reptiles, and the sky. No outside food or drinks allowed. **Dec. 1**, 1-4 p.m. Free. Cold Spring Tavern, 5995 Stagecoach Rd., Santa Barbara, 805-967-0066, coldspringtavern.com/entertainment.html.

THE HOLLYWOOD HILLBILLIES LIVE **Dec. 1**, 8 p.m. Maverick Saloon, 3687 Sagunto St., Santa Ynez, 805-686-4785, mavericksaloon.org.

THE JOHN LYLE BAND LIVE No outside food or drinks allowed. **Nov. 30**, 6-9 p.m. Free. Cold Spring Tavern, 5995 Stagecoach Rd., Santa Barbara, 805-967-0066, coldspringtavern.com/entertainment.html.

LIVE CHRISTMAS MUSIC IN THE PARK Guests can enjoy live entertainment, food trucks, and more. **Dec. 1**, 6-8 p.m. 818-468-1971. losolivosca.com. Lavinia Campbell Park, 2398 Alamo Pintado Ave., Los Olivos.

LOS TIGRES DEL NORTE **Nov. 29**, 8 p.m. and **Nov. 30**, 8 p.m. Chumash Casino Resort, 3400 E. Highway 246, Santa Ynez, 800-248-6274, chumashcasino.com/entertainment.

MASTER CHORALE HOLIDAY CONCERT The SYV Master Chorale youth ensemble and professional orchestra will present a program of holiday music. **Dec. 8**, 7:30 p.m. and **Dec. 9**, 3 p.m. \$100 for private gala preceding the Dec. 8 concert at 6 p.m.. syvchorale.org. Veterans' Memorial Building, 1745 Mission Dr., Solvang, 805-688-7529.

NATE LATTA LIVE **Nov. 30**, 8-11 p.m. Maverick Saloon, 3687 Sagunto St., Santa Ynez, 805-686-4785, mavericksaloon.org.

NATE LATTA LIVE **Dec. 9**, noon Maverick Saloon, 3687 Sagunto St., Santa Ynez, 805-686-4785, mavericksaloon.org.

SLEEPING DOGS LIVE A blues/rock group with '60s to '70s influences. No outside food or drinks allowed. **Dec. 2**, 4:30-7:30 p.m. Free. Cold Spring Tavern, 5995 Stagecoach Rd., Santa Barbara, 805-967-0066, coldspringtavern.com/entertainment.html.

MUSIC LISTINGS continued page 24

Sound of the season

Local ensembles prepare artful holiday concerts with orchestras, choirs, and more

BY JOE PAYNE

The ring of church bells, warm brass harmony, and choral singers' high melodies all conjure a certain time, place, and feeling—the holidays.

With centuries of traditional celebrations around Christmas and New Year's, musicians have added ornaments and tunes of their own to the cultural zeitgeist each year. But even when trying to write the next holiday hit, those artists still rely on those familiar instruments and musical tricks that have been passed down for generations.

The Santa Maria Philharmonic Orchestra has celebrated the holiday season for several years now with a concert of beloved Baroque music, including at an upcoming Nov. 30 concert.

The Baroque period was the span of musical history from 1600 through 1750, typified by composers like Johann Sebastian Bach, George Frideric Handel, and Antonio Vivaldi, all of whom wrote extensively for church programs and celebrations. The Philharmonic's program will include all three of those genre-defining composers who all left their own mark music history, explained Maestro Michael Nowak.

"These composers in general celebrated the holidays a bunch, especially Christmas," Nowak told the *Sun*.

"This was a big deal in their time, the preparation for Christmas and the celebration of the birth. The music became very joyous and a kind of representation of the best of times in that age of enlightenment."

Much of the traditional holiday sound came from churches, Nowak explained, which were the principal employers of composers at the time. For those like Bach and Handel, writing something for a Christmas service was expected.

Famous examples include Handel's "Messiah," or Bach's setting of the "Magnificat," but the Philharmonic isn't dipping into any sacred choral music for the Nov. 30 concert. The pieces on the program are all instrumental works for a chamber orchestra, Nowak explained, which include all of the pathos and jubilation of those composers' sacred works, just without the vocals.

"That music puts us in the spirit of the times and that's what we like," Nowak said. "It's got a lot of energy and a lot of color. Everybody leaves feeling uplifted and inspired and liking that music even more than they thought."

While the sound of a chamber orchestra has its own Dickensian charm, plenty of holiday seasons have passed since the modern orchestra came around.

For Brian Asher Alhadeff, the music director and maestro for the Lompoc Pops Orchestra, that ensemble's upcoming performance on Dec. 2 represents "the full orchestral experience during the holidays."



JOYOUS SOUND: Lompoc Pops Orchestra Maestro Brian Asher Alhadeff will lead the ensemble for a performance of cherished holiday music on Dec. 2, including secular and sacred songs, soloists, and a sing-along.

The concert will include beloved modern songs like "Sleigh Ride," "The Christmas Song," and "I'll Be Home For Christmas," which all require a broader, more lush sound.

Even in the era of Hollywood and Broadway songwriting, composers who wanted to achieve that familiar holiday ethos relied on some tried and true methods, Alhadeff explained.

"I think there's always a heavy lean towards the sleigh bells and a lot of percussion is what sort of characterizes holiday music," Alhadeff said. "Sleigh bells; tubular bells, which sound kind of like church bells; the glockenspiel, which is sort of an homage to the *Nutcracker*; and organ solos that also sort of capture that religious, non-secular style and sound."

Pieces like "Sleigh Ride" are supposed to be evocative, he added, with sleigh bells and piccolos conjuring up images of prancing ponies and snowy streets.

"These are the pieces that our culture really does sort of recognize as the sound of December, the sound of Christmastime," he added.

The concert will also include some vocal soloists, Alhadeff explained, and the program culminates with an audience sing-along. That's a Lompoc Pops tradition as well, he said, to get everyone involved in the show.

Hear the songs

The Santa Maria Philharmonic Orchestra presents All Baroque: Celebrate the Holidays on Nov. 30 at 7:30 p.m. at the First United Methodist Church, 311 S. Broadway, Santa Maria. More info: (805) 925-9573 or smphilharmonic.com.

The Lompoc Pops Orchestra presents the program Holiday Waltz on Dec. 2 at 7 p.m. at the First United Methodist Church, 925 North F St., Lompoc. More info: lompocpopsorchestra.org.

LOCAL NOTES continued page 24

eat up.

eat up the local food & drink scene every Thursday

By Rebecca Rose



Be sure to check out **Reccamendations** for what's new, what's fun, and what to try.

Sun

SantaMariaSun.com/eats/

More to see

The Allan Hancock College Concert Band performs a concert including holiday selections on Nov. 30 at 7:30 p.m. at the First Baptist Church, 2970 Santa Maria Way, Santa Maria. Cost is \$10. More info: (805) 922-6966, Ext. 3252, or hancockcollege.edu.

The Lompoc Valley Master Chorale presents the concert Merry Christmas, Merry Christmas on Nov. 30 and Dec. 1 at the First United Methodist Church, 925 North F St., Lompoc. Cost is \$5 to \$20. More info: lvmasterchorale.org.

