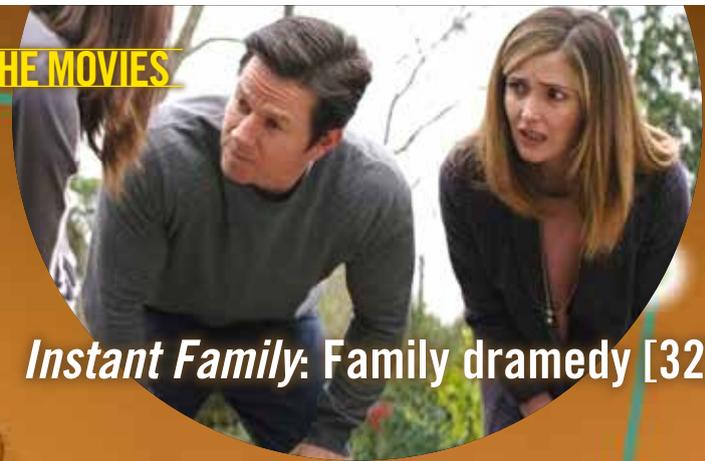


Sun

AT THE MOVIES



Instant Family: Family dramedy [32]

Make your joy

The Sun's Last-Minute Holiday Gift Guide celebrates the creative side of the spirit of giving [12]

BY SUN STAFF



NEWS Olive farmers discuss hard harvest [8]

MUSIC Indie pop duo will tour through Orcutt [26]

ARTS New exhibit explores artist's ocean imagery [30]

NO fats, oil or grease down the drain

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manteca por el desagüe**

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DECEMBER 6 - DECEMBER 13, 2018 VOL. 19 NO. 40

If you're one to put off the holiday shopping, you should be prepared to either act fast or get creative. For the procrastinator who doesn't mind rolling up their sleeves, the Sun's annual Last-Minute Holiday Gift Guide focuses on gifts you can make yourself, including makerspace opportunities at the Santa Maria library [12], candle crafting at home or in Orcutt [13], tips from a local entrepreneur on how to make soaps and bath bombs [15], and if all else fails, you can always just barbecue [16].

Also this week, cities and organizations converge on regional economy [6], local olive farmers describe a hard harvest [8], indie pop fusion duo Complicated Animals comes to Orcutt [26], a local artist shows at the winery she works at in Lompoc [30], artists group has new show at the Santa Maria Airport [31], and Chef Pink dishes on her new role as head chef at Root 246 in Solvang [34].



MOMENT OF DISCOVERY: Two-year-old Neric Martinez mixes paint during a Nov. 24 rock painting session at the Santa Maria Public Library's makerspace event. Locals ages 2 to 102 can create holiday cards and gifts during upcoming makerspace Saturdays.

Joe Payne,
managing editor

Photo by Jayson Mellom > Cover Design by Alex Zuniga

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Political Watch

Gov. **Jerry Brown** ordered the State Capitol flag flown at half-staff in honor of President **George H.W. Bush** after news of his passing on Dec. 1. "Our thoughts are with the Bush family tonight," Brown stated. "America has lost a true public servant." Sen. **Dianne Feinstein** (D-California) issued a statement as well, saying that "there's no question" that Bush "led our country through a time of turmoil" during the the Gulf War and fall of the Soviet Union. "But his service started many years before," Feinstein said. "An accomplished World War II pilot, a member of Congress, U.N. ambassador, CIA director, and vice president, George Bush dedicated his life to public service. . . . My thoughts are with the country, but even more so with President Bush's loving family. He'll be missed."

Sen. **Dianne Feinstein** (D-California) issued a statement on Nov. 29 after **Michael Cohen** gave a guilty plea to Special Counsel **Robert Mueller's** office, admitting that he lied to Congress about efforts by the Trump organization to seek a Trump Tower Moscow deal before the election. "Cohen's sworn admission shows that the Trump family did have business dealing in Russia despite President Trump's repeated statements to the contrary," Feinstein stated. "It raises serious questions about the president's relationship with Russia and whether he and his family have been honest with the American people." Feinstein serves as the ranking member of the Senate Judiciary Committee, which has interviewed Cohen and others involved in the investigation, like **Felix Sater**, but Democrats wanted to do more, Feinstein said in her statement. "However, lacking meaningful support from committee Republicans, Michael Cohen has not appeared before the committee to answer our questions," she said. "Today's guilty plea clearly shows that we still don't know the full story and that Special Counsel Mueller must be allowed to complete his investigation without interference or delay."

Sens. **Dianne Feinstein** (D-California) and **Kamala Harris** (D-California), along with Sens. **Patty Murray** (D-Washington) and **Maria Cantwell** (D-Washington), sent a letter to Treasury Secretary **Steve Mnuchin**, calling on the Trump administration to "not block wineries from using the duty drawback program. . . . which allows wineries to recoup duties, taxes, and fees on imported wines after exporting domestically produced wines." "In addition to violating congressional intent, prohibiting wineries from continuing to use duty drawback would eliminate a critical export promotion tool at a time when the wine industry is already facing significant export barriers," the letter states. "In retaliation for tariffs imposed by the administration, U.S. wine is now subject to a total tax and tariff rate of 79 percent in China, one of the fastest-growing markets for U.S. wine, putting our domestic producers at a severe disadvantage compared to foreign competitors."

State Sen. **Hannah-Beth Jackson** (D-Santa Barbara) and Assemblymember **Monique Limón** (D-Santa Barbara) held an informational hearing of the Joint Legislative Committee on Emergency Management and the Assembly Select Committee on Natural Disaster Response, Recovery, Rebuilding on Nov. 27, with the stated focus on public notifications during disasters and wildfires. "Frankly, it's really tragic that we're here today discussing raging wildfires that have become the new abnormal in our state," Jackson said. "These fires have snuffed out the lives of over 150 Californians in the past year alone, destroyed homes and property [and the] hopes and dreams of thousands." There were reports from emergency response officials as well as reports on legislation by Jackson and Limón, including Jackson's SB 821, which helps agencies automatically enroll citizens for emergency notices. Limón's bill, AB 1877, is to help ensure translation services for emergency notifications. ○

AERA releases environmental impact report for East Cat Canyon expansion

After four years of waiting, Aera Energy's environmental impact report (EIR) for its East Cat Canyon Oil Field redevelopment project is available for public inspection.

The Santa Barbara County Planning and Development Department released the draft document on Nov. 30. Aera, which is owned by the Exxon Mobil Corporation and the Shell Energy Company, is currently seeking to reopen an old Exxon field about 10 miles southeast of Santa Maria. The century-old field has been idle for roughly two decades.

"This is an important step for our project," said Rick Rust, Aera's Santa Barbara representative. "Our goal is to provide the energy California needs while protecting people and the environment."

Aera representatives touted the EIR's release as the culmination of a half decade of analysis by the county Planning Department. They said the plan featured an "alternative footprint" that leaves "roughly 94 percent" of the project undisturbed by development, including a 500-acre permanent conservation area for native oak trees and wildlife.

An earlier iteration of the EIR had called for the removal of some 500 to 1,500 mature oaks, much to the chagrin of environmental activists.

"You can't really replace a mature oak tree," said Katie Davis, chair of the Los Padres Chapter of the Sierra Club, before Aera changed the amount of trees proposed to be bulldozed. "They're more water intensive when they are young so it's not the same as the old oak trees that have been there now for decades."

Davis noted the trees were only one concern about the proposed oil field.

"All the conventional oil in that field is gone," she told the *Sun*. "All they are doing is going back to get this hard-to-access heavy oil."

Most of the work proposed for the Aera Cat Canyon Oil Field is cyclic steam injection, a so-called "enhanced" oil recovery method that involves injecting steam into a well for a set amount of time in order to heat the oil in the surrounding reservoir so it can be more easily extracted.

The fossil fuel industry in general claims the process is relatively harmless, doesn't use fresh water, and is the most effective way to access oil and natural gas in hard-to-reach reserves. Environmental activists counter that the practice endangers groundwater quality and that the energy expended is not worth the potential energy gained.

"It takes a tremendous amount of natural gas to actually heat that earth up to 500 degrees [Fahrenheit] to melt that heavy oil in the ground," Davis said. "So a tremendous amount of fossil fuels is used to access more fossil fuels. That's why air and greenhouse gas pollution for these projects are so much higher than conventional drilling."

Davis said the largest risks stemming from the project revolved around the injection of hydrochloric acids and other chemicals into the ground, potentially engendering underground water supplies.

"They'll say, 'We're not using fresh water for production,' but they'll only say 'production' because they use a tremendous amount of fresh water to drill each of these wells," she added. It takes an estimated 7 million to 8 million gallons of water annually to operate a steam injection site the size Aera is proposing, according to the Sierra Club.

"In this area we rely on our local groundwater for drinking and agriculture," Davis explained. "The real risk here is putting that really precious groundwater at risk."



OPEN FOR DISCUSSION: Aera Energy submitted an environmental impact report (EIR) for its proposed East Cat Canyon Oil Field redevelopment project to the Santa Barbara County Planning Commission, which opened the report up to public comment now through Jan. 28. The project proposes up to 296 wells in the expansion.

Aera is proposing the development and operation of up to 296 wells, including oil/gas production wells, steam injection wells, observation wells, non-potable water production wells, water injection wells, and fresh groundwater wells, according to the EIR. No hydraulic fracturing would be used for the project.

According to a report by the UC Santa Barbara Economic Forecast Project, the East Cat Canyon project will result in more than \$1 billion in economic activity and will create "well-paying jobs for workers, as well as income for local businesses."

Project proponents have also pointed to what the Aera activity will do for the local taxbase. If approved by the Board of Supervisors, the oil field would place Aera as one of the largest property taxpayers in Santa Barbara County.

"We are proud to be associated with a project that will generate locally produced energy, at a facility built by local labor, that will create local jobs going forward," said Michael G. Lopez, business manager of U.A. Plumbers and Pipefitters Union Local 114.

Since the draft EIR was released on Nov. 30, the public now has until Jan. 28, 2019, to comment on it. Those comments can be submitted to the county's project planner, Kathryn Lehr, at 123 E. Anapamu St., Santa Barbara, CA, 93101, or by email at klehr@countyofsb.org, or by phone at (805) 568-3560 and fax at (805) 568-2030.

Comments will also be taken by the county at a public meeting on Jan. 17 at the Betteravia Government Center, Board of Supervisors' hearing room, 511 E. Lakeside Parkway in Santa Maria and at the Engineering Building and Planning Commission hearing room, 123 E. Anapamu St., Santa Barbara.

—Spencer Cole

In a Nov. 30 press release, the State Bar announced that it had obtained an interim order to temporarily stop business at Vincent Enriquez's El Monte-based office, where he provides paralegal and document preparation services as NVE Associates Inc. The order, filed through the Los Angeles County Superior Court, includes an injunction against Enriquez, and also allowed the State Bar to reclaim all his client files and other records and freeze bank accounts associated with the office.

Prior to this, the State Bar said in its press release that it sent cease and desist notices to Enriquez regarding his unauthorized practice of law, and only initiated these additional enforcement actions after he failed to comply. The Bar said it will attempt to return seized client files or documents to Enriquez's former clients, and will inform them of the court proceedings.

In its complaint, the State Bar claims that Enriquez offered legal services to farmworkers on the Central Coast, including several in Santa

NEWS continued page 6

Weekend Weather

KSBY NEWS
Microclimate Weather Forecast
Dave Hovde
KSBY Chief Meteorologist

<p>Thursday</p> <p>COASTAL > High 65 Low 51 INLAND > High 62 Low 48</p>	<p>Friday</p> <p>COASTAL > High 65 Low 44 INLAND > High 65 Low 40</p>
<p>Saturday</p> <p>COASTAL > High 65 Low 44 INLAND > High 65 Low 39</p>	<p>Sunday</p> <p>COASTAL > High 65 Low 44 INLAND > High 65 Low 39</p>

The leftovers from a Tuesday and Wednesday storm still bring some showers Thursday. More rain possible Monday.

El Monte paralegal fights allegations of unauthorized practice in Santa Maria

The State Bar of California is working to shut down a Los Angeles County paralegal office that allegedly provided unauthorized immigration services to migrant farmworkers in the Santa Maria area, "fraudulently" charging some of them more than \$12,000.



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The toil of oil

Local olive oil producers grapple with state's worst harvest in decades

BY KASEY BUBNASH

Last year, California's olive groves produced roughly 4 million gallons of olive oil. But because of this year's strange weather patterns—an unusually hot winter followed by a bout of cold—the California Olive Oil Council estimates that only about 2.8 million gallons will have been produced by the end of this year's harvest.

It's a 25 percent loss that represents the state's first ever decline in production, and olive oil producers across the county and state are feeling its impacts.

"We got hit pretty hard here," said Michael Carpenter, owner of Pepper Oaks Farm, a 50-acre farm in the Santa Ynez Valley that is home to several thousand olive trees and a mill that produces certified extra virgin olive oil.

The uncharacteristically warm weather throughout January and February of this year caused his trees to blossom earlier than usual, Carpenter said. Then frost followed in March, stalling growth and damaging the fruit that had already started to appear.

Carpenter said that when nature stops cooperating, there's not much farmers can do to save crops, and while he's had difficult years before, "nothing like what we saw here." Production on his farm decreased by about 70 percent between this year and last.

"This year certainly has been very, very

difficult," he said, adding that when there's less oil, there's less revenue.

Still, Carpenter said he wasn't forced to make any staffing cuts this season, and he's tried to be transparent with his customers, who he said have remained understanding and loyal throughout the shortage. Fortunately for them, his prices haven't changed significantly, although Carpenter said cost increases are often the result of smaller harvests.

And despite the massive decrease in production, Carpenter said he expects next year's fruit to be abundant, "but we'll see what Mother Nature has to throw at us," he said.

There are at least 33 other olive growers like Carpenter in Santa Barbara County, according to the county's assistant agricultural commissioner, Rudy Martel, who said about that many are registered for pesticide use in the county.

Most, or all, of them are likely dealing with issues similar to Carpenter's, according to Patricia Darragh, executive director of the California Olive Oil Council. Darragh said this year's weather had major consequences for olive farmers and oil producers throughout the entire state.

Although harvest is still ongoing—it usually runs from October to mid-December—Darragh said it's the worst she's seen in more than 20 years with the Olive Oil Council.

"This is the first time we've had a decrease in production," she said.

Overall, Darragh said she hasn't seen much of a change in pricing across the state. Olive oil is already an expensive commodity to buy because it's so costly to grow, and Darragh said California growers are working to keep prices as reasonable as possible through the shortfall.

But if next year turns out low yields, she said prices would have to be re-evaluated. As of now, Darragh said it looks as though next year will be much more fruitful. Olives are still one of

the fastest growing specialty crops in the state, and Darragh said several thousand more olive trees will be planted within the next year.

"We're hopeful that this was just a one time problem," she said, "and that next year's crop will be very robust."

Olives aren't the only crop to have suffered at the expense of an increasingly unpredictable climate. In September 2017, California avocado growers saw their worst harvest in nearly 30 years after a five-year drought. It's an issue the state is keeping a close eye on, Darragh said, and one that the agricultural industry will need to address in the near future.

Although some years are always better than others in the world of farming, some local growers, including Theodora Stephan, worry that this year was just the beginning of a long fight with changing weather patterns.

Stephan owns Global Gardens, a farmstand in Los Olivos that sells specialty olive oil and vinegar. She farms roughly 12,000 olive trees in groves in Los Olivos, Paso Robles, Santa Ynez, and Los Alamos. After her olive trees blossomed in late January, they froze in March, killing nearly all the olives that had started to grow.

"And I was like, 'That's it, I'm not going to get one olive,'" Stephan said. "Many, many olive groves in the state of California did not get one olive."

Her trees saw a secondary bloom in May, and she was able to produce oil from another grove she planted a few years ago that only recently became mature, but Stephan said her production this year was still only about half what it was the year before. While the year's low production hasn't impacted her sales, prices,



OLIVES IN LOS OLIVOS: Theodora Stephan, owner of Global Gardens in Los Olivos, said her crop was affected by a hot winter and March frost last year. Pictured: Stephan spoke with guests at a Nov. 30 party for her farm stand club members.

or labor, Stephan said she's worried about this coming harvest, and all those following.

