

Sun

AT THE MOVIES



Cold Pursuit is lukewarm [32]



LOVE AND MARRIAGE

Our annual Weddings Issue touches on booze, centerpieces, keepsakes, and more to make your special day even better [10]

BY SUNSTAFF

Weddings
2019

NEWS Evacuations are tiring [7]

MUSIC Angie and the Nightmares [26]

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FEBRUARY 14 - FEBRUARY 21, 2019 VOL. 19 NO. 50

Marriage. It's what brings us together today for the Sun's annual Weddings Issue. We've got some ideas to help with the planning process and potentially give you some new avenues to pursue, too. Start with one Central Coast business that provides bartenders without the liquor (it'll save you some cash) [10]; learn about some happy couples who tied the knot at a local government center [12]; pick some succulents and other nontraditional arrangements over flowers [15]; and figure out ways you can up-cycle your wedding best for later in life [16].

Also this week, North County hotels continue to offer discounts for South County evacuees, who are tired of being evacuated [7], a photography exhibit in black and white [29], Santa Ynez Valley ballet dancers are heading to Death Valley [30], and get ready for a weekend in wine country [35].



BIG DAY: Want to save some money on the big day when it comes to alcohol? Copper and Crystal brings the bartenders. You bring the booze.

Camillia Lanham, editor

Cover photo courtesy of Megan Sorel Photography > Cover design by Alex Zuniga

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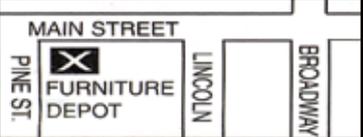
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Political Watch

• On Feb. 8, **U.S. Rep. Salud Carbajal** (D-Santa Barbara) reintroduced the Corporate Political Disclosure Act, House Resolution 1053, which was co-authored by **Citizens Congress Director Bill Ostrander**. Campaign finance reform was a major platform in Ostrander's unsuccessful run against **Assemblymember Jordan Cunningham** for the 35th District state Assembly seat in 2018, when the bill was first introduced. The legislation would require publicly traded corporations to disclose political expenditures through the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) to their shareholders and the general public. "Shareholders deserve to know exactly where their money is going when they choose to invest in a company," Carbajal said in a press release. "For years, Congressional Republicans have blocked the SEC from shining a light on the political contributions that shareholder funds are supporting. That must change."

• Twenty-seven senators and 75 representatives, including **California Sens. Kamala Harris** and **Dianne Feinstein** and **U.S. Rep. Salud Carbajal** (D-Santa Barbara), cosponsored legislation introduced on Feb. 8 to protect national monuments from attempts to shrink or eliminate protections on the presidentially designated land. The bill is a response to the Trump administration's recent efforts to decrease the size of more than two dozen national monuments, including the Carrizo Plain National Monument, and possibly open up the land to further mineral extraction. The ANTIQUITIES Act of 2019 officially declares Congress' support for the 52 national monuments designated between 1996 and 2018 and states that presidential proclamations designating national monuments are valid and can't be reduced or diminished, except by an act of Congress.

• Recent legislation introduced by state **Sen. Hannah-Beth Jackson** (D-Santa Barbara) calls for a "master plan for aging Californians" as well as for the governor to appoint an "aging czar" to lead a 15-member task force that would work with stakeholders and state agencies to identify policies and priorities to prepare the state to deal with its aging population. The Public Policy Institute of California estimates that the state's older population will nearly double by 2030. "California's aging population is growing quickly and living longer. Without adequate services and planning, many of our state's older adults face a risk of becoming homeless or losing access to essential care," Jackson said in a press release. "We cannot afford to leave our aging adults behind."

• On Feb. 5, Alzheimer's State Advocacy Day, **Assemblymember Monique Limón** (D-Santa Barbara) introduced the Alzheimer's Healthy Brain Initiative (AB 388), which would direct the California Department of Public Health and local jurisdictions to plan and prepare for the Alzheimer's crisis by bringing public awareness to the early signs and symptoms. "In California, Alzheimer's disease is the third leading cause of death impacting millions of lives throughout the state, but less than half of all Californians affected have been formally diagnosed by a clinician. Although the onset of Alzheimer's cannot yet be stopped or reversed, early detection and diagnosis can make it easier for patients and their families to manage the disease," Limón said in a press release.

• In a formal letter submitted to the U.S. Department of Education during the last week of January, **Sen. Hannah-Beth Jackson** (D-Santa Barbara) warned that **U.S. Department of Education Secretary Betsy DeVos'** proposed changes to Title IX would undermine protections and cause harm to students and survivors. "Betsy DeVos' proposed changes to Title IX set our country backward and undermine the progress we have made to protect all students from harassment and assault. The draft regulations will jeopardize the rights and safety of student survivors while discouraging others from reporting abuse," Jackson said in a press release. "These changes will put countless students in danger by disregarding their trauma and putting them face to face with their attacker." ○

Lompoc to allow residents to keep chickens as pets

The chickens have finally come home to roost in Lompoc, and some of the city's residents couldn't be happier.

After more than three years of debate and wrangling, the Lompoc City Council voted to amend a municipal ordinance to allow residents to keep chickens and other small animals as pets. The item was passed unanimously under the council's consent calendar at a Feb. 5 regular meeting.

"It's a nice thing to do," Lompoc resident Anthony Loverde told the *Sun*. He showed up to an October 2018 meeting to advocate for the change wearing a "Legalize Chickens" T-shirt. "They are great pets. They're fun to hang out with. ... They are really no different from cats or dogs."

The amendment revises the definition of a "household pet" to include small animals such as chickens, birds, ducks, rabbits, and Asian pot-bellied pigs. The animals can't be kept for commercial purposes, and the ordinance excludes roosters, turkeys, and peacocks. The new ordinance limits the number of animals to six total.

While the amendment passed quietly and without comment or discussion at the Feb. 5 meeting, the road to its eventual passage was long and complicated. The Lompoc Planning Commission held a public hearing on the issue on Aug. 12, 2015, and recommended the council amend the household pets definition. The item failed on a 3-2 vote at a Sept. 15, 2015, meeting with a previous City Council. But in July 2018, the council voted to bring back a discussion of the issue, and it was introduced for a first reading at an Oct. 16 meeting that same year.

"This has been a pretty popular item as far as from where I'm sitting," Councilmember Victor Vega said at the October 2018 meeting. "It looks like there's a lot of public support for a change in our ordinances regarding household pets."

Loverde said he was happy to see the city finally pass the ordinance and replace the old one, which banned keeping chickens as pets. He said he believed that the initial reluctance by some about allowing such animals in the city was based on incorrect stereotypes of chickens.

"There's a perception that they are farm animals so they are dirty, and that they might impact the value of other homes," he said. "But really, there's very little difference between chickens and cats and dogs with it comes to things like smell and noise. Really, it comes down to the owners taking care of their pets."

—Chris McGuinness

SBCC ignored student's complaints of sexual harassment, lawsuit alleges

A former Santa Barbara City College student is claiming that the school's faculty and administrators failed to properly investigate her complaints of sexual harassment at the hands of a fellow student.

In her lawsuit against the college, the student, Santa Ynez resident Christian Dungey, claimed that the college failed to take the appropriate action after she made multiple complaints that another student was stalking and sexually harassing her, and she was instead told to withdraw from her classes.

"I was terrified, but no one did anything about it," Dungey, 51, told the *Sun*. "I went through hell the entire time I was at that school."

According to the lawsuit, the harassment



BIRDS OF A FEATHER: Lompoc residents will now be allowed to keep chickens, rabbits, and other small animals as pets, thanks to a recent vote by the City Council.

began after Dungey began attending the college in August 2018 to earn a degree in drug and alcohol counseling. There, she said a male student in her classes and study group began harassing her. The harassment started with inappropriate text messages, but became more aggressive. He began following her around campus and moaning and making sexually suggestive comments to her in class. In one instance, the lawsuit claims, the same male student put his arm around her and moved it down to her buttocks. According to an October 2018 Santa Barbara Police Department report obtained by the *Sun*, the student who allegedly harassed Dungey was on parole for a rape conviction. In his report, the investigator said that while the male student's behavior toward Dungey was "inappropriate," it wasn't criminal.

The lawsuit claims that Dungey tried to report the harassment to multiple people at the college. Those included one of her instructors who told her that she'd talk to her alleged harasser, stating "he's harmless." When she tried to report the harassment to the chair of the college's counseling department, he too said he'd talk to the man. When she spoke with a staff member from the college's Healing and Wellness center, the lawsuit alleges that Dungey was told to withdraw from her classes.

"In my opinion, it seemed like they just didn't want to get involved," Dungey said. "They were probably hoping that I'd just sweep it under the rug and walk away."

The lawsuit also states that Dungey was told that an investigation into her complaints under federal equal protection laws, also known as Title IX, was "unnecessary" and never initiated. Dungey's attorney, Rachael Saure, said the failure to investigate was a violation of Title IX's reporting requirements.

"They should have filed a Title IX report immediately when she came to them with those allegations," Saure told the *Sun*.

"When you bring this sort of thing to a school's attention, they are legally required to take steps to bring it to an end."

In the end, Dungey said she dropped out of her classes and is no longer attending the college.

"It really devastated my entire life," Dungey said. "It's very discouraging."

While the lawsuit is seeking unspecified damages, both Dungey and her attorney said they hope it will push the college to make changes to way it handles complaints of sexual harassment.

"How many other women have gone through or will go through this same thing and [are] terrified?" Dungey said. "They need to take action."

NEWS continued page 6

Weekend Weather

KSBY NEWS
Microclimate Weather Forecast
Dave Hovde
KSBY Chief Meteorologist

Thursday

COASTAL > High 61 Low 45
INLAND > High 59 Low 43

Friday

COASTAL > High 60 Low 44
INLAND > High 57 Low 42

Saturday

COASTAL > High 60 Low 43
INLAND > High 56 Low 41

Sunday

COASTAL > High 58 Low 43
INLAND > High 54 Low 40

A Wednesday storm looks to linger into Thursday and turn more showery Friday. The weekend should be quiet, but this part of the forecast could change.

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Janice | Solvang

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NEWS from page 5

Santa Barbara City College did not respond to questions about the lawsuit's allegations for this story in time for publication.

—Chris McGuinness

Storms likely to blame for high number of oil-covered seabirds

Oil-covered seabirds are washing up on Santa Barbara County beaches in large numbers this year, likely a result of the continuous heavy rainstorms on the Central Coast throughout the past few weeks.

The vast majority of injured birds, which are being impacted by naturally occurring ocean oil seeps off the Central and South Coast, are Western grebes, according to Elaine Ibarra, director of animal care at the Santa Barbara Wildlife Care Network.

Grebes, she said, live and feed entirely in the ocean and huddle together offshore in large numbers, both qualities that make larger numbers of birds more susceptible to ocean oil seepage.

As of Feb. 12, the Santa Barbara Wildlife Care Network had treated roughly 67 Western grebes in 2019, all of which were found on beaches in Santa Barbara and Ventura counties, from Port Santa Barbara to the Refugio area to Jalama Beach and Vandenberg Air Force Base. Nearly all the birds so far have been treated for complications associated with oil damage.

Although Ibarra said it's not at all uncommon for the Wildlife Care Network to treat animals that have come in contact with oil, especially around this time of year and after storms, she said each year produces "extremely different" results. Last year at this time, Ibarra said the Wildlife Care Network had only treated 12 injured Western grebes, most for oil-related issues.

Despite its being a regular occurrence, oil can be detrimental to a seabird's well-being.

Oil destroys the waterproofing in the Western grebes' feathers, making it difficult for the birds to float, fly, dive, and maintain their usual body temperature. Ibarra said many seabirds that come into contact with oil begin to burn all their calories trying to keep warm and eventually become emaciated. In many cases, they wash ashore.

"It's a pretty serious thing if they're beached and they're oiled," Ibarra said. "It can get bad very quickly."

Grebes don't do well on land, where they can hardly walk, and can't take off for flight, can't hunt, and can't eat. Their bodies aren't built to withstand the pressures of living on land, and Ibarra said a beached grebe will often develop lesions on its feet after only a few hours, and can even develop more serious lesions on its bones.

"It's a pretty rapid decline from there," Ibarra said.

Residents who find injured, oiled, or beached birds should keep children and larger animals away from the bird and should call the Santa Barbara Wildlife Care Network to report the incident as soon as possible, Ibarra said. Volunteers work every day, including holidays, and will respond to calls and voicemails within a matter of hours at most.

The Wildlife Care Network is the only wildlife rehabilitation center that deals with both land- and water-dwelling animals in Santa Barbara County, Ibarra said. Another center, the Animal Rescue Team in the Santa Ynez Valley, had its wildlife rehabilitation permit revoked by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife in January.

Residents can also report injured or oiled animals to the Oiled Wildlife Care Network

at UC Davis, which, according to Readiness Coordinator Danene Birtell, has mobile teams and access to a number of resources.

Oil, Birtell agreed, can cause serious damage to a seabird's life, and the extensive and complex rehabilitation process normally takes a minimum of 10 to 14 days.

Birtell said the Oiled Wildlife Care Network has recorded a little more than 100 birds that have been rescued and treated for oil-related issues in California so far this year, most of which were found in Santa Barbara and San Luis Obispo counties.

To report an oiled or injured animal, call the Oiled Wildlife Care Network hotline at (877) 823-6926, or the Santa Barbara Wildlife Care Network at (805) 681-1080.

—Kasey Bubnash

County changes local vendor preference policy

A divided Board of Supervisors approved a change to a 14-year-old policy that gave preference to local business that bid on contracts to provide supplies, equipment, and other tangible goods to Santa Barbara County.

Supervisors voted 3-2 at a Feb. 12 meeting to amend the county's local vendor preference policy in a move that city staff said would make the bidding process more competitive and possibly save the county money. Fourth District Supervisor Peter Adam and First District Supervisor Das Williams both opposed the amendment.

Under the previous policy, the county's chief procurement officer could approve a more expensive bid for tangible goods such as supplies, material, or equipment, from a local vendor if it was up to 6 percent higher than the lowest bid from a non-local one. Under the newly passed policy, if the lowest bid is non-local, and a local vendor has a higher bid that is within the 6 percent margin, the local vendor would be given an opportunity to match the non-local vendor's bid price within 72 hours.

"The goal is to increase our bids and increase vendor competition," Joe Toney, the county's assistant director for general services, told supervisors at the meeting.

Adam said he believed the county needed to study the issue more and raised concerns that the change would actually lead to higher bids.

"You'll end up paying more for stuff," he said.

Williams said that he appreciated staff attempts to try and save the county money, but noted that local vendors contributed to the local economy by spending money locally and paying sales tax.

"If we ask people to buy local, we should probably be buying local," Williams said. "I would like the county's purchases to be a statement of its values."

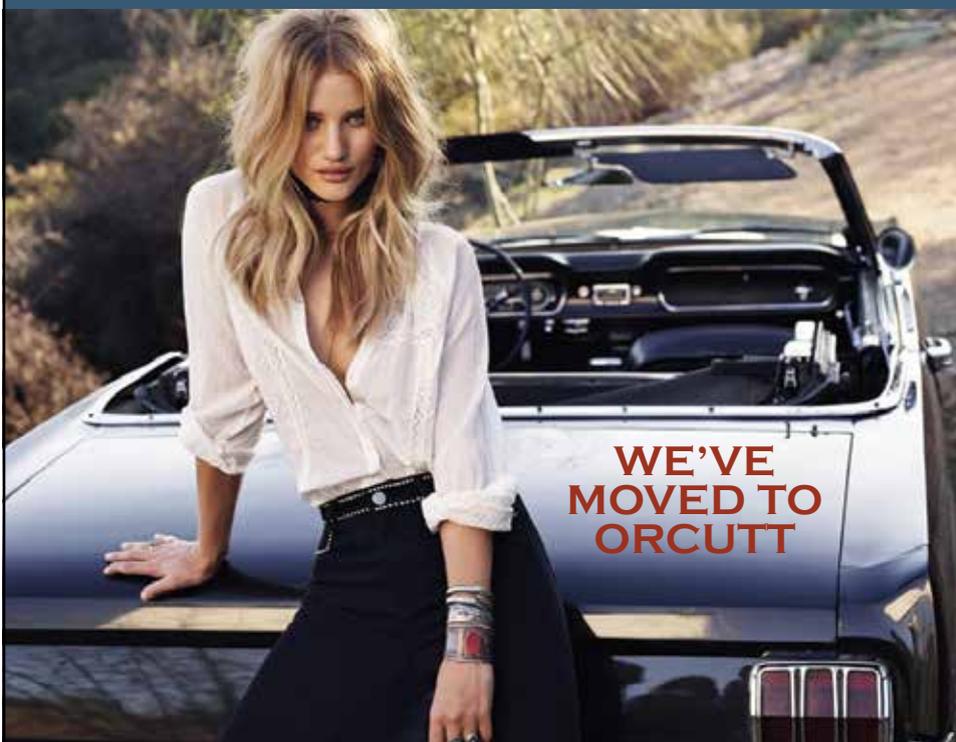
Supervisors who supported the change agreed to review the issue again in six months to see if the new policy was having the desired effect, and to give staff time to collect data and information.

"It's not set in stone," 2nd District Supervisor Gregg Hart said.

Both the old and new local vendor preference policies only apply to bids on contract for tangible goods, which make up only a small fraction of the county's total expenditures on contracts. According to data from staff, tangible goods made up an estimated \$16 million of the more than \$142 million the county spent on vendor contracts in fiscal year 2017-18. Of that \$16 million, more than \$10 million went to local vendors. ○

—Chris McGuinness

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The cost of evacuating

North County hotels offer discounts to emotionally and financially drained South County evacuees

BY KASEY BUBNASH

You don't really know what it's like to have to leave your home during a mandatory evacuation until you've experienced it yourself, according to Barry Prescott, general manager of Solvang's well-known hotel, The Landsby.

As a resident of the Santa Barbara area, Prescott was forced to evacuate during the Thomas Fire in December 2017. At what felt like a moment's notice, Prescott said he had to pack up his most valuable belongings, gather himself and his pets into his car, and drive away.

He didn't know where he'd sleep that night, he didn't know where to take his pets, and he didn't know if his house would be there when he returned. It was more stressful than he ever thought it could be.

"As hotel employees you hear about it but you don't understand what people go through until you have to evacuate yourself," Prescott said. "And after that I said, 'You know what, I'm going to do things completely different.'"

He started offering discounts and waived fees to evacuees staying at The Landsby, a natural disaster special of sorts that a number of hotels in northern Santa Barbara County continue to offer to those repeatedly displaced by the threats of storms and fires.

In Santa Maria alone, the Holiday Inn, Best Western Plus Big America, the Radisson, and the Santa Maria Inn all offer discounts to

evacuated residents of South County. Others in Lompoc and the Santa Ynez Valley do so as well.

Evacuating is stressful—and expensive—enough, and Prescott said people don't need hotel owners jacking up prices and profiting off times of repeated distress.

At The Landsby, evacuees can stay for a discounted price of about \$129 a night Sunday through Thursday, and \$199 a night on Fridays and Saturdays. They can check out whenever they like without penalty, the parking fee is waved, as is the \$75 pet fee.

