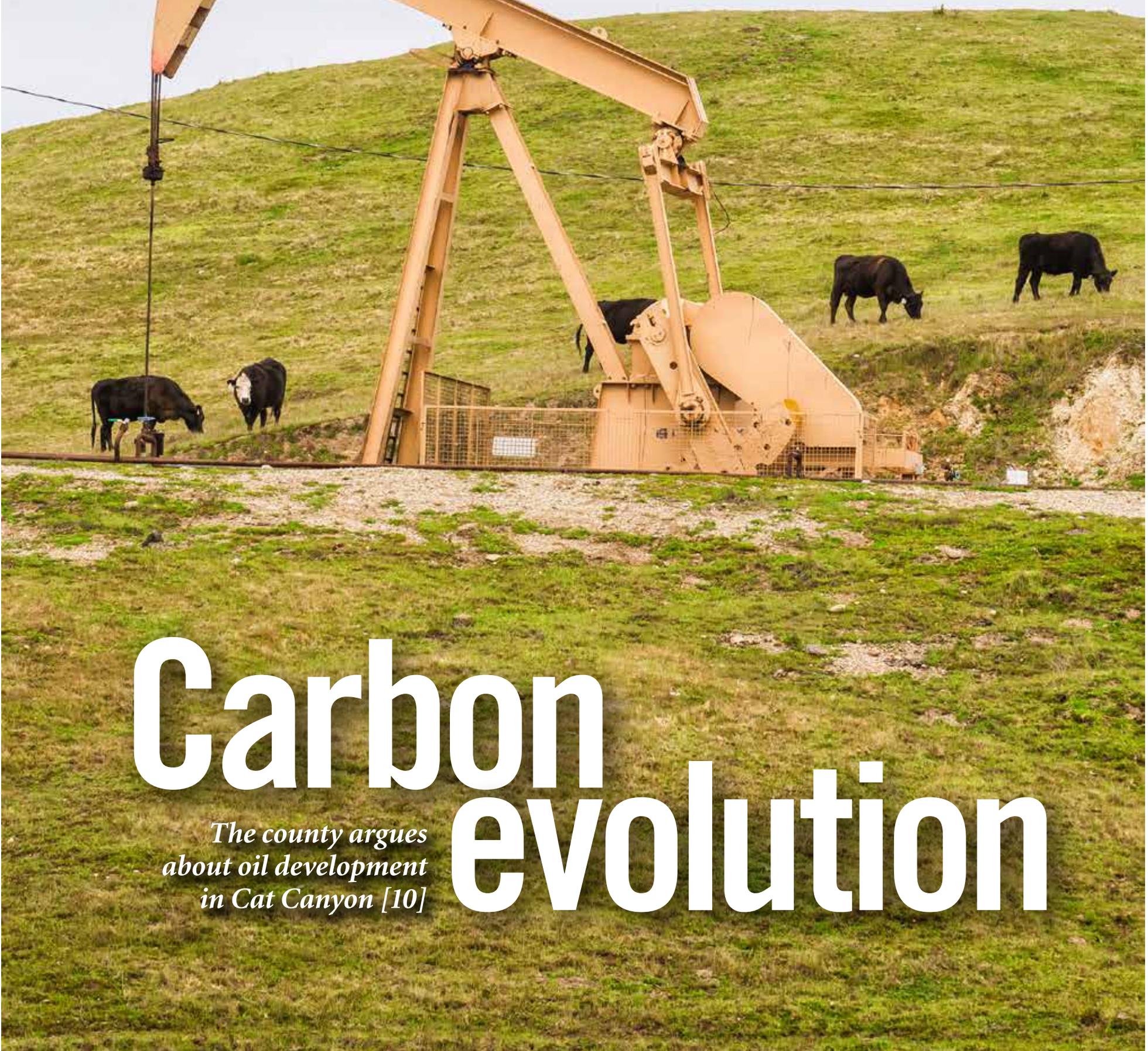


Sun

AT THE MOVIES



Captive State doesn't captivate [32]



Carbon evolution

The county argues about oil development in Cat Canyon [10]

NEWS Inmate grievances decrease at county jail [8]

ARTS PCPA's *The Wolves* is a masterpiece [29]

EATS Zaca Mesa weaves a vineyard tapestry [34]

e-waste

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■ An estimated 70 percent of heavy metals in landfills comes from discarded electronic items, also known as e-waste. These items contain other toxic materials, too. Below is an abbreviated list:

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Contents

MARCH 21 - MARCH 28, 2019 VOL. 20 NO. 3

There are three big oil projects on Santa Barbara County's docket that could bring more than 600 new oil production wells to fruition. ERG Resources, Aera Energy, and PetroRock are each in various stages of the planning process, but all of the proposals would pull oil out of the Cat Canyon Oil Field. The potential for growth has environmental activists upset about the potential for impacts on greenhouse gas emissions and groundwater while project proponents say this is one of the best protected places in the world when it comes to oil drilling because of environmental regulations. I speak with both sides for this week's cover story [10].

Also this week, inmate grievances are down by 33 percent at the Santa Barbara County Jail [8], Animal Kingdom's puppy problems continue [9], PCPA's production of *The Wolves* is emotional, surprising, and beautifully performed [29], two women share their love of painting at Gallery Los Olivos [30], and one Clydesdale that's worth drinking [34].



COEXISTING: Cattle and oil have coexisted in Cat Canyon for decades, maneuvering through booms and busts in their respective industries. Oil is poised for a boom if three oil companies with projects proposed to the county have anything to say about it.

Camillia Lanham, editor

Cover photo by Jayson Mellom > Cover design by Alex Zuniga

NEWS

News Briefs.....	5
Political Watch.....	5
Weather.....	5
Spotlight.....	12
School Scene.....	12
Athlete of the Week.....	12

ARTS

Arts Briefs.....	29
------------------	----

MOVIES

Reviews & Locations.....	32
--------------------------	----

EATS

Rebeccamentations.....	36
------------------------	----

CLASSIFIEDS, HOME, AND REAL ESTATE

.....	38
-------	----

OPINION

Web Poll.....	15
Letters.....	15
Mayfield.....	15
Canary.....	16

EVENTS CALENDAR

Hot Stuff.....	17
----------------	----

MUSIC

Music listings.....	24
---------------------	----

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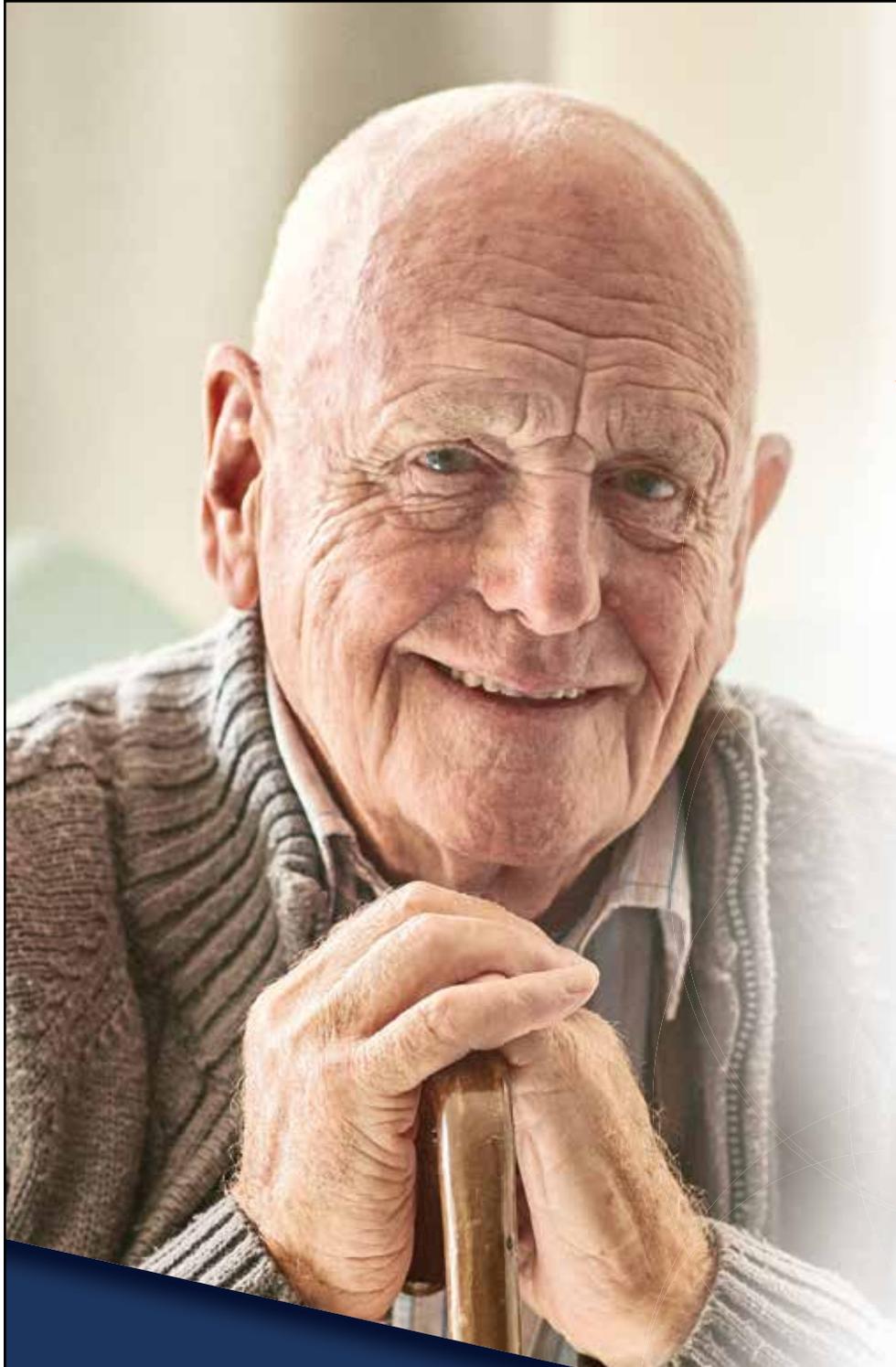
This week's online poll 3/21 - 3/28

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Political Watch

• As vice chair of the House of Representatives' Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, **U.S. Rep. Salud Carbajal** (D-Santa Barbara) participated in an infrastructure panel hosted by *Politico* and the National League of Cities on March 12. There, he discussed the infrastructure investment package, which has support from both Congress and the president to fund roads, bridges, energy, water, and other projects. "The president has said early on that he is willing to invest and move forward on an infrastructure bill, and I'm hoping he will do that," Carbajal said, according to a partial transcript of the discussion provided by his office. Getting a bill to the House floor by May is ambitious, Carbajal said, but "it's good to shoot for something that keeps the energy and momentum behind it." He also spoke about where to find revenue for the Highway Trust Fund ("We need to look at raising the gas tax, which hasn't been done since 1993," he said); investing in infrastructure that is resilient to climate change phenomena such as sea level rise; and maintaining momentum for infrastructure bills. "The national civil engineers say that by 2046 we need to invest \$4.5 trillion just to get our infrastructure to satisfactory. That's a big haul. What I think we need to do is really work together, make sure everyone comes together and advocates for this, puts the pressure on Congress, because the solutions are right in front of us," Carbajal said during the discussion. "We just can't seem to get it together."

• In February, **Assemblymember Jordan Cunningham** (R-San Luis Obispo) introduced a bill in response to "the appalling circumstances of the McGuire case from Paso Robles," according to a post on Cunningham's public official Facebook page. Former **Paso Robles Police Sgt. Christopher McGuire** was accused of sexually assaulting a victim using the authority of his badge. "Due to inconsistencies in victim accounts and no law expressly prohibiting his use of authority, the District Attorney's Office was unable to charge him with battery. This must change," a fact sheet from Cunningham's office stated. "A loophole exists where battery cannot be charged if a public official uses his or her authority to threaten a victim to comply with a command or face fear of incarceration or deportation." AB 1599 would make it a crime for a public official to use his or her authority to threaten to incarcerate, arrest, or deport a victim as a way of forcing them to engage in a sexual act or touching of intimate body parts against their will. "Law enforcement is an honorable and dangerous profession, and we must thank those that protect our communities. That said, there must be laws that protect people from the very few that abuse their power and victimize people," Cunningham said in his Facebook post.

• Allan Hancock College is cohosting the 32nd annual **Latina Leadership Network of the California Community Colleges Conference** from March 21 to 23 at the Santa Ynez Valley Marriott in Buellton. "Our vision is to continue informing, empowering, and advocating for Latina women to attain leadership roles in their campus communities," **Ana Gomez de Torres** said in a press release from Hancock. Gomez de Torres is the president of the Latina Leadership Network and a Spanish professor at Hancock. The leadership network is a support and advocacy organization that addresses equity, diversity, and social justice for the Latino community. "My hope for the conference is that we can unite further and continue supporting one another at emotional, moral, professional, and personal levels," Gomez de Torres said in the release. "As we continue to collaborate, we can truly make a difference in our campuses and communities." ○

Supervisors support Carbajal's bill to ban offshore drilling

A divided Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors voted to support a bill to ban future oil and gas drilling in the waters off the California coast.

The board voted 3-1 on March 19, with 4th District Supervisor Peter Adam absent, to support the California Clean Coast Act, a bill authored by former county supervisor and current Central Coast Congressman Salud Carbajal (D-Santa Barbara). Carbajal introduced the bill in January. If passed, it would permanently ban future offshore oil and gas leasing in areas of the Outer Continental Shelf off the coast of California.

"As the Trump administration moves to expand offshore oil drilling in the Pacific and Arctic Oceans, highlighting our community's strong support for the California Clean Coast Act is critical to opposing these efforts," Carbajal said in a written statement to the *Sun* after learning of the board's vote. "Local coastal tourism and the success of local businesses are undeniably tied to a clean coast and healthy, thriving ocean ecosystems—that's why I'm fighting to protect our coastline."

At the March 19 meeting, 3rd District Supervisor Joan Hartmann said that supporting the bill was an important part of addressing the issue of climate change and noted recent protests and demonstrations by students across the county related to the issue.

"I don't want to be on the wrong side of history," Hartmann said.

Fifth District Supervisor Steve Lavagnino was the lone vote against supporting the bill. He called the notion of ending oil and gas production "premature," noting that supporting such a move would mean Americans would have to make difficult sacrifices and give up many of the products and modern conveniences created using oil, something he wasn't sure many people were ready to do.

"We want to get rid of production, but we still want to use the product," he said.

The board's vote of support for Carbajal's bill comes as the county is evaluating a request by Plains All American Pipeline to replace 123 miles of oil pipes though three counties. The project, if approved, could allow for offshore oil platforms off the county's coast—shuttered since a 142,800-gallon oil spill in 2015—to come back online. That proposal is still in the scoping phase, and a vote on the project by the county Planning Commission is not expected to occur until 2020.

Carbajal's bill is still making its way through the legislative process. It was referred to the U.S. House of Representatives' Subcommittee on Energy and Mineral Resources in early February.

—Chris McGuinness

Plan developing for improvements to Santa Ynez Valley bicycling paths

It's estimated that thousands of experienced road bicyclists pass through the Santa Ynez Valley every year, and yet the region lacks the bike paths and lanes necessary to support less experienced bikers, like kids going to school or adults commuting to work.

In a community survey completed in the fall of 2018, 71 percent of those surveyed said they did not feel that the Santa Ynez Valley was an appropriately accommodating place for bicyclists. Only 21 percent said there were safe places for kids to ride their bikes, and 95



A CLEANER COAST: The Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors is on board with a proposed bill in the U.S. House to ban future offshore drilling in California's coastal waters.

percent said the Santa Ynez Valley should work to improve its infrastructure for bikers.

So the towns, cities, and jurisdictions that make up the region are working together to do just that. At two public workshops on March 12 and 13, community members were able to choose what improvements should be prioritized within the next 10 years.

Mike Becker, director of planning for the Santa Barbara County Association of Governments (SBCAG), said that because the Santa Ynez Valley encompasses so many jurisdictions—Santa Barbara County, the cities of Buellton and Solvang, and the Chumash Nation—plus both incorporated and unincorporated towns—Solvang, Los Olivos, Santa Ynez, etc.—a cohesive vision for biking in the region is lacking.

Only two roads in the area have class II bicycle lanes—separate and marked lanes for bikers toward the edge of a road—and there is only one class I bicycle lane, which consists of a bike path entirely separate from roads. There are several local roads with bicycle amenities, primarily in Buellton, according to the Santa Ynez Valley bicycle master plan draft introduction, but these amenities do not support connectivity within the region.

That has made it difficult for residents to commute by bike to work. A resident of Buellton can't easily and safely ride to work in Solvang, and vice versa. It has also made it difficult for kids to ride their bikes to school, Becker said.

Santa Ynez Valley kids attend several different elementary schools, but the student body is combined into a single junior high school and a single high school. Students living near either of those schools can safely commute to school by bicycle, but many cannot.

With the help of Santa Ynez Valley's various jurisdictions, SBCAG started working to fix that in the fall of 2018, and Becker said the planning process, which is being funded by Caltrans Sustainable Communities formula planning funds, is fairly far along.

"It'll do the valley good," Becker said. "When you have these multiple jurisdictions, it really makes sense to plan as a sub-region. It really makes sense what we're doing."

At the recent public workshops, Becker said community members voted for three of their favorite large and transformational projects: a bike, pedestrian, and equestrian path that

would be built along the Santa Ynez River and provide a connection from Buellton to Solvang; a multipurpose trail that would run from Los Olivos to Los Alamos; and a trail that would connect an existing path along Highway 246 with Sunny Fields Park.

Community members also voted for five smaller projects, which include extending an existing bike trail to Refugio Road, implementing bicycle pump tracks at River View and Hans Christian Andersen parks, and other improvements.

With the chosen projects in mind, Becker said SBCAG is working on a draft plan, which it will present to Solvang City Council in May.

—Kasey Bubnash

Local nonprofits distribute hundreds of Payless gift cards before store closures

Payless ShoeSource stores across North America will only be open for a few more weeks, and March 11 was the last day stores accepted gift cards.

The deadline, which was announced on Feb. 18 along with news of the company's bankruptcy filing and eminent store closures, left some local nonprofits with little time to use up swaths of pre-purchased and donated Payless gift cards. Shoes for Students, a decades-old nonprofit that provides families throughout the Santa Maria Valley with gift cards for children's shoes and clothes, was one of the impacted organizations.

Shoes for Students has long partnered with Payless to achieve its mission of providing low-income children with adequate clothing for school, and the organization still had scores of unused gift cards on hand when Payless announced its plans to close.

But with the help of local schools, family and community advocates, and other organizations like the Boys & Girls Club and Fighting Back: Santa Maria Valley, Shoes for Students announced via Facebook on Feb. 27 that it distributed more than 200 Payless gift cards to students and families in less than two weeks.

STILL STRUGGLING WITH CPAP?

NEWS from page 5

“We did our best,” said Maggie White, board president of Shoes for Students.

It’s not clear whether all of those distributed gift cards were actually redeemed by families, White said, and only about 30 or 40 redemption receipts have been returned to Shoes for Students staff so far. Still, White said stickers with the March 11 deadline information were posted in Spanish and English to each of the gift cards, and it often takes a while for schools and organizations to turn in all their receipts. So she’s hopeful that each and every gift card was used prior to the deadline.

With those gift cards out, White’s focus is now shifting to finding a new shoe store to partner with. The organization, using donations and money made during annual fundraisers, usually buys thousands of \$30 gift cards to Payless each year, which are then distributed to schools, homeless shelters, and other organizations that give them to families in need throughout the school year. Students are then able to pick out their own shoes.

White said Shoes for Students would like to stick to the \$30 limit, but not many other stores sell shoes that fall into that price range. The organization has looked into working with JCPenney, Famous Footwear, and Sears.

“A lot of the other shoe stores are more expensive than Payless,” White said. “So we’re still looking for the solution, and in the meantime, the students aren’t going without.”

Shoes for Students will continue giving out Walmart gift cards to families until the organization finds a store with a larger selection of shoes, White said.

The Good Samaritan Shelter was in a similar situation toward the end of February, and Alexis Nshamamba, quality assurance and training manager for the shelter, said the nonprofit was able to use up a few hundred Payless gift cards before the March 11 deadline.

Every child staying in Lompoc’s shelters got a new pair of shoes, she said.

—Kasey Bubnash

—Chris McGuinness

FILE PHOTO COURTESY OF THE CITY OF SANTA MARIA

Santa Maria Rec and Parks to survey local residents

The city of Santa Maria is mailing out thousands of surveys to random households, kicking off an effort to get input on how to improve its parks and recreation offerings.

The city’s Recreation and Parks Department mailed out the surveys to 3,830 households to collect information for its Leisure Needs Assessment Action Plan. That plan will include a preliminary evaluation of Santa Maria residents’ current desires and demands for leisure programs and activities as well as address expected growth. The assessment will also examine impacts on future community leisure services, and a possible recreation and community center.

“As part of that, we wanted to reach out to the community and find out what is great and what is not so great,” Interim Recreation and Parks Department Supervisor Dennis Smitherman told the *Sun*.

The city conducts a leisure needs assessment every three to five years. Smitherman said the city used the feedback from the last needs assessment to bolster aquatics programs, create more activities under its active seniors program, and expand its concerts and movies in local parks.

“We also added more art to our public parks,” he said.

The 3,830 surveys were mailed out beginning March 15. In addition, the city will also release an online survey in English and Spanish at the end of March. Spanish speaking staff will conduct in-person surveys at locations throughout the city during the first week of April. Some of the feedback from the surveys, as well as findings from public meetings and focus groups held earlier this year, will be presented to the city’s Recreation and Parks Commission at a May 14 meeting. ○



PLAYTIME: Santa Maria is surveying thousands of residents as it prepares a master plan for its recreation and parks programs.