"It's really scary, because we have no frost in the forecast now and it's December. We always have frost in late October," Stephan said. "I'm worried about getting into a pre-bloom again, because the trees are just—everything is confused." ○

Staff Writer Kasey Bubnash can be reached at kbubnash@santamariasun.com. Managing Editor Joe Payne contributed to this story.

Spotlight on: Grid Alternatives

Justin Hitchcock, executive director

BY SPENCER COLE

Power tools whirred atop the roof of a modest Santa Maria home as a work crew of 10 volunteers mounted a set of solar panels on a sunny November afternoon.

Once installed, the new solar grid would reduce the family's electric bill by as much as 80 percent, the workers said. Their efforts, like the panels, came free of charge thanks to the nonprofit Grid Alternatives, an international organization that prides itself on bringing solar energy and training opportunities to low-income families and communities.

"These services have been traditionally provided to wealthy individuals, and we're trying to fill that gap," Executive Director Justin Hitchcock told the *Sun*. "Low-income populations tend to be the last group to receive these types of services and have access. So we're trying to fill that need."

Hitchcock heads Grid Alternatives' Central Coast region, which consists of two offices with about 14 employees between its Salinas and Atascadero offices. In all, the company has seven locations in California with other offices scattered across the country and even the globe.

Founded in 2004, the nonprofit celebrated a milestone this year, its 10,000th successful installation for a low-income family household. According to Hitchcock, 41 of those installs happened at Santa Maria households.

"It's taken a while to expand into [Northern Santa Barbara County], but I really feel like we're starting to have a presence," he said.

Grid Alternatives Director of Development

and Programs Barby Wunsch told the *Sun* that much of the work was made possible in Santa Maria due to the city awarding the nonprofit \$43,000 in Community Development Block Grant funds.

The grants help subsidize and keep the installation projects at reasonably low cost for the nonprofit.

Grid Alternatives also works with other organizations, such as the Center for Employment Training in Santa Maria, on its "Solar Futures" project. The program takes 18-year-old high school student volunteers and offers them training opportunities in the solar industry, including in the nonprofit's rooftop installs.

"It's a unique program," Wunsch said. "We're hoping to bring it to Santa Maria, but currently it's only in Lompoc. However the program is still doing work in Santa Maria."

Wunsch added that Grid Alternatives tried to focus on cultivating an environment of diversity and inclusiveness when reaching out to its

volunteers, just like the low-income families that happen to apply for an install.

"We want to make renewable energy accessible to anyone," Hitchcock said.

Families interested in seeing if they qualify for a free solar panel installation can call Grid Alternatives at (805) 792-8055 or visit its website, gridsolar.org.

PHOTO COURTESY OF BARBY WUNSCH



PLUG IT IN: A crew of 10 volunteers helped install a set of free solar panels at no cost to a low-income family in Santa Maria on Nov. 30. The work is made possible by the nonprofit Grid Alternatives.

Highlights:

- The Foxen Canyon Wine Trail Association will host Christmas on the Trail on Dec. 8 and 9. In all, 13 wineries that span the 30-mile stretch of Foxen Canyon Road are set to participate. Christmas on the Trail is a wine passport event where participants receive 20, 1 ounce pours of wine they can "spend" at any of the 13 wineries all weekend. All attendees also receive a bar of soap from Foxen Canyon Soap Co. The two-day passport is \$45 online and \$60 for tickets purchased on either day of the event.

- The Freedom Monument Veterans Memorial Ceremony and Fellowship Luncheon will be held on Dec. 7 at 10 a.m. at 600 S. McClelland St., Santa Maria. The event will honor all veterans as well as give special recognition to the men and women who serve at Vandenberg Air Force Base.

- Parents with kids in need of a special visit from Ol' Saint Nick are in luck thanks to the Lompoc Recreation Division. The city is now taking requests for Santa Claus visits running from Dec. 14 to 17. The hours are 6:30 to 8 p.m. The cost per booking is \$30 for Lompoc residents and \$36 for non-residents. Visits are limited to a maximum of 20 minutes and will start every half hour. Any location with more than four children requires booking additional time slots. Santa visit applications are available online at cityoflompoc.com/services/recreation or by visiting the Recreation Division's administrative office at the Anderson Recreation Center, 125 W. Walnut Ave. ○

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

Officials, teachers battle over changes to transfer policy

BY KASEY BUBNASH

Santa Maria's high school district and its Faculty Association have been debating their 2018-19 school year contracts since last fall, but unlike in years past, salaries are only playing a small role in the dispute.

Instead, much of this year's debate surrounds proposed changes to the district's teacher transfer and reassignment policy, and with the district's recent announcement that negotiations will be continued through a fact-finding hearing sometime after the new year, neither side appears to be backing down anytime soon.

The transfer policy, which has existed within the Santa Maria Joint Union High School District as it is now since the late '90s, allows teachers to voluntarily transfer to other district schools with open positions through a process that gives teachers with seniority preferential treatment.

The current process gives little administrative oversight to principals and district officials, according to Assistant Superintendent Kevin Platt, who said administrators are rarely able to deny internal transfers to longtime teachers—even if they feel other applicants would be a better fit.

"It makes it more difficult for administrators at a site to do the job they're supposed to do," Platt said.

Through the current policy, any job opening at a school within the district is first offered to teachers already within the district, who can then apply to transfer. If at least two teachers apply to transfer and both meet the minimum criteria for the job, the teacher who has been employed by the district longest is chosen, according to the contract.

No outside applicant can be chosen to fill the vacancy if a "qualified unit member" applies, the contract states; there is no required interview process; and while the contract states that a transfer request could be denied, it doesn't say under what circumstances.

The unclear language and lack of an applicant review process make it difficult for principals to choose the most qualified teachers to fill vacated positions, Platt said, and it can become difficult for the district to hold teachers accountable throughout evaluations.

In the past, Platt said there have been issues with teachers applying to transfer solely because they'd had less than positive job evaluations at one school several years in a row. And in multiple instances, Platt said teachers with fewer qualifications have been chosen over other applicants simply because of seniority.

"Ultimately we want to try to do what's best for kids," Platt said, adding that the decision to

FILE PHOTO BY KASEY BUBNASH



ON TO FACT-FINDING: The Santa Maria Joint Union High School District and its Faculty Association declared an official impasse during its 2018-19 contract negotiations process in October. On Nov. 26, the parties announced they'd be holding a fact-finding hearing sometime after the new year.

ATHLETE OF THE WEEK

PHOTO COURTESY OF BILENA BRAFMAN



Charolette Ionata

Before this school year, Pioneer Valley High School student Charolette Ionata had never played a game of soccer in her life. Now she's the varsity team's starting goalie, and she's making huge strides.

Ionata, a senior, is an athlete by nature, according to coach Bilena Brafman, who said Ionata has long played volleyball and water polo. But when several schools on the Central Coast opted to move water polo's season from winter to fall, Ionata was left without her usual winter sport, and Brafman invited her onto the soccer team.

Fortunately, Ionata accepted, and trained with the team throughout the summer, improving almost exponentially with each passing day. She played her first ever game of soccer on Nov. 27, and Brafman called her performance "outstanding."

"It takes a lot of courage to do that," Brafman said of Ionata's decision to try something totally new. "She's just an inspiration." ○
—Kasey Bubnash

accept or deny a transfer should be left up to the principal of each site. "Especially because they're ultimately the ones who have to answer to parents if something happens."

Through the district's proposed changes, all applicants—whether they work for the district already or not—would be interviewed by a panel, which would include the hiring school's department chair and principal. The interview team could then hire any applicant who best fits the position.

It's a change the district has been pushing to make for the last six years, Platt said, and he said the process as it exists now is unique to Santa Maria Joint Union High School District.

In the Santa Maria-Bonita School District, transfer applicants are considered first based on the needs of the district, then credentials and related experience, and then seniority, according to Public Information Officer Maggie White. There isn't an interview process for transfers in Santa Maria-Bonita either, White said, but the selection is ultimately left up to the director of human resources.

The Santa Barbara Unified School District does use an interview process for its voluntary transfers, and applicants there are also chosen based on the needs of the district and qualifications of the applicant. Seniority is not considered at all, according to its 2018-21 contract and Public Information Officer Lauren Bianchi Klemann.

Still, the Santa Maria high school district's Faculty Association has continued to fight the proposed changes to its policy.

Faculty Association leadership, including President Matt Provost and Santa Maria High School's Department Chair Lorene Yoshihara, did not comment for this story, despite multiple requests. Provost said in a previous interview with the *Sun* that the transfer process gives longtime teachers much-needed freedom to move around and keep things fresh while maintaining job and salary security.

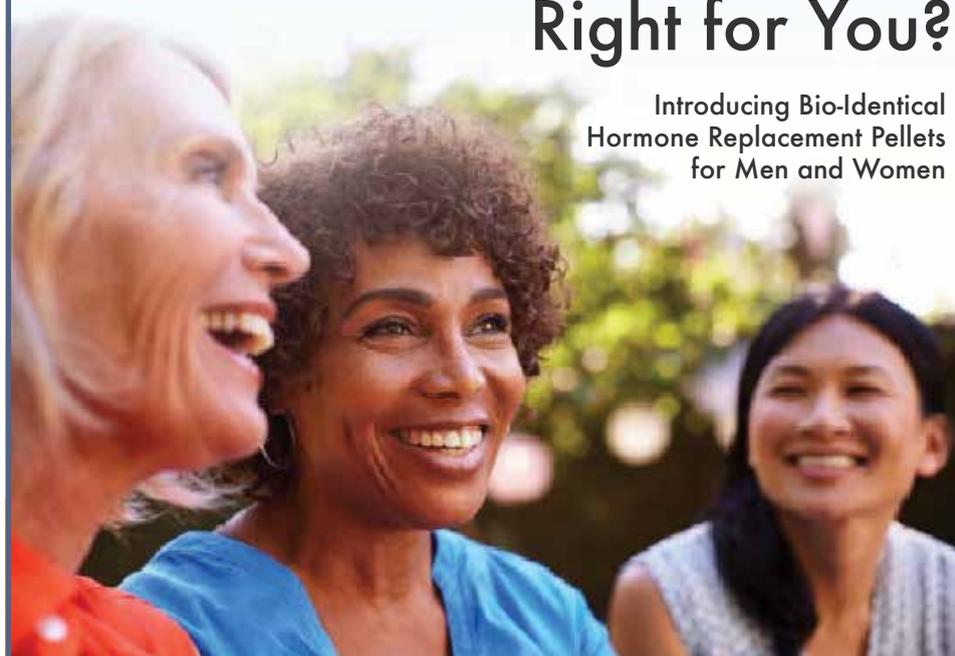
Such transfers are one of the few liberties teachers are allowed without administrative oversight, and Provost said the district's proposal would essentially eliminate that asset entirely. ○

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

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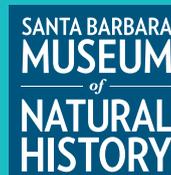
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Make to give

Makerspace programs at the Santa Maria library can help you create a last-minute holiday gift

BY JOE PAYNE • PHOTOS BY JAYSON MELLOM

It was Saturday morning and things were already getting messy. But that's OK at the Santa Maria Public Library's weekly makerspace sessions, where kids and parents assembled cards and envelopes, used a silhouette machine, and painted rocks on the morning of Nov. 24. "There are no rules; I think that's the nice thing about maker: There are no rules except to be safe," Santa Maria's Librarian III Joanne Britton told the Sun. "No rules, just create."

Makerspace is available at the library on Saturdays, and the program recently added Wednesday sessions, thanks to a partnership with Allan Hancock College. The whole idea of the program is to provide community access to art supplies, but also a whole lot more, like digital cameras, advanced editing technology, and even 3-D printers.

For locals who've neglected their holiday shopping, the library's regular makerspace events are a perfect opportunity to make something from scratch with the variety of materials available. The Saturday session on Dec. 15 will include a chance to make ornaments, Britton explained, for a Christmas tree or other holiday celebration.

"Those are always the more special gifts anyway," she said. "I love a handmade gift."

Each makerspace session includes a few possible projects to work on, Britton explained. They range in difficulty, so smaller kids can enjoy activities like rock painting while high schoolers or adults can make videos with the aid of a green screen or learn about 3-D printing.

Instruction and guidance are provided as well by either a Santa Maria librarian or a

Hancock student worker, but visitors don't have to "draw between the lines," Britton explained.

"It's just a variety of things and people can make what we suggest or they can use their imagination and create what they want," she said. "You really can't help but get involved in trying to make something. There's really something for everyone."

The makerspace program started at the library after Hancock received grant money from the California Community College Chancellor's Office, according to the city. The program came to the library and the Santa

Maria Valley Discovery Museum through Hancock so visitors could engage creatively at no cost to them or the organization.

The Wednesday makerspaces, which run in the evening from 4 to 6 p.m., are a little more guided, Britton explained. Those midweek sessions are designed to help build the skills and the knowledge to help with more advanced tasks in the Saturday sessions. That's when the technology comes in too, from cameras to sewing machines to 3-D printers.

"It has turned out to be a very natural partnership," Britton said. "I like to think that the library is the center of the community, a place where people can come and be free, they can explore; it's a true democracy, really."

"Just to be a part of the partnership of makerspace has just really opened up a wealth of resources to the community that I don't think were really there before."

On Saturdays, there's usually a more advanced project for older visitors who might have attended the Wednesday prep, Britton explained, but the library also includes something that's easily accessible for teens and kids.

And a makerspace is a perfect place for youngsters to begin their first forays into hand-making gifts around the holidays, she said.

"It's a really cool thing for kids to make something that they want to give to their teachers or their parents and they don't have any money," Britton added.

And for families that are short on cash around the holidays, the makerspace is there for them, whether it's just for their 2-year-old to paint rocks, or to make gifts for grandma.

"I think that, especially for the library to provide this to low-income families, I mean, it doesn't really matter that they're low-income, everyone is welcome," she said. "It's for everyone, just like the library." ○

Managing Editor Joe Payne has some rocks to paint. Reach him at jpayne@santamariasun.com.

Make and take

The Santa Maria Public Library offers free Winter Makerspace Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., including Dec. 8, which will feature sewing, cross stitch, and Makey Makey projects; Dec. 15, which will include ornament making, jewelry making, and 3-D design and printing; and Dec. 22, which will feature clay projects, rock painting, and card and gift tag making. Wednesday makerspace sessions are from 4 to 6 p.m., including Dec. 12 featuring 3-D design and printing and makerspace safety and Dec. 19 with clay sculpting and tool safety. The library is located at 421 S. McClelland St., Santa Maria. The programs take place in the first floor Learning Center. More info: (805) 925-0994, Ext. 8562.



HANDMADE: For those who put off their holiday shopping, a makerspace session could yield a personal handmade gift. The Dec. 15 program will include ornament decorating and other creative activities.



ACCESSIBLE ARTS: The library's makerspace program is free to the public and is friendly to all ages, Santa Maria librarian Joanne Britton told the Sun, so Santa Marians of all backgrounds can enjoy making their own projects.



MAKE IT HAPPEN: Free makerspace sessions are available weekly at the Santa Maria Public Library through a partnership with Allan Hancock College, providing instruction in how to make everything from simple crafts to 3-D printing and design. Upcoming programs will include possible holiday gifts.



Not so burnt out

Handmade candles make great gifts, and candle-making classes are even better

BY KASEY BUBNASH

All the holiday season burnouts, last-minute shoppers, and broke kids with mothers who deserve better know that candles (almost) always make decent gifts. They look nice, smell even better, and most everyone loves the warm and fuzzy vibes of a candlelit room—especially during these dark, depressing winter months.

But maybe you've bought a certain special and difficult to shop for someone a candle several years in a row. Or perhaps you've decided a "decent" gift isn't good enough this time around.

In that case, make your own. Handmade candles are totally customizable, and once you have the necessary supplies and instructions, the process can be pretty fun and easy.

Candle-making kits are readily available online, and typically range from about \$40 to \$70. Most beginner sets include all the supplies you need to make basic—but cute—candles,

and once you have the base tools, all the fun add-ons are fairly inexpensive. My kit (which I did not buy, but borrowed from my boyfriend, who went through an extensive "candle-making phase" as a child) included wax, scents, jars, wicks, a thermometer, melting pot, and, most importantly, very clear instructions.

The best part of making my own candle was finding a container. I used mason jars and an espresso cup (a coffee-themed candle for a coffee lover!) this time around, but emptied wine and beer bottles, Christmas mugs, and plant pots would also make great holders, perfect to spice up someone's kitchen, seasonal decor, or patio.