The Santa Ynez Valley Master Chorale, youth ensemble, and orchestra present a program of holiday music on Dec. 8 at 7:30 p.m. and Dec. 9 at 3 p.m. at the Veterans Memorial Building, 1745 Mission Drive, Solvang. More info: (805) 688-7529.

LOCAL NOTES from page 23

The format of an orchestra like the Lompoc Pops is to perform and celebrate popular American music rather than classical music, Alhadeff explained. Even though music penned for the holidays goes back centuries, there's page after page of modern and contemporary songs to choose from for the orchestra as well, he said.

"A pop orchestra's job is to essentially present popular music of all genres and time periods, delivered by a classical music entity," he said. "So when we talk about holiday time, holiday music is extremely popular, so when you

throw a dedicated pops orchestra at it at Christmastime, then we have an opportunity to amazingly represent this time of year." ○

Managing Editor Joe Payne is already humming holiday tunes. Contact him at jpayne@santamariasun.com.



HARK THE HERALD: The Santa Maria Philharmonic Orchestra presents the concert All Baroque: Celebrate the Holidays on Nov. 30, which will feature a chamber ensemble led by Maestro Michael Nowak (pictured, center) performing Baroque era music.

FILE PHOTO COURTESY OF THE HOLLYWOOD HILLBILLIES



MUSIC LISTINGS from page 23

LOMPOC/VANDENBERG

HOLIDAY WALTZ Presented by the Lompoc Pops Orchestra. This concert is part of the orchestra's 22nd season, Shall We Dance? **Dec. 2, 7 p.m.** First United Methodist Church, 925 North F St., Lompoc.

MERRY CHRISTMAS, MERRY CHRISTMAS Presented by the Lompoc Valley Master Chorale. **Nov. 30** and **Dec. 1** \$5-\$20. lvmasterchorale.org. First United Methodist Church, 925 North F St., Lompoc.

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

SANTA MARIA VALLEY/LOS ALAMOS

ALL BAROQUE: CELEBRATE THE HOLIDAYS

Presented by the Santa Maria Philharmonic Society. **Nov. 30, 7:30 p.m.** smphilharmonic.org. Santa Maria First United Methodist Church, 311 S Broadway, Santa Maria, 925-9573.

HANCOCK CONCERT BAND: CHRISTMAS CONCERT The Allan Hancock College Concert Band will perform their annual Christmas Concert. **Nov. 30, 7:30-9 p.m.** Free. 805-929-0552. First Baptist Church, 2970 Santa Maria Way, Santa Maria.

LIV AND ROB LIVE Featuring Livia Signorelli and Robin Crisp. Genres include country, classic rock, and current pop. **Nov. 30, 4-6 p.m.** Complimentary. Presqu'ile Winery, 5391 Presqu'ile Dr., Santa Maria, 805-937-8110, presquilewine.com.

TOM MUTCHLER LIVE **Nov. 29, 5:30-7:30 p.m.** Free. Moxie Cafe, 1317 W. McCoy Ln., Santa Maria, 805-361-2900, moxiecafe.com.

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

SOUTH COAST SLO COUNTY

CHRISTMAS WITH COASTLINE ARTS

Dec. 1, 3-5 & 7-9 p.m. 10. 805-776-3050. coastlinearts2017.org. South Bay Community Center, 2180 Palisades Ave, Los Osos.

HOLIDAY CONCERT WITH CENTRAL COAST YOUTH CHORUS Enjoy the sounds of the holiday season from this local children's musical group, formerly known as the Central Coast Children's Choir. All ages welcome. **Dec. 1, 2-3 p.m.** Free. 805-473-7161. slolibrary.org. Arroyo Grande Library, 800 W. Branch, Arroyo Grande.

JOHN ALAN CONNERLEY LIVE Enjoy live music from singer/songwriter John Alan Connerley. **Nov. 30, 4:30-6:30 p.m.** Free; donations accepted. 805-773-6563. Puffers of Pismo, 781 Price St., Pismo Beach, puffersofpismo.com/.

MONGO'S GOES GONZO FOR THE CLIFFNOTES! **Dec. 1, 6-9 p.m.** Free. 805-489-3639. mongosaloon.com/. Mongo's Saloon, 359 W. Grand Ave., Grover Beach.

SEASON'S GREETINGS HOLIDAY CHORAL

MUSIC LISTINGS continued page 25

THE HILLS ARE ALIVE

The Maverick Saloon presents the Hollywood Hillbillies on Dec. 1 at 8 p.m. The group performs classic country favorites as well as contemporary hits. The Maverick is located at 3687 Sagunto St., Santa Ynez. More info: (805) 686-4785 or the mavsaloona.com.

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Freedom Monument Veterans Memorial Ceremony & Fellowship Luncheon

December 7, 2018 | 10:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

Freedom Monument Veterans Memorial (outside the Abel Maldonado Youth Center), 600 S. McClelland St., Santa Maria

Join the Santa Maria Valley Chamber of Commerce for the Annual Freedom Monument Ceremony, where we will remember our fallen with a wreath ceremony and will honor all Veterans who have served.

The ceremony will be followed by a fellowship luncheon sponsored by Santa Maria Noontime Kiwanis and local businesses. It will be a great opportunity to share comradery, talk about our Veterans, and connect with our community.

This event is free to attend but RSVP is required.
To register, call (805) 925-2403 or email register@santamaria.com



MUSIC LISTINGS from page 24

CONCERT Features carols, classic cathedral compositions, and contemporary choral tunes. Beer, wine, and treats available at intermission. **Nov. 29**, 7-9 p.m. \$20-\$35. The Monarch Club at Trilogy Monarch Dunes, 1645 Trilogy Parkway, Nipomo, 805-343-7530.

SONGWRITERS AT PLAY FEATURES CHARLES MOTLEY Dec. 5, 6-8:30 p.m. Free; tips accepted. 805-204-6821. songwritersatplay.com. Branch Street Deli, 203 E. Branch St., Arroyo Grande.

SAN LUIS OBISPO

CAL POLY SYMPHONY FALL CONCERT: THE SYMPHONY DANCES Enjoy the intimate music of Claude Debussy and Howard Hanson. Featuring guest artists Marcia Dickstein, harp, and Suzanne Duffy, flute. **Dec. 2**, 3 p.m. \$12 and \$14 general; \$9 and \$12 students. 805-756-4849. music.calpoly.edu/calendar/. Performing Arts Center, 1 Grand Ave., San Luis Obispo.

CAL POLY ARAB MUSIC ENSEMBLE FALL CONCERT Focusing on the Eastern Mediterranean and extending to historically interconnected cultures of the larger region, this concert features selections of the most celebrated instrumental and vocal repertoire from the Middle Ages to the present. **Dec. 1**, 8 p.m. \$14 general; \$9 students. 805-756-4849. music.calpoly.edu/calendar. Spanos Theatre, Cal Poly, San Luis Obispo.