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Making progress?

Inmate health care complaints are down at the county jail, but advocates say there's more work to be done

BY CHRIS MCGUINNESS

Despite allergy tests and a special food diet, patient continues to have hives and rash.

“Needs antidepressants.”

“States they are not receiving medication and want to see an outside doctor for X-rays and an ultrasound.”

These are just some of the complaints related to mental and medical health care filed by inmates in the Santa Barbara County Jail through its grievance process last year. As the jail continues its efforts to enact reforms that address concerns from advocates—as well as allegations in an ongoing lawsuit—that poor care and conditions are violating inmates' civil rights, a recent report from the Santa Barbara County Sheriff's Office indicates that it may be making progress, noting a sharp decrease in inmate complaints over medical and mental health care.

Advocates say the drop in formally filed complaints, called grievances, is promising and represents a step in the right direction, but they're adamant that inmates are still falling through the cracks.

Inmates are able to file a written grievance when they feel their needs are not being met. Jail staff then investigate the complaint and can take action to resolve the issue if it is determined to be valid.

According to the report, authored by jail Grievance Oversight Coordinator Lt. Mark Mahurin, the total number of medical, mental health, and dental care related complaints for 2018 decreased by 33 percent from the previous year, dropping from 549 complaints in 2017 to 363 in 2018. In addition, the average response time for such complaints also decreased from 4.6 days to 4.3 days.

In his report, Mahurin said that the majority of the complaints in 2018—about 66 percent—were related to general medical care. The complaints were addressed through sick calls, follow-up appointments, and other similar actions. Complaints related to mental health services made up 6 percent of the total grievances.

“The majority of [those] grievances were requests for mental health medications or adjustment of existing medication,” Mahurin wrote. “Each received treatment with the psychiatrist or tele-psych to address the specific issue.”

Families Act! Executive Director Suzanne Riordan characterized the decrease in complaints as a positive development. Families Act! is a local nonprofit organization that has been advocating for reforms at the jail for more than a decade.

“In general, the grievance process has improved,” she told the *Sun*. “We are very glad to see it.”

Riordan said she thought the decrease was due in part to the creation of the grievance oversight coordinator position at the jail, as well as the creation of a Community Corrections Input Group (CCIG), which works with the coordinator and makes recommendations about the grievance process and the delivery of mental, medical, and dental health services in the jail. As coordinator, Mahurin is in charge of overseeing the grievance process and addressing and coordinating the resolution of the complaints. He also collects grievance-related data for the reports, which have been submitted to the supervisors quarterly since 2016.

The Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors created both the coordinator position and the input group in 2016, partially spurred by calls

from Families Act!, which Riordan said pushed the supervisors to address concerns about the grievance process and inmate care at the jail.

“We made a list of some of the worst grievances in the jail and asked them to create the position,” she said.

In addition to the coordinator and the input group, Riordan said she thought that the county's decision to hire a new contractor to provide health care at the jail in 2017 may have also helped decrease the number of complaints. Pressure to address concerns about inmate care due to a civil rights lawsuit filed by Disability Rights California may have also helped, she posited.

Still, Riordan said there is room for improvement, particularly when it comes to inmates suffering from mental health issues and placed in isolation.

“We have people with very severe mental illness, and a very ill person may be incapable of even filling out a grievance form,” she said. “So they are going to fall through the cracks and not get brought up in that process.”

Moving forward, Riordan said, Families Act! will continue its work to help the jail's inmates and their families, including operating an information table outside the jail's visitation registration window on Saturdays and Sundays.



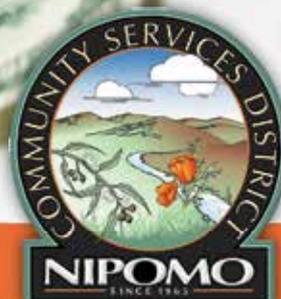
POSITIVE SIGNS: A recent report found that inmate complaints related to medical and mental health care at the Santa Barbara County Jail decreased by 33 percent in 2018.

The county staff report said the input group would continue to hold monthly meetings and provide recommendations to improve the process and procedures for filing grievances. ○

Staff Writer Chris McGuinness can be reached at cmcguinness@newtimeslo.com

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That doggie in the window

Animal Kingdom faces lawsuits and accusations of sourcing puppies from unethical mass breeders

BY KASEY BUBNASH

It's been less than a year since Jen Toste paid nearly \$2,000 for a goldendoodle puppy she fell in love with at an Animal Kingdom pet store on the Central Coast. Since then, she's spent roughly \$10,000 on veterinary appointments, surgeries, and medications for that puppy, which was diagnosed with bilateral hip dysplasia just months after Toste brought it home.

Toste, who lives in Arroyo Grande, says Animal Kingdom is to blame because the store's owners have "knowingly" purchased animals from irresponsible breeders for years. Through a civil lawsuit filed in San Luis Obispo County—just one of several legal battles and accusations the store is currently fighting—Toste hopes to receive thousands of dollars in reimbursement for her dog's piling medical bills.

"If Animal Kingdom had any type of ethical component to their business and really a true love for animals, they would have sourced differently," Toste told the *Sun*. "I understand it's a business, but they have done things the shortcut way to turn dogs around quicker and make money, and I don't know how they sleep at night."

Animal Kingdom's owners did not respond to a request for comment.

Toste's puppy, Lola, had only been home for about three months when Toste noticed the limping. When Toste took Lola to the vet in October 2018, she discovered that both of Lola's hips were developing incorrectly and that the condition was severe. Toste learned something else, too: Lola's disease could have been prevented entirely.

Hip dysplasia is common among larger breeds of dogs, but, as a genetic disease, it can also be easily prevented through responsible breeding, according to the Orthopedic Foundation for Animals, a private nonprofit dedicated to lowering the incidence of genetic diseases in animals.

Reputable breeders often screen their potential parent animals for hereditary diseases, such as hip dysplasia. Animals that test positive as carriers for any number of genetic diseases aren't used in the breeding process.

Toste blames irresponsible breeding—which can lead to higher rates of disease in animals—for her dog's health issues, and animal rights activists have been fighting to stop it for years.

Activists celebrated what they considered a win in that fight in October 2017, when former

Gov. Jerry Brown approved a state law requiring pet stores to obtain all dogs, cats, and rabbits from animal shelters or rescue groups, and banning stores from sourcing directly from breeders. It's an effort to decrease the demand for mass-bred animals while increasing demand for the millions of already available shelter animals, which are typically killed if not adopted.

Although that law just went into effect at the beginning of this year, it's already having a significant impact on the Central Coast, though, not necessarily the intended one.

Christine Collier, a Vandenberg Village resident and founder of the animal advocacy group No More Pet Store Puppies 805, has long been a vocal opponent of pet stores like Animal Kingdom, which has locations in Santa Maria, Grover Beach, and Pismo Beach. When the law requiring stores to source pets from shelters went into effect on Jan. 1, she noticed that Animal Kingdom was still selling puppies for upwards of \$1,500, expensive even for purebred dogs. Then she noticed the store's supposed sourcing shelter, "Bark Adoptions Rescue," which is based in Menifee, California.

She looked into it, and found that Bark Adoptions is being investigated for shady operations by animal services departments across California, including San Luis Obispo County.

In San Diego, stores that listed Bark Adoptions as a sourcing shelter were fined hundreds of dollars per pet after an investigation concluded that the "shelter" had not received nonprofit status and was likely a front for mass breeders hoping to get their animals into stores. San Luis Obispo County Animal Services found similar issues with the dogs from Bark Adoptions available at Animal Kingdom but Animal Services Manager Eric Anderson said the store was able to provide the county with proof that Bark Adoptions has received 501c3 tax exemption status. There are still "issues" being looked at, but Anderson said, "our determination is that Animal Kingdom is compliant with the letter of the law."

Despite those findings, animal rights groups Bailing out Benji and Animal Legal Defense Fund filed a lawsuit against Bark Adoptions and Animal Kingdom on March 5, claiming the organizations are circumventing the new state law by selling commercially purebred puppies that are labeled as rescues.

Stores all over California are still selling 8- to 12-week-old purebred or designer puppies for thousands of dollars apiece, according to Mindi

Callison, executive director and founder of Bailing out Benji, a nonprofit that works to dismantle puppy mills.

Prior to Jan. 1, Callison said many pet stores were sourcing from another "sham rescue" out of Iowa called Hobo K-9 Rescue, until Bailing out Benji published extensive research on the organization that was included in a *Chicago Tribune* exposé. Then, she said, stores switched to Bark Adoptions, Rescue Pets Iowa, and a few other "questionable rescues."

While that lawsuit would likely impact all Animal Kingdom stores, including its location in Santa Maria's Town Center Mall, less is being done in Santa Barbara County to ensure that pet stores are sourcing from legitimate shelters.

Stacy Silva, community outreach coordinator for Santa Barbara County Animal Services, said that while her department is aware of alleged issues with Animal Kingdom, there isn't an open investigation into those issues at this time.

"We're continuing to actively monitor the store," Silva said.

Animal Kingdom's most recent kennel inspection—a process that includes ensuring animals have adequate water, food, space, and documentation—was on Jan. 28, but Silva said she couldn't comment on the findings or conclusion.

Silva said that while she thinks the new state law is a step in the right direction, it includes various loopholes that make it difficult to truly enforce the regulations.

She's heard of stores doing things like giving away a free rabbit with a rabbit starter kit, which usually includes a cage, food, toys, and other items you'd need to raise a bunny. In that case, Silva said the store isn't technically selling a rabbit—it's selling a rabbit starter kit—so the rabbit doesn't really have to come from a shelter.

Animal Kingdom has found a way to get around the spay and neutering requirement, Silva said, and fake shelters are becoming more common, too. She said because stores are no longer required to disclose an animal's original source, just the source the store used to get the animal, "there's no real way" to confirm that those organizations are legitimate.



PUPPY PROBLEMS: Like many puppies on display at Animal Kingdom's Santa Maria location, this Havanese/cocker spaniel blend was being sold for more than \$1,500 and was acquired from Bark Adoptions Rescue, according to the information posted in the upper right corner of the window.

In any case, Silva said the law was originally passed in an effort to promote rescue adoption, and that hasn't happened in Santa Barbara County. Animal Kingdom has not approached the county's shelters to put those available pets in its stores, Silva said.

"Their animals are not coming from our shelters," she said.

In that way, Silva said the law isn't really achieving its goal.

"I think it is a tool and it is a good start, but I think it needs to be strengthened to allow for the enforcement to happen a little bit easier," Silva said. "Ultimately it needs to focus on the backyard breeders as well as the puppy mills where these animals are coming from." ○

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

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Revitalization plans

INDUSTRIAL LANDSCAPE: The hills along Cat Canyon Road bear the evidence of an oil field that's operated for more than 100 years. ERG Resources, Aera Energy, and PetroRock are proposing to revitalize oil production on the field with the potential of adding 666 more wells to the landscape.



PHOTOS BY JAYSON MELLOM

Three large drilling projects proposed for Cat Canyon raise water and emissions concerns

BY CAMILLIA LANHAM • PHOTOS BY JAYSON MELLOM

Remnants of a house that's long since disappeared were popping up from the recently rain-soaked ground. The first signs of spring bulbs peered through neon sprigs of new grass, looking east across Foxen Canyon.

To the west, a narrower canyon with gently sloping expanses touched by 100-plus years of agriculture and oil drilling seemed to sink into the lushness of foliage that comes after hard winter rains. From this vantage point, the home built by one of the many oil companies that owned this hill would have overlooked all of it.

Pumpjacks bobbing up and down with economic fervor. Cattle grazing their way onto dinner plates. Grape vines twisting into tangles of purple and green fruit. Oaks, scrub brush, roadrunners, coyotes.

Daffodils. Lilies. Irises.

An oil processing facility. The occasional tanker truck. Pipelines that crisscross the hilltops and valley floor.

It's all been here for decades. Fading and reinvigorating with each drought and March miracle, each economic boom and bust.

Aera Energy has owned this hilltop since 1997. Between 1913 and the late 1980s, Aera's particular 2,100-acre slice of Cat Canyon produced about 10 million barrels of oil. In 1989, production stopped. Within the first 15 years of Aera's purchase, the company systematically plugged and abandoned 178 wells. Things were quiet for a couple of decades, and now Aera is pushing for revitalization of the oil drilling that once hummed across its property—and so are two of its neighbors.

More than 1,600 oil wells are either active or plugged in the Cat Canyon Oil Field. Currently in the hands of eight companies, the field is poised for another evolution. ERG Resources LLC, Aera Energy, and PetroRock LLC are each at some stage of the planning process with drilling projects that could add up to 666 oil, injection, and water wells to Cat Canyon. ERG's project is the farthest along. A Santa Barbara County Planning Commission hearing on the final environmental impact report (EIR) started on March 13 and will continue on March 27.

Each project is unique to its operator, although all incorporate some form of steam-enhanced oil extraction—a technique that's been used in the canyon for decades. Aera Energy is touting the new technology that will come with its redevelopment: a fully digital oil field with wells that have a minimal footprint in a county with the strictest environmental standards anywhere, Aera Public Affairs Project Manager Rick Rust said.

"We're excited to have the opportunity to develop a state-of-the-art, modern oil field here in Santa Barbara County that should really be the model for the rest of the world," Rust said. "If we get the opportunity to build a whole new field, we're going to go in with the newest technology."

Those advances in extraction techniques might just be matched with steps forward in the environmental review process.

On May 26, 1988, the county held a public hearing on a plan proposed by Texaco to drill 30 "steam-assisted" oil production wells and build 13 new well pads in Cat Canyon. The project

was awarded a negative declaration, meaning it didn't have to undergo an environmental review. The final document, which the county provided to the *Sun*, was 16 pages, appendix included.

ERG's final EIR released in February 2019 was more than 400 pages—before the appendix—for a 187 "thermal" oil well project on existing pads. But those pages still don't contain enough information for some opponents of the project, who've been vocal in their disapproval of new drilling in Santa Barbara County.

A team from the Environmental Defense Center spoke for 20 minutes during the March 13 ERG hearing, listing item after item they felt needed more information in the EIR. Groundwater and surface water. Endangered species. Emissions. Potential for spills. Climate change. Cumulative impacts from multiple projects. Chemicals used in drilling and well-cleaning activities.

Rebecca August, a volunteer with the group Safe Energy Now, North County, told the *Sun* that the projects wouldn't get so much opposition if they were cleaner with less potential for destruction.

"If someone came up with some way to extract and then transport and then burn fossil fuels—you know, oil—without causing tremendous damage locally and to the climate, then it wouldn't be something that we oppose," August said. "The reason we oppose it is it threatens our water and threatens our air quality and puts more trucks on the road ... it's just bad for our communities."

Future of hydrocarbon

Cumulatively, the three projects have the potential to produce 22,000 barrels of oil each day, according to county Energy Specialist Errin Briggs, who gave the staff presentation about ERG's project on March 13. That peak production, he said, would come with 753,620 tons of greenhouse gas emissions every year and 185 truckloads per day of oil on county roads.

Each company will have to mitigate their emissions down to no more than 1,000 tons a year to comply with the county's standards (which are stricter than the state's). The companies are big enough emitters that the state will require them to purchase credits through California's cap-and-trade system, and the county has a preference that the companies mitigate locally first, according to John Zorovich, deputy director of the county Planning and Development Department's Energy Division. The list of local mitigation measures include expanding the use of zero-

emission school or transit buses; installing battery electric and fuel-cell electric vehicle infrastructure; planting urban forests; conservation projects on agricultural land; and retrofitting buildings for energy efficiency, renewable energy, and/or battery storage.

Aera has plans for a large conservation area that runs along its eastern border, while ERG wants to install electric vehicle charging stations in areas of the county that lack the infrastructure. PetraRock is still in the process of working with the county to draft its environmental impact report.

Many Santa Barbara County residents who spoke at one of the recent hearings—either at ERG's March 13 Planning Commission hearing or Aera's public scoping hearing on Jan. 17—say that "any amount of emissions is a step in the wrong direction" when it comes to climate change.

Oil proponents argue that the oil we use has to come from somewhere, and with the county's strict environmental standards, it might as well be produced locally. Both Aera and ERG have acknowledged that the future of energy is in renewables, but until society fully shifts to energy sources such as solar and wind, it will be dependent on hydrocarbons.

"We want to be part of that clean energy transformation, but we also believe that hydrocarbons need to be part of the conversation," Aera's Rust said.

And if there is going to be oil produced at all, it should be produced locally because, the companies argue, Santa Barbara County and California are both ahead of the game when it comes to regulating emissions and environmental standards. Those same protections don't necessarily exist overseas.

During ERG's presentation on March 13, spokesperson Nathan Eady with SCS Engineering said that Cat Canyon represents a very carbon efficient way of producing oil locally, rather than importing it by boat from another continent. He clicked over to a slide in his PowerPoint with a table of numbers tallied by California's Air Resources Board (CARB), which, among other things, tracks the carbon intensity of crude oil production and transport from oil fields around the world. Cat Canyon had an average carbon intensity of 4.08 in 2017, which was lower than California's average of 11.93, Canada's Shell Synthetic (21.39), Columbia's South Blend (9.22), or Saudi Arabia's extra light (9.35).

"CARB is constantly looking at this and using it in part to look at cap and trade as a tool," Eady said. "What we're endeavoring to do is always stay well ahead of that curve for the



FINAL STAGES? After eight years of work, the final environmental impact report for ERG's proposed 187 oil production well project went before the Santa Barbara County Planning Commission on March 13. Commission Chair John Parke said he's almost as sure as the sun will come up tomorrow that no matter what the commission decides, this project will be appealed to the Board of Supervisors.

remaining years of fossil fuel usage to provide the most carbon efficient way that we can.”

August, with Safe Energy Now, looks at the locally produced oil argument as a false one. The thick oil produced in Cat Canyon is usually cut with a less viscous petroleum product from Southern California before it's transported to the Phillips 66 refinery. From there, it gets moved to another refinery, August said, either in Los Angeles or San Francisco, where it gets further refined and mixed with oil from other producers.

“It's not like locally grown produce or even beef that you can grow in your neighborhood,” August said. “Just because we make it here doesn't mean we can go to our gas station and buy our locally produced gas and that it will respond to our local usage needs over time. That's a myth.”

As Californians wean themselves off of oil over the next few decades, energy use in the state and local consumption will drop, August said. These oil projects that are in the pipeline now will continue to produce oil over their 30- to 50-year lifetimes—and export it if they need to. Plus, August said, oil isn't an infinite resource. It will eventually run out, and we should be saving it for use in the products that it's vital for, such as heart valves.

“We hear a lot that we all depend on these things, and that's absolutely true right now, but that's something that the oil companies have created this situation where they've made their product ubiquitous in everything that we use,” August said. “This is a precious resource. ... We shouldn't be setting it on fire; it's a precious substance that we need to conserve so that the future has it for the needs that it's uniquely suited for.”

The plans

Cows intersperse with pumpjacks at the entrance to ERG's main facility off of Cat Canyon Road. Across the road and up the hill on the other side of the valley is Aera's property. Although similar in nature, the Aera and ERG projects are different. Aera would be building an operation essentially from the ground up, save for the roads and oil well pads that already exist on the property. ERG would be adding to its existing operation, which produced an average of 2,940 barrels of oil per day in 2014 from 500 active and idle wells, according to the final EIR.

Both projects would use steam in some way, heating water in generators before injecting it into sands between 2,500 and 3,500 feet below, letting it soak for days to months, before opening a well for it to flow up and out of.

“By heating the oil with steam, viscosity would be reduced, allowing the oil to more readily flow out of the reservoir, into the wells, and into the surface pipelines and processing areas,” Aera's draft EIR states.

Steam has been used in this way at Aera's site since the 1960s. On ERG's side of the canyon, steam was permitted for use in oil production in the 1980s.

The projects overlay the Santa Maria Valley Groundwater Basin, and wells are drilled through the shallow aquifer to reach the oil reservoir thousands of feet below it. Several of the public comments received about the projects are concerned “over contamination from routine drilling,” Energy Specialist Briggs said during his March 13 presentation.

Because of the comments received on the project's draft EIR, ERG modified the casing design of its wells for the final EIR to add an extra layer of cement and steel at the top—“an extra layer of protection that drops down into the freshwater aquifer,” Briggs said.

SCS Engineers' Eady said that ERG did that because they heard the public's concerns, and “protecting groundwater is of paramount importance.” At the hearing, Eady explained that the company has three existing freshwater wells in close proximity to both capped and active wells, some of which are cyclically steamed.



EMISSION PRODUCERS: Steam generators like the ones on ERG's property in Cat Canyon produce greenhouse gas emissions. The three oil projects proposed to the county all use steam to enhance their production of oil, which would emit a combined total of more than 700,000 tons of greenhouse gas every year at peak production.

“ERG has voluntarily monitored the quality of water in those wells since 2012. There is no sign of degradation or contamination in that time,” Eady said. “The wells we are designing are even stronger and better designed.”

For folks like Safe Energy Now's August, Eady's comments aren't reassuring.

“All of those wells go straight through the Santa Maria aquifer. There's a risk as the drilling happens. There's a risk as the well is being pressured. There's a risk after the well is not longer active. There's risk the whole time,” said August, who lives near Los Alamos. “And most of us are on groundwater. If we had to truck in water, we wouldn't be able to afford where we live. ... Maybe it's already contaminated; we don't even know.”

She points to a report on hydrogeologic conditions in the Santa Maria Valley as proof that not everything is as uncontaminated as the oil companies would lead the community to believe. The annual report released by the city of Santa Maria in April 2018 states that in addition to nitrate and pesticide contamination found in Santa Maria Valley Management Area water, “it is noted that point source contamination derives from historical use of organic chemicals, primarily petroleum products and their components

“Point sources of contamination are primarily old drilling sites, commercial underground fuel storage tanks, and oil refineries,” the report states. “It appears that as many as 60 active investigations of possible or confirmed contamination are being conducted between Sisquoc and Guadalupe under the requirements of the [Central Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board], which maintains primary responsibility for water quality protection.”