Come to think of it, a candle-making kit itself would actually make a great gift for a very crafty, or very bored, friend!

But if you're not uber confident in your candle-making skills, (and why would you be?) you could always give the gift of a candle-making experience led by a professional.

Elaine Bumanglag, owner of Parable Candle Company, hosts private candle- and soap-making parties. It's just like the wine and painting thing, but without the booze, and with amazing smells! Each class costs about \$22 per person, and participants get to make and take home their very own fancy soaps and candles.

Bumanglag said she'll also be hosting a few public holiday-themed workshops this December. At the classes, which will cost between \$15 and \$18 per person, participants will learn to make chunk candles and beeswax ornaments, and will be able to choose from scents like snickerdoodle, apple cider, and evergreen with berries. The dates for those



IT'S EASY AS ONE, TWO, THREE: Want to make a candle for a loved one? It's easy with a candle-making kit of your own. Most beginner kits, which are readily available online, include wax, scents, jars, wicks, a thermometer, melting pitcher, and, most importantly, very clear instructions.

workshops will be announced on Parable's Facebook page, Bumanglag said.

She also sells customizable gift baskets—a hot ticket item this time of year—for about \$40 a pop at her Orcutt-based shop. Customers can choose from an array of beautifully handmade candles, soaps, bath bombs, and oils.

Bumanglag started making her own products about three years ago, just after she was diagnosed with advanced Lyme disease,

an ailment that forced her to stop working full time as a nurse. The candle-making process is something she can do between the many rests her illness demands, so each product, as with most handmade gifts, is truly made with love.

"They're perfectly imperfect," Bumanglag said. ○

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

MADE WITH LOVE: The products sold at Parable Candle Company are handmade, and customers can customize gift baskets, or learn to make their own soaps and candles by booking private parties.



HOLIDAY CANDLE CLASSES: Parable Candle Company, located at 125 Union Ave., Orcutt, is decked out and ready for the holidays. Owner Elaine Bumanglag plans to host several public candle and ornament making workshops throughout December.



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Au naturale

Making soap and other beauty products is as easy as pie (and smells just as good)

REBECCA ROSE

No matter what path Olive Cadwell took in her life, she knew it would eventually lead her to soap.

"Even when I was in college, I just felt drawn to it," she said. "As a kid, it was something I was very interested in."

Today Cadwell is the owner and creator behind Body HI, a Lompoc-based company that specializes in cold process soaps, bath bombs, and lotion bars. Her products utilize her own formulas of organic and locally sourced ingredients.

Cadwell started her company five years ago and has since racked up a loyal social media following as well as retail partnerships in California, Hawaii (where she studied her craft), and beyond.

Take a moment to search the internet for homemade beauty products and your head will start spinning. There is a vast culture of bespoke beauticians and skin care specialists adamant on rejecting corporate manufactured beauty products, filled with chemicals sketchily

approved by the Food and Drug Administration. There is a huge market for natural and homemade beauty products; according to the Handcrafted Soap and Cosmetic Guild, there are more than 200,000 home-based artisans working in the United States alone.

Places like Lompoc and its surrounding communities are on board with the trend. Cadwell's website and social media are populated with her products, everything from lavender and sweet basil soap to vegan coconut rose bombs. For her, getting started in the business was a product of passion and trial and error.

"The first few times I did it there were a lot of mistakes," she explained with a laugh. "Mostly it was because I didn't take my time. It requires a lot of patience to make soap."

In the simplest terms, the process involves pouring a carefully measured mixture of lye and soap along with a unique blend of oils, butters, fats, and scents into a pre-formed mold. The mixture is then cooled and, when completed, cut from the mold.

Patience is the No. 1 skill Cadwell suggests for those looking to enter the soap-making arena. The proper tools area also essential. Some soap makers such as Cadwell utilize the cold process technique, which combines oils such as coconut, palm, or olive oil, with a chemical agent such as lye (sodium hydroxide).

In addition, necessary equipment includes: thermometer, mixing bowls, scale, gloves/eye protection/mask (for the lye/sodium hydroxide, which burns skin), soap mold, stick blender, silicone spatula, and double boiler.

Some artisans opt to use their microwave to melt the hard oils and butters. Also, Cadwell said optional ingredients include natural colorants such as clays or organic powders.

Cadwell doesn't just make soap. Bath bombs are an increasingly popular product for her and other artisan beauty product manufacturers.

"Bath bombs are a lot like baking minus the actual baking part," Cadwell said. "You need to be very exact with your ingredients or else you can end up with a failed volcano science experiment."

The product involves mixing dry ingredients such as herbs, flowers, clays, or citrus peels with wet ingredients such as oils (for moisture), water, or other scents and liquids. She said the key to bath bombs is adding the wet ingredients slowly to avoid causing the product to erupt.

Her bath bombs include Orange You Glad, an orange and vanilla scent, which she described as smelling similar to a creamsicle; Coconut Rose, made with geranium rose essential oil, organic rose petals, and coconut extract; and Kate's Garden, a bath bomb with lavender, rosemary, and lemon oils she developed from organic herbs and flowers from a florist's organic garden in Big Sur.



PHOTO COURTESY OF OLIVE CADWELL

LOOKS GOOD ENOUGH TO EAT: Olive Cadwell's line of organic soap and skin care products come from years of perfecting her techniques and formulas. For those looking to try their hand at it, Cadwell recommends a lot of patience.

Cadwell likens the experience of using bath bombs to being immersed in a large mug of tea. "Not only is your skin getting the benefits of soaking them in, but it is aromatherapy as well," she said. "Generally speaking, they are easier and faster than making cold process soap, and are actually a fun project to do with kids." ○

Arts and Lifestyle Writer Rebecca Rose is the star of her very own soap opera. Contact her at rose@santamariasun.com.

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Ribbing the holidays

When all else fails, just barbecue

BY SPENCER COLE

Full disclosure, I tried to be Ron Swanson and make my beautiful life partner a gift for the holiday season, but unfortunately, I am not Ron Swanson.

My first attempt at building a headboard for our bed ended in a bunch of bent nails and broken self-esteem. I tried to simplify the next gift (a chair) but apparently restoring old rocking chairs is just as hard as Mel Gibson in *The Patriot* makes it look. I didn't even get to sit down in mine.

My last failed foray into holiday inspired carpentry involved a bathtub caddy—which is pretty much a bath kit that you can use to hold your glass of wine or something.

Anyway, I bought a few two-by-fours and some pieces of cedar roughly the width of the tub and then got home and realized I needed a table saw. Not only do I not own a table saw, but I'm far from having the requisite skills to operate one without ramming one of my fingers against the blades.

I'm not a good carpenter. Maybe I will be someday, but for now, the only thing I can do with wood is chop it up for fires. The realization of this fact gave me an idea: Why don't you just burn something?

And not just anything, but sweet, delicious baby back pork ribs, smothered in spices and maybe topped with a homemade sauce.

So I went to the store. You can usually pick up a couple racks of baby backs for around \$20 to \$30 on sale. I comb through local stores like I'm Bob Belcher and need to speak with each rack.

"Where did you come from ribs? What are your goals? Dreams? Where do you see yourself in five years?"

It didn't take me long to find *the one*. Well *two*.

On this day, the final price tag came out to \$24.50, and while the price wasn't great, the store I bought the two racks from was right next to a Christmas tree nursery (hey, themes!). So I packed my car full of soon-to-be-smoked meat, a pine tree I can replant in the spring (because we're those kind of people), and applewood for smoking. I was ready.

It was time to grill.

Well, not yet actually.

First, I got home and lit a small fire on one side of my Weber grill. You can use a grill of any size, as long as it's charcoal based. If you only have a gas grill or an oven to use, I guess that's OK, but you're wrong. You also need to cover the grill, so Santa Marians, avert your eyes.

You don't want the fire to be too big because the game here is low and slow. In all, the ribs should cook for about four hours, so you'll periodically add to the fire as you go.

After I did all the fire prep, I went inside and

unpacked the ribs. I usually tear and cut away the membrane on the bottom (bone) side of the ribs before I do anything. Next is the rub. My rub is a combination of brown sugar, paprika, cayenne pepper, dried jalapeño, salt, cumin, garlic and onion powders, and sometimes chili powder or dried mustard.

For the sauce, I used a combination of those spices with apple cider vinegar to be cheap, but I've done a recipe that used several cloves of smashed garlic, apple cider vinegar, red pepper flakes, and tomato paste that is pretty damn joy inducing.

My extended family in Texas will tell anyone they meet that ribs aren't supposed to be sauced, but this is California and if we want to put sauce on dry rub like we're in Kansas City, Memphis, or North Carolina, we can and will. Blame it on our coastal elitism. We just don't know any better.

The sauce is simple: Bring ingredients to a boil and then simmer for 15 minutes. My advice is don't chase thickness, you just want consistency. A whisk is your best friend here.

The sauce is something you tackle in the last 15 minutes. At least 90 percent of barbecuing is sitting around and waiting, so I encourage finding other things to do in your down time (maybe enjoy some yuletide libations or perhaps one of those terrible *Lifetime* movies).

Whatever you do, just don't forget to monitor the fire and keep the temperature around 225 to 250 degrees.



LET IT SMOKE: If you've destroyed that impossible-to-assemble IKEA table, barbecue ribs are a solid last-minute gift around the holidays.

You'll first start your fire with charcoal and then slowly shift in pieces of the applewood until the ribs are done. The time to cook them depends on the heat of the fire. This time, it took me about four hours on the money.

The results were not disappointing. I had made something beautiful. And even though I was probably going to eat her gift before my partner got home, I couldn't feel too bad.

After all, it's the thought that counts. ○

Staff Writer Spencer Cole is always available to eat ribs. He can be reached at scole@santamariasun.com.



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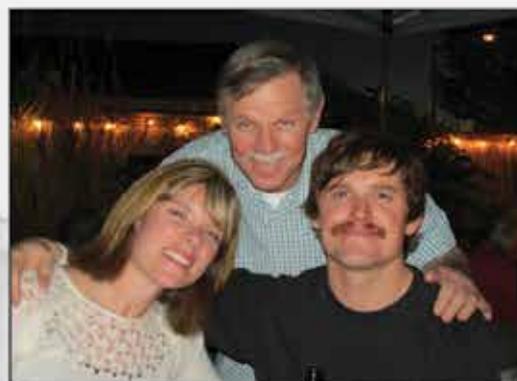
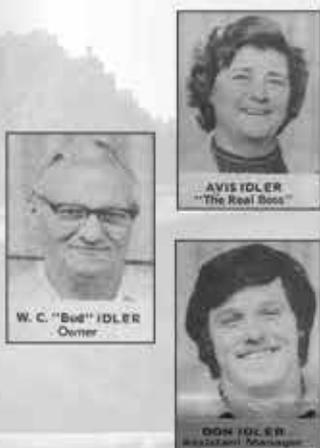
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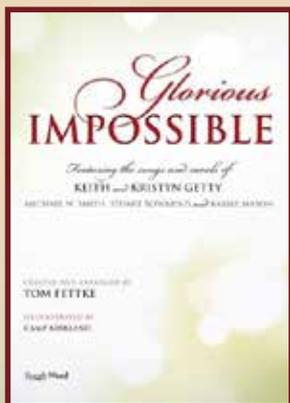
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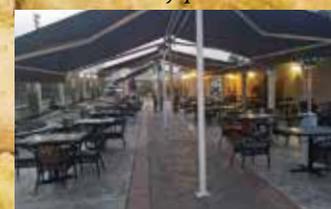
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We welcome submissions. Please accompany them with a self-addressed, stamped envelope. All letters to the editor become the property of the Sun.

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State Parks is a fox in charge of the chicken pen

BY LUCIA CASALINUOVO

I am a resident of Oceano. Lately, I have been attending the meetings of the Nipomo/Oceano local area board for the San Luis Obispo County Tourism Business Improvement District (TBID). I was shocked to learn that State Parks is represented on such a board. Campgrounds or RV parks are not considered lodging businesses as it pertains to the improvement district. Campgrounds and RV parks in the unincorporated county do not pay transient occupancy tax (TOT). Neither State Parks nor county parks pay the business improvement district assessment.

The primary goal of the TBID is to increase occupancy and room nights across all lodging types (motel, hotels, bed and breakfast, vacation rentals) that pay the business improvement assessment along with TOT. Why is State Parks on this board?

The local area boards, as well as the TBID advisory board, are appointed by and serve at the pleasure of the Board of Supervisors. The bylaws of the local areas allow for a non-lodging member as long as two-thirds of the board is made up of lodging owners and/or a representative of a lodging property. State Parks, then, is on the local area board in Nipomo/Oceano solely as a member of the general public because it pleases the supervisors. The employee representing State Parks is not even a Nipomo/

Oceano resident, but there is no residency requirement to serve on the board. How undemocratic that anybody could come over from anywhere and be placed on the board just because it pleases the supervisors!

State Parks is working in the exact opposite direction of what the primary goal of the TBID is: to increase occupancy and room nights across all lodging types that pay the business improvement assessment along with TOT. In fact, State Parks

State Parks is not a friendly neighbor but rather a nuisance.

is in competition with the assessment paying lodging businesses because it offers hundreds of campsites on the beach in the Oceano Dunes State Vehicular Recreation Area with who knows how many beds for \$10 a night without paying any taxes on them! Besides, State Parks gives concessions to businesses that have pulled trailers to the beach for rental by the night and they do not pay any assessment either! All of these people could be staying in our motels and bed and breakfasts and paying taxes to the county. Furthermore, State Parks has been found

responsible for polluting the air of Nipomo Mesa and Oceano beach communities by the SLO County Air Pollution Control District and the grand jury. Oceano residents have been impacted greatly by the operations of the recreation area for decades. Problems are well known: abundant trash, traffic, noise, along with impact on our quality of life and access to safe recreation have repeatedly failed to be acknowledged and addressed by State Parks. Our one small beach and Pier Avenue have become State Parks' personal highway. For us residents and non-ATV businesses in Oceano, State Parks is not a friendly neighbor but rather a nuisance.

And on top of it all, State Parks sits on our TBID's local area board! The fox has been put in charge of the chicken pen.

State Parks is using the Oceano/Nipomo area board for self-aggrandizement and to further advertise the equation that Oceano equals the Oceano Dunes State Vehicular Recreation Area. Oceano is not the doormat to the recreation area. We have plenty of distinctive cultural, historical, and environmental resources to attract tourists if only we had a pedestrian-safe beach! Unsurprisingly, the last few meetings of the board have been held on State Parks' property. ○

Lucia Casalino is a resident of Oceano. Send your thoughts or a response to letters@santamariasun.com.

Word to the bird

The "settled science" of the '70s predicted a coming Ice Age. Of course the lazy press went with the sensational without examination. *Time* magazine used the same cover with a penguin perched on an iceberg to sell the coming ice age in 1977 and then global warming in 2007. I guess they got a three-for if they publish it again, or is that a hat trick—are they still publishing? It was replete with all the graphs and cited the "Maunder minimum." As it became obvious to the fear-mongering scientists that their assumptions and predictions were not coming to fruition, they just dropped the subject. Move on, nothing to see here. Maybe you'll forget our folly.

Then the inventor of the internet found a way to make a buck with global warming. The assumptions and predictions of global warming rolled out with all their half-baked science and in some cases fraudulent (read fake) graphs and charts. What was different was Gore and James Hansen to name two found a way to handsomely profit from the specter of global warming. Both presided over schemes to take money from energy producers and oversee the distribution of the proceeds. Neither one of these scams does anything to reduce worldwide emissions or change the weather.

As the data to prove warming flopped, NASA reported that world temperatures decreased .56 degrees Celsius, .8 degrees Fahrenheit, in the last two years. Yes birds and girls, while all the headlines kept announcing more evidence of global warming in the past two years, I said *two* years! NASA says, "... not so much." It's a good thing "climate change" became the new buzzword. Now, I don't know that I believe NASA figures any more than I believe you can accurately measure the global mean temperature much less predict its course, but real weather, well just look at the past Thanksgiving blizzards and the past two years of polar express deep freezes. That's science you can't fudge.