Those discounts came in handy for some throughout the first weekend of February, when evacuations were ordered in the burn and debris flow areas of southern Santa Barbara County ahead of strong weekend rain storms.

Though The Landsby offered its usual discounted rates to evacuees, Prescott said he only had about five or six rooms go to displaced residents this time around. In past evacuations, nearly half of the hotel's rooms were taken by evacuees at one time, he said.

Ryan Swack, general manager of the Santa Maria Inn, said his hotel also gives rooms to evacuees at discounted prices of about \$89. That saves displaced residents about \$20 during the week and up to \$40 during the weekend.

The Santa Maria Inn started offering the evacuation discount to those impacted by the Thomas Fire and resulting mudslides, and Swack

said people really seemed to appreciate the help. The discount, he said, has almost no noticeable impact on the hotel's bottom line, so the Santa Maria Inn plans to continue its offering during all future mandatory evacuations.

Still, while Swack said dozens of South County residents took advantage of the inn's lowered prices in late 2017 and throughout 2018, few evacuees made reservations at the Santa Maria Inn during the storm evacuations during the first weekend of February. And of those who did make reservations, he said, anywhere from 16 to 20 canceled on Saturday, Feb. 2, despite the evacuation not being lifted until the following morning.

Swack said he thought road closures could be to blame for the low turnout.

Parts of Highway 101 were closed off for short periods of time during the weekend storms, according to Joel Asmussen of the Buellton area California Highway Patrol. Highway 154 closed on Feb. 2 after overflowing water destroyed a portion of the road. It will be closed indefinitely.

There have been seven mandatory evacuations in the Santa Barbara and Montecito area since the Thomas Fire hit the area in late 2017, according to Suzanne Grimmesey of Santa Barbara County Behavioral Wellness. That's if you count the Thomas Fire evacuations as one and the mudslides as another, and it's not including the numerous evacuation advisories and warnings. Some of those mandatory evacuations lasted for days, she said, and others for weeks.

Evacuating is, of course, stressful, but it can also be incredibly expensive, according to Kate Wiebe, executive director of the Institute of Collective Trauma and Growth in Santa Barbara.

Many hotels don't take pets, so Wiebe said evacuees often have to pay for places to keep

their pets and a place to stay themselves. Most people like to stay as close to town as possible, because they want to be able to get to work or to bring their children to school, so it's not always feasible to stay at the cheapest hotel. If they're unable to get to the office and can't work remotely, they lose hours and sometimes pay.

Depending on where they live and what kind of plan they have, Wiebe said insurance doesn't always cover evacuation expenses.

She said county organizations are finding that residents are taking advantage of the hotel discounts, but some have to rely on churches and faith organizations that offer free shelter and friends and family with available space.

Many are also using Airbnb Open Homes, which Wiebe said is a program that the app enables during natural disasters and evacuation situations. It has nothing to do with the vacation rental program, she said, and allows any resident in the area to create an account and open their homes to evacuees free of charge. It's a great program, but Wiebe said Airbnb hasn't quite adapted its terms and conditions to the changing reality of places like Santa Barbara County, where evacuations happen frequently.

Residents haven't really adapted to that either. People are tired, Wiebe said, emotionally and economically.

Many are so sick of the repetitive possibility of disaster that they're leaving, Wiebe said. Some left after the mudslides, many moved out after the Holiday Fire in Goleta, and many who have lived in the area their whole lives are considering leaving for the first time.

"People are definitely fatigued," Wiebe said, "and that manifests itself in a variety of ways." ○

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

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SPREAD THE LOVE: The C.A.R.E.4Paws mobile clinics offer a range of affordable walk-in services for dogs and cats, including vaccines, health exams, nail trims, flea treatment, and microchips.

BY CALEB WISEBLOOD

Low-income, senior, and homeless community members can receive a range of affordable walk-in services for their dogs and cats at the C.A.R.E.4Paws mobile clinic, which hosts its inaugural Furever Valentine's Pet Wellness and Adoption Day on Feb. 14 and an additional clinic on Feb. 21 in Santa Maria. "While income level is by no means an indicator of how much pets are loved by their families, we do know how hard it can be for many low-income pet owners to provide even basic services for their animals," Isabelle Gullo, executive director of C.A.R.E.4Paws told the *Sun*.

Gullo co-founded C.A.R.E.4Paws in 2009 while volunteering at the county Animal Services shelter in Santa Barbara. Many animals were put to sleep due to lack of space, Gullo explained.

"We were thrilled every time a dog found a home, but that dog's spot would be immediately be replaced by another, or three more. It was heartbreaking to see so many animals ending up abandoned," Gullo said. "I figured we could either continue spending all of our time caring for the shelter animals, or help prevent them from becoming homeless in the first place by addressing what was happening in the community."

The initial goal behind C.A.R.E.4Paws was to tackle these issues by providing free spaying and neutering for dogs and cats to prevent overpopulation and offering low-cost vaccine clinics for families in need and other disadvantaged pet owners.

In the last 10 years, the organization has also launched a bilingual community outreach program to create awareness about critical pet care and an educational course for children intended to inspire accountability and compassion for animals from an early age.

Today, the shelter Gullo used to volunteer for houses an average of 25 adoptable dogs, compared to the average of 120 dogs in 2009.

"I'm proud of the impact C.A.R.E.4Paws has had on curbing shelter overpopulation. As shelters house fewer local animals, these facilities are now in a position to take in animals from shelters outside of our county, even outside of California," Gullo said. "This wasn't an option before shelter intake numbers started dropping."

Vaccines, health exams, nail trims, flea treatment, microchips, and other services range in cost from \$10 to \$25 at the C.A.R.E.4Paws mobile clinics, but current pet owners aren't the only ones who can take advantage of the clinic's Valentine's Day event

"This is the first time we've expanded an event to include adoptable animals," Gullo said. "We're excited that our wonderful partners for the event agreed to participate right away. I'm grateful for our longtime partnerships with local shelters, rescue groups, pet service providers, and human welfare agencies."

While the animal shelter will provide adoptable dogs at the event, C.A.R.E.4Paws is also collaborating with Project PetSafe, which will facilitate dog license sales, and That's FETCH, which will offer toys and treats to visiting animals.

Furever Valentine's Pet Wellness and Adoption Day takes place on Feb. 14 at Elwin Mussell Senior Center, located at 510 Park Ave., Santa Maria. C.A.R.E.4Paws hosts its next regular clinic on Feb. 21 at Santa Maria Eagles, located at 668 S. College Drive, Santa Maria. Visit care4paws.org for more information.

HIGHLIGHTS:

- The 2019 Santa Maria Elks Rodeo is now accepting entries to its Beard-A-Reno and Miss Wrangler contests through April 5. All category winners will be awarded at an official dinner on May 11. Entrants can sign up at the Elks Rodeo Office, located at 113 S. College Drive, Santa Maria. Call (805) 925-4125 or visit elksrec.com for full list of categories and more info.

- Altrusa International of Santa Maria Inc. hosts its annual Membership Tea on Feb. 17 from 1 to 3 p.m. at the Santa Maria Elks Lodge, located at 1309 N. Bradley Road, Santa Maria. The event includes a presentation from guest speaker Jean Howard. Call (805) 352-0026 or visit altrusaofthecentralcoast.org to make a reservation or for more info. ○

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.

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WINNER WINNER: From left to right: Lompoc Mayor Jenelle Osborne congratulates first, second, and third place winners Karla Paniagua, Erin McCallon, and Madison DeSchryver at the second annual Speech Trek on Feb. 8.

Lompoc students discuss school violence at Speech Trek

Lompoc High School junior Karla Paniagua was leaving the restroom and making her way back to class when it happened: An administrator's voice came over the intercom and announced that her school was going into a lockdown.

It was not a drill.

She knew she needed to get back to her classroom immediately, before her teacher locked the door and was required to keep it that way until the lockdown was over. As she sprinted down the hallway toward her class, she heard door after door slam shut and lock.

When she made it to her classroom, the door was closed. She knocked several times. No answer. She started to panic. She didn't recall practicing what to do in this situation during Lompoc High's various drills.

Finally after more frantic knocks, the door opened and she slipped into her classroom.

"And I thought maybe if I was better prepared, that wouldn't have happened," Paniagua said.

She laughed at her own poor luck as she told the story in the Lompoc City Hall Council Chambers on Feb. 8, just after winning first place and \$250 at Lompoc's second annual Speech Trek.

So although she has limited public speaking experience, Paniagua said she knew she had to participate when she saw the Speech Trek's topic this year: "How can we eliminate violence aimed at our schools?"

In her speech, Paniagua focused on school shootings and simple ways in which all stakeholders—students, teachers, parents, school administrators and staff, and community organizations—can better help prevent gun violence in local schools.

Unlike her peers, Paniagua's speech hinged on the lack of preparedness in local schools. Lockdown drills should be taken more seriously by both students and teachers, she said in her speech, and everyone should have increased opportunities to actually practice active shooter situations.

"To make these drills more effective, I suggest teachers do a demonstration of what to actually do during the lockdown, instead of verbally stating an unclear plan," she said during her speech. "Preparation is important because fear can stop you from logically thinking."

Eight high school students competed in this year's Speech Trek, the second hosted by the Lompoc-Vandenberg branch of the American Association of University Women (AAUW). Paniagua will go on to compete at the state level, and three finalists from across California will then be chosen to speak at the AAUW's statewide convention in San Diego this spring, according to Pamela Buchanan, a local AAUW member.

The Speech Trek committee chose this year's topic after last year's AAUW convention, Buchanan said, and the participants were clearly passionate about the subject.

Lompoc High School student Erin McCallon, a senior who took second place in the competition, said schools should do more about the everyday violence that occurs on campus, including bullying and sexual assault. If students feel like their smaller complaints will actually be addressed, she said, they'd likely feel more comfortable going to teachers with other serious issues, like their own dark thoughts or information about other troubled students.

"We cannot continue to let the schools of America be battlefields instead of institutions of public education where kids can feel safe and learn every single day," she said in her speech. "These kids can't be hiding any longer. How am I supposed to sit down in class when I'm scared of other people coming to hurt me? I can't." ○

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.

ATHLETE OF THE WEEK

PHOTO COURTESY OF BRIAN SPEER



Taylor Martinez

With 17 wins this so far this season, the Orcutt Academy High School girls' soccer team is having a record-breaking year. Much of that success is thanks to student Taylor Martinez, the team's unstoppable junior forward.

In recent games against Dunn High School and Templeton, a team that was previously undefeated, Martinez scored the only goals of the games, both of which led to wins for Orcutt.

Martinez has played varsity all three years of her high school career, according to head coach Brian Speer, and he credits many of the team's wins to her consistent hard work.

"Taylor takes advantage of every minute she is on the field, and her work rate is off the charts," Speer said. "I always encourage the other players to feed off her energy." ○

—Kasey Bubnash

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Love at first sip

One woman serves up elegant boozy drinks at an affordable price at weddings or any event on the Central Coast

BY KAREN GARCIA

Weddings have so many details that are similar to puzzle pieces. Each play a big part in creating the picture-perfect day for a couple that's ready to start the next chapter in their relationship.

But ditch the flowers, cake, table settings, and seating charts. For Christina Joslin, it's all about the booze. She's the owner of Copper and Crystal, a bartending labor service.

The difference between her business and other bartending services is that she supplies the people, but her clients supply the booze. She said her services are more aligned with the DIY side of wedding planning.

"My clients can buy their own alcohol and make it as affordable as possible because aside from the venue, photographer, and coordinator, food and alcohol are pretty expensive," Joslin said.

It's a lower price point for the bride and groom because Joslin focuses on the number of guests and the kinds of cocktails the couple wants to be served. Based on those factors and, of course, the couples budget, she can make a grocery list for them to use when purchasing all the alcohol that's needed.

In that process, Joslin works with the couple to come up with signature cocktails. She has a hidden page on her website that, after a couple contracts her, she gives them access to. It's a list of different cocktails for them to get ideas from. But she really encourages them to come up with a twist on their favorite drink.

"We've done things with different flavors of Moscow mule. There's obviously the standard mint but you can add in a raspberry or blueberry," she said. "I always try to elevate it just a little bit."

Her bartending skills really come into play when she's adding a bit of flair to make an ordinary cocktail special and personal. Joslin's favorite cocktail is the tequila-based paloma. The drink is traditionally prepared by mixing tequila with grapefruit-flavored soda and serving it on the rocks with a lime wedge.

Joslin uses a grapefruit flavored La Croix with a small splash of grapefruit juice and a hint of lime.

A point she always likes to make when collaborating with couples on making cocktail concoctions is time.

"I think it's important to have drinks that are fun and elevated, but I think it's also important that they come out in a timely fashion," she said. "I want to make sure that no one is waiting in line at a wedding, because we've all been there."

The Copper and Crystal venture was something that Joslin ran with after bartending for a few of her friends' weddings. In 2010, she was the project manager for a local solar installation company and had a side hustle as a bartender. She worked at the old Pappy McGregor's location on Monterey Street in San Luis Obispo.

"I always had a second job; I'm kind of a workaholic," Joslin said.

Just before Pappy McGregor's closed their



CLINKING GLASSES: Joslin works with the bride and groom to create signature drinks for their big day.

PHOTO COURTESY OF LEANA MYRA PHOTOGRAPHY



FAMILY THAT POURS: One of best parts of Joslin's job is creating a bartending family that love to work with one other and interact with wedding attendees such as Luke Wills (pictured).

SLO location, Joslin was using her bartending skills for more than just the restaurant setting.

"The last couple of years of me being at Pappy's, I had been asked quite a few times to bartend friends' weddings and I realized how much fun it was," she said.

The restaurant's closure was the push Joslin needed to start a business she's always wanted. Copper and Crystal began as a part-time partnership between Joslin and her friend, a fellow colleague at the solar company. But eventually Joslin realized she wanted to make this side business full-time. After an amicable split, she ventured out on her own in January 2018.

Joslin has flourished within the wedding industry, between getting her name out there and growing the number of clients she books. She not only credits her former partner, the wedding industry community, and the long hours she puts into her business, but the bartenders who have been with her from the start.

PHOTO COURTESY OF YVONNE GOLL PHOTOGRAPHY



TO YOUR LIKING: Copper and Crystal is unique because its goal is to serve up unique drinks at an affordable cost to the bride and groom.

PHOTO COURTESY OF MICHELLE ROLLER



CUSTOMIZED: If you're looking for a vintage vibe for your wedding, Christina Joslin has the hookup to serve your booze from a retro vehicle.

"I want my bartenders smiling, engaging in conversation, asking where attendees are from, when they got there, how they're loving San Luis, and when the DJ or the band comes on, I want my bartenders dancing at the bar," she said. "They're creating an experience and a relationship, even if it's only for one night."

At the end of the day, Joslin is just happy she's doing something that she loves with the people she loves. People are always happy at weddings, she said, they really are beautiful days. ○

Staff Writer Karen Garcia from *New Times* is sipping her mojito at kgarcia@newtimeslo.com.

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Goin' to the chapel (government center?)

Local lovebirds share their experiences opting for city hall-style weddings

PHOTO COURTESY OF CODY FOGH

BY KASEY BUBNASH

She wore a white dress with lace sleeves and off-white pumps. He wore a classic black tux, his hair parted and pushed to one side. Friends and family, also in their best clothes, watched and snapped photos as the newly married couple recited their vows, hands clasped and eyes on each other.

When they—Mario Meza and Sarahi Uribe—kissed to officially tie the knot on Feb. 7, 2019, applause, congratulations, and hugs were in order.

It was just like any other wedding ceremony, but this one was held at the Santa Barbara County Clerk-Recorder's Office in the Betteravia Government Center.

It's Santa Maria's equivalent to having a wedding at city hall or the county courthouse, and it's a cheaper, no-frills option that many local couples opt for when planning their big day. About 269 couples chose to have their weddings performed at the Betteravia Government Center in 2018, according to Deborah Sanchez, supervisor of the clerk-recorder's Santa Maria office, and she said couples do it for a breadth of reasons.

For Mario and Sarahi, the choice was about religion. As devout Jehovah's Witnesses, Mario said he and his now wife wanted to follow ceremonial guidelines set out by their

those knowing moments happened again. They were playing *Mario Kart*, he said. He was Mario and she was Princess Peach.

"We looked at each other and were like, 'Do you want to get married?'" Cody said.

They booked an appointment at the courthouse, and when the day came, they paid the fee, filled out the paperwork, got married, and went to get enchiladas and margaritas after.

"And that was basically our whole wedding day," Cody said, laughing at the memory.

It was a quick and cheap ceremony. Cody remembers the whole thing costing about \$50 at the time, which was perfect because he said they were barely scraping by in Los Angeles.

It was also just them—no friends, no family, and only a courthouse employee as a witness. Although it would



THUMBS UP FOR LOVE: Christine and Cody Fogh just after their wedding ceremony at the East Los Angeles Courthouse on May 10, 2002.

PHOTO COURTESY OF CODY FOGH



NEARLY 17 YEARS LATER: Christine (far left) and Cody (far right) and their three children pose in 2018. Cody said he and Christine are still very happily married.

have been difficult for their relatives to make it out in time for the wedding, Cody said he and Christine just didn't think all the usual trappings of a ceremony were necessary.

"We didn't feel we needed a big wedding to prove we love each other," he said. "We thought our lives together over time would do that. And that's been the case."

Nearly 17 years and three kids later, Cody said he and Christine are still as happy as ever, and they've lived much of their lives like that wedding ceremony: with spontaneity and simplicity.

Several other locals shared their "city hall" wedding stories

on the *Sun's* Facebook page, too:

John Smith said he and his wife were married at Santa Maria City Hall in 1985. They were raising five kids at the time and a conventional

wedding ceremony was out of the question.

Orcutt resident Michelle Ruiz said she and her husband were married at a courthouse in Solano County because they were both on active military duty. They now have four children and "one crazy schnauzer."

Jewels Martinez and her husband snuck off to get officially married in 2008 before their formal wedding ceremony with friends and family in 2009. They were living together at the time and wanted to be married while cohabitating. It's been 11 years since and they're still going strong, and they never told anyone about the pre-wedding—until now.

Whatever the reasons couples have for getting married in a county office, Chief Deputy Clerk-Recorder Melinda Greene said she's glad they do it.

"I think their joy is infectious," Greene said. "We are very lucky to be front row to pure joy every day, and we don't forget that." ○

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

PHOTOS BY KASEY BUBNASH



YOU MAY KISS THE BRIDE: Sarahi Uribe and Mario Meza kiss after reciting their wedding vows in February 2019 at the Betteravia Government Center in Santa Maria.

denomination's teachings. His experience with the county Clerk-Recorder's Office, he said, was fantastic.

At a price of \$100 for a marriage license and \$104 for the ceremony, the event was affordable overall. County employees helped with all the paperwork, which Mario said enabled him to focus on getting married.

"I'm nervous," he said, just before the start of his wedding. "Nervous but happy."

Santa Maria residents Cody and Christine Fogh had a different set of reasons when they were married at the East Los Angeles Courthouse in May 2002.

Christine was born and raised in Santa Maria, where she was living when she met Cody online. He was living in Los Angeles, he said, and after a few weeks of chatting virtually, they decided to meet halfway in Santa Barbara. It was the first time they'd met in person (now known as IRL), but Cody said that day they both "just knew."