A trust thing

Companies such as HVI Cat Canyon (formerly known as Greka Energy) don't help the reputation of the oil industry. At a Feb. 12 hearing before the Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors on the compliance status of oil and gas operations in the county, Energy Division Deputy Director Zorovich explained that the majority of violations come from a single operator: HVI.

Andy Caldwell from the Coalition of Labor, Agriculture, and Business lamented the fact that HVI/Greka's compliance failures were lumped in with all of the other operators in the county.

“I wish you would separate Greka—or whatever their name is now—from all of the other operators because they gave all the other operators a black eye,” Caldwell said during the meeting. “The bottom line is the rest of the industry's record is absolutely stellar if you separate out that one company's

foibles over the years.”

Most recently, the California Department of Conservation Division of Oil, Gas, and Geothermal Resources (DOGGR) filed a stop-injection order against HVI Cat Canyon in December 2017 due to what it alleged was a failure to comply with regulations at an oil field the company operates in Orange County. The more than 1,500 instances of violations that DOGGR alleged included failing to perform well integrity tests and failing to submit accurate data to DOGGR.

An attorney for HVI filed a response to the order that “generally” denied the allegations, but in April 2018 DOGGR issued fines against the company totaling more than \$12 million.

In December 2018, the federal Environmental Protection Agency served search warrants at the oil company's facilities on Sinton Road in the Santa Maria Valley, although the EPA didn't specify why or what it was looking for.

Regardless of HVI's reputation as a bad actor, Aera and ERG are pushing the environmentally sensitive aspects of their projects. Both are attempting to develop operations that disturb as little of the surrounding environment as possible by using existing development on their sites.

Aera is pushing forward with what's termed the “oak avoidance alternative” in its draft EIR. This alternative would result in 95.5 acres of permanent ground disturbance as compared with the 201.4 acres under the initially proposed project, as well as cutting down 280 trees compared to 1,500 and the creation of 37 new well pads compared to 72.



LIFEBLOOD: Oil and water flow through the lines that crisscross the valley floor along Cat Canyon Road, which is the most developed portion of ERG's oil operation, according to Nathan Eady with SCS Engineers, who is working on the ERG project.

“It's going to cost more, but that's what we're going to do,” Rust from Aera said. “When we're challenged to lower our footprint and disturb less of the environment, we can get that done. We have the technology.”

ERG is moving forward with the no new well pads, reduced well count alternative outlined in the final EIR—county staff's preferred alternative. It reduces habitat impacts by 12.7 acres, would drill new wells off of existing well pads, and reduces the number of wells proposed by 20 percent.

ERG CEO Alan White, who spoke at the hearing on March 13, said that ERG will accept a reduction in production capacity because it respects the process and wants to reassure the public that it's committed to protecting the environment.

“Our employees and contractors who are represented in this room today all drink the same water and breathe the same air as everyone else in the room,” White said during the hearing. “Everyone at ERG wants to make sure that we protect the cherished environmental resources that are in Cat Canyon because it's such a special part of the county.”

John Wickenden, whose family has owned a ranch in Foxen Canyon for 182 years, told the *Sun* that his family has benefitted from its relationship with the companies that operate in Cat Canyon. Oil was discovered about 70 years ago on the eastern side of the property close to Cat Canyon. The five oil wells on Wickenden's family land are currently operated by ERG.

“We've had several people do business with us, and I'd have to say that ERG is the best one that we've ever dealt with, and they're outstanding as far as I'm concerned. They're tops,” Wickenden said. “They're up front, they care about safety. They're cognizant about the environment. ... They treat the leases right.”

That hasn't always been the case with oil companies that have operated the wells in the past, Wickenden said. Still, the ranch relies on groundwater, and he said they've never had a problem with contamination. One of the freshwater wells drilled on the eastern side of the property goes to about 400 feet. It's close to the oil wells, which are drilled to 2,000 feet or deeper, Wickenden said.

For 182 years, Wickenden said, they've never had any real problems with their hydrocarbon-producing neighbors and have operated symbiotically with them. His family has been able to continue its cattle business in tough times thanks to the additional oil income.

“We certainly don't want to ruin our property, and we want to keep it viable,” Wickenden said. “A lot of these negative things that you hear, like water and pollution and what-have-you, are overblown and are not really factual. Exaggerated is a good word.” ○

Editor Camillia Lanham can be reached at

BY CALEB WISEBLOOD

More than 10,000 Santa Barbara County residents use programs provided by the Pacific Pride Foundation (PPF), which operates out of only two locations, one in Santa Barbara and the other in Santa Maria. Through funding from the Santa Barbara Foundation, the Santa Maria location recently set up a new counseling office, where various mental health services will be offered.

A team of PPF counselors, trained in issues relevant to LGBTQ-plus mental health and wellness, will now host individual, couples, and family therapy programs in the new counseling room. Services will also be available to family members of the LGBTQ-plus community and those impacted by HIV.

Colette Schabram, executive director of the PPF, considers the addition to the Santa Maria location a crucial step toward the goal to offer all of the foundation's core programs at both locations, and in both English and Spanish. Finding funding was the first stepping stone for the Santa Maria launch, she explained.

"In order to identify, locate, and secure funding, we realized a larger, countywide conversation was necessary for community partners to understand the importance of an LGBTQ and HIV/AIDS counseling center, specializing in these [Santa Barbara County] populations," Schabram told the *Sun*.

"We couldn't be more excited to have

fiscal support from the Santa Barbara Foundation to help facilitate the launch of this program," Schabram continued. "We had been searching for that ideal community partner who could revitalize and invest in this critical support that has existed for decades."

The PPF began in 1976 as Western Addiction Services Program (WASP), a drug- and alcohol-abuse counseling and referral center for gay men and lesbians. The program began

offering free, anonymous HIV testing in 1984, in the midst of the emerging HIV epidemic.

Over the next few decades, the program became an invaluable resource for people living with HIV/AIDS and the LGBTQ-plus community in Santa Barbara County, as well as other coastal communities between Los Angeles and San Francisco.

What separates the PPF's counseling services from those of most other nonprofits is an assured cultural competence, Schabram explained.

"While numerous other nonprofits provide reputable, affordable counseling, we hear frequently that LGBTQ clients and clients living with HIV/AIDS are having to educate their therapists on their identities and needs," Schabram said. "This creates a barrier for the client and increases the

Spotlight on: Pacific Pride Foundation Colette Schabram, executive director



NEW COUNSELING ROOM: With funding from the Santa Barbara Foundation, the Pacific Pride Foundation's Santa Maria location recently added a new counseling office, where various mental health services will be offered.

likelihood of such clients ending therapy early and, in the future, not asking for help when they need it."

The PPF Santa Maria location is located at 123 S. College Drive, Santa Maria. Call (805) 963-3636, Ext. 108, or visit pacificpridefoundation.org for more information.

Highlights:

- The Santa Maria Valley Chamber of Commerce hosts its annual Strawberry Industry Recognition Dinner on April 3, from 6 to 9 p.m. at Santa Maria Fairpark, located at 937 S. Thornburg, Santa Maria. The event includes dinner, live music, a raffle, and presentations from local strawberry industry professionals. For more info on attending or sponsoring the event, visit santamaria.com/events.
- Envoy Mortgage opened a new office in Santa Maria, located at 2345 S. Broadway, suite A, Santa Maria. Contact sales manager/loan originator Eddie San Jose at (805) 614-7144 or visit envoymortgage.com for more information. ○

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.

SCHOOL SCENE

Approved transparency bill will impact local charter schools

A newly signed bill will require all California charter schools to adhere to the same transparency laws that public schools follow, and the soon-to-be state law is expected to impact Santa Barbara County's charters in varying ways.

Senate Bill 126, which Gov. Gavin Newsom signed on March 5, will take effect on Jan. 1, 2020, and will require that all state charter schools and management organizations follow accountability standards set by public records and open meeting laws such as the Brown or Bagley Keene acts, the Public Records Act, conflict of interest provisions, and the Political

Reform Act, according to the bill's text.

While Newsom and the bill's authors touted it as a "historic" piece of legislation that will hold charter schools truly accountable for the first time, some local charter leaders say they've already been doing what the law will require.

"It won't have a significant impact on the way we do business," said Suzanne Nicastro, principal of Manzanita Public Charter School in Lompoc.

Nicastro moved into the world of charter education after a lengthy career in traditional public schools, and said she was accustomed to working transparently and wanted to continue

doing that at Manzanita. Manzanita complies with transparency and public access laws, Nicastro said, and therefore all of Manzanita's board meetings are public, information regarding those meetings is posted online, and no school employees serve on Manzanita's board—a guideline that was considered during the writing of SB 126 and later changed after it sparked turmoil among many charter leaders.

Nicastro said charters are held to a higher standard of accountability when it comes to student



STAMP OF APPROVAL: Gov. Gavin Newsom signed Senate Bill 126 on March 5, alongside representatives from the California Charter School Association, California Teachers Association, and other education supporters.

achievement and there is generally less oversight when it comes to business and fiscal goings on. Though charters do go through audits, Nicastro said there has been evidence that charters across the nation tend to be less fiscally healthy than traditional public schools.

"Really I think this bill is all about transparency and making sure the public understands how public funds are spent," she said. "I do believe that what makes charters unique is not how we operate fiscally but how we operate instructionally."

At Trivium Charter School this bill will have an impact, according to Executive Director Trisha Vais.

Unlike Manzanita, Trivium is a non-classroom based charter school, so Vais said most Trivium students are homeschooled for parts of each week. Instead of classrooms and schools, Trivium uses learning centers whenever students can come in, and it has six centers across Santa Barbara and San Luis Obispo counties.

Because of the unusual schedule, Vais said

Trivium uses high-end technology to stay in contact with its parents.

Trivium streams its board meetings so that parents can watch or interact from home, but SB 126 will require charters to set up a "two-way teleconference" station at each resource center.

Vais called this requirement "overburdensome," and said Trivium will likely need to pay staff members to run the teleconference sites during meetings, even though most parents will likely continue watching the meetings from their homes.

Vais said these compliance measures will take some time and money away from creatively and effectively educating local children. It's unnecessary conditions like this one that Vais said could have been debated if SB 126 hadn't been pushed through so quickly.

"It's a bit ironic that it's about transparency and it wasn't transparent in the way it was done," she said. ○

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

Saul Paz

It's not often that 9-year-olds set personal goals for themselves, but Orcutt fourth grader Saul Paz isn't your typical kid—he's a state champion wrestler.

Paz has been wrestling at All-American Elite Athletics for the past four years, and last year, Paz played a season of football before returning to the mat. He fought through a state tournament last season but didn't place.

He was disappointed with his performance, according to his mom, Lizeth Paz, so he decided to give up football to focus on becoming a champion wrestler.

As a result, he achieved his goal and became the 71-pound champion at this year's California USA Wrestling State Championships.

"Saul is a leader on the team and a pleasure to coach," said coach Anthony Dakuras. "He has a great attitude, never gives up, and he is always trying his hardest, and that is why he has been successful." ○

—Kasey Bubnash



PHOTO COURTESY OF LIZETH PAZ



Let Your Imagination Soar at the Santa Maria Valley Discovery Museum



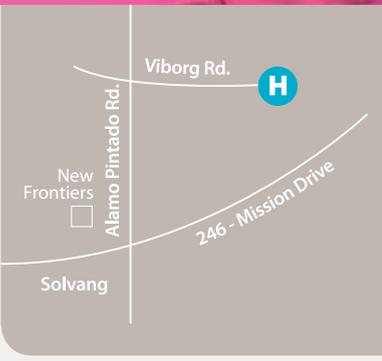
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Janice | Solvang

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Online Poll

The Santa Maria Library can now help you with getting a passport. What other services should it add?

- 38%** Extend the hours it's open.
- 38%** Put in a bar!
- 15%** It should let me rent video games.
- 9%** Offer yoga classes so I can stretch out while I read.

13 Votes

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One man, one ruler?

Cutting through all the talk about Trump and his supporters versus the rising opposition made up of Democrats, independents, and some Republicans, what it comes down to is one-man rule versus our democratic system of government.

Many Trump supporters understand this division and choice and completely accept the one-man rule that Trump is in essence pushing for. He believes the attorney general should serve as his personal attorney. He rejects any investigation of his presidency, either by Congress as set forth in the Constitution or a special counsel.

It is no more impossible that a large percentage of Americans would abandon democracy than it is impossible that they would elect Donald Trump and the anti-race, anti-immigrant platform he pledged to give us.

Is one-man rule better than the democracy we have now? History has lessons, ready and waiting. The best of these lessons is available in movies and books. It is Germany in the '20s, '30s, and '40s. An educated German people schooled in democracy eagerly switched to one-man rule over that time period, believing the strongman's promise to make Germany great again. The steps of the change, one by one, are all cataloged well in movies and books for our education. From start to end, anyone can see the progress and people's support for this radical change—a flight from democracy to something promised as better.

Spoiler alert. One-man rule didn't end as predicted by the one-man ruler. Instead, it ended in a vast failure of epic proportions with terrible suffering and the agonizing death of millions of humans—including Russian soldiers, American soldiers, German soldiers, and German citizens.

Today, Americans aren't interested in history or books. While they like movies, they don't like historical documentaries. Few are familiar with the details of this one-man-rule story in Western history. Strongman rule sounds good to them, despite the many failures of the current wannabe one-man ruler to deliver on past promises! Vile, trust-eroding radio and TV talkers have made the new one-man-rule enthusiasts ready for another Western democracy to unwisely embrace the one man who "absolutely promised" to cure all national ills.

But for those who still have some sense of the value of history, at least watch those well-documented movies on Germany in the '20s, '30s, and '40s. The America that has done so much for so many at least deserves that easy study. The BBC has particularly good programs on this history.

After watching this history, ask yourself—which path is preferable: messy, disagreement-plagued democracy or clean, simple one-man rule? You'll be armed with facts to answer the question.

William Gloege
Santa Maria

ERG versus our community

A donnybrook took place on March 13 at the county Planning Commission meeting in Santa Maria over whether to approve a large expansion of ERG oil and gas drilling in Cat Canyon. ERG Resources faced off against an army of resource and climate defenders.

In the morning, the county Planning Department and ERG Inc. presented the final environmental impact report (EIR) and their case for going ahead with 187 new super steam injecting wells drilled through the Santa

Maria groundwater basin. After lunch, the commissioners heard comments from about 50 to 100 attendees. The comments were about 2-to-1 against this Sisquoc mega development.

Commenting first, I got one minute to describe several "inadequacies" in the EIR. I picked three big ones, which were:

1. ERG is ignoring a natural gas risk management plan requirement.
2. The EIR ignores recent federal findings of cyclic steam oil extraction causing groundwater contamination.
3. The EIR doesn't describe code compliance by ERG at their current facilities, let alone potential compliance with regulations at a much larger and more dangerous facility.

After hearing all the comments, the Planning Commission said it will only consider comments from ERG, county planners, and one opposing group, the Environmental Defense Center (EDC), at its next meeting. The EDC did a fantastic job in revealing many EIR flaws, but then why did we all spend the whole day there?

To ignore other EIR inadequacies that myself and others detailed is a blatant violation of the review process. Will the commission conduct a legal evaluation of the EIR at their March 27 meeting? Stay tuned.

Larry Bishop
Buellton

This is adult content

Readers under 45 years old should not continue! You would not understand the information presented here.

We have seen the first worldwide demonstration of indoctrination. Students walked out of classes to protest inaction on climate change. College students are free to demonstrate and miss class time. It's their dime. However, students as young as 13 took to podiums to recite the climate change mantra. My first point would be that students in taxpayer-supported schools do not have a right of civil disobedience. You must attend classes or be disciplined accordingly. You may disagree,

WRITE NOW! We want to know what you think about every-thing. Send your 250-word letter to Sun Letters, 2450 Skyway Drive, Suite A, Santa Maria, CA 93455. You can also fax it (347-9889) or e-mail it (letters@santamariasun.com). All letters must include a name, address, and phone number for verification purposes; may be edited for space or clarity; and will be posted to santamariasun.com.

but I think they are behaving like parrots. They lack the skills or even curiosity to challenge what they have been told to believe.

What we see here is *Rules for Radicals*, a guide of methods to disrupt society, being acted out. Saul Alinsky published this little handbook in 1971 as guide to overthrow government. If you have not read it you should. Barack Obama is BFFs with William Ayers, who would still be in an orange jumpsuit for terrorist acts against the United States, barring a legal technicality. Hillary Clinton excused and praised Alinsky, citing him in her thesis at Wellesley College. If all this doesn't scare you, well I don't know why.

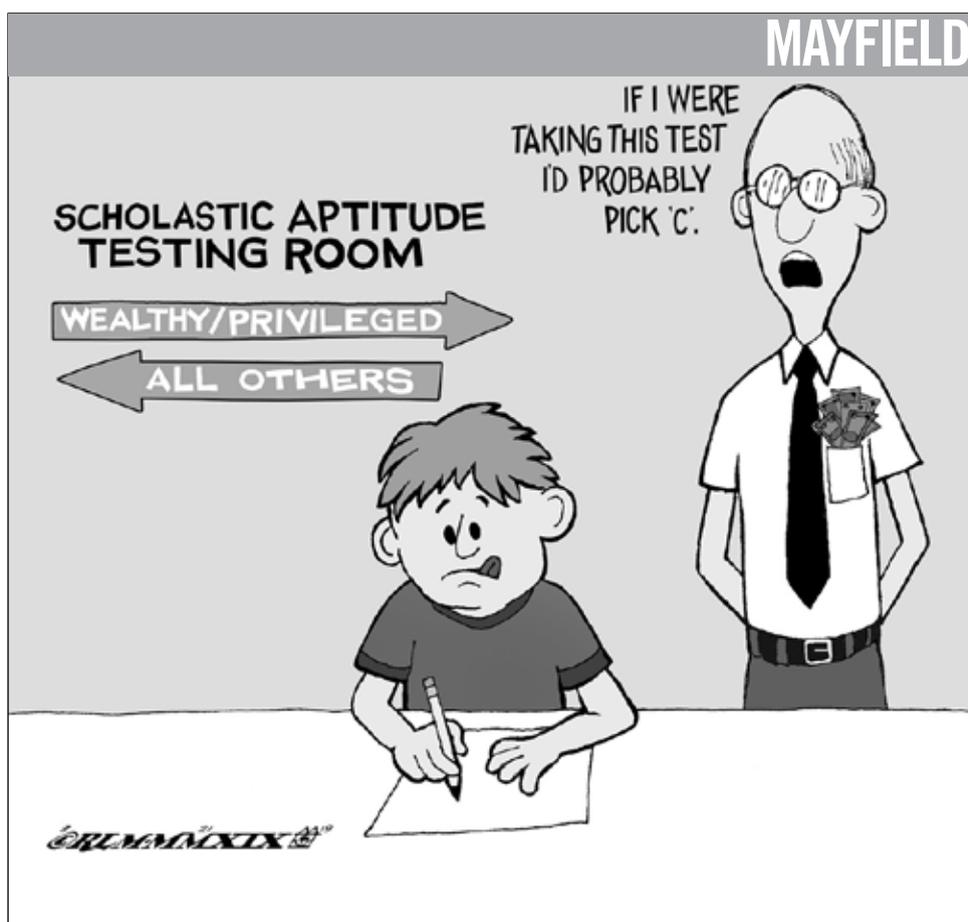
What we have on the table is a repeat of the Woodrow Wilson and Franklin Delano Roosevelt administrations in the 1920s and '30s. The politicians, industrialists, and sheeple (the public) embraced socialism and eugenics (making a master race).

In *The Forgotten Man: A New History of the Great Depression*, author Amity Shlaes chronicles how government can commandeer a country to its own vision and profit at the expense of the everyday citizen. A vision that is contrary to our founding: "Government of the people, by the people, for the people."

We have weathered these waters before, and a totalitarian government has been rejected in the past. But never have we had the influences of filtered news, filtered internet, scholastic indoctrination, and a population occupied with distractions of social media and gaming.

You may have lost the ambition to give a damn. However, if you have children

LETTERS continued page 16



RECOGNIZING EVERYDAY LEADERS

Sun, March 24, 2019

11am-2pm

Radisson Hotel Santa Maria
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This awards ceremony was initiated in 2016 by community members who believe it is pivotal to honor and recognize leaders in our community. Specifically, these awards recognize Latino leaders who everyday take the initiative to go above and beyond by coaching a sports team, by speaking for those who feel they don't have a voice, or by helping others develop their leadership skills. This is an opportunity to demonstrate our gratitude for their positive contribution to our community.

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Puppy-gate 2019

Before I get into all of the drama associated with **Animal Kingdom Pet Shop**—yes, once again, that little shop at the **Santa Maria Town Center Mall** with cute little puppies in its windows is in the doghouse—I must get one thing off my small, shapely, feathered chest.

Who pays \$2,000 for a freakin' puppy? Seriously. There are a few dozen dogs on the **Santa Maria Valley Humane Society's Facebook** page who are just dying to go home with somebody who will love them, hug them, walk them, and feed them. Your \$2,000 could go a long way for one of these homeless pups.

Jen Toste from Arroyo Grande paid that much and then some for her goldendoodle puppy, **Lola**, that she fell in love with at one of the many **Animal Kingdom** shops on the Central Coast in 2018. Her beloved GDP has cost her at least \$10,000 in surgeries, medications, and vets appointments since that fateful day in front of some shopping mall window, and she's hoping to get reimbursed for her trouble through a civil lawsuit filed in **San Luis Obispo County**.