CAL POLY BANDFEST CONCERT The Wind Ensemble and Wind Orchestra will perform both traditional and new literature written for concert band and wind ensembles. The Pride of the Pacific Mustang Marching Band will present arrangements performed at football games throughout the fall. **Nov. 30**, 8 p.m. \$12 and \$14 general; \$9 and \$12 students. 805-756-4849. music.calpoly.edu. Performing Arts Center, 1 Grand Ave., San Luis Obispo.

CAL POLY CHOIRS' HOLIDAY KALEIDOSCOPE The Cal Poly Choirs will be joined by three local high school choirs. Features traditional holiday favorites, modern masterworks, and participatory



FILE PHOTO

SOLVANG SOUNDS

The Santa Ynez Valley Master Chorale Holiday Concert takes place Dec. 8 at 7:30 p.m. and Dec. 9 at 3 p.m. at the Solvang Veterans Memorial Building, located at 1745 Mission Drive, Solvang. The orchestra and youth ensemble will perform a program of holiday music. A private gala precedes both performances on Dec. 8 at 6 p.m. More info: syvchorale.org.

singing of carols. **Dec. 1**, 3 p.m. \$12 and \$14 general; \$9 and \$12 students. 805-756-4849. music.calpoly.edu/calendar/. Performing Arts Center, 1 Grand Ave., San Luis Obispo.

THE GARY DOUGLAS BAND LIVE Nov. 29, 8-11 p.m. \$27. 805-546-8600. fremontslo.com/lonely-boys. The Fremont Theater, 1035 Monterey St., San Luis Obispo.

LOREN RADIS LIVE A Central Coast native who has loved writing and performing music since he first heard the Beatles at age 10. His blend of acoustic/rock music has been compared to artists like Simon & Garfunkel, Iron & Wine, and Damien Rice. **Nov. 30**, 6-8 p.m. Free. 805-868-7133. 7SistersBrewing.com. 7Sisters Brewing Company, 181 Tank Farm Rd. Suite 110, San Luis Obispo.

P-LO LIVE Bay area-based hip hop artist. Featuring opening support from ALLBLAC. **Nov. 29**, 7-11 p.m. ticketweb.com. SLO Brew Rock, 855

Aerovista Pl., San Luis Obispo, 209-417-7748.

ROY ZIMMERMAN LIVE Roy's satirical songs, praised by Joni Mitchell and Weird Al Yankovic, have been heard on HBO and Showtime. Portland-based duo Fox and Bones will open **Nov. 29**, 6:30-9 p.m. \$17. 805-868-7133. 7Sisters Brewing Company, 181 Tank Farm Rd. Suite 110, San Luis Obispo, 7SistersBrewing.com.

SLO WIND ORCHESTRA: MAKE A JOYFUL NOISE Features Bach's Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring, Beethoven's Symphony No. 7 arranged for chamber winds, Maslanka's Mother Earth Fanfare and David Holsinger's On a Hymnsong of Phillip Bliss. **Dec. 1**, 7:30-9:30 p.m. \$10-\$30. 805-546-3198. Cuesta College Cultural and Performing Arts Center, Highway 1, San Luis Obispo, cuesta.edu.

DJ/DANCE

SANTA YNEZ VALLEY

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

LOMPOC/VANDENBERG

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

SANTA MARIA VALLEY/LOS ALAMOS

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

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

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

SOUTH COAST SLO COUNTY

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

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

KARAOKE/OPEN MIC

SANTA YNEZ VALLEY

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

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

SANTA MARIA VALLEY/LOS ALAMOS

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

SOUTH COAST SLO COUNTY

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

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

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

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Arts Briefs

County Arts Commission to hold holiday mixer

The Santa Barbara County Arts Commission and the Fourth District Arts Commissioner have invited members of the community to a holiday mixer event in Orcutt. The event is a chance to connect, view art, and get to the know the district's commissioner.

The Arts Happy Hour begins at Core Winery on Dec. 13, and runs from 5 to 7 p.m. at the tasting room, located at 105 W. Clark Ave., Orcutt. The event is free to attend. For more information, call (805) 568-3990 or visit sbac.ca.gov.

Santa Maria library shows Marvel movie

The Santa Maria Public Library will offer a free film screening on Dec. 10 in the library's Shepard Hall.

The 2008 action movie that kicked off the Marvel universe, *Iron Man*, is the featured movie. The film stars Robert Downey Jr. as Tony Stark, the wealthy industrialist who creates a high-tech suit of armor to help save the world.

The screening begins at 5 p.m. in the Shepard Hall, 421 S. McClelland St., Santa Maria. Seating is first come, first served, and free popcorn is included. More information is available at (805) 925-0994, Ext. 8562, or cityofsantamaria.org.

California Arts Council accepting grant applications

The California Arts Council announced that the application period for its grants program were open in October, with more than \$21 million in state art grant funds available for organizations that "support access, equity, and inclusion; community vibrancy; and arts learning."

According to a release from the council, there are 15 agency grant programs that local arts organizations can apply for. There is funding available for youth programs, creative projects, and operating support for organizations that serve state residents, students, veterans, low-income and rural communities, those with disabilities, and communities of color.

The grants program includes the return of a few programs, including Creative California Communities, which promotes "creative placemaking," and Research in the Arts, which supports research into art education. There's also a new grant program, Youth Arts Action, which helps art projects outside of school time and builds off the Art Education Extension.

"We are excited to announce another season of grant opportunities for the protectors and promoters of arts and culture in our state," stated Anne Bown-Crawford, the California Arts Council's executive director. "We are also elated to have more than \$5 million in additional funding to offer to these dedicated groups out there doing the work. We're making a concerted effort to welcome the small but mighty grassroots organizations, to catalyze powerful cross-sector partnerships, to extend our reach within the arts and culture community, and to continue to grow our grantee family."

More information about California Arts Council grants programs and applications is available at arts.ca.gov. ○

Managing Editor Joe Payne compiled Arts Briefs this week. Send information to mail@santamariasun.com.

Traveling eyes

A pair of travel photographers share the spotlight in a new show at Gallery Los Olivos

BY REBECCA ROSE

George Rose is fascinated by lonely oak trees. So much so that he is willing to go to great lengths to capture the perfect picture of one.

The shutterbug was in Oregon's Willamette Valley, an up-and-coming region for winemaking, when he jumped in a helicopter to try and get some aerial shots. The oak tree came upon him suddenly and he seized the opportunity to catch the perfect image.

"I just love getting up in the air," Rose said. "The time of day is very critical when you're out and about taking pictures. You need that early morning or late afternoon light to get the shadows just right. . . . Literally, as the pilot was whisking off, I saw this image and said, 'We have to go over there.'"

Rose, along with photographer Felice Willat, is part of new exhibit called *The Art of Travel* at Gallery Los Olivos. The show runs through Dec. 31 and features images captured during each photographer's extensive travels throughout the globe and in California.

A former photojournalist who worked with Getty Images, *Rolling Stone*, and the NFL, Rose has a keen eye for unique visual elements in images that typify scenic tourist spots. He is the author of the coffee table book *Vineyard: Sonoma County* and is set to release *Wine Country: Santa Barbara County* in 2019. His attraction to the sunny rolling hills of Northern California's wine country eventually led him on a career detour to public relations in the wine business, where he spent 25 years.