Two weeks later, Christine had found a job in LA and moved in with Cody.

A few months after that, Cody said one of

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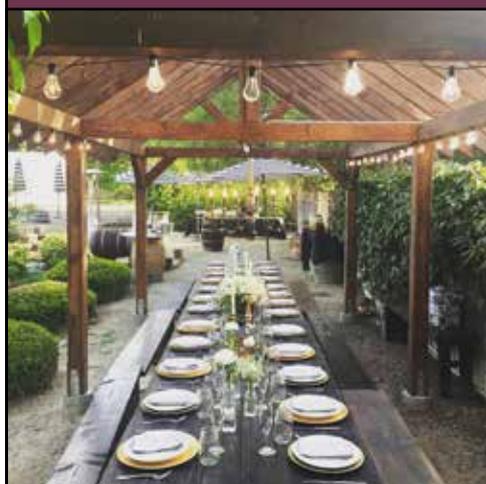
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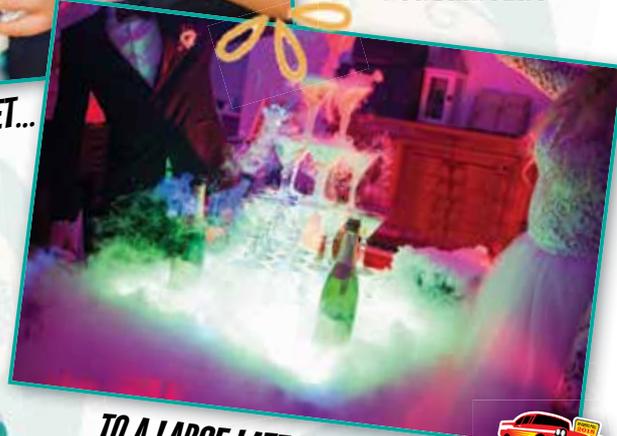
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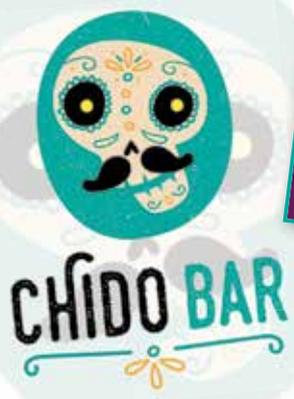


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Stop and smell the succulents?

Non-traditional floral decorations are on the rise

BY CHRIS MCGUINNESS

If you're looking to catch the bouquet at the next Central Coast wedding you attend, don't be surprised if instead of white and pink roses, you end up with a fist full of succulents, moss, or even artichokes.

As an increasing number of brides and grooms plan weddings that are more unique and reflect their personalities, they are opting to use non-traditional materials in the floral arrangements, centerpieces, and bouquets used to decorate the venue for their special day.

"A lot of people are really trying to do something different," said Renae Brubaker, owner of Renae's Bouquet in Santa Ynez. "I love it. It's really elevating the whole industry."

Brubaker, who has been working in the floral design industry for more than 20 years, said she works with a wide range of non-traditional materials to decorate weddings. One of the most popular non-traditional materials she uses are succulents—vibrant, thick, and fleshy plants that can withstand arid conditions and are native to the Central Coast. Succulents can be used along with other plants that don't need soil to create beautiful "air plant" arrangements, Brubaker said.

"Especially in the summer, when it gets hot, we do a lot of air plants hanging from arches, or even in bouquets," she said.

Wedding and event planner Jessie Chavez also

said succulents, particularly succulent centerpieces, have been popular at weddings recently.

"Guests can take them home at the end. It's a cool souvenir for them," Chavez wrote in an email to the *Sun*. "They last a lot longer than taking home normal flowers from a wedding! People keep them for months!"

But succulents aren't the only out-of-the-box materials Brubaker has used to decorate a wedding. She said she has used moss, olive branches, and even vibrant colored kale plants and red cabbage.

"We did one wedding last season where we used citrus, like lemons, and kumquats," she said.

Brubaker said that many non-traditional floral decorations complement popular wedding venues in the Santa Barbara and Santa Ynez areas, many of which are ranches and wineries with a rustic vibe. They can reflect the personality of the groom and bride as well as the season. She recalled one October wedding with a bride from Texas where the table decorations were made up of white pumpkins and antlers.

"I love branching out and using different materials," she said. "A lot of the designs are based on the bride's personality. If they seem like they like thinking out of the box, I'll make some suggestions."

Increasingly, though, Brubaker said that brides and grooms are already coming in



MORE THAN FLOWERS: Brides and grooms are increasingly eschewing customary floral decorations in favor of using non-traditional materials for wedding centerpieces and bouquets.

asking for something different. Over the years, she said more and more couples are asking for personalized and unique arrangements for their weddings.

That trend isn't confined to Santa Barbara County either. According to an annual survey from *Brides* magazine, more couples are eschewing long-standing wedding traditions and conventions, and instead are opting for elements that are more individualized and

meaningful.

"Instead of partaking in old-fashioned traditions, the study showed that couples are introducing more customization into their big days," the results of the 2018 study stated. ○

New Times Staff Writer Chris McGuinness can be reached at cmcguinness@newtimeslo.com. Kasey Bubnash contributed to this story.

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SPORTS BAR & RESTAURANT

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SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 16
Mongo's Saloon

Beer Yoga
SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 17
Naughty Oak Brewing Co.

Calendar Girls
FRI, SAT, SUN THRU FEBRUARY 17
By the Sea Productions

Tours for Paddlers
SATURDAYS IN FEBRUARY
Point San Luis Lighthouse

Turntable Supper Club
Baja California Valentines Dinner
FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 15
Sally Loo's

Love in Avila Beach Dinner and Dance
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TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 19
Morro Bay Wine Seller

The Emmet Cohen Trio
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 19
Unity Concert Hall

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

Gen Cal Professional Wrestling
Presents: **No Love Lost**
SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 24
The Graduate

Share the Love Fashion Show
FRI & SAT, MARCH 1 & 2
Alex Madonna Expo Center

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

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Staying sentimental

Creations to celebrate your big day long after saying 'I do'

BY ANNA STARKEY

Flowers? Check! Dress? Check! Cake? Check! Besides a venue, some invitations, and a few (OK, many) other details, I'd say we have ourselves the makings of a wedding! While the actual day-of inevitably flies by in a flash, every wedded couple wants special reminders of their bond beyond the rings. Dusting off the wedding album once a year is great, but with some clever ideas, experts who know the peaks and pitfalls, and plenty of opportunity to add your own flair, there isn't just one right way to remember your big day.

Flowers create the subtle detail and backdrop to a picture-perfect day, but what to do with something already on its way to death when you want it to last a lifetime? Pressed botanical artist Sarah Presogna offers a beautiful solution with her framed creations. She sees the beauty of the medium for many reasons, and while she doesn't hold it above other preservations, she does favor the method.

"The advantage of pressing the blooms is that they become a two-dimensional keepsake. When bouquets are preserved in 3-D, you need shelf space to display them, they need to be dusted often, and there is not usually a way to protect them from light damage," Presogna said. "With flat pressed flowers, they become a piece of framed art on your walls."

Many couples choose to include a wedding photo or vows, and even private jokes get incorporated. One thing she wants all those interested in having their flowers pressed to know: Plan ahead!

"If you start looking into it after your wedding, you have very limited time to get them to the artist in the best shape. I will often get emails from brides who want to preserve their flowers but got married last week, or are just returning from their honeymoon. By then, it's too late to press them," Presogna said.

A little planning is well worth it for an incredible and delicate reminder of your beautiful day.

Asked what it is she loves the most about her unique line of work, Presogna said: "The thing I love more than anything is that I'm able to take these incredibly important symbols of someone's wedding day and let them shine for a lifetime. I know the cost that goes into creating the perfect wedding, not just financially but emotionally as well. I was married myself last year, and I did not understand how much of yourself you put out there to organize a wedding until I went through the process. There are all these decisions you make from colors to dresses to decorations and then, poof, it's all over. By saving these flowers and preserving them, you can at least hold on to one of those decisions. You get to enjoy the flowers longer than the appetizers, than the table



PHOTO COURTESY OF T.LEIGH COUTURE

RENEWED SENTIMENT: Teresa Leigh transformed a mother-of-the-bride's outdated gown into a chic masterpiece.

cloths, than the DJ. And I'm honored each and every time a bride trusts me with saving one of those decisions."

Wear it more than once

While there are plenty of options if you simply want to preserve your wedding gown as is (aka—in a fancy box in the back of your

closet), there are more creative ways to reuse the dress and give it a second chance to be a star. Teresa Leigh of T.Leigh Couture recommends opting for several separates instead of one new piece.

"Out of the average dress I could get a combination of two things—a top, a skirt, shorty dressy shorts, a jacket, and a clutch—depending on how much fabric I had."

The reasoning behind her advice is both practical and sentimental: "Wear it in separates until it wears out, making the most of what you have for yourself, re-invent it for a vow renewal for you and your honey, or pass it down to a daughter, niece, or loved one and give her the opportunity to re-invent it—before-and-after pics are wonderful!"

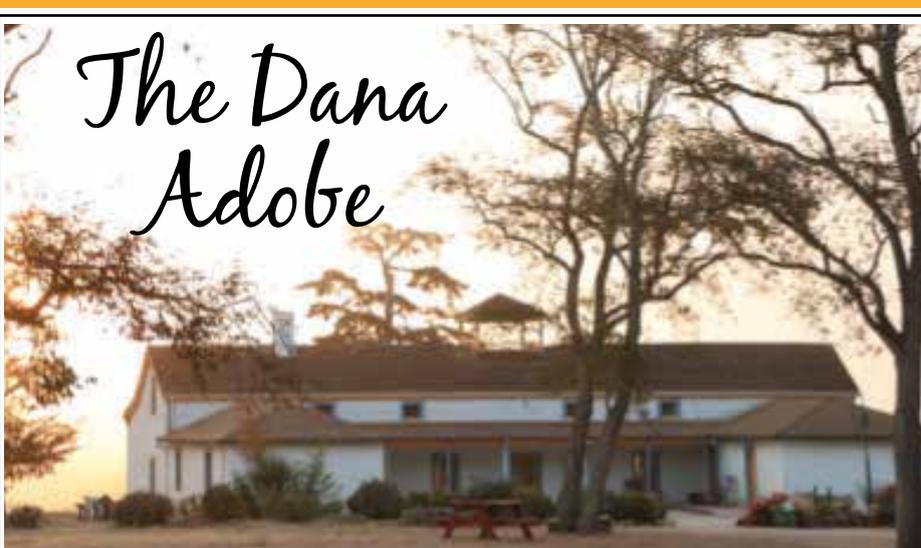
Leigh is no stranger to reinvention, tasked by an indecisive bride to revamp her mother's straight-from-the-'80s wedding gown complete with over-the-shoulder poof and 10-inch ruffles, she finally got to the heart of the matter—the bride really just wasn't a dress wearer, so things she didn't like came to mind much faster than those she did.

"I had a heart-to-heart with her, away from mom and friends and sisters," Leigh said. "I asked, 'What do you like clothes to feel like? What is the aesthetic you are going for? Do you like wearing things with movement or prefer the stiffness of corset?'"

Ultimately, by eliminating what the bride didn't like, the designer was able to create a picture of what she would look like on her big day—a scoop neck, sleeveless A-line with satin detailing at the neck and waistline. Not even a

SENTIMENTAL from page 17

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PHOTOS COURTESY OF SARAH PRESOGNA



DELICATE BEAUTY: Ecobata owner Sarah Presogna creates one-of-a-kind artwork by combining beautifully pressed pieces from her client's wedding bouquet and other sentiments such as photos, vows, and song lyrics. Her work is available through Etsy.

SENTIMENTAL from page 16

hint of the '80s was left, but the bride still got to enjoy the sentiment of wearing her mom's dress on her big day. Whether building a dress from the top down, reinventing an heirloom, or having your gown turned into something else, Leigh reminds brides that these things take time.

"I need a month minimum to alter a dress, and at least three if I'm building a custom piece," she said.

The sewetician travels far and wide to find the best fabrics and has swatches sent in from New York. Only the best because, after all, this

is a piece meant to last a lifetime, however you decide to preserve it.

Keep that cake

The idea of cutting into the top tier of your wedding cake on the first anniversary of your vows is sentimental gold, but the practical reality of it can leave you with a stale mess of freezer-burned regret. One option? Ask your bakery of choice if they will include a miniature replica of your cake top in the bid, fresh and ready for pickup on your anniversary. Fresh cake and a year's worth of freezer space? Yes, please!

If this isn't an option, professional bakers recommend you make sure your cake is wrapped well in several layers of plastic wrap and aluminum foil, and stored in a tightly fitted box until the time comes to celebrate. Many catering companies and bakeries offer this as part of their services. Be sure to ask if you plan on preserving your cake for future celebration.

No matter how you decide to remember your wedding day, take the cliché but truthful advice everyone offers—enjoy every minute, it'll be over in the blink of an eye. ○

Contributor Anna Starkey is all about cake. Send comments through the editor at clanham@newtimeslo.com.



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- 46% No. They've already had one spill, and I don't trust them.
- 39% Yes. We depend on that oil and need to get the pipeline working again.
- 14% I'm not sure. I need to know more about the proposal.
- 0% I don't want a pipeline. We should just truck the oil.

28 Votes

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We need progress

Ignoring the problem of homelessness isn't going to solve it

BY RON FINK

Both the 3rd and 4th District Santa Barbara County supervisors seem to have been ignoring Lompoc's homelessness problem. Let's examine the issue carefully and place current actions in context with history.

The homeless encampments have been in the riverbed for more than 30 years. At the start of these encampments, the entirety of the Santa Ynez River in Lompoc between the Robinson bridge and the Highway 1 overcrossing was owned by the county. At first there were only a few, but the community grew to nearly 100 camps. There was a lot of drug use, and conflict was common, sometimes fatal, between the various occupants.

When Caltrans abandoned a proposed Highway 1 bypass route beside the river between highways 1 and 246 and Central Avenue, the city accepted ownership of the land for use as open space and thus became owners of the homeless encampments as well.

For decades, folks living near the riverbank on the east side of town complained to the City Council and police department about vagrants in the area. Since the property had not been annexed into the city, officials at the time said that there was "nothing they could do" since they thought the problem was in the county.

Finally, last year, after a legal determination that the city owned the property, the city accepted responsibility for removing the vagrants because it determined that an environmental disaster was brewing because of the tons of trash, hazardous materials, biohazard waste, and metal objects that had accumulated over the years.

The city and county agreed to set up a triage area at River Park, also in the county but owned by the city, and began evicting the squatters. In

theory, this center would temporarily house and then relocate the homeless to more organized surroundings. The county also provided some assistance in the removal of the trash.

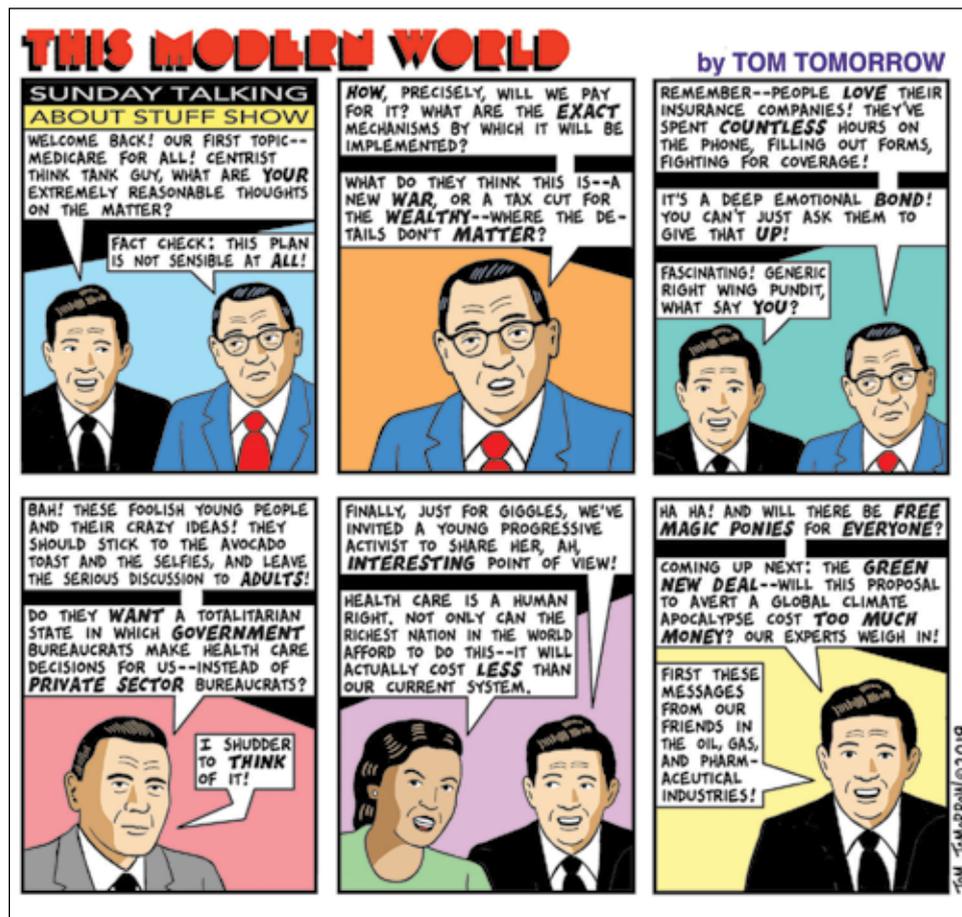
When word of the triage effort spread out, probably via all of those free cellphones provided by the state, homeless people who weren't identified as having lived in the riverbed mysteriously started appearing from Santa Maria, Santa Barbara, and other areas to cash in on whatever the program was offering.

While many wanted to camp at the park, be fed three times a day, and be able to sign up for benefits, only a few accepted a more permanent place to stay; the rest filtered into town and set up camp wherever they could hide.

The county is responsible for providing and monitoring low-income housing programs. Somehow over the last few decades, 30 percent of the available multi-family housing units in Lompoc have been converted to low-income occupancies while other cities have only 5 to 6 percent apportioned for this purpose. Several of the older motels have also been converted to house Section 8 voucher residents; some have been this way for several years.

Burdening Lompoc with more low-income/homeless housing units doesn't seem to be an equitable solution in a community struggling with the revenue side of providing the community with needed general fund services because these properties don't pay property taxes and the motels don't pay transient occupancy taxes on rooms filled with Section 8 voucher recipients. They do however receive a very high volume of the services that the property doesn't pay for.

Simply allowing the vagrants to run free and set up camp on commercial or public property doesn't seem reasonable either.



THIS MODERN WORLD
by TOM TOMORROW

SUNDAY TALKING ABOUT STUFF SHOW
WELCOME BACK! OUR FIRST TOPIC-- MEDICARE FOR ALL! CENTRIST THINK TANK GUY, WHAT ARE YOUR EXTREMELY REASONABLE THOUGHTS ON THE MATTER?
FACT CHECK: THIS PLAN IS NOT SENSIBLE AT ALL!