See, little Lola started limping about three months after Toste brought Lola to her forever home.

"If **Animal Kingdom** had any type of ethical component to their business and really a true love for animals, they would have sourced differently," Toste told the *Sun*.

I mean, that pet shop has been in all sorts of trouble with community members over the last few years, so, really, I could say the same for you, Toste, for choosing to make your poochie purchase from this shop with a shady history. Yes ma'am, from puppy mill protests at the local mall to **Animal Kingdom's** alleged violations of California's infamous puppy lemon law (yes, that's a thing) and a **Santa Maria City Council** that wouldn't ban retail pet sales in the city, the *Sun* has had the local puppy beat on lockdown since 2016.

And we're here for you puppy peeps one more time! As puppy-gate reappears for another round of animal lovers gone wild. And yes, your favorite animal advocacy group **No More Pet Store Puppies 805** and its founder **Christine Collier** are back in action!

"If Animal Kingdom had any type of ethical component to their business and really a true love for animals, they would have sourced differently."

—Jen Toste

Toste did actually get a "lemon," if you could call a loved family pet by that term. Lola was diagnosed with a bad case of hip dysplasia as a puppy, which sucks. I hate to see a pup in pain. It's something that is preventable with responsible breeding, according to the **Orthopedic Foundation for Animals**. And that insinuates that **Animal Kingdom** is once again in the hot seat for dealing with disreputable breeders. Seriously? WTF? You didn't learn your lesson from puppy-gate 2017?

This time around the supposed culprit is **Bark Adoptions Rescue**, which is currently being investigated for shady dealings by counties across the state, including **SLO County Animal Services**. **Santa Barbara County Animal Services**, on the other hand, knows there are "alleged issues" with **Animal Kingdom**, according to **Community Outreach Coordinator Stacy Silva**, but doesn't care enough (my words, not Silva's) to do more than "actively monitor the store."

And although **San Diego County** has found enough shady shit to fine stores \$500 per pet for dealing with **Bark Adoptions**, **SLO County** seems to think that (at this point, anyway) everything that it's looking into is in the clear. So I don't know what to think other than that you people should save your money and adopt from a shelter.

So possibly, **Animal Kingdom** is in the clear, but Toste did call **Animal Kingdom's** owner **Adam Tipton** an "evil man" who's awful to work with, which should absolutely count for something! Sick burn! Although **Tipton's** shop didn't return our request for comment this time around, in 2017, he did say that "there's a bunch of wackos out there that want to harass people."

Which is true. Have you attended any of the recent oil hearings? Case-in-point. There's something about these oil projects in **Cat Canyon** that have got the crowd attending public hearings riled up enough to shout down people who are having their turn at the microphone. Rude!

Once again, why are you environmentalists making me take the oil companies' side? It's really starting to chap the underside of my wings. Between the March 13 **ERG** hearing, the Jan. 17 **Aera Energy** hearing, and the plastic whale-toters protesting **Plains All-American Pipeline**, I can see that things are only ramping up on both sides.

Thank goodness I have something I can hang my liberal hat on. It's the total number of oil wells that **ERG**, **Aera**, and **PetroRock**, are planning to drill into the **Cat Canyon Oil Field**! I feel like I need a drumroll for this one! According to a March 13 presentation on the **ERG** project by **Energy Supervisor Errin Briggs** with the **Santa Barbara County Planning and Development Department's Energy Division**, that number could total 666.

I'll just leave that right there. You're welcome, environmentalists. ○

The canary doesn't believe in *El Diablo*. Send comments to canary@santamariasun.com.

LETTERS from page 15

and grandchildren, and in my case great-grandchildren, do you want them to live in **Aldous Huxley's Brave New World**? Should we live in fear of our government? Should life be snuffed when it's inconvenient whether at birth or old age? How cold and detached do you have to be to not celebrate life and freedom?

It's in our Declaration of Independence that we have the God-given right to life, freedom, and the pursuit of happiness (not guaranteed).

Dismiss this as the rantings of some old fool. Fear the consequence for your children. When asked what kind of government the Founding Fathers created at the Constitutional Convention, **Benjamin Franklin** replied, "a Republic, if you can keep it." It's the envy of people who seek freedom, from all over the world who want to come here. Why would you abandon such a gift?

Jan Lipski
Vandenberg Village

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BIG BLUE

The NatureTrack Film Festival presents the U.S. premiere of *Our Planet*, an upcoming Netflix series on March 24, at 10 a.m. at St. Mark's-in-the-Valley Church in Los Olivos. The audience will be able to view part one of the series, which doesn't stream on Netflix until April 5, and exclusive bonus footage. More info: naturetrackfilmfestival.org.

PHOTO COURTESY OF THE NATURETRACK FILM FESTIVAL

SPECIAL EVENTS

SANTA YNEZ VALLEY

SECOND ANNUAL NATURETRACK FILM FESTIVAL

Screenings include *Free Solo*, *Our Planet*, and many more. Visit site for full schedule, list of venues, and more info. **March 22-24** Varies. naturetrackfilmfestival.org. St. Mark's in the Valley Episcopal Church, 2901 Nojoqui Ave., Los Olivos.

LOMPOC/VANDENBERG

FIRE AND ICE HOEDOWN

Features a live and silent auction, catered buffet dinner, and live music by Mike Day's Too Little Too Late. Proceeds benefit Lompoc Fire Department. **March 23**, 5:30-11 p.m. \$50. 805-736-1901. Anderson Recreation Center, 125 W. Walnut Ave., Lompoc, cityoflompoc.com/parks_rec/anderson.htm.

MOUNTAIN MEN ENCAMPMENT

Buckskin clad members of the American Mountain Men share mountain men history and skills, including cooking, hide preparation and tanning, leather working, rope making, and blacksmithing. **March 30** explorelompoc.com. La Purisima Mission, 2295 Purisima Mission, Lompoc.

SANTA MARIA VALLEY/LOS ALAMOS

29TH ANNUAL KIWANIS CENTRAL COAST ALL-STAR BASKETBALL SPECTACULAR

Featuring high school senior all-star players local to the Central Coast. **March 23**, 5 & 7 p.m. 805-264-1523. Allan Hancock College, 800 S. College Drive, Santa Maria.

THE LATINO LEGACY AWARDS

A ceremony to recognize everyday Latino leaders. **March 24**, 11 a.m.-2 p.m. 805-925-1010. Radisson Hotel, 3455 Airpark Dr., Santa Maria.

OPEN STREETS: SANTA MARIA

A mile of car free space for people of all ages to play and be active. On Main Street in Santa Maria. Visit site for full route. **March 31**, 11 a.m.-5 p.m. Free. santamariaopenstreets.org. Santa Maria Town Center, 142 Town Center East, Santa Maria.

ROYAL FAMILY KIDS DINNER LIVE AUCTION AND CONCERT

Enjoy a western barbecue with all the fixings, an auction hosted by Jim Glines, and live music from Dave Stamey. **March 23**, 6 p.m. Tickets start at \$60. Santa Maria Fairpark, 937 S. Thornburg St., Santa Maria.

SOUTH COAST SLO COUNTY

24TH ANNUAL CENTRAL COAST ORCHID SHOW AND SALE

Feature exhibits from the show vendors and

local orchid societies. **March 30-31** 805-929-5749. fcos.org. South County Regional Center, 800 W. Branch, Arroyo Grande.

HYMN FEST AND ORGAN DEDICATION

Featuring seven Central Coast organists. Reception to follow. **March 31**, 3-4 p.m. Free admission. Community Presbyterian Church of Pismo Beach, 990 Dolliver St., Pismo Beach.

SAN LUIS OBISPO

CCB 21ST ANNIVERSARY PARTY

A parking lot party to celebrate 21 years of brewing. The patio will be open, with an outdoor bar, food truck, and lawn games. **March 23**, 1-10 p.m. Free. 805-783-2937. centralcoastbrewing.com. Central Coast Brewing, 6 Higuera Street, San Luis Obispo.

CENTRAL COAST GUITAR SHOW

Buy, sell, trade, and see all things guitar, new, used, and vintage, other musical instruments and services. **March 30**, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. \$7-\$10. 805-431-3067. centralcoastguitarshow.com. Veteran's Memorial Building, 801 Grand Ave., San Luis Obispo.

CENTRAL COAST MUSIC CON

Annual local music industry conference, connecting musicians, bands, venues, promoters, studios, media, and music businesses of all sorts. **March 24**, 12-10 p.m. Varies. my805tix.com. SLO Brew Rock, 855 Aerovista Pl., San Luis Obispo, 209-417-7748.

DARE TO WEAR GREEN GALA AND SILENT AUCTION: A BENEFIT FOR OUTSIDE NOW

This beloved annual fundraiser features creative auction and raffle items, gourmet appetizers, desserts, fine local wines and beers, Coastal Peaks coffee, and Whalebird kombucha. Includes live music by Hot Club of SLO and Choro de Ouro. **March 23**, 6-9 p.m. \$25. 805-541-9900. outsidenow.org/dtwg. Odd Fellows Hall, 520 Dana St., San Luis Obispo.

INSPIRED HEALTH AND FITNESS EXPO OF SLO

The central coast's largest health and fitness expo. Meet local

health, fitness, and wellness professionals. Educational workshops and seminars offered. **March 23**, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. and **March 24**, 10 a.m.-3 p.m. Free admission. 805-772-4600. inspiredexpos.com. Alex Madonna Expo Center, 100 Madonna Rd, San Luis Obispo.

SPAGHETTI WESTERN FUNDRAISER: ROTARY CLUB OF SLO

Proceeds benefit local student scholarships. Enjoy dinner, wine, line dancing, westerns movies, a cake walk, carnival games, a silent auction, and more. **March 23**, 5-8 p.m. \$25 adults; free for kids 12 and under. 805-769-8779. slorotary.org/. San Luis Obispo Vets' Hall, 801 Grand Ave., San Luis Obispo.

ARTS

CLASSES & WORKSHOPS

SANTA YNEZ VALLEY

WATERCOLOR AND WINE WORKSHOP

This introductory class to watercolor will go over basic techniques for creating texture and dimension, as well as color blending. Each attendee will practice techniques and then apply them when creating a larger wall piece. **March 24**, 4-6 p.m. \$69. Zaca Mesa Winery, 6905 Foxen Canyon Road, Los Olivos.

SANTA MARIA VALLEY/LOS ALAMOS

BALLROOM, LATIN, AND SWING LESSONS

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

BASIC WATERCOLOR

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

BEADING WORKSHOP

Thursdays, noon 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.

SANTA MARIA SEWING SUPERSTORE CLASSES

Visit site for full list of classes and more details. Mondays-Thursdays, 10 a.m.-6 p.m. santamariasewing.com. Santa Maria Sewing Superstore, 127 E. Main St., Santa Maria, 805-922-1784.

SPRING MAKERSPACE

Events take place in the learning center. Call for full schedule and more info. Saturdays, 10 a.m.-3 p.m. and Wednesdays, 5-7 p.m. through May 29 Free. 805-925-0994. Santa Maria Public Library, 421 S. McClelland St., Santa Maria.

SUBMIT YOUR EVENTS

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.

INDEX

Special Events	[17]
Arts	[17]
Culture & Lifestyle.....	[20]
Food & Drink.....	[22]
Music	[24]

ARTS continued page 18

SWING, BALLROOM, AND LATIN DANCE

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

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

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

SOUTH COAST SLO COUNTY**ACRYLIC POUR: INTERMEDIATE WORKSHOP**

With artist and teacher Shelley Kenny. Learn Intermediate techniques and tips. Wednesdays, 6-8 p.m. through May 29 \$40. 805-534-3732. theartgalanipomo.com. Gala De Arte Plaza, 136 N Thompson Ave. B, Nipomo.

CHANDELIER/DROP EARRING WORKSHOP An afternoon of wine and jewelry creation. **March 24**, 2-5 p.m. \$60. 805-550-9963. theartgalanipomo.com. Gala De Arte Plaza, 136 N Thompson Ave. B, Nipomo.

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.

MAGICAL PLACES IN CLOTH Combine fabric, felt, and acrylics. Let the patterns, colors, and textures inspire your own unique direction. **March 27**, 6-8 p.m. \$25. 805-668-2125. lila.community. LiA Creative Community, 1147 East Grand Ave. Suite 101, Arroyo Grande.

OPEN STUDIO FOR HOMESCHOOLED CHILDREN

Includes drawing, painting, sewing, weaving, mixed media, printmaking, and 3-dimensional building in a safe, non-competitive environment. Fridays, 9 a.m.-2 p.m. \$20 per hour. 805-668-2125. LiA Creative Community, 1147 East Grand Ave. Suite 101, Arroyo Grande, lila.community.

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. LiA Creative Community, 1147 East Grand Ave. Suite 101, Arroyo Grande.

**SAN LUIS OBISPO****CABARET SINGING AND PERFORMANCE CLASS**

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

FILM & TV ACTING CLASSES! Film & TV Acting Classes for all ages and skill levels. Optional showcases for major Hollywood talent agents & casting directors. 8-12:45 pm. Varies per class. 310-910-1228. actorsedge.com. Mission Cinemas, 1025 Monterey St., SLO.

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.

PAINT YOUR PET WITH KARYN BLANEY Karyn will walk guests through the process of painting your pet. All skill levels welcome. **March 30**, 12-2 p.m. \$45. 903-368-2496. artcentralartsupply.com/current-workshops.php. Art Central, 1329 Monterey St., San Luis Obispo.

PAINTING SEASCAPES WITH STRONG VALUES No prior experience required. Paper is supplied, students supply their own paint and brushes. **March 28**, 10:30 a.m.-1 p.m. \$45. 805-688-9977. artcentralartsupply.com/current-workshops.php. Art Central, 1329 Monterey St., San Luis Obispo.

PAINTING SEASCAPES WITH STRONG VALUES IN WATERCOLOR WITH HARWOOD "WOODY" BENTON Guests start from a blank page and learn how to paint a watercolor seascape from start to finish. **March 23**, 10:30 a.m.-1 p.m. \$45. 805-688-9977. artcentralartsupply.com/current-workshops.php. Art Central, 1329 Monterey St., San Luis Obispo.

SHORT FORM GAMES IMPROV CLASS Explore short form improv games and get the opportunity to perform in a class show. Sundays, 6-8 p.m. through April 7 \$125. 805-242-3109. centralcoastcomedytheater.com/classes. Tigerlily Salon Studio, 659 Higuera St.,

START, RUN AND GROW YOUR BUSINESS A 10-week entrepreneurial training course designed for anyone who is/or aspires to be a small business owner. Taught by Lorelei Sibet. Wednesdays, 5:30-8:30 p.m. through May 15 \$395. 805-595-1357. mcscorp.org/entrepreneurial-training-courses. MCSC's Women's Business Center, 71 Zaca Ln., #130, San Luis Obispo.

ZAPOTEC CULTURE AND WEAVING TRADITION Zapotec weaver Dr. Samuel Bautista Lazo from Oaxaca Mexico is visiting California to share his family's weaving heritage, their indigenous way of life, and cultural craft of the Zapotec people. **March 22**, 5:30-7 p.m. \$5-\$10. 805-541-1400 x 303. slobg.org/calendar-of-events/zapotec. San Luis Obispo Botanical Garden, 3450 Dairy Creek Rd., San Luis Obispo.

ZAPOTEC WEAVING IMMERSION WORKSHOP

Taught by Samuel Bautista Lazo. **March 23**, 9 a.m.-5 p.m. and **March 24**, 9 a.m.-5 p.m. \$240. 805-541-9900. outsidenow.org/events. Crows End Retreat Center, 6340 Squire Ct., San Luis Obispo.

SPECIAL ART EVENTS**LOMPOC/VANDENBERG**

FABING-MCKAY-SPANNE OPEN HOUSE Guests can feel free to tour the museum, carriage and car displays, blacksmith shop and reference room, and more. **March 30**, 10 a.m.-1 p.m. explorelomdoc.com. Fabing McKay Spanne House, 207 N. L St., Lompoc, 805-735-4626.

SANTA MARIA VALLEY/LOS ALAMOS**ANN FOXWORTHY ART TALK SERIES: ARTIST MICHAEL LONG**

All ages are welcome. Long will speak about his process, thoughts and inspiration for his assemblage pieces. A short Q&A will follow **March 28**, 6-7 p.m. Free. 805-922-6966 ext 3465. Ann Foxworthy Gallery, 800 S. College Dr., Santa Maria, hancockcollege.edu/gallery/.

THE LOS PADRES ARTIST GUILD'S SPRING SHOW A benefit for the Santa Maria Valley Humane Society. This show features jewelry, pottery, woodwork, crafts, and more. **March 30**, 10 a.m.-3 p.m. Free admission. Oasis Senior Center, 420 Soares Ave., Orcutt, 805-937-9750.

SOUTH COAST SLO COUNTY

WOMEN'S EVENING OF RENEWAL On the last Wednesday of every month, come share two hours with other women exploring ideas of motherhood, family, relationships, friendships, and ourselves through the creative process. Guests will use collage, drawing, painting, and poetry. Last Wednesday of every month, 6-8 p.m. \$25. 805-668-2125. LiA Creative Community, 1147 East Grand Ave. Suite 101, Arroyo Grande, lila.community.

EXHIBITS**SANTA YNEZ VALLEY**

ARTISTIC PATHS: PEGGY FLETCHER AND PATRICIA WATKINS Fletcher is a soft touch watercolorist with a delicate palette. Watkins is a bead and jewelry designer. Meet and Greet takes place on March 16. Through March 31, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Free. 805-688-7517. GalleryLosOlivos.com. Gallery Los Olivos, 2920 Grand Ave., Los Olivos.

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

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

PAVLOV GALLERY: FEATURED ARTISTS

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

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 FACULTY SHOW The gallery is open Monday through Thursday from 9 a.m. to 7:45 p.m. and Friday from 9 a.m. to 2:45 p.m. Through April 13 Ann Foxworthy Gallery, 800 S. College Dr., Santa Maria, 805-922-6966, Ext. 3252, hancockcollege.edu/gallery/.

**GO FOR THE GREEN**

The American Junior Golf Association hosts its Youth Golf Tournament on March 29, 30, and 31 at La Purisima Golf Course in Lompoc. Nearly 80 players, from ages 12 to 19, will compete. Admission to watch the tournament is free. More info: (805) 735-8395 or lapurisimagolf.com.

JERI YOUNG: FEATURED ARTIST This exhibit is part of an ongoing series of shows to spotlight local art and artists. Through June 27 Ameriprise Financial, 2605 S Miller St., Suite 104, Santa Maria.

LOCAL ART AND ARTISTS: CONTINUING SERIES

An ongoing series of shows, facilitated by advisor Terry Dworczyk, to spotlight local art and artists. Each show includes an artist reception. ongoing Ameriprise Financial, 2605 S Miller St., Suite 104, Santa Maria.

MICHAEL LONG: FEATURED ARTIST The gallery is open Monday through Thursday from 9 a.m. to 7:45 p.m. and Friday from 9 a.m. to 2:45 p.m. **March 27-April 11** Ann Foxworthy Gallery, 800 S. College Dr., Santa Maria, 805-922-6966, Ext. 3252, hancockcollege.edu/gallery/.

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

SAN LUIS OBISPO

BEACON ART SHOW Juried art exhibit. This year's theme is "Blessed and Soaring." Thursdays-Sundays, 11 a.m.-4 p.m. through March 31 Free. SLO United Methodist Church, 1515 Fredericks St., San Luis Obispo, 805-543-7580.

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.

HERE AND THERE: KEN CHRISTENSEN Featuring Ken Christensen's original oils inspired by California, New Mexico, and France. Through May 28 805-542-9000. sloart.com. Frame Works, 339 Marsh St., San Luis Obispo.

INFORMAL TALK: LEON AMYX MINI-RETO EXHIBIT BY CHET AMYX

An opportunity to view Leon Amyx's Mini-RETO EXHIBIT. PHOTO COURTESY OF GALA DE ARTE

**NO PAINT, NO GAIN**

Gala De Arte in Nipomo hosts its next acrylic pour workshop on March 27 from 6 to 8 p.m. Guests will learn intermediate pouring techniques during these classes, offered every Wednesday evening through May 29. Admission is \$40. More info: (805) 550-3732 or theartgalanipomo.com.

Retro Exhibit and listen to his son Chet Amyx reflect on his father's accomplishments from 1929 to 1993. **March 23**, 2-3 p.m. Free. 805-234-7238. artcentralslo.wordpress.com. Art Central, 1329 Monterey St., San Luis Obispo.

CALLS FOR ARTISTS**SAN LUIS OBISPO**

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

CALL FOR ARTISTS: AWAKEN SLO COUNTY STUDENTS A year-long program celebrating art and community expressed through the imaginative creations of our county's students. Three student exhibitions will be displayed at SLOMA throughout the year. Through May 12 Free. 805-543-8562. sloma.org. San Luis Obispo Museum of Art, 1010 Broad St., San Luis Obispo.

NORTH COAST SLO COUNTY

CALL FOR ARTISTS: FROM NATURAL TO ABSTRACTION Submit your interpretation of abstraction for MBAA's "From Natural to Abstraction" exhibit. Through April 2 \$5-\$10 each submission. 805-772-2504. artcentermorroby.org. Art Center Morro Bay, 835 Main St., Morro Bay.

STAGE**SANTA MARIA VALLEY/LOS ALAMOS**

ONE SLIGHT HITCH Written by Lewis Black. Directed by John Shade. **March 22-April 7** smct.org. Santa Maria Civic Theatre, 1660 N. McClelland St., Santa Maria.

THE WOLVES A 2017 Pulitzer Prize finalist. Through March 24 Severson Theatre, 800 S. College Dr., Santa Maria, 805-928-7731, pcpa.org.