Rose and his wife, a retired schoolteacher, moved to Solvang in 2014 where he has been a steady fixture in the arts community ever since. He is a board member at the Wildling Museum of Art and Nature and periodically shows work at various galleries and museums.

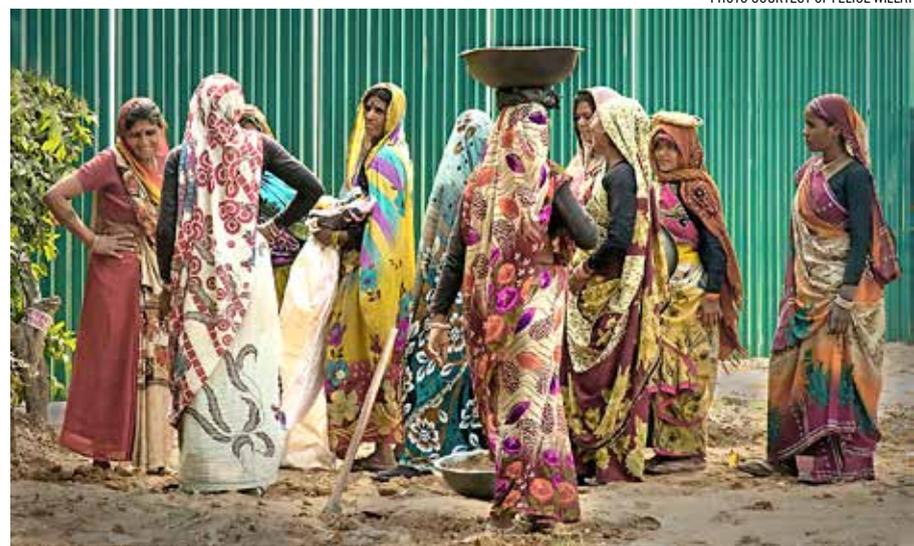
"I've been quietly photographing Santa Barbara for several years," Rose said. "The book will definitely be focused on beautiful iconic wine country landscapes, taken on various properties throughout the county. There's a bit of a travelogue-esque element to it."

For the seasoned photographer, the region is one of his favorites to photograph, especially Santa Maria Valley. Rose said the area is ideal for landscapes and contains a lot of diversity outside of the wineries, strawberry fields, and vineyards.

One of the wineries that granted Rose unfettered access to its vineyards was Bien Nacido, where he photographed images of daily life in wine country and the stunning landscape surrounding it.

"It's been a learning experience for me, just getting out and about and acquainted with every single corner of the county," Rose said. "I've got rocket launches, I've got strawberry field workers, I've got grape harvests. It's all really beautiful."

The work featured in the show also touches on Rose's travels beyond Santa Barbara County. One of his most captivating photos features the skyline of Hong Kong, crammed with vehicles and equipment for an ambitious construction project on the waterfront. Rose said the image captured everything about China at that moment, from the densely packed spaces to the immense growth of the city.



WOMEN AT WORK: Photographer Felice Willat travels the world shooting "lifescapes," photography that captures people in their everyday settings. Willat and fellow photographer George Rose are featured through Dec. 31 at Gallery Los Olivos.

The image is saturated with human construction, with barely a glimpse of the water's edge peeking out from behind a building.

"The light was hitting [the scene]," Rose said. "The color of all the trucks and everything that was in it was almost cartoonish. It has a very surreal look to it."

While Rose has spent much of his life as a working photographer, Willat came to the medium later in life, after she retired from a successful career. The acclaimed photographer, who has shot all over the world including in Burma, Morocco, Vietnam, and China, was one of the co-creators of a product that many people still find indispensable in their daily lives.

Looking to offer a better portable organizer, Willat helped invent the Day Runner, a product which went on to generate more than \$10 million after its first five years. Needing a vacation after managing the rapidly growing company, Willat went to India, armed with a point-and-shoot camera.

"It was a sensory overload," she explained. "I just seemed to connect with the camera."

She connected with it until it literally stopped working. While she was on a boat shooting the Kumbh Mela, a massive gathering of Hindus bathing themselves in a sacred river, the camera stopped working entirely.

Undaunted, she returned home and hung a few of her photographs in her office. The art director of her former company was impressed and told her she should take up photography.

"It was quite late in my life," she said. "I was in my 40s, after a long career in the corporate world. But I knew I was always an artist at heart."

Willat started taking classes at the home of a local photographer in Brentwood. When the industry progressed into digital photography, she evolved as well, working one-on-one with another private instructor.

"Then I began to go on photo exhibitions," Willat said. "You're always shooting, sometimes early in the morning to catch the good light."

Despite the label her work has been given, Willat doesn't call herself a travel photographer. She prefers to think of herself as an artist first, one who prioritizes the humanity and emotions in the work she produces.

"I think I've always wanted to be one, and I guess I am," she said. "My medium is photography. Now I'm thriving in what I was always was meant to do." ○

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

Shutter bugs

The photography of George Rose and Felice Willat are featured through Dec. 31 at Gallery Los Olivos. The gallery is located at 2929 Grand Ave., Los Olivos. Visit gallerylosolivos.com or call (805) 688-7517 for more information.

PHOTO COURTESY OF GEORGE ROSE



SKY HIGH: Photographer George Rose shot this image of a lone tree while he was flying overhead. Rose's work is currently featured at Gallery Los Olivos through the end of the year.

PHOTO COURTESY OF GEORGE ROSE



BUSY BUILDERS: George Rose photographed the bustling construction in Hong Kong on one of his travel photography excursions. His work is part of a new show with fellow travel photographer Felice Willat at Gallery Los Olivos.

PHOTOS COURTESY OF MICHELE KNECHT



CLASSY GLASSY: Mosaic artist Michele Knecht specializes in glass work depicting landscapes, animals, and more, while utilizing various types of glass, pottery, beads, and found objects.

Pieces of vision

Michele Knecht's charming and bright mosaics depict a glassy colorful world

BY REBECCA ROSE

When Brisbee, a Longhorn steer, came to live with artist Michele Knecht, she instantly connected with him. Far from a menacing beast, Knecht knew him as a gentle soul, hand-raised by humans and eager for affection.

It's a unique quality Knecht managed to capture perfectly in one of her signature mosaic works.

"He was a huge, sweet guy," she said. "Once I made the piece, it just looked to me like what he was feeling."

The portrait, like so much of Knecht's work, defines the artist's ability to emote through a medium in which it can often be difficult to truly capture a range of expression. Mosaic art, made from non-uniform broken shards of glass or pottery seamed together with a grout mixture, relies often on basic gestalt principles to ensure the viewer interprets the intended image or symbol.

But Knecht's work, which is featured in a new show at CORE Winery through Dec. 31, has an inherent human quality, one filled with genial emotions and soothing imagery. It's a result of many years of practice and fine tuning of her technique.

Her interest in mosaic art started 25 years ago, when Knecht began working with broken china garden pieces, which were a popular medium at the time. She spent more than 10 years working in the garden art form, making about 800 pieces, including stepping stones, pots, and vases.