HOW, PRECISELY, WILL WE PAY FOR IT? WHAT ARE THE EXACT MECHANISMS BY WHICH IT WILL BE IMPLEMENTED?
WHAT DO THEY THINK THIS IS--A NEW WAR, OR A TAX CUT FOR THE WEALTHY--WHERE THE DETAILS DON'T MATTER?

REMEMBER--PEOPLE LOVE THEIR INSURANCE COMPANIES! THEY'VE SPENT COUNTLESS HOURS ON THE PHONE, FILLING OUT FORMS, FIGHTING FOR COVERAGE!
IT'S A DEEP EMOTIONAL BOND! YOU CAN'T JUST ASK THEM TO GIVE THAT UP!
FASCINATING! GENERIC RIGHT WING PUNDIT, WHAT SAY YOU?

BAH! THESE FOOLISH YOUNG PEOPLE AND THEIR CRAZY IDEAS! THEY SHOULD STICK TO THE AVOCADO TOAST AND THE SELFIES, AND LEAVE THE SERIOUS DISCUSSION TO ADULTS!
DO THEY WANT A TOTALITARIAN STATE IN WHICH GOVERNMENT BUREAUCRATS MAKE HEALTH CARE DECISIONS FOR US--INSTEAD OF PRIVATE SECTOR BUREAUCRATS?
I SHUDDER TO THINK OF IT!

FINALLY, JUST FOR GIGGLES, WE'VE INVITED A YOUNG PROGRESSIVE ACTIVIST TO SHARE HER, AH, INTERESTING POINT OF VIEW!
HEALTH CARE IS A HUMAN RIGHT. NOT ONLY CAN THE RICHEST NATION IN THE WORLD AFFORD TO DO THIS--IT WILL ACTUALLY COST LESS THAN OUR CURRENT SYSTEM.

HA HA! AND WILL THERE BE FREE MAGIC PONIES FOR EVERYONE?
COMING UP NEXT: THE GREEN NEW DEAL--WILL THIS PROPOSAL TO AVERT A GLOBAL CLIMATE APOCALYPSE COST TOO MUCH MONEY? OUR EXPERTS WEIGH IN!
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So, what has the county done about the homeless housing problem? Even though there has been a lot of talk in dozens of meetings over the last few years, no tangible plan has been proposed to address the issue.

Neither the 3rd or 4th District supervisors have taken an active interest in resolving the problem; meantime, the homeless population is growing every day as they are provided cash for food, given clothing, and allowed to roam the city begging for money or simply stealing whatever they want from merchants.

It's past due time for politicians to stop talking and start making some forward progress on the homelessness issue. ○

Ron Fink writes to the Sun from Lompoc, about Lompoc. Send comments through the editor at clanham@santamariasun.com or write a letter to the editor for publication and email it to letters@santamariasun.com.

LETTERS

We don't need to cram the beach in Oceano with tourists

I was impressed with the article by Lucia Casalinoovo ("The removal of Oceano beach") in the Jan. 10 issue of the Sun. I also want to say that there are other factors—wind, storms, and sea tides—that can also effect the sand levels, too. I believe our beaches have become smaller in that they are areas that can hold only so much humanity at one time.

On a good day during the summer season, from Shell Beach it's easy to see the long lines of white rectangular boxes sitting by the surf in Oceano. Trailers, some pulled by muscle trucks; bikes; and ATV rentals.

They eat in our restaurants, shop in our towns, drink in our bars, spend their money, all that for a few days in paradise. Then they leave. More come, and the process starts all over again. Again and again and again. We locals put up with it. After all, who would deny local businesses a good living? Not me.

But I have learned one disturbing fact. Through the wife of an acquaintance who used to work at the large gas station close to Fourth Street, she told me that a guy was checking out and talking with his friend saying he didn't want to mess with cleaning his sewage tank when he got home. So he decided to dump it in the sand. They thought it was real funny when they saw the expression on her face. Everyone's cramming for paradise on the coast. What are we cramming for?

Cheryl Bennet
Shell Beach

An idea to deal with sand in Oceano

This letter is in response to Lucia Casalinoovo: "The removal of Oceano Beach" (Jan. 10) and in response to Cheryl Bennet, "We

LETTERS from page 18

don't need to cram the beach in Oceano with Tourists?"

I agree with both Lucia and Cheryl, we are losing the beach to all those cars, and also just to Mother Nature.

We live in the best place on the Central Coast, so it's only natural people want to visit our beautiful beaches.

I see a solution though. The new sand is contaminated from the cars driving on it and carting it out on their tires. Why can't the sand be put back on the beach? So, the top level is contaminated, and the sand that is drug out would go back on the layer that is already contaminated, that way the same two levels of sand would be used over and over again. I don't know if I'm explaining my idea so other people can understand it, but it seems reasonable to me.

At the rate explained in her letter there will be no beach left, not to mention the cost of removing the sand. I think my idea is at least explorable.

Cynthia Morr
Santa Maria

So many questions about Russia and Trump

Vladimir Putin's goal is to weaken the United States by using President Donald Trump. In order to propel Trump into the White House, Russian hackers infiltrated United States political organizations. The Kremlin used sensitive information to undermine Hillary Clinton. In addition, Russian hackers

used American social media to influence the American electorate to vote for Trump.

This raises the question. Why Trump? The Russian dictator possibly has information that could severely damage Trump. It is clear that Trump and several team members, five of whom have been indicted, have ties to several influential Russian elitists. In addition, Trump's goal is to extend his commercial empire to Russia. Does Trump owe tens of millions of dollars to Kremlin banks and Russian oligarchs? Does he have something to conceal?

When one pieces the puzzle together, a vivid picture emerges of the Trump-Putin relationship.

Why did Trump yank the Russian incursion of Ukraine plank out of the 2016 GOP platform? Why does Trump continue to refuse to chastise Putin? Why does Trump threaten to pull out of NATO under the pretext that its members do not pay their fair share?

Why did Trump announce that ISIS had been defeated and that United States troops would be withdrawn? That left Russia alone in Syria.

Why did Trump announce that that he would terminate the 1987 Intermediate-Range Nuclear Force Treaty? Western missiles would no longer be pointed at Russia.

Why did Trump refuse to have a note-taker and translator present each time when he met with Putin? Why did Trump grab the transcript from the Russian translator?

This is neither a Republican nor a Democratic issue. It is an American issue. Putin is emerging the winner. He is using Trump to isolate the United States from its allies.

James Huchthausen
Cambria

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Sun

Chickens in, humans out

Well Lompoc, you finally did it. Chickens are officially allowed to be man's best friend within city limits. It only took you three years to figure it out.

Chickens have been hip since, like, at least 2015.

Even **Lompoc City Councilmember Victor Vega** knows how hip they are: "This has been a pretty popular item as far as from where I'm sitting," he said.

They're cool. They cluck. They strut. They peck, peck, peck at those pesky bugs. They lay eggs. And "They're fun to hang out with," according to **Lompoc resident Anthony "Legalize Chickens" Loverde**.

If it took three years for the city to rework an ordinance about what animals residents are allowed to keep in their backyards, how long will it take for the city to deal with homelessness?

Get in there, sweep out the riverbed, put the homeless in a park, triage them with services, and get them out of there. Problem solved!

Problem solved?

Negative, ghostchicken.

Although I don't agree with the tone of our regular opinion writer from Lompoc, **Ron Fink**, on page 18, I do agree that it seems like nobody cares. I also believe that one of the only people at the city who genuinely cared about doing something to help is retiring.

Lompoc Police Chief Pat Walsh asked residents to open up their homes in September 2018 in the midst of the Santa Ynez Riverbed cleanup.

"Housing is in short supply and many of these individuals are desperate for housing," he wrote in a letter to the community.

The last the city mentioned anything about the cleanup, it touted "hallmarks of progress ... toward cleaning up the Santa Ynez Riverbed" in a press release sent out by the city's **Public Information Officer Samantha Scroggin**. It cost \$423,000, and the city removed 462 tons of trash, 499 pounds of human waste, five truckloads of tarps, and seven structures.

Take that, chicken ordinance! Water quality saved!

Those numbers are very specific. Now, what about humans? "Eviction of riverbed occupants, with triage services offered and accepted."

Take that, newly allowed backyard barn animals! Wait—that chicken ordinance was more specific about the number of chickens you can have in your backyard than the city was about the number of people it helped.

One of the benefits highlighted in this press release: "Removing inhabitants of the riverbed reducing the potential for swift-water rescue."

I'm glad all of those human beings—yes Lompoc, those "inhabitants" and "occupants" you evicted are real, live, humans—weren't in the riverbed during the recent heavy rains, but what became of the removed and triaged?

If it took three years to sort out a goofy chicken ordinance, it's going to take a lot longer than five months to figure out workable solutions to homelessness. ○

The canary is happy to live in a birdcage at canary@santamariasun.com.



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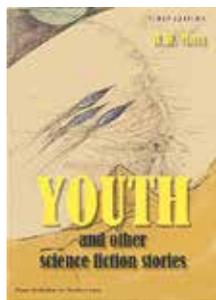


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2019

HOLD MY BEER
Naughty Oak Brewing Co. hosts one of its Beer Yoga events on Feb. 17 from 10:30 to 11:30 a.m. All experience levels are welcome to this class. Admission is \$22 and includes a complimentary pint of beer. Tickets are available at my805tix.com. Naughty Oak is located at 165 S. Broadway, suite 102, Orcutt. More info: (805) 287-9663 or naughtyoak.com.

PHOTO COURTESY OF NAUGHTY OAK BREWING CO.

SPECIAL EVENTS

SANTA YNEZ VALLEY

THE CLAIRVOYANTS LIVE Austrian magicians Amélie van Tass and Thommy Ten present their mentalism act. The duo showcased their mind reading abilities on *America's Got Talent* in 2015. **Feb. 22**, 8 p.m. \$19-\$59. Chumash Casino Resort, 3400 E. Highway 246, Santa Ynez, 800-248-6274, chumashcasino.com/entertainment.

SANTA MARIA VALLEY/LOS ALAMOS

BEER YOGA AT NAUGHTY OAK All experience levels are welcome to this class. Admission is \$22 and includes a complimentary pint of beer. **Feb. 17**, 10:30-11:30 a.m. my805tix.com. Naughty Oak Brewing Co., 165 S Broadway St Ste 102, Orcutt, 805-287-9663.

SAN LUIS OBISPO

CENTRAL COAST VEG FEST An all-day, family-friendly celebration of veganism with free samples, vendors, food, food trucks, expert speakers, cooking demos, and more. **Feb. 23**, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Free. 805-234-7279. ccvegfest.org. SLO United Methodist Church, 1515 Fredericks St., San Luis Obispo.

GLITTEROTICA: BURLESQUE AND DRAG SHOW Featuring regional performers of burlesque, drag, and cabaret. Fundraiser for Stoke the World. **Feb. 15**, 7-10 p.m. and **Feb. 16**, 7-10 p.m. \$20-\$40. glitteroticaburlesque.com. SLO Guild Hall, 2880 Broad St., San Luis Obispo, 805-543-0639.

SLO CRAFT BEER FESTIVAL SLO's most popular beer event with beer tastings, food pairings, beer educational seminars, and live music. **Feb. 22**, 5-9 p.m. and **Feb. 23**, 1-5 p.m. \$35-\$55. 805-481-4898. slocraftbeer.com. Alex Madonna Expo Center, 100 Madonna Rd, San Luis Obispo.

HOLIDAY EVENTS

SANTA YNEZ VALLEY

V-DAY FOR VEGANS Features a four-course vegan Valentine's Day-themed dinner. **Feb. 14**, 5-8 p.m. Route 246, 420 Alisal Rd., Solvang.

VALENTINE WINEMAKER DINNER Enjoy this winemaker dinner in celebration of Valentine's Day. **Feb. 14**, 5-9 p.m. Alisal Guest Ranch and Resort, 1054 Alisal Rd., Solvang.

SANTA MARIA VALLEY/LOS ALAMOS

VALENTINE'S AT BLAST 825 Includes a choice of three entrees, live music, and couples' karaoke. **Feb. 14** Blast 825 Brewery, 241 S Broadway St., Ste. 101, Orcutt,

805-934-3777, rooneysirishpub.net.
VALENTINE'S DAY DINNER DATE Includes an entree of your choice and a half order of Texas eggrolls. **Feb. 14-19** Original Roadhouse Steaks and BBQ, 1423 South Bradley Rd., Santa Maria, 805-614-0586, originalroadhousegrill.com.

VALENTINE'S DINNER Entree choices include soy rum pork shank, Kobe flat iron steak, and more. **Feb. 14** \$65. Santa Maria Inn, 801 S. Broadway, Santa Maria, 805-928-7777, santamariainn.com.

VALENTINE'S DINNER AT THE RADISSON Enjoy a four-course Valentine's Day dinner. **Feb. 14**, 4-10 p.m. \$60. Radisson Hotel, 3455 Airpark Dr., Santa Maria.

VALENTINE'S SWEETHEART SPECIAL Featuring a three-course dinner for two, champagne spritzers, and live music. **Feb. 14** Moxie Cafe, 1317 W. McCoy Ln., Santa Maria, 805-361-2900, moxiecafe.com.

SOUTH COAST SLO COUNTY

GENTLE DAY RETREAT: LIVING FROM THE HEART A day of rest, relaxation, and renewal with a heart-centered yoga mini-retreat. Open to individuals or couples. **Feb. 16**, 10 a.m.-2:30 p.m. \$77; \$85. 805-710-9808. branchmillorganics.com/gentle-day. Branch Mill Organic Farm & Retreat Center, 2815 Branch Mill Rd., Arroyo Grande.

LOVE IN AVILA BEACH: DINNER AND DANCE Enjoy dancing to the music of the Deanna Delore and Jim Barnett Duo. The cash bar includes wine and beer with a special sale of Lighthouse Labeled Wines. Dinner starts at 6 p.m. **Feb. 15**, 5:30-9 p.m. \$50. 805-540-5771. Point San Luis Lighthouse, 1 Lighthouse Rd., Avila Beach.

VALENTINE'S DAY LINE DANCING Learn some line dance moves while enjoying food and drinks. **Feb. 14**, 5:30-7 p.m. 805-595-7600 Ext 0. Avila Bay Athletic Club, 6699 Bay Laurel Place, Avila Beach.

SAN LUIS OBISPO

VALENTINE CALLING CARDS Let the Pacific Horizon Chorus surprise your loved



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.

one with a special song, card, flower, or phone call. The band can surprise them at work, home, a restaurant, or anywhere you choose from Nipomo to Paso Robles. **Feb. 14**, 9 a.m.-9 p.m. \$35 for visit; \$5 for phone call. 805-782-9951. United Methodist Church, 1515 Fredericks Street, San Luis Obispo, sloumc.com/.

VALENTINE WINE AND DINE Features a farm-to-table four-course dinner, wine, and more. **Feb. 16**, 6-9 p.m. \$80. Wild Coyote Winery, 3775 Adelaida Rd., Paso Robles, 805-239-4770.

VALENTINE'S DAY TRIVIA Trivia features love-themed questions along with special prizes. **Feb. 14**, 6:30-8:30 p.m. Free. 805-868-7133. 7Sisters Brewing Company, 181 Tank Farm Rd. Suite 110, San Luis Obispo, 7SistersBrewing.com.

VALENTINE'S DINNER AT SALLY LOO'S Part of Sally Loo's curated dinner series. **Feb. 15**, 6:30 p.m. Sally Loo's Wholesome Cafe, 1804 Osos St., San Luis Obispo.

ARTS

CLASSES & WORKSHOPS

LOMPOC/VANDENBERG

STRAW BALE GARDENING Join UC Master Gardeners for a free workshop about how to grow vegetables and ornamentals in straw bales instead of in the ground. **Feb. 23**, 10:30-11:30 a.m. Free. Stone Pine Hall, 210 South H St., Lompoc, 805-736-3888, lompocmuseum.org/pine.php.

SANTA MARIA VALLEY/LOS ALAMOS

AFTERNOON ART TIME Art class for kids ages 6 through 12. **Feb. 20**, 4-5 p.m. Free. 805-925-0994. Santa Maria Public Library, 421 S. McClelland St., Santa Maria.

BALLROOM, LATIN, AND SWING LESSONS Marie King and Kings of Swing offer dance lessons for all ages and skill levels. Couples and singles welcome. Wednesdays, 6:30-8:30 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 oasiorcutt.org. Oasis Senior Center, 420 Soares Ave., Orcutt, 805-937-9750.

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

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

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

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.

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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.

SOUTH COAST SLO COUNTY

BLACK DOVE BOOK DISCUSSION With author Ana Castillo. **Feb. 15**, 10-11 a.m. and **Feb. 19**, 4:30-5:30 p.m. Free. 805-473-7161. slolibrary.org. Arroyo Grande Library, 800 W. Branch, Arroyo Grande.

ACRYLIC POURING INTERMEDIATE WORKSHOP Artist Shelley Kenny host this class, where every piece will look completely different from the next. **Feb. 20**, 6-8 p.m. \$40. 805-550-9963. 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. **Feb. 14**, 6-8 p.m. and **Feb. 21**, 6-8 p.m. \$40; \$65 for 2; \$30 each for 3 or more. 805-550-9963. 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. **Feb. 16**, 6-8 p.m. and **Feb. 23**, 6-8 p.m. \$40; \$65 for 2; \$30 each for 3 or more. 805-550-9963. 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. **Feb. 15**, 6-8 p.m. and **Feb. 22**, 6-8 p.m. \$40; \$65 for 2; \$30 each for 3 or more. 805-550-9963. theartgalanipomo.com/classes-and-events/. Gala De Arte Plaza, 136 N Thompson Ave. B, Nipomo.



Includes drawing, painting, sewing, 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. LiIA Creative Community, 1147 East Grand Ave. Suite 101, Arroyo Grande, lila.community.

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

SAN LUIS OBISPO

BLACK DOVE BOOK DISCUSSION Features author Ana Castillo. **Feb. 14**, 10:30 a.m.-noon Free. 805-781-5991. slolibrary.org. San Luis Obispo Library, 995 Palm St., San Luis Obispo.

THE ART OF TAPESTRY WEAVING WITH TRICIA GOLDBERG Guests weave with fine wool yarns and learn tapestry techniques including hatching, slits, and patterns for combining colors. All experience levels are welcome. **Feb. 22-24** \$295-\$325; \$20 for materials. 805-543-8562. sloma.org/education. San Luis Obispo Museum of Art, 1010 Broad St., San Luis Obispo.

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

DECONSTRUCTED FLOWERS WITH DREW DAVIS Explore how to deconstruct images of flowers to create representational abstract paintings. **Feb. 17**, 12:30-3:30 p.m. \$50. 805-234-2302. artcentralartsupply.com/current-workshops.php. Art Central, 1329 Monterey St., San Luis Obispo.

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

LINCOLN PENNY

SCIENCE Learn how to turn an old penny green and then make it shiny again. **Feb. 16**, 11 a.m.-2 p.m. 805-545-5874. slomc.org. San Luis Obispo Children's Museum, 1010 Nipomo 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. 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. Anam Cre Pottery Studio, 1243 Monterey St, San Luis Obispo.

