

# SUN

AT THE MOVIES



*Basis of Sex: Respect RBG* [33]



## What he saw



*Mildford Zornes' work helped define California landscape painting* [10]

BY REBECCA ROSE



**NEWS** Farms face new overtime law [7]

**MUSIC** Complicated Animals on the Central Coast [26]

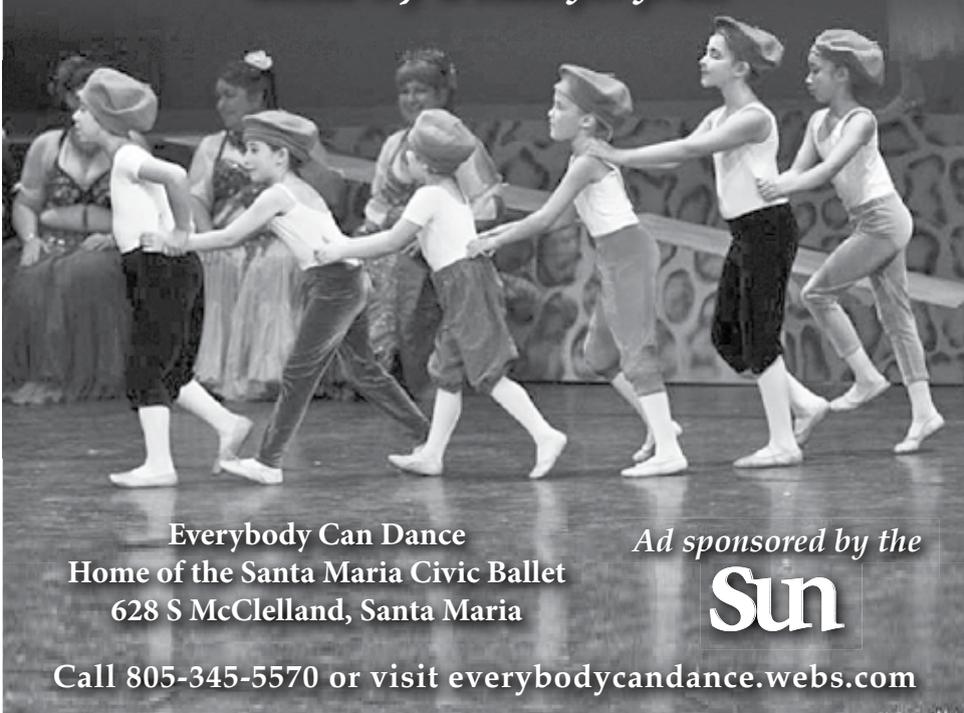
**ARTS** A public way to talk about death [29]

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# Contents

JANUARY 17 - JANUARY 24, 2019 VOL. 19 NO. 46

**C**alifornia Scene Painter Milford Zornes painted almost every day of his adult life. The prolific, influential artist has roots in Nipomo, producing work that highlighted the California landscape. The DANA Adobe Cultural Center is full of Zornes' work thanks to an effort by the DANA's board to bring together as much of the Central Coast artist's work as it could find. Arts and Lifestyle Writer Rebecca Rose talks to family, friends, and admirers to profile Zornes' long life and numerous works of art for this week's cover story [10].

Also this week, farmers and farmworker advocates talk about a new law targeting overtime in the fields [7], Lompoc appoints a Latina City Council member [8], the wall that gets people talking about what they want to do before they die [29], daytrip on down to Six Flags Magic Mountain [30], and get your brunch on in Los Olivos [35].



**LOOKING AT A LEGACY:** Windows fill the new DANA Adobe Cultural Center with light, and the work of Nipomo artist Milford Zornes hangs in tribute on the walls.

Camillia Lanham,  
editor

Photo by Jayson Mellom / Cover design by Alex Zuniga

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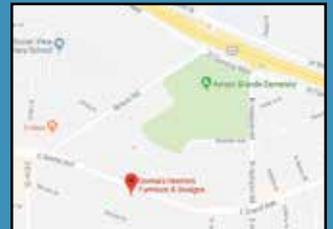
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## Political Watch

• **U.S. Rep. Salud Carbajal** (D-Santa Barbara) announced on Jan. 11 that he requested that the chief administrative officer of the House of Representatives withhold his pay until the government is fully reopened. "I'm standing in solidarity with federal workers on the Central Coast and across the country who are struggling to pay their bills this month and whose families are hurting due to this irresponsible shutdown. If they're not getting paid, neither am I," Carbajal said in a press release. "The president is recklessly holding paychecks for our public servants hostage over his ineffective wall."

• **Assemblymember Jordan Cunningham** (R-San Luis Obispo) will remain the vice chair of the Assembly Rules Committee and co-chair of the Legislative Ethics Committee. Cunningham will also be the vice chair of the Jobs, Economic Development, and Economy Committee and serve as a member of the Agriculture, Business and Professions, Transportation, and Utilities and Energy Committees. "With new assignments ... I am confident our office will continue to be an independent and bipartisan voice for the Central Coast," Cunningham said in a press release. "I will continue to work across the aisle for creative solutions to our region's issues." **Assemblymember Monique Limón** (D-Santa Barbara) serves as chair of the Banking and Finance Committee. She also serves on the Budget, Health, Housing and Community Development, and Natural Resources committees. Limón will also serve as the chair of the Natural Disaster, Response, Recovery, and Rebuilding and the Nonprofit Sector select committees (small committees appointed for special purposes), as well as serving as a member of the Joint Committee on Fisheries and Aquaculture.

• At least two Central Coast legislators are excited about **Gov. Gavin Newsom's** first budget proposal. State **Sen. Hannah-Beth Jackson** (D-Santa Barbara) released a statement calling his proposal "visionary yet prudent." She applauded the new governor on investments in fire prevention and recovery, education, child care, affordable housing and homelessness reduction, and access to justice. One of Jackson's pet causes, expanding paid family leave, was also on the list of issues that could receive more money under the proposal. "This proposed budget also sends us on a path to eliminate our recession-era debt while boldly planning for our future," she said in the statement. **Assemblymember Monique Limón** (D-Santa Barbara) also sees expanding paid family leave time as a positive. Limón issued a statement saying she was encouraged by the investments proposed in the governor's 2019-20 budget, specifically pointing to the investments in forest health and wildfire prevention and response, Alzheimer's research, and "cradle to career" programs for K-12. "Gov. Newsom's commitment to invest in Alzheimer's research is especially meaningful, as I am one of thousands of Californians who has a family member that is directly impacted by Alzheimer's," she said.

• The **Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors** approved the appointment of **Mark A. Hartwig** as the next fire chief of the Santa Barbara County Fire Department. Hartwig served as San Bernardino County Fire District chief starting in 2011, leading a department with 1,065 employees and 70 fire stations that covered 10 incorporated and 60 unincorporated communities. The California State Fire Chiefs' Association recognized Hartwig as California's Fire Chief of the Year in 2017. "Chief Hartwig stood out given his experience, statewide leadership, expertise in emergency medical services, and understanding of disaster readiness," **County Executive Officer Mona Miyasato** said in a press release. ○

## Local organizations assist furloughed federal employees

Just inside the Santa Maria branch of the Santa Barbara County Foodbank's open garage door sat two massive crates, one holding 30 bags of non-perishable food products, the other holding fresh produce.

Two employees stood behind them, offering brief explanations and help to those who trickled in to pick up food, which was being distributed free of charge at the Foodbank's Santa Maria and Santa Barbara locations on Jan. 11.

Those who showed up weren't the Foodbank's typical crowd.

They were local federal employees, who as of Jan. 11, had been out of work or working without pay for three weeks because of the partial government shutdown. With no end to the shutdown in sight, some local organizations are stepping in to help Santa Barbara County residents who are forcibly living without paychecks.

"Regardless of who you are, it's hard to ask for food," said Monica Buenrostro, office manager at Santa Maria's Foodbank, as she waited for more federal employees to show up. "But there shouldn't be shame. We've all been there."

Buenrostro had been helping attendees for nearly an hour that day, and roughly 24 furloughed employees had already come to get food. Some thanked her profusely. Others, including one Santa Barbara Municipal Airport employee, brought unnecessary identification and documentation to prove that they really did have federal jobs. Some apologized, or shyly grabbed the bags of food, nodding and quickly walking out without saying a word.

One attendee, who asked to remain anonymous, said that he has worked at Lompoc's Federal Correctional Institution for nearly two decades. He's still working now, despite the shutdown, but said he isn't being paid.

Fortunately, he said, he had some money saved up. But he has a family of five, and they've gone through the savings quickly.

"Normally I wouldn't do something like this because I have a job," he told the *Sun*, holding up a bag of non-perishables and another of fresh produce in each hand. "But I have to take care of my kids."

That employee was just one of about 50 who attended the Foodbank's distributions countywide on Jan. 11, according to Judith Smith-Meyer, the Foodbank's marketing communications manager. The distributions, which were held from 1 to 2:30 p.m. were thrown together in about a day, Smith-Meyer said, after a representative of the Santa Maria

PHOTO BY KASEY BUBNASH



**A HELPING HAND:** Local furloughed federal employees line up to receive food at the Santa Barbara County Foodbank's Santa Maria location on Jan. 11. The event was the first in a series of distributions aimed at helping federal employees who are going without pay during the government shutdown.

Airport called the Foodbank and asked about any available help for its TSA staff.

Smith-Meyer said it then became clear to the Foodbank that the shutdown is impacting a number of employees in Santa Barbara County, which hosts various federally funded offices filled with federal employees.

The distributions were fairly popular for how quickly they came together, Smith-Meyer said, and the Foodbank will be hosting others as the shutdown continues. Those, she said, will likely garner even more attendees as residents become more aware of them, and the Foodbank has added another distribution location in Lompoc.

Another organization, Peoples' Self-Help Housing, also plans to help those impacted by the shutdown, but in a different way.

The nonprofit, which builds and runs thousands of affordable rental units throughout the Central Coast, announced on Jan. 24 that residents who are unable to pay rent because of the shutdown will not face eviction, and that federally funded construction will continue and be paid for by the nonprofit.

Many Peoples' Self-Help Housing tenants live in federally subsidized housing, and the organization has not, and will not, receive those subsidies from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development during the shutdown. A number of other Central Coast families are working with Peoples' Self-Help Housing to build homes that are being paid for through a U.S. Department of Agriculture program, and the nonprofit's president and CEO, John Fowler, said those projects will continue.

"We're not going to evict anyone because the government isn't open," he said.

The shutdown, Fowler said, is costing the nonprofit roughly \$100,000 in internal reserve funds each week, and is impacting more than 2,500 tenants. As a financially strong organization, Fowler said that Peoples' Self-Help Housing can afford to fill the funding gaps created by the shutdown—but only for a few more weeks.

"At this point, we don't know how long it's going to last, we talk about it every day, and our feeling is that we can go for a while," Fowler told the *Sun*. "We can carry this thing easily through February. After that, things start to get more difficult."

—Kasey Bubnash

## Inmate dies in Santa Barbara County Jail

The Santa Barbara County Jail reported its first inmate death of 2019, after a 52-year-old died of an undisclosed medical condition.

Santa Barbara County Sheriff's Office officials reported that the inmate, identified as Jose A. Curiel of Santa Maria, died shortly after 7 p.m. on Jan. 10 at an area hospital.

Curiel was transported from the jail to the hospital at approximately 7:50 p.m. on Jan. 5 due to a medical condition, and later died of complications related to that condition. A Sheriff's Office spokesperson declined to comment more specifically on Curiel's condition, citing medical privacy laws.

Curiel was booked into the jail on Feb. 20, 2018, on charges of domestic violence,



**JAIL DEATH:** The Santa Barbara County Jail reported that 52-year-old inmate Jose A. Curiel of Santa Maria died due to complications from a medical condition on Jan. 10, according to Sheriff's Office officials.

criminal threats to terrorize, and stalking, as well as two other additional warrants.

Curiel's death marked the first reported inmate death at the jail for 2019. In 2018, the jail experienced a total of two inmate deaths: Alexander Ricardo Braid, 45, of Goleta, who committed suicide in the jail on July 5, 2018, and Henry Acuna, 60, of Santa Barbara, who died in March of the same year. Sheriff's officials said Acuna suffered from "chronic medical issues."

According to data collected by the *Sun*, the jail has experienced a total of 23 inmate deaths since 2000. At least 14 of those deaths were ruled as natural, with many of those inmates suffering from one or more chronic medical conditions. Jail conditions, including medical care for inmates has long been a public concern, prompting the jail to replace the private company that formerly administered health care at the facility. Those same concerns also sparked a federal lawsuit from Disability Rights California in 2017.

NEWS continued page 6

## Weekend Weather

**KSBY NEWS**  
Microclimate Weather Forecast  
**Dave Hovde**  
KSBY Chief Meteorologist

<p><b>Thursday</b></p> <p><b>COASTAL</b> &gt; High 61 Low 56 <b>INLAND</b> &gt; High 60 Low 53</p>	<p><b>Friday</b></p> <p><b>COASTAL</b> &gt; High 63 Low 47 <b>INLAND</b> &gt; High 62 Low 43</p>
<p><b>Saturday</b></p> <p><b>COASTAL</b> &gt; High 65 Low 45 <b>INLAND</b> &gt; High 66 Low 40</p>	<p><b>Sunday</b></p> <p><b>COASTAL</b> &gt; High 65 Low 44 <b>INLAND</b> &gt; High 67 Low 40</p>

The last in a string of storms moves out Thursday finally allowing for clearing and a dry and pleasant weekend.

NEWS from page 5

“This [recent death] underscores the fact that there are lots of people in the jail with treatment needs, and they are extremely vulnerable,” said Aaron Fischer, litigation counsel for Disability Rights California.

The lawsuit is ongoing, but Fischer said the county has been working with the organizations to address concerns and make improvements at the jail, including reforming its medical services.

“To the Sheriff’s Office’s credit, they have tried to work with us to improve conditions, but they are not there yet,” he said. “I’m hopeful that in the coming months, they will make many more changes.”

—Chris McGuinness

## Newly introduced bill would affirm Camp 4 trust status

The 2017-18 Congressional session came and went, and during those two years, a House resolution that would have affirmed Camp 4’s fee-to-trust status with the federal government was not approved in time for the new year.

So on Jan. 8, a new bill with the same wording and intent was introduced into Congress, with hopes of passing through the House and Senate more quickly this time around.

“We’re feeling really confident this year,” said Kenneth Kahn, tribal chairman for the Santa Ynez Band of Chumash Indians. “We’re hoping it will be quick and easy.”

Camp 4 is a 1,400-acre parcel of land in the Santa Ynez Valley that the U.S. Bureau of Indian Affairs placed into fee-to-trust with the federal government in January 2017, adding it to the tribe’s reservation and taking it out of the Santa Barbara County’s jurisdiction.

After the acquisition, Congress forced the county to enter into negotiations with the Chumash regarding development on the land, and the Board of Supervisors officially entered into an agreement with the tribe on Oct. 31, 2017. The Chumash hope to build 143 housing units and a tribal administrative building for members on a portion of the land, Kahn said, while keeping the rest for agriculture or environmental open space.

Although the agreement clearly outlines county-approved dos and don’ts for tribal development on Camp 4, the acquisition has its fair share of vocal opponents. Some of those opponents, Kahn said, have made it difficult for the tribe to begin building, filing suits and restraining orders that halt construction nearly every time the Chumash “put a shovel in the ground.”

Rather than fighting the seemingly endless stream of legal battles, Kahn said the tribe has decided to hold off on construction until the land’s trust status is officially affirmed by Congress.

“This affirmation bill would be important just to give us the opportunity to build today instead of waiting until 2023,” Kahn said. “It’s a tough process.”

Still, Kahn said most of the hard work is out of the way. The last bill, House Resolution

1157, unanimously passed the House and the Senate Committee on Indian Affairs during the 2018-19 legislative session. Since the new legislation, House Resolution 317, is the same, Kahn expects it to make its way to the Senate more quickly this session.

U.S. Rep. Salud Carbajal (D-Santa Barbara) co-authored the new affirmation bill, and Kahn said he’s glad to see a representative of the Santa Ynez Valley supporting the Chumash.

Carbajal said in a statement that he had concerns over previous versions of legislation regarding Camp 4, because an agreement between the county and Chumash wasn’t signed until after the original bills had already been written. Now, Carbajal said, it’s a different story.

“Given that their final agreement was incorporated into this legislation, which prohibits gaming on the tribe’s newly acquired land and addresses their housing needs,” he wrote, “I fully support its passage.”

—Kasey Bubnash

## Lompoc issues occupancy certificate to cannabis dispensary

A planned commercial cannabis dispensary is one step closer to opening its doors in the city of Lompoc.

On Jan. 11, the city issued its very first certificate of occupancy for a commercial cannabis business to David MacFarlane. The certificate will allow MacFarlane to open an adult use retail dispensary at 423 West Ocean Ave.

MacFarlane applied for a commercial cannabis license from the city on March 14, 2018, and the license was approved on July 16 of that same year. So far, the city has already approved 10 commercial cannabis applications and 16 more are pending.

“The length of the commercial cannabis licensing process varies depending on the type of application, and whether additional information is required of the applicant,” city spokesperson Samantha Scroggin wrote in an email response to questions from the Sun.

Lompoc began accepting applications for commercial cannabis permits in March 2018. According to the city’s website, the application costs \$11,900 per application, plus an additional \$1,100 per applicant and other individuals with a financial interest in the proposed business.

“The commercial cannabis licensing process is new to all of us in the city of Lompoc and in other jurisdictions across the state, but so far, the process has run smoothly,” Scroggin wrote. “Our city has not been able to add staff members to handle the extra workload required of the cannabis applications, but we are processing them as quickly as we can while ensuring our work is thorough and careful.”

MacFarlane did not respond to a request for comment about when he plans to open his dispensary. When it does open, he and other commercial cannabis business owners will also have to pay the city’s recently passed cannabis tax. The tax, approved by voters in the November 2018 election, includes a \$0.06 percent tax on every \$1 of retail sales. ○

—Chris McGuinness



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# Clocking in

*A new law gives farmworkers more overtime pay for working fewer hours, but will they really get more money?*

BY KASEY BUBNASH

Picking fruits and vegetables on a farm is hard work, and so is raising five children as a single parent. Reina Mendoza has been doing both for more than a decade.

Mendoza, a Santa Maria resident, has been working on farms in the area for the past 11 years, tending to and harvesting local strawberries, broccoli, lettuce, and cabbage.

She usually works 10-hour days and spends almost the entirety of those shifts doing backbreaking work. Making about \$11 an hour, Mendoza said she often takes on extra shifts in the fields or works side jobs just to make rent. Promises of end-of-harvest bonuses sometimes don't materialize, working conditions are less than desirable, and the consistently long hours have kept Mendoza away from her children throughout much of their lives.

Her youngest is now 13 years old, and with bills to pay and work to do, Mendoza said she wasn't around much to see the others grow.

But a new law that increases overtime pay for farmworkers in California went into effect on Jan. 1, and Mendoza is hopeful that the change will positively impact her life and the lives of other farmworkers.

"I was talking to some people I know in the community," Mendoza said, "and they're actually really happy they'll be earning more and be able to spend more time with their families."

Mendoza speaks Spanish but not English, and she spoke with the *Sun* through a translator who works with Central Coast Alliance United for a Sustainable Economy (CAUSE), a local organization that frequently advocates for worker rights.

"People are welcoming the new law with a lot of hope," Mendoza said. "People are excited about it."

The law, Assembly Bill 1066, passed in 2016, and it gives agricultural employees time-and-a-half pay after 9.5 hours a day or 55 hours a week at farms, ranches, and dairies with 26 or more employees. Those with 25 or fewer employees will have three additional years to comply with the changes.



**CHANGING TIMES:** A law that gives agricultural employees time-and-a-half pay after 9.5 hours a day or 55 hours a week went into effect on Jan. 1. By 2025, all agricultural businesses will have to pay their employees overtime after eight hours a day or 40 hours a week.

The true capacity of the law will slowly be phased in. By 2025, all agricultural businesses will have to pay their employees overtime after eight hours a day or 40 hours a week.

It's standard for most other employees, but it's a significant change from the 10 hours a day or 60 hours a week ag employees used to have to work in order to get time-and-a-half pay.

Mendoza said that even a half hour of overtime makes a difference. It's money she can put toward her bills, food, and kids, so that she can spend less time in the fields and more time with her family.

"There are a lot of things that could be fixed," Mendoza said, "but this law is really good for now because it will boost the ability to make more money without overworking yourself."

Still, some say the new regulations could actually result in shorter shifts and less money for most agricultural employees.

Although a few local growers declined to comment on the law, Claire Wineman, president of the Grower-Shipper Association of Santa Barbara and San Luis Obispo Counties, said that farmers and ranchers in the area are worried about some of the long- and short-term consequences the change could have.

While the increased overtime for workers may not seem like much, Wineman said that even just a half hour of time-and-a-half pay per worker amounts to a hefty expense, depending on the size of the business and its staff.

"I would imagine that it certainly would

add up for those periods of time during peak season," she said.

Throw in a gradually increasing state minimum wage—to \$15 by 2023—and an ongoing labor shortage, and the cost of paying employees could explode for some local ag operations, Wineman said.

Many growers, she said, are concerned about staying competitive with other popular agricultural areas like Arizona and Mexico, where the costs of labor and doing business are already significantly lower, and employees can work for longer.

Although a 10-hour shift without overtime pay may sound unusual to most, Wineman said the previous and less stringent time regulations recognized the perishability and seasonality of the agricultural industry. Now, because some California farmers will likely opt to send their workers home earlier instead of paying overtime, workers might leave for out-of-state farms, and it could prove difficult to get crops out of the ground and onto people's plates in a timely manner.

Still, CAUSE organizer Joana Barrera said the increased pay, fairer treatment, and respect for workers' rights will help growers retain agricultural employees, and will eventually help them offset the ongoing labor shortage.

Wineman disagreed, and added that while those in the industry have been anticipating this change since the law passed in 2016, other worker-related laws have also been approved, many that will be similarly phased in over a period of several years. Trying to comply with multiple new laws that all have different specificities and timelines is complex, and Wineman said that many growers, and business owners in general, are worried they might miss something in the mix.

Glenn Morris, president and CEO of the Santa Maria Valley Chamber of Commerce, said that a number of business owners in the area are confused about all the new rules and regulations.

"The bigger issue right now is just the sheer volume of changes that keep coming," Morris said. "It's like every year there is a whole new set of changes big and small that businesses have to factor."

All of those changes have ripple effects, whether intended or not, he said, on businesses, their employees, and the community they serve.