Knecht took a decade-long break from her art to focus on a personal chef business. A few years ago, she once again returned to mosaics, focusing this time on different materials, including stained and tempered glass. The new kinds of materials



HORSING AROUND: Michele Knecht's mosaic art pieces often feature animals she has encountered in her own life. The artist is featured at CORE Winery in Orcutt through Dec. 31.

Broken beauties

Michele Knecht's mosaic artwork is featured at CORE Winery through Dec. 31. A reception for the artist is scheduled Dec. 7 from 5 to 7 p.m.; the event is free and open to the public. CORE is located at 105 W. Clark Ave. Orcutt. For more information, visit mknechtmosaic.com.

sparked a revived excitement in her work.

"There's so many kinds of glass," Knecht said. "Everything is just so pretty. I also took some pastel classes, which changed my style to a more painterly one."

If you examine a piece from Knecht's work, you'll notice most have different colors of grout that help bring the piece together, rather than a bold contrast that tends to create a more separated effect. Her tinted grout gives the pieces less of a collage feel and more of an acrylic or watercolor painting look.

Knecht said the medium can be challenging and requires patience. Her works can take up to 20 hours to complete and utilize different types of glass and other media. She uses mostly stained glass to create the foreground images and subjects and experiments with tempered glass to create dynamic and captivating backgrounds. She also finds creative ways to incorporate different types of beads to accentuate and create more depth to her work. The addition of tempered glass was another step in her evolution with the medium.

"I really like the variety of things you can do with it," Knecht said. "The glass itself is clear; it depends on what you put under it. ... I put paint and glitter under, but you can use pattern paper and lots of things."

The show at CORE Winery will feature many of Knecht's vineyard and landscape scenes, as well as her portraits of animals. There is a great deal of her own life and personality in each piece, which all have a deeply impressionistic style about them.

At her home in Atascadero, Knecht is surrounded by ranches and animals, many of whom make their way into her mosaics as featured subjects. Knecht also works in three-dimensional art, often creating mosaics on found objects such as cow skulls and more.

"I had seen painted cow skulls I liked," she said. "I had done three-dimensional things before in bird baths and pots and things like that so I knew that when you do something that's not flat, you need a lot of small pieces to follow the curves."

For beginners, Knecht said the medium is fun and addictive and there are few barriers to getting started. She suggested studying tutorial videos online and researching the techniques and tools needed. One big tip for beginners is making sure to put the pieces close together to avoid having big gaps to fill in with grout.

"Give it a try," she said. "It really is a lot of fun. Just play." ○

Arts and Lifestyle Writer Rebecca Rose is often in pieces. Contact her at rrose@santamariasun.com.

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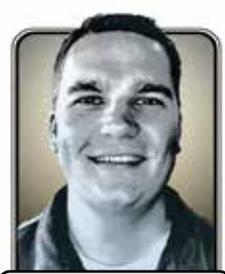
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For the love of casserole
Krider discovers a tasty new (to him) dish



Rob Krider
 Man Overboard

BY ROB KRIDER

I recently discovered an exotic food that has really excited my palate. It is an explosion of flavors that are mixed together to create something absolutely mouthwatering. Fresh sushi? Nope. Kobe beef? Wrong. This is something even more unusual. It is called a casserole.

Sure, lots of people have had casseroles. I just wasn't one of those people. I was a late bloomer when it came to the delicacy of casseroles. My mom didn't make casseroles, and my wife didn't make casseroles. And since I don't know how to cook for myself, by process of elimination, I hadn't had a casserole. Not only do I not know how to cook for myself, I actually don't even know how to feed myself. If I'm abandoned during the zombie apocalypse while sheltered in a fully stocked grocery store, I will starve to death.

My friends say this whole "I've never had a casserole" thing is impossible. We were born in the 1970s, of which I am told was the heyday of the casserole. My friends said they were drowning in casseroles during every Sunday potluck after church. In fact, they ate so many that they hate casseroles today. But I didn't grow up in a religious household surrounded by the Lord and casseroles. When I was a kid, my family was racing cars every Sunday and didn't have time to go to church. My folks believed in horsepower, as opposed to the higher power.

Regardless of my family's heathenish ways, I finally had a casserole and I loved it! It was culinary genius, filled with simplicity and wonderfulness, just a beautiful mix of cheesy, bready, meaty, potatoey layered creation of awesome sauce. I had one at a work pre-Thanksgiving potluck, and I immediately came home and asked my wife to make one for dinner.

"Honey, I want a casserole for dinner tonight."
 "OK, I'll have to swing by the store. What kind?"
 "There are different kinds?"
 "Yes, Dummy, there are thousands."
 "Wow. Who knew there was so much out there to taste? I want the one with the bread, the cheese, the chunks of flavor. You know, the good stuff."

My wife came home and baked up a masterpiece. It was fantastic. Now I ask my wife to make one for dinner every single night.

Unfortunately, she doesn't always honor my requests. She rambled some excuse or something about calories and my body mass index. Some nights instead of casserole, I get salad. A salad ain't no casserole.

When it was time for actual Thanksgiving day, I was able to convince her to make a casserole to take to my in-laws' house. If I was going to spend Thanksgiving listening to my father-in-law show me his marble collection, the least she could do is make me a casserole. She agreed and cooked up a beauty. I could smell the yummy casserole aromas wafting through the house all morning. I couldn't wait.

We were packing up the car with food and drinks and, of course, my casserole, nicely covered in foil. While I was getting everything together, my daughter asked if we could bring our dog with us.

"Dad, let's not leave our doggy home alone for Thanksgiving."

Feeling warm and a bit fortunate with my family around me on a holiday, I said, "Sure, we'll all head up to Grandma and Grandpa's together. The whole tribe can come this year!"

Our dog, who suddenly learned how to understand English, immediately ran out from the house, leaped up into the car and stuck one of her feet through the foil and directly into my special Thanksgiving casserole. Nobody wanted the casserole after a dog's foot had been in it.

I didn't care. More for me! I just cut two inches around the paw print and enjoyed the entire casserole myself. O

Rob wants to join the casserole of the month club. To read more from Rob Krider or contact him, visit robkrider.com.