SOUTH COAST SLO COUNTY

UNNECESSARY FARCE A hysterical comedy by Paul Slade Smith. Following every performance is the brand new vaudeville jungle adventure. Wednesdays-Sundays, through April 28 \$23-\$30. 805-489-2499. americanmelodrama.com/. Great American Melodrama, 1863 Front St., Oceano.

SAN LUIS OBISPO

CORE DANCE COMPANY RHYTHMS CORE Dance Company presents their annual dance performance. Special guests include San Luis Jazz, Class Act, Artistry in Motion, and American Dance Alumni. **March 23**, 7-9:30 p.m. and **March 24**, 2-4:30 p.m. \$18-\$36. 805-756-4TIX. Spanos Theatre, Cal Poly, San Luis Obispo.

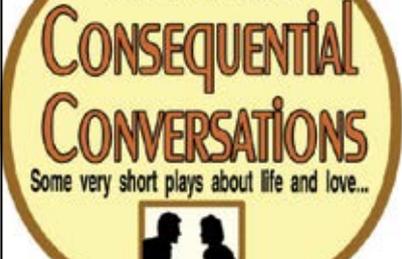
KILLER COMEDY EXTRAVAGANZA SLO Comedy and 7 Sisters Brewing presents an evening of comedy featuring Sammy Obeid (*America's Got Talent*, *Conan*), plus Bay Area comic Jeanette Marin and Morro Bay's Stormy Silva. Limited seating available. **March 23**, 7-9 p.m. \$10. 805-868-7133. 7Sisters Brewing Company, 181 Tank Farm Rd. Suite 110, San Luis Obispo, 7SistersBrewing.com.

NORTH SLO COUNTY

OVER THE RIVER AND THROUGH THE WOODS Wine Country Theatre presents this lovable comedy that explores family and the many ways we stay connected. **March 22-April 7** \$15-\$25. my805tix.com. Park Ballroom, 1232 Park St., Paso Robles, 805-238-5042.

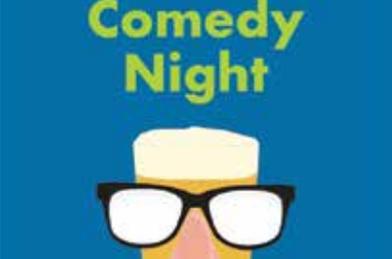
NORTH COAST SLO COUNTY

CONSEQUENTIAL CONVERSATIONS A collection of brief plays about life and love. **March 22**, 7 p.m., **March**



Consequential Conversations
MARCH 22-24
By the Sea Productions

Some very short plays about life and love...



Killer Comedy Extravaganza!
SATURDAY, MARCH 23
7Sisters Brewing Co.



Central Coast Music Con
SUNDAY, MARCH 24
SLO Brew Rock Event Center

CALLING ALL:
MUSICIANS · BANDS · EDUCATORS
MUSIC BUSINESSES · MEDIA · STUDIOS
PROMOTERS · EVENT PROS



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



SLO Blues Baseball
2019 SEASON PASSES
Sinsheimer Stadium



Kids After School Craft Sessions
MARCH 27 & APRIL 3
Zest it Up Studio



Nashville Pop Singer Tai Shan
TUESDAY, MARCH 19
Morro Bay Wine Seller



Cubs + Crafts
THURSDAY, MARCH 21
Zest it Up Studio



Over the River and Through the Woods
MARCH 22-APRIL 7
Park Street Ballroom



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



Watercolor & Wine Workshop
SUNDAY, MARCH 24
Zaca Mesa Winery



Mendelssohn in Scotland
SUNDAY, MARCH 24
Symphony of the Vines



Doubt, a Parable
THURSDAY, MARCH 28
SLO Repertory Theater



Succulent Wreath Workshop
FRIDAY, MARCH 29
Studios on the Park



Whalebird Presents: Kombucha College
FRIDAY, MARCH 29
Anam Cre Studio



Tiny Porch Concerts Presents Dylan Earl
SATURDAY, MARCH 30
Cornell Winery



Barn Raising Fundraiser
SATURDAY, MARCH 30
Dana Adobe Cultural Center



MY805TIX BOX OFFICE IS NOW OPEN
We're happy to announce **Boo Boo Records** is the official Box Office for My805Tix events!
Boo Boo's is located at 978 Monterey Street in SLO.
Call them at 805-541-0657.



Central Coast Guitar Show
SATURDAY, MARCH 30
SLO Veterans Hall



Morro Bay WILD
AN EXCLUSIVE TOUR TO MEET PACIFIC WILDLIFE CARE
SATURDAY, MARCH 30
Wildlife Rehabilitation Center



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



Andy Warhol Pop Art Paint Bar
SUNDAY, MARCH 31
Tooth & Nail Winery



Central Coast Aquarium Spring Break Camp
APRIL 1-5
Central Coast Aquarium



Probiotic Soda Workshop
THURSDAY, APRIL 4
Zest it Up Studio



Bingo Bonanza
SATURDAY, APRIL 6
SLO Veterans Hall



Player
SATURDAY, APRIL 6
Rava Wines + Events



Vegan Cheese & Beer Pairing
SUNDAY, APRIL 7
7Sisters Brewing Co.



Brewasana
SUNDAY, APRIL 7
7Sisters Brewing Co.



Lompoc Pops Orchestra Spring Concert
MONDAY, APRIL 8
First United Methodist Church



Tribute to Donovan
TUESDAY, APRIL 9
Morro Bay Wine Seller



Thomas Gabriel Johnny Cash's Grandson
THURSDAY, APRIL 11
Maverick Saloon



Voices Within
APRIL 12-14
Ballet Theatre, San Luis Obispo



Avila Beach Easter Egg Hunt
SATURDAY, APRIL 13
Avila Beach Community Center



2019 Annual Jazz Piano Showcase
SATURDAY, APRIL 13
Unity Concert Hall



SLO Noor Movie Night: Sideways
SATURDAY, APRIL 13
The Palm Theatre



New Release BBQ Party
SATURDAY, APRIL 13
Wild Coyote Estate Winery



Gen Cal Professional Wrestling
SUNDAY, APRIL 14
The Graduate

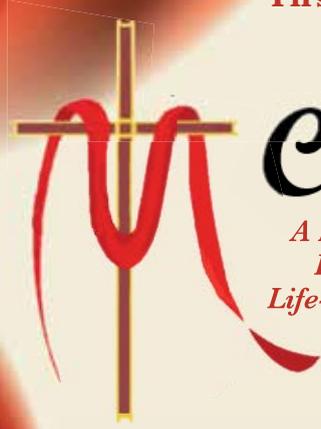


SLO Queerdos Drag Brunch
SUNDAY, APRIL 14
Willow - Pismo Beach

**Fun & Uplifting!
Musicians, Singers,
Dancers, Drama &
Clowning Around.**

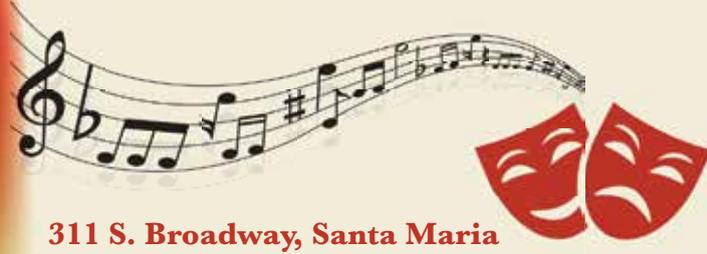
**Sat March 30th
at 7:00 pm,
Sunday March 31st
at 10:00 am**

**First United Methodist Church
of Santa Maria
presents**



**Celebrate
A Broadway-Style,
Rock-and-Roll,
Life-of-Christ Musical *Life!***

FREE for all ages
(Donation welcome but not required)



311 S. Broadway, Santa Maria



A STARFISH IS BORN

Wine and Design hosts its Starfish Family workshop on March 23, at 2 p.m. Participants can enjoy painting a seascape with artist Angelica Anguiano. Wine and beer will be available for purchase. Tickets are \$35, and reservations are required. The studio is located at 3420 Orcutt Road, suite 105, Orcutt. More info: wineanddesign.com.

ARTS from page 18

23, 7 p.m. and **March 24**, 3 p.m. \$10. 805-776-3287. By The Sea Productions, 545 Shasta Ave., Morro Bay, bytheseaproductions.org.

MAMMA MIA! The hit musical based around the songs of ABBA. Fridays, Saturdays, 7 p.m. through March 23 \$10-\$12. Morro Bay High School, 235 Atascadero Rd., Morro Bay, 805-771-1845.

THE SUNSHINE BOYS This classic comedy follows the attempt by a young theatrical agent to reunite his elderly uncle with his long time stage partner. Fridays, Saturdays, 7-8:30 p.m. and Sundays, 2-3:30 p.m. through April 7 \$25. 805-909-2005. cambriacenterforthearts.org. Cambria Center for the Arts Theatre, 1350 Main St., Cambria.

\$17-\$22. 805-540-5771. pointsanluislighthouse.org. Point San Luis Lighthouse, 1 Lighthouse Rd., Avila Beach.

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

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

THE ART OF MAKING YOGURT AND CHEESE AT HOME SAFELY Hosted by UCCE Master Food Preservers of San Luis Obispo and Santa Barbara Counties. **March 23**, 10 a.m.-noon \$20. 805-781-1429. cesanluisobispo.ucanr.edu. UCCE Auditorium, 2156 Sierra Way, San Luis Obispo.

BADASS WOMEN WALKING TOUR Meet rebels at their sites of battles in SLO, from Susan B. Anthony to Ramona Pacheco. **March 23**, 2-4 p.m. \$20. 805-210-8687. secretsslo.com/tours/. Sauer-Adams Adobe, 964 Chorro St., San Luis Obispo.

CENTRAL COAST WATERCOLOR SOCIETY MONTHLY PROGRAM MEETING: MARCH 2019 Social time followed by a presentation by artist and educator Joanne Beaulieu Ruggles.

March 26, 6:30-8:30 p.m. Free. 805-439-0295. ccws.com. SLO United Methodist Church, 1515 Fredericks St., San Luis Obispo.

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

ETHNIC NOTIONS: FILM SCREENING AND DISCUSSION Discussion to follow led by Dr. Leola Dublin Macmillan. For ages 13 and up. **March 29**, 6:30-8:30 p.m. Free. 415-264-8641. ethniconotionscreening.eventbrite.com. Unitarian Universalist Fellowship Hall, 2201 Lawton Ave., San Luis Obispo.

FREE LIGHTGABLER SEMINAR: Q&A WITH EMPLOYMENT ATTORNEYS Employment law attorneys Jonathan Fraser Light and Susan S. Waag will answer questions. **March 28**, 7:30-9 a.m. Free. 805-248-7089. lightgablerlaw.com. Embassy Suites, 333 Madonna Rd., San Luis Obispo.

SECOND ANNUAL SERIES OF MORRO BAY SCIENCE EXPLORATIONS Speakers: Freddy Otte, Biologist, City of San Luis Obispo, and Kate Lundquist, Director of WATER Institute, Occidental Arts & Ecology Center. **March 21**, 6-8 p.m. Free. 805-772-3834. mbnep.org/events/. San Luis Obispo Botanical Garden, 3450 Dairy Creek Rd., San Luis Obispo.

TINY HOUSES IN SLO COMMUNITY WORKSHOP Features networking, a Q&A, and overview of new ordinance by Kyle Bell, SLO city planner. Hosted by nonprofit SmartShare Housing Solutions. **March 25**, 6-8 p.m. Free. 805-215-5474. homeshareslo.org/smart-share/. SLO Guild Hall, 2880 Broad St., San Luis Obispo.

CULTURE & LIFESTYLE

LECTURES & LEARNING

SANTA YNEZ VALLEY

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

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



LOMPOC/VANDENBERG

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

SANTA MARIA VALLEY/LOS ALAMOS

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

COMPUTER BASICS WORKSHOP A free workshop on computer basics. The workshop will be presented in the Learning Center. **March 26**, 1-2 p.m. Free. 805-925-0994 extension: 8562. Santa Maria Public Library, 421 S. McClelland St., Santa Maria.

SOUTH COAST SLO COUNTY

POINT SLO LIGHTHOUSE TOURS Docents lead guests on a one-hour tour of the historic site, the buildings, and up to the Lighthouse tower. Please arrive 15 minutes early. All proceeds go directly toward the site's restoration. Wednesdays, 12 & 1 p.m. and Saturdays, 12, 1 & 2 p.m.



Guadalupe Cultural Arts & Education Center

Come and learn about the history of Guadalupe and the surrounding areas. Providing educational cultural awareness of diverse community groups and ethnic arts, presentations and educational classes.

Open to the public

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

Tuesday – Saturday, 10am – 4pm

For more information: contact Karen Evangelista at 805-478-8502

Email: karen@guadalupeculturalcenter.com

1055 Guadalupe St., Guadalupe CA

www.GuadalupeCulturalCenter.com



CULTURE & LIFESTYLE continued page 21

CLUBS & MEETINGS

SANTA MARIA VALLEY/LOS ALAMOS

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

THE VALLEY READS BOOK CLUB The Valley Reads Book Club meets every month on the fourth Tuesday. The Valley Reads are available at the Reference Desk located on the second floor. **March 26**, 11 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Free. 805-925-0994 extension: 8562. Santa Maria Public Library, 421 S. McClelland St., Santa Maria.

SUPPORT GROUPS

SANTA MARIA VALLEY/LOS ALAMOS

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

SOUTH COAST SLO COUNTY

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

SPOUSE AND PARTNER LOSS SUPPORT GROUP (SOUTH COUNTY) A Hospice SLO support group for those grieving the loss of a partner or spouse. 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.

SAN LUIS OBISPO

CHILD LOSS SUPPORT GROUP Hospice SLO County is offering this support group for those grieving the loss of a child. Drop-ins welcome. Thursdays, 6-7:30 p.m. Free. 805-544-2266. hospiceslo.org/support-groups. Hospice SLO County, 1304 Pacific St., San Luis Obispo.

FAMILY CAREGIVER SUPPORT GROUP A support group for those who are caring for a loved one, no matter the diagnosis. Drop-ins welcome. Every other Friday, 2:30-4 p.m. Free. 805-544-2266. hospiceslo.org. Hospice SLO County, 1304 Pacific St., San Luis Obispo.

HEALING DEPRESSION SUPPORT GROUP A safe place for anyone dealing with depression who would like to receive support from others. Mondays, 6-7 p.m. Free. 805-528-3194. Hope House Wellness Center, 1306 Nipomo Street, San Luis Obispo.

LIVING WITH GRIEF SUPPORT GROUP Grief is a natural response to the death of a loved one. This group helps those who have lost a loved one or have a loved one who is dealing with a life-altering illness. Trained grief counselors will be present to provide information about grief. Mondays, 12:15-1:15 p.m. Free. 805-544-2266. hospiceslo.org/support-groups. Hospice SLO County, 1304 Pacific St., San Luis Obispo.

NAMI FAMILY SUPPORT GROUP Hosted by NAMI

and safe group of families helping families who have a loved one living with mental health challenges. Does not meet in January. Fourth Tuesday of every month, 5:30-6:45 p.m. Free. 805-544-2086. namislo.org. St. Stephen's Episcopal Church, 1344 Nipomo St., San Luis Obispo.

NAR-ANON: LET IT BEGIN WITH ME Nar-Anon is a support group for those who are affected by someone else's addiction. Tuesdays 805-458-7655. naranoncentralca.org/meetings/meeting-list/. San Luis Obispo, Citywide, SLO.

PET LOSS SUPPORT GROUP A support group for those grieving the loss of a pet. This group provides the opportunity to connect with individuals in a similar situation. Drop-ins welcome. Last Wednesday of every month, 5-6:15 p.m. Free. 805-544-2266. hospiceslo.org/support-groups. Hospice SLO County, 1304 Pacific St., San Luis Obispo.

YOUNG ADULT GRIEF GROUP A drop-in support group for young adults who are grieving the loss of a loved one. Wednesdays, 3-4 p.m. Free. 805-544-2266. hospiceslo.org/support-groups/young-adult-grief-group. Hospice SLO County, 1304 Pacific St., San Luis Obispo.

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.

LEGO CLUB Meet with other Lego fans and build together. **March 28**, 4-5 p.m. Free. 805-925-0994. Santa Maria Public Library, 421 S. McClelland St., Santa Maria.

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

ADULT COLORING PROGRAM All materials will be provided. **March 27**, 1-2:30 p.m. Free. 805-925-0994. Santa Maria Public Library, 421 S. McClelland St., Santa Maria.

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.

HUMAN BEING SUPPORT AND INSPIRATION ONLINE GROUP An online group to listen and get support from others from the comfort of your own home. Tuesdays, 6:30-8 p.m. \$40 monthly subscription. 805-598-1509. divining.weebly.com. Divine Inspiration, 947 E Orange St, Santa Maria.

THE JOY OF LIVING MEDITATION CLASS Participants will explore the meditation book by Yongey Mingyur Rinpoche and learn Tibetan style practice and philosophy. Lead by Annapurana Devi. Wednesdays, 6:30-8 p.m. through March 27 \$76.50 or split payment of \$45 twice. 805-598-1509. divining.weebly.com. Divine Inspiration, 947 E Orange St, Santa Maria.

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

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

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

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.

OUTDOORS

SAN LUIS OBISPO

ALL ABOUT THAT DRIP: GARDEN AND LANDSCAPE WATER MANAGEMENT A UC Master Gardener will explain water saving irrigation practices that are best for your location, your soil, and your plants.



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Followed by a tour of the SLO Botanical Garden. **March 23**, 1-2 p.m. \$5-\$10. 805-541-1400 x 303. slobg.org/. San Luis Obispo Botanical Garden, 3450 Dairy Creek Rd., San Luis Obispo.

HIKE AT RESERVOIR CANYON WITH ECOSLO Join ECOSLO docent Sally for a free hike at Reservoir Canyon Natural Reserve. Wear sturdy shoes and bring sunscreen, snacks and plenty of water. Rain within 24 hours beforehand cancels. **March 23**, 9 a.m.-noon 805-544-1777. ecoslo.org/events/. Reservoir Canyon Open Space, Hwy 101, San Luis Obispo.

LOS OSOS OAKS RESERVE Enjoy a shaded stroll viewing ancient forest, native plants, and evidence of Chumash habitation. **March 31**, 10-11:30 a.m. Free. 805-772-2694. Los Osos/ Baywood Park, 2nd St., Los Osos.

VICTORIAN HOUSES, WILD WEST LIVES WALKING TOUR Find out how the Victorians brought gas lighting, flush toilets, and a dozen styles of architecture to a mud town. **March 23**, 10 a.m.-noon and **March 30**, 10 a.m.-noon \$20. 805-210-8687. secretstlo.com/tours/. Sauer-Adams Adobe, 964 Chorro St., San Luis Obispo.

SPORTS

SOUTH COAST SLO COUNTY

CAL POLY BEACH VOLLEYBALL VS. CSU BAKERSFIELD Watch the Mustangs take on CSU Bakersfield during this Big West Challenge. **March 29**, 11 a.m. Free. Pismo Beach Volleyball Courts, End of Wadsworth Ave, Pismo Beach, 8057567297.

CAL POLY BEACH VOLLEYBALL VS. CSUN Watch the Mustangs take on CSUN during this Big West Challenge. **March 29**, 4 p.m. Free. Pismo Beach Volleyball Courts, End of Wadsworth Ave, Pismo Beach, 8057567297.

CAL POLY BEACH VOLLEYBALL VS. HAWAII Watch the Mustangs take on Hawai'i during this Big West Challenge. **March 31**, 3 p.m. Free. Pismo Beach Volleyball Courts, End of Wadsworth Ave, Pismo Beach, 8057567297.

CAL POLY BEACH VOLLEYBALL VS. LBSU Watch the Mustangs take on Long Beach State during this Big West Challenge. **March 30**, noon Free. Pismo Beach Volleyball Courts, End of Wadsworth Ave, Pismo Beach, 8057567297.

CAL POLY BEACH VOLLEYBALL VS. SAC STATE Watch the Mustangs take on Sac State during this Big West Challenge. **March 29**, 2 p.m. Free. Pismo Beach Volleyball Courts, End of Wadsworth Ave, Pismo Beach, 8057567297.

CAL POLY BEACH VOLLEYBALL VS. UC DAVIS Watch the Mustangs take on UC Davis during this Big West Challenge. **March 31**, 10 a.m. Free. Pismo Beach Volleyball Courts, End of Wadsworth Ave, Pismo Beach, 8057567297.

SAN LUIS OBISPO

CAL POLY BASEBALL VS. CSUN The Big West home opener. **March 29**, 6 p.m. gopoly.com/. **March 30**, 4 p.m. gopoly.com/. For Youth Day, all kids ages 13 and under get free admission and can run the bases and get autographs from the Mustangs after the game. **March 31**, 1 p.m. gopoly.com/. Baggett Stadium, 1 Grand Ave., San Luis Obispo, 805-756-7297.

CAL POLY BASEBALL VS. ST. MARY'S **March 22**, 6 p.m. gopoly.com/. A non-conference doubleheader. **March 23**, 1 p.m. gopoly.com/. For Youth Day, all kids ages 13 and under get free admission and can run the bases and get autographs from the Mustangs after the game. **March 24**, 1 p.m. gopoly.com/. Baggett Stadium, 1 Grand Ave., San Luis Obispo, 805-756-7297.

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

KIDS & FAMILY

SANTA MARIA VALLEY/LOS ALAMOS

BILINGUAL STORY TIME Features stories, songs, and rhymes in both Spanish and English. Wednesdays, 5:30-6 p.m. through April 24 Free. 805-925-0994. Santa Maria Public Library, 421 S. McClelland St., Santa Maria.