Dear Canary, instead of parroting (yes, I know

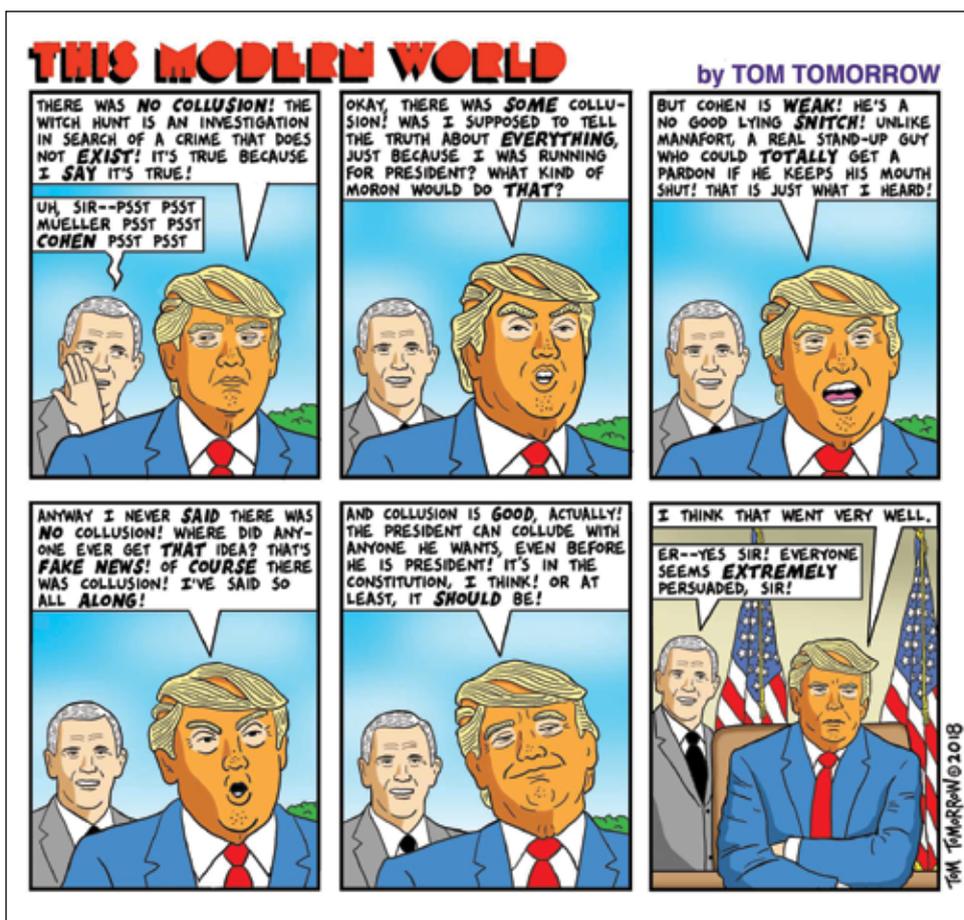
that's a different bird), why don't you wise up or just shut up? Your education has failed you, and your ability to continue being inquisitive with healthy skepticism of what you're being fed by the so-called "settled science" is non-existent. Are you, mixing cannabis seeds in your Canary feed? Whoa! Stop the presses, there really is cannabis in Canary feed. They call it hemp, but wink, wink.

If I thought it would be enlightening, I could reference at least a few books suggesting a coming ice age and send you a set of DVDs where the other scientists tear apart your so-

LETTERS

called scientific consensus. But liberal minds aren't subject to change, let alone bird brains. Oooh, did I say something to offend? I hope so. I know it's dangerous to challenge "settled science." Look what they did with Copernicus. But I stand with my brother. Pope Clement VII wasn't the last pope to know nothing about science.

Jan Lipski
Vandenberg Village



Working together

I've griped before, asking local officials, representatives, and organizations to "do your damn jobs," ("Do your job," Oct. 18), so when they band together and actually do something, I can't complain.

What about an effort spearheaded by the **Santa Maria Police Department** on Dec. 1, which included 25 parole compliance searches targeting known gang members or affiliates. The operation saw nine arrests for parole violations. But the SMPD wasn't alone when making those arrests, they had help from the **Santa Barbara County Sheriff's Office, Santa Barbara County Probation, the Lompoc Police Department, the California Highway Patrol, State Parole, and San Luis Obispo County Probation.** That's a lot of cops!



It sounds like these agencies were sending a clear message to local gang members: We're working together, and we're watching you!

This is the kind of policing that **Santa Maria voters** had in mind when they approved Measure U on Nov. 6, extending and increasing a citywide sales tax to help support public safety departments. It's nice to see a more proactive approach to the gang problem rather than just responding to shootings and stabbings in town.

That can-do, work-together attitude must be in the air, because it's wafted over to the **Central Coast business community** as well.

At a late November event attended by business leaders and local representatives like Rep. **Salud Carbajal** (D-Santa Barbara) and state Assemblyman **Jordan Cunningham** (R-San Luis Obispo), a new organization was announced with the endorsement of chambers of commerce from up and down the Central Coast (see page 6). The **Hourglass Project** (might want to workshop that name a bit more, fellas) hopes to build a "resilient Central Coast economy" by having the area's disparate cities and towns band together in the name of "regionalism."

That's right, folks, we need to stop all the petty rivalry and name-calling (yes, that includes "**Santa Manure**" and "**Lompton**") and work together! Every city has its strengths, and the larger region can capitalize on all of them and attract workers, businesses, and industry.

Santa Maria, for instance, has more affordable housing than areas like **San Luis Obispo** (emphasis on *more affordable*). That's why businesses like **Mindbody** expanded into Santa Maria after they needed more space than their SLO office provided. They went where the labor was, CEO **Rick Stollmeyer** said.

Lompoc has some affordable housing too, but the town is also about to welcome the new cannabis industry. Interested cannabis purveyors, laboratories, and other businesses are looking to set up shop there. For cities like Santa Maria that don't want to touch pot, neighbors like Lompoc can still serve that role.

And areas like the **Santa Ynez Valley** all the way to **Paso Robles** are known as award-winning wine country destinations, which helps boost tourism dollars across the coast. By embracing all of those upsides, the Hourglass Project hopes to market the Central Coast as a whole.

That kind of collaboration can mean all the difference for a small-business owner, especially those suffering after a bad year (see page 8). But I'm hopeful that locals will do their part in coming together and supporting businesses they know are struggling. So much can be done if we just work together. ○

The Canary will meet you in the middle. Send your thoughts to canary@santamariasun.com.



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HOT STUFF

DEC. 6 - DEC. 13
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FIRST CLASS GLASS

A reception for Michele Knecht's mosaics exhibit at CORE Winery takes place Dec. 7 from 5 to 7 p.m. Admission is free. Knecht specializes in glass work depicting animals, landscapes, and more. The show runs through Dec. 31. The winery is located at 105 W. Clark Ave., Orcutt. More info: mknechtmosaic.com.

FILE IMAGE COURTESY OF MICHELE KNECHT

SPECIAL EVENTS

SANTA YNEZ VALLEY

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.

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.

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.

POETRY NIGHT AT CORE WINERY Monthly poetry group with two featured poets and open readings. This month's event features Sun Arts and Lifestyle Writer Rebecca Rose and Ventura-based writer Mary Kay Rummel. 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.

SIERRA CLUB HIKE: BILL DENEEN MEMORIAL HIKE TO POINT SAL The total distance is up to 10 miles with more than 1,000 feet elevation gain. Dec. 16, 9:30 a.m. Free. 805-934-2792. sierraclub.org/santa-lucia. Point Sal State Beach, Brown Rd, Guadalupe.

SAN LUIS OBISPO

AERIAL WINTER SHOWCASE Levity Academy presents this show that features aerial dancers and acrobats performing to the beat of holiday and winter themed songs. Dec. 14-15, 7-8:30 p.m. \$20 for adults; \$15 for kids and seniors; cash only. 805-549-6417. levityacademy.com/. Levity Academy, 207 Suburban Rd., San Luis Obispo.

CENTRAL COAST ARCHERY OPEN HOUSE

Family-friendly event open to the community (children must be age 8 or older to shoot). Free indoor shooting with archery equipment and instruction. Includes a sale on selected items. Dec. 8, 1:30-5 p.m. 805-439-1570. centralcoastarchery.com. Central Coast Archery, 12334 Los Osos Valley Rd., San Luis Obispo.

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

SLOMA CURATED CRAFT BOUTIQUE Shop for handmade gifts. Featured artists are Alice Sennett, Barry Lundgren, David Gurney, Dianna Draze, 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

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 SKAL STROLL HOLIDAY WINE AND BEER WALK

Features 15 wine and beer tasting rooms throughout the village. Dec. 15, 11 a.m.-4 p.m. and Dec. 16, 11 a.m.-4 p.m. \$45. solvangusa.com. Downtown Solvang, Mission Dr., 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.

SOLVANG NATIVITY PAGEANT Enjoy a choir, actors in traditional costumes, and live animals on stage. Dec. 15, 5 & 7 p.m. Free admission. solvangusa.com. Solvang Festival Theater, 420 2nd St., Solvang, 805-928-7731.

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. 7, 6 p.m. Free. 805-875-8100. explorelompoc.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.

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. lompochistory.org. Fabing McKay Spanne House, 207 N. L St., Lompoc.

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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.

SANTA MARIA VALLEY/LOS ALAMOS

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.

HEALING YOGA FOR THE HOLIDAYS Prepare for the holidays with the gift of relaxation and peace. Restorative yoga is a passive, deeply relaxing practice that gives the body a chance to "reset", recharge, and completely relax. Dec. 16, 1:30-3:30 p.m. \$33. 805-680-6542. yoga4mankind.org/event-workshops/. Yoga for Mankind, 130 N Broadway, Suite B, Orcutt.

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.

RED OAKS BAPTIST CHURCH: CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION

Come visit this new church in the Santa Maria area. Event includes food, games, a bounce house, music, and a cookie exchange. Dec. 15, 1-3 p.m. Free. 805-351-2533. Red Oaks Baptist Church, 3600 Pinewood Rd, Santa Maria, redoaksbaptistchurch.com.

SOUTH COAST SLO COUNTY

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.

HALCYON STORE CHRISTMAS OPEN HOUSE

Features free 10 minute readings, complimentary cider and refreshments, a raffle, and more. Dec. 6, 6-8 p.m. Free. 805-489-2432. Halcyon Store Post Office, 936 S. Halcyon Rd., Arroyo Grande.

HARMONY FOR THE HOLIDAYS

Featuring the Pacific Horizon and Gold Coast choruses. Dec. 9, 2-3:30 p.m. Suggested donation at the door. 805-441-1405. pacifichorizon.org. Peace Lutheran Church, 244 N. Oak Park Blvd., Arroyo Grande.

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FILE PHOTO
TUESDAYS, 1-3 p.m. \$8. Oasis Senior Center, 420 Soares Ave., Orcutt, 805-937-9750.

BEADING WORKSHOP Thursdays, noon oasiorcutt.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.

HOLIDAY CHARCUTERIE WORKSHOP A food and wine-centric workshop that includes crafting, learning, and eating. **Dec. 15**, 12-2 p.m. \$69. Municipal Winemakers Tasting Room, 432 Bell St., Los Alamos, 805-245-5524.

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

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

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.

SOAP AND CANDLE MAKING CLASSES Second Tuesday of every month The Parable Candle Company, 125 Union Ave., Orcutt, 805-314-2662.

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

CHRISTMAS WREATH WORKSHOP A wreath making workshop where all attendees will take home a finished wreath for their home. All supplies are provided, including food and drinks. **Dec. 13**, 5-7 p.m. \$69. Talley Vineyards, 3031 Lopez Dr., Arroyo Grande.

FOAM AND WOOD STAMPS Make stamps to use for holiday gift wrapping and more. **Dec. 7**, 5:30-7:30 p.m. \$20. LiIA 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. LiIA 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 coloring. Tuesdays, Thursdays, 9-10:30 a.m. & 1:30-3 p.m. \$20 for one day; \$35 for two. 805-668-2125. lila.community. LiIA Creative Community, 1147 East Grand Ave. Suite 101, Arroyo Grande.

PRINTING WITH LEAVES AND FEATHERS Gelli plate printing with leaves and feathers. Prints can 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. LiIA Creative



SPREADING CHEER

The 2018 Lompoc Valley Children's Christmas Parade takes place Dec. 7 at 6 p.m. This year's theme is "Miracle on H Street." The parade route starts on H Street and finishes on South I Street. The event is immediately followed by a Christmas tree lighting in Centennial Park. More info: (805) 875-8100 or explorelompoc.com.

Community, 1147 East Grand Ave. Suite 101, Arroyo Grande, lila.community.

SAN LUIS OBISPO

3CPS 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.

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.

SANTA MARIA VALLEY/LOS ALAMOS

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

SANTA BARBARA PRINTMAKERS JURIED EXHIBITION Ongoing. smartscouncil.org. Betteravia Gallery, 511 E. Lakeside Parkway, Santa Maria.

SAN LUIS OBISPO

ART AT HIGH NOON: SKY BERGMAN Bring your lunch and enjoy this art appreciation program for working adults. Photographer and filmmaker Sky Bergman will discuss her artwork and documentary *Lives Well Lived*. **Dec. 6**, noon Free. 805-543-8562. sloma.org/events. San Luis Obispo Museum of Art, 1010 Broad St., San Luis Obispo.

CORNERS OF THE MOUTH: FAVORITE POEMS The Corners of The Mouth Poetry Series presents a Favorite Poem Open Reading. Five minute limit per reader. **Dec. 16**, 7-9:15 p.m. Free. 805-903-3595. languageofthesoul.org. Linnaea's Cafe, 1110 Garden St., San Luis Obispo.

HOLIDAY OPEN STUDIO AND POTTERY SALE Features hand textured pottery in a home studio/gallery setting. **Dec. 8**, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. and **Dec. 9**, 11 a.m.-4 p.m. Free. 805-234-0087. standhardtstudio.com. Standhardt Studio, 1463 Oceanaire Dr., San Luis Obispo.

EXHIBITS

SANTA YNEZ VALLEY

FELICE WILLAT: FEATURED ARTIST **Through Jan. 1**, 2019 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.

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.

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

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/.

POP-UP ART SHOW: ANNA GREEN Showcasing Mermaids and Feminine Spirits by artist and yoga instructor Anna Green. Features a live painting demo. **Dec. 15**, 12-5 p.m. Free. 805-627-1443. Morovino Winery, 468 Front Street, Avila Beach.

SHE SANG ME A GOOD LUCK SONG A statewide traveling exhibit featuring the California

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.

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. pismobeach.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.

AN IRISH CHRISTMAS Features an award-winning cast of Irish dancers led by Caterina Coyne, Tyler Schwartz, and Connor Reider. **Dec. 15**, 2-4 & 7-9 p.m. \$36-\$48. 805-489-9444. clarkcenter.org/event/an-irish-christmas-matinee/. Clark Center for the Performing Arts, 487 Fair Oaks Ave., Arroyo Grande.

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.

SAN LUIS OBISPO

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

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

HARMONY FOR THE HOLIDAYS Featuring the Pacific Horizon and Gold Coast choruses. **Dec. 8**, 5-6:30 p.m. Suggested donation accepted at the door. 805-441-1405. pacifichorizon.org. United Church of Christ (Congregational) of San Luis Obispo, 11245 Los Osos Valley Rd., 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.

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.

SLO-MADE HOLIDAY FAIRE Featuring more than 30 vendors, kids crafts and activities, tours, treats, and more. **Dec. 8**, 11 a.m.-3 p.m. Free. 805-242-1285. slomakerspace.com. SLO MakerSpace, 81 Higuera St., Ste. 160 and 180, San Luis Obispo.

THIRD ANNUAL HOLIDAY BOUTIQUE Shop for unique holiday gifts and support the CL Smith PTA and local vendors. Hand crafted gifts for sale include candles, glass and paper art, hand-stamped metals, steampunk jewelry, purses, greenery bouquets, gift wrapping, refreshments, and free children's crafts. **Dec. 14**, 4-8 p.m. Free; a percentage of sales is donated to the PTA. 707-331-2408. C.L. Smith Elementary School, 1375 Balboa St., San Luis Obispo.

VEGAN HOLIDAY BRUNCH BUFFET A special vegan feast from Southern Fried Vegan. Beer, cider, wine, kombucha, mimosas, and manmosas will be available. **Dec. 16**, 12-3 p.m. \$24 (single trip); \$36 (all you can eat). 805-868-7133. 7SistersBrewing.com. 7Sisters Brewing Company, 181 Tank Farm Rd. Suite 110, San Luis Obispo.