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Sun

Film Reviews

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

BOHEMIAN RHAPSODY

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

CREED II

What's it rated? **PG-13**
 What's it worth? **Full price**
 Where's it showing? **Parks Plaza**
 Steven Caple Jr. (*The Land*) directs this sequel about boxer Adonis Creed (Michael B. Jordan), who, under trainer Rocky Balboa (Sylvester Stallone), takes on the son of Rocky's nemesis, Ivan Drago (Dolph Lundgren), Viktor Drago (Florian Munteanu).
 Yes, this loose *Rocky* sequel is formulaic, but it's a helluva good formula! Adonis' complicated personal life and need to dig deep within himself to find the champion he can become is still a great story. Jordan is terrific in the role, demonstrating nuance, range, and complex emotion. (117 min.)
 —Glen Starkey

FANTASTIC BEASTS: THE CRIMES OF GRINDELWALD

What's it rated? **PG-13**
 What's it worth? **Matinee**
 Where's it showing? **Movies Lompoc, Parks Plaza**
 David Yates (*Harry Potter and the Half-Blood Prince*, *The Legend of Tarzan*) directs this J.K. Rowling screenplay, the second installment of the *Fantastic Beasts* series, about magizoologist Newt Scamander (Eddie Redmayne), who's enlisted by Albus Dumbledore (Jude Law) to recapture evil wizard Gellert Grindelwald (Johnny Depp).
 It is decidedly my least favorite film in the *Harry Potter* universe, and in my opinion falls quite short of its predecessor *Fantastic Beasts and Where to Find Them*. However, would I see it in theaters despite all that? Heck yes! Potterheads, I recommend you hit a matinee of this one. (134 min.)
 —Anna Starkey

THE GRINCH

What's it rated? **PG**
 What's it worth? **Matinee**
 Where's it showing? **Movies Lompoc**

FILM REVIEWS continued page 30

SCORING

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

Southern hospitality?

Co-writer Peter Farrelly (*Dumb and Dumber*, *There's Something About Mary*) directs this biopic about African-American pianist Don Shirley (Mahershala Ali), who hires working-class Italian-American bouncer Tony Lip (Viggo Mortensen) as his driver on a music tour of 1960s American South. Though they're very different people, they develop a warm and enduring friendship. (130 min.)

Glen: This is one of those classic feel-good movies only a true cynic could reject. Both lead characters come out of the other side of the story improved. Ignorance drives racism and classism in equal measures, and Tony's culturally based racism crashes headlong into Don's elitist classism, forcing both of them to grow and expand their minds. We see Tony's racism not only in his uses of pejoratives such as "eggplant" to describe black people, but also in his actions. He's not the type to call a black person a name to his face or to physically assault one, but when his wife serves two black plumbers glasses of water after they finish a job at his apartment, Tony takes the glasses his wife left in the sink to wash and throws them in the trash. Likewise, we witness

Don's elitism in his inherent sense of superiority. When he's interviewing for drivers in his apartment (above Carnegie Hall, no less), he sits before his potential employee on an elevated throne. His imperial comport—head raised high, posture perfect—signals to those around him that he is regal and they're underlings. Tony, in need of a job and with Christmas approaching, reluctantly agrees to work for Don, and along the way they learn to look past their initial judgments of one another and truly see the other's worth as a man. In fact, their very different interpretations of manhood also transform over the course of the story. I couldn't help but grow to like them both, even though they couldn't be more different. I liked them even more at the ends of their respective character arcs.

Anna: The two characters are definitely a classic paradigm of street smarts versus intelligence. While Tony is no dummy, he relies a lot more on his physical presence to defend his side of an argument. Don is an intelligent, educated, and exceedingly precise man who is not charmed by Tony when the two first meet. However, Tony's reputation precedes him as an effective but somewhat reasonable guard against trouble. Taking on the role as Don's driver has one major

drawback—he has to leave his wife and two young kids for a couple of months, something his wife, Dolores (Linda Cardellini), is less than keen on at first. She finally concedes to the journey, with two requirements—that Tony return before Christmas Day and that he write to her every chance he gets, a task the less-than-poetic Tony agrees to begrudgingly. The on-the-road moments, both big and small, between Don and Tony are what really form the frame of their unlikely friendship—delicious moments in the film that are sweet and insignificant or difficult and life changing. When Don gets curious over a letter Tony's writing, he soon volunteers his own much more eloquent words to make Dolores swoon. When Tony spots a KFC actually in Kentucky, he is gobsmacked that Don has never tried fried chicken; sweeping ignorance like the line, "You people love this stuff!" tumbles from his mouth without a second thought. Don struggles with his own demons as well, and Tony is called to save his behind time and again when the deep South proves to be sinisterly unwelcoming to the bespoke dressed black man rolling through their establishments. I love that this was based on a true friendship. It makes the film just that much more touching and relevant.

Glen: The performances also help the film shine, and I wouldn't be at all surprised to see one or both men nominated for Best Actor. Mortensen has proven himself a chameleon, who in my book became a star under director David Cronenberg in *A History of Violence* and *Eastern Promises*. *Appaloosa*, *The Road*, *Captain Fantastic*; he's got an amazing range. He's packed on a lot of weight to play Tony, a voracious eater with a thick accent. He's twice been nominated for a Best Actor Oscar. Maybe this is his year. Ali's breakout performance was in 2016's *Moonlight*, for which he won Best Actor in a Supporting Role, but he's been amazing in *The Place Beyond the Pines* and *Free State of Jones*. You're really seeing two master actors at the top of their game, and they have a wonderful chemistry between them. Tony's son, Nick Vallelonga, is one of the screenwriters, and in the closing credits you see photos of the real-life Tony



FORMING FRIENDSHIP: Virtuoso pianist Don (Mahershala Ali, left) and New York bouncer Tony (Viggo Mortensen) may come from different worlds, but they learn to respect one another.

and Don, who remained lifelong friends after the tour. Of course, a lot of the film examines the Jim Crow South and the whole idea of "traveling while black." The film's title refers to a publication called *The Negro Motorist Green Book*, which gave black travelers lists of establishments—mainly restaurants and hotels—that would serve black clients. There were actually "sundowner towns" in the South where black people were subject to arrest if they were within city limits after sunset. What a sad time in American history, but thank God for films like this to remind us of our past. It only skims the surface of 1960s race problems, but, more importantly, it tells a poignant and uplifting story that suggests we can do better.

Anna: You are spot on regarding these performances—both Ali and Mortensen are beyond fantastic in their roles, as they have been in so many films. This film is both a spotlight and a subtle reminder as to how meticulous these two are at their craft. The abuse Don is subjected to is painful to watch in that way only truth can be. This was our country not so very long ago, and the streak of racism and hate continues to this day. Despite his rather brutish ways, when Tony is called to the YMCA after Don and another man are discovered together in a sexual situation, Don expects his travelling companion to be disgusted by him. Instead Tony simply shrugs and says, "I've worked in New York night clubs for years. I know that the world is... complicated." Despite each of the characters' preconceived notions of one another, the long journey through the South leaves them with a bond that only comes from times of both joy and sadness. Mortensen and Ali do this script and these characters proud. It's one to catch on the big screen and feel the magic of the movies wash right over your soul. ○

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

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HIP-HOP EVOLUTION

When? **2016, 2018**
 What's it rated? **TV-MA**
 Where's it available? **Netflix**
 Canadian hip-hop artist and broadcaster Shadrach Kabango leads viewers to where it all started—the Bronx during the 1970s. In the first episode of the Netflix series *Hip-Hop Evolution*, Kabango interviews the guys who people say laid the foundation for rap, starting with a DJ named Kool Herc, who threw parties with his turntables, focusing on the drum-break in funk, jazz, R&B, and rock songs. It was something different to dance to during the disco heyday and it caught on across New York's five boroughs, leaking into dancehalls, parks, and eventually the disco scene.