BOUNCING BABY STORY TIME Learn, connect, and grow with other babies up to 12 months and their caregivers. Fridays, 10-10:30 a.m. through April 26 Free-\$30. 805-925-0994. Santa Maria Public Library, 421 S. McClelland St., Santa Maria.

DASHING DINOSAURS STORY TIME Preschool story time for kids ages 3-5 and their families. Wednesdays, 10:30-11 a.m. through April 24 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

with kids parkour classes in a safe setting. For ages 5 and up. Wednesdays, Fridays, 5:30 & 6:30 p.m. 805-349-7575. Santa Maria Town Center, 142 Town Center East, Santa Maria.

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

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

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

SAN LUIS OBISPO

AIKIDO FOR KIDS AGE 4-13 AIKI-MITES (age 4-6) class is 3pm on Tuesdays. AIKI-KIDS (age 7-13) classes are Tuesdays/Thursdays at 4pm. Call to observe or pre-register. Tuesdays, Thursdays \$50-\$75 monthly. 805-544-8866. aikidosanluisobispo.com. Budo Ryu, 3536 South Higuera St., San Luis Obispo.

BIRTHDAYS AT THE POTTERY STUDIO Birthday parties available for all ages. Selection of bisque pieces to glaze include animal figures, banks, containers, rabbits, robots, and race cars. Tuesdays-Saturdays, 10:30 a.m.-8 p.m. through May 31 \$350 for 10 guests. 805-896-6197. anamcre.com. Anam Cre Pottery Studio, 1243 Monterey St, San Luis Obispo.

TEEN MOVIE AT SLO LIBRARY Come to the library for a special movie presentation. For grades 6-12. **March 28**, 3:30-5:30 p.m. Free. 805-781-5775. San Luis Obispo Library, 995 Palm St., San Luis Obispo.

SPIRITUAL

SANTA MARIA VALLEY/LOS ALAMOS

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

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

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

VOLUNTEERS

SAN LUIS OBISPO

ADOPT A GRANDPARENT Help out in your neighborhood by connecting with older adults that need a little extra help. **March 23**, 10 a.m.-noon Free. 805-547-7025. Wilshire Community Services, 285 South St. Suite J, San Luis Obispo, wilshirecommunityservices.org.

WE NEED VOLUNTEERS Literacy For Life San Luis Obispo has a need for tutors. Work one-on-one with non-literate adults learning to read, write, and speak English. **March 23**, 10 a.m.-3:30 p.m. \$25. 805-541-4219. literacyforlifelslo.org. Union Bank, 995 Higuera St., San Luis Obispo.

NORTH COAST SLO COUNTY

ART CENTER MORRO BAY Seeking volunteers to be docents and/or organize art programs. Mondays-Sundays, 12-4 p.m. Free. 805-772-2504. artcentermorrobay.org. Art Center Morro Bay, 835 Main St., Morro Bay.



BOTANICAL BEAUTY

Succulent, an art exhibit showcasing paintings by Rachel Lee, runs through March 31 at Valley Art Gallery in Orcutt. Lee chose succulents as her subjects to celebrate her return to California after spending 10 years in Italy. The gallery is located at 125 W. Clark Ave., Orcutt. More info: (805) 937-2278 or valleygallery.org.

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.

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.

SANTA BARBARA COUNTY VINTNERS FUTURES TASTING A multi-day event inviting wine insiders for

stings of Santa Barbara Wine Country's best wines, symposiums, collaborative chef dinners, and more. **March 28**, **March 29** and **March 30** sbcountywines.com/winefutures.html. Alisal Guest Ranch and Resort, 1054 Alisal Rd., Solvang.

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. standingsunwines.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 Vera Wines, 3592 Broad St., Ste. 106, San Luis Obispo.

EXPLORE AROMAS IN WINE: SESSION II Sommelier Chris Cuyler will guide guests through a scent exploration of three wines. **March 21**, 6-7 p.m. \$35. 805-946-1685. cromavera.orderport.net. Cromava Vera Wines, 3592 Broad St., Ste. 106, San Luis Obispo.

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

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

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

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

WINE 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 Vera Wines, 3592 Broad St., Ste. 106, San Luis Obispo.

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

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

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. ☺



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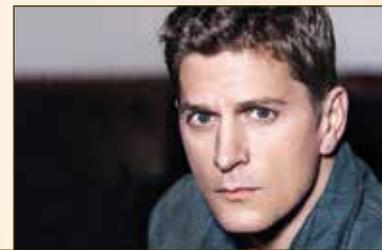
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FRIDAY

APR 5

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8 PM



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Live Music

SANTA YNEZ VALLEY

BEAR MARKET RIOT LIVE March 22, 8 p.m. Maverick Saloon, 3687 Sagunto St., Santa Ynez, 805-686-4785, mavericksaloon.org.

BRYAN TITUS LIVE March 28, 7-10 p.m. Maverick Saloon, 3687 Sagunto St., Santa Ynez, 805-686-4785, mavericksaloon.org.

FLOGGING MOLLY LIVE Celtic punk rock band. March 22, 8 p.m. \$69-\$99. Chumash Casino Resort, 3400 E. Highway 246, Santa Ynez, 800-248-6274, chumashcasino.com/entertainment.

JOHN LYLE LIVE Food and drinks available for purchase. Not outside food or drinks allowed. March 30, 1-4 p.m. Cold Spring Tavern, 5995 Stagecoach Rd., Santa Barbara, 805-967-0066, coldspringtavern.com/entertainment.html.

JR. COMBO BIG BAND LIVE Food and drinks available for purchase. Not outside food or drinks allowed. March 31, 4:30-7:30 p.m. Cold Spring Tavern, 5995 Stagecoach Rd., Santa Barbara, 805-967-0066, coldspringtavern.com/entertainment.html.

LEFT HAND LIONS LIVE An Americana group. Food and drinks available for purchase. Not outside food or drinks allowed. March 22, 6-9 p.m. Free admission. Cold Spring Tavern, 5995 Stagecoach Rd., Santa Barbara, 805-967-0066, coldspringtavern.com/entertainment.html.

MOONRIDGE LIVE March 30, 8 p.m. Maverick Saloon, 3687 Sagunto St., Santa Ynez, 805-686-4785, mavericksaloon.org.

ODDLY STRAIGHT LIVE Food and drinks available for purchase. Not outside food or drinks allowed. March 29, 6-9 p.m. Cold Spring Tavern, 5995 Stagecoach Rd., Santa Barbara, 805-967-0066, coldspringtavern.com/entertainment.html.

PULL THE TRIGGER LIVE March 23, 8 p.m. Maverick Saloon, 3687 Sagunto St., Santa Ynez, 805-686-4785, mavericksaloon.org.

THE RESERVE LIVE Food and drinks available for purchase. Not outside food or drinks allowed. March 23, 5-8 p.m. Cold Spring Tavern, 5995 Stagecoach Rd., Santa Barbara, 805-967-0066, coldspringtavern.com/entertainment.html.

THE SHORELINES AND REEF CITY Food and drinks available for purchase. Not outside food or drinks allowed. March 30, 5-8 p.m. Cold Spring Tavern, 5995 Stagecoach Rd., Santa Barbara, 805-967-0066, coldspringtavern.com/entertainment.html.

SOUNDHOUSE LIVE March 29, 8 p.m. Maverick Saloon, 3687 Sagunto St., Santa Ynez, 805-686-4785, mavericksaloon.org.

STEVE PHILLIP LIVE Presented by Tito's Bloody Bar and Fig Mountain Brew. March 24, noon Maverick Saloon, 3687 Sagunto St., Santa Ynez, 805-686-4785, mavericksaloon.org.

THE TAILGATERS LIVE Food and drinks available for purchase. Not outside food or drinks allowed. March 24, 4:30-7:30 p.m. Cold Spring Tavern, 5995 Stagecoach Rd., Santa Barbara, 805-967-0066, coldspringtavern.com/entertainment.html.

MUSIC LISTINGS continued page 25

Lion kings

Cold Spring Tavern becomes den to The Left Hand Lions

BY CALEB WISEBLOOD

Like more than 100,000 residents of Santa Barbara and Ventura counties, professional musician Thomas Hopkins was evacuated from his home amid the Thomas Fire at the end of 2017. Hopkins, founder, frontman, and principal songwriter of the Santa Barbara-based folk and Americana band **The Left Hand Lions**, aimed to capture his own perspective during the monstrous wildfire with “California Flames,” the band’s latest single. The eerie lyrics paint an apocalyptic landscape full of dense smoke and mandatory respirators, all under a nightmarish blood-red sun.

“One last glance before you go/ Go on take a damn good look below/ Only ash and burnt out homes,” Hopkins sings. But some of the song’s lyrics illustrate the spectacle aspect of the fire as well—that humanistic sense of curiosity forcing us to stop and stare at the flames. “So let’s go down to see the blaze/ Take your lover so you can gaze at the wild flame upon the hill/ Who knew that fire could chill your veins.”

The group is currently finishing their first studio album, to be released sometime this year, but you can catch them live on **Friday, March 22**, from 6 to 9 p.m. at **Cold Spring Tavern**. Hopkins coined the term “Wild Americana” to describe the band’s genre, rooted in acoustic instrumentation but with a rock edge. Their stylings have been compared to those of some of their influences, including Mumford & Sons, the Dave Matthews Band, and the Lumineers.

I’m assuming the name of the trio—which also features William Adams on lead guitar and Dylan Carmody on cajon—was partly inspired by Hopkins’ own left-handedness. But then again, his left-handed 12-string guitar shouldn’t justify my assumption. Maybe he’s right-handed but



TO THE LEFT, TO THE LEFT: Santa Barbara-based trio The Left Hand Lions bring folk and Americana to the Cold Spring Tavern on Friday, March 22.

plays left-handed just because he *can*, resulting from years of training at a mountainside monastery occupied by other musically inclined lefties like Paul McCartney, Tony Iommi, and Tiny Tim. Badass. Or maybe he’s just ambidextrous. Equally badass.

Admission to The Left Hand Lions’ performance at Cold Spring Tavern is free. And as always, the tavern hosts a full weekend lineup of live acts for guests to enjoy without any cover charge. Musical duo **Teresa Russell and Tom Buenger** take the stage from 1 to 4 p.m. on **Saturday, March 23**, followed by **The Reserve** from 5 to 8 p.m. Blues and rags pair **Tom Ball and Kenny Sultan** perform their regular weekly gig on **Sunday, March 24**, from 1:15 to 4 p.m., followed by classic rock/surf group **The Tailgaters** from 4:30 to 7:30 p.m.

The tavern is located at 5995 Stagecoach Road, Santa Barbara. Call (805) 967-0066 or visit coldspringtavern.com to find out more.

PHOTO COURTESY OF DANIELLE HONEA



DOUBLE TIME: Jineanne Coderre performs on Saturday, March 23, at Andrew Murray Vineyards in Los Olivos and Saturday, March 30, at CORE Winery in Orcutt.

Easy listening

The chorus of “Cool,” **Jineanne Coderre**’s premiere single released on March 15, starts with the line, “Just smile and keep it cool.” It’s as if you can actually hear Coderre smiling as she sings the song, which is full of confident lyrics about triumphing over insecurity and breaking away from negative thoughts and plagueful people.

But speaking of smiles, when Coderre isn’t performing or composing music, you’ll probably find her working at her full-time job as a dental hygienist in Santa Maria, garnering her the nickname “the Singing Hygienist.” It’s easy to imagine her patients humming along, when their mouths aren’t obstructed by dental appliances, of course.

Coderre is bringing her signature blend of original pop, R&B, and smooth jazz tunes to **Andrew Murray Vineyards** in Los Olivos on **Saturday, March 23**, from noon to 3 p.m. The concert is part of the

LOCAL NOTES continued page 25



Kathleen Gerber, 2018



Dylan Kyle, 2018



Cary Geihs, 2018



Wes Bracken, 2018



Barry Goyette, 2018

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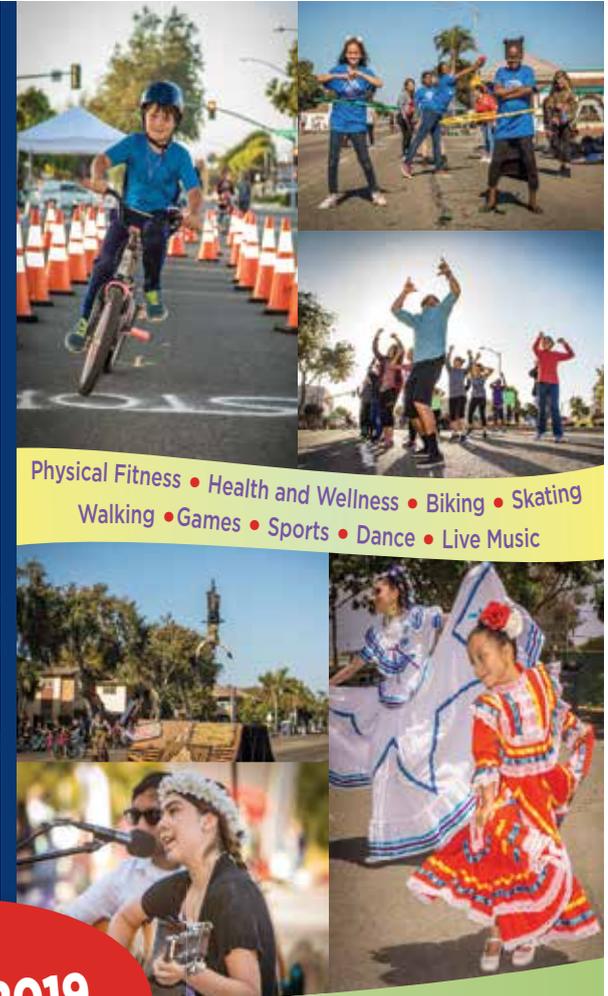
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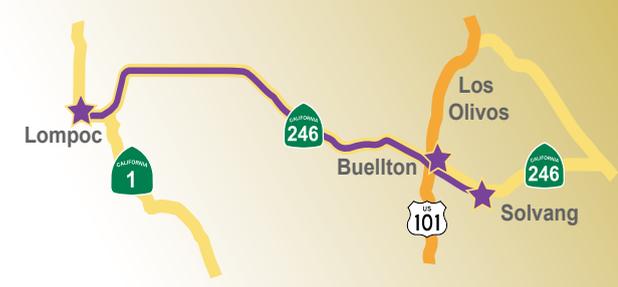
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LOCAL NOTES from page 24

winery's Rosé All Day event, which will include wine specials, of course, as well as food from Big Joe's Tacos. You can also hear **Coderre** as part of a musician showcase on **Saturday, March 30**, from 3 to 6 p.m. at **CORE Winery** in Orcutt.

The Singing Hygienist is currently wrapping up work on her first EP, *Listen*, which is scheduled for release on May 3. The first single off the EP, the aforementioned "Cool," is available now. Visit jineannesmusic.com for more info.

More music

The **Maverick Saloon** in Santa Ynez presents Central Coast-based folk duo **Bear Market Riot** on **Friday, March 22**, at 8 p.m. Made up of multi-instrumentalists Kirk Nordby and Nick Motil, Bear Market Riot is set to release their first full-length album, *Power-Folk Americana*, later this year. The pair gathered enough funds to self-produce the album through a successful



PHOTO COURTESY OF BEAR MARKET RIOT

BEAR NECESSITIES: The Maverick Saloon in Santa Ynez presents folk duo Bear Market Riot on **Friday, March 22**.

Kickstarter campaign. The saloon also hosts country group **Pull The Trigger** on **Saturday, March 23**, at 8 p.m., and soloist **Steve Phillip** on **Sunday, March 24**, at noon.

Two musical duos, **Bo Prescott and Mike Thibault** and **Pricey Diggs and Tipsy Licks**,

perform at **Vino et Amicis Wine Bar** on **Friday, March 22**, and **Saturday, March 23**, respectively. Both shows are from 6 to 9 p.m.

Also in Orcutt, Ventura-based rock group **The Inside Break** performs on **Friday, March 22**, from 7 to 10 p.m. at Naughty Oak Brewing



PHOTO COURTESY OF PRICEY DIGGS

THE PRICE IS RIGHT: Musical duo Pricey Diggs and Tipsy Licks perform at **Vino et Amicis Wine Bar** in Orcutt on **Saturday, March 23**.

Company. The venue recommends that guests bring their dancing shoes to this concert. Food from Beau's Dogs will be available for purchase during the performance. ○

Calendar Editor Caleb Wiseblood wrote this

MUSIC LISTINGS from page 24

TERESA RUSSELL AND TOM BUENGER Food and drinks available for purchase. Not outside food or drinks allowed. **March 23**, 1-4 p.m. Cold Spring Tavern, 5995 Stagecoach Rd., Santa Barbara, 805-967-0066, coldspringtavern.com/entertainment.html.

WIL RIDGE LIVE Presented by Tito's Bloody Bar and Fig Mountain Brew. **March 31**, noon Maverick Saloon, 3687 Sagunto St., Santa Ynez, 805-686-4785, mavericksaloon.org.

LOMPOC/VANDENBERG

SARAH BETHE NELSON LIVE An indie pop artist. Opening acts: Jacob Cole and Angie and the Nightmares. **March 21**, 9 p.m. Wicked Shamrock, 143 N. H St., Lompoc, 805-741-7145.

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

BO PRESCOTT/ MIKE THIBAUT LIVE **March 22**, 6-9 p.m. Vino et Amicis, 156 S. Broadway, Orcutt, 805-631-0496, vinoetamicis.com.

BOB CLARK LIVE **March 21**, 5:30 p.m. and **March 23**, 5:30 p.m. Free admission. Moxie Cafe, 1317 W. McCoy Ln., Santa Maria, 805-361-2900, moxiecafe.com.

CARTER LIVE **March 30**, 5:30 p.m. Moxie Cafe, 1317 W. McCoy Ln., Santa Maria, 805-361-2900, moxiecafe.com.

CENTRAL CITY SWING LIVE Central City Swing, a 17-piece jazz band featuring the area's top musicians, performs a free concert of jazz and swing music. **March 26**, 7:30-9 p.m. Free. 805-720-3840. centralcityswing.com. Unity Chapel of Light Church, 1165 Stubblefield Rd., Orcutt.

KEITH COX LIVE **March 30**, 6-9 p.m. Vino et Amicis, 156 S. Broadway, Orcutt, 805-631-0496, vinoetamicis.com.

LOGAN LANDER LIVE **March 22**, 5 p.m. Free admission. Moxie Cafe, 1317 W. McCoy Ln., Santa Maria, 805-361-2900, moxiecafe.com.

PRICEY DIGGS AND TIPSY LICKS LIVE **March 23**, 6-9 p.m. Vino et Amicis, 156 S. Broadway, Orcutt, 805-631-0496, vinoetamicis.com.

RUBEN LEE DALTON AND LOIS MAHALIA LIVE **March 29**, 7-9 p.m. Vino et Amicis, 156 S. Broadway, Orcutt, 805-631-0496, vinoetamicis.com.

TOM MUTCHLER LIVE **March 28**, 5:30 p.m. Moxie Cafe, 1317 W. McCoy Ln., Santa Maria, 805-361-2900, moxiecafe.com.

SOUTH COAST SLO COUNTY

BACK BAY BETTY LIVE Enjoy dinner, dancing, and live music. Part of Club Blacklake. **March 30**, 5-8 p.m. Free. 805-343-1214. blacklake.com. Blacklake Golf Course, 1490 Golf Course Ln, Nipomo.

CLUB BLACKLAKE: JANE'S GANG Enjoy dinner, dancing, and live music. **March 23**, 5-8 p.m. Free. 805-343-1214. Blacklake Golf Course, 1490 Golf Course Ln, Nipomo.

FRIDAY NIGHT LIVE MUSIC Enjoy live music and food

on the patio. Fridays, 5:30-8:30 p.m. Free. 805-489-9099. branchstreetdeli.com. Branch Street Deli, 203 E. Branch St., Arroyo Grande.

HOT SWINGIN' JAZZ Corey's Rolling Figs Jazz Orchestra from Los Angeles and the Cabrillo High School Jazz Band will be playing. **March 31**, 1-4:30 p.m. \$5-\$10. 805-937-8402. pismojazz.com. Pismo Veterans Memorial Hall, 780 Bello St., Pismo Beach.

THE OFFICIAL BLUES BROTHERS REVUE With Wayne Catania as Jake and Keiron Laffery as Elwood. Backed by a powerhouse band. **March 22**, 7:30-9:30 p.m. \$40-\$50. 805-489-9444. clarkcenter.org/event/official-blues-brothers-revue/. Clark Center for the Performing Arts, 487 Fair Oaks Ave., Arroyo Grande.

SONGWRITERS AT PLAY: SHERELL JANE Influences include Ed Sheeran, Rihanna, and Eminem. **March 27**, 6-8:30 p.m. Free; tips accepted; all ages are welcome. 805-489-9099. songwriters.com. Branch Street Deli, 203 E. Branch St., Arroyo Grande.

SAN LUIS OBISPO

CABARET Live lounge music with piano accompaniment. **March 26**, 6:45-9 p.m. Free. 805-868-7133. facebook.com/events/253748812202321/. 7Sisters Brewing Company, 181 Tank Farm Rd. Suite 110, San Luis Obispo.

CENTRAL COAST SPRING SCHOOL CHORAL FESTIVAL Presented by the San Luis Obispo Vocal Arts Ensemble. **March 21**, 10 a.m.-6 p.m. and **March 22**, 10 a.m.-9 p.m. Free. 805-541-6797. vocalarts.org/. Performing Arts Center, 1 Grand Ave., San Luis Obispo.

GROVER ANDERSON LIVE Influences include Garth Brooks and Josh Ritter. **March 30**, 6-8 p.m. Free. 805-868-7133. 7SistersBrewing.com. 7Sisters Brewing Company, 181 Tank Farm Rd. Suite 110, San Luis Obispo.