PLEIN AIR PRIMER Join local artist Jonathan Gaetke for this free informative lecture, demonstration, and Q&A session. **Feb. 16**, 2-3 p.m. Free. artcentralartsupply.com/current-workshops.php. Art Central, 1329 Monterey St., San Luis Obispo, 805 747 4200.

POTTERY WORKSHOP: MEDITATION IN MOTION Wheel throwing experience is necessary. Limited to 8 participants. Mondays, 9-midnight through March 4 \$325. 805-896-6197. Anam Cre Pottery Studio, 1243 Monterey St, San Luis Obispo, anamcre.com.

WATERCOLOR PAINTING WITH STRONG VALUES: HARWOOD "WOODY" BENTON **Feb. 16**, 10:30 a.m.-1 p.m. \$45. artcentralartsupply.com/current-workshops.php. Art Central, 1329 Monterey St., San Luis Obispo, 805 747 4200.

NORTH SLO COUNTY

CAMBRIA WESTERN DANCE JAMBOREE Features line dancing workshops all day, which are followed by the evening dance. **Feb. 16**, 8 a.m.-10 p.m. \$15-\$45. 805 927

3624. cambriachamber.org. Cambria Veterans Memorial Hall, 1000 Main Street, Cambria.

CHANNEL YOUR INNER ROBERT RAUSCHENBERG WITH COLLAGE

Collage class by Vicky Hoffman in the spirit of Robert Rauschenberg. **Feb. 16**, 1-3:30 p.m. and **Feb. 23**, 1-3:30 p.m. \$325. 805-466-3684. art/, 5806 Traffic Way, Atascadero.

SPECIAL ART EVENTS

SANTA YNEZ VALLEY

RAY STRONG: A COLLECTOR'S PASSION (SECOND OPENING RECEPTION) The show features 32 paintings by renowned Santa Barbara artist Ray Strong (1905-2006), loaned by David Parker **Feb. 16**, 3-5 p.m. Free. 805-686-8315. wildlingmuseum.org/news/ray-strong-2019-art-exhibit. Wildling Museum of Art and Nature, 1511-B Mission Dr., Solvang.

NORTH COAST SLO COUNTY

BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP Sponsored by the Friends of the Los Osos Library. For adults. Third Thursday of every month, 6:30-8 p.m. Free. 805-528-1862. Los Osos Library, 2075 Palisades Ave., Los Osos.

POETRY/SPOKEN WORD WITH MARY ANNE ANDERSON Open mic follows each reading. Third Thursday of every month, 7-9 p.m. Free. 831-277-4028. Unitarian Universalist Fellowship Hall, 786 Arlington, Cambria.

POTTERY, PLANTS, AND PAINTINGS Features pots and ceramics by Richard Rowe Clayworks, beautiful succulent plants from CalCoast Succulents, and silk landscape paintings by Jeanne Miller available for purchase. Snacks and beverages served too. **Feb. 17**, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Free. 805-602-7817. Richard Rowe Clayworks, 387 Quintana, Morro Bay.

EXHIBITS

SANTA YNEZ VALLEY

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

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

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

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

NEW PERSPECTIVES Through March 1 Gallery Los Olivos, 2920 Grand Ave., Los Olivos, 805-688-7517, gallerylosolivos.com.

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. pavlogallery.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** Wildling Museum of Art and Nature, 1511-B Mission Dr., Solvang, 805-688-1082, wildlingmuseum.org.

RAY STRONG: A COLLECTOR'S PASSION One collector, David Parker, is sharing his Ray Strong paintings as well as his stories of how he built his collection of over thirty pieces. Mondays, Wednesdays-Sundays, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. **through July 8** \$5. 805-686-8315. wildlingmuseum.org/news/ray-strong-2019-art-exhibit. Wildling Museum of Art and Nature, 1511-B Mission Dr., Solvang.

SANTA MARIA VALLEY/LOS ALAMOS

FINE ARTS STUDENT SHOW Through Feb. 21 Ann Foxworthy Gallery, 800 S. College Dr., Santa Maria, 805-922-6966, Ext. 3252, hancockcollege.edu/gallery/.

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



HORSE SENSE

Gallery Los Olivos presents *New Perspectives, a group show highlighting new members of the gallery, through Feb. 28*. Alice Murphy, known for her horse portraits, is one of the show's featured artists. The gallery is located at 2920 Grand Ave., Los Olivos. More info: (805) 688-7517 or gallerylosolivos.com.

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/.

LOCALLY INSPIRED: ART EXHIBITION AND SALE Featuring Teresena Bakens (mixed media), Sheryl Knight (oil), Lucy Hunt-Pierson (bronze), Linda Paulson (oil), and Gayle Rappaport-Weiland (mixed media). **Feb. 16-March 16**, 12-4 p.m. Free. 805-773-8057. facebook.com/events/335860080347203/. Seaside Gallery, 580 Cypress St., Pismo Beach.

NANCY HAGLUND PHOTO EXHIBITION Through May 5, 11 a.m.-3 p.m. \$5 per person.. 805-929-5679. DanaAdobe.org. DANA Adobe Cultural Center, 671 S. Oakglen Ave., Nipomo.

SAN LUIS OBISPO

BACKSTAGE PASS: BARON WOLMAN AND THE EARLY YEARS OF ROLLING STONE This exhibit features the work of Baron Wolman, Chief Photographer for Rolling Stone from 1967 to 1970. On display are 35 framed photographs, contact sheets, and original Rolling Stone magazine covers. Mondays-Saturdays, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. **through March 16** Free. 805-781-5991. slolibrary.org. San Luis Obispo Library, 995 Palm 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. secretslo.com. Sauer-Adams Adobe, 964 Chorro St., San Luis Obispo.

HARRELL FLETCHER Fletcher has produced a variety of socially engaged collaborative and interdisciplinary projects since the early '90s. **Feb. 22**, 5-7 p.m. and **Feb. 23**, 11 a.m.-4 p.m. Free. 805-756-1571. artgallery.calpoly.edu. Cal Poly University Art Gallery, Cal Poly Art & Design, 1 Grand Ave., San Luis Obispo, 93407-0321, San Luis Obispo.

PILGRIM'S PROCESS: THE POETRY OF MICHAEL HANNON 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. Cal Poly Special Collections and Archives, Robert E. Kennedy Library, 1 Grand Ave., Building 35, Room 409, 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. 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



IMAGE COURTESY OF GALA DE ARTE

DESERT WINE

Gala De Arte in Nipomo hosts its cactus flower acrylic painting class on Feb. 14 and 21, from 6 to 8 p.m. both nights. Participants will create a colorful cactus and flower canvas with guidance from artist Wendy Thrasher. Admission is \$40 and includes all materials and a glass of wine. More info: (805) 550-9963 or theartgalanipomo.com.

com/classes-and-events/. Gala De Arte Plaza, 136 N Thompson Ave. B, Nipomo.

BOTTLE PEOPLE Repurpose glass bottles into a whimsical sculptures. **Feb. 18**, 3:15-4:45 p.m. \$45. 805-668-2125. LiIA Creative Community, 1147 East Grand Ave. Suite 101, Arroyo Grande, lila.community.

THE COLOR TOOLBOX This workshop will look at color relationships: warm, cool, neutral, complementary contrast, and more. **Feb. 15**, 3:30-4:45 p.m. and **Feb. 22**, 3:30-4:45 p.m. \$45. 805-668-2125. LiIA Creative Community, 1147 East Grand Ave. Suite 101, Arroyo Grande, lila.community.

FREE QI GONG CLASS Taught by Qi Gong Master Anthony Morrocco. Beginners ages 12 and up are welcome. Mondays-Sundays, 9:45 a.m.-noon through April 1 Free. 805-534-1600. Morrocco Method Headquarters, 800 Farroll Rd., Grover Beach, morroccomethod.com.

OPEN STUDIO FOR HOMESCHOOLED CHILDREN

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. San Luis Obispo Museum of Art, 1010 Broad St., San Luis Obispo.

STAGE

SANTA MARIA VALLEY/LOS ALAMOS

SHAKESPEARE IN LOVE A romantic comedy based on the Oscar-winning motion picture. **Through March 3** Marian Theatre, 800 S. College Dr., Santa Maria, 805-928-7731, pcpa.org.

SOUTH COAST SLO COUNTY

DON'T FORGET TO WATER MAMA A two-act family comedy, based on a true story, for all ages. **Feb. 14**, 7-9 p.m., **Feb. 15**, 7-9 p.m., **Feb. 16**, 2-4 & 7-9 p.m. and **Feb. 17**, 3-5 p.m. \$18-\$22. 805-489-9444. clarkcenter.org/event/dont-forget-to-water-mama/. Clark Center for the Performing Arts, 487 Fair Oaks Ave., Arroyo Grande.

SAN LUIS OBISPO

MILLION DOLLAR QUARTET Presented by SLO REP. Wednesdays-Sundays, 7-9 p.m. and Saturdays, Sundays, 2-4 p.m. **through March 10** \$40-\$55. 805-786-2440. slorep.org/shows/million-dollar-quartet/. San Luis Obispo Repertory Theatre, 888 Morro St., San Luis Obispo.

CULTURE & LIFESTYLE

LECTURES & LEARNING

SANTA YNEZ VALLEY

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

LOMPOC/VANDENBERG

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

SANTA MARIA VALLEY/LOS ALAMOS

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

SOUTH COAST SLO COUNTY

BLACK DOVE BOOK DISCUSSION With author Ana Castillo. **Feb. 14**, 6:15-7:15 p.m. Free. 805-474-7478.

BOOK DISCUSSION WITH ANA CASTILLO Author of *Black Dove: Mama, Mi'jo and Me*. **Feb. 20**, 4-5:30 p.m. Free. 805-773-2263. slolibrary.org. Shell Beach Library, 230 Leeward Ave, Shell Beach.

DANA ADOBE HISTORY AND HERITAGE Come and learn about the heritage and history of the Dana Adobe. Part of 2019 Book of the Year Program. **Feb. 16**, 2-3 p.m. Free. 805-473-7164. 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.

SOUTH COUNTY POETRY: MIRA ROSENTHAL An open mic follows each month's featured poet. This month's featured poet is Mira Rosenthal. Fourth Sunday of every month, 5:30-7:30 p.m. Free. 805-473-2416. South County Poetry, St. Barnabas' Episcopal Church (annex), 301 Trinity Way off Traffic Way, Arroyo Grande, CanDoJack.com/socopo.

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.

SAN LUIS OBISPO

ADVICE TO GROW BY: GROWING AND CARING FOR BLUEBERRIES AND BLACKBERRIES Join the UC Master Gardeners to learn about the care, culture, and pest control for blackberries and blueberries. **Feb. 16**, 10 a.m.-noon Free. 805-781-5939. Garden of the Seven Sisters Demonstration Garden, 2156 Sierra Way, San Luis Obispo.

THE CHANGING LANDSCAPE OF SOCIAL MEDIA

Come learn from our panel of experts what's working and not working in terms of social media marketing. **Feb. 20**, 5-7:30 p.m. \$10. 805-595-1357. mcscorp.org/upcoming-events-1/. Mindbody, 659 Tank Farm Rd., San Luis Obispo.

CITIZENSHIP CLASS

To prepare for the citizenship exam. No registration required. Tuesdays, 5-6 p.m. Free. 805-781-5783. slolibrary.org. San Luis Obispo Library, 995 Palm St., San Luis Obispo.

CORNERS OF THE MOUTH Featured poets are Florence Weinberger and Patti Sullivan. Open reading to follow. **Feb. 17**, 7-9 p.m. Free. 805-903-3595. languageofthesoul.org. Linnaea's Cafe, 1110 Garden St., San Luis Obispo.

EXPLORING CAREERS IN THE LAW: IS FAMILY LAW RIGHT FOR YOU? A free panel discussion with SLO Family Law Court Commissioner Erin Childs and Attorney Stephen Hamilton, moderated by SLO College Campus Dean Jan Marx. **Feb. 15**, 5:30-7 p.m. Free. 831-233-9861. slolaw.org. SLO College of Law, 4119 Broad Street, San Luis Obispo.

GHOSTS OF SAN LUIS WALKING TOUR Take an evening walk through the ghostlore of the city. Stop where figures have been seen and voices heard from the distant



GREAT MINDS READ ALIKE

The Clairvoyants, comprised of Austrian magicians Amélie van Tass (left) and Thommy Ten (right), present their mentalism act on **Feb. 22** at 8 p.m. at the Chumash Casino Resort, located at 3400 Highway 246, Santa Ynez. The duo showcased their mind-reading abilities on *America's Got Talent* in 2015. Tickets range from \$19 to \$59. More info: (800) 248-6274 or chumashcasino.com.

past. **Feb. 15**, 6-8 p.m. and **Feb. 22**, 6-8 p.m. \$20. 805-210-8687. secretslo.com/tours/. Sauer-Adams Adobe, 964 Chorro St., San Luis Obispo.

LECTURE: #BLACKLIVESMATTER TO BLACK LIBERATION Keeanga-Yamahtta Taylor is a widely-sought speaker and writer, specializing in the subjects of Black politics, social movements, and racial inequality. **Feb. 21**, 6-8 p.m. Free. 805-756-2359. cla.calpoly.edu/claspeaks. Performing Arts Center, 1 Grand Ave., San Luis Obispo.

MODERN MASTERS OF ARCHITECTURE

WALKING TOUR Covers some of SLO's most innovative architecture. **Feb. 17**, 2-4 p.m. and **Feb. 24**, 2-4 p.m. \$20. 805-210-8687. secretslo.com/tours/. Sauer-Adams Adobe, 964 Chorro St., San Luis Obispo.

THE POWER OF PRESENCE Covers how to handle conflict from a state of awareness rather than reaction and to enjoy growing fulfillment in all relationships. **Feb. 16**, 2-4 p.m. \$30. 805-467-6777. presencetalk.com. Unity of SLO, 1130 Orcutt Rd., San Luis Obispo.

A YEAR TO LIVE **Feb. 20**, 5:30-7 p.m. Free. 805-544-2266. Hospice SLO County, 1304 Pacific St., San Luis Obispo, hospiceslo.org.

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. **Feb. 16**, 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.

THE SANTA MARIA VALLEY GENEALOGICAL

CULTURE & LIFESTYLE continued page 24

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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.

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.

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.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



BEAR NECESSITIES

The Santa Maria Public Library hosts Afternoon Art Time on Feb. 20 at 4 p.m. in the library's Altrusa Theater. This art workshop is open to children ages 6 through 12 and their caregivers. The library is located at 421 S. McClelland St., Santa Maria. More info: (805) 925-0994 or libraryyouth@cityofsantamaria.org.

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. annaolseninuitive.com. Halcyon Store Post Office, 936 S. Halcyon Rd., 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, 5cityesswimschool.com.

OUTDOORS

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. Feb. 16, 2-4 p.m. \$20. 805-210-8687. secretsl.com/tours/. San Luis Obispo Railroad Museum, 1940 Santa Barbara Ave, San Luis Obispo.

SPORTS

SANTA MARIA VALLEY/LOS ALAMOS

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

SAN LUIS OBISPO

CAL POLY MEN'S BASKETBALL VS. HAWAII' FEB. 23, 7 p.m. Mott Athletics Center, 1 Grand Ave, San Luis

CAL POLY WOMEN'S BASKETBALL VS. CAL STATE FULLERTON The first 250 fans will get a special t-shirt. Feb. 23, 2 p.m. Mott Athletics Center, 1 Grand Ave, San Luis Obispo, 805-756-7297.

CAL POLY WOMEN'S BASKETBALL VS. UC RIVERSIDE A Big West Conference battle. Feb. 21, 7 p.m. Mott Athletics Center, 1 Grand Ave, San Luis Obispo, 805-756-7297.

KNOCKERBALL POP-UP PLAY Also features Spike Ball, Kan Jam and Giant Jenga. Feb. 24, 11 a.m.-4 p.m. \$5-\$20. 805-776-3588. knockerballslo.com/public_events/. Santa Rosa Park, Santa Rosa St., San Luis Obispo.

SLO PING PONG Features many tables. Games are informal and all ability levels are welcome. Tuesdays, Thursdays, 7-10 p.m. and Sundays, 4-7 p.m. through Dec. 31 Free for new players. 805-540-0470. Ludwick Community Center, 864 Santa Rosa, San Luis Obispo.

KIDS & FAMILY

SANTA MARIA VALLEY/LOS ALAMOS

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.

BABYNAUTS STORY TIME Story time for babies up to 12 months and their caregiver. Fridays, 10-10:30 a.m. through Feb. 22 Free. 805-925-0994. Santa Maria Public Library, 421 S. McClelland St., Santa Maria.

BILINGUAL STORY TIME Features stories, songs, and rhymes in both Spanish and English. Wednesdays, 5:30-6 p.m. through Feb. 20 Free. 805-925-0994. Santa Maria Public Library, 421 S. McClelland St., Santa Maria.

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

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

LET'S BLOW OFF SOME STEAM A story time filled with exploration and discovery, designed for preschoolers ages 3 to 5. Thursdays, 4-5 p.m. through Feb. 21 Free. 805-925-0994. Santa Maria Public Library, 421 S. McClelland St., Santa Maria.

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

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

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

TEEN CUPCAKE DECORATING Teens will learn how to decorate cupcakes and then decorate their own cupcakes for a contest. Feb. 15, 4-5:30 p.m. Free. 805-925-0994. Santa Maria Public Library, 421 S. McClelland St., Santa Maria.

TEEN GAMING FRIDAYS Teens can enjoy an afternoon of gaming. Feb. 22, 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 3to 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.

VOLUNTEERS

SOUTH COAST SLO COUNTY

ELDERS FOR YOUTH MENTOR PROGRAM Seeking elders to mentor teens in the program. Mondays, Thursdays, Sundays, through Feb. 28 Free. 805-528-1000. Morrocco Method Headquarters, 800 Farroll Rd., Grover Beach, morroccomethod.com.

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 GUILD TUESDAY FARMERS' 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

SANTA YNEZ VALLEY

ROBLAR WINE TASTINGS Potting Shed and Barrel Room available to members. ongoing, 11 a.m.-5 p.m. 805-686-2603. roblarwinery.com. Roblar Winery, 3010 Roblar Ave., Santa Ynez.

STANDING SUN: TASTING ROOM HOURS Visit site for Cellar Club details and more info. Mondays-Thursdays, 11 a.m.-5 p.m. 805-691-9413. standing_sun_wines.com. Standing Sun Wines, 92 2nd St., Unit D, Buellton, 805-691-9413.

WINE TASTING AT KALYRA Offering varietals from all over the world. Saturdays, Sundays, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. and Mondays-Fridays, 11 a.m.-5 p.m. 805-693-8864. kalyrawinery.com. Kalyra Winery, 343 N. Refugio Road, Santa Ynez.

LOMPOC/VANDENBERG

LOMPOC WINE FACTORY TASTINGS This tasting room highlights community-based winemaking. Features various member winemakers. Mondays, Wednesdays-Saturdays, 12-4 p.m. 805-243-8398. lompocwinefactory.com. Lompoc Wine Factory, 321 N. D St., Lompoc.

TASTING AT MONTEMAR WINES Offering handcrafted wines, charcuterie, and cheeses. Fridays-Sundays, 12-5 p.m. 805-735-5000. facebook.com/montemarwines. Montemar Wines, 1501 E. Chestnut Ave., Lompoc.