When it comes to the increase in overtime pay for farmworkers, Morris said many agricultural employers may instead choose to send workers home earlier, or will find ways to do the same amount of work with fewer employees.

Much of the ag industry is already looking toward technology and mechanization for help harvesting crops, and researchers are working to develop disease- and drought-resistant plants. Morris said he wouldn't be surprised to see local farmers and ranchers investing more time and money in those routes, and spending less on expensive labor.

"My sense, in talking to some of the ag folks around town, is that the individual worker is going to make less money," Morris told the *Sun*. "I think what you'll see is, you know, they're going to send the guy home. They can't justify the time-and-a-half." ○

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**'My sense, in talking to some of the ag folks around town, is that the individual worker is going to make less money.'**

— Glenn Morris, Santa Maria Valley Chamber of Commerce

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# Gilda gets a seat

Tourism advocate appointed to Lompoc City Council

BY NICK POWELL

Concerned citizens crowded Lompoc City Hall on Jan. 8, when the City Council held a special meeting to fill a vacant seat on its dais. After a half hour of wrangling over the appointment procedure, newly elected Mayor Jenelle Osborne opened the floor for public comment on who would serve the remaining two years of her vacated term as an at-large council member.

Resident Sandy Higley was the first to speak. "If this is to be truly representative of Lompoc," she said, "I hope that it would not be another white male."

Spontaneous cheers and applause erupted from the crowd.

Although the mayor admonished the applause, the council ultimately aligned with Higley's wish by appointing Gilda Cordova, a self-employed Latina in the hospitality industry, to serve on the council through 2020.

Despite being a city that has a Latino population of 56.7 percent (according to the U.S. Census Bureau) Lompoc has had very few non-white representatives on the City Council. With her appointment, Cordova joins recently re-elected incumbent Victor Vega as the only two Latino voices on the council.

Cordova cited her Latina perspective as a positive on her application for a council seat. She told the *Sun* that the needs of that community are basically the same as any underprivileged group:

"Education, housing, and job availability are the most important things," she said. "If you're not at the table, your voice isn't heard. That's what I'm trying my hardest to give."

In all, 10 city residents filed applications to offer their voices to the council. With her 20 years of experience managing and renovating

local hotels and several years of volunteer service on the YMCA board of directors, Economic Development Committee, and the Lompoc Tourism Business Improvement District, Cordova was the public's clear favorite and garnered several declarations of support at the special meeting.

Retired Air Force veteran, DUI counselor, minister, basketball coach, and former Parks and Recreation Commissioner Darrell Tullis also received a fair share of support for his message of public safety through youth advocacy and opportunity. Other candidates included a director of nursing, an engineer, a political activist, a former council member, and a runner-up in the 2018 election.

At the council's prior meeting on December 18, it opted to fill Osborne's vacant seat by accepting applications and having each of the four sitting council members award points to candidates on a descending scale from their favorite for the job to their least desired. The merits of the top-two point earners were then supposed to be debated by the council before they voted to approve one or the other. That plan fell apart, however, when Cordova earned 39 points and was ranked highest by every council member except Dirk Starbuck (who ranked her second), and candidates Darrell Tullis and Stephen Bridge, a retired engineer and local committee volunteer, tied for second place with 31 points. Rather than debate second-place tie breaker and run-off procedures, the council voted unanimously to let Cordova's clear point lead settle the matter. The city clerk swore Cordova in soon after, and she sat with council briefly before the meeting was adjourned.

In an interview with the *Sun* two days after her appointment, Cordova said the gravity of her new role was still sinking in.

**'Education, housing, and job availability are the most important things. If you're not at the table, your voice isn't heard. That's what I'm trying my hardest to give.'**

—Gilda Cordova, new appointee to the Lompoc City Council



**SWORN IN:** Lompoc City Clerk Stacey Haddon administers the oath of office to newly appointed City Council member Gilda Cordova as her mother, Gilda Sosa, and sister, Dominique Garcia, offer their support.

"I was really shocked," she said. "We had some great candidates that applied."

Although Cordova recognized many of the problems facing the city—homelessness, multi-billion-dollar budget deficits, and the persistently negative perception of Lompoc's overall prospects—she said she refuses to believe in the poor opinion some people hold of the city.

"There's a lot of great, exciting things happening in this community," she said.

Despite its lack of a major tourist attraction, the city can capitalize on its many, varied experiences to draw visitors and increase revenue, Cordova said. She pointed to skydiving for adventurers, wine country and a gorgeous golf course for leisure seekers, and the city's many murals and flowers for beauty lovers. While she believes tourism will play an important role in turning the city's economic future, she acknowledged that visitors alone won't be enough to solve the deficit.

"It would be foolish to say that any one thing will fix the problem," she said.

Cordova added that the city will need to find ways to use its current resources more tightly and to attract future development. She said she isn't categorically opposed to raising service fees and fines but that she wouldn't be quick to jump on supporting such moves until all other options had been exhausted.

"The people of Lompoc deserve us as council to do our homework and due diligence before we ask them to pay the cost of this deficit," she said.

Concerning cannabis, Cordova said she respects and accepts the previous decisions by the council and the public to allow dispensaries, grow operations, smoke lounges, and laboratory testing in town, but added that she will work to make sure the city processes applications fairly and considers the needs of everyone in the community, especially when it comes to approving locations of such businesses.

On the issue of homelessness, Cordova said she hopes the city will continue with the support-based approach that has so far been used in the recent effort to clean up the large, long-term encampment in the Santa Ynez riverbed. City officials set up a triage center in September to provide the 100 or so people evicted from the camp with temporary shelter and addiction and mental health treatment.

"It speaks volumes about our small-town values that the city and police used a humane approach and showed genuine concern to try and give that community the resources they need to get back on their feet," she said. ○

*Sun contributing writer Nick Powell wrote this story. You can reach him through the editor at [clanham@santamariasun.com](mailto:clanham@santamariasun.com).*

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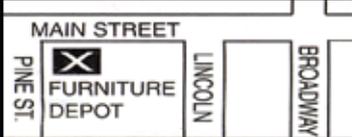
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**TOGETHER NOW:** The collection of Milford Zornes' work at the DANA Adobe Cultural Center is a landmark collection from the artist, known as a prominent member of the California Scene Painters movement. Many of Zornes' family members lent their paintings to the center to be featured in the show.



There is something different about some of the paintings on the wall at the DANA Adobe Cultural Center in Nipomo.

The paintings are all the work of Milford Zornes, a noted member of the California Scene Painters movement, and they seem entirely cohesive at first. But as one progresses through the exhibit, there is evidence of a shift in style. The work seems to drift from realism to more sustained examples of impressionism and then finally into a surreal beautiful type of abstraction.

The common bond they all share is a definite and immediate sense of place. If you live on the Central Coast, you know these images. Here are the rolling hills on the east side of Highway 101; here is the land jutting out from the coast just past Pismo Beach. This is our California, captured by the skilled and trained eye of one man.

For DANA board members such as Alan Daurio, the paintings represent the culmination of a longtime effort to expand what the DANA—which stands for Dana Adobe Nipomo Amigos—is known for as well as to highlight the work of an influential artist.

“It’s a fantastic opportunity to showcase the work of an artist who lived to be 100,” Daurio said. “He was extremely prolific, and we have a record of his work from the Great Depression to the 2000s. We jumped at it.”

The DANA Adobe Cultural Center is hosting a unique exhibit of Zornes’ work through Jan. 27. In August, the center put out a request to the general public to ask if it could borrow Zornes’ paintings to be featured at the museum. The exhibit, which now contains dozens of his paintings made over a span of 80 years, gives the community an opportunity to learn more about the painter as well as the impact he and his work had on the art world and the California art community.

For those who knew the artist personally, the exhibit tells a story of a man who forged a jagged path to the art world, surviving as a working artist during the Great Depression, painting art in Asia for the Army in World War II, and eventually becoming one of the most successful and influential landscape artists to emerge from California. For others just getting to know his work and life, the paintings tell a story of a man utterly devoted to his art and the heartbreaking realities he faced at the end of his life.

# The vision

*Milford Zornes’ iconic California landscapes tell the story of a life devoted to painting*

BY REBECCA ROSE PHOTOS BY JAYSON MELLOM

## Depth and breadth

Today, the sleek halls of the DANA Adobe Cultural Center are lit by massive beams of golden sunlight from the floor-to-ceiling windows. Examples of Zornes’ work fill the walls. Many were donated by family members, including Hal and Marie Baker, Zornes’ daughter. They represent an effort by the DANA board to bring together as much of Zornes’ work as they could find, thanks to an outreach effort started in 2017.

Daurio, a longtime DANA board member and docent, said the Bakers were interested in showcasing Zornes’ work after the seeing the new cultural center, which opened in May 2018 as part of a \$14 million expansion project.

“They saw the potential for hosting an exhibit,” Daurio said. “We thought it would be something people would connect to, considering the subject matter and scope of the work.”

Daurio said the DANA Cultural Center was working to expand beyond being known as just a showcase for the adobe, but as a center where people could come and explore other aspects of local culture or participate in events.

For DANA board member Rudy Stowell, the importance of the Zornes exhibit is to highlight an influential artist with roots in Nipomo whose work also featured prominent aspects of the region, including the adobe and surrounding scenery. He said he was surprised at just how much work the artist had done locally.

“I had heard his name over the years, but I had no idea the depth of it,” Stowell said. “So for me it was an eye opener.”

## His own path

Although he isn’t an artist, Hal Baker learned a lot from Zornes.

“He gave me a view into something totally different,” Baker said. “I’m from a very blue collar family, I don’t know anything about art. I never tried to paint or draw or anything. So it was a completely different world for me.”

Baker married Zornes’ daughter and only child, Maria, in 1966. Today Baker is the manager of Zornes Art LLC, which oversees the painter’s estate and works to preserve his legacy. Baker is also the author of *Happiness is Warm Color in the Shade*, a thorough biography of Zornes and his extensive paintings.

“[Zornes] was always focused on his work,” Baker said. “I guess that’s probably the best thing I can say. He got up in the morning and worked all day, sometimes until 10 or 11 o’clock at night. He was very focused on art.”

When Zornes was born, Baker said, his mother looked at her newborn child and announced that he would one day become a famous artist. She would eventually be proven correct, although her son would find his own very distinct way of getting there.

That path took Zornes into many different professions and all across the globe. He studied architecture. He tried his hand at photography. He dabbled with being a writer and a journalist. He moved around, trying different jobs, almost always eventually finding himself dispirited with any formal structure he encountered.

It was in 1931 when Zornes made what was perhaps his most important change. He left the art institute in Pasadena and went to Pomona College. It was here that he met Millard Sheets, perhaps the most well known member of what was at the time an emerging group of landscape artists who would be collectively known as the

California Scene Painters.

The California Scene Painters was a group of painters, many of them watercolorists, whose work celebrated the natural scenery and everyday life in the Golden State. The movement thrived from the 1920s through the 1960s and featured acclaimed artists such as Sheets, Phil Dike, Elsie Palmer Payne, Doug Kingman, Rex Brandt, and Zornes, who found his calling at Pomona working with Sheets.

“By then he knew art was what he wanted to do,” Baker said. “Sheets was just six months older and was already established by the time Milford got to Pomona in 1931. Milford thought if he could do this, so can I.”

He took classes with Sheets and quickly got to know him and the other group of emerging artists in the California Scene Painters group. Zornes, following in his friends’ and colleagues’ footsteps, rose up in the scene fast, becoming a well-established member of the collective.

“They all got to know each other,” Baker said. “They would all go to each other’s homes for parties and dinners. There was a lot of camaraderie. They talked about painting and what they did. It was really an exciting time for [Zornes] to be associated with some established artists.”

Another major influence on Zornes’ life and work was the federal government. As a struggling artist in the Depression, Zornes saw little hope for earning a living at his craft. But in 1935, the government established the Federal Art Project, one of the biggest programs of The New Deal sponsored by the Works Progress Administration (WPA).

The goal of the program was to employ the nation’s artists to create a massive portion of public art, including paintings, sculpture, and a series of public murals celebrating the spirit of the American working class. It was under this program that Zornes found respite from the crushing economic realities of the late 1930s.

“One of the things that Milford talked about the rest of his life after the Depression was the federal government’s role in supporting artists through the WPA program,” Baker said. “It kind of kept him alive as an artist. I’m not sure what he would have done if he hadn’t been associated with the WPA.”

Sheets was a regional administrator during that time. Zornes received monthly payments from the government to produce several paintings during the month. Baker said he never forgot the government’s role and how it

helped him survive. He staunchly believed the government should support and promote the arts and give people an opportunity to make a living that way.

It wasn't long after the Depression that Zornes' career began to thrive and he no longer needed the government to provide support for him. In 1942, Zornes was drafted into the U.S. Army during World War II, at the age of 34. He would spend the next few years serving as a war artist, a unique role that filled an important need for the Army at the time.

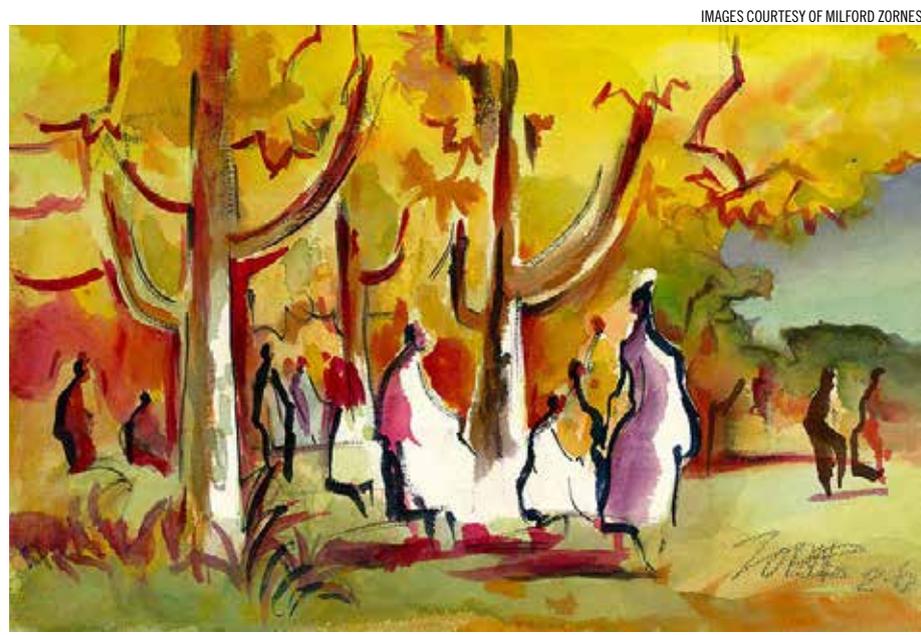
The official war art program began in 1917; during the 1940s, the U.S. military sent artists in its ranks to produce works of art that would serve as a record for major historical events. (Famed portrait artist John Singer Sargent was one of the most well known war artists.) Through his work with the Army, Zornes would travel to China, Burma, and India, dutifully painting scenes.

"Zornes went everywhere," Baker said. "He had carte blanche to do what he wanted to do. He went with the war correspondents when they traveled to write about different places, and he did paintings in all those areas."

He produced landscapes, paintings of ships, and numerous portraits of young soldiers stationed overseas. The Zornes family has spent the last three years working to track down many of the soldiers he painted.



**SLOWLY FADING:** Zornes spent decades working non-stop as a painter, chronicling the California scenery. When he was diagnosed with macular degeneration, an incurable disease that severely impacts vision, he was devastated but continued to produce work. The impact of his disease is apparent in his later work.



owned some land on the west side of town.

Zornes' intention was to buy a house and a barn that he would convert to a studio. But by 1947 the family was off again, this time to Pomona Art College where he took a job as an instructor.

Despite the move, Zornes still kept his connections to the Central Coast, including running an annual workshop for the better part of a decade. Zornes and his wife visited Nipomo often and he led a yearly workshop in Cambria, becoming well known as a teacher and mentor in the region.

"Milford did a lot of workshops and had an impact on a lot of other artists," Baker said. "That's probably the biggest thing, his mentorships and his workshops."

One of the artists who Zornes mentored and befriended through those workshops was Mike Grahek. Grahek met Zornes in the 1990s, through

another art teacher who showed him a book of the artist's work.

"I had never seen his work before," Grahek said. "It was just so stunning and bold. So I knew I had to take his workshop."

The two artists painted frequently together, with Grahek fervently absorbing Zornes' tips and techniques as well as his outlook on art and the art world. They often traveled together, visiting places like Cuba where Grahek said his mentor would fill pages and pages of sketchbooks quickly and often run out of art supplies.

Grahek said Zornes carried on the tradition of the California Scene Painters, many of whom died long before him, throughout his entire life. Grahek said one thing that set Zornes apart from others in the movement was his steadfast refusal to change his style to suit contemporary trends or art market demands. While others adapted and evolved to sell art to younger audiences, Zornes remained stubborn.

"To his detriment, sometimes, he wouldn't change," Grahek said. "Even when the galleries urged him to change to suit more modern

styles, he wouldn't. He said he believed in what he was doing and wouldn't change it to sell art."

His work did evolve over the years, Grahek noted, but not to appease the art market.

"I've worked with a lot of artists, and his drive and his passion to paint and express was just amazing," Grahek said. "He could paint all day long. I would get worn out. But he would just keep going and going. I didn't know how he did it."

As he approached his senior years, Zornes showed little signs of slowing down. He was always doing art somehow, somewhere, Baker recalled.

"When we traveled together, I'd look at Milford and he'd be looking out the window through his binoculars and he'd be drawing in a sketchbook," he said. "And he did that all day long. He was constantly drawing, painting, sketching."

But eventually something within Zornes did wear down.

## A lasting impression

The war also meant the start of a slow transition from the California Scene Painters. "By the time they came back from the second world war, they all still knew each other but their lives were going in different ways," Baker said. "Even though Milford still knew all of them, he was beginning to do his own thing."

It was then that Zornes' journey took him to Nipomo. In 1945, he returned from India and moved to the Central Coast with his wife, Pat, and their daughter, Maria. Zornes' parents lived in Nipomo and ran a store. His father owned a woodcutting business and

**View From the Horizon**  
The Milford Zornes exhibition runs through Jan. 27 at the DANA Adobe Cultural Center, located at 671 S. Oakglen Ave., Nipomo. For more information, contact (805) 929-5679.



**CENTURY MAN:** Milford Zornes, who lived to be 100, influenced numerous artists throughout the Central Coast thanks to his workshops in Cambria and his lifelong mentorship of up-and-coming painters. His work is on display at the DANA Adobe Cultural Center in Nipomo through Jan. 27.

## Fading from view

Contrary to one's first guess, the shift in Zornes' style in his paintings was not due to a deliberate style or an experimentation with abstraction. In the late 1990s, Zornes was diagnosed with macular degeneration.

An incurable disease, macular degeneration attacks the portion of the retina where images are recorded and transferred from the eye to the brain. The disease ravages a person's ability to do everyday tasks such as drive or read and affects the ability to see fine details on objects and scenery.

For an artist such as Zornes, the disease can be earth shattering.

"He was devastated," Baker said. "His comment was, 'How can this happen to me? I'm an artist, I have to see.' That first year was very frustrating. We were very worried about him."

Baker said Zornes' wife was a source of strength and inspiration as he struggled to continue to paint and work as the disease slowly progressed. Over the next two decades of his life, he continued to paint, although it became a much more laborious process for him.

As the years went by, his productivity decreased, but Zornes still produced impressive and bold pieces of work. In his final years, he worked at a desk by his bed, sketching and painting watercolors daily. He died in 2008, leaving behind a massive body of work and a legacy as a mentor to dozens of other artists throughout the Central Coast and beyond.

"He never gave up," Baker said. "[Zornes] was always looking to paint that one perfect painting knowing he'd never get there. But he kept at it, right up until the end." ○

Contact Arts and Lifestyle Writer Rebecca Rose at [rrose@santamariasun.com](mailto:rrose@santamariasun.com).

# Spotlight on: Girl Scouts of California's Central Coast

*Rebecca Picek, troop leader*

BY CALEB WISEBLOOD

Rebecca Picek's history with Girl Scouts stretches back further than the existence of the branch she's currently a part of. Girl Scouts of California's Central Coast (GSCCC) wasn't formed until 2007 after the merger of two former branches, but Picek, troop leader of Service Unit 550 in Santa Maria, first ventured into scouting decades ago.

"What inspired me to stay involved in Girl Scouts were the positive experiences and role models I had with my own troop as a girl," Rebecca said in a press release. "Looking back, scouting fostered my adventurous and creative spirit."

Through the union of Girl Scouts of Monterey Bay and Tres Condados Girl Scout Council, GSCCC encompasses the counties of Santa Cruz, Monterey, San Benito, San Luis Obispo, Santa Barbara, and Ventura. Service centers are located in Castroville, Atascadero, Goleta, Ventura, and Santa Maria, where Rebecca has volunteered as a troop leader for the last seven years. Her daughter, Lauren, decided to join the Scouts right around the same time.

"Being my daughter's leader hasn't always

been easy, but it has benefited her life in many wonderful ways," Rebecca said. "It's helped her find a voice to speak up, self-reliance, confidence to believe in herself, and a love of the outdoors."

Like Lauren, Rebecca first joined Girl Scouts to follow her mother's footsteps.

Rebecca's journey with Girl Scouts began as a child when she was inspired to start scouting with encouragement from her mother, Carol, who joined Girl Scouts in 1956 while her family was stationed in Saipan, in the Northern Mariana Islands. The pattern didn't start there though, as Carol's mother, Jessie, Rebecca's grandmother, was a troop leader at the time.

Through her current leadership role with GSCCC, Rebecca has strived to pass down the values she learned during her time as a scout, passed down from her mother and grandmother, to every member of the troop including her daughter, who is on track to receive a Girl Scout Silver Award this year.



**FROM GENERATION TO GENERATION:** Three generations of Girl Scouts on the Central Coast: (left to right) Rebecca Picek's mother, Carol; her daughter, Lauren; Girl Scouts CEO Sylvia Acevedo; and Rebecca.

Over the course of this year alone, the two have enjoyed GSCCC visits to three national parks, where their troop got to rock climb and kayak among other activities.

"When I started out [became a troop leader], I had no idea how much I would get out of being involved. Volunteering is worth my time because it is such an important and rewarding job," Rebecca said. "I want them [the scouts] to know that they are truly supported and are capable of great things. If I get to play a role in letting them know that someone cares, it's a fulfilling experience to me."

For Rebecca, one of the key life skills Girl Scouts teaches is adaptability. One recent

campout during a storm illustrated it particularly well, she explained. The plans the troop made for the evening had to be scrapped entirely.