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



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



Cuesta Jazz Ensembles
FRIDAY, DECEMBER 7
 CPAC at Cuesta College



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



SLO Blues Baseball
2019 SEASON PASSES
 Sinsheimer Stadium



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



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



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



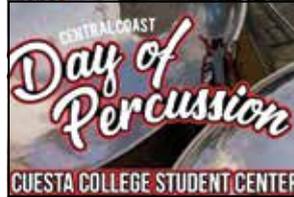
Cubs + Crafts
FRIDAY, DECEMBER 7
 Zest it Up Studio



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



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



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



Beer Yoga
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 9
 Naughty Oak Brewing Co.



Cocktail Party Workshop
MONDAY, DECEMBER 10
 Zest it Up Studio



Combopalooza
TUESDAY, DECEMBER 11
 CPAC at Cuesta College



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

MY805TIX BOX OFFICE IS NOW OPEN

We're happy to announce **Boo Boo Records** is the official **Box Office** for My805Tix events! Boo Boo's is located at 978 Monterey Street in SLO. Call them at 805-541-0657.



Chamber Music Concert
WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 12
 CPAC at Cuesta College



Christmas Wreath Workshop
THURSDAY, DECEMBER 13
 Zest it Up Studio



Wine & Dine
SATURDAY, DECEMBER 15
 Wild Coyote Estate Winery



Holiday Charcuterie Workshop
SATURDAY, DECEMBER 15
 Municipal Winery, Los Alamos



Soy Candle Making Workshop
TUESDAY, DECEMBER 18
 Zest it Up Studio



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



2019 NYE Bash
MONDAY, DECEMBER 31
 Pavilion on the Lake



Central Coast Aquarium inter Break Camp
DAYS VARY: JANUARY 2-11
 Central Coast Aquarium



SLO Jewish Film Festival
SAT & SUN, JANUARY 5-6
 The Palm Theater



Winter Wine Stroll
SATURDAY, JANUARY 19
 Downtown Paso Robles



Calendar Girls
FRI-SUN, JANUARY 25-27
 By the Sea Productions



Weaving Workshop
SATURDAY, JANUARY 26
 Zaca Mesa Winery



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



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



The Co-Creation Project III: An Evening of Art & the Music of Robert Theis
SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 10
 CPAC at Cuesta College



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



Watercolor & Wine Workshop
SUNDAY, MARCH 24
 Zaca Mesa Winery

Interested in selling tickets with My805Tix? Contact us for a demo today! info@My805Tix.com

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Indian photographs of Dugan Aguilar. ongoing 415-525-1553. exhibitenvoy.org. DANA Adobe Cultural Center, 671 S. Oakglen Ave., Nipomo, 805-929-5679.

SAN LUIS OBISPO

CENTRAL COAST PRINTMAKERS: BANNER
A collaborative exhibition featuring contemporary prints made by members of the Central Coast Printmakers Group, a membership group of SLOMA. **Dec. 7-Jan. 27** Free. 805-543-8562. sloma.org. San Luis Obispo Museum of Art, 1010 Broad St., San Luis Obispo.

CLAY X 3 Featuring ceramic artists Ariane Leiter, Maria Teresa Rode and Catherine Schmid-Maybach. Their work reflects the deep roots of ceramic sculpture in modern and contemporary California art. **Dec. 14-Jan. 20** Free. 805-543-8562. sloma.org. San Luis Obispo Museum of Art, 1010 Broad St., San Luis Obispo.

LIGHT FROM A DARK ROOM: PHOTOGRAPHY BY MARTA PELUSO Contains black-and-white gelatin photographs made using film as well as digital color photography. This exhibition reflects the evolution of Marta Peluso's art over time and includes new as well as older images that have been revisited. **Dec. 14-Jan. 27** Free. 805-543-8562. sloma.org. San Luis Obispo Museum of Art, 1010 Broad St., San Luis Obispo.

MARK TRIBE: NEW NATURE An ongoing project that combines landscape photography and structural film with archival audiovisual recordings of wild landscapes. Tuesdays-Saturdays, 5-7 p.m. **through Dec. 7** Free. 805-756-1571. artgallery.calpoly.edu. Cal Poly University Art Gallery, Cal Poly Art & Design, 1 Grand Ave., San Luis Obispo, 93407-0321, San Luis Obispo.

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 Ralphe 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.

ADVANCED IMPROV CLASS SHOW AND JAM
The advanced improv class will be performing their graduation show followed by an improv jam featuring numerous members of Central Coast Comedy Theater. **Dec. 11**, 8-10 p.m. Buffalo Pub And Grill,

PHOTO COURTESY OF REBECCA ROSE



REBECCA READS!

Sun Arts and Lifestyle Writer Rebecca Rose (pictured) and Ventura-based writer Mary Kay Rummel are the two featured poets of CORE Winery's next open poetry reading on Dec. 8 at 7:30 p.m. The winery is located at 105 W. Clark Ave., Orcutt. More info: (805) 937-1600 or corewine.com.

717 Higuera St., San Luis Obispo, 805-544-5515.

ANNE OF GREEN GABLES Marilla and her brother Matthew hoped to adopt a boy to work on their farm. But the orphanage sends a girl, Anne, by mistake. Directed by John Battalino. **Through Dec. 16** \$15-\$20. By The Sea Productions, 545 Shasta Ave., Morro Bay, 805-776-3287, bytheseaproductions.org.

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. pacsls.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.

THE SNOW QUEEN Based on the Hans Christian Andersen tale. Presented by Ballet Theatre SLO. **Dec. 14, 7** p.m., **Dec. 15, 7** p.m. and **Dec. 16, 2** p.m. \$28-\$48. pacsls.org. Performing Arts Center, 1 Grand Ave., San Luis Obispo, 756-4849.

CULTURE & LIFESTYLE

LECTURES & LEARNING

LOMPOC/VANDENBERG

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

SANTA MARIA VALLEY/LOS ALAMOS

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

TAROT 101: THE MINOR ARCANA The first series of classes on the Tarot AnnKathleen developed 4 years ago where she focuses on the numbered and court cards within the 4 suits. Thursdays, 6:30-8:30 p.m. through Jan. 3 \$100. 805-598-1509. divining.weebly.com. Divine Inspiration, 947 E Orange St, Santa Maria.

CLUBS & MEETINGS

SANTA MARIA VALLEY/LOS ALAMOS

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

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

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

SANTA MARIA TOASTMASTERS WEEKLY MEETING
Toastmasters International is a worldwide nonprofit educational organization that empowers individuals to become more effective communicators and leaders. Tuesdays, 6:30-8 p.m. 805-264-6722. santamaria.toastmastersclubs.org/. Toyota of Santa Maria, 700 E Beteravia Rd., Santa Maria.

TEENS ANIME CLUB Club for teens that are interested in anime and manga **Dec. 14**, 4:30-5:30 p.m. Free. 805-925-0994. Santa Maria Public Library, 421 S. McClelland St., Santa Maria.

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

717 Higuera St., San Luis Obispo, 805-544-5515. 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

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

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

CREATE & LEARN

SANTA MARIA VALLEY/LOS ALAMOS

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

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

MIND & BODY

SANTA MARIA VALLEY/LOS ALAMOS

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.

FREE YOGA CLASS WITH STACI AND TEACHER'S TRAINING Q/A Includes info on a 200 hour Yoga Alliance certification, which gives students the credentials to teach yoga in all settings. **Dec. 15**, 3-4:30 p.m. Free. 805-680-6542. yoga4mankind.org/event-workshops/. Yoga for Mankind, 130 N Broadway, Suite B, Orcutt.

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

IN GRATITUDE WORKSHOP A blend of hatha yoga, restorative, and therapeutic. Vicki Forman will lead this gentle workshop that focuses on opening guests' hearts and minds to prepare for the holiday season. The class is free with canned food donation for Santa Barbara Food Bank **Dec. 9**, 3-4:30 p.m. Free. 805-680-6542. yoga4mankind.org/event-workshops/. Yoga for Mankind, 130 N Broadway, Suite B, Orcutt.

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

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

SEVEN CHAKRA CLASS Learn about the 7 Chakra energy system that has been identified within the context of cultural spirituality around the world. Find out how this part of your spirit can be healed and aligned to create balance, energy, focus and stamina. **Dec. 12**, 6:30-8:30 p.m. \$126. 805-598-1509. divining.weebly.com. Divine Inspiration, 947 E Orange St, Santa Maria.

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

WISDOM READINGS AnnKathleen is available every day by appointment for Wisdom Readings with Tarot and Oracle cards. Gift certificates available. ongoing \$95-\$160. 805-598-1509. divining.weebly.com. Divine Inspiration, 947 E Orange St, Santa Maria.

YOGA FOR A CAUSE: TOYS FOR TOTS Join Jenn Posey for a special slow flow yoga class benefiting Toys for Tots. Bring a new, unwrapped toy or a cash donation. **Dec. 16**, 9-10:15 a.m. Gift donations. 805-266-6391. treetopyoga.net/. Treetop Yoga, 2771-C Santa Maria Way, Santa Maria.

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

PHOTOS AND VISITS WITH SANTA Mr. and Mrs. Claus will be in Solvang Park for photos. Through Dec. 8, 12-4 p.m. and **Dec. 15, 12-4 p.m.** Free. solvangusa.com. Solvang Park, Mission Dr. and First St., Solvang.

LOMPOC/VANDENBERG

MESSY CHURCH, MESSY CHRISTMAS
Activities include cookie baking, arts and crafts, games, music, science demos, and more. All ages welcome. **Dec. 9**, 4-6 p.m. Free. 805-736-1271. lom pocumc.org. First United Methodist Church, 925 North F St., Lompoc.

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.

SPIRITUAL

SANTA MARIA VALLEY/LOS ALAMOS

CHAKRA CLEARING AND BALANCING WITH SOUND An evening of relaxation through sound and guided meditation to balance and harmonize your chakras. **Dec. 14**, 6:30-8:30 p.m. \$25. 805-598-1509. divining.weebly.com. Divine Inspiration, 947 E Orange St, Santa Maria.

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

CULTURE & LIFESTYLE continued page 25

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.

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

VOLUNTEERS

SANTA MARIA VALLEY/LOS ALAMOS

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

FOOD & DRINK

FARMERS MARKETS

LOMPOC/VANDENBERG

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

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

SANTA MARIA VALLEY/LOS ALAMOS

GROWING GROUNDS FARM STAND

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

ORCUTT FARMERS MARKET

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

SOUTH COAST SLO COUNTY

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

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

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

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

NORTH SLO COUNTY

ATASCADERO FARMERS MARKET Visit site for info on featured music artists and chefs. Wednesdays, 3-6 p.m. Free. visitatascadero.com. Sunken Gardens, 6505 El Camino Real, Atascadero.

CAMBRIA FARMERS MARKET Fridays, 2:30-5:30 p.m. Free. 805-395-6659. cambriafarmersmarket.com. Cambria Veterans Memorial Hall, 1000 Main Street, Cambria.

PASO ROBLES FARMERS MARKET Tuesdays, 3-6 p.m. northcountyfarmersmarkets.com. Paso Robles Farmers Market, Spring and 11th St., Paso Robles.

TEMPLETON FARMERS MARKET Saturdays, 9 a.m.-12:30 p.m. northcountyfarmersmarkets.com. Templeton Park, 550 Crocker St., Templeton.

NORTH COAST SLO COUNTY

BAYWOOD FARMERS MARKET Mondays, 2-4:30 p.m. northcountyfarmersmarkets.com. Baywood Farmers Market, Santa Maria and 2nd St., Los Osos.

MAIN STREET MARKET Saturdays, 2:30-6 p.m. Free. 805-772-4467. Morro Bay Chamber of Commerce, 695 Harbor St., Morro Bay, morrobaychamber.org.

EVENTS

SAN LUIS OBISPO

THE BLACK GLASS CHALLENGE AT CROMA VERA Test your blind tasting skills. Winners get their names listed on the front board and posted to social media. Fridays, 11 a.m.-6 p.m. \$12. 805-946-1685. cromavera.com/events/. Croma Vera Wines, 3592 Broad St., Ste. 106, San Luis Obispo.

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

GEEKS WHO DRINK PUB QUIZ 8 rounds of audio, visual, and live hosted trivia with prizes. Thursdays, 6:30-8:30 p.m. Free. 805-868-7133. 7sistersbrewing.com. 7Sisters Brewing Company, 181 Tank Farm Rd. Suite 110, San Luis Obispo.

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

TRIVIA Hosted by Brain Stew Trivia. German food from Beda's Biergarten available 6 to 8 p.m. Wednesdays, 7-9 p.m. Bang The Drum Brewery, 950 Orcutt Road, San Luis Obispo, 242-8372, bangthedrumbrewery.com/.

WINE AND DINE Features four farm-to-table courses. Seating is limited. Dec. 15, 6-9 p.m. \$80. 805-610-1311. Wild Coyote Winery, 3775 Adelaida Rd., Paso Robles. ○



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Live Music

SANTA YNEZ VALLEY

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.

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

THE DYLAN ORTEGA BAND As part of KRAZY Country Honky-Tonk Thursday. Thursdays, 7 p.m. Maverick Saloon, 3687 Sagunto St., Santa Ynez, 805-686-4785, mavericksaloon.org.

THE EXCELLENT TRADESMAN LIVE No outside food or drinks allowed. **Dec. 8**, 5-8 p.m. Free. Cold Spring Tavern, 5995 Stagecoach Rd., Santa Barbara, 805-967-0066, coldspringtavern.com/entertainment.html.

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

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

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.

MOONRIDGE BAND LIVE Dec. 15, 8 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.

THE NOMBRES LIVE A blend of rock and country. No outside food or drinks allowed. **Dec. 14**, 6-9 p.m. Free. Cold Spring Tavern, 5995 Stagecoach Rd., Santa Barbara, 805-967-0066, coldspringtavern.com/entertainment.html.

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

PHANTOM PUMPS LIVE Dec. 14, 8 p.m. Maverick Saloon, 3687 Sagunto St., Santa Ynez, 805-686-4785, mavericksaloon.org.

STEVE AND REGS LIVE Dec. 16, noon

MUSIC LISTINGS continued page 28

Melting pop

Complicated Animals bring their indie pop and Brazilian bossa nova fusion to Naughty Oak in Orcutt

BY JOE PAYNE

It's been a nonstop year-and-a-half for Complicated Animals, ever since the indie pop fusion duo moved to California to pursue music together.

Monica da Silva and Chad Alger have played at venues up and down and across the state, da Silva told the *Sun* on the way to a gig in Pismo Beach in late November. The two were driving like they always do to their shows, with their dogs Ju Ju and Penny Lane along with them, heading north. Their upcoming concert, on Dec. 7 at Naughty Oak Brewing Co. in Orcutt, was on their way "playing back" to their LA-area home after shows in the Bay Area, she explained.

"We're kind of doing a lot of back-and-forth stuff," da Silva said. For da Silva, back-and-forth traveling has always been a part of her life. Her father was American and her mother was Brazilian, she explained, and so she grew up in the Midwest, visiting Brazil each year with her mother.

There were lots of musicians in the family, she explained, and she sang and studied piano and flute. She played in a family band and was also raised listening to the bossa nova kings from her mother's youth.

"A lot of the '60s bossa nova, I feel like I was really influenced by that and I've always been really drawn to that," da Silva said. "It feels very organic to me and natural and very laid-back and simple. ... It just makes sense. It's pretty relaxing and puts you in a good vibe or mood."

For Alger, who grew up in a musical family in the Midwest as well, Latin music forms like the bossa nova were one of many he studied as a drummer. Like da Silva, he was raised listening to and studying a wide variety of music, from folk and blues music to the Midwestern indie rock and pop that characterized the area.

"We both love listening to all different genres and kind of taking a little from everything," he said. "It's not like we intentionally do that, but I think we absorb different things and kind of refine them in different ways."

The couple met in Chicago and played in a four-piece band before writing songs together and becoming a duo project. They released their first album, *In This Game*, in 2015, and have a newer single out that was released in January.

The album and the single demonstrate da Silva and Alger's affinity for indie pop, a style with roots in European post-punk that prizes pop-influenced melodies and more danceable and approachable songs than the heavier indie rock styles. Indie pop also combines rock and pop with folk music and blues traditions and may use "found" or DIY instruments like toy pianos or others.

The pair take that melting pot approach to their music.

"I think just being self-produced and combining different things, that's what it's about," Alger said.