HOLLY ANN LEWIS LIVE Enjoy a mix of folk, Americana, rock, and jazz. **March 22**, 6-9 p.m. Free. 805-868-7133. 7Sisters Brewing Company, 181 Tank Farm Rd. Suite 110, San Luis Obispo, 7SistersBrewing.com.

JILL KNIGHT LIVE A blend of Americana, blues, and R&B. **March 29**, 6-9 p.m. Free. 805-868-7133. 7Sisters Brewing Company, 181 Tank Farm Rd. Suite 110, San Luis Obispo, 7SistersBrewing.com.

MAGICAL MYSTERY SPIEL A fun, Beatles inspired retelling of the story of Purim. **March 23**, 7-10 p.m. \$30-\$35. 805 544 0760. Congregation Beth David, 10180 Los Osos Valley Road, San Luis Obispo, cbdslo.org.

A MUSICAL EXTRAVAGANZA OF 5 COUNTRIES Music reflective of Australia, England, France, Mexico, and Japan. Presented by SLO Wind Orchestra and Cuesta Wind Ensemble. **March 23**, 7:30-9:30 p.m. \$10-\$20. 805-464-9434. slowinds.org. Cuesta College Cultural and Performing Arts Center, Highway 1, San Luis Obispo.

ROY ORBISON RETURNS With the Big O Band. **March 30** The Fremont Theater, 1035 Monterey St., San Luis Obispo, 805-546-8600, fremontslo.com.

RYAN BINGHAM LIVE **March 24** The Fremont Theater, 1035 Monterey St., San Luis Obispo, 805-546-8600, fremontslo.com.

SLO WIND ORCHESTRA: A MUSICAL JOURNEY San Luis Obispo Wind Orchestra shares the stage with the

PHOTO COURTESY OF CONNER CHERLAND



CON AIR

Rideau Winery presents Conner Cherland on March 30 from 1 to 4 p.m. Cherland performs a blend of Americana, indie, folk, and soul. Admission is free. The winery is located at 1562 Alamo Pintado Road, Solvang. More info: (805) 688-0717 or rideauvineyard.com.

Cuesta Wind Ensemble in this concert featuring music from around the world. **March 23**, 7:30-9:30 p.m. \$10-\$20. 805-464-9434. slowinds.org. Cuesta College Cultural and Performing Arts Center, Highway 1, San Luis Obispo.

STEEL PULSE LIVE **March 31** The Fremont Theater, 1035 Monterey St., San Luis Obispo, 805-546-8600, fremontslo.com.

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.

KARAOKE/OPEN MIC

SANTA YNEZ VALLEY

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

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

SANTA MARIA VALLEY/LOS ALAMOS

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

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

SOUTH COAST SLO COUNTY

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

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



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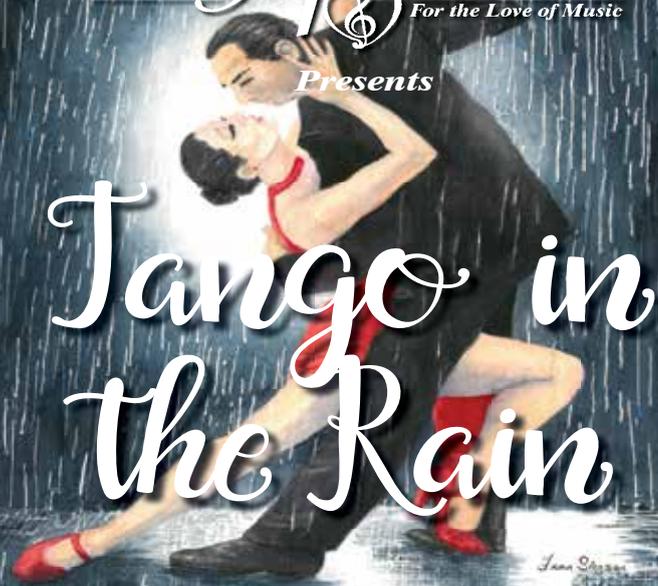
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 145 S. Gray Street, #201, Santa Maria
www.juliewalker.com

Independent Living Resource Center, Inc.
 222 Carmen Lane #106, Santa Maria
www.ilrc-trico.org

PJD Landscape Management, Inc.
 671 W. Teft Street, Nipomo
www.pjdlandscape.com

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 3558 Skyway Drive, Santa Maria
www.purepilatescentralcoast.com

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Arts Briefs

Elverhoj to host panel discussion on photography

The Elverhoj Museum of History and Art will host panel discussion on photography on March 23 at 4 p.m.

Approaches to Black and White Photography features three local photographers discussing the range of possibilities offered by black and white photography, including images inspired by famed photographers to new interpretations using digital techniques.

The featured photographers are Paul Roark—whose exhibit *Between Light and Dark* is featured at the Elverhoj through April 14—Christopher LT Brown, and George Rose.

“Creating black and white photography is very different from creating color photography,” Roark stated in a press release. “An awareness of the differences is needed in order to be able to create good black and white photography, where the input of the artist is often more important than the subject.”

The event is free, and the public is invited to join in the discussion. A reception with light refreshments will follow the discussion.

The museum is located at 1624 Elverhoj Way, Solvang. For more information, call (805) 686-1211 or visit elverhoj.org.

One Slight Hitch featured at Santa Maria Civic Theatre

The Santa Maria Civic Theatre's latest production is *One Slight Hitch*, a show written by comedian Lewis Black.

Black is a stand-up comic and writer who is famous for his humorous angry rants about politics, pop culture, religion, and other topics. He's often appeared on Comedy Central's *The Daily Show*. His play, *One Slight Hitch*, based on events from Black's own life, revolves around Courtney's wedding day and the efforts of her mother, Delia, to make it perfect. Delia devotes herself to making sure every detail is flawless, from the dress to the decorations, until the doorbell rings and it sends the entire event into chaos.

John Shade is directing the production.

One Slight Hitch runs at Santa Maria Civic Theatre from March 22 through April 7. Tickets are available for purchase at smct.org.

Arts and crafts show featured in Santa Maria

The Los Padres Artist Guild is hosting a Spring Arts and Craft Show and Sale on March 30 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

The event features original artwork from many local artists and artisans, with items including fine art, jewelry, ceramics, home decor, and other collectibles and gifts. In addition to the arts and crafts show, the Garden Club and Geranium Society will be on hand selling plants ideal for spring and summer landscaping.

Proceeds from the sale will help benefit both the Los Padres Artist Guild scholarship fund as well as the Santa Maria Valley Humane Society, which will be onsite featuring adoptable dogs. Attendees are invited to bring a gift for kittens currently at the Humane Society as well as other pet-related donation items.

Admission is free. The sale will take place at the Luis Oasis Senior Center, 420 E. Soares, Orcutt. For more information on the guild, visit lospadresartistguild.org.

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

In sheep's clothes

PCPA's *The Wolves* is a chaotic masterpiece

BY REBECCA ROSE

There is a moment at the end of Pacific Conservatory Theatre's (PCPA) latest play, *The Wolves*, that comes from such a deeply surprising and unnerving place I almost thought it was a mistake.

I actually sat up in my seat to see if they would halt the play to correct what was happening until I realized, no this was actually part of the production. What happened next gutted me as a woman and daughter of a loving mother.

The Wolves tells the story of an indoor soccer club made up of nine girls, most of whom are only known by the numbers they wear on their jerseys. The play is told in a 90-minute firestorm of nonstop dialogue and interaction between the girls before each match, as they grapple complex issues ranging from abortion to sex to the Khmer Rouge.

The play's setting is an indoor soccer stadium, and the scenic designers have created a vivid and intensely abstract version of one that works so perfectly in harmony with the script.

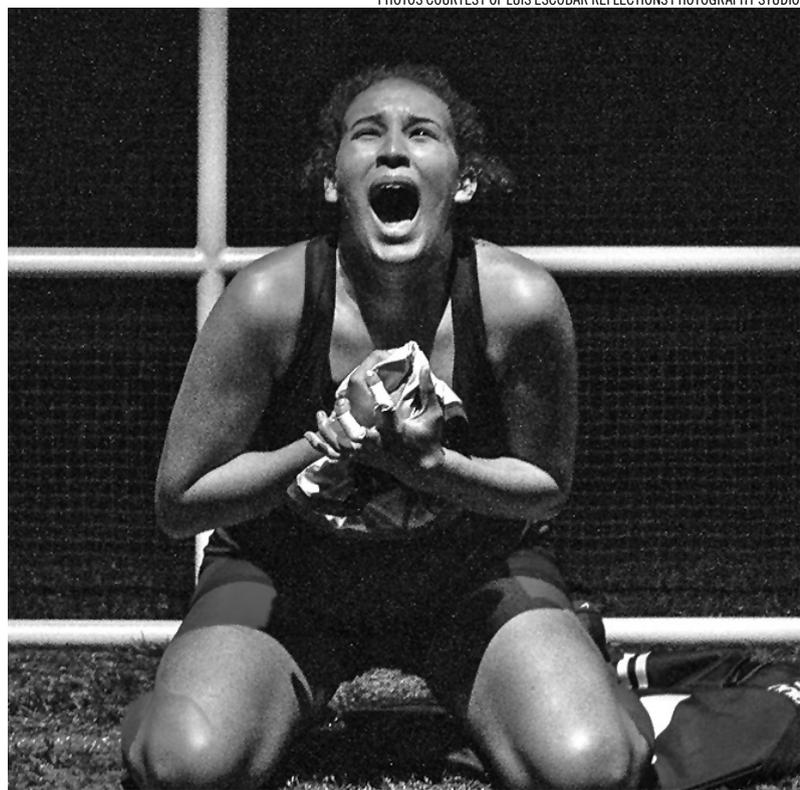
The play loosely centers on #46, a young outsider who has recently joined the team, as she begins to drop strange hints about her home life in between the very graphic conversations about dictators and menstrual cycles the other girls are engaging in. The tennis-ball nature of the script (bouncing between the crude jokes about period blood to the anger at a teammate's empathy for an aging former Khmer Rouge member) mirrors the way these serious topics are lobbed at unsuspecting young women. As we watch #46 try to insert some of her own innocent reactions into these rough conversations, the audience is reminded of how difficult it is to steer one's innocence through such violent and dark waters.

Playwright Sarah DeLappe (a finalist for a 2017 Pulitzer Prize for the play) has created a masterwork that features young girls not as objects or secondary foils but as center-focused human beings. She refuses to let her team of girls be seen as frivolous. Even through their constant stream of “ums,” “likes,” and petty mean girl cliquishness, an air of permanent seriousness hangs over them. Their worlds are fraught with the kinds of “grown up” issues we seek to keep young people like them shielded from, for as long as possible.

But the truth is, “grown up” is a word adults use to create lines of demarcation around youth, where we perceive innocence is a gift to embrace for as long as possible. The boundary is arbitrary and in fact utterly meaningless in a world where the violence and indisputable truth of the world's cruelty can permeate the lives of innocent young girls at the touch of a button or through a reckless whisper. We may think these girls lack the apparent maturity to handle some of the situations they find themselves in, but that doesn't make them free from having to deal with them. That's the reality of contemporary teenage life the audience is confronted with in *The Wolves*, and it makes for some heartbreaking moments.



TO HER OWN BEAT: *The Wolves*, currently running through March 24 at PCPA, features Victoria Sanders as #46, a newcomer on a soccer club team filled with young girls hiding big secrets.



HOWLING GOOD TIME: Kaylene Howard as #00 presents a portrait of a young woman cracking under the pressures of her demanding life in *The Wolves*. The play runs through March 24 at Pacific Conservatory Theatre (PCPA).

What carries the play is the strength of the nine actresses who comprise the *Wolves* soccer team. There is simply not a weak link in the bunch. Each one of these actresses brings something unique and striking to each role, giving no hint of insincerity throughout the entire performance. I wondered if that was partly because they may find so much of themselves as women in these characters and their stories, because DeLappe has made each one so utterly believable and real it's hard to not relate.

The musical interludes of the play are served in fractured doses of light and sound, as the girls seem to transform into the dead-eyed demons that society sometimes seems so hell-bent in making them become. Kaylene Howard as #00 brings an especially powerful solo moment to a very jarring end, creating so much tension in her body and face it was hard not to wince in pain. Howard is very adept at playing in these quiet moments and finding hard-to-reach places of emotional chaos.

Katie Fuchs-Wackowski, resident artist at PCPA, plays #25, the team's captain. There are moments (thanks to the wonderful intimacy of the Severson Theatre) when you can see #25 begin to accept the realization that she is the warden of these young girls as they navigate through the pain of their lives and personal tragedies. She understands her leadership role and embraces it, and the actress undergoes a physical transformation within the short play that shows her character becoming more comfortable in her own skin.

Charlotte Baldiviez as #13 is an absolute gift of jaunty energy and comedic timing. She completely embodies the character, an ostentatious young teenager simultaneously embracing her coming adulthood and retreating back into childish antics. Victoria Sanders as #46, the awkward and mysterious newcomer, is a visionary and gifted actress who steals scenes in her quirky silence; #46 masks her pain well, and it's up to Sanders to give us doses without overplaying the hand. She (like all of these actresses) has an extremely promising future in theater and film.

It's hard to talk about why the play is so good without spoiling the last scene, which I won't do. I will say that the final five minutes are devastating to the point of actual audience tears. What they have managed to do is build up to a believable emotional climax that is not possible to anticipate (bring some tissues, folks).

I was not prepared for how good the play is. *The Wolves* is one of the very best drama productions I've ever seen at PCPA. It reaches a new level in terms of actors pushing themselves to go beyond dialogue and character motivation to truly wrap themselves in a particular person's pain and insecurities. To watch nine young women do this all at once onstage together is truly remarkable. ○

Arts and Lifestyle Writer Rebecca Rose is howling. Contact her at rrrose@santamariasun.com.

Cry wolf

The Wolves runs at Pacific Conservatory Theatre (PCPA) through March 24. The theater is located at 800 S. College Drive, Santa Maria. For more information, visit pcpa.org.

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**Lovely ladies**

For the Love of Painting exhibit with Sheryl Knight and Linda Mutti's landscapes featured at Gallery Los Olivos

BY REBECCA ROSE

Like many women artists on the Central Coast, Sheryl Knight and Linda Mutti stepped away from their art to raise their families when they were young.

But as they entered retirement and faced life-changing situations, they rediscovered a love for painting and art and were able to make a successful second career out of it.

"Both of us, having raised families, put painting on hold," Mutti said. "Now we're painting up a storm, and we just want to share that with everybody."

To that end, Mutti and Knight are featured in a new show at Gallery Los Olivos called For the Love of Painting, which runs from April 1 through April 31. The women said the goal

horse. After that, Mutti said she couldn't stop. She started doing commissions creating portraits of animals and was able to draw a small income.

As she moved closer to retirement, Mutti said adult education classes in Santa Barbara became an important tool to bring her closer to her art. She said when her husband passed away, 13 years ago now, the classes became even more important.

"They helped as far as having structure in my life, getting out and meeting people," she said. "It just meant everything."

Mutti and Knight both do plein air painting and studio work. Mutti said that as a landscape artist, she considers plein air to be very important because an artist needs to understand the environment of their setting. Sometimes reference materials such as

IMAGE COURTESY OF LINDA MUTTI



LANDSCAPE LADIES: Linda Mutti's work, including *Morning's Gift* (pictured), will be featured alongside the work of fellow landscape artist and longtime friend Sheryl Knight in an upcoming Gallery Los Olivos show titled For the Love of Painting.

of the show was to share with the public how much fun painting can be and to highlight the work they make while painting together.

"We're both landscape artists, for the most part," Mutti said. "For me, it's all about how we're so lucky on the Central Coast. The way the light drapes across the landscape, it's just something I'll never stop trying to portray."

Mutti said she was an art major during a time when the kind of representational art she liked to create was looked down upon. When she realized she would likely not make a living out of it, she turned to a new career, studying early childhood education. But in the back of her mind, she always wanted to go back to art.

"I don't regret a single thing I did," she said. "I got married and raised my family. But I still had a creative urge. I did stained glass, I did ceramics, I would draw at home, even if I would draw my own foot just looking at it."

It was a friend's wedding that drew Mutti back to drawing and painting. She bought a set of pastels and created a portrait of her friend's

photographs can lie to an artist by not showing the way light, for example, works in the space.

Knight said she and Mutti have painted together for more than 10 years, largely doing plein air style landscape work. She said that aside from their strong friendship, one of the reasons the pair has spent so much time working together is due to a common interest in a certain style of artwork.

"A lot of our art is similar, even though she works in pastel and I'm all oil," Knight said. "It's just great to have a friend you can do things like that with. We've done a lot of shows together."

The pair does a show together at Gallery Los Olivos almost annually. They also travel a lot together to paint. Knight said they've taken excursions to the Sierra Nevada at least four times together, as well as places like Carmel, Sonoma, and Monterey.

"This summer we are going to Wyoming and Idaho," she said. "We are going to be painting with world-renowned [landscape artist] Scott Christensen."

No matter where their travels take them, the artists always manage to tie their experiences back to their paintings on the Central Coast. Mutti said the work and their relationship have helped both of them in later years.

"If I pick up a painting or a brush, it's a direct connection to my soul," Mutti said. "I'm so happy, and I love to create. That's the feeling we want to impart." ○

Arts and Lifestyle Writer Rebecca Rose is filled with love. Contact her at rrose@santamariasun.com.

Meet the artists

For the Love of Painting features the landscape paintings of artists Sheryl Knight and Linda Mutti from April 1 through April 31 at Gallery Los Olivos. A reception with the artists is planned for April 6 from 1 to 4 p.m. Gallery Los Olivos is located at 2920 Grand Ave., Los Olivos. For more information, visit gallerylosolivos.com.

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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. Listings for *Edwards Santa Maria 10* and *14* were not provided.

ALITA: BATTLE ANGEL

What's it rated? **PG-13**
 What's it worth? **Matinee**
 Where's it showing? **Hi-Way Drive-In**
PICK Robert Rodriguez (*El Mariachi*, *Spy Kids*, *Sin City*, *Planet Terror*) directs Rosa Salazar as Alita, a half-human, half-advanced cyborg who finds vengeance for the people of the post-apocalyptic world, Iron City, while finding out about her past. The movie is a live-action film adaptation of *Gunnm*, the Japanese cyberpunk manga series by Yukito Kishiro, also known as *Battle Angel Alita* in its English translated versions.

Alita is filled with action sequences that make us all feel good about sticking it to the man, or literally slicing the bad guys in half, but the plot's delivery falls short.

I will say that if there is a sequel in the works, I won't be mad about it and would definitely see it in theaters. (122 min.)
 —Karen Garcia

APOLLO 11

What's it rated? **G**
 Where's it showing? **Parks Plaza**
NEW Todd Douglas Miller (*Dinosaur 13*) directs this documentary about the historic 1969 mission to land on the moon. Using archival footage and contemporary interviews, you'll witness Cmdr. Neil Armstrong and pilots Buzz Aldrin and Michael Collins on their amazing eight-day mission to the moon and back. (93 min.)

—Glen Starkey

CAPTAIN MARVEL

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

PICK Co-writers and directors Anna Boden and Ryan Fleck (*Mississippi Grind*) helm this new installation in the Marvel Universe. In 1995, former U.S. Air Force fighter pilot Carol Danvers (Brie Larson) becomes the superhero Captain Marvel, joining an intergalactic cohort called Starforce before returning home to discover Earth is caught in a war between two alien species.

The plot is a bit more complicated than what's above. The story opens when Vers, as Carol is known in the Kree capital planet of Hala, is training to become a Kree warrior. Her problem, as her training partner and team leader Yon-Rogg (Jude Law) tells her, is she can't control her emotions when she's in battle. Vers is a bit of hot mess. Women, right?

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

Slaves and masters

Co-writer and director Rupert Myatt (*Rise of the Planet of the Apes*) helms this sci-fi thriller about an alien invasion of Earth 10 years into the hostile occupation. Under the pretense of peaceful unity, the human race is enslaved, with some humans collaborating with the alien race and others engaging in violent dissent. Set in a Chicago neighborhood, the story revolves around Officer Mulligan (*John Goodman*), who believes Gabriel (*Ashton Sanders*) might be part of a plot to overthrow the aliens. (109 min.)

Glen: *Captive State* strikes me as a film trying too hard to be clever, and its ending will either have you believing that Myatt and his co-writer Erica Beoney (*The Battle of Shaker Heights*) are truly ingenious or that their story relies on a cheap trick. I'm definitely in the latter camp.

Too bad, because the general idea has merit. Before the aliens came and took over Earth, humans were at each other's throats and in a state of perpetual war, sort of like how we are today. The aliens are billing themselves as humanity's savior, bringing peace and stability, but they're really sucking our planet's natural resources dry. They manage all of this by enlisting human collaborators who help keep the populace in line by rooting out any hint of an uprising. Think World War II Nazi collaborators in occupied France ratting out the French Resistance. Officer Mulligan is clearly in the collaborator camp, and for some reason he believes Gabriel may be a threat to the alien power structure. Gabriel's father was Mulligan's old police partner, and Gabriel's older brother is the martyred freedom fighter, Rafe (Jonathan Majors), whose face is painted in murals around the Chicago neighborhood in which the story is set. For his part, Gabriel is more interested in escaping the neighborhood than fighting the aliens. He and his friend have a plan to evade checkpoints and leave the city by taking a boat across Lake Michigan. Aside from the suspicious family connection to Rafe and his secret boat, there's nothing to suggest Gabriel is connected to Phoenix, the French Resistance-style underground organization trying—mostly futilely—to undermine alien control. Even Mulligan's superiors are beginning to question his obsession with Gabriel. It's a David and Goliath story with foreshadowing that includes a drawing

of the famed Trojan horse and the old adage, "Beware of Greeks bearing gifts." It certainly had potential, but don't be surprised if when it's all over it doesn't quite make sense.