"Instead of freaking out, I asked the group. 'OK. What's the next plan?'" Rebecca said. "That event taught the troop that in life you don't always get your first choice in outcomes, so you might as well always plan for what's next."

For more information on GSCCC, visit [girlscoutscoc.org](http://girlscoutscoc.org).

## Highlights:

- Doc Burnstein's Ice Cream Lab is partnering with Vitalant, formerly United Blood Services, to host a blood drive on Jan. 21 from 2 to 7 p.m. For every pint of blood donated, Doc Burnstein's will give a donor a voucher for one block of Silk Fudge or a pint of premium ice cream. The drive takes place at Vitalant, located at 1170 S. Broadway, Santa Maria. Call (805) 543-4920 for more info.

- Emerald Digital is hosting free digital marketing workshops on Jan. 23 at 8:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. and Jan. 24 at 8:30 a.m. and noon at the Santa Maria Business Development Center, located at 731 S. Lincoln, Santa Maria. Topics of discussion include click-to-call tactics, household IP targeting, and digital and display ads. Call (805) 925-2403 or email [register@santamaria.com](mailto:register@santamaria.com) to register. ○

*Calendar Editor Caleb Wiseblood wrote this week's Biz Spotlight. Information should be sent to the Sun via fax, mail, or email at [spotlight@santamariasun.com](mailto:spotlight@santamariasun.com).*

## SCHOOL SCENE

# Proposed early child care funding could close county's readiness gaps

BY KASEY BUBNASH

Early childhood care isn't cheap. In Santa Barbara County, parents spend an average of about \$1,000 on infant care and \$800 on preschool services each month, according to data collected by the Santa Barbara County Child Care Planning Council. That cost is near, if not totally, unaffordable for many low-income families, especially those with multiple children and costly rentals.

Roughly 35,600 local children are in families with incomes that are at least 70 percent less than the state median, according to Child Care Planning Council data, but not all of those families are eligible for state and federal subsidized care. Those who are—about 14,700 of the county's kids—have to compete for the 7,061 subsidized early child care spaces available in the county.

Many local families aren't able to access early child care and preschool services, either because there aren't any open spaces, or they can't afford it and don't quite qualify for financial help. So when Gov. Gavin Newsom announced recently that his proposed state budget would include \$2 billion for the expansion of early childhood care and education services across the state, many state and local leaders in education applauded the move as a step toward closing readiness gaps that exist between children of different incomes.

"Investing early education dollars hasn't always been a priority," said Wendy Sims-Moten, executive director of First 5 Santa Barbara County, an organization that distributes funding to local programs that provide early childhood development, health, and family support services to families with children ages 5 and under. First 5 has also done work recently advocating for increased state funding in early childhood services.

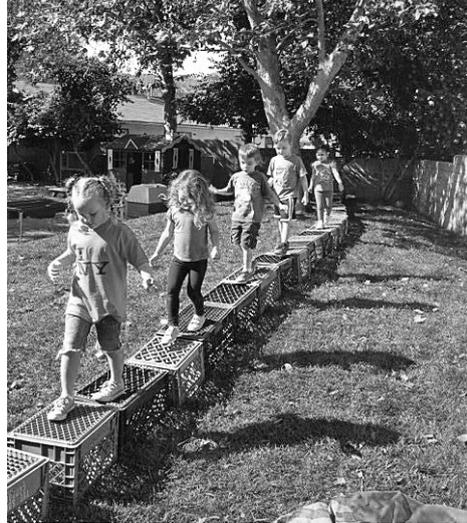
"So to see this new governor do that is awesome," she said. "The early years are the best investment."

The funding is part of Newsom's proposed \$209 billion 2019-20 state budget, which he submitted and made public on Jan. 10.

Roughly \$125 million of the budget would go toward expanding preschool and making it more accessible to all low-income 4-year-olds. About \$750 million would be used to ensure that full-day kindergarten classes are available everywhere. Millions more would go toward expanding state-subsidized child care programs, improving child care access for college students, and increasing home visits and developmental screenings for infants.

If passed, organizations like First 5 could benefit from the additional funding, and Sims-

FILE PHOTO COURTESY OF SHELLEY GRAND



**INVESTING EARLY:** Children play at Buellton's Zaca Center Preschool, which includes an outdoor classroom.

Moten said her foundation could use the help. First 5 is funded by profits the state gains from its sales taxes on tobacco products, but she said that as smoking becomes increasingly less popular, First 5's funding source diminishes.

The proposed funding could help expand services that First 5 already supports, Sims-Moten said, and could help the county offer services to a much larger number of families, regardless of their salaries.

There is an obvious economic disparity in the county, Sims-Moten said, and with that comes school readiness and achievement gaps: children of families who could afford preschool go to kindergarten with a head start over those who couldn't attend, and that difference can last throughout adulthood.

Early childhood education is critical for children and their families, and should be important to all employers and communities, Sims-Moten said. High quality early care and education programs provide safe learning environments for children, and allow parents to participate in gainful employment, support themselves and their families, and strengthen the economic base of the whole community.

"So I see the investment here and the long-term return," Sims-Moten said. "It just leads to future strength if we start now."

Staci Rich, the site supervisor of the Betteravia Early Education Center in Santa Maria, said child care expansion for low-income families could help many Santa Marians. Although Rich said that some families who enroll their children in the center qualify for subsidies, the qualifications needed are restrictive, and many don't. Those who don't, she said, pay \$750 per child a month for preschool services, and \$1,150 a month for infant care—all out of pocket.

Making high quality child care more

accessible would be worth it, Rich said, for the children, who would go on to learn at a faster pace, and for their parents, who would be able to work without worry.

"There will be more working families and less welfare, I think," Rich said. "Early childhood education is the start of a child's future, really." ○

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

## ATHLETE OF THE WEEK

### Zoe De La Cruz

She may be young, but 7-year-old Zoe De La Cruz is already showing a lot of promise in the world of gymnastics.

It's only her third year training at KT's All-Star Gymnastics, but De La Cruz already appears to have everything it takes to one day become a gold medal level athlete: talent, a hard working attitude, and relentless determination.

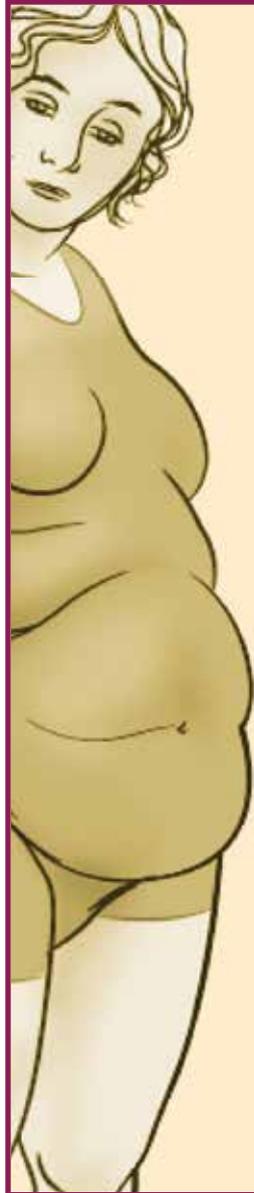
"She gives it her all every time she steps into the gym," said Dorothy Lukacs, gym manager at KT's. "She amazes all of her coaches with her unstoppable work ethic and is an inspiration to her teammates."

When the going gets tough, De La Cruz pushes through it, and that's what her coaches hope to see more of this season. The third grader is now one of KT's newest competitive members, and Lukacs said she expects to see big wins from De La Cruz in the next few months. ○

—Kasey Bubnash

PHOTO COURTESY OF DOROTHY LUKACS





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### Online Poll

#### Should Congress fund President Trump's border wall?

39% Yes. Our southern border is in crisis!

33% No. It's a waste of tax money!

23% We don't need an actual wall. Just beef up border security.

5% I'm more worried about the Canadian border.

39 Votes

Vote online at [www.santamariasun.com](http://www.santamariasun.com).



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# Reimaging Lompoc politics

### Lompoc City Council's makeup is changing for the better

BY RON FINK

Last Tuesday evening a remarkable event occurred during the Lompoc City Council meeting; the goal was to pare down a list of 10 applicants for a vacant council seat, and they accomplished it in two hours!

Each applicant was asked to submit written answers to the following questions: What will you bring to the dais that you feel is currently missing? Are there any conflicts of interest that the public should be made aware of at this time? What is your experience working with, or for, a government body (explain how it works differently than a business or nonprofit)? Explain in detail your experience in analyzing a budget (size, frequency, your role, etc.).

The process that was used to accomplish this feat was first proposed by Mayor Jenelle Osborne and accepted readily by her fellow council members. Applications would be accepted;

the public would be allowed three minutes to support their choice; and each applicant would be given three minutes to describe why they should be selected.

Following the oral presentations by the applicants, the council would have no discussion but would simply score each applicant with 1 being the lowest and 10 points the highest. This system proved to be far more efficient than any used in past appointments to vacant council seats.

Of the 10 applicants, six looked impressive, so the choice was going to be difficult. Council watchers had been making guesses since the applications were posted on the city website, but their assumptions were all wrong.

The city is in deep financial trouble; major staff cuts will have to be made to meet a balanced budget, and someone who is used to managing large budgets would be necessary. A proven community leader was also needed, one who could bring maturity and strength to the dais. Several of the applicants seemed to meet this goal.

After more than an hour and a half of public

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comment and applicant presentations, the council took a break to tabulate their scores. Tension filled the room as supporters and applicants awaited the outcome. Would the council deadlock or could they rise to the challenge and make a solid choice that would benefit the entire community?

After a few minutes, they returned, and after the city attorney and staff tallied the results, the drama continued as the city attorney wanted clarity on what would happen next; surprisingly the choice was overwhelming as the winner garnered 39 of a possible 40 points, meaning that all four council members agreed that she was the best choice.

Two applicants tied for second place with 31

COMMENTARY continued page 16

## Broken promises

At the Republican National Convention in 2016, Donald J. Trump claimed the nation was in crisis. Trump told the American people "I alone can fix it." He pledged to repeal Obamacare, allow individuals to deduct health care insurance premiums from their taxes, defund Planned Parenthood, enact term limits, place a lifetime ban on foreign lobbyists raising money for American elections, end birthright citizenship—just a few of the many guarantees he's failed to deliver.

But the biggest promise he made was to build a wall and make Mexico pay for it. There are multiple instances, recorded, no less, of him saying at various rallies that Mexico will pay for the wall. Pay, as in write a check. Not pay, as in via some pie-in-the-sky re-written trade deal that has yet to be approved by Congress. Contrary to right wing propaganda, no additional monies will be pouring into the treasury as a result of any new trade deal.

Furthermore, Trump not only locked out more than 800,000 government workers, he also denied all federal employees a 2 percent raise while Vice President Mike Pence, cabinet secretaries, and other White House officials celebrated the longest government shutdown in U.S. history by receiving raises of \$10,000 a year.

Nineteen men got on four flights and killed almost 3,000 Americans on 9/11. They didn't enter our country through Mexico.

How is the wall suddenly a "national emergency," when for two years the current occupant of the White House had complete control over Congress, majorities in both the House and the Senate, and still no funding for the wall?

If there is a humanitarian crisis at our southern border, not to mention Americans getting killed by illegal aliens and drugs coming into our country, how are Republicans keeping us safe?

Jose Luis Castellanos  
Santa Maria

## Talk to your representative about the state budget

A proactive plan of action to protect our country from others crossing the borders

illegally is crucial for the safety of Americans, and our economy.

Our current policy of providing funding, food, and medical care for those entering illegally is destroying our economy for the citizens that have worked to earn the benefits to provide for their families. There are millions of citizens in the U.S. in need of assistance for basic needs for survival.

Laws that regulate the illegals were made many years ago. Past administrations have failed to adequately enforce them, resulting in billions of funds and contributing to our national debt. The Clinton administration initiated separating children and parents to protect the children from jail exposure.

Our nation will not survive if immigration laws

are not enforced. Individuals who cross borders illegally and have children here are not citizens. These illegal immigrants are being treated better than many of the victims of recent fires.

And the recent state budget that Gov. Gavin Newsom has proposed calls for \$260 million to fund illegal immigrants' Medi-Cal coverage. That is just *wrong*. Use our tax dollars to benefit the legal California residents, not give it to people breaking the law. Write to Assemblymember Jordan Cunningham (R-Templeton) asking him to vote "no" on the budget, like I did.

Alan Eft  
Orcutt

LETTERS continued page 16

## THIS MODERN WORLD

by TOM TOMORROW

**LIFE IN THE STUPIDVERSE: GOVERNMENT SHUTDOWN EDITION**  
HA HA, GOTCHA, LIBTARDS!

**NO PUPPET, NO PUPPET, YOU'RE THE PUPPET**  
YOU'RE NOT GOING TO CAME TO THE DEMS LIKE SOME KIND OF WEAK LOSER, ARE YOU? ARE YOU??  
N-N-NO! ABSOLUTELY NOT!  
PLEASE DON'T CRITICIZE ME.

**THE WISDOM OF THE NEUTRAL ARBITERS**  
PRESIDENT TRUMP HAS THROWN THE COUNTRY INTO CHAOS WITH HIS IMPULSIVE, IRRATIONAL DEMANDS!  
DEMOCRATS COULD HAVE PREVENTED THIS BY GIVING HIM EVERYTHING HE WANTED!  
FACT CHECK: BOTH SIDES ARE TO BLAME!  
WHY CAN'T THEY JUST ASK THEIR RICH FATHERS TO BAIL THEM OUT?  
GOOD POINT, SIR.

**HELPFUL SUGGESTIONS**  
FEDERAL WORKERS WHO AREN'T GETTING PAID SHOULD HAVE GARAGE SALES! OR MAYBE SELL THEIR ORGANS ON THE BLACK MARKET!

**NIHILIST NATION**  
HA HA, THE PRESIDENT IS A DERANGED SOCIO-PATH AND THE COUNTRY IS TEETERING ON THE BRINK OF FASCISM!  
WE'RE ALL DOOMED, HA HA HA!  
LOL, NOTHING MATTERS!

**A CHAMPION EMERGES**  
I WILL SUPPORT THE PRESIDENT'S AGENDA, BUT IN A VERY DIS-APPROVING MANNER!  
WELCOME TO THE RESISTANCE, MITT ROMNEY!  
THANK YOU, JEFF FLAKE!

**A MODEST PROPOSAL**  
SIR, WE SOLVED THE BORDER PROBLEM WITH AN INVISIBLE FORCE FIELD! AS YOU CAN SEE FROM THIS VIDEO OF AN ILLEGAL IMMIGRANT TRYING TO GET THROUGH IT'S IMPENETRABLE!  
ANOTHER WIN FOR "TRUMP"!!

**NEXT: SOMETHING EVEN DUMBER**  
NOW I WANT A ROOF OVER THE ENTIRE COUNTRY, TO PROTECT US FROM ILLEGAL SPACE ALIENS!  
THAT SHOULD KEEP MUELLER OUT OF THE NEWS!  
AND, UH, KEEP AMERICA SAFE.  
SIR.

**The Sun in Northern Santa Barbara County is looking for its next staff writer, but we're not looking for just any article-pushing, source-wrangling, story-chasing someone.**

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Can you see the big picture of what a story means to a community? Is that what drives you? Do you know what it takes to—yes, we know, it's cliché—make a difference in the lives of the people you cover? Does that sort of thing matter to you?

If so, then you're exactly who we're looking for: a staff writer who isn't afraid to take on the tedious, the tenuous, or the talented. That certain someone who can wrestle a story to the ground and fill it with the things that matter to the communities we cover at the *Sun* and *New Times*. Oil, agricultural, water, and environmental advocacy aren't the only things that drive this place—although those are pretty juicy beats. There's more, and we want to hire someone who can drive his or herself to unearth those stories and tell them in a meaningful way.

Let us know if you've got what it takes. We dare you. Send a résumé, cover letter, and story samples to Cindy Rucker at [crucker@newtimeslo.com](mailto:crucker@newtimeslo.com).

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**COMMENTARY** from page 15

votes each, but the gap was too wide, so the council agreed to suspend the second round of voting.

Then, with all waiting, the city attorney announced that Ms. Gilda Cordova had prevailed in the voting. The newly appointed councilwoman is a successful business owner of a management and consulting business, president of Visit Lompoc LLC, and member of the Lompoc Economic Committee.

This marks a historic re-imaging moment in Lompoc politics. Now there are two women and two Latinos serving on the council, a first for this city, and the choices made will add strength to the decision-making process down at City Hall.

This selection also establishes that Mayor Osborne is a leader who can produce results in what could have become a complicated situation. ○

*Ron Fink writes about Lompoc from Lompoc. Respond by emailing the editor at [clanham@santamariasun.com](mailto:clanham@santamariasun.com) or write a letter and email it to [letters@santamariasun.com](mailto:letters@santamariasun.com).*

**LETTERS** from page 15

**A madman**

It's taken two years for the media, Donald Trump voters, and the world to understand what a madman inhabits the White House. We, who saw him as harmful to our democracy from early on, have experienced anxiety, fear for "the others" of the country, future for children, and our future. Trump's daily lies, Congressional Republicans' silence, and no sense of when we will see the end of this administration keeps the world in a kind of limbo until we see justice, truth, and laws acted upon. Trump is the elephant in the room, a person not fit to honoring, upholding, or understanding the long history of our democracy, interested in only filling his pockets.

Fool on the hill.

Libby Breen  
Orcutt

**Aera Energy's economic errors**

In the *Santa Maria Times* and *Lompoc Record* on Dec. 16 ("Aera Energy taps Cat Canyon project's environmental stewardship"), Aera's PR representative claims that development of oil wells in our county will bring major economic benefits, including millions to support schools and other vital services.

His figures come from UCSB's Economic Forecast Project, whose research team was hired by Aera Energy (owned by ExxonMobil and Shell). Aera is an acknowledged sponsor of the Economic Forecast Project, and the report admits that it relied primarily on information provided by Aera. Really? "I'm shocked, shocked, to find that gambling is going on here!" as the bribed police prefect said to Rick in *Casablanca*.

Even if we assume the forecast to be correct, it states that the total economic impact of the Aera project would be under \$36 million a year. When put in perspective, agriculture generates \$2.8 billion annually

and employs more than 25,000 locals; tourism has a \$1.9 billion impact. Revenue from oil property taxes makes up less than 1 percent of our county budget.

An added 296 wells will no doubt result in spills, as acknowledged in the county's draft environmental impact report, along with increased air pollution due to truck traffic and drilling. How many jobs will be lost in our much larger leisure and service industry when news of spills, contamination, and worsening air pollution make headlines? How much will it cost to repair and maintain our roads due to increased truck traffic back and forth to Kern County? What happens to agriculture when toxic chemicals seep into the groundwater? Who will pay to clean up the mess?

Unfortunately, the Aera-sponsored report neglected to include those costs, making the cost analysis incomplete and unreliable as a predictor of the true profit and loss of oil expansion in Santa Barbara County.

Rachel Altman  
Santa Barbara

**Garbage in, garbage out**

A UCSB-affiliated study purportedly estimates the economic impact on our county of Aera's proposed oil project in Cat Canyon, between Santa Maria and Los Alamos. The study was paid for by the oil company's public relations firm.

The report admits that it relied primarily on information provided by Aera itself. In the report, by UCSB's Economic Forecast Project, a limited set of unverified data was simply entered into an economic model, which then churned out results. Sound like the old computer concept known as "GIGO"? Garbage in, garbage out.

Aera is also a paying advisory sponsor of the Economic Forecast Project. So, we have self-serving and unreliable input data that is used by a "research" organization that is biased by its financial ties to the very company it claims to study. You can't make this stuff up.

Consider also that it only looks at positive economic impacts. It chooses to ignore all the very significant risks and negative effects of hundreds of new oil wells drilled through our drinking water aquifer.

There will inevitably be well-casing breaches, spills, and leaks from pipelines, and often we taxpayers are left with huge cleanup bills. Contamination of agricultural and ranching lands can also be devastating and has been well documented nearby.

The costs we all pay if Aera's proposed oil project is permitted should be part of any responsible study. Regrettably, this report by professor Peter Rupert's forecast totally ignores the negative economic consequences of the project.

The study injects distortions and half-truths into the public discourse that Aera and its boosters repeatedly use as ammunition for their cause. And Dr. Rupert has chosen not to clarify this or to set the record straight.

Bottom line: Whenever we're told how oil company projects are good for us, consider the source. Is it based on honest scholarship and fact or just well-compensated flackery?

Seth Steiner  
Los Alamos

**Legal beagles**

**W**hat do the Santa Ynez Valley Band of Chumash

Indians have in common with President Donald T-Rump? People like to file lawsuits against them!

That's pretty much where the commonalities end, though—at least in my opinion. Because unlike the lawsuits filed against our fair-haired old dude in the Oval Office, those that get filed against Santa Barbara County's only federally recognized tribe are generally dismissed as frivolous. On the long list of extremely "concerned" Santa Ynez Valley citizen groups that have organized against pretty much any and all things Chumash, we have **Preservation of Los Olivos (POLO)**, **Save The Valley**, and **Santa Ynez Valley Concerned Citizens**. I'm almost positive that it's basically the same group of people who just keep changing their club's name every so many lawsuits, but I don't have any proof of that—so chalk this little tidbit of information up to frivolous, baseless gossip, because I just can't help myself. YOLO, people.

**Tribal Chairman Kenneth Kahn** and **U.S. Rep. Salud Carbajal** (D-Santa Barbara) seem pretty confident that a recently introduced House resolution, if passed, will stem the tide of frivolous lawsuits. That golden ticket is HR 317, which used to be HR 1157, which used to be HR 1491, a version of which **U.S. Rep. Doug LaMalfa** (D-Richvale) has basically introduced in almost every legislative session since 2013. The bill, if passed, authorizes the U.S. Secretary of the Interior to take Camp 4 into fee-to-trust with the federal government.

The funny thing of it is, the **Department of the Interior** already authorized itself to make Camp 4 part of the tribe's existing reservation in the Santa Ynez Valley—even after multiple appeals and lawsuits filed by your favorite concerned citizens failed. My God, people. Move on with your lives!

But Kahn, ever the optimist, seems to think this resolution will make a difference: "We're hoping it will be quick and easy," he told us. Nothing about the Camp 4 process has been quick or easy.

"This affirmation bill would be important just to give us the opportunity to build today," he said.