Using old photographs, video footage, and interviews with DJs, MCs, producers, and others in the music business, the series takes viewers on a ride through time. Kabango interviews

PHOTO COURTESY OF NETFLIX



Grandmaster Flash, the first DJ to play his turntables like an instrument, and his crew of MCs, the Furious Five. They were the first crew to take their show on the road, rapping to crowds around the nation and world.

It all starts with leather, pleather, and furs. High boots, tight pants, naked chests, metal studs, and gaudy gold chains, costumes that mimicked the rock and pop shows of the day. Beat-boys breakdancing on the disco floor. Rap battles. And lots of bootleg cassette tapes—because no one was making rap records at that time.

Then a producer created the Sugar Hill Gang from three guys she found in front of a pizza joint. They could rap, even if one of them stole the words from another MC, and she wanted to put out a record. Although many of the DJs and MCs involved in the scene weren't happy about the Sugar Hill Gang, their 1979 hit "Rapper's Delight" was the first rap song to become a top 40 hit. It

HIP-HOP EVOLUTION

MUSIC REVOLUTION: Take a trip back to the beginnings of hip-hop with Canadian hip-hop artist and journalist Sadrach Kabango, in the Netflix series *Hip-Hop Evolution*.

BINGEABLE

changed everything. And the series evolves from there. Kabango interviews members of the Wu-Tang Clan, Run D.M.C., A Tribe Called Quest, Public Enemy, and other hip-hop legends. He chats with producers like Puff Daddy and Russel Simmons. The series starts in New York and broadens its scope, eventually heading to the South and the West Coast. It walks you through the underground scenes that started in areas of Houston, Oakland, and Compton, and introduces you to the people who weren't afraid to continue breaking the music mold—including 2 Live Crew and MC Hammer.

And beneath it all are cuts of great music: De La Soul, Queen Latifah, Afrika Bambaataa, Digital Underground, Too \$hort, N.W.A., The Geto Boys. The best part about the series is how it tells the story—it really is an evolution, from rappers in parks laying down smooth lines, to raising consciousness about violence and drugs, to gangster rap, free speech, and the reality of life in impoverished inner cities.

If, like me, you grew up listening to rap and hip-hop *and*, like me, you love documentary style storytelling, it's a good way to spend a few hours, learn a little bit more about history, and listen to the music that takes you back. (Two seasons, 40- to 50-min. episodes) ○

—Camillia Lanham

FILM REVIEWS from page 29

PICK Co-directors Yarrow Cheney (*The Secret Life of Pets*) and Scott Mosier helm this animated adaptation of the classic Dr. Seuss story, narrated by Pharrell Williams, about a grumpy curmudgeon, the Grinch (voiced by Benedict Cumberbatch), who plans to ruin Whoville's Christmas. Along the way, the Grinch encounters various inhabitants of the town including Cindy-Lou Who (Cameron Seely); her mother, Donna Who (Rashida Jones); and Mr. Bricklebaum (Kenan Thompson). Compared to both adaptations that came before it, this year's *Grinch* doesn't set the bar any higher. But this one is still enjoyable enough in my opinion, and I think that will ring true for children and families especially. (86 min.)

—Caleb Wiseblood

INSTANT FAMILY

What's it rated? **PG-13**
 What's it worth? **Full price**
 Where's it showing? **Hi-Way Drive-In, Parks Plaza**
PICK Co-writer and director Sean Anders (*Horrible Bosses 2*, *Daddy's Home*) helms this story about Pete (Mark Wahlberg) and Ellie (Rose Byrne), who adopt three children, sending their lives into utter chaos. A well-intentioned dramedy, *Instant Family* explores the travails and triumphs of adoption. Originally, the couple meant to adopt one small child but after meeting three siblings in need, they suddenly find themselves on a steep learning curve on how to parent three children they've only just met.

Based on director Anders' experiences, the film also features a potent performance by Octavia Spencer and an excellent deadpan turn by comedian Tig Notaro. (119 min.)

—Glen Starkey

RALPH BREAKS THE INTERNET: WRECK-IT RALPH 2

What's it rated? **PG-13**
 What's it worth? **Full price**
 Where's it showing? **Hi-Way Drive-In, Movies Lompoc, Parks Plaza**
PICK Co-directors Phil Johnson and Rich Moore (*Wreck-It Ralph*, *Zootopia*) helm this animated sequel in which Ralph (voiced by John C. Reilly) and Vanellope von Schweetz (voiced by Sarah Silverman) follow a Wi-Fi router in their home

arcade, Litwak's Family Fun Center, to explore a strange new world: the internet.

Six years have passed since the events of *Wreck-It Ralph*, and Ralph and Vanellope are still best friends—close as "peanut butter and bacon." Ralph says at one point. When Vanellope's game, *Sugar Rush*, is in danger of being unplugged and scrapped for parts after its steering wheel breaks, the pair seek help in the world of the internet, a realm completely unknown to the pixelated inhabitants of Litwak's arcade. Ralph and Vanellope start at eBay where a *Sugar Rush* steering wheel is up for auction. The wheel would save Vanellope's candy kingdom, but will the pair be able to raise enough money?

This quest for funds takes Ralph and Vanellope to various websites where they encounter new characters including Shank (voiced by Gal Gadot), a racer from the racing game, *Slaughter Race*; J.P. Spamley (voiced by Bill Hader), a hilariously personified click-bait pop-up ad; and Yesss (voiced by Taraji P. Henson), a cyber trendsetter. Old characters are back as well, including Sgt. Tamora Jean Calhoun (voiced by Jane Lynch) and her husband Fix-It Felix Jr. (voiced by Jack McBrayer).

What makes *Ralph Breaks The Internet* fun is its personification of the World Wide Web. The world of the internet is illustrated as a sprawling metropolis. The biggest websites and apps are represented as malls and skyscrapers, with Google being the tallest, of course. This is one to see in theaters, for sure. And make sure to stay for the mid-credits scene, especially if you're a *Frozen* fan! (112 min.)

—Caleb Wiseblood

ROBIN HOOD

What's it rated? **PG-13**
 What's it worth? **Stream it**
 Where's it showing? **Movies Lompoc**
 Otto Bathurst directs this action-adventure about former Crusader-turned-rebel Robin of Loxley (Taron Edgerton) and his Moorish partner, Little John (Jamie Foxx), who take on the corrupt British crown. File this new installment of the classic tale in the unnecessary and irrelevant bin. Don't let it rob you of your money and time for the ill-advised producers of this debacle. (116 min.) ○

—Glen Starkey

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

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CORNERSTONE

One market inspired multitudes

SLO County Farmers' Markets celebrates 40 years of abundance

FILE PHOTO BY DYLAN HONEA-BAUMANN



HUMBLE BEGINNINGS: The SLO County Farmers' Market Association turned 40 years old in October, and, with five markets across the county, shows no sign of slowing down. The first ever market was hosted at Young's Giant Foods on Broad Street in SLO back in 1978.

BY HAYLEY THOMAS CAIN

In the beginning there were few—vendors, that is. The year was 1978. The campy soundtrack from *Grease* was heating up the charts. It was a sunny Saturday morning and a handful of local farmers gathered at the old Young's Giant Food parking lot on Broad Street in SLO.