WINE TASTING AT FLYING GOAT CELLARS This winery specializes in Pinot Noir and sparkling wine. Mondays, Thursdays-Sundays, 11 a.m.-4 p.m. 805-736-9032. flyinggoatcellars.com. Flying Goat Cellars, 1520 Chestnut Court, Lompoc.

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/. Cromava Wines, 3592 Broad St., Ste. 106, San Luis Obispo.

DEVOUR: VALENTINES DAY WITH CHEF JULIE SIMON Enjoy a Valentine's Day breakfast for dinner menu. **Feb. 14**, 6-9 p.m. \$60. kreuzbergcalifornia.com. Kreuzberg Coffee Company, 685 Higuera Street, San Luis Obispo, 805-430-0260.

EXPLORE AROMAS IN WINE: SESSION I Sommelier Chris Cuyler will guide guests through a scent exploration of three wines while exploring similar aromas from the Le Nez Du Vin wine aroma kit. **Feb. 21**, 6-7 p.m. \$35. 805-946-1685. cromavera.orderport.net. Cromava Wines, 3592 Broad St., Ste. 106, San Luis Obispo.

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

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

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

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

WINE 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/. Cromava 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.

NORTH SLO COUNTY

BURGER SUNDAY WITH LONE MADRONE Guests can enjoy elevated lamb, beef, and portobello mushroom burgers grilled by Chef Jeffery Scott. Sundays, 11:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m. Starts at \$14. 805-238-0845. Lone Madrone Winery, 5800 Adelaida Rd, Paso Robles, lonemadrone.com.

DAILY HAPPY HOUR AT THE NAUTICAL COWBOY Enjoy happy hour specials at this Central Coast steak and seafood house. ongoing, 4-6 p.m. 805-461-5100. the-carlton.com/dining/the-nautical-cowboy. The Nautical Cowboy, 6005 El Camino Real, Atascadero.

DOLLAR OYSTER WEDNESDAYS Enjoy fresh dollar oysters. Wednesdays, 4-9 p.m. 805-461-5100. The Nautical Cowboy, 6005 El Camino Real, Atascadero.

TRI TIP TUESDAYS Enjoy Santa Maria style tri tip every Tuesday. Tuesdays, 4-9 p.m. 805-461-5100. the-carlton.com/dining/the-nautical-cowboy. The Nautical Cowboy, 6005 El Camino Real, Atascadero.

WINE AND OLIVE OIL TASTING Enjoy tasting Rhône varietal wines from SLO and SB counties, as well as local Boccabella Farms' craft olive oils. ongoing, 11 a.m.-5 p.m. \$20. 805-237-1245. mcpricemyers.com. McPrice Myers Wine Company, 3525 Adelaida Rd., Paso Robles.

WINE DOWN MONDAYS Enjoy half off all wines every Monday at The Carlton Hotel's Nautical Cowboy. Mondays, 4-9 p.m. 805-461-5100. the-carlton.com/dining/the-nautical-cowboy. The Nautical Cowboy, 6005 El Camino Real, Atascadero.

WINE TASTING AT CASS WINERY Wine by the glass and bottles are also available for purchase. ongoing, 11 a.m.-5 p.m. Free. 805-239-1730. casswines.com/. Cass Winery And Vineyard, 7350 Linne Rd., Paso Robles.

WINE TASTING AT CHANGALA Enjoy local art and meet Changala's wine dogs while sampling various wines. Fridays-Sundays, 11 a.m.-5 p.m. \$10. 805-226-9060. changalawinery.com. Changala Winery, 3770 Willow Creek Rd., Paso Robles. ☉

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RANDY HOUSER

FRIDAY

FEB
15

8 PM

FRIDAY

FEB
22

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THE CLAIRVOYANTS

THU & FRI

FEB 28
& MAR 1

8 PM



PANCHO BARRAZA

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PHOTO COURTESY OF AMBER ANDERSON

Live Music

SANTA YNEZ VALLEY

CHEYENNE SKYE LIVE Influences include Patsy Cline, Nina Simone, and Janis Joplin. Food and drinks available for purchase. Not outside food or drinks allowed. **Feb. 15**, 6-9 p.m. Free admission. Cold Spring Tavern, 5995 Stagecoach Rd., Santa Barbara, 805-967-0066, coldspringtavern.com/entertainment.html.

PULL THE TRIGGER LIVE **Feb. 16**, 8 p.m. Free before 8 p.m. Maverick Saloon, 3687 Sagunto St., Santa Ynez, 805-686-4785, mavericksaloon.org.

RANKIN' FILE LIVE Food and drinks available for purchase. Not outside food or drinks allowed. **Feb. 17**, 4:30-7:30 p.m. Free admission. Cold Spring Tavern, 5995 Stagecoach Rd., Santa Barbara, 805-967-0066, coldspringtavern.com/entertainment.html.

THE SALT MARTIANS LIVE Enjoy live bluegrass. Food and drinks available for purchase. Not outside food or drinks allowed. **Feb. 16**, 1-4 p.m. Free admission. Cold Spring Tavern, 5995 Stagecoach Rd., Santa Barbara, 805-967-0066, coldspringtavern.com/entertainment.html.

SPECIAL ENGAGEMENT: THE CAVERNS Enjoy live music from the Caverns. **Feb. 15**, 8 p.m. Free before 8 p.m. Maverick Saloon, 3687 Sagunto St., Santa Ynez, 805-686-4785, mavericksaloon.org.

WIL RIDGE LIVE Presented by Tito's Bloody Bar and Fig Mountain Brew. **Feb. 17**, noon Free before 8 p.m. Maverick Saloon, 3687 Sagunto St., Santa Ynez, 805-686-4785, mavericksaloon.org.

THE YOUNGSTERS LIVE A classic rock group. Food and drinks available for purchase. Not outside food or drinks allowed. **Feb. 16**, 5-8 p.m. Free admission. Cold Spring Tavern, 5995 Stagecoach Rd., Santa Barbara, 805-967-0066, coldspringtavern.com/entertainment.html.

LOMPOC/VANDENBERG

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

SANTA MARIA VALLEY/LOS ALAMOS

ANGIE AND THE NIGHTMARES LIVE The folk rock group formerly known as The Luck. Food from Beau's Dogs will be available. **Feb. 15**, 5:30-9 p.m. Free admission. Naughty Oak Brewing Co., 165 S Broadway St Ste 102, Orcutt, 805-287-9663, naughtyoak.com.

BOB CLARK LIVE Part of Moxie's ongoing live music series. Food and drinks available for purchase. **Feb. 15**, 5:30-7:30 p.m. Free admission. Moxie Cafe, 1317 W. McCoy Ln., Santa Maria, 805-361-2900, moxiecafe.com.

CARTER LIVE Part of Moxie's ongoing live music series. Food and drinks available for purchase. **Feb. 21**, 5:30-7:30 p.m. Free admission. Moxie Cafe, 1317 W. McCoy Ln., Santa Maria, 805-361-2900, moxiecafe.com.

Only in dreams

Angie and the Nightmares promote debut album at Naughty Oak in Orcutt

BY CALEB WISEBLOOD

Don't forget to bring your *Inception* totem to the **Angie and the Nightmares** performance on **Friday, Feb. 15**, at 6 p.m. at Naughty Oak Brewing Co. in Orcutt. The real nightmare would be if that spinning top of yours just keeps spinning, uh-oh! You realize you're not even at the show, you're asleep on the couch, right in the middle of an impromptu catnap. You try to convince your friends that the dream world version of the Lompoc-based Americana group still sounded pretty darn good, but they just sneer in disbelief. "You should see them live, they're much better live," one of them utters.

Even if the top does stop spinning, though, there's still an inherent, archetypal dreamlike quality to the songs found on the band's debut album, *If I Fall*, which is laced with references to folklore, tall tales, a few comedy podcasts, and other mythologies.

"As a songwriter, I'm mainly interested in stories," lead vocalist, bassist, and principal songwriter Angelina LaPointe told the *Sun*. "I look to old-school country storytelling like that of Willie Nelson and Patsy Cline but also tongue-in-cheek tales of more contemporary artists like Lily Allen or Ben Folds."

Contrary to the aforementioned dream aesthetic, the songs of *If I fall*, all written and composed by LaPointe, can be brutally frank when depicting more down-to-earth stories of love, loss, and family.

"Each song expresses an emotion or a situation in a humorous, heartfelt way that is very personal yet, I hope, universal," LaPointe said.

Since the release of *If I Fall* at the end of last year, LaPointe and bandmates Anna Cole (drums and vocals) and Aaron France (guitar) have

FILE PHOTO COURTESY OF JINEANNE CODERRE



VALENTINES: Jazz, soul, and R&B artist Jineanne Coderre performs a special Valentine's Day set of love songs on **Feb. 15** at 4:30 p.m. at Presqu'ile Winery in Santa Maria.



THE AMERICANA DREAM: Angie and the Nightmares, featuring Angelina LaPointe (center), Anna Cole (left), and Aaron France (right), perform on **Feb. 15** at 6 p.m. at Naughty Oak Brewing Co. in Orcutt.

been touring up and down the Central Coast promoting their inaugural album. LaPointe has known Cole since childhood, and the two started performing together as a musical duo, The Luck, in 2011. The transition from The Luck to Angie and the Nightmares encompassed the adoption of a more blues-based sound and the addition of France on guitar.

"The three-piece arrangement has allowed us to play with riffs and experiment with multiple part vocals that were not possible as a two-piece," LaPointe said. "If Anna is my rock, then Aaron is my kick in the pants. It's an honor to have these extremely talented, passionate, and patient folks support my creative vision and bring my stories to life."

If I Fall is available for digital purchase on bandcamp.com. The band shot a music video with local filmmaker Casey Fera for one of the album's songs, "Tennessee," which can be viewed on YouTube. Spoiler alert: There is a train involved, but it's not the one from *Inception*. Totem still advised.

Friday I'm in love

As part of Presqu'ile's Third Fridays Live series, jazz, soul, and R&B artist **Jineanne Coderre** visits the Santa Maria winery on **Friday, Feb. 15**, from 4:30 to 7 p.m. Coderre will perform a special set of love songs just in time to kick off Valentine's Day weekend. A wine pairing with Kumamoto oysters will be offered to guests during the show.

Speaking of wine and dining, *Vino et Amicis* Wine Bar in Orcutt presents Santa Ynez Valley-based singer and songwriter **Kelly Irelan** the same night, **Friday, Feb. 15**, from 7 to 9 p.m. This timetable allows Presqu'ile peeps to hop on over to *Vino*, only a few miles away, right after

LOCAL NOTES continued page 27

MUSIC LISTINGS continued page 27

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LOCAL NOTES from page 26

Coderre's show if they please. Irelan plays jazz, folk, and indie and some of her influences include Feist, Cat Power, Beach House, and Sia.

Further south, country artist **Randy Houser** performs on **Friday, Feb. 15**, as well, at 8 p.m. at the Chumash Casino Resort in Santa Ynez. Houser's set will include old favorites including "Goodnight Kiss" and "Like a Cowboy" along with newer songs from his latest album *Magnolia*.

More music

Americana/country/folk performer **Noach Tangeras** can be heard **Thursday, Feb. 14**, at 6 p.m. at Blast 825 Brewery in Orcutt. The brewery also hosts blues rocker **Sweet Charlie Vee** at 7 p.m. with Southern rock/country band **Joe Daddy and the Sumthings** at 10 p.m. on **Friday, Feb. 15**, and classic rock/country artist **Keith Cox** at 7 p.m. with soft rock group **Smokin' Gunz** at 10 p.m., on **Saturday, Feb. 16**.

Moxie Cafe in Santa Maria presents soloists **Dan Haller** on **Thursday, Feb. 14**, from 5 to 8



PHOTO COURTESY OF VINO ET AMICIS

VINO VOCALIST: Santa Ynez-based singer/songwriter Kelly Irelan performs on Friday, **Feb. 15** at 7 p.m. at Vino et Amicis Wine Bar in Orcutt.

p.m. and **Bob Clark** on **Friday, Feb. 15**, from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. as part of its weekly live music series. The cafe also welcomes the **Sun Dragon Duo** on **Saturday, Feb. 16**, from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m.

Soul artist **Cheyenne Skye**, whose influences include Patsy Cline, Nina Simone, and Janis Joplin, takes the Cold Spring Tavern stage on **Friday, Feb. 15**, from 6 to 9 p.m. This particular spring remains one to draw from week after week in terms of live music, as the tavern's roundup continues with bluegrass group **Salt Martians** from 1 to 4 p.m. and classic rock band **The Youngsters** from 5 to 8 p.m. on **Saturday, Feb. 16**. ○

Calendar Editor Caleb Wiseblood wrote this week's Local Notes. Contact him at cwiseblood@newtimesslo.com.



PHOTO COURTESY OF RANDY HOUSER

HOUSER IN THE HOUSE: Country artist Randy Houser performs on **Feb. 15** at 9 p.m. at the Chumash Casino Resort in Santa Ynez.

MUSIC LISTINGS from page 26

DAN HALLER LIVE Part of Moxie's ongoing live music series. Food and drinks available for purchase. **Feb. 14**, 5-8 p.m. Free admission. Moxie Cafe, 1317 W. McCoy Ln., Santa Maria, 805-361-2900, moxiecafe.com.

DAN HALLER LIVE Part of Moxie's ongoing live music series. Food and drinks available for purchase. **Feb. 22**, 5:30-7:30 p.m. Free admission. Moxie Cafe, 1317 W. McCoy Ln., Santa Maria, 805-361-2900, moxiecafe.com.

JINEANNE CODERRE LIVE Enjoy live R&B, soul, and jazz. **Feb. 15**, 4:30-7 p.m. Complimentary admission. Presqu'ile Winery, 5391 Presqu'ile Dr., Santa Maria, 805-937-8110, presquilewine.com.

JOE DADDY AND THE SUMTHINGS LIVE Southern rock and country group. **Feb. 15**, 7-10 p.m. Blast 825 Brewery, 241 S Broadway St., Ste. 101, Orcutt, 805-934-3777, rooneysirishpub.net.

KEITH COX LIVE **Feb. 16**, 7-10 p.m. Blast 825 Brewery, 241 S Broadway St., Ste. 101, Orcutt, 805-934-3777, rooneysirishpub.net.

KELLY IRELAN LIVE **Feb. 15**, 7-9 p.m. Free admission. Vino et Amicis, 156 S. Broadway, Orcutt, 805-631-0496, vinoetamicis.com.

NOACH TANGERAS LIVE Enjoy Americana, country, and folk. **Feb. 14**, 6-9 p.m. Blast 825 Brewery, 241 S Broadway St., Ste. 101, Orcutt, 805-934-3777, rooneysirishpub.net.

SIOBHAN O'BRIEN LIVE A folk rock singer. **Feb. 16**, 6-9 p.m. Free admission. Naughty Oak Brewing Co., 165 S Broadway St Ste 102, Orcutt, 805-287-9663, naughtyoak.com.

SMOKIN' GUNZ LIVE A soft rock group. **Feb. 16**, 10 p.m. Blast 825 Brewery, 241 S Broadway St., Ste. 101, Orcutt, 805-934-3777, rooneysirishpub.net.

THE SUN DRAGON DUO LIVE Part of Moxie's ongoing live music series. Food and drinks available for purchase. **Feb. 16**, 5:30-7:30 p.m. Free admission. Moxie Cafe, 1317 W. McCoy Ln., Santa Maria, 805-361-2900, moxiecafe.com.

SWEET CHARLIE VEE LIVE Enjoy live classic rock. **Feb. 15**, 7-10 p.m. Blast 825 Brewery, 241 S Broadway St., Ste. 101, Orcutt, 805-934-3777, rooneysirishpub.net.

LIGHTS TRIO Influences include Dave Matthews Band, Coldplay, and Pearl Jam. **Feb. 20**, 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.

A TRIBUTE TO THE LEGEND JOHNNY CASH Starring Danny Millsap as Johnny Cash, with his band, The Hennessee Three. **Feb. 16**, 7-9:30 p.m. \$20-\$40. 805-489-9444. clarkcenter.org/event/johnny-cash-tribute/. Clark Center for the Performing Arts, 487 Fair Oaks Ave., Arroyo Grande.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: 55TH BEATLES ANNIVERSARY This concert celebrates The Beatle's American debut on The Ed Sullivan Show. **Feb. 16**, 7-10 p.m. \$10 advance (plus fees); \$12 at the door. 805-

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

MISS LEO AND HER BLUEGRASS BOYS Enjoy some bluegrass tunes. **Feb. 16**, 6-8 p.m. Free. 805-868-7133. 7SistersBrewing.com. 7Sisters Brewing Company, 181 Tank Farm Rd. Suite 110, San Luis Obispo.

NONAME: ROOM 25 LIVE With Elton. **Feb. 20** The Fremont Theater, 1035 Monterey St., San Luis Obispo, 805-546-8600, fremontslo.com.

THE SILENT LIFE Shawn Myers, drummer, composer, and band leader, invites different musical members into this project to create and explore these ideals. **Feb. 20**, 7-8:30 p.m. \$20. 805-543-8562. sloma.org/events/concerts/. San Luis Obispo Museum of Art, 1010 Broad



PHOTO COURTESY OF COLD SPRING TAVERN

SKYFALL

Cold Spring Tavern presents Cheyenne Skye (center) on Feb. 15 from 6 to 9 p.m. Skye's influences include Patsy Cline, Nina Simone, and Janis Joplin. Admission is free. The tavern is located at 5995 Stagecoach Road, Santa Barbara. More info: (805) 967-0066 or coldspringtavern.com.

489-3639. Mongo's Saloon, 359 W. Grand Ave., Grover Beach.

St., San Luis Obispo.

DJ/DANCE

SANTA YNEZ VALLEY

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

LOMPOC/VANDENBERG

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

SANTA MARIA VALLEY/LOS ALAMOS

805 NIGHTS For ages 21-and-over only. Come enjoy dancing to your favorite music videos. Fridays,

Saturdays, 9 p.m.-2 a.m. Free. 805-219-0977. Anthony's, 859 Guadalupe St, Guadalupe.

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, harryspismobeach.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. spotoneventservices.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, harryspismobeach.com.

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

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

SAN LUIS OBISPO

BECOME A KARAOKE ROCKSTAR This class is designed to help students become the best karaoke singers they're capable of. Thursdays, 6:30-9 p.m. through March 14 \$95 for 6-week class; \$20 drop-in-fee. 805-400-5335. Cabaret805.com. Cuesta College, Highway 1, San Luis Obispo.

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

SOUTH COAST SLO COUNTY

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

THE EARLY SHOW: JOHN ALAN CONNERLEY Enjoy original tunes and classic standards. Connerley opens for the Solstice Sisters. **Feb. 15**, 4:30-6:30 p.m. Free. 805-773-6563. johnalanconnerley.com. Puffers of Pismo, 781 Price St., Pismo Beach.

FESTIVAL MOZAIK NOTABLE ENCOUNTER: BACH VIOLIN PARTITA Join music director Scott Yoo for an encore presentation of his Notable Encounter exploring Bach's second partita for solo violin. **Feb. 21**, 7-8 p.m. \$20. 805-781-3009. festivalmozaic.com. The Monarch Club at Trilogy Monarch Dunes, 1645 Trilogy Parkway, Nipomo.