I'm pretty sure the tribe's concerned neighbors will still file a lawsuit to try to prevent the tribe from building homes on the Camp 4 property. Because they will never move on with their lives. Because they've been suing everybody over the Chumash since 1996, when the casino was approved. Remember that 6.9 acres of land that the Chumash wanted to build a museum and cultural center on? It took almost 10 years for everything to fall into place due to ... lawsuits!

If these groups had any power at all, Carbajal never would have been elected to Congress—because he was all about government-to-government talks between Santa Barbara County and the Chumash when he was a county supervisor. And how do you think these "concerned" citizens feel about those talks? Hint, hint: If they could sue elected officials for talking to a member of the tribe, *they would*. ○

*The canary is squawking over wasted paper at [canary@santamariasun.com](mailto:canary@santamariasun.com).*



# HOT STUFF

JAN. 17 – JAN. 24  
2019

## SPECIAL EVENTS

### SANTA YNEZ VALLEY

**FANTASTIC FUNGI WITH BOB CUMMINGS** Join the Land Trust for Santa Barbara County to check out mushroom varieties found at the Arroyo Hondo Preserve with Dr. Bob Cummings. **Jan. 20**, 9:30-11:30 a.m. \$10-\$25. 805-966-4520. sblandtrust.org/event/fantastic-fungi2019/. Arroyo Hondo Preserve, CA-1, Santa Ynez.

**THERESA CAPUTO: THE EXPERIENCE** Caputo is best known for portraying a medium on the TLC reality TV series, *Long Island Medium*. **Jan. 17-19** Chumash Casino Resort, 3400 E. Highway 246, Santa Ynez, 800-248-6274, chumashcasino.com/entertainment.

### LOMPOC/VANDENBERG

**CARING FOR SOILS** The Lompoc Valley Botanic and Horticultural Society presents this program with Bill Ostrander, who shares his experience of farming in Los Osos. **Jan. 20**, 2-4:30 p.m. Free. 805-733-3189. lvbhs.org. Stone Pine Hall, 210 South H St., Lompoc.

### SANTA MARIA VALLEY/LOS ALAMOS

**BLOOD DRIVE: VITALANT AND DOC BURNSTEIN'S** For every pint of blood donated, Doc Burnstein's will give a donor a voucher for one block of Silk Fudge or a pint of premium ice cream. **Jan. 21**, 2-7 p.m. 805-543-4920. Vitalant, 1170 S. Broadway, Santa Maria.

**PLANET LUCHA** Presented by Cen-Cal Professional Wrestling and Entertainment, Inc. A family-friendly event. Food and drink will be available for purchase, with beer and wine for guests ages 21 and over. **Jan. 20**, 2:30-6 p.m. \$15 General / \$20 Ringside. 805-996-0192. ccpweinc.com/cen-cal-pro/. Radisson Hotel, 3455 Airpark Dr., Santa Maria.

**QUEEN ELSA VISITS THE DISCOVERY MUSEUM** The visit takes place during a special Science Saturday experiment. **Jan. 19**, 11 a.m.-noon \$6. 805-928-8414. smvdiscoverymuseum.org. Santa Maria Valley Discovery Museum, 705 S. McClelland St., Santa Maria.

**WOMEN'S MARCH OF SANTA MARIA VALLEY** Be a part of the Women's March of Santa Maria Valley's inaugural march. Meet at Buena Vista Park to march to the Action Alley Resource Fair at Minami Park. **Jan. 19**, 10 a.m. Free. 805-316-1356. facebook.com/womensmarchsmv/. Buena Vista Park, 800 S. Pine St., Santa Maria.



**SUBMIT YOUR EVENTS**

### SAN LUIS OBISPO

**BLOOD DRIVE: VITALANT AND DOC BURNSTEIN'S** For every pint of blood donated, Doc Burnstein's will give a donor a voucher for one block of Silk Fudge or a pint of premium ice cream. **Jan. 21**, 1-6 p.m. 805-543-4920. Vitalant, 4119 Broad St., San Luis Obispo.

**DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. CELEBRATION** This event includes food, music, films, activities for adults and children, and workshops that address community building and race relations. **Jan. 21**, 3-7:30 p.m. Free. 805-426-5465. Congregation Beth David, 10180 Los Osos Valley Road, San Luis Obispo, cbsdso.org.

**GAGA AGAIN: A DRAG FUNDRAISER FOR THE SLO WOMEN'S MARCH** Features Lady Gaga themed performances from SLOQueerdos' drag performers. All ages are welcome. Food and beverages available. **Jan. 18**, 9-11 p.m. \$10. 805-868-7133. 7SistersBrewing.com. 7Sisters Brewing Company, 181 Tank Farm Rd. Suite 110, San Luis Obispo.

**LIVE YOUR BEST LIFE OPEN HOUSE** The grand opening of Neurogenesis Neurofeedback in SLO. Meet Nicole the practitioner and her puppy Emmet. Small bites and drinks provided. **Jan. 18**, 2-7 p.m. Free. 805-748-2239. Mountain View Center, 1540 Marsh St. #250, San Luis Obispo, NeurogenesisNFB.com.

### NORTH COAST SLO COUNTY

**2019 MORRO BAY WINTER BIRD FESTIVAL** This festival welcomes bird lovers to come and see, photograph, and learn more about birds local to Morro Bay. More than 200 species are usually sighted during the festival weekend. Check site for full schedule of events. **Jan. 18-21** 805-234-1170. morrobaybirdfestival.org. Morro Bay Community Center, 1001 Kennedy Way, Morro Bay.

**55+ HEALTH AND WELLNESS FAIRE** Features free health services, assessments, exercise demonstrations,

**New Times and the Sun now share their community listings for a complete Central Coast calendar running from SLO County through northern Santa Barbara County. Submit events online by logging in with your Google, Facebook, or Twitter account at newtimeslo.com. You may also email calendar@newtimeslo.com. Deadline is one week before the issue date on Thursdays. Submissions are subject to editing and approval. Contact Calendar Editor Caleb Wiseblood directly at cwiseblood@newtimeslo.com.**

exhibitors, door prizes, and more. **Jan. 26**, 9 a.m.-noon Free. 805-772-4421. Morro Bay Community Center, 1001 Kennedy Way, Morro Bay, morro-bay.ca.us/345/Community-Center.

## ARTS

### CLASSES & WORKSHOPS

#### SANTA YNEZ VALLEY

**ZEST IT UP WEAVING WORKSHOP** A workshop teaching the fundamentals of weaving. All guests take home their very own wooden loom along with their own woven creation. Ticket includes all supplies, food, a glass of wine, and additional non-alcoholic beverages. **Jan. 26**, 4-7 p.m. \$69. Zaca Mesa Winery, 6905 Foxen Canyon Road, Los Olivos.

#### SANTA MARIA VALLEY/LOS ALAMOS

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

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

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

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

**CREATIVE ART TUESDAYS** Meet other artists and support and critique others' works. Tuesdays, 1-4 p.m.

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### MUSHROOM WITH A VIEW

*Fantastic Fungi, a mushroom variety presentation and exploration walk with fungi expert Bob Cummings (pictured), takes place Jan. 20 from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. at the Arroyo Hondo Preserve. This event is presented by the Land Trust for Santa Barbara County. Admission ranges from \$10 to \$25. More info: (805) 966-4520 or sblandtrust.org.*

PHOTO COURTESY OF COURTNEY DIETZ

\$1. Oasis Senior Center, 420 Soares Ave., Orcutt, 805-937-9750.

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

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

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

**INTRODUCTORY BALLET 2** Wednesdays, 6 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.

**MUSICAL THEATRE AND CABARET WORKSHOP CLASSES** Come improve your vocal skills so that you'll have more fun singing cabaret, karaoke, and more. Mondays, 6:30-8:30 p.m. through Sept. 30 \$75 for a four week session; \$20 to drop in. 805-400-5335. Cabaret805.com. Santa Maria Civic Theatre, 1660 N. McClelland St., Santa Maria.

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

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

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

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

**WINTER MAKERSPACE** Events take place in the learning center. Call for full schedule and more info. Saturdays, 10 a.m.-3 p.m. and Wednesdays, 4-6 p.m. through Feb. 27 805-925-0994. Santa Maria Public Library, 421 S. McClelland St., Santa Maria.

ARTS continued page 18

## SOUTH COAST SLO COUNTY

## ACRYLIC POURING INTERMEDIATE WORKSHOP

Artist Shelley Kenny host this class, where every piece will look completely different from the next. **Jan. 23, 6-8 p.m.** \$40. 805-550-9963. [theartgalanipomo.com/classes-and-events/](http://theartgalanipomo.com/classes-and-events/). Gala De Arte Plaza, 136 N Thompson Ave. B, Nipomo.

## ART AND WINE: CACTUS FLOWER ACRYLIC

**PAINTING CLASS** Create a colorful cactus and flower canvas with artist Wendy Thrasher. All materials and a glass of wine are provided. **Jan. 17, 6-8 p.m.** and **Jan. 24, 6-8 p.m.** \$40; \$65 for 2; \$30 each for 3 or more. 805-550-9963. [theartgalanipomo.com/classes-and-events/](http://theartgalanipomo.com/classes-and-events/). Gala De Arte Plaza, 136 N Thompson Ave. B, Nipomo.

## ART AND WINE: STARFISH NAIL AND STRING

**ART CLASS** Bring beach shells them to this starfish nail and string mixed media class. Artist Wendy Thrasher guides guests through techniques that are easily replicated. All materials and a glass of wine are included. **Jan. 19, 6-8 p.m.** and **Jan. 26, 6-8 p.m.** \$40; \$65 for 2; \$30 each for 3 or more. 805-550-9963. [theartgalanipomo.com/classes-and-events/](http://theartgalanipomo.com/classes-and-events/). Gala De Arte Plaza, 136 N Thompson Ave. B, Nipomo.

## ART AND WINE: WINTER ICE ACRYLIC PAINTING

**CLASS** An evening of wine and painting. Artist Wendy Thrasher guides guests through techniques that are easily replicated. All materials and a glass of wine are provided. **Jan. 18, 6-8 p.m.** and **Jan. 25, 6-8 p.m.** \$40; \$65 for 2; \$30 each for 3 or more. 805-550-9963. [theartgalanipomo.com/classes-and-events/](http://theartgalanipomo.com/classes-and-events/). Gala De Arte Plaza, 136 N Thompson Ave. B, Nipomo.

## FELTED CROSS-BODY WALLETS WITH

**REPURPOSED WOOL** Most supplies included, including pre-cut repurposed wool and decorative felted patch. Create a unique, light wallet with a long cross-body strap. Wood upcycled from thrift store menswear. **Jan. 19, 11 a.m.-3 p.m.** \$75. 805-709-1160. Weissberg Barn, 1080 Hetrick Ave., Arroyo Grande.

## 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. \$20 per hour. 805-668-2125. LiA Creative Community, 1147 East Grand Ave. Suite 101, Arroyo Grande, [lila.community](http://lila.community).

**PLAY EXPLORE CREATE 2** Includes drawing, pastel, watercolor, tempera, collage, printmaking, sewing, and building. Tuesdays, Thursdays, 9-10:30 a.m. & 1:30-3 p.m. \$20. 805-668-2125. [lila.community](http://lila.community). LiA Creative Community, 1147 East Grand Ave. Suite 101, Arroyo Grande.

## SAN LUIS OBISPO

## CABARET SINGING AND PERFORMANCE CLASS

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

## DATE NIGHT POTTERY

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

## FILM AND TV ACTING CLASSES

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

## IMPROV CLASS

Learn to work on an improv ensemble and discover the basic fundamentals of improv comedy. Classes are taught by theater owner and director Sabrina Pratt. Wednesdays, 6-8 p.m. through Feb. 13 \$225 (for all 6 weeks). 805-242-3109. [centralcoastcomedytheater.com](http://centralcoastcomedytheater.com). Tigerlily Salon Studio, 659 Higuera St., San Luis Obispo.

## PACIFIC HORIZON CHORUS WELCOMES WOMEN

**SINGERS** Visit site or come by in person to see if these music lessons are right for you. Tuesdays, 6:30-9 p.m. 805-441-1405. [pacifichorizon.org](http://pacifichorizon.org). SLO United Methodist Church, 1515 Fredericks St., San Luis Obispo.

## PAINT A POT

Features a selection of pre-made pottery for those who love to design and paint. All ages welcome. Tuesdays-Saturdays, 11 a.m.-4:30 p.m. through March 30 \$25 and up. 805-896-6197. [anamcre.com](http://anamcre.com). Anam Cre Pottery Studio, 1243 Monterey St, San Luis Obispo.

## WATERCOLOR PAINTING WITH WOODY

Woody will be supplying paint and paper, students must bring their own brushes. **Jan. 19, 10:30 a.m.-1 p.m.** \$45. [artcentralartsupply.com/current-workshops.php](http://artcentralartsupply.com/current-workshops.php). Art Central, 1329 Monterey St., San Luis Obispo, 805 747 4200.

## SPECIAL ART EVENTS

## SANTA MARIA VALLEY/LOS ALAMOS

## NATIONAL ART PROGRAM RECEPTION

For city and school district employee artists showing their

work at the National Art Program in the library's Shepard Hall. **Jan. 24, 5-7 p.m.** Santa Maria Public Library, 421 S. McClelland St., Santa Maria, 805-925-0994.

## SOUTH COAST SLO COUNTY

## SOUTH COUNTY POETRY

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

## SAN LUIS OBISPO

## CORNERS OF THE MOUTH

Featured poets are Sarah Grieve and Kevin Clark with an open reading to follow. **Jan. 20, 7-9 p.m.** Free. 805-903-3595. [languageofthesoul.org](http://languageofthesoul.org). Linnaea's Cafe, 1110 Garden St., San Luis Obispo.

## THE FIFTH ANNUAL BACKCOUNTRY FILM

**FESTIVAL** Presented by the Winter Wildlands Alliance. Includes a collection of diverse short films. **Jan. 23, 5 p.m.** SLO Brew Rock, 855 Aerovista Pl., San Luis Obispo, 209-417-7748.

## JULIA MORGAN BUILDING TOUR

Member docents will guide you through our historic building and grounds. Tours may also be arranged by appointment. Mondays, 2-5 p.m. Free. 805-541-0594. [themondayclubso.org](http://themondayclubso.org). The Monday Club, 1815 Monterey St, San Luis Obispo.

## EXHIBITS

## SANTA YNEZ VALLEY

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

## GLO ARTIST SHOW

**Through Feb. 1** Gallery Los Olivos, 2920 Grand Ave., Los Olivos, 805-688-7517, [gallerylosolivos.com](http://gallerylosolivos.com).

## NATURE ABSTRACTED

This exhibit is on display in the Barbara Goodall Education Center (third floor). In collaboration with the Santa Barbara based Abstract Art Collective. Features 29 works by 18 artists. **Through Feb. 4** \$5. Wilding Museum of Art and Nature, 1511-B Mission Dr., Solvang, 805-688-1082, [wildingmuseum.org](http://wildingmuseum.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. [wildingmuseum.org](http://wildingmuseum.org). Wilding 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. [wildingmuseum.org/photography-competition/](http://wildingmuseum.org/photography-competition/). Wilding 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](http://pavlovgallery.com). Pavlov Art Gallery, 1608 Copenhagen Dr., Ste C, Solvang.

## RAY STRONG: FEATURED ARTIST

Sponsored by the Robert and Mercedes Eichholz Foundation. In the Main Gallery (first floor). **Through March 20** Wilding Museum of Art and Nature, 1511-B Mission Dr., Solvang, 805-688-1082, [wildingmuseum.org](http://wildingmuseum.org).

## 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](http://irinamalkmus.com). Ameriprise Financial, 2605 S Miller St., Suite 104, Santa Maria.

## FINE ARTS STUDENT SHOW

**Jan. 24-Feb. 21** Ann Foxworthy Gallery, 800 S. College Dr., Santa Maria, 805-922-6966, Ext. 3252, [hancockcollege.edu/gallery/](http://hancockcollege.edu/gallery/).

## SANTA BARBARA PRINTMAKERS JURIED

**EXHIBITION** ongoing [smartsCouncil.org](http://smartsCouncil.org). Betteravia Gallery, 511 E. Lakeside Parkway, Santa Maria.

## 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/](http://puffersofpismo.com/).

## 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. **Through Jan.**



## CABARET CLASS

*Cabaret 805 hosts a weekly musical theater workshop series on most Mondays, with few exceptions, from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. at Santa Maria Civic Theatre, located at 1660 N. McClelland St., Santa Maria. Admission is \$20 to drop in or \$75 for four weeks. More info: (805) 400-5335 or [cabaret805.com](http://cabaret805.com).*

**27** Free. 805-543-8562. [sloma.org](http://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. **Through Jan. 20** Free. 805-543-8562. [sloma.org](http://sloma.org). San Luis Obispo Museum of Art, 1010 Broad St., San Luis Obispo.

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

**INTERESTING TIMES** Featuring the political and whimsical art of Mark Bryan. **Through Jan. 23** 805-710-2929. Frame Works, 339 Marsh St, San Luis Obispo, [sloart.com](http://sloart.com).

## LIGHT FROM A DARK ROOM: PHOTOGRAPHY

**BY MARTA PELUSO** Contains black-and-white silver 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. **Through Jan. 27** Free. 805-543-8562. [sloma.org](http://sloma.org). San Luis Obispo Museum of Art, 1010 Broad St., San Luis Obispo.

## PILGRIM'S PROCESS: THE POETRY OF MICHAEL

**HANLON** The exhibit celebrates over five decades of works in print. Includes chapbooks, books, broadsides, poetry-infused sculpture, mail art, and altered objects. Mondays-Fridays, 9 a.m.-4 p.m. **through March 29** Free. 805-756-2305. [lib.calpoly.edu/events/pilgrimsprocess](http://lib.calpoly.edu/events/pilgrimsprocess). Cal Poly Special Collections and Archives, Robert E. Kennedy Library, 1 Grand Ave., Building 35, Room 409, San Luis Obispo.

## VICTORIA FU

The video art and photography of Victoria Fu examines artistic conventions and the dispersal of technical images in the contemporary era. **Jan. 17, 5-7 p.m.** and Tuesdays-Saturdays, 11 a.m.-4 p.m. **through Feb. 8** Free. 805-756-1571. [calpoly.edu/arts](http://calpoly.edu/arts). University Art Gallery, Cal Poly Art & Design, 1 Grand Ave., San Luis Obispo, 93407-0321, [artgallery.calpoly.edu](http://artgallery.calpoly.edu).

## WILD SILKS: THREE PERSPECTIVES

Featured artists: Jeanne Miller, Dana Kimberly Hixson, and Martha Sparta. This exhibit showcases the work of three silk artists who paint together, sharing their talents and insights with one another. Saturdays, 10 a.m.-5 p.m., Sundays, 12-4 p.m. and Mondays-Fridays, 10 a.m.-5:30 p.m. **through Jan. 29** Free. 805-747-4200. Art Central, 1329 Monterey St., San Luis Obispo.

## CALLS FOR ARTISTS

## SAN LUIS OBISPO

**CALL FOR ARTISTS: BRUSHSTROKES 2019** A non-themed state-wide juried exhibition at SLOMA. Juror: Jerry McLaughlin. Visit site for details. Mondays-Sundays. **through May 15** \$35 for up to two paintings. 805-543-8562. [sloma.org](http://sloma.org). San Luis Obispo Museum of Art, 1010 Broad St., San Luis Obispo.

## CALL FOR ARTISTS: AWAKEN SLO COUNTY

**STUDENTS** A year-long program celebrating art and community expressed through the imaginative creations of our county's students. Three student exhibitions will be displayed at SLOMA throughout the year. **Through May 12** Free. 805-543-8562. [sloma.org](http://sloma.org). San Luis Obispo Museum of Art, 1010 Broad St., San Luis Obispo.

## STAGE

## SANTA MARIA VALLEY/LOS ALAMOS

**RUMORS** Orcutt Community Theater presents its production of this Neil Simon farce. Recommended for ages over 12 due to adult language. **Jan. 18, 7-9 p.m., Jan. 19, 7-9 p.m.** and **Jan. 20, 1:30-3:30 p.m.** \$15. 805-973-7264. [santamariacommunitytheater.com](http://santamariacommunitytheater.com). KDA Studios, 3558 Skyway Dr., Santa Maria.

## SAN LUIS OBISPO

## PRIDE AND PREJUDICE

The San Luis Obispo Repertory Theatre's Academy of Creative Theatre presents a young performers' version of Jane Austen's classic novel. Wednesdays-Saturdays, 7-8:30 p.m. and Saturdays, Sundays, 2-3:30 p.m. **through Jan. 20** \$17-\$25. 805-786-2430. [slorep.org/shows/pride-and-prejudice/](http://slorep.org/shows/pride-and-prejudice/). San Luis Obispo Repertory Theatre, 888 Morro St., San Luis Obispo.

## CALENDAR GIRLS

Based on the true story of eleven Women's Institute members who posed nude for a calendar to raise money for the Leukemia Research Fund. Fridays, Saturdays, 7 p.m. and Sundays, 3 p.m. **through Feb. 17** \$15-\$20. 805-776-3287. By The Sea Productions, 545 Shasta Ave., Morro Bay, [bytheseaproductions.org](http://bytheseaproductions.org).

## COMEDY NIGHT

Weekly comedy show featuring touring and local comics all for one dollar. Guests can enjoy beer, food, raffle giveaways, and more. Hosted by Henry Bruington and Aidan Candelario. Limited spots available for the open mic. Thursdays, 7:30-10 p.m. **through Feb. 28** \$1. 805-540-8300. Bang The Drum Brewery, 950 Orcutt Road, San Luis Obispo, [bangthedrumbrewery.com/](http://bangthedrumbrewery.com/).

## AN EVENING OF CLASSIC LILY TOMLIN

**Jan. 18** Performing Arts Center, 1 Grand Ave., San Luis Obispo, 756-4849, [pacslo.org](http://pacslo.org).

## IMPROV COMEDY SHOW

Fast-paced improv comedy shows performed by the ensemble of Central Coast Comedy Theater. All shows are based on audience suggestions making every show unique. Saturdays, 8-10 p.m. \$5. [centralcoastcomedytheater.com](http://centralcoastcomedytheater.com). Kreuzberg Coffee Company, 685 Higuera Street, San Luis Obispo, 805-430-0260.

## TABULA RASA

The 49th annual Cal Poly Orchestral Dance Company concert. **Jan. 18, 8-10 p.m., Jan. 19, 2-4 & 8-10 p.m., Jan. 24, 8-10 p.m., Jan. 25, 8-10 p.m.** and **Jan. 26, 8-10 p.m.** \$20 general admission; \$12 student, faculty/staff, senior. 805-756-4TIX. [theatredance.calpoly.edu/productions](http://theatredance.calpoly.edu/productions). Spanos Theatre, Cal Poly, San Luis Obispo.