With da Silva's own melting pot background, Complicated Animals' sound is really something unto itself. They've dubbed it "indie nova," to



COMPLICATED ANIMALS: Monica da Silva and Chad Alger released the album *In This Game* in 2015 (album photo pictured), stating their love of Midwestern indie pop sounds while blending in da Silva's background with jazzy, bossa nova-inspired originals written in Portuguese, French, and Spanish.

represent their indie roots with the bossa nova influence.

Some of their jazzier originals, which da Silva wrote lyrics for in Portuguese, French, and Spanish, illustrate the "nova" part of their sound. Alger's chords are percussive, while da Silva plays high riffing flute lines that counterpoint the vocal melody she sang earlier. Those songs almost evoke a lost age, like when swing jazz ruled Europe, and musicians like Django Reinhardt and Ella Fitzgerald walked the Earth.

But other songs don't call that far back for inspiration. Their latest single, "Show Me," has a strong 1980s sound, a focus that was more than intentional, da Silva said. The number is complete with fuzzy synthesizers, a strong beat, and dreamy harmonies during the chorus.

There's a variety to the duo's sound, da Silva admitted, but that's only because that's how she and Alger are musically.

"I think it's cool to know a bit of everything and be exposed to so many different things and just see where it takes you," she said. "I think both of us, we love hearing new stuff and we're always searching for new stuff to listen to. And each thing we listen to will inevitably influence us as to what we're writing at the moment, I think."

That's partly the inspiration for their band name, da Silva explained, as both artists bring their entire, complicated background to the stage when they perform. The other part is that they bring their animals, Ju Ju and Penny Lane, along with them on tour, too.

After the Dec. 7 show at Naughty Oak, da Silva and Alger will play their way back home again, but they'll be back on the road soon, they

Catch the show

Complicated Animals performs live on Dec. 7 from 5:30 to 9 p.m. at Naughty Oak Brewing Company, 165 S. Broadway, suite 102, Orcutt. More information is available at naughtyoak.com or socialitefiaskomusic.com/complicatedanimals.

LOCAL NOTES continued page 28

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Orcutt Academy Now Enrolling for 2019-2020

The Orcutt Academy is now accepting enrollment applications for the 2019-2020 school year. Enrollment applications for the Academy's K-8 and high school campuses are accessible online at www.orcuttacademycharter.net. The deadline for applications is 4:00 p.m. on Wednesday, January 30, 2019.

All prospective parents are asked to attend a **public information night**. Additionally, all prospective students and parents are invited to attend a **campus tour** at the Academy site(s) in which they are interested. Following is a schedule of these events:

WEEKDAY	DATE	LOCATION	ADDRESS	TIME
Monday	December 10, 2018	Orcutt Academy High School Multi-use Room	610 Pinal Avenue Old Orcutt	6:00-7:00 p.m. Information Night
Tuesday	December 18, 2018	Santa Maria Public Library Shepard Hall	110 E. Cook Street Santa Maria	6:00-7:00 p.m. Information Night
Wednesday	January 16, 2019	OA Independent Study Program Multi-use Room	3491 Point Sal Road Casmalia	9:15-10:15 a.m. OAIS Campus Tour
Thursday	January 17, 2019	Orcutt Academy K-8 Campus Cafeteria	480 Centennial Street Los Alamos	9:15-10:15 a.m. OAK-8 Campus Tour
Friday	January 18, 2019	Orcutt Academy High School Multi-use Room	610 Pinal Avenue Old Orcutt	7:30-8:30 a.m. OAHS Campus Tour
Tuesday	January 22, 2019	Orcutt Academy High School Multi-use Room	610 Pinal Avenue Old Orcutt	6:00-7:00 p.m. Information Night

Joe Dana – Director of Charter Programs – 805-938-8934

MUSIC

LOCAL NOTES from page 26

said. And any fans they pick up in town should know that Complicated Animals is planning an album release in 2019.

"We've written so many songs, and we haven't had as much time as we'd like to record because we play shows all the time," da Silva said. "Since we got [to California] we've been pretty much touring nonstop and trying to grow our following.

"It's been really cool," she added. "Every time we play somewhere it will lead to more shows." ○

Managing Editor Joe Payne hopes more bands stop by on their way through. Contact him at jpayne@santamariasun.com.



PHOTO COURTESY OF COMPLICATED ANIMALS

INFECTIOUS FUSION: Complicated Animals are touring California with their self-described "indie nova" music, a fusion of indie pop and Brazilian bossa nova, and will stop for a Dec. 7 show at Naughty Oak Brewing Co. in Orcutt.

MUSIC LISTINGS from page 26

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

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

THE TAILGATERS LIVE A blend of classic rock, classic country, and surf. No outside food or drinks allowed. **Dec. 16**, 4:30-7:30 p.m. Free. Cold Spring Tavern, 5995 Stagecoach Rd., Santa Barbara, 805-967-0066, coldspringtavern.com/entertainment.html.

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

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

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

TONY LUCA AND THE CONTENDERS Dec. 6, 7-10 p.m. \$25-\$30. Standing Sun Wines, 92 2nd St., Unit D, Buellton, 805-691-9413, standingsunwines.com.

LOMPOC/VANDENBERG

ARTHUR WATERSHIP LIVE Hosted by the Certain Sparks Music Foundation. The group is celebrating their new EP, The Eclectic Time. **Dec. 9**, 6-9 p.m. Lompoc Wine Factory, 321 N. D St., Lompoc, 805-

MUSIC LISTINGS continued page 29

Christmas Services

Sunday, December 23rd - 9am & 10:30am
Christmas Eve - 4:30pm & 5:30pm

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MUSIC LISTINGS from page 28

243-8398, lompocwinefactory.com.

HONKY TONK CHRISTMAS Featuring Dylan Orteg, Justin Trevino, Myra Rolon, Too Little Too Late, and KTNK Top Hands **Dec. 8**, 7 p.m. Lompoc Wine Factory, 321 N. D St., Lompoc, 805-243-8398, lompocwinefactory.com.

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

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

CHRIS BELAND LIVE Soloist. **Dec. 15**, 7-10 p.m. chrisbeland.bandcamp.com. Blast 825, 241 S Broadway St., Ste. 101, Orcutt, 805-934-3777.

DAVID YARNELL LIVE Dec. 6, 5:30-7:30 p.m. Free. Moxie Cafe, 1317 W. McCoy Ln., Santa Maria, 805-361-2900, moxiecafe.com.

FREE CHRISTMAS JAZZ CONCERT Central City Swing, a 17-piece jazz band, will perform their annual Christmas concert. **Dec. 11**, 7:30-9:30 p.m. Free. 805-720-3840. centralcityswing.com. Unity Chapel of Light Church, 1165 Stubblefield Rd., Orcutt.

JINEANNE CODERRE LIVE A fusion of smooth jazz, pop, and soul. **Dec. 14**, 4-6 p.m. Complimentary. presquilewine.com. Presqu'ile Winery, 5391 Presqu'ile Dr., Santa Maria, 805-937-8110.

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

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

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

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

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

NATALIE HASKINS LIVE Solo artist. **Dec. 7**, 7 p.m. reverbnation.com/nataliehaskins. Blast 825, 241 S Broadway St., Ste. 101, Orcutt, 805-934-3777.

NATALY LOLA TRIO LIVE Dec. 8, 10 p.m. ghostmonsterband.com. Blast 825, 241 S Broadway St., Ste. 101, Orcutt, 805-934-3777.

NOACH TANGERAS LIVE Soloist. **Dec. 14**, 7 p.m. noachtangerasband.com. Blast 825, 241 S Broadway St., Ste. 101, Orcutt, 805-934-3777.

ODDLY STRAIGHT LIVE Performing renditions of '60s and '70s classics. **Dec. 7**, 4-6 p.m. Complimentary. Presqu'ile Winery, 5391 Presqu'ile Dr., Santa Maria, 805-937-8110, presquilewine.com.

SING ALONG WITH THE RIGHETTI HIGH SCHOOL CHOIR Sing along with the Righetti High School Choir. **Dec. 12**, 4-5 p.m. Free. 805-925-0994. Santa Maria Public Library, 421 S. McClelland St., Santa Maria.

SOUTH COAST SLO COUNTY

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

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

LIDO LIVE Live music at Lido at Dolphin Bay. Tuesdays, Thursdays, Fridays, 5-8 p.m. Free.

805-773-8900. thedolphinsbay.com/lido. Lido Restaurant at Dolphin Bay, 2727 Shell Beach Rd., Pismo Beach.

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

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

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

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

SONGWRITERS AT PLAY: MISS LEO Influences include the Grateful Dead and folk, bluegrass, and soul artists. All ages are welcome. **Dec. 12**, 6-8:30 p.m. Free; tips accepted. 805-204-6821. songwritersatplay.com. Branch Street Deli, 203 E. Branch St., Arroyo Grande.

THE WAVEBREAKERS BAND LIVE Enjoy hits from the 1950s to the 1980s. **Dec. 7**, 6-8 p.m. Free. 805-489-9099. branchstreetdeli.com. Branch Street Deli, 203 E. Branch St., Arroyo Grande.

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

SAN LUIS OBISPO

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

CAL POLY FALL JAZZ CONCERT Genres include cartoon music, Ethiopian pop, rock, rhythm and blues, and swing. The selection includes works Led Zeppelin, Tower of Power, past and rising jazz masters, and more. **Dec. 7**, 8 p.m. \$14 general; \$9 students and Jazz Federation members. 805-756-4849. music.calpoly.edu/calendar/. Spanos Theatre, Cal Poly, San Luis Obispo.

CAL POLY INSTRUMENTAL STUDENT RECITAL A free recital presented by Cal Poly Music Department student instrumentalists. **Dec. 6**, 11 a.m.-noon Free admission; campus parking enforced. 805-756-2406. music.calpoly.edu/calendar/. Cal Poly Davidson Music Center, Room 218, Cal Poly, San Luis Obispo.

CAL POLY VOCAL STUDENT RECITAL A free recital presented by Cal Poly Music Department student vocalists. **Dec. 6**, 7:30 p.m. Free admission; campus parking enforced. 805-756-2406. music.calpoly.edu/calendar/. Cal Poly Davidson Music Center, Room 218, Cal Poly, San Luis Obispo.

CENTRAL COAST DAY OF PERCUSSION Features a series of percussion clinics, concerts, and educational sessions. **Dec. 8**, 1 p.m. \$12. Cuesta College Student Center, Highway 1, San Luis Obispo.

CHAMBER MUSIC CONCERT Dec. 12, 7:30-10 p.m. 805-546-3198. Cuesta College Cultural and Performing Arts Center, Highway 1, San Luis Obispo, cuesta.edu.

COMBOPALOOZA Check out all eight combos, each playing their best two songs. **Dec. 11**, 7:30-10 p.m. \$5. 805-546-3198. Cuesta College Cultural and Performing Arts Center, Highway 1, San Luis Obispo, cuesta.edu.

DAVID FOSTER EVANS LIVE Enjoy live Celtic music. **Dec. 11**, 5-7 p.m. Free. 805-868-7133. 7SistersBrewing.com. 7Sisters Brewing Company, 181 Tank Farm Rd. Suite 110, San Luis Obispo.

FRESH PICKED CONCERT SERIES Enjoy live music from a different act each performance. First Thursday of every month, 6:30-8:30 p.m. Free. DowntownSLO.com. Harvest Stage, 995 Higuera St., San Luis Obispo, 805-541-0286.

THE FUNK BEFORE CHRISTMAS WITH WORDSAUCE Dec. 8, 10 p.m. \$5. SLO Brew, 736 Higuera St., San Luis Obispo, 805-543-1843, slobrew.com.

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

HOLIDAY CONCERT: CUESTA CHOIRS AND

WIND ENSEMBLE Featuring old holiday favorites as well as new compositions by young American composers Eric Whitacre and Joshua Shank. **Dec. 9** \$10-\$15. 805-546-3198. Cuesta College Cultural and Performing Arts Center, Highway 1, San Luis Obispo, cuesta.edu.

IN TIME TRIO: BROWN BAG CONCERT A special Christmas concert featuring holiday favorites. **Dec. 7**, 12-12:45 p.m. Free. 805-543-5451. First Presbyterian Church of San Luis Obispo, 981 Marsh St., San Luis Obispo, fpcslslo.org.

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

JAZZ VESPERS CHRISTMAS George Garcia returns to FPCSLC Christmas Jazz Vespers with bandmates Scott Liddi, Ken Hustad, and Darrell Voss, along with vocalist Inga Swearingen. Featuring original arrangements of classic Christmas carols and seasonal standards. All net proceeds will benefit Lifewater International. **Dec. 16**, 7 p.m. \$15 recommended donation. 805-543-5451. facebook.com/JazzVespersConcertSeries. First Presbyterian Church of San Luis Obispo, 981 Marsh St., San Luis Obispo.

LIVE MUSIC AT MOTHER'S TAVERN Fridays, 7:30-10:30 p.m. Free. 805-541-8733. motherstavern.com. Mother's Tavern, 725 Higuera St, San Luis Obispo.

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

PINT NITE AND WILL BREMAN LIVE Enjoy \$2 off pints with logo glass. **Dec. 7**, 6-8 p.m. Free. 805-868-7133. 7SistersBrewing.com. 7Sisters Brewing Company, 181 Tank Farm Rd. Suite 110, San Luis Obispo.

SLO MASTER CHORALE PRESENTS FOURTH ANNUAL HANDEL'S MESSIAH SING-ALONG Thomas Davies, Artistic Director, will conduct the Master Chorale singers and the audience during choral sections of Handel's famous oratorio. **Dec. 15**, 7-8:30 p.m. \$15 general admission. 805-538-3311. slomasterchorale.org/. Performing Arts Center, 1 Grand Ave., San Luis Obispo.

SUNDAY SERENADE Features a different acoustic act each week. Sundays, 4:30-6:30 p.m. Bang The Drum Brewery, 950 Orcutt Road, San Luis Obispo, 242-8372, bangthedrumbrewery.com/.

THROUGH THE ROOTS For ages 21 and over only. **Dec. 6**, 7 p.m. \$5. SLO Brew Rock, 855 Aerovista Pl., San Luis Obispo, 209-417-7748.

TIM JACKSON LIVE Dec. 15, 6-8 p.m. Free. 805-868-7133. timjackson.net. 7Sisters Brewing Company, 181 Tank Farm Rd. Suite 110, San Luis Obispo.

TOMMY EMMANUEL LIVE Dec. 13 The Fremont Theater, 1035 Monterey St., San Luis Obispo, 805-546-8600, fremontslo.com.

WINTER SONGS CONCERT: CENTRAL COAST YOUTH CHORUS CCYC's six youth choirs, Brio, Cadence, Cadenza, Young Men's Ensemble, Vivace, and Advanced Vocal Ensemble, will perform a repertoire of past favorites and new arrangements of music from CCYC concerts over the past 25 years. **Dec. 8**, 3-5 p.m. and **Dec. 9**, 3-5 p.m. \$10-\$20. 805-543-7580. SLO United Methodist Church, 1515 Fredericks St., San Luis Obispo.

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

DJ CORTEZ Dec. 14, 10 p.m. Blast 825, 241 S Broadway St., Ste. 101, Orcutt, 805-934-3777, rooneysirishpub.net.

DJ SPARX Dec. 15, 10 p.m. Blast 825, 241 S Broadway St., Ste. 101, Orcutt, 805-934-3777,

rooneysirishpub.net.

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

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

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

SOUTH COAST SLO COUNTY

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

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

SAN LUIS OBISPO

CONSCIOUS DANCE Shelley Kilcoyne (teacher and somatic psychotherapist) and Kari Stettler (teacher and somatic experiencing practitioner) provide soundscapes, gentle guidance, and compelling inquiry to help support this meditation dance. Second Thursday of every month, 7:30-9 p.m. through Dec. 13 \$15-\$20. 805-550-8717. insightsomatics.com. SLO Yoga Center, 672 Higuera St #200, San Luis Obispo.

COUNTRY NIGHT Thursdays, 8 p.m.-2 a.m. 805-541-096. slograd.com. The Graduate, 990 Industrial Way, San Luis Obispo.

SALSA Dance lesson is 7 to 8 p.m. Social dance is 8 to 10 p.m. Second Sunday of every month, 7-10 p.m. Bang The Drum Brewery, 950 Orcutt Road, San Luis Obispo, 242-8372, bangthedrumbrewery.com/.