They didn't know it then, but they were making history. This was SLO's first farmers' market.

Kind of baffling to think of SLO without the plentiful stands brimming with fresh produce, cheeses, olive oil, meats, nuts, and lavender, right?

Well, it wasn't always this way. Before there were more than a dozen markets across the Central Coast, there was just one. This one.

"It was very small the first couple of years, maybe 10 or 15 local farmers. Someone would bring their lemons, someone else would just sell beets, someone brought jam, another brought fish and fresh baked bread, and my daughter—about 8 years old at the time—was selling our radishes," SLO County Farmers' Market Association Executive Director Peter Jankay said.

The SLO County Farmers' Market Association celebrated 40 years of produce and community spirit in October, an impressive legacy that shows no sign of slowing down.

When you've been around this long, you've got to take a moment to pause and look back. Of course, farmers' market fans celebrate by stocking up on local greens and shooting back a few shots of wheatgrass.

Long gone are the days when a few bails of hay served as the tell-tale sign of a sleepy farmers' market happening in a local parking lot.

"We didn't have thousands of dollars in sales, but it was exciting," Jankay added. "People would just walk around and there'd be nothing but good feelings."

Since that fateful day back in 1978, the SLO Farmers' Market Association has grown to manage five markets across the county: Wednesday mornings and Saturday afternoons in Arroyo Grande, Thursday afternoons in Morro Bay, Saturday mornings in SLO, and—the most famous of all—Thursday night downtown SLO farmers' market, which has grown to encompass dozens of hot food and barbecue vendors, craft beer, fancy ice cream, meats, live entertainment, community outreach, and more.

If you're a longtime local, you probably don't shop this market weekly, but I bet it's the first



WEEKLY TRADITION: The SLO Farmer Market is known far and wide for its fresh produce vendors, but also for the restaurants that serve up fresh food to eat on the street.

place you take out-of-town guests looking to savor the many textures of regional color.

Of course, there are 10 other markets across the county selling everything from cider to kiwi to locally made hot sauce, too.

When I asked my friends which vendors they liked best from SLO's many markets, I was flooded with responses (so many, in fact, it made my head spin and my stomach growl). Peacock Farms tomatoes, Good Tides prepared goodies, Gracious Greens, the Vremery vegan cheese stand, the mother-daughter duo at Perez Farms, Pepper Creek, Julia's Juices, Riconada Dairy, Eufloria's roses, Hayashi farms for juicy strawberries, and Batista Farms for "the freshest salad greens ever." The list went on (and on, and on, and on).

From freshly laid eggs covered in pretty brown freckles to multi-colored bell peppers that look like stained glass, to the sweetest-ever crave-worthy dry-farmed watermelon, everyone has their favorite market and their favorite market fix. I personally get a major dopamine hit every time I spot super seasonal squash blossoms from the Saturday morning SLO

market, which I promptly fill full of goat cheese and fry in a crust of Italian seasoning, egg, and panko breadcrumbs.

Could there be a more delicious way to boost the local economy and fill your need for fresh, natural food? Plus—and I should say—the farmers' market is a far better place to meet new friends (or soul mates) than a dingy old bar.

Just ask the "three wise shoppers."

"There are three consumers who went to the farmers' market in 1978," said Jankay, "and have continued coming to the SLO Saturday morning to this day."

Sure, these dedicated shoppers are

no doubt thankful for their favorite farmers' markets for continuing to set up shop, day after day, year after year. But, I'd argue that the farmers—especially on this epic anniversary—are just as stoked. This is how, in turn, they feed their own families. One family feeds another, and the cycle continues.

Four decades in, and this symbiotic relationship continues to flourish in a seemingly mundane place: The street.

EATS continued page 32

PHOTO BY HAYLEY THOMAS CAIN



GREEN THUMB: Farmer Ralph Johnson gabs with the crowd as he sells produce and plants at the Downtown SLO Thursday night farmers' market. His greenery has been tucked into plates at Gardens of Avila, Honeymoon Cafe in Pismo Beach, and Wild Ginger in Cambria, among other local hot spots. Restaurants and chefs rely on local farmers' markets just as much as area families.

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EATS

EATS from page 31

As Joni Mitchell says, they “paved paradise and put up a parking lot,” but in SLO County, at least, those lots have shown every indication of remaining green. ○

Hayley Thomas Cain is dreaming of squash blossoms. She can be reached at hthomas@newtimeslo.com.

Payne's Picks: What to do, eat, and drink this week

• This is *Sun* Managing Editor **Joe Payne** here, filling you in on a few fun food foodie options in the area:

• **Trattoria Oliveto** in Orcutt caught my eye with a Facebook post saying the celebrated Italian restaurant will be open on **Christmas Eve**. There's no word on any specials the menu may include, but they do recommend early reservations. Reach them at (805) 934-4546 or trattoriaoliveto.com.

• Some Central Coast breweries have teamed up to help support victims of the Camp Fire in Northern California. **SLO Brew** and **Central Coast Brewing** released the new **Resilience IPA** (pictured) on Nov. 27 in an effort spearheaded by **Sierra Nevada Brewing**. “Our hearts go out to those affected by the tragedy,” SLO Brew brewmaster **Steve Courier** stated. “I’m glad the brewing community has joined together to support the cause.” More information is available at slobrew.com, centralcoastbrewing.com, or sierranevada.com/resilience-butte-county-proud-ipa.

• The **Foodbank of Santa Barbara County** issued an email “thank you” to locals who donated food before Thanksgiving. More than 2,000 turkeys were donated, according to the email. “Without this team of committed and generous people, the families, children, veterans, and seniors facing hunger in our area would not have access to the fresh fruits, veggies, and nutritious groceries they need to be healthy,” Foodbank CEO **Erik Talkin** wrote in the email. Donations are accepted at the Foodbank year round. More info: foodbanksbc.org.

• So I’m more than a little upset nobody told me about **Figuroa Mountain Brewing Co.** offering **Taco Tuesdays** each week. Not only are the tacos discounted all day, including on **Dec. 4**, but so are the nachos! A plate of their nachos goes perfect with a Lizard’s Mouth IPA. Find out more at figmtnbrew.com. ○

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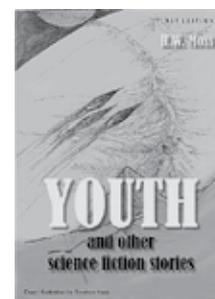
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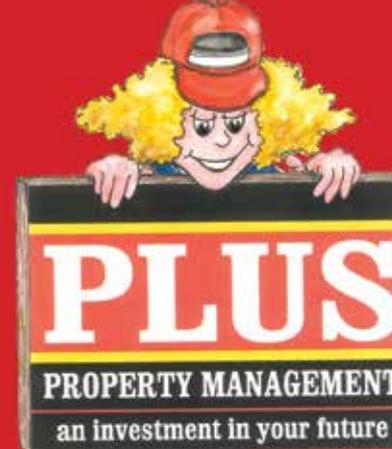
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