## TABULA RASA: CAL POLY ORCHESTRAL DANCE

**COMPANY** Guest artists with Cal Poly faculty and students have created dances in multiple genres that embrace the idea of a blank slate, learned knowledge, and perception. Fridays, Saturdays, 8-10 p.m., **Jan. 19, 2-4 p.m.** and **Jan. 24, 8-10 p.m.** **through Jan. 26** \$12-\$20. 805-756-6436. [theatredance.calpoly.edu/tabularasa](http://theatredance.calpoly.edu/tabularasa). Spanos Theatre, Cal Poly, San Luis Obispo.



(Original Art Work by an OUSD Student)

## **Mission Statement**

**The mission of Orcutt Children's Arts Foundation is to provide all children in the Orcutt Union School District the opportunities to experience and participate in the visual and performing arts by bringing together community resources.**

**500 Dyer Street, Orcutt  
805-938-8966  
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## Orcutt Children's Arts Foundation Annual Gala/Auction!

*Live Performance by Pryor Baird and his band.*

Silent & Live Auction

No Host Bar & Dinner

Support the Arts in Orcutt

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 Radisson Hotel Santa Maria-Pryor Baird Band Hotel Sponsor  
 Smart & Final-Centerpiece Sponsor

## Why You Should Support Arts Education Through Orcutt Children's Arts Foundation

### CREATIVITY:

In a world full of trained professionals and highly educated workers, creativity is one of the top skills that set someone apart from the pack. Having the ability to think imaginatively and bring fresh ideas to the table are essential to innovation and progress. Art education allows children to think outside the box.

### COLLABORATION:

Working together for a common purpose teaches children that their contribution is important, which is perfect for the collaborative nature of the arts. By working collaboratively on a project, students learn to communicate more effectively, compromise when necessary, and work hard even if their roll may seem small. All of these skills are vital in any work environment where teams come together for a common goal.

### CONFIDENCE:

The arts create a safe space for students to explore their talents and build their confidence. Students who are shy in a normal setting may gain the assurance to stand up and talk about their artwork. The sense of pride gained through a finished project encourages the students to keep trying and striving to accomplish more.

### CULTURAL AWARENESS & EMPATHY:

The arts provide a unique platform to discuss many different cultures, socioeconomic levels, and current events. Through the arts, students have a place to not only learn about different cultures than their own, but also to ask questions and be more informed about the daily struggles and realities of people who may seem different. By learning about other people, children develop their ability for empathy, essential in working with people from all walks of life, and realize that we have more in common than not.

### CRITICAL THINKING:

When students are making a work of art, the process includes conceptual and interpretational thinking that helps build their critical thinking skills including observation, reasoning, and problem solving. During the creative process, children use logic and problem solving to strategize how to reach their intended outcome. Critical thinking skills are also in play when observing and analyzing famous works. This ability to think critically to solve problems in a unique way is key to the 21st century workplace.



## Arts Attack \$10,000 Matching Grant – Impacting Young Lives Through Art

Thanks to a very special donor, when Orcutt Children's Arts Foundation raises \$10,000, we will receive another \$10,000 for Arts Attack. At the start of the OUSD school year, each week over 3,000 students have benefitted from Arts Attack curriculum. Arts Attack curriculum lesson plans are the most comprehensive video-based art curriculum available, teaching the art elements and principals, drawing techniques, media exploration, artist appreciation, art history, multi-cultural art and self-expression. This entire development and sequential curriculum is presented to the students using videos. Students learn visually rather than through textbooks or workbooks. Each curriculum comes with 24/27 hands on lessons per grade. The emphasis is on creative self-expression, learning by doing.

Original Arts Attack Lessons – Funded by OCAF



### **SUPPORT OCAF IN REACHING OUR GOAL! INVEST IN ARTS ATTACK!**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

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Email: \_\_\_\_\_

**I/WE SUPPORT ARTS ATTACK MATCHING GRANT: (CIRCLE ONE)**

**\$1000 - \$500 - \$250 - \$100 - \$50 - \$25 - \$10**

**MAIL FORM TO: OCAF, 500 Dyer Street, Orcutt, Ca 93455  
or support online at [orcuttarts.com](http://orcuttarts.com) • *click on Arts Attack Matching Grant.***



# CULTURE & LIFESTYLE

## LECTURES & LEARNING

### SANTA YNEZ VALLEY

#### ALMA ROSA PRESENTS WINE TALK

**WEDNESDAYS** An informational series that host speakers that discuss different aspects of the local wine industry. Fourth Wednesday of every month, 6:30-8:30 p.m. Free. 805-688-9090. almarosawinery.com. Alma Rosa Tasting Room, 181 C Industrial Way, Buellton.

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

### LOMPOC/VANDENBERG

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

### SANTA MARIA VALLEY/LOS ALAMOS

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

#### HEART OF THE VALLEY: LOCAL HISTORY

**SERIES** Guest speaker Jay Hardy hosts a presentation about the Hancock College of Aeronautics during the WWII era. **Jan. 19**, 10:15-11:15 a.m. 805-925-0994. cityofsantamaria.org. Santa Maria Public Library, 421 S. McClelland St., Santa Maria.

**SELMA SCREENING** This film about the march from Selma to Montgomery, Alabama for the right to vote will be shown in honor of Martin Luther King Jr. Day in Shepard Hall. **Jan. 21**, 2:30 p.m. Santa Maria Public Library, 421 S. McClelland St., Santa Maria, 805-925-0994.

**TEEN VOLUNTEER ORIENTATION** Teens will learn about volunteering at the Library. Must attend an orientation to become a volunteer. **Jan. 21**, 5-6 p.m. Free. 805-925-0994. Santa Maria Public Library, 421 S. McClelland St., Santa Maria.

### SOUTH COAST SLO COUNTY

**ELEPHANT SEALS** Learn about the seals local to the Piedras Blancas Elephant Seal Rookery, who make a yearly pilgrimage to San Simeon. Presented by the Piedras Blancas Friends of the Elephant Seal. **Jan. 19**, 2-3 p.m. Free. 805-473-7161. slolibrary.org. Arroyo Grande Library, 800 W. Branch, Arroyo Grande.

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

**TOURS FOR PADDLERS** A special tour for visitors who come by ocean. Paddlers will need to clean sand from their feet and dry themselves before the tour so not to damage the antique flooring. Saturdays, 10-10:45 a.m. \$6.49. 805-540-5771. Point San Luis Lighthouse, 1 Lighthouse Rd., Avila Beach.

**WOMEN IN ENGINEERING** A talk by Helene Finger, civil and environmental engineer, director of Cal Poly's Women in Engineering Program, and advisor to the Society of SWE at Cal Poly. **Jan. 21**, 6:30-8:30 p.m. Free. 805-994-7103. Women's Club of Arroyo Grande, 211 Vernon St., Arroyo Grande.

## CLUBS & MEETINGS

### SANTA MARIA VALLEY/LOS ALAMOS

**BOARD OF LIBRARY TEENS (BOLT)** Teens can help plan upcoming library events and make changes to the teen zone. **Jan. 19**, 4-5 p.m. Free. 805-925-0994. Santa Maria Public Library, 421 S. McClelland St., Santa Maria.

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

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

**HI-WAY DRIVE-IN SWAP MEET** Come to the Hi-Way

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

#### RECREATION AND PARKS DEPARTMENT: MAH

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

#### SANTA MARIA TOASTMASTERS WEEKLY MEETING

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

**TEENS ANIME CLUB** Club for teens that are interested in anime and manga. **Jan. 18**, 4:30-5:30 p.m. Free. 805-925-0994. Santa Maria Public Library, 421 S. McClelland St., Santa Maria.

#### THE SANTA MARIA VALLEY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

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

#### TRI CITY SOUND CHORUS OF SWEET ADELINES INTERNATIONAL

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

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

### SOUTH COAST SLO COUNTY

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

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

### NORTH COAST SLO COUNTY

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

## SUPPORT GROUPS

### SANTA MARIA VALLEY/LOS ALAMOS

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

### SOUTH COAST SLO COUNTY

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

**NAMI FAMILY SUPPORT GROUP** Hosted by NAMI (National Alliance on Mental Illness). A confidential and safe group of families helping families who have a loved one living with mental health challenges. Third Saturday of every month, 10-11:30 a.m. Free. 805-544-2086. Safe Haven, 203 Bridge St, Arroyo Grande.

**SCLERODERMA SUPPORT GROUP MEETING** A support group for those who have Scleroderma or those who love someone with Scleroderma. **Nov. 17**, 11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m. Free. 805-878-6261. St. John's Lutheran Church, 959 Valley Rd., Arroyo Grande.

**SPOUSE AND PARTNER LOSS SUPPORT GROUP (SOUTH COUNTY)** A Hospice SLO support group for those grieving the loss of a partner or spouse. Held in Room 16. Drop-ins welcome. Thursdays, 5-6:30 p.m. Free. 805-544-2266. hospiceslo.org. New Life Pismo, 990 James Way, Pismo Beach.



### LET IT GO

Queen Elsa from Frozen will be visiting the Santa Maria Valley Discovery Museum on Jan. 19 from 11 a.m. to noon. One of the museum's special Saturday Science Experiments will accompany the event. Admission is \$6. The museum is located at 705 S. McClelland St., Santa Maria. More info: (805) 928-8414 or [smdiscoverymuseum.org](http://smdiscoverymuseum.org).

## 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.

### SOUTH COAST SLO COUNTY

#### SEWING CAFE CLASSES AND WORKSHOPS

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

## MIND & BODY

### SANTA MARIA VALLEY/LOS ALAMOS

**BEER YOGA** Ticket includes one hour of yoga and your first pint of beer. All experience levels welcome. **Jan. 20**, 10:30-11:30 a.m. \$22. 805-287-9663. Naughty Oak Brewing Co., 165 S Broadway St Ste 102, Orcutt, naughtyoak.com.

**CANDLELIGHT RESTORATIVE YOGA** Release and open your body with breath, props, and meditation. Mondays, 7-8 p.m. [yogaformankind.com](http://yogaformankind.com). Yoga for Mankind, 130 N Broadway, Suite B, Orcutt.

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

**MEDITATION GROUP** Features a 20 minute meditation followed by a brief discussion. Meetings take place in the sanctuary. All are welcome. Thursdays, 11 a.m.-noon Free. 805-937-3025. Unity Chapel of Light Church, 1165 Stubblefield Rd., Orcutt, [unitysantamaria.net/](http://unitysantamaria.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. Wednesdays, 6:30-8:30 p.m. through Feb. 6 \$126. 805-598-1509. [divining.weebly.com](http://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](http://divining.weebly.com). Divine Inspiration, 947 E Orange St, Santa Maria.

CULTURE & LIFESTYLE continued page 24

# MY 805 TIX

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Honey is a 5 month old puppy diagnosed with a liver shunt and desperately needs surgery. We have already addressed her abrasions and other injuries, and this surgery is the final step to help her become a normal puppy.



Please consider a donation for Honey! Donations can be made through PayPal in our website: [www.centralcoastspca.org](http://www.centralcoastspca.org), or mailed directly to: PO Box 2952, Orcutt, CA 93457.

# CCSPCA, Inc.

Central Coast Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals

PO Box 2952, Orcutt, CA 93457

[www.centralcoastspca.org](http://www.centralcoastspca.org)

Email: [centralcoastSPCA@yahoo.com](mailto:centralcoastSPCA@yahoo.com)

(805) 937-1766

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19, 2-4 p.m. \$20. 805-210-8687. secretslo.com/tours/. San Luis Obispo Railroad Museum, 1940 Santa Barbara Ave., San Luis Obispo.

**SOUTH COAST SLO COUNTY**

**BEGINNER'S CHI GONG AND YOGA** For adults and youth ages 11 and up. Includes stand up exercises, breathing techniques, and more. Sundays, 9:45 a.m. Free. 805-534-1600. Morrocco Method Headquarters, 800 Farroll Rd., Grover Beach, morroccomethod.com.

**DEVELOPING INTUITION WITH SYMBOLS AND LAW OF ATTRACTION** Local radio and TV show host Anna Olsen holds this class to help guests develop intuitive and psychic abilities. Every other Wednesday, 6:30-8 p.m. through Jan. 8 \$20-\$30 per class. 805-723-4208. annaolsenintuitive.com. Halcyon Store Post Office, 936 S. Halcyon Rd., Arroyo Grande.

**MAY I BE HAPPY: SERIES ON SELF-COMPASSION** Befriend yourself to experience greater peace, emotional stability, joy, and well-being. Pre-registration required. Thursdays, 5-6 p.m. through May 30 805-270-5523. mindfulkindfullyouiversity.com/self-compassion. Women's Club of Arroyo Grande, 211 Vernon St., Arroyo Grande.

**MINDFUL YOGA: GENTLE, RESTORATIVE, AND SLOW FLOW** Mondays, Wednesdays, 9-10:15 a.m. \$10 donation. White Heron Sangha Meditation Center, 6615 Bay Laurel Place, Avila Beach, whiteheronsangha.org.

**SILVER SNEAKERS ZUMBA** Appropriate for all ages and fitness levels. An easy-to-follow dance fitness class. Mondays, Wednesdays, Fridays, 9-10 a.m. Free for members; \$6 to drop-in. 805-441-7932. Oceano Community Center, 1425 19th St., Oceano, adulted.luciamarschools.org.

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

**OUTDOORS**

**SAN LUIS OBISPO**

**FELSMAN LOOP HIKE WITH ECOSLO** Guests advised to bring sturdy shoes, water, and snacks **Jan. 20**, 9-11 a.m. Free. 805-544-1777. ecoslo.org. Bishop Peak, Patricia Drive Trailhead, San Luis Obispo.

**LAWLESS SAN LUIS WALKING TOUR** **Jan. 18**, 2-4 p.m., **Jan. 20**, 10 a.m.-noon, **Jan. 25**, 2-4 p.m. and **Jan. 27**, 10 a.m.-noon \$20. 805-210-8687. secretslo.com/tours/. Sauer-Adams Adobe, 964 Chorro St., San Luis Obispo.

**MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. DAY WALKING TOUR** Explore the history, the personalities, and the places of San Luis Obispo's racial enclaves and cultural communities. **Jan. 20**, 2-4 p.m. and **Jan. 21**, 10 a.m.-noon \$20. 805-210-8687. secretslo.com/tours/. Sauer-Adams Adobe, 964 Chorro St., San Luis Obispo.

**MODERN MASTERS OF ARCHITECTURE WALKING TOUR** Learn the stories behind the builders of various buildings in SLO. **Jan. 21**, 2-4 p.m. \$20. 805-210-8687. secretslo.com/tours/. Sauer-Adams Adobe, 964 Chorro St., San Luis Obispo.

**RISE OF A RAILROAD TOWN WALKING TOUR** Learn about the boilermakers, brakemen, prophets, poets, and promoters who made SLO a steam town. **Jan.**

**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.

**SOUTH COAST SLO COUNTY**

**KNOCKERBALL POP-UP PLAY** Experience pop-up Knockerball and other fun games, including Spike Ball, Kan Jam and Giant Jenga. **Jan. 20**, 11 a.m.-4 p.m. \$5-\$20. 805-776-3588. knockerballslo.com/public\_events/. Elm Street Park, 1221 Ash St., Arroyo Grande.

**KIDS & FAMILY**

**SANTA MARIA VALLEY/LOS ALAMOS**

**NIGHT LIGHT THEATER PRESENTS CHRISTOPHER ROBIN** **Jan. 22**, 6-7:30 p.m. Free. 805-925-0994. Santa Maria Public Library, 421 S. McClelland St., Santa Maria.

**AFTERNOON STORY TIME** Story time for kids ages 6 to 12 featuring stories, movies, and a craft. Tuesdays, 3:30-4:30 p.m. through Feb. 19 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.

**KIDS WII PLAY** Play the Wii U on the big screen. For kids ages 6 to 12. **Jan. 21**, 2-4 p.m. Free. 805-925-0994. 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.

**PRESCHOOL CRAFT TIME EXPRESS** Craft time designed for preschoolers ages 3 to 5. **Jan. 24**, 4-5 p.m. Free. 805-925-0994. Santa Maria Public Library, 421 S. McClelland St., Santa Maria.

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

**SANTA MARIA VALLEY RAILWAY HISTORICAL MUSEUM** The Santa Maria Valley Railway Historical Museum features a locomotive, boxcar, caboose, railroad artifacts, and diorama. Second and fourth Saturday of every month. 12-4 p.m. ongoing 805-714-4927. Santa Maria Transit Center, Miller and Boone St., Santa Maria.

FILE PHOTO BY REBECCA ROSE



**FUNGI FEST**

The Los Alamos Mushroom Festival takes place Jan. 25 through 27. Various businesses in Los Alamos, including Bedford Winery (pictured), Pico Restaurant, Plenty on Bell, Full of Life Flatbread, and Valley Fresh, will host events in celebration of the festival. Visit [lovelosalamos.com](http://lovelosalamos.com) for the full list of events.

**TEEN GAMING FRIDAYS** Teens can enjoy an afternoon of gaming. **Jan. 25**, 4-5:30 p.m. Free. 805-925-0994. Santa Maria Public Library, 421 S. McClelland St., Santa Maria.

**ULTIMATE UNICORN STORY TIME** Story time for preschoolers, ages 3 to 5, and their families. Wednesdays, 10:30 a.m.-11 p.m. through Feb. 20 Free. 805-925-0994. Santa Maria Public Library, 421 S. McClelland St., Santa Maria.

**SOUTH COAST SLO COUNTY**

**MINDFUL KINDFUL PEACEFUL (AGES 6-11): ARROYO GRANDE** A social-emotional learning program that provides foundation for greater mental strength, resilience, happiness, and well-being. Pre-registration required. Thursdays, 3:45-4:45 p.m. through May 30 805-270-5523. mindfulkindfullyouiversity.com/register-dragonfly-ag. Women's Club of Arroyo Grande, 211 Vernon St., Arroyo Grande.

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

**PLAY EXPLORE CREATE 1** Enjoy various art activities including drawing, painting, building sculptures, and more. Designed for ages 3 to 4. All materials are included. Mondays, Wednesdays, 9-10:30 a.m. \$20. 805-668-2125. LiLA Creative Community, 1147 East Grand Ave. Suite 101, Arroyo Grande, lila.community.

**SLO COUNTY PUGS ON THE BEACH** Socially friendly dogs and their humans are invited to run (leash free) in the surf sand at Olde Port Beach (Avila Dog Beach). Last Sunday of every month, 2-3 p.m. Free. aggbchamber.com. Olde Port Beach, 6520 Avila Beach Dr., Avila Beach.

**SPIRITUAL**

**SANTA MARIA VALLEY/LOS ALAMOS**

**FREE WOMEN'S EXERCISE CLASS** Open to all women regardless of denomination. Class includes stretching, aerobics, and floor exercises while listening to uplifting, spiritual music. Free childcare offered on site. Mondays, Wednesdays, Fridays, 9-10 a.m. Free. 805-922-1919. cornerstonesm.org. Cornerstone Church, 1026 E Sierra Madre Ave., Santa Maria.

**HOPE COMMUNITY CHURCH SERVICES** Join Hope Community Church for Sunday morning and Wednesday night services. Children care provided for infants and children under 4. Sundays, 10:30 a.m. and Wednesdays, 6:30 p.m. Free. 805-922-2043. hopesm.com. Hope Community Church, 3010 Skyway Dr. Suite F, Santa Maria.

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

**SOUTH COAST SLO COUNTY**

**GUIDED SOUND HEALING MEDITATION** With Julie Jensen. Third Monday of every month, 6:30-8 p.m. \$25. 805-489-2432. Halcyon Store Post Office, 936 S. Halcyon Rd., Arroyo Grande.

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

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

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

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

**SINGING BOWL MEDITATION** Enjoy vibrational sounds of singing bowls with Pamala Taylor. Fourth Wednesday of every month, 6:30-7:30 p.m. Offerings accepted. 805-674-4277. Halcyon Store Post Office, 936 S. Halcyon Rd., Arroyo Grande.

**SUNDAY FOR SPIRIT PSYCHIC READINGS** Features an assortment of psychic readers. Sundays, 1-5 p.m. Vaires. 805-489-2432. Halcyon Store Post Office, 936 S. Halcyon Rd., Arroyo Grande.

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



**JOY OF JEWELRY**

Gala De Arte in Nipomo hosts a jewelry design and creation workshop on Jan. 27 from 2 to 4 p.m. Activities include hammer texturing, wire wrapping, and antiquing. Tickets are \$60. Admission includes all materials, refreshments, and a glass of wine. More info: (805) 550-9963 or [theartgalanipomo.com](http://theartgalanipomo.com).

**VOLUNTEERS**

**SANTA MARIA VALLEY/LOS ALAMOS**

**BECOME AN ADULT LITERACY VOLUNTEER** Become a volunteer and help empower an adult learner. **Jan. 24**, 5:30-7:30 p.m. Free. 805-925-0994. Santa Maria Public Library, 421 S. McClelland St., Santa Maria.

**FOOD & DRINK**

**FARMERS MARKETS**

**LOMPOC/VANDENBERG**

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

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

**SANTA MARIA VALLEY/LOS ALAMOS**

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

**SOUTH COAST SLO COUNTY**

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

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

**SAN LUIS OBISPO**

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

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

**SLO CULTURE TUESDAY FARMERS' MARKET**

**MARKET** Tuesdays, 2-5 p.m. through Dec. 31 Free. 805-762-4688. facebook.com/TuesdayFarmersMarketSLOGuildHall/SLO Guild Hall, 2880 Broad 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.

**TGIF @ TMC** Proceeds benefit the Monday Clubhouse Conservancy Fine Arts Awards Program. Enjoy music, food, drinks, and more. **Jan. 18**, 5:30-8:30 p.m. \$25 in advance; \$30 at the door. 805-541-0594. themondayclubslo.org. The Monday Club, 1815 Monterey St, San Luis Obispo.

**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 TASTING AT CROMA VERA** Wines also available by the glass and bottle. Club members enjoy special pricing and exclusive benefits. Mondays, Fridays-Sundays, 11 a.m.-6 p.m. \$14. 805-946-1685. cromavera.com/tastingroom/. Croma Vera Wines, 3592 Broad St., Ste. 106, San Luis Obispo.

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

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

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## Live Music

## SANTA YNEZ VALLEY

**BARRY MCGUIRE LIVE** Presented by Tito's Bloody Bar and Fig Mountain Brew. **Jan. 20**, noon. Maverick Saloon, 3687 Sagunto St., Santa Ynez, 805-686-4785, mavericksaloon.org.