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

KARAOKE WITH DJ RICARDO Thursdays, 9-11:30 p.m. spotoneventservices.com. Blast 825, 241 S Broadway St., Ste. 101, Orcutt, 805-934-3777.

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, harryspismoeach.com.

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

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

SAN LUIS OBISPO

KARAOKE NIGHT SUNDAYS AT BUFFALO PUB AND GRILL Sundays, 8 p.m. Free. 805-544-5155. Buffalo Pub And Grill, 717 Higuera St., San Luis Obispo.

OPEN MIC NIGHT AT 7SISTERS For musicians, poets, and comedians. Family-friendly. Performers get a free beer. Sundays, 6-8 p.m. Free. 805-868-7133. 7sistersbrewing.com/calendar. 7Sisters Brewing Company, 181 Tank Farm Rd. Suite 110, San Luis Obispo.

OPEN MIC NIGHT AT KREUZBERG Wednesdays Free. 805-439-2060. kreuzbergcalifornia.com. Kreuzberg Coffee Company, 685 Higuera Street, San Luis Obispo.

NORTH SLO COUNTY

OPEN MIC AT THE LAST STAGE WEST Bring your own acoustic instrument or play on the house guitar or piano. Sundays, 5-9 p.m. Free. 805-461-1393. Last Stage West, 15050 Morro Rd, Highway 41 at Torro Creek Road, Atascadero, laststagerwest.net.

OPEN MIC NIGHT AT DARK STAR With host Rusty Hobbs. No cover charge. Fridays, 5:30-9 p.m. Free. 805-237-2389. darkstarcellars.com/Events. Dark Star Cellars, 2985 Anderson Rd., Paso Robles. O

Arts Briefs

Melodrama unveils new season lineup

Oceano's Great American Melodrama announced its 2019 season lineup, which includes seven productions across the year.

Starting on Jan. 24, the Melodrama will kick off the new year with a production of *Steel Magnolias*, the classic play that depicts the lives of a group of closely bonded Southern women. Plays also include comedies such as *Unnecessary Farce*, a comedy involving a sting on a corrupt mayor; *Treasure Island*, a spoof on the Robert Louis Stevenson classic; *Pappa Pia!*, the Melodrama's own spin on *Mamma Mia!*; *How the West Was Really Won*; *Drac in the Saddle Again*; and the troupe's annual Holiday Extravaganza, (which is currently running through Dec. 31).

The Melodrama is located at 863 Front St., Oceano. For more information, including dates and times of upcoming shows, visit them online at americanmelodrama.com or call (805) 489-2499.

PHOTO COURTESY GREAT AMERICAN MELODRAMA



Santa Ynez hosts Mongol Derby rider

The Santa Ynez Historical Museum presents a firsthand account of the annual Mongol Derby, presented by Michael Turner on Dec. 14.

Turner was the ninth place winner of the annual derby, which features riders from around the world racing across the steppe of Mongolia. The race is the longest and considered the most grueling in competitive endurance horse racing. Turner, a Santa Barbara native who leads safaris all across the African continent, will present his firsthand account of the race and answer questions after his presentation.

The event is free and open to the public. The event takes place at 5:30 p.m. and includes wine and hors d'oeuvres. The museum is located at 3596 Sagunto St., Santa Ynez. For more information, call (805) 688-7889.

Cypress Gallery features His and Hers show

The Lompoc Valley Art Association presents a show by local artists Tom and Joellen Chrones called *His and Hers*, which runs through Dec. 30.

Tom Chrones is a photographer and retired Lompoc Fire Department member who spent several years photographing fire investigations for his career. In his current work, he documents landscapes, architecture, and local scenery in the region. His wife, Joellen, is an artist who works in glass to make plates, vases, and more. Her work also includes fused glass jewelry and knitwear including scarves, sweaters, and purses. Both of the artists' work will be featured together at the Cypress Gallery, located at 119 E. Cypress Ave., Lompoc. For more information, call (805) 737-1129. ○

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

Surfacing

Artist Katie Marie featured at Flying Goat Cellars

BY REBECCA ROSE

Patrons of Flying Goat Cellars tasting room in Lompoc might spot a familiar name behind the new artwork that's currently featured on the walls.

Katie Marie, artist and surfer, works part time in the winery, which is known as a forum for local artists to display their artwork. Marie's work will be highlighted in a solo show at Flying Goat Cellars (owned by Kate Griffith and Norman Yost) running through Dec. 31.

It's another wave in the career of Marie, who has allowed her artistic path to be as fluid and free as the ocean waters she spends much of her time in.

"I always was just fascinated by color and design and pretty things when I was young," she said. "I wanted to know how to make them."

Marie's mother recognized her daughter's and talent and potential and encouraged the young girl to pursue art. She bought her supplies, books, and anything that helped her along the way. Marie grew up in Utah, an environment that wasn't always conducive to the budding spirit of a young artist.

"Growing up I was always a bit of a black sheep in Utah," she said. "My family isn't really a religious family, ... so I kind of always felt like I didn't fit in."

When she started painting nudes, for example, she said people around her were shocked and thought something was wrong. She knew she didn't want to spend her life in Utah. She was infatuated with the ocean, despite never having seen it in person, and California's sprawling beaches and coastlines called to her.

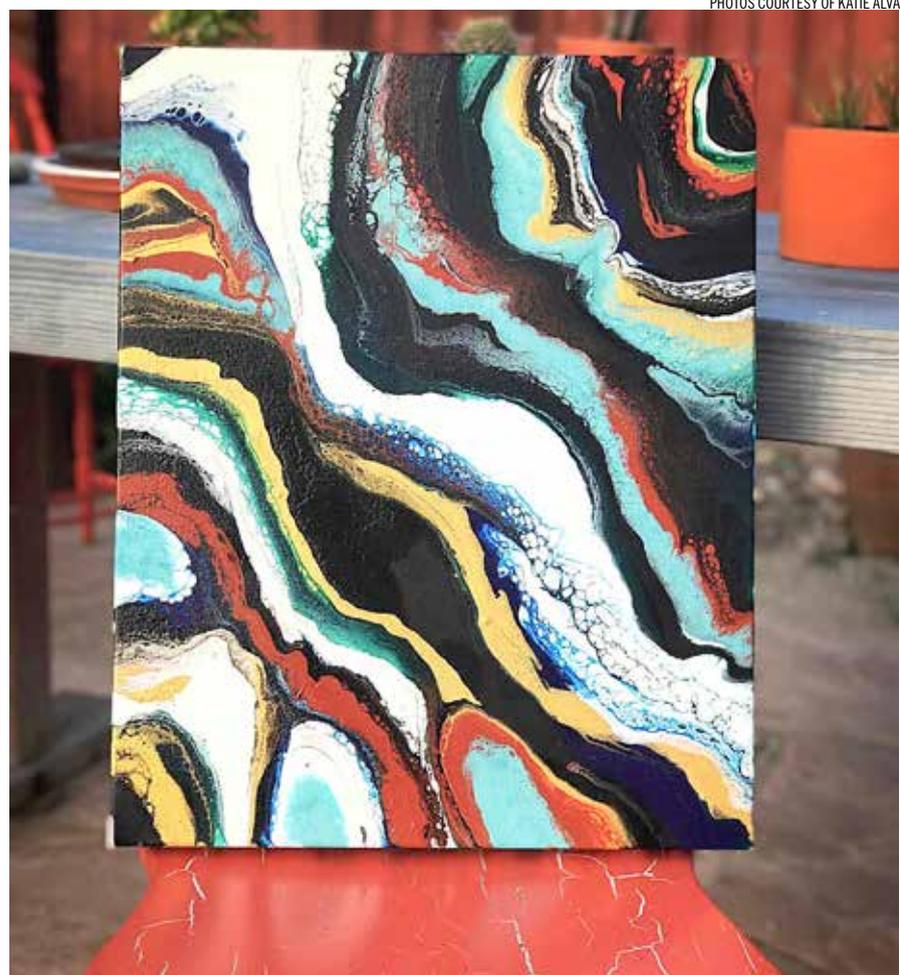
She moved to Lompoc after high school in 2009 and hasn't moved since. Like most young artists, her work took a back seat while she tried to forge a life and career.

"Some of the things I wanted to do required some space for me," she said. "And I just didn't have it. So things got put in boxes, and it got put on hold for a few years."

A few years later, after a divorce, she thought it was time to revisit. Living her life the way she had been, she explained, wasn't making her happy. She decided to use her artwork as a motivational tool and began to pull her supplies out of the boxes.



WATERWORLD: Flying Goat Cellars features the artwork of Katie Marie, a surfer and artist who works at the winery. Marie's artwork features her unique interpretations of nature such as the ocean and surrounding vistas.



SURF'S UP: Katie Marie's artwork incorporates many elements of her love of the ocean and surfing. She said learning to surf and becoming part of a thriving community of surfers helped her find her voice as an artist.

But it wasn't just art that was a transformative aspect of Marie's life. Surfing played a major role not just in her daily life but also in her artwork. She started surfing with a few friends from work, a day she describes as comically catastrophic.

"At first I was kind of afraid of the ocean," she said.

"But then I tried it and I was addicted. I didn't really 'surf,' the first time. No one does. I got thrashed around."

To anyone else it probably looked miserable. But Marie was determined to master the sport. The next day she bought a wetsuit and promised herself she would get good at it.

A community forum led her to the Salt Water Divas, a network of women from all walks of life bound by their passion for surfing. Marie said surfing quickly became an inspiration for her art.

"With painting being so fluid and water being so fluid, that's how I made that connection," she explained. "With surfing, you're under water a lot. There are different colors and the light is coming through ... there's all this chaos happening."

The convergence of the fear of being trapped underwater with the overwhelming beauty of the scene is what makes so much of Marie's artwork distinct. She has a firm grasp on color and light, while being able to capture the chaos of spinning into the abyss of an infinite ocean.

"It can be calm and pretty and shimmery and blue," she said. "But other times it is black and frightening. The power of the ocean is a humbling thing. You have to respect it."

Her preferred medium at the moment is acrylic, and she tends to approach each piece with a simple idea, such as a color palette or a shape she wants to create. Marie said her pieces never turn out the way she initially envisions them because she prefers to let her work take a more organic path.

"You have to lose that sense of control that people tend to want to hold on to," she said. "With the fluid art, you really don't have control as much as you think you do. That's what makes it so relaxing."

As a local and emerging artist, Marie said she's thankful for non-conventional arenas such as wineries for giving space to her and others like her.

"I love that wineries want to take on local artists and put on exhibits," she said. "It feels like more of a community, where people help each other and promote each other. I think it's fantastic." ○

Arts and Lifestyle Writer Rebecca Rose is washed up. Contact her at rrose@santamariasun.com.

IMAGE COURTESY OF MARILYN BENSON



UNPEARABLE: Marilyn Benson's *Juicy Fruit* is a strong example of the artist's mastery of Renaissance era techniques. Her painting is part of the current show at the Santa Maria Public Airport District.

Eclectic gathering

Artwork at the Santa Maria Public Airport District shows diverse group of visionary artists

BY REBECCA ROSE

The holiday season has brought with it a new series of artwork at the Santa Maria Public Airport, with a lot of new pieces from local artists.

The show is curated by the Valley Art Gallery in Orcutt and features many of the nonprofit's members. One of the first things I was immediately impressed by was the sculpture work of Shamrock Acosta. (Look for his pieces in the glass case.) Acosta is doing a lot of fun things with found materials, especially vintage audio/radio equipment. Acosta's work has echoes of Isaac Asimov, an examination of a future world as envisioned by scientists 70 years ago.

Every one of Acosta's pieces has its own sad and beautiful story to tell—an attempt to create life out of the wreckage of human existence. These creatures seem to have molded themselves, desperately trying to piece together their own vision of humanity in an effort to survive human recklessness. I am excited to see more of Acosta's work and glad that it has such a prominent public arena for display.

Another artist whose work stands out is Suzanne Rynders. Her *After Glow, Morro Bay*, an oil painting, is a nice departure from the traditional landscapes of the famed Morro Rock. Bathed in an eerie orange light, Rynders uses a strong palette of simple colors, experimenting with gradation and light in a whimsical and retro style.

Marilyn Benson, one of my favorite local painters, is represented with a captivating still life entitled *Juicy Fruit*. Benson's work always has a hint of Renaissance technique and style, and the painting of the three pears is no exception. I love when artists focus on simple subject matter as a way to highlight their technique, and Benson is a master of this.

The trio of pears presents an interesting dynamic in shape and how they each affect the lighting. Benson chooses to tell

her story through light, creating dramatic shifts in tone and brush technique, playing off the elaborate juxtapositions in light and dark. It's a captivating piece that stands out, despite its humble subject matter.

John Card's *Zantedeschia* is a good example of still life deconstruction. *Zantedeschia* is the scientific name for calla lillies, and Card captures the familiar white bloom in a bold way, choosing an extremely limited color palette and sharp determined lines to draw the reader through the space.

Card's work stuck out among the others for offering a bold look at nature, taking the organic into a more structured zone. Another one of Card's stunning pieces features a railroad on an isolated open field next to a red grain elevator. It's a remarkable use of composition and open space, telling a broader story with very few elements.

Photographers are also represented, including Sharon Foster with her *Coastal Fog II*. Her photograph is utterly captivating for its scope and subject matter. Foster caught the coastline of Highway 1 just as a heavy blanket of fog rolled in. The contrast between the dusty cloud of fog and the swirling bright ocean beneath it is rather striking, complemented by the hints of wild fauna on the cliffs.

Public art is an important element of any community, and Santa Maria's airport provides a needed access point to media created by artists from the community. Once again, the show demonstrates the eclectic nature of the creatives who make up the Santa Maria Valley and the unique ways they see the world around them. ○

Arts and Lifestyle Writer Rebecca Rose is mostly made of trash. Contact her at rrrose@santamariasun.com.

IMAGE COURTESY OF JOHN CARD



ALL ABOARD: John Card's elemental portrait of a grain elevator and train is one of many pieces currently on display at the Santa Maria Public Airport through Dec. 31.

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*Annual Pass holders can bring up to 6 guests a day to Los Flores Ranch Park.

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For more information, contact the City of Santa Maria Recreation & Parks Department at 615 South McClelland Street or call (805) 925-0951 extension 2260.

PHOTO COURTESY OF PARAMOUNT PICTURES

Film Reviews

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

CREED II

What's it rated? PG-13
What's it worth? Full price
Where's it showing? Movies Lompoc, 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
 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 escaped evil wizard Gellert Grindelwald (Johnny Depp).
 It is decidedly my least favorite film in the *Harry Potter* universe and 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! My own blood oath to Rowling's work requires it. Potterheads, I recommend you hit a matinee of this one. (134 min.)
 —Anna Starkey

GREEN BOOK

What's it rated? PG-13
What's it worth? Full price
Where's it showing? Parks Plaza
 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.
 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

FILM REVIEWS continued page 33

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

Adoption option?

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. (119 min.)