SONGWRITERS AT PLAY: CARBON CITY

SAN LUIS OBISPO

BLACK MARKET TRIO LIVE Enjoy live Latin jazz, New Orleans jazz, and Valentine's-themed music. **Feb. 15**, 6-9 p.m. Free. 805-868-7133. 7Sisters Brewing Company, 181 Tank Farm Rd. Suite 110, San Luis Obispo, 7SistersBrewing.com.

THE EMMET COHEN TRIO Presented by the SLO County Jazz Federation. **Feb. 19**, 7:30 p.m. Unity Concert Hall, 1130 Orcutt Road, San Luis Obispo.

JAZZ VESPERS CONCERT The Jazz Vespers Concert of First Pres SLO welcomes back the Rag Bone Saints. Artists reception follows. **Feb. 17**, 4 p.m. Donations accepted. 805-543-5451. facebook.com/JazzVespersSLO/. First Presbyterian Church of San Luis Obispo, 981 Marsh St., San Luis Obispo.

METALACHI LIVE **Feb. 15**, 7 p.m. SLO Brew Rock,

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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:cruker@newtimeslo.com).

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Arts Briefs

Santa Barbara arts master plan seeks community input

The Creative Communities Cultural Arts Master Planning Project is seeking community input during workshop sessions.

Community members are asked to participate and offer their ideas for the upcoming Santa Barbara County Cultural Arts Master Plan. The plan involves a number of initiatives in collaboration with different city and county stakeholders in public, nonprofit, and private sectors. Each session is facilitated by Patrick Bolek, CEO of Momentum Project Lab, the primary consultant for this phase. Sessions are scheduled for three hours in length.

The first sessions, deemed "visionary sessions," were scheduled to begin on Feb. 13 and will continue on Feb. 15 at 2 p.m and 6 p.m. and Feb. 16 at 9 a.m., 2 p.m., and 6 p.m. The sessions, focused on the Santa Barbara-area cultural community, will take place at the Community Arts Workshop. The building is located at 631 Garden St., Santa Barbara. For more information, visit

PHOTO COURTESY OF NEAL TAYLOR NATURE CENTER



sbac.ca.gov.

Free nature lecture at Cachuma Lake

The Neal Taylor Nature Center invites the public to a free lecture on conservation efforts for vultures on March 3 at 2 p.m.

Saving the Planet's Vultures, part of the center's speakers series, will feature Dr. Estelle Sandhaus, director of Conservation and Science at the Santa Barbara Zoo. Sandhaus is a graduate of Georgia Tech and has done research at Chengdu Research Base of Giant Panda Breeding in China and conducted her Ph.D. research on nesting California condors in Southern California. She currently oversees the zoo's field conservation programs and collections research. Had it not been for conservation efforts, the California condor, a vulture that lives on the Central Coast, could have gone extinct. Sandhaus will discuss the species as well as efforts across the globe to protect them.

The lecture is free; park admission is \$10 per vehicle. The lecture will also include refreshments and a meet-and-greet afterward. The center is located at 2265 Highway 154, Santa Barbara. For more information, call (805) 568-2460.

Open Streets comes to Santa Maria

The city of Santa Maria's Main Street will close for a day on March 31 to make for a new event called Open Streets Santa Maria.

The event is scheduled from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. between Broadway and Blosser Road. The car-free event will provide a variety of safe and fun activities for persons of all ages and celebrate art, local business, and education. Also known as Ciclovía, similar events have been held in Lompoc and Santa Barbara.

As it coincides with Cesar Chavez Day, a variety of cultural activities including performances, live music, and more will celebrate the Latino and Mixtec communities in Santa Maria.

To volunteer, register an activity booth, or get more information, visit sbopestreets.org.

Arts Briefs is compiled by Arts and Lifestyle Writer Rebecca Rose.

Beneath shadow

Elverhoj's Between Light and Dark features Paul Roark's stunning black and white images

BY REBECCA ROSE

It is easy to describe Paul Roark as one of the country's most captivating photographers, especially after seeing pieces from his latest exhibit. But Roark has never had difficulty cementing his place on the photographic landscape. With decades of experience and a wealth of technical expertise, he is a timely and keen artist, with an amazing eye for contradictions in nature and architecture. Roark's latest photo series, *Between Light and Dark*, demonstrates not just his marvelous skill for composition and setting but his unwavering fixation on technical perfection.

Roark's latest photos include a shot of the Eiffel Tower in Paris, where he visited on vacation a while ago.

"I was very close to it, which is why it has that exaggerated perspective," he said. "It is fairly bright so it took multiple shots to get it right. I was actually able to do that hand-held. ... I've never seen anything quite like that perspective."

Modern optics and cameras have progressed in ways that make photos like the tower shot possible in a way they haven't been in previous years, Roark explained.

To discuss his personal art with Roark is to discuss the technicalities that he sees in each piece. Whereas the layman sees a stunning night sky wrapping around a virginal white tree, Roark sees tight precision points involving chemical formulations and almost algebraic calculations.

For printing the photograph, Roark used Arches watercolor paper. Arches is a specialty paper made with long cotton fibers and produced on a cylinder mold. The result is a paper with a uniform grain, with the fibers distributed evenly. The white lasts much longer than in regular photographic paper as well.

"Inkjet paper is actually a coated paper, as is traditional photographic paper," Roark said. "In other words, it has different layers for different purposes. Some conservation types believe that all coating or laminating ultimately crack and/or peel apart because of the differential expansion and contraction."

The image that is going to last the longest is one that is composed of predominantly carbon pigments and placed on a non-laminate material, such as Arches paper, Roark said. He also favors the material because it produces the best kinds of other watercolor papers. To get that deep and perfect black, Roark also uses not one but two

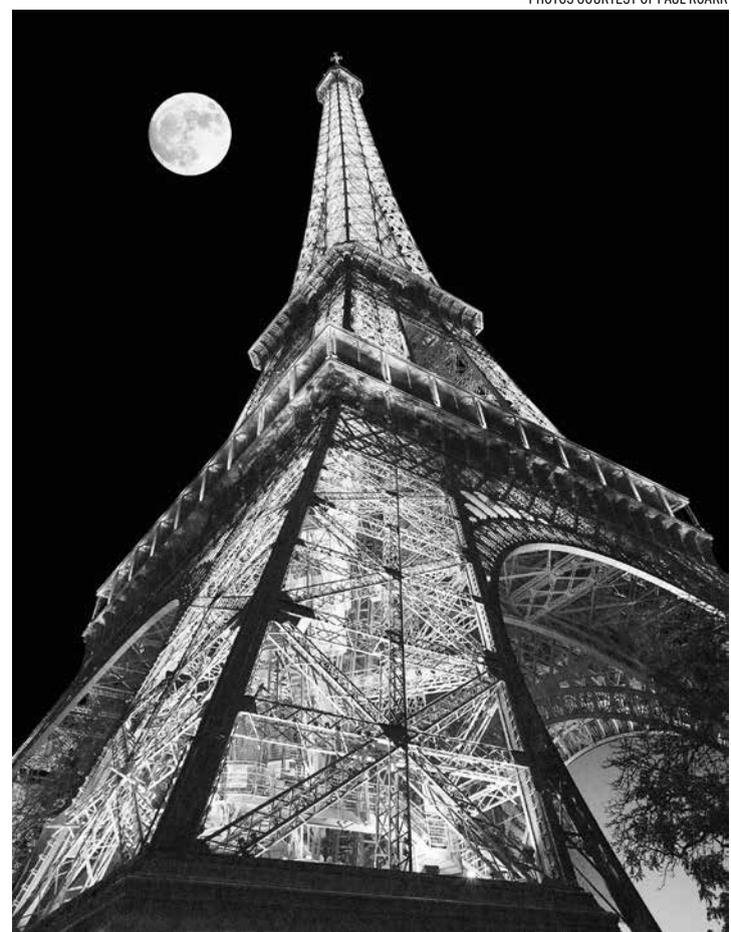
matte black positions in the printing process. Most printers can't do that with the standard original equipment manufacturer cartridge. It requires special software components including a Raster Image Processor. When printed, Roark frames them "floating" and with the deckle edge showing, which gives the image a beautiful handmade quality.

"That's another situation that most inkjet printers shouldn't deal with," he explained. "Because you actually have to iron the deckle edge and make sure it's trimmed appropriately because if it sticks up, it will hit the head and crash the head of an inkjet printer."

While some of those more advanced techniques aren't recommended for amateurs, it's easy to learn from Roark's slow and skilled manner for spotting the perfect composition and image. He also swears by the Sony AR-7 II, a 42 megapixel camera. But he doesn't use Sony lenses; instead he opts for Leica M glass lenses.

"My typical M.O. in shooting is that I try to use F-8 [aperture stop], which is usually the sharpest," he said. "If you close down more than that you start to get serious fuzziness from diffraction."

But that aperture isn't ideal for great depth of field, so Roark does dual or multiple focus points. He focuses on the foreground, shoots the picture, and



CITY OF LIGHTS: The Eiffel Tower is shot by Paul Roark, who highlights his mastery of photo processing and image development in a new photography exhibit at the Elverhoj Museum of History and Art. The exhibit runs Feb. 16 through April 14.

immediately rotates the focus to the infinity stop point and takes another picture. This is a tricky procedure that must be precise in order to produce a solid image, and Roark has managed to master it hand-held, a rare feat even for seasoned photographers.

Then, he takes the two-shot images and merges them together in Photoshop, like taking two slices of bread together to make a sandwich.

"I'm not dealing with trying to get depth of field via a tiny aperture," Roark said. "I get it by sandwiching layers of different focus points. It's one of the things you can do to keep everything sharp."

While most of the general public that views his work may not always get to see every part of his detailed process, it's the overall emotional impact of each piece that leaves a lasting impression. Having a chance to show in a museum such as the Elverhoj (which has featured his work previously) is an important occasion for the photographer.

"It is really a community museum," Roark said. "I think very highly of it, and it's a pleasure to be back." ○

Arts and Lifestyle Writer Rebecca Rose is a study in dark contrasts. Contact her at roose@santamariasun.com.



FALLING BEAUTY: Paul Roark visited Kirkjufellsfoss Mountain in Iceland on a photo expedition where he captured images of the famous waterfall.

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PHOTOS COURTESY OF CHRISTINE FOSSEMALLE



LEGACY ON POINTE: Fossemalle Dance Studio performers will travel from Santa Ynez to Death Valley for a special commemorative dance in honor of the late Marta Becket on Feb. 16. Becket, an acclaimed dancer, musician, artist, and choreographer, passed away in 2017.

Fancy a dance?

Fossemalle Dance Studio to perform in honor of legendary performer Marta Becket

BY REBECCA ROSE

When dancer, artist, musician, and choreographer Marta Becket passed away in 2017, Christine Fossemalle was heartbroken. Fossemalle, the director of the Fossemalle Dance Studio in Santa Ynez, was a longtime friend and admirer.

"I think the bond was both our passion for ballet," she said. "I wanted to do this anniversary celebration because of what she has given to me."

The anniversary Fossemalle referred to is what would have been Becket's 51st season at her Amargosa Opera House in Death Valley Junction. To commemorate the special occasion, the board of directors of the opera house invited Fossemalle's studio to create a special program of celebration in honor of Becket. On Feb. 16, Fossemalle's troupe of dancers will travel to the Amargosa for the special one-night performance.

Dancers Citlaly Alvarado, Saray Duran, Isabella Hartley, Camryn Kemp, Taylor Kemp, Ella Raffo, and Amanda Russell will perform seven choreographed pieces during the evening. The performance will also include a video with highlights from Becket's life as well as music from the Wildflower Trio.

For Fossemalle, it's an extremely personal event.

"I wanted to honor her passion for the beauty of art," she said. "To say thank you for how she changed my life and how she changed

many others' lives."

To that end, the dance studio has dancers performing numbers that represent some of Becket's favorite musical works and composers. One of Becket's favorite composers was Frederic Chopin, so Fossemalle and her team put together a ballet performance set to one of Chopin's waltzes.

Becket started her dance career at the age of 14, performing ballet at Radio City Music Hall and eventually landing a part in the Broadway musical *Showboat*. Fossemalle said Becket had a deep love for animals, especially cats, which they also created a jazz-themed dance for.

"We are going to do one of the top numbers from [*Showboat*]," she said. "Every theme, every ballet we are doing is tied to what she loved or what she has done her whole life."

Beyond her own passion for honoring Becket's legacy, Fossemalle said she also hopes to pass on to her students many of the lessons Becket gave her.

"It's a unique, one-time opportunity for them," she said. "I'm so happy to bring in a new generation of youngsters that can realize what passion can do for you. My girls are not all going to be ballerinas. That does not matter. It's

the passion for something that will carry them through their lifetime."

The performance is also about having a bonding experience with her dancers, as they explore the town and learn more about Becket and her famous theater. The Amargosa started out as an office for a borax production company in the 1920s. By the time Becket first saw it in 1967 (when she and her husband found themselves stranded in Death Valley with a flat tire), it was known as Corkhill Hall. The hall was a community center used for everything from funerals to movies and even theater.

The dancer was immediately awestruck. She reportedly loved the adobe building so much she referred to it as the other half of herself. She renamed it the Amargosa Opera House

and spent the rest of her life dedicating herself not just to restoring it but to making it a center for ballet and performance in the region.

Fossemalle said she also hopes that by introducing them to Amargosa, her dancers will be inspired to keep Becket's legacy and memory alive, hopefully by bringing their own

families and children back to the theater to see it for themselves.

"First and foremost, I feel it's an honor and a privilege to perform on that stage," she said. "Because when you step in this theater, you experience a unique ambiance. I hope they carry it on, because that is how it will remain strong." ○

Arts and Lifestyle Writer Rebecca Rose is twirling into infinity. Contact her at rrose@santamariasun.com.

In her honor

The Fossemalle Dance Studio will present a performance in honor of Marta Becket at the Amargosa Opera House in Death Valley on Feb. 16 at 7 p.m. For questions about the performance, contact (805) 688-8494. To purchase tickets, contact the Amargosa Opera House (760) 852-4441. The Amargosa is located at 608 Death Valley Junction, Death Valley.

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Film Reviews

Editor's note: Show times for *Hi-Way Drive-In*, *Movies Lompoc* and *Parks Plaza* are available at playingtoday.com. Most films for *Edwards Santa Maria 10* and *14* were not provided.

ALITA: BATTLE ANGEL

What's it rated? **PG-13**
Where's it showing? **Movies Lompoc, Parks Plaza**
NEW Robert Rodriguez (*El Mariachi*, *Spy Kids*, *Sin City*, *Planet Terror*) directs this action adventure based on the graphic novel series, *Gunnm*, about Alita (Rosa Salazar), a human/cyborg hybrid constructed from parts found by Dr. Dyson Ido (Christoph Waltz). She doesn't remember who she was before Dr. Ido saved her from a trash heap, but she may be the key to ending the cycle of death and destruction plaguing society. (122 min.)
—Glen Starkey

COLD PURSUIT

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

HAPPY DEATH DAY 2U

What's it rated? **PG-13**
Where's it showing? **Movies Lompoc, Parks Plaza**
NEW Christopher Landon directs this sequel about college student Tree Gelbman, who in the original was killed and had to relive her murder over and over until she finds out who killed her. She now discovers that repeatedly dying is easy compared to what's in store for her this time. (100 min.)
—Glen

ISN'T IT ROMANTIC

What's it rated? **PG-13**
Where's it showing? **Parks Plaza**
NEW Todd Struass-Schulson directs this fantasy-comedy about Natalie (Rebel Wilson), a woman disenchanted by romance who finds herself living in a romantic comedy. (88 min.)
—Glen

THE LEGO MOVIE 2: THE SECOND PART

What's it rated? **PG**
What's it worth? **Matinee**
Where's it showing? **Hi-Way Drive-In, Movies Lompoc, Parks Plaza**
PICK Chris Pratt stars as the voice of Emmet Brickowski, a construction worker Lego who

FILM REVIEWS continued page 33

SCORING

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

Fargolite

Hans Petter Moland directs this action thriller about snowplow driver Nels Coxman (Liam Neeson), who's out for revenge against the drug dealers who killed his son. This remake is based on Moland's 2014 Norwegian film, *Kraftidioten* (*In Order of Disappearance*). (118 min.)

Glen: This is a film that really wants to embody the black comedy vibe of the Coen brothers' *Fargo* (1996), with its glib tone, comic violence, and frigid locale. Unfortunately, it misses the mark. Nels is a man of few words. In fact, when he comes home to have dinner with his wife, Grace (Laura Dern), she says, "You know you're going to have to say a few words tonight, right?" He replies, "How many?" We think she means to her at dinner, but Nels is being honored that evening as Citizen of the Year in his small skiing community of Kehoe, where he keeps traffic flowing as the sole snowplow operator. His son, Kyle (Michaël Richardson), is a baggage handler at the local airport, and he unwittingly becomes the target of a drug ring thanks to a workmate who's been running cocaine. Kyle is found dead in nearby Denver of a supposed heroin overdose, but we know the truth. He was picked up by Speedo (Michael Eklund) and Limbo (Bradley Stryker), two of drug kingpin Trevor "Viking" Calcote's (Tom Bateman) henchmen, who murdered him. Once Nels gets wind of the gang, he goes vigilante on them, taking them out one by one as he works his way up the ladder to Viking. Some Citizen of the Year, eh? Meanwhile, Viking thinks rival drug runner White Bull (Tom Jackson), who runs a gang of Native Americans, is after him in a turf war. To add another complication, Viking has a son, Ryan (Nicholas Holmes), with his feisty ex-wife, Aya (Julia Jones). The highly intelligent kid becomes a target of White Bull. About the only local law enforcement that seems to care about what's going on is Kim Dash (Emmy Rossum), a rookie cop in the Kehoe Police Department. All these characters are headed for a showdown that's not quite worth the wait.

Anna: *Cold Pursuit* works hard to be a memorable out-of-the-box film but unfortunately lacks any elements that transcend its mediocre action revenge category. Neeson is a

shoe-in for Nels, the man of few words with a lot of tricks up his sleeve. He's got a simple life—a solitary albeit boring line of work, a wife and son who think he's swell, and a cabin on top of the snowy hills of Kehoe. The town has an interesting vibe, both catering to the out-of-town skiers that flood in when conditions are good and townies who suffer the weather when it's abysmal. I'm not sure if this film got changed or watered down for American audiences; I personally would think a director so bold as to remake a movie in another language would have a pretty solid piece of work. If this film had risen to the level of *Fargo*, I would have no question why it was remade, but unfortunately this one just falls flat for me. The villain Viking is evil enough, but in a pretentiously obnoxious way. I mostly wanted him taken out just to get him off the screen. His minions hint at

backstories here and there, but all in all there's little to care about on that side of the equation other than his whip-smart son. Nels is a fine hero, if not a bit unbelievable. Why is this mild-mannered man super chill with murdering willy-nilly and disposing of bodies? We never dive into his past, which is perhaps where that story lies, but it just felt a little too broad for my taste.