**DENNIS RUSSELL LIVE** The themes of Russell's lyrics include water, deserts, reptiles, skies, dreams, and railroad tracks. Food and drinks available for purchase. Not outside food or drinks allowed. **Jan. 18**, 6-9 p.m. Free admission. Cold Spring Tavern, 5995 Stagecoach Rd., Santa Barbara, 805-967-0066, coldspringtavern.com/entertainment.html.

**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.

**GREEN FLAG SUMMER LIVE** Food and drinks available for purchase. Not outside food or drinks allowed. **Jan. 19**, 1-4 p.m. Free admission. Cold Spring Tavern, 5995 Stagecoach Rd., Santa Barbara, 805-967-0066, coldspringtavern.com/entertainment.html.

**THE HOLLYWOOD HILLBILLIES LIVE** **Jan. 18**, 8 p.m. Maverick Saloon, 3687 Sagunto St., Santa Ynez, 805-686-4785, mavericksaloon.org.

**HONKY TONK BAND AND JOHNNY CASH** **Jan. 19**, 8 p.m. Maverick Saloon, 3687 Sagunto St., Santa Ynez, 805-686-4785, mavericksaloon.org.

**HOT ROUX LIVE** Food and drinks available for purchase. Not outside food or drinks allowed. **Jan. 27**, 4:30-7:30 p.m. Free admission. Cold Spring Tavern, 5995 Stagecoach Rd., Santa Barbara, 805-967-0066, coldspringtavern.com/entertainment.html.

**JIMI NELSON LIVE** **Jan. 25**, 8 p.m. Free before 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.

**THE NOMBRES LIVE** A blend of rock and country. Food and drinks available for purchase. Not outside food or drinks allowed. **Jan. 26**, 5-8 p.m. Free admission. Cold Spring Tavern, 5995 Stagecoach Rd., Santa Barbara, 805-967-0066, coldspringtavern.com/entertainment.html.

**THE NOONTIME OPERA CONCERT** Features the Chrisman Studio Artists, Ashley Kay Armstrong, Yazid Gray, Michael Kollmorgen, and Jennifer Lindsay, who will be performing Russian Art songs and opera selections. **Jan. 23**, 12-1 p.m. Free. 805-686-8315. wildlingmuseum.org. Wildling Museum of Art and Nature, 1511-B Mission Dr., Solvang.

**ODDLY STRAIGHT LIVE** Food and drinks available for purchase. Not outside food or drinks allowed. **Jan. 25**, 5-8 p.m. Free admission. Cold Spring Tavern, 5995 Stagecoach Rd., Santa Barbara, 805-967-0066, coldspringtavern.com/entertainment.html.

## It's not complicated

Get cozy with the indie pop duo *Complicated Animals* at *Presqu'ile Winery*

BY CAMILLIA LANHAM

**B**razilian-American duo the **Complicated Animals** is touching down at Presqu'ile Winery for the first 3rd Fridays Live performance of the year on **Friday, Jan. 18**, from 4:30 to 7 p.m.

The Los Angeles based sound of Monica da Silva and Chad Alger fuses indie pop, Brazilian bossa nova, and a little bit of 1980s synthesizer into what the two have termed "indie nova." *Complicated Animals* released its first album, *In This Game*, in 2015. Featuring da Silva's sultry voice singing in both Portuguese and English, the EP mixes the strum of vintage bossa nova with a dreamy indie beat. *Complicated Animals'* first album was featured on both Pop Matters and NPR, and the single "Phoenix" was handpicked to appear on MTV Brasil.

The duo's recently released single "Show Me" takes a step in a different direction, with a lush '80s pop sound layered between electronic synthesized beats. It's kind of like Florence and the Machine ran into Depeche Mode. An emotive pairing of vocals and sounds was inspired by the *Complicated Animals'* recent move to Los Angeles, a love for '80s music, and human emotion.

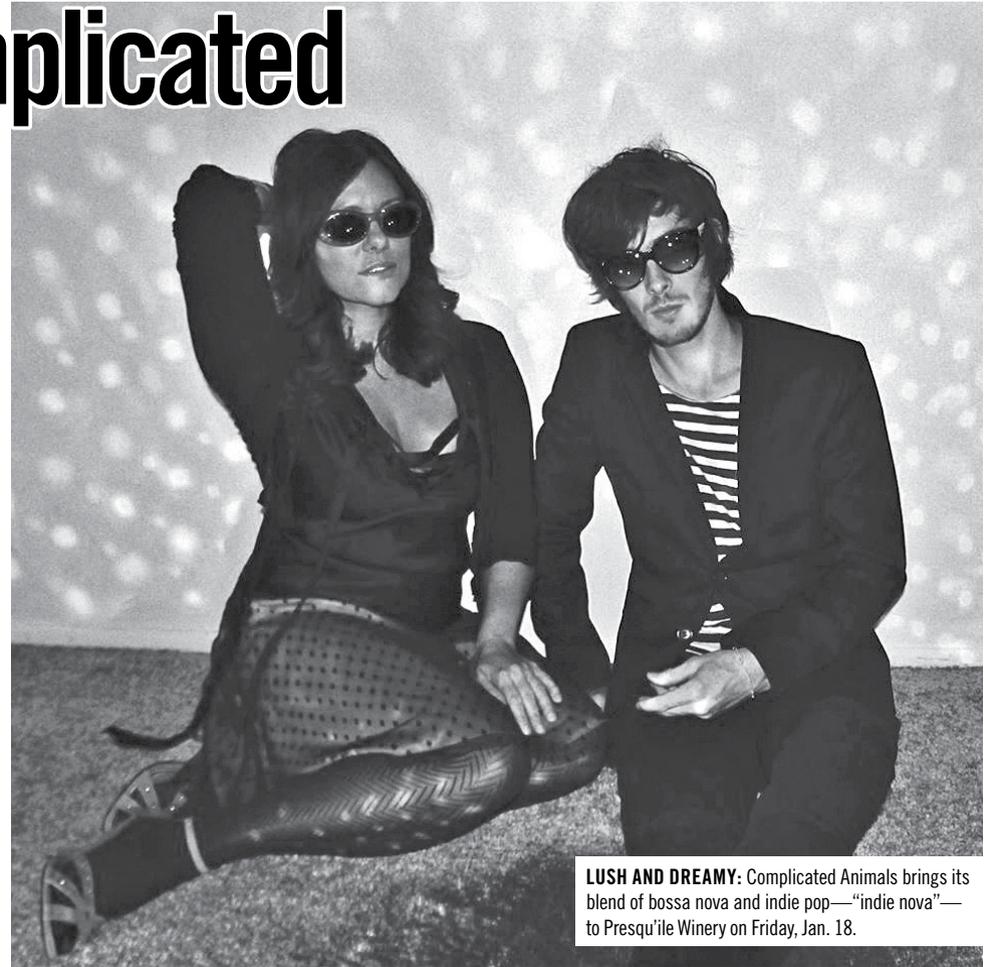
"It's scary how detached we humans have become. Technology is great, but we've got to remember how important human interaction is, and not just go through the motions like zombies," da Silva said in press materials.

The featured pairing for Presqu'ile's 3rd Friday will be feijoada, a delicious Brazilian stew of black beans, pork, and beef that might just be the perfect way to end a rainy week—a cozy Friday spent warming up the soul while taking in bossa-nova-inspired grooves and sipping a little bit of Santa Maria's finest.

You can also catch *Complicated Animals* on **Saturday, Jan. 19**, at Santa Ynez's Rideau Vineyards starting at 1 p.m.

### Other music

Orange County punk rockers The Last Gang stops in Santa Maria on their way to play a benefit



**LUSH AND DREAMY:** *Complicated Animals* brings its blend of bossa nova and indie pop—"indie nova"—to Presqu'ile Winery on Friday, Jan. 18.

PHOTO BY OF NEGATIVE SPACE MEDIA



**BOUNCING BEAT:** The Last Gang will fill O'Sullivan's Pub with its energetic punk on Thursday, Jan. 17.

MUSIC LISTINGS continued page 27

LOCAL NOTES continued page 27

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PHOTO COURTESY OF GREEN FLAG SUMMER



**FOREVER SUMMER:** Roots reggae and bluesy rock hit the Cold Spring Tavern with Green Flag Summer on Saturday, Jan. 18.

**LOCAL NOTES** from page 26

in San Francisco for the victims of the Camp Fire in Northern California. The Last Gang joined Fat Wreck Chords in December 2017, releasing *Keep Them Counting* in 2018. Vocalist-guitarist Brenna Reed, bassist Sean Viele, and drummer Robby Wantland pound out ramped-up Rancid-inspired punk with energetic rhythms that make you want to bounce.

**The Last Gang** plays O'Sullivan's Pub on **Thursday, Jan. 17**, at 8 p.m. with local post-hardcore punkers **Crucial Measures** and **Unbinding**.

On **Friday, Jan. 18**, food, brew, and '90s tunes could make you happy if you head to Naughty Oak Brewing Company in Orcutt. **Joe Daddy & The Sumthins** joins BBQ in the Stix to start your night off right from 6 to 10 p.m.

**Chris Johnson and the Hollywood Hillbillies** could give your mid-weekend slump a boost if you head to The Maverick Saloon in Santa Ynez. Be prepared for some classic country favorites, current country faves, and Southern rock and blues. The SoCal Outlaw Country band entertains starting at 8 p.m. on **Friday, Jan. 18**. (I'll tell you a secret: The show is free if you get there before 8 p.m.)

**Cold Spring Tavern**

Catch five shows on this Jan. 18 through 20 weekend at the Cold Spring Tavern off Highway 154. **Dennis Russell** plays things with strings from 6 to 9 p.m. on **Friday, Jan. 18**. He writes and sings songs about water, deserts, reptiles, skies, railroad tracks, dreams, and whatever else you can think of.

**Green Flag Summer** kicks **Saturday, Jan. 19**, off from 1 to 4 p.m. Matt Kustura and Andrew Fedders play original rock and reggae and choice covers. Green Flag's songs range from a rustic, sweet bluesy tune such as "Oil and Black" to the ska and reggae-inspired "Illusion." **The Tailgaters** bring on the classic country with a splash of surf rock starting at 5 p.m. on **Saturday, Jan. 19**.

**Sunday Funday, Jan. 20**, can get started around 1:15 p.m. when **Tom Ball and Kenny Sultan** bring their blend of guitar and harmonica blues to Cold Spring. Be ready for rags and good time music from experienced musicians. The **Paradise Kings** take the stage from 4:30 to 7:30 p.m., continuing your Sunday party into the sunset with rock, blues, and a little bit of swing. ○

*Editor Camillia Lanham wrote this week's Local Notes. Send your music news, show schedule, and comments to [clanham@santamariasun.com](mailto:clanham@santamariasun.com).*

**MUSIC LISTINGS** from page 26

**THE PARADISE KINGS LIVE** Genres include rock, blues, and swing. Food and drinks available for purchase. Not outside food or drinks allowed. **Jan. 20**, 4:30-7:30 p.m. Free admission. Cold Spring Tavern, 5995 Stagecoach Rd., Santa Barbara, 805-967-0066, [coldspringtavern.com/entertainment.html](http://coldspringtavern.com/entertainment.html).

**PULL THE TRIGGER LIVE** **Jan. 26**, 8 p.m. Free before 8 p.m. Maverick Saloon, 3687 Sagunto St., Santa Ynez, 805-686-4785, [mavericksaloon.org](http://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](http://mavericksaloon.org).

**THE TAILGATERS LIVE** Genres include classic rock, country, and surf. Food and drinks available for purchase. Not outside food or drinks allowed. **Jan. 19**, 5-8 p.m. Free admission. Cold Spring Tavern, 5995 Stagecoach Rd., Santa Barbara, 805-967-0066, [coldspringtavern.com/entertainment.html](http://coldspringtavern.com/entertainment.html).

**TOM BALL AND KENNY SULTAN LIVE** Enjoy a blend of guitar and harmonica blues, and rags, and good time music. Food and drinks available for purchase. No outside food or drinks allowed. Sundays, 1:15-4 p.m. Free. Cold Spring Tavern, 5995 Stagecoach Rd., Santa Barbara, 805-967-0066, [coldspringtavern.com/entertainment.html](http://coldspringtavern.com/entertainment.html).

**TROMBONE SHORTY AND ORLEANS AVENUE** **Jan. 25** Chumash Casino Resort, 3400 E. Highway 246, Santa Ynez, 800-248-6274, [chumashcasino.com/entertainment](http://chumashcasino.com/entertainment).

**WILL BREMAN LIVE** Food and drinks available for purchase. Not outside food or drinks allowed. **Jan.**

**26**, 1-4 p.m. Free admission. Cold Spring Tavern, 5995 Stagecoach Rd., Santa Barbara, 805-967-0066, [coldspringtavern.com/entertainment.html](http://coldspringtavern.com/entertainment.html).

**LOMPOC/VANDENBERG**

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

**SANTA MARIA VALLEY/LOS ALAMOS**

**ABOUT TIME LIVE** Part of Moxie Cafe's ongoing, complimentary live music series. Food and drinks available for purchase. **Jan. 18**, 5:30-7:30 p.m. Free admission. Moxie Cafe, 1317 W. McCoy Ln., Santa Maria, 805-361-2900, [moxiecafe.com](http://moxiecafe.com).

**BILL WOODS LIVE** Part of Moxie Cafe's ongoing, complimentary live music series. Food and drinks available for purchase. **Jan. 19**, 5:30-7:30 p.m. Free admission. Moxie Cafe, 1317 W. McCoy Ln., Santa Maria, 805-361-2900, [moxiecafe.com](http://moxiecafe.com).

**BOB CLARK LIVE** Part of Moxie Cafe's ongoing, complimentary live music series. Food and drinks available for purchase. **Jan. 17**, 5:30-7:30 p.m. Free admission. Moxie Cafe, 1317 W. McCoy Ln., Santa Maria, 805-361-2900, [moxiecafe.com](http://moxiecafe.com).

**JOE DADDY LIVE** Enjoy covers of various hits from the '90s. Food will be available for purchase from Barbecue in the Stix. **Jan. 18**, 5:30-9 p.m. Free admission. Naughty Oak Brewing Co., 165 S Broadway St Ste 102, Orcutt, 805-287-9663, [naughtyoak.com](http://naughtyoak.com).

**KEITH T. COX LIVE** Food and drinks available for purchase. **Jan. 25**, 6-9 p.m. Free admission. Vino et Amicis, 156 S. Broadway, Orcutt, 805-631-0496, [vinoetamicis.com](http://vinoetamicis.com).

**KELLY IRELAN LIVE** Food and drinks available for purchase. **Jan. 26**, 7-9 p.m. Free admission. Vino et Amicis, 156 S. Broadway, Orcutt, 805-631-0496, [vinoetamicis.com](http://vinoetamicis.com).

**THE LAST GANG LIVE** An LA-based punk rock group. With guests Unbinding and Crucial Measures. **Jan. 17**, 8 p.m. Free admission. O'Sullivan's Pub, 633 E. Main St., Santa Maria, 805-925-0658, [osullivanspub.net](http://osullivanspub.net).

**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](http://cdowinery.com).

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

**LIVE MUSIC AT NAUGHTY OAK** Enjoy a different musical act and food vendor every Friday evening. Fridays, 5:30 p.m. Free admission. Naughty Oak Brewing Co., 165 S Broadway St Ste 102, Orcutt, 805-287-9663, [naughtyoak.com](http://naughtyoak.com).

**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](http://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](http://presquilewine.com).

**NOONTIME OPERA: SANTA BARBARA OPERA** The Chrisman Studio Artists will perform Russian art songs and arias by their favorite Russian composers. Artists include Ashley Armstrong, Yazid Gray, Michael Kollmorgen, and Jennifer Lindsay. **Jan. 21**, noon 805-925-0994. Santa Maria Public Library, 421 S. McClelland St., Santa Maria.

**RON MILLER LIVE** Food and drinks available for purchase. **Jan. 19**, 6-9 p.m. Free admission. Vino et Amicis, 156 S. Broadway, Orcutt, 805-631-0496, [vinoetamicis.com](http://vinoetamicis.com).

**SOUTH COAST SLO COUNTY**

**ACOUSTIC SUNDAYS** Sundays, 3-6 p.m. Seaventure Restaurant, 100 Oceanview Ave, Pismo Beach, 805-779-1779, [seaventure.com](http://seaventure.com).

**COUGRZZ ROCK LIVE** **Jan. 18**, 9 p.m. and **Jan. 19**, 9 p.m. Harry's Night Club And Beach Bar, 690 Cypress St., Pismo Beach, 805-773-1010, [harryspismo.com](http://harryspismo.com).

**THE EARLY SHOW WITH JOHN ALAN CONNERLEY** Enjoy live music, wine, food, and more. **Jan. 25**, 4:30-6:30

PHOTO COURTESY OF THE WILDING MUSEUM



**AFTERNOON AT THE OPERA**

*The Wildling Museum hosts one of its noontime opera concerts on Jan. 23 from noon to 1 p.m. Four of the Chrisman Studio Artists, Ashley Kay Armstrong, Jennifer Lindsey, Michael Kollmorgen, and Yazid Gray (pictured from left to right), will perform Russian art and opera songs. Admission is free. More info: (805) 686-8315 or [wildlingmuseum.org](http://wildlingmuseum.org).*

p.m. Free. 805-773-6563. Puffers of Pismo, 781 Price St., Pismo Beach, [puffersofpismo.com/](http://puffersofpismo.com/).

**LBS LIVE** **Jan. 20**, 9 p.m. and **Jan. 21**, 7:30 p.m. Harry's Night Club And Beach Bar, 690 Cypress St., Pismo Beach, 805-773-1010, [harryspismo.com](http://harryspismo.com).

**LEGENDS LIVE** **Jan. 22**, 7:30 p.m. and **Jan. 23**, 7:30 p.m. Harry's Night Club And Beach Bar, 690 Cypress St., Pismo Beach, 805-773-1010, [harryspismo.com](http://harryspismo.com).

**LIPSTICK REVENGE LIVE** **Jan. 25**, 9 p.m. and **Jan. 26**, 9 p.m. Harry's Night Club And Beach Bar, 690 Cypress St., Pismo Beach, 805-773-1010, [harryspismo.com](http://harryspismo.com).

**RUMOURS: THE ULTIMATE FLEETWOOD MAC**

PHOTO COURTESY OF COLD SPRING TAVERN



**COUNT ON IT**

*The Nombres perform at Cold Spring Tavern on Jan. 26 from 5 to 8 p.m. This group performs a blend of rock and country. Admission is free. Food and drinks are available for purchase. The tavern is located at 5995 Stagecoach Road, Santa Barbara. More info: (805) 967-0066 or [coldspringtavern.com](http://coldspringtavern.com).*

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**MUSIC**

**MUSIC LISTINGS** from page 27

**TRIBUTE SHOW** This tribute show attempts to recreate Fleetwood Mac's legendary persona from 1975 to 1987. With period accurate equipment and costumes, this tribute's characterizations and musical performance takes audience members back in time. **Jan. 19,** 7:30-9:30 p.m. \$45-\$55. 805-489-9444. clarkcenter.org/event/rumours-the-ultimate-fleetwood-mac-tribute-show/. Clark Center for the Performing Arts, 487 Fair Oaks Ave., Arroyo Grande.

**SONGWriters AT PLAY: MATTHEW MICHAEL AND CHRISTINA MARIE** Matthew Michael and Christina Marie write independently and collaboratively, complementing and contrasting each other's creative voice. Special guests include John Roy Zat, Abby K, and Andreas. **Jan. 23,** 6-8:30 p.m. Free; tips accepted; all ages welcome. 805-489-9099. songwritersatplay.com. Branch Street Deli, 203 E. Branch St., Arroyo Grande.

**DJ/DANCE**

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

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**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.

**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. spotonevents.com. Blast 825 Brewery, 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. ○

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## Arts Briefs

### Elverhoj Museum hosts children's book authors

The Elverhoj Museum of History and art will host four children's authors from the Central Coast in a special event on Jan. 16

Authors include Patricia Eubank reading *Natalia's Favorite Color*; Grady Hall with *On the Trail with Seymour the Snail*, a nature-themed children's book; Robert Byrne with *Like Mother Like Daughter*; and Ayn Cates Sullivan reading an excerpt from her book *Sparkle and the Gift*.

The event runs from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. and is geared to children from 3 to 10 years old. Cost is free. Additional activities at the reading include a craft wheel, butterfly paper mosaic crafts, an interactive Plus-Plus makers station, and baked goods from the National Charity League. Participants can bring lunch and eat in the garden or gazebo. The Elverhoj is located at 1624 Elverhoj Way in Solvang. For more information call (805) 686-1211 or visit [elverhoj.org](http://elverhoj.org).

### PCPA presents comedy *Shakespeare in Love*

The Pacific Conservatory Theatre's (PCPA) next production *Shakespeare in Love* will run from Feb. 7 through March 3.

The play is a romantic comedy based on the movie written by Tom Stoppard and Marc Norman. In the play, William Shakespeare is suffering from writer's block while working on his new play, *Romeo and Ethel the Pirate's Daughter*. The production also follows Viola, who is set to be married to Lord Wessex but also wants to star in a Shakespeare play, despite women being prevented by law from appearing on stage. Viola dons the disguise of Sir Thomas Kent and begins an affair with Shakespeare, now inspired by her to write *Romeo and Juliet*.

PCPA's production is directed by Roger DeLaurier and features Yusef Seevers and Emily Trask, two of its newest resident artists. The 1998 film version won Academy Awards for Best Actress, Best Picture, Best Screenplay, and more.

To order tickets or for more information, visit [pcpa.org](http://pcpa.org) or call (805) 922-8313

### Wilding Museum features Ray Strong exhibit

The Wilding Museum of Art and Nature will feature the work of painter Ray Strong from Feb. 2 through July 18.

Strong, who died in 2006, was a prolific Santa Barbara artist who depicted the landscapes of the county and Northern California. Collector David Parker shares his private collection with the museum for a unique exhibit, chronicling his story of how he built his large collection.

A reception for the exhibit is scheduled for Feb. 2 from 3 to 5 p.m. The museum is located at 1511-B Mission Dr., Solvang. For more information, call (805) 688-1082. ○

Arts Briefs is compiled by Arts and Lifestyle Writer Rebecca Rose. Send information to [rose@santamariasun.com](mailto:rose@santamariasun.com).