Glen: This well-intentioned dramedy explores the travails and triumphs of adoption, finding both comic and emotionally potent moments. Pete and Ellie are happy in their lives. They flip houses for a living; he does the heavy lifting, and she does the design work. They're successful and fairly well off, and the idea of having kids simply isn't in the picture ... until Ellie's extra competitive sister, Kim (Allyn Rachel), and her put-upon husband, Russ (Tom Segura), put the idea in Ellie's head. Instead of trying to have kids of their own, Pete and Ellie decide to adopt and begin taking parenting courses with Karen (Octavia Spencer) and Sharon (comedian Tig Notaro), who try to prepare prospective parents to first, foster a kid and then, maybe if everything goes right, become a real parent. Originally, the couple meant to adopt one small child but after meeting three siblings in need—including rebellious 15-year-old Lizzy (Isabela Moner)—they suddenly find themselves on a steep learning curve on how to parent three children they've only just met. Based on director Anders and his wife's own experiences with adoption, the film explores the pitfalls of adopting three siblings, including the potato chip-obsessed youngest, Lita (Julianna Gamiz), and accident-prone and insecure middle child, Juan (Gustavo Quiroz). The film's full of laughs, mostly at the expense of Pete and Ellie, who are wholly out of their element, in part because Lizzy is smart and manipulative, and she really wants her mom to regain custody of her, Juan, and Lita.
Anna: No one wants to take in a teenager. While their younger counterparts are getting placed in homes all the time, foster teens are obviously and wholly overlooked, which strikes Pete and Ellie when they attend a picnic aimed at pairing up parents and kids. When sassy, smart-assy Lizzy catches their eye, the couple is intrigued. Soon enough they learn she comes with a little more than a hefty bag of clothes—little Lita and Juan are adorable handfuls that teen Lizzy has mothered from day one. Things aren't perfect, and while Pete and Ellie can put together a catalog-ready bedroom and fill the bottom of the

Christmas tree to the brim, they soon learn that there's a whole lot more that goes into making a family than that. Added to the mix are Pete and Ellie's mothers, two competitive ladies hell-bent on earning a World's Best Grandma award, and on the other side of the coin is the kids' complicated relationship with their birth mother. This conflict lives in Lizzie, who has stars in her eyes for her mom despite her mom's past inability to care for her kids. The younger siblings are much warier of the woman who is basically a stranger, but in the end, the foster program wants reunification when possible, and soon Pete and Ellie face the possibility of losing the kids they've grown to love. It all sounds kind of sappy, and maybe it is—but it's the right kind of saccharine, sweet and slapsticky, tender, and relatable. When the credits roll, we get to see real-life families of every persuasion living with and loving each other. Not going to lie, I was pretty tear-bleared after this one.
Glen: The two grandmas—Jan (Julie Hagerty) and Grandma Sandy (Margo Martindale)—are both hilarious as they compete for attention from their new grandkids and impart their own mom wisdom on their first-time-parent children. Pete's mom, Sandy, is especially sage, and shows Pete and Ellie how it's done. I also thought Tig Notaro as Sharon was terrific.

INSTANT FAMILY

What's it rated? PG-13
What's it worth, Anna? Full price
What's it worth, Glen? Full price
Where's it showing? Hi-Way Drive-In, Parks Plaza

Her deadpan delivery and polite but strained work relationship with Karen was a subtle comic highlight of the film. Wahlberg and Byrne have great chemistry as Pete and Ellie. They believe most people who adopt have a special depth of empathy, and they worry they don't have it. They're certainly full of self-doubt and discuss how they can back out of the situation. There's something very real about their insecurities. There's also something very sanitized about the story, but, of course, how could a film truly cover all the complexities of adoption in two hours? To add dimension, we see Pete and Ellie attend foster parent support groups, where they interact with other foster parents who discuss their own problems. There's an interracial couple, a gay couple, a single white mom who desperately wants to adopt an athletic black child to guide him to his NCAA potential. You could argue the film



SECOND THOUGHTS: After adopting three troublesome siblings, Pete (Mark Wahlberg) and Ellie (Rose Byrne) begin to have second thoughts.

resorts to stereotypes and broad strokes, but there's so much emotional potency here. In the closing credits, the first photo of parents and their adopted children is director Sean Anders, his wife, and their three Latino kids who the film is based on, followed by a dozen more photos of other families, presumably ones the Anders met during their foster and adoption process. It drives home that adoption is an important calling that creates new families. This is feel-good filmmaking that will hit you right in your tender parts this holiday season. I found it undeniably sweet and satisfying.
Anna: A big selling point for Pete and Ellie is formed when they see Brenda (Eve Harlow) and her adoptive parents, who come speak at one of the support group meetings. It's all inspiration and charm, but when Pete and Ellie turn to her parents in the middle of their own battles, they soon learn that still waters run deep, and picture-perfect families are just fairy tales. The overall message is love; love through the good and love through when you hate each other—choose love every time and you will come out winning. It could be dismissed as a feel-good romp with more stars than substance, but I think this one has more going for it than meets the eye. It really feels like it comes from a genuine place, and learning that it's based on the director's life experience solidified its wholehearted loveliness. The win in this one falls squarely between how sweet and how funny it is. Poor klutzy, apologetic Juan is too sensitive; his sister, Lita, is a tyrant of cute; and big sis Lizzy is an exasperated mother hen who desperately wants the chance to be a teen just like everyone else. This will make you want to hug those you love tight, and strangle them just the same. Ah, family. ○

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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FILM REVIEWS from page 32

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 use 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.

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.

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.

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 packed on a lot of weight to play Tony, a voracious eater with a thick accent.

Ali's breakout performances 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 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 that would serve black clients. There were actually "sundowner towns" in the South where black people were subject to arrest if they were

MANDY

When? 2018

What's it rated? R

Where's it available? Amazon Prime, YouTube, Google Play

It's not easy to describe *Mandy*, probably because it's so many things all wrapped into one. I can say that, as with most movies that tout Nicolas Cage as a leading actor, it's both visually and thematically ... perplexing. But this time, that's a good thing.

On one hand, *Mandy* is a contemporary thriller, pushing the boundaries of visual storytelling and cinematography through color-saturated scenes, captivating settings, and gore galore, all supporting a not at all uncommon getting-revenge-for-the-murder-of-my-girlfriend plot. On the other hand, it's an '80s-inspired sci-fi flick, complete with a monster-filled

forest, experimental synthetic drugs, a crazy scientist, and (intentionally) crazy film quality.

It's like an acid trip through hell in the '80s, but with Cage as your spirit guide. And while saying that aloud may not sound awesome, *Mandy* really is.

I, like many people, don't really think of Cage as one of the most serious actors of our time, largely thanks to *National Treasure* (2004)—yikes—and *Ghost Rider* (2007)—bigger yikes. So when my boyfriend said he "really" wanted to "watch the new Nick Cage movie," I was shocked and genuinely confused.

Those feelings lasted throughout the movie.

The film centers on lumberjack Red Miller (Cage), who lives in a remote forest with his girlfriend, Mandy (Andrea Riseborough), sometime in the '80s. There, in a very cool house that appears to be

made of nothing but windows, the couple spends their time reading, drawing, and having lengthy, David Lynchian conversations about space and childhood, all through a prism

PHOTO COURTESY OF SPECTREVISION



BLOOD EVERYWHERE: Nicolas Cage stars in *Mandy* (2018), a color-filled, '80s-inspired sci-fi thriller, that's a must-see for anyone who's bored of the usual.

of ever-changing colors.

The color use is difficult to describe, but one review I read said watching *Mandy* was like watching a lava lamp for two hours, and yeah, I can see that.

While walking down a dirt road one afternoon, Mandy passes a camper carrying members of a small cult, who follow leader Jeremiah Sand (Linus Roache). Jeremiah sees Mandy, and—despite a total lack of eyebrows, pitch black stringy hair, and a scar running down her left cheek, all of which make Mandy fairly spooky looking—he instantly wants her.

"I feel naked without her," he says.

Cult leader gets what cult leader wants. Jeremiah's followers immediately call for motorcycle-riding monsters (or are they?) to kidnap Mandy and Red, and in return they sacrifice one of their



own members and what appears to be a clay smoothie (we later find out it's some of the most intense LSD on the planet) to the monsters.

The kidnapping doesn't go well for anyone involved, and Mandy ends up dead. Red, traumatized and alone, goes on an insane, vengeance-seeking killing spree that includes a chainsaw fight, very large guns, Cage screaming alone in a bathroom for maybe an entire minute, and blood everywhere.

Although it wasn't a big box office staple, it's been highly acclaimed as a win for Cage and for director Panos Cosmatos, who somehow makes watching a lava lamp for two hours a visceral and wonderful and horrible experience, all at the same time. ○

—Kasey Bubnash

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. (130 min.)

—Glen Starkey

THE GRINCH

What's it rated? PG

What's it worth? Matinee

Where's it showing? Movies Lompoc, Parks Plaza

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. I definitely laughed more than I thought I would. (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

See Sun Screen.

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 WiFi router in their home arcade, Litwak's Family Fun Center, to explore a strange new world: the internet. (112 min.) ○

—Caleb Wiseblood

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

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Kick it root down

Chef Crystal 'Pink' DeLongpré quietly re-enters Solvang's culinary scene with an intriguing new menu

BY REBECCA ROSE

At the top of the new fall menu at Root 246 is a famous quote from beloved chef and television personality Julia Child.

"People who love to eat are always the best people."

The quote is a fitting kickoff not just for the menu but for the chef behind its execution. Chef Crystal "Pink" DeLongpré, the former owner and head chef behind Solvang's Bacon and Brine, is back with a promising new menu and a bold vision for the esteemed restaurant.

Technically she was never really gone. When Bacon and Brine shuttered in August 2017, Chef Pink jumped right back into what she does best.

"It was pretty heartbreaking," she said of her restaurant's closing. "I ended up coming here two weeks after we closed. I didn't really have any downtime, I didn't take any time to grieve."

She said at the time, the only place locally she really had her eye on was Root 246. Luckily, they jumped at the chance, and the result is

PHOTOS BY REBECCA ROSE



YOU GO FOR OSSO BUCCO: Chef Crystal "Pink" DeLongpré's eagerly awaited new menu at Root 246 features a melt-off-the-bone osso bucco made with pork from Niman Ranch, braised baby turnips, and preserved lemon and prune gremolata.

Get to the root of it

Root 246 is located at 420 Alisal Road, Solvang. For more information call (805) 686-8681.

an exciting new menu that does a good job reflecting who their unique chef is as well as the region the restaurant is in.

"When I took over there was a lot of really conflicting flavors," Chef Pink said. "There was nothing from any of the local farms. I was French trained, so I've always been doing farm-to-table, for 20 years. That was the main thing."

Her approach was to wipe the slate clean, rather than approaching each menu item and redesigning it. The process was slow, as to avoid alienating loyal customers Root 246 didn't want to lose. Some small changes started emerging in the summer menu.

But the new fall menu is a true reflection of the new direction at Root 246.

"We wanted a menu you could throw a dart at and everyone at your table could eat," Chef Pink said. "It was really just shaking everything down and seeing everything that fell out of the tree and looking up and seeing something that was really bare. That was easier than trying to change things on the menu."

The menu is captivating, to say the least. Reading it is its own journey, exploring the many ways Chef Pink and the staff aim to tell the story of local food in the Santa Ynez Valley.

It's a celebration of who we are through the lens of the food we eat, and it's refreshing to see Root 246 embrace the ideas behind it.

It features a selection of sharing plates, reasonably priced between \$7 and \$14. The ideas behind the selection of starters are bold and playful, very much the kinds of thing one has come to expect from Chef Pink. She has the uncanny ability to zero in on a particular flavor or food component and isolate it, embracing the core of your favorite food and finding the best ingredients and techniques to really make the tasting notes stand out.

Highlights include the Brussels sprouts, served with toasted sesame seeds and a garlic-tamari sauce; smoked local white sea bass served on rye bread with creme fraiche (which is a fun play on bagel and lox with a shmear); and grilled wild shrimp served with a heavenly peanut mole sauce. The shrimp was a very strong dish; the



SOMETHING FISHY GOING ON: Locally sourced smoked sea bass topped with salmon caviar, dill, and creme fraiche atop rye bread make up one of the many unique starters and sharing plates on the new fall menu at Root 246 in Solvang.

citrusy heat in the marinade played well with the creamy texture of the mole.

The pâté was a genuine star. The bread is made from wild yeast by Baker's Table, based in Santa Ynez. But the secret is the addition of an IPA vinegar that plays smartly with the rye bread.

"When you train in Paris, you better have your pâté game," Chef Pink said. "We're using a company called Minus 8 vinegars. They make vinegars in the same fashion they would make an icewine."

The "beer" flavor comes from a beer vinegar made in the style of an India Pale Ale with a blend of aromatic hops and icewine grapes. It's an intriguing flavor on the palate, combined with crispy shallots and parsley.

The entree menu (dubbed "large-format") includes dishes you would expect such as hamburgers and three different steak options along with some real surprises. The first dish that is a must-try is Chef Pink's osso bucco, which is one of the best I've ever had. It is expertly prepared, made with locally sourced pork from Niman Ranch and served with braised baby turnips (I loved this as an alternative to a traditional starch or vegetable), preserved lemon, and a prune gremolata.

The flat iron steak was hearty, and the twice-fried french fries were exemplary as was the au jus sauce it is served with. It's a dish that feels a bit more casual and relaxed in what could be a fussy environment. The octopus stew was a mixed bag; the octopus itself was prepared well but the cannellini beans with the house bacon came off a little salty.

The absolute masterpiece on the menu is the



IT'S LEGIT: Root 246's new menu features Legit Fried Chicken, a dish made with brined chicken and Yukon Gold mashed potatoes, served with slices of house pickles.

Legit Fried Chicken, a dish it's almost impossible to compare to any other fried chicken. The secret is in a skin that is crispy and well flavored and doesn't feel greasy or heavy. It's served (as it should be) with a helping of dill pickles and mashed potatoes that feel like they were made with the best butter ever produced in the galaxy.

My initial take on the new Root 246 menu is that I love it. I loved everything about it and about the overall changes. Root 246 was always a great restaurant but now it's on the cusp of becoming the best restaurant. My main concerns were I felt a little too much restraint, if anything, coming from this chef whose cooking is so well known and liked. There was only one pork option (and multiple red meat options), which is something I would definitely like to see more of. Chef Pink is renowned for her skill with the other white meat, and that menu would certainly benefit from it.

Also, the price points are absolutely perfect. Keeping price points low eliminates a lot of barriers for new and younger customers, which could be a great thing for Root 246. All of the dishes feel inviting, the kinds of things you would want to share with a large group of friends looking for a fun night out.

It's a great start for a chef who appreciates people like us who just absolutely love to eat. ○

Arts and Lifestyle Writer Rebecca Rose is always down for fried chicken. Contact her at rrose@santamariasun.com.

EATS continued page 36

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EATS

EATS from page 34

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

• Hello, I am now officially on the **Fatte's Pizza** bandwagon. Their pizzas are really flavorful, especially the crust. I usually get a sausage, pepperoni, onion, and black olive pizza (perfect flavor combination for a pizza), but if you want to really see where Fatte's shines, try the **Chorizo Combo** made with chorizo, jalapeños, onions, tomatoes, and bacon. Fatte's is located at **1772 S. Broadway, Santa Maria**.

• Did someone say snickerdoodles (pictured)? Why, yes, I did. And so did someone at

PHOTO COURTESY OF PATTI BAKES



Pattibakes because they are baking them up fresh just for us, along with peanut butter cookies and good ole' chocolate chip. The bakery is also offering special holiday treats to

order including apple bread pudding, scones, coffee cakes, and pies. Get yours at **240 E. Highway 246, suite 109, Buellton**.

• **Tres Hermanas Winery** is now selling a line of **Rose City Pepperheads** pepper jelly. Varieties include **Apricot With an Attitude**, **Sneaky Ghost**, and **Crazy Cranberry**. Sounds right up my alley. Check them out and the wines to pair with the jellies at **9660 Foxen Canyon Road, Santa Maria**.

• You better sit down for this one. **Orcutt Bakery** has a brand new cheesecake: toasted

PHOTO COURTESY OF ORCUTT BAKERY



marshmallow (pictured above). It's a New York style cheesecake topped with a chocolate ganache and perfectly toasted marshmallows. It's like comfort food died and went to chocolate heaven. Pick up a slice at **4869 S. Bradley Road, suite 112, Orcutt**.

• If you're in need of challah bread for the holidays, check out **Good Seed Coffee** for a fresh baked local option. Call before 10 a.m. daily to order or drop in to see them at **1607 Mission Drive, Solvang**.

• **Foxen Canyon Wine Trail's** annual Christmas on the Trail is back, a sure sign that Santa Claus is just around the corner. From Dec. 8 through 13, for \$45, your ticket gets 20, 1-ounce pours of wine from 13 participating wineries all weekend. Wineries will also feature snacks and a free wine glass. Get yours online at foxencanyonwinetrail.net.

• On Dec. 15, **Municipal Winemakers** tasting room in Los Alamos is hosting a **Holiday Charcuterie Workshop**. The workshop will teach the finer points of pairing cheeses; attendees also get a wood and marble cutting board to take home. Tickets are \$69 available for purchase online at my805tix.com. ○

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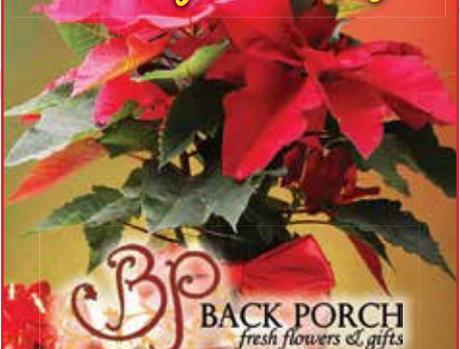
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