Glen: Pretentiously obnoxious is a perfect description of Viking, the scion of his now-dead drug kingpin father who inherited the family business. He appears to be grooming his son, Ryan, to someday take over. When the kid doesn't want to return to school because he was bullied, his father asks him if he read *Lord of the Flies*, the book he'd recently given him. "All the answers you'll ever need are in that book," Viking tells his son. In short, Viking is an idiot, and Ryan is smart enough to see it. The kid was in many ways the best part of this story, but not enough to save the film from mediocrity. As Nels piles up the corpses, the screen is filled with a placard with the character's name and symbol of his religion, and the placards come quickly. The original film's name translates to "In Order of Disappearance," and the closing credits list the actors in the order of their deaths. It's all meant to be winking and



DEATH WILL FOLLOW: Snowplow driver Nels Coxman (Liam Neeson, left) and his wife, Grace (Laura Dern), identify their drug-overdosed son, Kyle (Michaël Richardson).

cute, and, like *Fargo*, there's even a version of the body-in-the-wood-chipper scene. But try as it might, *Cold Pursuit* is *Fargolite* at best. Some of its humor is pretty groan inducing. When the Native American drug dealers arrive at the fancy ski resort without a hotel reservation, the desk clerk explains how she can't accommodate them because hotel is full, leading to a mix-up between hotel and Indian "reservation." Ha ha! Equivocation humor. The film's not a total waste of time. If I'd stumbled across it on Netflix, I'd have been happy to watch it, but not even the mighty Neeson made *Cold Pursuit* feel theater-prices-worthy. Stream this one.

Anna: It probably serves its audience better in that capacity than in a dark theater where all focus is put on the screen and thus the storyline, character arcs, etc. I would have been perfectly happy with this playing in the background while I worked on some knitting and sipped a cocktail comfily on my couch. Then it's just Neeson doing his badass thing and a cute kid carrying the story along, and I can be distracted enough to not care that it's less than good. Unfortunately, *Cold Pursuit* just didn't do it for me, and scenes like the "reservation" hotel bit were downright groan worthy. There was a little fun to be had watching drug pushers having snowball fights and Nels reading from a snow plow catalogue to put Ryan to bed, but the enjoyment was slight and strung sparsely through the film. The death placard was a fun running bit, and the ludicrous nicknames of the thugs might have elicited a smile, I'll admit. Are a few scant moments worth the price of a movie ticket, even a matinee? Not for me. I agree that this is one to wait for home viewing; it just falls too short of good to justify your hard-earned cash. ○

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



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F I L M

PHOTO COURTESY OF TWENTIETH CENTURY FOX



'WHAT AM I?': A human/cyborg hybrid (Rosa Salazar) tries to figure out her purpose, in *Alita: Battle Angel*.

PHOTO COURTESY OF BLUMHOUSE PRODUCTIONS



DEAD AGAIN: Tree Gelbman (Jessica Rothe), a victim forced to relive her death over and over until she finds her killer, discovers that repeated death is easy compared to what lies ahead, in the sequel *Happy Death Day 2U*.

PHOTO COURTESY OF BRON STUDIOS

FILM REVIEWS from page 32

must save his friends from alien invaders and discover who he really is. This second film was released about five years after the first, *The Lego Movie*, with the same writers, Phil Lord and Christopher Miller, but a new director, Mike Mitchell (*Trolls*, *The SpongeBob Movie: Sponge Out of Water*, *Sky High*).

Like many sequels, this film falls short of presenting a unique storyline; it's your average coming-of-age story told while flying through other dimensions peppered with catchy (and annoying!) sing-along numbers. There's a lot of singing, but this time everything's not awesome, and a song could quite possibly get stuck in your head.

In the glimmering city of Bricksburg, Emmet and his special friend, Lucy (Elizabeth Banks), are living pretty awesome lives, but a swarm of Lego Duplo invaders from outer space threatens the city with mass destruction that moves the citizens of Bricksburg to Apocalypseburg. Side note: The Lego Duplo blocks are designed for 1- to 2-years-old builders, so while these characters have cute eyes and childish voices, don't be fooled! Their plans are much more sinister. And don't make them throw up because they'll barf colorful glitter everywhere.

Anywho, Apocalypseburg is dreary and has hardened its citizens, who are constantly bracing themselves for battle. Lucy adapts perfectly to their new setting while Emmet is still the optimist he always has been. Lucy wants him to change, to be tougher in order to survive in their new world because everything is not awesome all the time.

In the midst of their conversation, General Mayhem (Stephanie Beatriz) swoops in and kidnaps Lucy, Batman (Will Arnett), Benny (Charlie Day), Unikitty (Alison Brie), and MetalBeard (Nick Offerman).

General Mayhem takes them to outer space to the Systar system where she announces that Queen Watevra Wa'Nabi (Tiffany Haddish)—a shape-shifting Lego—intends to wed Batman.

Emmet embarks on a journey to save his friends and



META ROM-COM: (Left to right) Isabella (Priyanka Chopra), Josh (Adam Devine), and Natalie (Rebel Wilson) are all living in a romantic comedy, and Natalie loathes romance, in *Isn't It Romantic*.

coincidentally meets Rex Dangervest (also Pratt). Dangervest sounds a lot like Emmet but is cooler because he's a dinosaur trainer/spaceship pilot with some stubble on his chin.

The movie weaves in and out of the Lego world and the real world between a brother and sister. The two are creating the world that Emmet and his friends live in, so whatever happens in real life transpires within the bricks. When there's havoc in the Lego world we learn it's because the siblings can't seem to get along because, you know, the brother is too cool to play with his younger sister. The rejection leads to the sister capturing some of her brother's Legos . . . you get the idea.

There's a lot of singing in this movie. I mean it's a children's film, so I expected it, but it was a little excessive. The best song in my opinion was the ending track that played during the

credits: "Super Cool" by Beck, featuring Robyn and The Lonely Island. It was a fun mock in the ending credit where the group literally sings, "Can't wait to see the one about the person who edits and even better that that is who edits the credits."

It's interesting to see this Lego movie franchise come to life and literally build itself from the ground up. Overall the star-studded cast did a great job of making the audience laugh. The theater I caught the film in was riddled with adults and their children, but I found that the other adults and I were laughing the loudest at certain parts of the film. It's just a silly feel-good movie that I recommend catching on the big screen—the little giggles and exclamations from kids are priceless, not to mention the corny jokes that only adults understand. (106 min.) —Karen Garcia

APE AT DANNEMORA

When? 2018

What's it rated? TV-MA

Where's it available? Amazon Prime

Ben Stiller directs this seven-part TV mini-series based on the true story of Richard Matt (Benicio Del Toro) and David Sweat (Paul Dano), who conspire to escape from a maximum security prison with help from their lover, Tilly Mitchell (Patricia Arquette), a civilian who runs the prison's sewing shop.

The gritty, masterful escape thriller was shot on location at the Clinton Correctional Facility in upstate New York, the facility where the actual escape took place, which adds to the realism of this engrossing story that feels more like a character study of its five principals than anything else.

In addition to Richard, David, and Tilly, we have Tilly's husband, Lyle (Eric

Lange), a maintenance worker at the prison, and escort guard Gene Palmer (David Morse). Bonnie Hunt stars as Catherine Leahy Scott, the New York state inspector general, who questions Tilly about her role in the escape.

Some viewers might find it a bit slow with its seven approximately hour-long episodes, but that time allows the characters to fully develop and the audience to get an idea of just how patient and hardworking the inmates were in their long and difficult escape.

Tilly's clearly unhappy in her marriage—conniving but not too smart. In fact, the only character who seems less intelligent is her husband, Lyle, who tries to make Tilly happy but literally has no clue. In contrast, both Richard and David are crafty and devious.

One thing becomes abundantly clear: Like the inmates, Tilly, Lyle, and escort guard Gene are as much prisoners in their jobs as the inmates,

PHOTO COURTESY OF RED HOUR FILMS



DESPERADOS Richard Matt (Benicio Del Toro, left) and David Sweat (Paul Dano, right) conspire to escape from a maximum security prison with help from their lover, Tilly Mitchell, a civilian who runs the prison's sewing shop.

BINGEABLE

and in Tilly and Gene's case, they make the terrible mistake of befriendng Richard and David. Gene is wowed by Richard's artistic abilities and trades him favors for paintings.

The film and its setting is hard, cold, muted, and oppressive, and after the inmates escape by painstakingly sawing through steal walls, steam pipes, and more, the outside world is no more forgiving as they try to make their way to the Canadian border. It's a harrowing tale of desperate people—both the literally imprisoned and those metaphorically imprisoned by their dead-end lives.

Arquette, who won Best Actress at the ninth Critics' Choice Television Awards as well as a Best Performance by an Actress Golden Globe award, is nothing short of amazing as Tilly, fully disappearing into the role. Her Tilly comes off as a shallow narcissist, and it's worth noting that the real Joyce "Tilly" Mitchell, in an interview from Bedford Hills Correctional Facility where she's serving time for helping the inmates escape, criticized the mini-series. Of Stiller she said he's "a son-of-a-bitch liar just like the rest of the world. He doesn't care about the truth. All he cares about is making millions off me. He's an idiot."

That probably means Stiller got it right. ○

THE PRODIGY

What's it rated? R

What's it worth? Stream it

Where's it showing? Parks Plaza

Nicholas McCarthy (*The Pact*, *At the Devil's Door*) directs Jeff Buhler's (*The Midnight Meat Rain*) screenplay about a mother (Taylor Schilling) concerned by her son's (Jackson Robert Scott) behavior. Is something supernatural afoot?

Do you need to see another "bad seed" horror film? Do you care that it's derivative and steals from every other demonic kid movie ever made? Do you like hackneyed horror tropes like the creepy dark hallway, the creepy dark basement, and eerie noises? Are you satisfied with a horror movie essentially stripped of fright except for a few cheap jump scares? You are? Well, go ahead and watch this. (101 min.) —Glen

SPIDER-MAN: INTO THE SPIDER-VERSE

What's it rated? PG

What's it worth? Full price

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

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 a an evil that threatens all realities.

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

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

The weekend is for wine

Wine Country Weekend promises sneak peeks at some new wines

BY REBECCA ROSE

As we say goodbye to Valentine's Day, the world's most romantic holiday, we eagerly anticipate the next most romantic holiday—President's Day.

OK, well maybe that's not exactly true. But we can look forward to spicing up President's Day by celebrating Wine Country Weekend from Feb. 15 through 18. (Can I do a segue or what?) The event, put on annually by the Santa Ynez Valley Wine Country Association (SYVMCA), offers a chance to sample a lot of wines from 13 participating venues in our very own wine country backyard. On Feb. 16, wineries will also offer food for guests.

I spoke to Ross Rankin, president of the SYVMCA and winemaker/co-owner with Imagine Wine, who explained why he is excited for this year's event (hint: It involves a really special wine).

Rankin has been doing this event for quite a long time and is deeply passionate about it, not just as a showcase for wines. Rankin said it's a good way for the community to show support for local wineries, which are largely family-run.

"This is an event that's been going with the [SYVMCA] for probably over 20 years," Rankin said. "Generally there are special wines that are going to be poured. We're going to pour brand new wines that have just been bottled."

One of those wines that Rankin is planning on serving for attendees is a 2008 Paradise Mountain Winged Syrah, named for a sculpture

done by Rankin's son, the famed sculptor Blake Rankin. The wine is unique considering how it was made and how lengthy the process was.

"It was aged in barrel for six years, which is extraordinarily unusual," Rankin said. "And then it was in the bottle for about four years. Very few wineries release 10-year-old wines."

Rankin said big wines such as syrah can be tannic and have a lot of oak and acidity. They're the kinds of wines that need to be laid down for a few years before they're smooth and good for drinking. But to put them in the barrel for that long microoxygenates the wines and accelerates the aging process, making it more like a wine that has been in the bottle for 20 years.

"It's an incredibly smooth wine," Rankin said. "But it still retains all of its wonderful characteristics."

In addition to the unique syrah, Rankin said Imagine Wine will also be releasing a 2016 merlot, which comes from the Santa Ynez Valley and was aged in oak for about 2 1/2 years. He will also have a newer syrah from a vineyard called Terra Alta, which Rankin said has a good taste of vanilla.

The merlot discussion led me to ask Rankin if he had experienced what some local merlot makers refer to as the "Sideways slump." After Paul Giamatti's infamous rebuke of the bold red wine in the movie that shined a spotlight on our wine country, some local winemakers have told me they had a hard time selling merlot and saw its popularity dramatically dip for years.

Recently, another local winemaker revealed that for the first time in years,



IMAGINE THAT: Imagine Wine in Buellton is one of 13 wineries included in Wine Country Weekend, an event that celebrates small local wineries of the Santa Ynez Valley. The event takes place from Feb. 15 through Feb. 18.

Alexander and Wayne, Arthur Earl, Ca' Del Grevino, and Dreamcôte Wine Company in Los Olivos; Kalyra Winery in Santa Ynez; Alma Rosa, Buscador, Imagine Wine, and tierra y vino in Buellton. Tickets are \$65; shuttle tickets are available on Feb. 16 for \$19. Small bites of food will be served on Feb. 16. For more information, visit santaynezwinecountry.com.



MOVING SIDWAYS: Kalyra Winery, one of the participating wineries in Wine Country Weekend from Feb. 15 through Feb. 18, is pouring their 2016 merlot and 2016 pinot noir. The event offers customers a chance to purchase passports for tastings at 13 different local wineries.

their sales of merlot were climbing once again. Rankin didn't indicate that he personally felt such a hit but said there are reasons why wines such as merlot can experience market slumps or not enjoy the same popularity among lay consumers as with connoisseurs.

"We haven't made merlot for quite a long time," Rankin said. "This is the first one we've had in quite a long time. I love merlot. It's a wine that really requires being aged in oak."

He said that one of the reasons merlot may have slipped in popularity among the masses is that so much of it that is available on the market—almost 96 percent of the millions of gallons available—is not aged in oak.

"They are not real fruit-forward wines," Rankin explained. "They need to have the addition of the oak characteristics ... it's only 4 percent of the merlot that's aged in oak. Oak is expensive; it's \$1,000 a barrel. And it only works for four years. So consequently, a wine like merlot isn't very good if it's not aged in oak."

The additional aspect of having so many more wines available in Santa Barbara County make it an exceptionally competitive field. There are 72 different kinds of grapes grown in the county, more grapes than anywhere else in the world. Also, wines often peak and fall as tastes and trends change among consumers. For years, wines such as chardonnay, cabernet, and merlot were deeply popular, whereas now grenache, syrah, and rosés are experiencing a popularity spike.

Events like Wine Country Weekend are the perfect opportunity to get to know even more about our local wines and how they impact our economy and culture. Or you can just come to drink and have fun; no one is going to judge you either way (just please please have a designated driver or use one of the numerous ride services



MEET THE WINEMAKER: Russ Rankin is co-owner and winemaker at Imagine Wine. At the 2019 Wine Country Weekend, he will feature a new syrah, the 2008 Paradise Mountain Winged Syrah, a wine aged in oak for six years and kept bottled for four additional years.

offered in wine country for tastings).

The event has attracted people for years who come from all over the state and the country to visit what are mostly very small and eclectic wineries, Rankin said. Attendees can meet the winemaker and get to know more details about how their favorite wines are made and get tips on other types they also may enjoy.

"This allows people to get to know really small or interesting wineries," Rankin said. "Generally speaking, smaller wineries are going to make unique wines. ... If you like that kind of variety, you can get that by coming to this event." ○

Arts and Lifestyle Writer Rebecca Rose loves the merlot. Contact her at rrose@santamariasun.com.

Get thee to a winery

Wine Country Weekend presented by the Santa Ynez Valley Wine Country Association takes place from Feb. 15 through 18 at 13 participating wineries: Buttonwood Farm Winery, Casa Cassara, Carivintás, and Lincourt Vineyards in Solvang;



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Rebeccamendations:

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

PHOTO COURTESY OF ALYS BY ALEBRU



• **Anthony's** in Guadalupe is hosting 805 Nights every Friday and Saturday night starting at 9 p.m. Enjoy music by DJ Coqui and a free raffle with prizes at **859 Guadalupe St.**

• **Tower Pizza** continues to be one of my favorite local pizza spots and their supreme pizza (pictured right) is the actual bomb *dot com*. I don't eat meat anymore but I do often dream of devouring this entire pizza in a world where meat is actually made of fluffy clouds of love. But don't worry about me, you should try this pizza immediately if you haven't already at **436 Alisal Road, suite C, Solvang.**

• At **Aly's by Alebru** in Solvang, they are serving up mouthwatering dishes of panna cotta with raspberry sauce and passion fruit mousse (pictured above). I know it's too cold to think about dessert right now, but how can you resist

panna cotta? Visit them at **451 2nd St., Solvang.**

• **Blast 825 Brewery** has some great promotions and offers from time to time but I think my favorite is the 15 percent off Wednesdays for teachers. And if you're in the mood for music on the weekends, the venue has Sweet Charlie Vee and Joe Daddy and the Somethings on Feb. 15 and Keith Cox and another band called Smokin Gunz-Central Coast on Feb. 16. And if you bring in proof of a Yelp! review, you can also get 10 percent off your meal. Enjoy at **241 S. Broadway, Orcutt.**

• **Allan Hancock College Winery** is really making a wonderful name for itself here on the Central Coast. They just freshly labeled a new batch of cabernet sauvignon, which you can pick up on their website for about \$16 a bottle. Visit hancockwinery.com/shop/ for more details. ○

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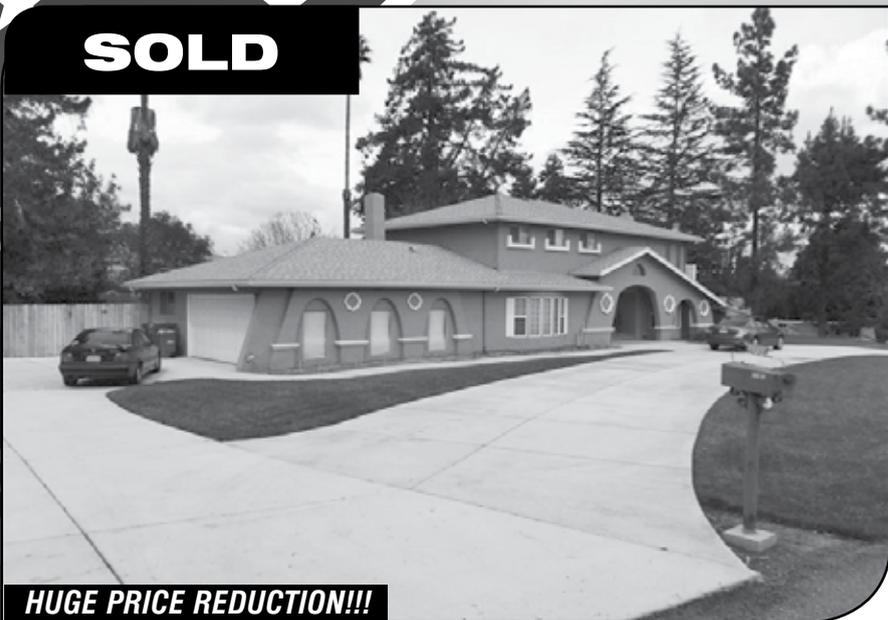
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