# A better wall

*The Ann Foxworthy Gallery in Santa Maria hosts Before I Die, an exhibit that encourages viewer engagement*

BY REBECCA ROSE

Candy Chang didn't set out to create a memorial to her late friend Joan, who had been like a mother to her for 15 years before she died.

To deal with the loss, Chang set out to find a way for people to avoid hiding from the realities of death. She made a stencil that read "Before I die I want to" and painted the side of an abandoned building in her neighborhood with the prompt. Almost immediately messages flooded the wall, with people leaving notes about their wildest dreams and simplest goals.

"There was this big commonality," said Laura-Susan Thomas, director of the Ann Foxworthy Gallery in Santa Maria. "Even though you don't know who wrote it, what they looked like, or what their walk of life was, you can actually find all these common bonds in what was important to everyone."

Messages that dotted the wall in New Orleans were diverse, sometimes humorous, and often heartbreaking. "I want to swim without holding my nose." "I want to name a star." "I want to live with the Amish." "I want to see equality."

Today, Before I Die is a global art project with more than 4,000 walls set up in 71 countries. Messages appear in more than 30 languages, as museums, galleries, community centers, and other public forums invite people to leave their own words. The Foxworthy Gallery is the latest gallery to partake in Before I Die, bringing Chang's project to Santa Maria and inviting the general public to leave their own messages of support.

"Chang created this exhibit in her hometown of New Orleans to help bring her community together," Thomas said. "It was huge, the amount of people who participated. It was more than just leaving a resolution for the year. It was about finding the big thing that was important to each person."

Thomas said the project will feature an opportunity for gallery visitors to do more than just view art. As part of a larger global initiative, images from the wall will be loaded up to the Before I Die project website.

There is a kiosk outside the gallery that also invites participation and once inside the gallery, there are eight boards for messages placed on the walls and a large booth in the center. The project is in English and Spanish as well, Thomas said.

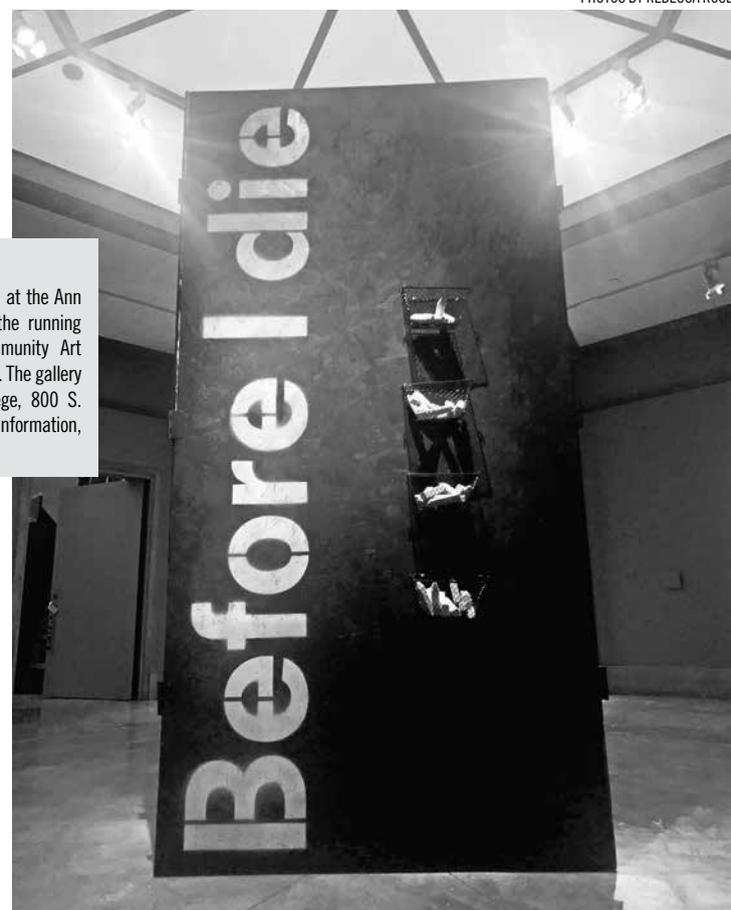
But the goal of the project isn't just to leave inspiring messages or share quips about wanting to have tea with the queen of England. A broader aim of Before I Die is to find ways to reduce the stigma of talking about death and dying. Project organizers hope the wall will help people become more comfortable talking about mortality—even their own.



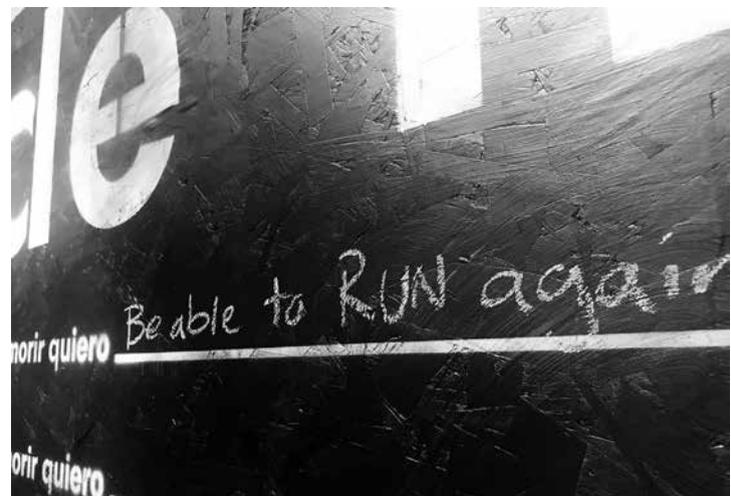
**BEFORE I DIE:** Candy Chang's project, now available to view at the Ann Foxworthy Gallery at Allan Hancock College in Santa Maria, invites participants to connect with the wall and leave their own messages about their personal goals and dreams.

#### Leave your mark

Before I Die runs through Feb. 7 at the Ann Foxworthy Gallery. In addition to the running show, the gallery will host Community Art Afternoon on Jan. 24 from 3 to 5 p.m. The gallery is located at Allan Hancock College, 800 S. College Dr., Santa Maria. For more information, call (805) 922-6966, Ext. 3465.



**GLOBAL GIFT:** Candy Chang set out to create a makeshift memorial to a deceased friend of hers in New Orleans. Today there are more than 4,000 Before I Die walls in 75 countries.



**LIFE GOALS:** Santa Maria is now home to a global art project known as Before I Die, which invites viewers to describe what they want to do in their lifetime. The exhibit at the Ann Foxworthy Gallery runs through Feb. 7.

One of the things that attracted Thomas to the Before I Die project was that it opened up ways to let viewers and gallery attendees be part of an installation, making it more accessible.

"It's an opportunity to be part of an art piece," Thomas explained. "To do some introspective thinking at the beginning of the year, and it should lead beautifully into some other exhibits we're having throughout the year."

One of the gallery's plans is to bring Before I Die walls to the Open Streets festival in Santa Maria later this year, again allowing the public to interact with and write messages on it. Thomas said opportunities such as that allow art normally confined to within the gallery's walls to have another life and engage with community members who may not have previously had a chance to see the walls.

In conjunction with the show, the gallery is also hosting a Community Art Afternoon on Jan. 24. The activity is planned so visitors can learn more about the original creator, Chang, as well as to see more images of Before I Die walls from other parts of the world.

"It's just a really great way to engage with your neighbors and with art," Thomas said. "Even if you don't want to write, it's a way for people to learn more about who the people in their community are." ○

Arts and Lifestyle Writer Rebecca Rose is walled up. Contact her at [rose@santamariasun.com](mailto:rose@santamariasun.com).

PHOTOS BY CALEB WISEBLOOD



# Flagship

*Ringing in the new year at Six Flags Magic Mountain*

BY CALEB WISEBLOOD

Anyone living south of Valencia should heed this piece of *The Californians'* advice at least once in their life: "Go up the 5, go to Magic Mountain, get on Riddler's Revenge, and never get off!" Really, it's down the 101 to the 126 for those of us residing in the north. Although I'm much more of a Disneyland guy, Six Flags Magic Mountain has always held a special place in my heart. Mainly because it's got one thing Disneyland doesn't, and that's Batman (until Disney inevitably buys DC Comics)!

I much preferred the park when I was a kid, that was when Gotham City was one of the main themed areas, or "lands" (comparable to Fantasy Land, Adventure Land, etc., at Disney). Somewhere between the 2010s and now, the area was unfortunately redesigned and renamed "DC Universe," becoming inclusive to all DC superheroes, not just the best of them. It's still home to Batman: The Ride and Riddler's Revenge, but shares space with non-batty attractions Green Lantern: First Flight, Wonder Woman: Lasso, and The Flash: Speed Force.

Before going on Dec. 29, 2018, the last time I had gone must have been more than a year or two ago, as I was completely unaware of the Justice League: Battle for Metropolis attraction added in 2017. Here I am staring in awe at the Michael Keaton era Batmobile displayed prominently in front of the DC Universe entrance when I overhear some folks talking about a Justice League ride. And sure enough, several feet away I find a very large building I've never seen before, smack dab in the middle of Riddler's Revenge and Gold Rusher. Bold letters across the top read: Hall of Justice.

The line is nearly an hour and a half long, but so is everything else in the park (it's my fault for going on a Saturday during the middle of most students' winter break). When the line finally reaches the front door to the building, we're taken into a large waiting room where an animatronic Cyborg awaits us. He warns of us of an ongoing attack and tells us to put on our 3-D glasses, of course. There are also animatronic versions of the Joker and Harley Quinn featured in the ride itself. Other villains and the rest of the Justice League are covered in 3-D cinematics laced throughout the ride.

Indoor, interactive roller coasters are customary at Disney and Universal parks, but Battle For Metropolis is the first of its kind at Magic Mountain. I'm glad they at least have one now. I've always thought there was way too big of a gap between the kids' rides and stuff like Lex Luthor: Drop of Doom and Goliath. We finally have a middle ground, something you can go on if you're too big for the Tweety Bird cages, but not exactly in the mood for 250-foot drop either.

For me, the Log Jammer used to serve that very purpose, which sadly closed in 2011. They've still got three other water rides (Jet Stream, Tidal Wave, and Roaring Rapids), but they all lack a certain *je ne sais quoi* in comparison. Can we please get a log ride throwback eventually? Or an Aquaman water ride, come on! ○

*Calendar Editor Caleb Wiseblood never got off of Riddler's Revenge. Contact him at [cwiseblood@santamariasun.com](mailto:cwiseblood@santamariasun.com).*



**BIBLICAL PROPORTIONS:** Tale as old as time, song as old as rhyme, David and Goliath (I'm David in this situation of course).



**WHEELS OF FORTUNE:** The 1989 Batmobile is on display in front of the DC Universe entrance.



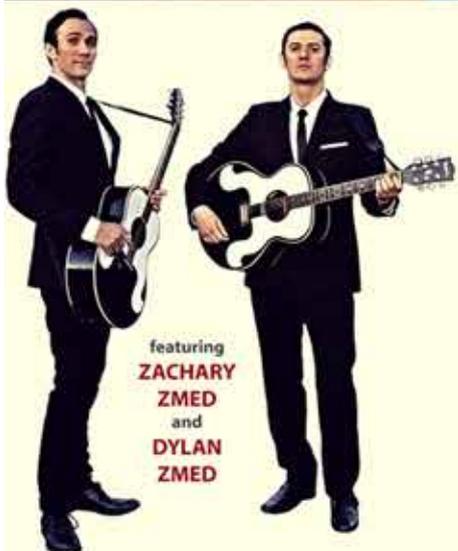
**HALL OF JUSTICE:** It took Michelangelo (the Ninja Turtle, not the artist) three years to sculpt these.

**EXTRA! EXTRA!** Why are there copies of the *Central City Citizen* in a *Daily Planet* bin? Did the Joker do this?



**EXTENDED HOLIDAY:** The holiday season doesn't end at Six Flags Magic Mountain, at least not until after New Year's.

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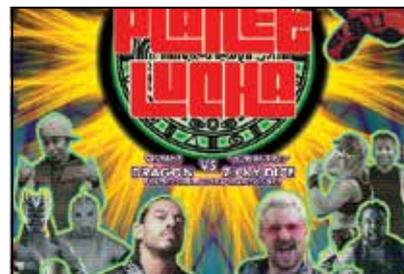
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**Café Musique in Concert**  
SUNDAY, JANUARY 20  
Café Musique



**Beer Yoga**  
SUNDAY, JANUARY 20  
Naughty Oak Brewing Co.



**Planet Lucha**  
SUNDAY, JANUARY 20  
Santa Maria Hotel Radisson



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



**SLO Blues Baseball**  
2019 SEASON PASSES  
Sinsheimer Stadium



**Tours for Paddlers**  
SELECT DATES THROUGH FEBRUARY  
Point San Luis Lighthouse



**Calendar Girls**  
SELECT DAYS IN JAN-FEB  
By the Sea Productions



**Communities Together Celebrate King, Movie Screening**  
MONDAY, JANUARY 21  
Congregation Beth David



**Victoria Vox in Concert**  
TUESDAY, JANUARY 22  
Morro Bay Wine Seller



**Blindfold Yoga**  
SATURDAY, JANUARY 26  
7Sisters Brewing Co.



**Weaving Workshop**  
SATURDAY, JANUARY 26  
Zaca Mesa Winery



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



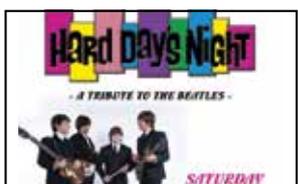
**Barre & Brunch**  
SUNDAY, JANUARY 27  
Tooth & Nail Winery



**Bach Cello Suites**  
SUNDAY, JANUARY 27  
Cass Winery



**Avila Beach Spaghetti Dinner**  
FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 1  
Avila Beach Community Center



**Hard Day's Night: A Tribute to the Beatles**  
SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 2  
Rava Wines + Events



**Brewasana**  
SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 3  
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7Sisters Brewing Co.



**Bill & Ian's Excellent Abu Dhabi Adventure:**  
Fundraising Party for Special Olympics  
SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 9  
The Barn at Greengate Ranch



**Orchestra Novo Co-Creation Project III with Robert Thies**  
SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 10  
CPAC at Cuesta College



**Tribute to Aretha Franklin & Smokey Robinson**  
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 12  
Morro Bay Wine Seller



**Love in Avila Beach Dinner and Dance**  
FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 15  
Point San Luis Lighthouse



**Unfinished Business 55th Beatles Anniversary Valentines Show**  
SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 16  
Mongo's Saloon



**Chicago duo Small Potatoes**  
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 19  
Morro Bay Wine Seller



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



**Return of the Jette: A Benefit Concert for Orchestra Novo**  
SATURDAY, MARCH 2  
Congregation Beth David



**Highway 46 West Wine Safari**  
SAT & SUN, MARCH 2-3  
Paso Robles HWY 46 West Wineries



**UK Guitarist Clive Carroll**  
FRIDAY, MARCH 7  
Morro Bay Wine Seller



**Vocal Arts on Broadway**  
FRIDAY, MARCH 8  
Monarch Club at Trilogy



**A Historic Evening with Eva Schloss**  
SUNDAY, MARCH 10  
Chumash Auditorium



**Rick Springfield: Stripped Down**  
SATURDAY, MARCH 16  
Rava Wines + Events



**Consequential Conversations**  
MARCH 22-24  
By the Sea Productions



**Royal Family KIDS Fundraiser**  
SATURDAY, MARCH 23  
Fountain Pavilion at the Santa Maria Fairpark



**Watercolor & Wine Workshop**  
SUNDAY, MARCH 24  
Zaca Mesa Winery



**Brynn Albanese performs with StringFire**  
SUNDAY, MARCH 31  
Old Santa Rosa Chapel



**DIY Succulent Wreath Workshop**  
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Zaca Mesa Winery



**Silent Sky**  
MAY 3-26  
By the Sea Productions

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## Film Reviews

### AQUAMAN

What's it rated? **PG-13**  
 What's it worth? **Full price**  
 Where's it showing? **Parks Plaza**  
**PICK** James Wan (*Saw*, *Insidious*, *The Conjuring*) directs this latest entry in the DC Extended Universe, *Aquaman*. The story centers on land dweller Arthur Curry (Jason Momoa), aka Aquaman, the rightful heir to the throne of the underwater kingdom, Atlantis. After his Atlantean half-brother, King Orm (Patrick Wilson), declares war on the surface, Arthur must claim his birthright in order to stop genocide. With help from allies Mera (Amber Heard) and Vulko (Willem Dafoe), Arthur travels the world in search of an ancient weapon: a trident that legend says can only be wielded by the one true king of Atlantis.

The vibrant colors and the overall lighthearted tone of the film make *Aquaman* such an intriguing 180 for director James Wan, who's primarily known for his horror films. I always love seeing filmmakers step out of their comfort zones, whether it ends up working or not. The good news is *Aquaman* does work. There's a lot to geek out about. I'd hate to spend too much time gushing about the special effects and design over the performances and story, but boy oh boy does this movie look freakin' cool! My only real complaint is the scenes on land occasionally pale in comparison to everything happening underwater, and that's purely due to the visuals. (143 min.)

—Caleb Wiseblood

### A DOG'S WAY HOME

What's it rated? **PG**  
 What's it worth? **Matinee**  
 Where's it showing? **Parks Plaza**  
**PICK** Charles Martin Smith (*Air Bud*, *Dolphin Tale*) directs this family adventure about Bella (voiced by Bryce Dallas Howard), a dog who travels 400 miles to find her owner.

Born a stray under a house, Bella's found and brought home by aspiring doctor Lucas (Jonah Hauer-King) to live with him and his unemployed veteran mom, Terri (Ashley Judd). Then through circumstance, Bella's sent to live elsewhere. She tries to find her way home only to get lost in the woods and befriended by a cougar cub.

Sure, the story is familiar, perhaps even derivative. Yes, it's clumsily cloying and emotionally manipulative. True, its social justice message is dumbed down to the point of being ineffective. But there's an adorable dog, a formulaic feel-good story, and you can bring the whole family ... and some tissues, definitely some tissues. (96 min.)

—Glen Starkey

### ESCAPE ROOM

What's it rated? **PG-13**  
 What's it worth? **Rent it**  
 Where's it showing? **Movies Lompoc**

**FILM REVIEWS** continued page 34

### 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

## Madam justice

**M**imi Leder (*Pay It Forward*) directs this biopic about a young Ruth Bader Ginsburg (Felicity Jones) and her fight for equality, which eventually helps propel her onto the Supreme Court of the United States. (120 min.)

**Glen:** Just when I thought I couldn't respect Ruth Bader Ginsburg more, along comes this film to show me I can. Ginsburg was one of nine women among 500 men admitted into the 1956 class of Harvard Law School, and Sam Waterson as Dean Erwin Griswold is the constant reminder to her and the other women that he's not convinced they're worthy. Director Mimi Leder reminds us again and again that Ginsburg is in a man's world. The opening scene shows a herd of young bespoke suit-clad men in wingtip shoes striding toward Griswold's law school orientation, where he describes what it means to be a "Harvard man." Ginsburg looks around the audience, seeing man after man. What it took to continue on in the face of such dismissiveness and discrimination is nothing short of amazing. This is also the story of Martin Ginsburg (Armie Hammer), Ruth's forward-thinking husband and the herculean effort it took them both to attend law school *and* raise a family. We learn about Martin's health scare and how Ruth attended both his and her law school classes so she could take notes as he recovered. It's a

### ON THE BASIS OF SEX

What's it rated? **PG-13**  
 What's it worth, Anna? **Full price**  
 What's it worth, Glen? **Full price**  
 Where's it showing? **Edwards Stadium 14, Regal Stadium 10**

harrowing story of perseverance and a tribute to the couple's commitment to each other. Also essential to the story is the relationship between Ruth and her firstborn, Jane (Cailee Spaeny), who inspires her already driven mother to work even harder for equality so her daughter has the opportunities her male counterparts enjoy. Ruth and Martin eventually enlist the help of pioneering equal rights lawyer Dorothy Kenyon (Kathy Bates at her most acerbic) and ACLU attorney Mel Wulf (Justin Theroux) to take on the discrimination case brought by Charles

Moritz (Chris Mulkey), who ran afoul of a gender-specific law. The courtroom drama that follows is inspiring and restored my faith in our justice system.

**Anna:** Ginsburg is a small but mighty force to be reckoned with, and while most are

more familiar with her work on the Supreme Court, this film highlights the massive amount of work, passion, and dedication it took for her not only to rise up in her field, but to be recognized at all in the sea of men surrounding her. Right away it's evident she has an uphill battle ahead. When the small group of women at Harvard Law School are invited to dinner at Dean Griswold's home, it's abundantly clear that he is unimpressed with their place in his world and quickly dismisses their reasons for attending. Once graduated, Ruth's dream of practicing law is shot down at firm after firm, either because they simply don't have "a place for a woman" or because "the partners' wives will be jealous." She is, however, offered a job teaching at Rutgers, and while it isn't her dream,

it's a paycheck and soon the world of academia is her focus. Martin is a brilliant tax attorney and a charming individual whose total faith in his wife's abilities is endearing and seemingly unusual for the time. The case that sparks the beginning of change in gender equality in law is the perfect opportunity for the two to fight the good fight together. Moritz is an unwed caregiver to his aging mother, but because of his gender, he's excluded

from tax exemptions for caregivers, which were assumed to be women. Despite being told there was no way, no how to win this, the Ginsburgs carried on and won a case that's still changing the course of history today. This is an uplifting piece of cinema, and a love poem to Justice Ginsburg and her continued fight for good.

**Glen:** *On the Basis of Sex* is both an important history lesson and an inspirational film for girls and young women still struggling for full equality, access, and representation. I hope parents will bring their tweens and teens to the theater as a reminder that despite staggering odds, justice can overcome tradition and the status quo. The film also works as entertainment—tax law has never seemed so exciting! The acting and direction is roundly excellent as well. Jones is wonderful as the diminutive Ruth—she plays her moments of despondency and weakness effectively, reminding viewers that even the Notorious R.B.G. is fallible. Hammer is terrific as her dashing husband, who also acts as the bridge between Ruth and her teenage daughter, Jane, who at first finds her mother overbearing but soon discovers she's an inspirational hero whose strength and tenacity are needed for the fight of their lives. I was so inspired by this story. I think being raised in a home with a lot of strong women made it resonate. The film's a tribute to smart and proud women everywhere. I loved it!