Anna: It all got pretty confusing, and while I wouldn't say the storyline is hard to follow, the film feels muddled at best. The classes have been pulled to opposite ends, with the rich and powerful becoming the right-hand men

to the seemingly omnipotent alien overlords. The world bears a tinge of 1984's "Big Brother," and resistance is squashed the moment it's detected. The aliens themselves are mostly unseen, but the few glimpses the audience gets reveal an odd, shape-shifting giant with a porcupine's defense mechanism—it's fast, inky black, and covered in quills. It was unsettling enough but, for me,

less than terrifying. There are plenty of characters to invest in—between the group involved in Phoenix, Gabriel's desperate attempts at escape, and even Mulligan and his mysterious connection to Jane Doe (Vera Farmiga)—but for me there was little incentive. It's all a bit confusing, but the action continues nevertheless with an intense and unsettling electricity, due mainly to the pulsing soundtrack that is the film's undercurrent. It had me pretty glued to the screen, but I too felt a bit cheated in the end by what came off as a cheap trick—they try to pull a switcheroo on the audience that just doesn't work.

Glen: I think I would have enjoyed the film more if it had explored the immorality of collaboration, but they barely examine it aside from head collaborator Commissioner Eugene Igoe (Kevin Dunn) talking about how the only way off the "dying rock" that is Earth is to be an alien pet. "Give me freedom or give me death" is clearly *not* Igoe's rallying cry. What has to happen inside a person to give up fighting and go along with your enslavers? That's what seems more interesting to me. Instead, we get the various members of Phoenix on a super secret mission even they don't quite understand. In an effort to keep the aliens from discovering their plan, no one knows what's going on. They only know their individual roles. Each person is ready to



ENSLAVEMENT: Ten years into an alien occupation, collaborator Officer Mulligan (John Goodman, left) believes Gabriel (Ashton Sanders), a young man whose brother was part of the alien resistance, may be a threat to his alien masters.

sacrifice him and herself, but we don't really know how they came to this willingness. What's their motivation? Only one member of the team—Evan Hayes (Lawrence Grimm)—has a family. What are the others fighting and dying for? There was a lot of potential for drama and pathos but, aside from Gabriel and his brother Rafe, both were in short supply here. If you're a sci-fi fan and you like mystery, I can see ponying up the money to hit a matinee, but I would have felt better spending a couple of bucks on a rental. It's not a waste of time, but *Captive State* is surely a waste of its own potential.

Anna: Sci-fi isn't my general cup of tea, and even in that genre, alien movies are usually not my first pick unless they're undeniably good, like *Arrival* or *A Quiet Place*. *Captive State* doesn't explore what I also think would have been the most interesting angle—why have humans decided to deny their best interest for that of the overlord aliens depleting Earth's resources? The film has some pretty evident commitment issues: Instead of exploring one interesting subplot, it jumps from to the next, then loops back and does it all again. I, like you, didn't grasp the group's individual motivations, and while the mission certainly felt urgent, its true impact is a little lost on me. It's not worth a trip to the theater, though I'm guessing a home viewing will leave even less of an impact. The film is trying to convey a message, but it's pretty handicapped in its delivery. And when the final outcome is revealed, it's unsatisfying. I just wasn't given much to care about. ○

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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TRIGONOMETRY FOR THE WIN: The new documentary *Apollo 11* transports viewers back to those heady days in 1969 when NASA sent men, including Buzz Aldrin (left), to the moon for the first time.

PHOTO COURTESY OF MARVEL STUDIOS



BECOMING MARVELOUS: Brie Larson (center) stars as Carol Danvers, a pilot who becomes a superhero and learns just how powerful she can be, in *Captain Marvel*.

FILM REVIEWS from page 32

She suffers from nightmares involving another woman (Annette Bening), and she doesn't remember her past. Much of the film moves back and forth in time as Carol slowly pieces together her life before she became a Kree fighter and member of Starforce, which is at war with the Skrulls, shape-shifting aliens who can disguise themselves as anyone they come in contact with.

I don't want to give too much of the inventive plot away. Part of the film's fun is that viewers are as much in the dark about Carol's past and what's happening between the Kree and the Skrulls as she is. Suffice it to say, the story heats up when Carol eventually finds herself back on Earth, where her arrival, crashing through the roof of a Blockbuster Video store and finding communication gear at a Radio Shack—yes, it's

PHOTO COURTESY OF MONKEYPAW PRODUCTIONS



TERRORIZED: A family—including mother Adelaide (Lupita Nyong'o right), daughter Zora (Shahadi Wright Joseph, left), and son Jason (Evan Alex, bottom right)—is threatened by evil doppelgängers, in *Us*.

definitely 1995—draws the attention of the authorities, specifically Nick Fury (Samuel L. Jackson), an agent of a fledgling covert group called S.H.I.E.L.D.

Overall, it's an entertaining origin story of Captain Marvel as well as a rousing feminist saga as Carol discovers who she is and what she's capable of.

I wasn't sure how Larson would be as Captain Marvel, but thankfully she approaches the role with humor. Gotta love an actress named after cheese, right? Superhero movies that take themselves too seriously are usually terrible, which is why *Thor: The Dark World* (2013) was a bit of a dud for me while *Thor: Ragnarok* (2017) was a blast. Superhero stories are inherently ridiculous, and when the stories and characters acknowledge that, even winkingly, they're more fun.

Vers comes off as irreverent and bordering on disrespectful of her superiors. As she learns more about her past, she begins

to suspect she's been manipulated. She eventually locates her old pilot friend, Maria Rambeau (Lashana Lynch), now retired from the Air Force and living a quiet life with her daughter, Monica (Akira Akbar), who still remembers Auntie Carol from the old days. Vers makes a great role model for Monica, who also gets to see her mom get back into pilot action.

Jackson as Nick Fury has a lot of fun in his role and doesn't seem phased by the strong women around him, but the film's scene-stealer is Goose, a big orange tabby.

Lots of great action sequences, solid special effects, and with a classic tee-up for future sequels, *Captain Marvel* manages to entertain and inspire without resorting to didactic lecture, but viewers will certainly be reminded of the old adage, "Don't judge a book by its cover." (124 min.)

—Glen

CAPTIVE STATE

What's it rated? **PG-13**
Where's it showing? **Movies Lompoc**
See Sun Screen.

FIVE FEET APART

What's it rated? **PG-13**
What's it worth? **Rent it**
Where's it showing? **Parks Plaza**

Justin Baldoni directs this romantic drama about two teenagers—Stella (Haley Lu Richardson) and Will (Cole Sprouse)—who both suffer from cystic fibrosis and fall in love in the hospital. Because of weakened immune systems and the danger of spreading germs, the title refers to a "6-foot rule" to avoid cross-infection.

Teens may enjoy this YA romance, but between the sick-teens-in-love clichés and mawkish tone, it does nothing to raise the subgenre. Richardson deserves praise for gamely selling this melodramatic pabulum, but most viewers will leave the theater with a shrug and a "meh." (116 min.)

—Glen

US

What's it rated? **R**
Where's it showing? **Movies Lompoc, Parks Plaza**

NEW Writer-director Jordan Peele (*Get Out*) helms this new horror thriller about a family—father Gabe Wilson (Winston Duke), mother Adelaide (Lupita Nyong'o), daughter Zora (Shahadi Wright Joseph), and son Jason (Evan Alex)—terrorized by evil doppelgängers. (116 min.)

—Glen

WONDER PARK

What's it rated? **PG**
What's it worth? **Stream it**
Where's it showing? **Movies Lompoc, Parks Plaza**

In this animated family adventure, a 10-year-old girl named June (voiced by Sofia Mali as young June and Brianna Denski as older June) used her imagination to create a magnificent amusement park with her mother (voiced by Jennifer Garner). After her mother dies, and as she grows older, she loses her wildly imaginative creativity, until one day at math camp she stumbles upon the manifestation of her childhood fantasy. June learns that she must team up with the park's talking animals to save it from the chimpanzombies seeking to destroy it.

Colorful and distracting, *Wonder Park* will capture your kindergartener's attention for its runtime, but you'll be checking your watch and wondering why they couldn't afford writers to craft an actual story. (85 min.) ○

—Glen

OFFICE SPACE

When? **1999**
What's it rated? **R**
Where? **Amazon Prime, Blu-ray, DVD, iTunes**

What do *Fight Club*, *American Beauty*, and *Office Space* have in common? Well, they all came out the same year, 1999. The main character in *Fight Club* is a white male discontent with a white-collar job—oh wait, all three movies are about that guy! But don't worry, Kevin Spacey only plays one of them.

I don't know what it was about '99 that made it the year of disgruntled office workers ready to wage war on their respective corporations and consumerism at large, or what made '98

the year of animated insects—how dare *A Bug's Life* and *Antz* get released within three months of each other!

What I do know is the best of the three was written and directed by the creator of *Beavis and Butt-head*, *King of the Hill*, and *Silicon Valley*. Mike Judge, who also directed *Idiocracy* and *Extract*, helmed *Office Space* and also stars in the film as Stan, the manager of Chotchkie's. It's a restaurant our primary protagonist Peter (Ron Livingston) and two of his co-workers, Michael (David Herman) and Samir (Ajay Naidu), frequent just for coffee, despite persistent recommendations from their least favorite waiter, Brian (Todd Duffey)—"Maybe something to nibble on? Some pizza shooters, shrimp poppers, or extreme fajitas?!"

"Just coffee," Peter says.
"OK. Sounds like a case of the Mondays," Brian guffaws.

It doesn't really matter whether it's a case of the Mondays or not though, because *Office Space* is hilarious any day of the week. The plot is mildly interesting—guy who hates his job gets hypnotized into not caring about anything anymore—but it's the characters and endlessly quotable dialogue that make it worth infinite repeat viewings.

There are just so many intricacies to each performance and the way these characters are written. Bill Lumbergh (Gary Cole), Peter's boss at Initech, has been immortalized through

BLAST FROM THE PAST

countless memes, and deservedly so. The two Bobs, Bob Slydell (John C. McGinley) and Bob Porter (Paul Wilson), the pair of consultants brought in to help downsize the company, are the most intimidating squares I think I've ever seen on screen. Their interviews with the employees of Initech make for some of the best moments in the film ("What would you say you do here?"). Joanna (Jennifer Aniston), a Chotchkie's waitress Peter starts dating, is perfectly humble, down to earth, and defined by her hatred of wearing "pieces of flair"—pop culture-themed buttons and pins required to adorn her work uniform.

And of course, there's Milton Waddams (Stephen Root). Like Bill, you've probably seen Milton even if you haven't seen the film, as he, along with his signature red Swingline stapler, is often the subject of memes. The stapler was actually customized for the film, as there was no such red-colored stapler offered by Swingline. That of course changed due to the film's success, and oodles of custom orders for red staplers from fans followed. (90 min.) ○

—Caleb Wiseblood



ONE STAPLER TO RULE THEM ALL: Milton Waddams (Stephen Root) has a Gollum-esque obsession with his red Swingline stapler, in *Office Space*.

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Glass it up

Zaca Mesa's 2016 Clydesdale pays homage to the founding family's history by embracing the vineyard's diversity

BY REBECCA ROSE

Every once in a while I fall back in love with a good syrah.

As much as we like to taste and experiment with wines, sipping recently released blends and getting talked into bottles of new brands and varieties we've never had before, eventually we all become creatures of wine habit. Some people settle into a hearty pinot noir, and others just want a safe rosé without complications.

For years, I was a syrah disciple. I never drank anything but, and I fancied myself a bit of a snob (despite having to resort to the aisles of a local 7-Eleven for my selections during college). I later moved on to crisper whites with more acidity or fruitier wines that nailed my sugar craving to a T.

Recently, the winemaking team at Zaca Mesa Winery and Vineyard offered me a unique chance to try a new wine that just so happened to be a syrah, which is their speciality. I was intrigued by the way the team had approached the wine, using multiple blocks to create a pastiche of their syrah style and philosophy. I wanted to learn more.



NEW BABY IN THE BOTTLE: Zaca Mesa's 2016 Clydesdale is an estate vintage, aged for 22 months in 12 percent new French oak. It has flavors of blackberry and toasted spices and was named in honor of the John Cushman family, who founded the winery.

But first I wondered, what do winemakers such as Kristin Bryden—who has been at Zaca Mesa for eight years—feel makes a truly great syrah?

"I like a balance between strength and elegance," she said. "A core of black and red fruits mixed in with some earth and spice and structure as well. Part of the beauty of syrah is the structure of the wine. If you can get all that into one glass, you're doing a good job."

That's what Zaca Mesa's winemaking team hopes to do with one of their latest releases, a 2016 Clydesdale syrah that represents a tapestry of the vineyard's best elements. Bryden said they started the process of creating the wine as a tribute to John Cushman and his family, who helped found the vineyard.

Cushman and a group of friends purchased the land that would become Zaca Mesa in 1972, making it only the third winery to exist at that time in Santa Barbara County. They tinkered for a while with different grapes to see what would work best in their land, but it wasn't

until 1978 when they planted their first block of syrah (known as the Black Bear Block) that the vineyard struck gold.

Clydesdale, a historic name of the Cushman family that traces back generations, was born out of an interest in celebrating the family's legacy.

"Over half of our vineyard is syrah," said Bryden. "It's our flagship varietal. So it's a great tribute to them and the commitment that they've had to Rhone varietals, especially in the Santa Ynez Valley."

There are a lot of good reasons why Zaca Mesa thrived as a syrah maker. The typical profile of a syrah is a medium acidity. Because of where Zaca Mesa is situated, the high elevations of the mesas are about 1,500 feet above sea level. That allows the grapes (thanks to the cool breezes from the Pacific) to mature and retain their all important acidity.

For this particular wine, harvest took place at the end of August and beginning of September 2016.

"It was a great vintage," Bryden said. "This wine is made of multiple blocks.

With syrah, we have nine different clones of syrah on the property—different vine age, different root stalks—so they tend to ripen at different stages. That's where the range comes from."



SYRAH DIVA: Kristin Bryden has been Zaca Mesa's winemaker for the past eight years. In working to create their 2016 Clydesdale, she said the winemaking team sought to honor the Cushman family's legacy by naming it after their historic middle name.

The syrah is from five different blocks (along with a few sub blocks) from a south facing hillside of the vineyard. With all the choices and all of the possibilities, it's hard to imagine how winemakers such as Bryden begin to craft the recipes for blends of one type of grape born in different areas of their vineyard.

"I think you imagine your wine style," she said. "You determine specifically your end product and what you're looking for. Then you're looking at all the different components and what the strengths are in each of those. That's how you start to compile your blend."

One sip of Clydesdale and it's pretty clear a lot of thought and finesse went into selecting the blend. Clydesdale has a wonderful mouthfeel; it's very silky and not too robust. It has a good representation of the core flavors of black fruit, which is key to a successful syrah. It's an incredibly flavorful wine as well and very easy to savor over a long meal or evening out.

Bryden said it stands out from their other wines in some special ways.

"I think the tannin profile is a little softer," she said. "We aged it a month longer than some of our reserves, and there is just a nice viscosity to the wine."

So as they say, *que syrah syrah, whatever wine will be, will be* (OK, I know, absolutely no one says this). Whether you're getting back into syrah after a trial separation or if you're an aficionado looking to boost your collection, Clydesdale is a horse of a different color. I promise to never make puns again. ○

Get a glass

Zaca Mesa Winery and Vineyards is located at 6905 Foxen Canyon Road, Los Olivos. For more information, visit zacamesa.com.



WIDE OPEN SPACES: The syrah grapes used to make Zaca Mesa's new 2016 Clydesdale were hand-harvested from nine different blocks throughout their estate. The idea, explained winemaker Kristin Bryden, was to create a broad showcase of the winery, from vineyard blocks to vine age and clones.

Arts and Lifestyle Writer Rebecca Rose has a rich history in wine. Contact her at rrose@santamariasun.com.



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EATS from page 34

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

PHOTO COURTESY OF SANTA BARBARA VINTNERS FESTIVAL



• Start making plans now because the **The Santa Barbara Vintners Festival** (pictured above), currently celebrating its 37th year, is scheduled for May 4 at Rancho Sisquoc Winery. This festival stands out in a world awash in wine festivals—featuring a huge gathering of winemakers pouring and discussing their favorite wines with attendees. Tickets are available by visiting sbvintnersweekend.com.

• **Cubanissimo Cuban Cafe** is always coming up with unique and fun specials, and these tostone cups filled with beef picadillo (pictured right) are no exception. Served with a fresh cucumber salad, I think this would be great as an appetizer or a light snack if you're just stopping in for their famous coffee. Check them out at **4869 S. Bradley Road, suite 118, Orcutt**.

• Allow me to go crazy here and step outside our normal coverage boundaries and tell you about **Planted** in Arroyo Grande, which has some of the best cold-pressed juices I have ever had in my life. It also serves giant plates of delicious vegan and vegetarian food. What's that? You don't want to

drive? OK, fine; head to your local farmstand or grocer and pick up some celery, cucumber, kale, chard, fennel, apple, pear, lemon, and a little parsley and juice yourself your very own version of their Awakening juice. You won't regret it. The venue is located at **201 E. Branch St., Arroyo Grande**.

• If you prefer to stay local for your wine events, **Vino et Amicis** is featuring Tu Chez performing smooth jazz, Latin, and other music on request on March 22. The show runs from 6 to 9 p.m. at **165 S. Broadway, Orcutt**.

• Here's a unique thing to try. **Cottonwood Canyon Winery** is hosting salsa lessons by the caves on March 23 from 2 to 5 p.m. Come learn how to salsa with dance instructor Liliana Graham; no partner is necessary, and all ages are welcome. Tickets are \$10 and can be purchased online at cottonwoodcanyon.com. The winery is located at **3940 Dominion Road, Santa Maria**.

• There is a new **Habit Burger** in town and while I usually avoid talking about chains, I have to admit I scarfed down my body weight in their onion rings over the weekend, and they were absolutely delicious. The other thing I really like is their variety in burgers and sandwiches. They have turkey, tuna (which is perfection), veggie, portobello, and of course lots of beef and steak options at **985 E Betteravia Road, Santa Maria**. ○

PHOTO BY REBECCA ROSE



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\$2095 1309 Sapphire Drive - 3 + 2, Morro Estates 1stry hm near hospital/101 frwy w/frml L/R,F/R, D/R, F/P, lg mstr ste w/remod'd bath, 2car grg, sunrm, manicured yd, grdnr, 1 sm pet neg w/dep.

\$1995 332 Alcazar Drive - 3 + 2.5, Arbor Walk 2stry hm in gated community w/kitchen granite ctrs, ss appls/fridge, F/P, ldry rm/hkups, 2car grg (2 car max), grdnr, no pets.

\$1995 3979 Rod Drive - 3 + 2, Orcutt single stry hm w/open concept flrpln, lg kit w/granite ctrs, L/R, F/P, D/R, ldry rm hk-ups, tenant to maintain soft wtr exchange tanks, 2car grg, no pets.

\$1895 254 Eileen Lane - 3 + 2, Orcutt single stry hm w/orig hrdwd flrs & tile in bathrooms/kitchen, F/P, 2car grg, RV pkg, lg yd, no pets, tenants to maintain yd.

\$1395 321 E. Inger Drive #J78 - 1 + 1, Las Palmas d/s condo in gated comm w/pool privs, patio, w/d hkups, trash pd, carport pkg for 2 cars max, no commercial vehicles, no pets.

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\$2100 1311 Crown Circle - 4 + 2.5, Beautiful newer 2015 2stry hm in gated comm, home is backing up to park area, some rms facing south hills, 2car finished grg, ldry rm u/s, located 8 miles to nearest VAFB gate or to beach, pet friendly w/dep, yd care incl, no section 8.

\$2000 2029 Green Ridge Circle - 3 + 2.5, Spacious 2stry w/ atch grg in Briar Creek, all applcs, refrigerator, front load wshr and dryer in ldry rm, tastefully paintd and windws have faux wd blinds thru-out, yd care incl. Nice size back yd, no pets.

\$1800 1100 N. Gardenia - 3 + 2, North East well established neighborhood features Retro-Modern hm w/many upgrades, gorgeous double-front door, foyer to huge L/R w/vaulted ceiling w/window facing backyard, kitch has all ss applcs w/brkfst bar and dining area, 2car atch grg w/auto opener, w/d hkups in grg, yd care incl, no pets please.

\$1250 112 S. "M" Street #A - 2 + 1, South side aprtmnt, good size L/R, dining area of kitch w/slider to fenced back patio. 1 detchd grg, ldry rm on site. No pets please, water is paid.

\$1200 334 S. "K" Street #B - 2 + 1, Immaculate apartment located on South side, newer lamnte flrng, lg prvt patio off D/R, w/d on premises, water pd, prking out back, no pets.

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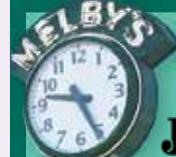
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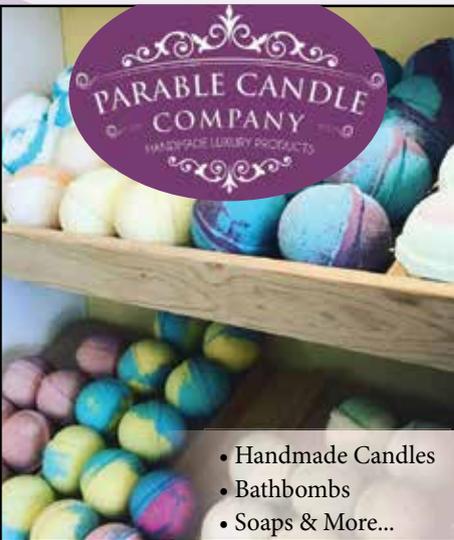
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