**Anna:** The struggle between Jane and Ruth is so relatable, and while there is no denying her mother's feminist streak, Jane is of the younger generation that wants protest and radical change, not just slow-to-come legislative wins. The family is a close-knit one though, and Jane's ability to participate in the preparation for the upcoming hearing is crucial to cementing her mother's hero status in her eyes. It's a very sweet, relatable, and wonderfully American household that has a powerhouse of feminism behind it. When told things like "smile more," Ginsburg struggles with being the driven, strong woman she is instead of the soft, pliable creature that men expected a woman to be back then—and, frankly, still sometimes today. The Notorious R.B.G. has been a big source of inspiration for civil rights advocates, especially in the hurricane-like political climate of late. But this woman has been kicking ass for years upon years, and this glimpse into her early work and family life is uplifting and empowering. Like Glen said, take your daughters, nieces, and any young women in your life to see this one. It's powerful. ○

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

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**STAND UP AND STAND OUT:** Felicity Jones (standing) stars as Ruth Bader Ginsburg, who made her early career about fighting for equality.

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By Rebecca Rose



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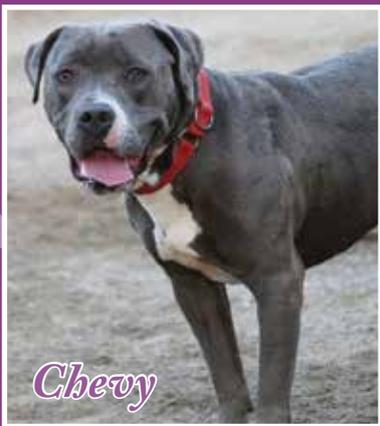
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## F I L M

### FILM REVIEWS from page 33

Director Adam Robitel (*Insidious: The Last Key*, *The Taking of Deborah Logan*) helms this thriller about six strangers who find themselves in circumstances beyond their control after entering a mysterious escape room. The group must use their wits and work together if they're to survive.

There's enough tension and suspense to thrill fans of the genre, but for many viewers the film won't warrant a trip to the theaters. (109 min.)

—Caleb Wiseblood

### GLASS

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

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

**NEW** Writer-director M. Night Shyamalan (*The Sixth Sense*, *Signs*, *The Village*, *Lady in the Water*, *The Happening*) helms this follow-up to his film *Split*, about Kevin Wendell Crumb (James McAvoy), who has 24 distinct personalities. David Dunn (Bruce Willis) and Elijah Price (Samuel L. Jackson), characters from Shyamalan's 2000 film, *Unbreakable*, also make an appearance, all under the watchful eye of Dr. Ellie Staple (Sarah Paulson), a psychiatrist specializing in delusions of grandeur. Are the three men superheroes or supervillains, or are they crazy? (129 min.)

—Glen Starkey

### MORTAL ENGINES

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

What's it worth? **Matinee**

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

PHOTO COURTESY OF BLINDING EDGE PICTURES



**HEROES OR WEIRDOS?** M. Night Shyamalan revisits his characters Elijah Price (Samuel L. Jackson, left), Kevin Wendell Crumb (James McAvoy, center), and David Dunn (Bruce Willis), in *Glass*.

### DRIVE

When? **2011**

What's it rated? **R**

Where's it available? **Amazon Prime, Blu-ray, DVD, iTunes**

For a character who barely speaks and doesn't even have a name as far as we know, it's impressive how consistently apparent Ryan Gosling's state of mind is throughout *Drive*, making his performance and the film itself one of the ultimate recent examples of "show, don't tell." At the same time, *Drive* is one of the most satisfying action films without a superhero's name in the title of this decade, as satisfying as someone moonlighting as a getaway driver can be. More or less, it's a story that's been done before, but not like this. If you're trying to find the perfect blend between the high-octane car chases of the *Fast* and the *Furious* franchise

PHOTO COURTESY OF FILMDISTRICT



**DRIVE MY CAR:** Ryan Gosling plays an unnamed getaway driver in director Nicolas Winding Refn's *Drive*.

and the existentialist angst of cerebral thrillers like *Memento* and *Mulholland Drive*, look no further.

Director Nicolas Winding Refn (*Bronson*, *Valhalla Rising*, *The Neon Demon*) has called the film a tribute to *Taxi Driver*. I like to compare the two the same way *The Office*'s Michael Scott probably would, the same way he differentiates basketball from football—the former is jazz and the latter is rock 'n' roll. *Taxi Driver* is jazz, but *Drive* is more synth-pop than rock. It's fair to say their respective soundtracks support that claim.

Both films revolve around loners driving for a living, not only for the money but to keep their sanity intact as well. The key difference is exposition. We know cabbie Travis Bickle (Robert De Niro) is lonely because there's an endless amount of narration to support it. The driver Gosling plays, simply referred to as "Driver" in the credits, doesn't rely on the same thing. He doesn't keep a

diary or converse about his isolation in any way. Yet we seem to know, or think we know, what he's feeling all the way through. All it really takes is the look on his face most of the time.

No bit of dialogue ever reveals he's in love with his next door neighbor, Irene (Carey Mulligan, *An Education*, *Never Let Me Go*), but

**PICK** Christian Rivers (*Minutes Past Midnight*) directs Hera Hilmar as Hester Shaw, a mysterious woman living on a mobile industrial city seeking revenge for her murdered mother. Co-producers Peter Jackson and Fran Walsh bring Philip Reeve's young adult novel *Mortal Engines* to life—a distant future where mobile cities hunt smaller engine-running towns and dismantle those they catch for their raw materials.

—Karen Garcia

### THE MULE

What's it rated? **R**

What's it worth? **Matinee**

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

**PICK** Clint Eastwood (*Unforgiven*, *Million Dollar Baby*, *Gran Torino*) directs this crime thriller screenplay by Sam Dolnick, based on *The New York Times Magazine* article "The Sinaloa Cartel's 90-Year-Old Drug Mule" by Nick Schenk. Eastwood takes on the role of Earl Stone, a horticulturist and World War II vet who's caught in Michigan running \$3 million worth of Mexican cartel cocaine.

After a quick read of *The New York Times Magazine* article upon which this film is based, it's pretty clear that instead of focusing—as the article does—on whether or not the Earl Stone was a crafty insider or a doddering old man taken advantage of by the cartel, this film is more interested in inventing Stone's estrangement from his family. Earl wants to be the center of attention, and he's seen as a star of the daily growers association and well liked at the local FWF hall, rather than feeling like a failure as a husband and father at home. He misses anniversaries, birthdays, weddings—you name it—and his ex-wife Mary (Dianne Wiest) and daughter Iris (real life daughter Alison Eastwood) hate him for it.

## BLAST FROM THE PAST

his stagnant, glassy eyes and lack of response says it all when she tells him her incarcerated husband (Oscar Isaac, *Inside Llewyn Davis*, *A Most Violent Year*) is getting out of prison soon. Although the two have lived across the hall from each other for some time, they don't form a real friendship until the day Irene takes her car in for repairs at the garage where Driver works as a mechanic. The owner of the garage, Shannon (Bryan Cranston, *Breaking Bad*), isn't just Driver's day job boss. He also assists with Driver's night gigs, supplying the cars he needs from heist to heist. Trouble starts brewing when Shannon proposes the two invest in a business venture with mobster Bernard Rose, played perfectly understated by Albert Brooks. Brooks' role in *Taxi Driver* as Tom, the young goofball campaign volunteer, makes his turn as the big bad guy here all the more interesting. Younger viewers especially are bound to recognize his voice too. Marlin from *Finding Nemo* anyone? Anyone? Bueller? Except try to imagine Marlin passive aggressively threatening other fish with off-the-cuff stories of breaking someone's pelvis or jamming a fork into their eye. This Nemo doesn't want to be found. (100 min.)

—Caleb Wiseblood

PHOTO COURTESY OF COLUMBIA PICTURES CORPORATION



**FAMILIAR BUT SWEET:** (Left to right) Lucas (Jonah Hauer-King), Bella (Shelby the dog voiced by Bryce Dallas Howard), and Terri (Ashley Judd) make a home together ... until Bella becomes separated and must travel 400 miles to be reunited, in the family adventure *A Dog's Way Home*.

About the only family member who's not yet fed up with his selfishness is soon-to-be-married granddaughter Ginny (Taissa Farmiga). His horticulture operation, having fallen on hard times thanks to the Internet, is out of business, so when he's recruited to drive a route for the cartel, he accepts, thinking it'll be a one-time easy money scheme that will help him pay for his granddaughter's wedding. It is easy money ... too easy, and the one-time trip turns into another and another, with increasingly larger loads and fatter paydays.

Earl's a charming, selfish prick, and the film explores—maybe a little too easily and conveniently—how he comes to realize what's really important in life. It's not nearly as good as *Gran Torino* (2008), a similarly themed film, but it certainly washes the bad taste of his last failure—*The 15:17 to Paris* (2018)—out of my mouth.

His law enforcement counterpart is new Chicago bureau DEA Special Agent Colin Bates (Bradley Cooper), who with his DEA partner (Michael Peña) is zeroing in on the cartel operation because they flipped low-level cartel worker Luis Rocha (Eugene Cordero), who tells them all about this successful new mule, Tata, who's now driving a new black pickup truck. Yet, even when Tata—aka Earl Stone—is right under the DEA's noses, his age and amiable nature rules him out as a suspect.

Overall, this is an ambling film that occasionally delivers moments of emotional resonance. Eastwood is 88 years old, and the former hunky lead is comfortable in his skin, gifted behind and in front of the camera, and still capable of crafting an entertaining story.

*The Mule* will be remembered as an effective late-career effort from a masterful filmmaker who's given us classics such as *The Outlaw Josey Wales*, *Pale Rider*, *Mystic River*, *Flags of Our Fathers*, *Letters from Iwo Jima*, and *American Sniper*. For me, his amazing oeuvre is enough to erase his 2012 RNC speech to an empty chair. (117 min.)

—Glen Starkey

### ON THE BASIS OF SEX

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

Where's it showing? **Edwards 14, Regal 10**

See Sun Screen.

### SPIDER-MAN: INTO THE SPIDER-VERSE

What's it rated? **PG**

What's it worth? **Full price**

Where's it showing? **Movies Lompoc**

**PICK** Bob Persichetti, Peter Ramsey, and Rodney Rothman co-direct this animated action adventure co-written by Phil Lord and co-produced by Christopher Miller (the duo best known for directing *The Lego Movie* and *21 Jump Street*). Miles Morales (voiced by Shameik Moore) becomes the Spider-Man of his version of reality, then crosses into a parallel universe where he teams with other realities' Spider-Men and a Spider-Woman to stop an evil that threatens all realities.

What a time it is to be alive for superhero fans. *Spider-Man: Into the Spider-Verse* does for Marvel what *Teen Titans Go! To the Movies* did for DC earlier this year: It takes these characters places that live action couldn't possibly allow (I could be eating these words in a year or so). Despite the comparison to a quite sillier film, *Spider-Verse* is surprisingly just as earnest as it is humorous. No matter how many one-liners, knee-slappers, and instances of breaking the fourth wall there are, the stakes feel real. (117 min.)

—Caleb Wiseblood

Sun movie reviews are compiled by New Times Senior Staff Writer Glen Starkey. Contact him at [gstarkey@newtimeslo.com](mailto:gstarkey@newtimeslo.com).

**BOWLARAMA:** Vegetarians can celebrate the Bear and Star's veggie bowl breakfast options, made with sofrito, crispy potatoes, eggs, and a chipotle crema. Vegans can nix the crema, eggs, and cheese if so desired while meat lovers can ask for bacon or sausage.



## Sunny side up

*Los Olivos holds a cozy early morning secret, thanks to the Bear and Star*

BY REBECCA ROSE

You may know Los Olivos as a quiet nook where some of the region's best wine tasting rooms are, but there's another thing about it you may not know. It's also the perfect spot for breakfast.

At the Bear and Star Restaurant, a Fess Parker family venture headed up by star chef John Cox, breakfast is served daily and always in perfect complement to the restaurant's "refined ranch" cuisine theme. The daily menu, which is different from their specialized weekend brunch menu, is fairly compact and efficient, offering a sleek sunny version of the restaurant's best dishes.

To be honest, I had no idea they even did breakfast. (I was just on the hunt for a 10 a.m. bloody mary while shopping.) It was a giddy surprise to find one of my favorite spots not only open for unapologetic morning luses such as myself but also for a fresh and rewarding breakfast.

The menu is really simple, and I don't mean that in a bad way. It's easy to pick your breakfast mood (Salty fried meats? Check.

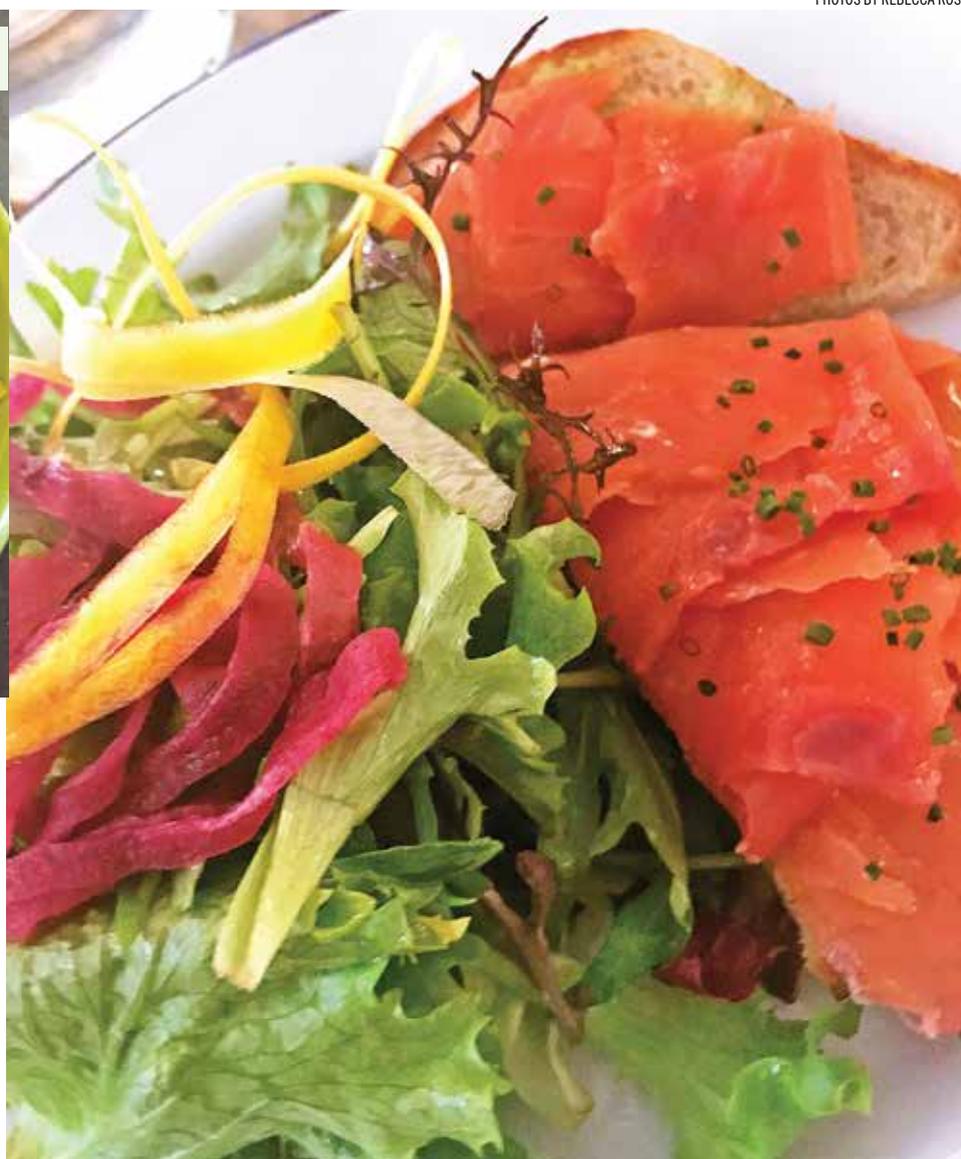
**Wakey wakey**  
The Bear and Star is located at 2860 Grand Ave., Los Olivos. For more information, call (805) 686-1359.

Fresh veggies? Check.) and go from there. The offerings include a nice variety of dishes for those thinking more health consciously—honey spiced granola with Greek yogurt and fresh berries—as well as those just wanting to indulge in carbs.

It wouldn't be a Bear and Star menu without the addition of a dish like huevos rancheros. This version is a bit more refined, with the addition of a house-made chorizo that brings a good dose of heat and a well balanced house-made salsa verde.

The thing about the Bear and Star is that, with very few exceptions, everything is made from ingredients either raised or grown at the restaurant itself or at the Parker family ranch located on the grounds of the Fess Parker Winery and Vineyard on Foxen Canyon Road. Almost every single bite of food, from the eggs to the Wagyu beef brisket, comes from barely a few miles away.

That translates to a sense of timeliness. It's clear that Cox thinks not just about what dishes will please hungry tourists rabid to fill up before splurging on gifts and wine bottles in town but also how they will reflect on the seasonality of



**YEAH MON, SALMON:** Smoked salmon toast with a scallion crema and a generous serving of greens (harvested from the Parker family ranch property) are one of the pescetarian options on the Bear and Star's daily breakfast menu.

the region. He's conscientious and meticulous but never fussy or pretentious in his offerings, which is why I enjoy their food so much. It feels like Important Food but it's as approachable as your average diner or home-cooked meal.

In dishes such as the veggie bowl (one of my absolute favorite options on the breakfast menu), the eatery's ability to make freshness shine really stands out. Cox and his staff manage to make a relatively rustic dish (packed with sofrito, potatoes, eggs, greens, and

cheese) seem elevated. The flavors harmonize well together, without competing notes. The potatoes are expertly prepared and chunky, because we absolutely need more chunky bites in our bowls—diced vegetables be damned.

I've been restricting myself to a vegetarian and often vegan diet in 2019, and the Bear and Star is the perfect place to find viable options. But on this particular day I opted to indulge in fish, and the the smoked salmon toast was a

EATS continued page 36

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**EATS** from page 35

good choice. I would have liked to see a lot more of the scallion crema, which was creamy and herbaceous, on the toast. The dish wasn't disappointing, but it wasn't as powerful as some of the other options. And even though I am generally fine with their price points, I did think the salmon toast was a tad overpriced at \$18. I would love to see this dish refined or expanded on a bit, but again, I'm not hating on it.

Of course, there's got to be Wagyu beef on the menu, since this is what the family ranch is famous for. For breakfast, it's offered up in a brisket hash with poached eggs, hollandaise, and root vegetables. If you're looking to indulge your sweet tooth, try the lemon ricotta pancakes with lemon curd and feel-like-they-were-just-plucked-out-of-the-ground strawberries. Also, the side menu allows you to top off your dish with offerings such as bacon, eggs, and sausage, should you feel the need.

Speaking of that bloody mary, it was divine. The Bear and Star's bar is no slouch in the mixology department in the first place, so it was no surprise to find a complex offering for



**RESPECT THE CLASSICS:** The Bear and Star's version of huevos rancheros features house-made chorizo with pinquito beans and salsa verde served with tortillas.

the traditional brunch favorite. There was a lot of heat, so if you like yours on the mild side go ahead and tell your server to dial it down a bit.

I'm not a morning person at all, but I think the Bear and Star makes a great case for early risers (and early morning bloody mary lovers). ○

Arts and Lifestyle Writer Rebecca Rose is best served over easy. Contact her at [rrose@santamariasun.com](mailto:rrose@santamariasun.com).

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**Reccamendations:**

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

• One of my BFFs, Lauren, has a boyfriend who makes her French onion soup. This is not a subtle hint to anyone in my personal life \*ahem\*. In the absence of having a brilliant chef as your life partner, try the version at the **Santa Maria Inn's Century Room**. I've raved about it before but you know it's cold outside and apparently not everyone's significant other knows or cares to learn how to make this dish for them. For those who go unloved in the soup department, visit **801 S. Broadway, Santa Maria**.

• Just like Bananarama in 1987, I also heard a rumor. This one is that **Chef Rick's** is opening at the former location of The Jetty in Santa Maria. There's a sign by the building and a website parked at [chefricks.com](http://chefricks.com) with the address. Hmm. I wonder if there are any other 1980s pop songs to help me figure out what's happening at **135 Foster Road, Santa Maria**.

• It's really easy to forget that despite the Danish-themed tourist bait, a lot of venues in Solvang hold some pretty amazing surprises. For example, **H&P Vinhus** has an insane amount of imported cheeses (pictured below), such as Le Pico aged goat cheese and Switzerland's Le Gruyère AOP Cavern cheese, aged 11 months. The next time you're in town,



take a peek at what they've got at **440 Alisal Road, Solvang**.

• Dungeness crab with a passion fruit dressing and a chipotle mayo (pictured above) is one of the most popular dishes at **Alys Restaurant** for a reason. The dish captures the essence of coastal living while celebrating Alys' roots in farm-to-table country. It's a must try at **451 2nd St., Solvang**. ○

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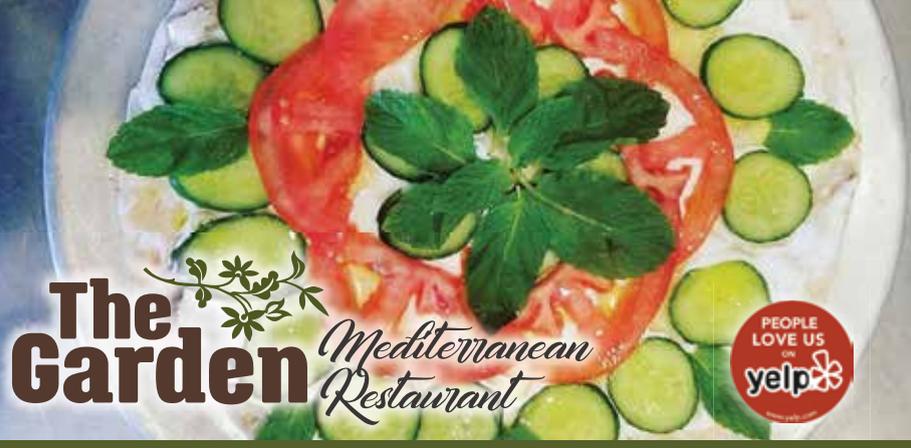
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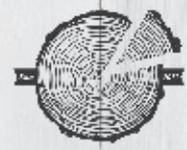
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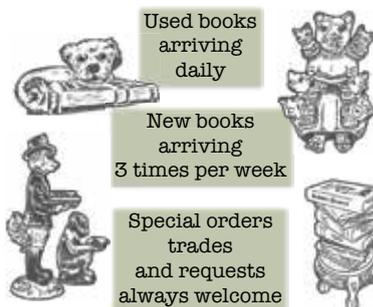
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