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FOOD & DRINK

Get your foodie on

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BY SUN STAFF



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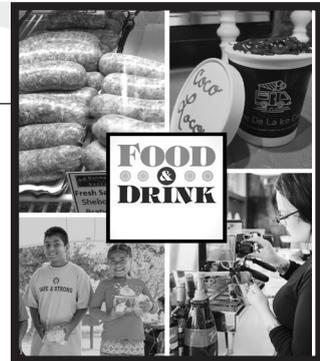
June 6 - JUNE 13, 2019 VOL. 20 NO. 14

Sweet, salty, bitter, or indifferent, we think everyone's taste buds have something to salivate over in the Sun's annual Food and Drink issue. For the sugar lover, Creme de la Ice Cream has unique lactose-free creamy ice cream flavors catered specially to your event [16]; you can give children the gift of a full stomach by volunteering with the Foodbank of Santa Barbara County's Picnic in the Park this summer [17]; take a road trip down Highway 166 and pit stop at everyone's favorite Cuyama spot to check out what's new and caffeinated [18]; and travel the butcher strip along Highway 101 from Templeton to Santa Maria to find meat worth paying for [19].

Also this week, read about what the USGS may have found near the Orcutt oil field and why it matters to ERG [7], the new irrigating requirements some leafy greens growers on the Central Coast will follow [8], bold, in-your-face color at Gallery Los Olivos [30], the Lompoc Civic Theatre's production of *A Dog's Life* [31], and boba tea and Hawaiian grub in paradise (sort of) [35].

Camillia Lanham,
editor

Cover photo by Jayson Mellom > Cover design by Alex Zuniga



HUNGER GAME: Northern Santa Barbara County is full of delicious eats, sweet treats, and caffeinated peeps.

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This week's online poll 6/6 - 6/13

How do you think lettuce farmers should prevent further E. coli outbreaks?

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- They should be more careful with irrigation.
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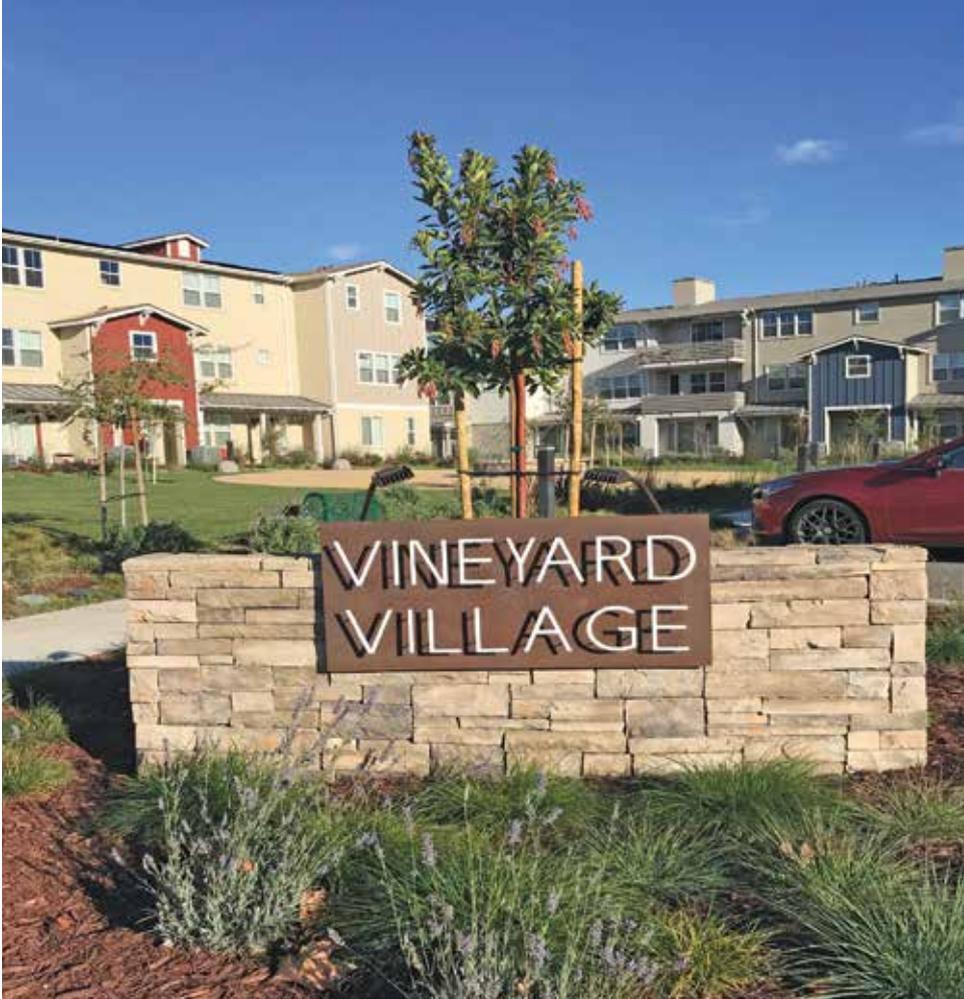
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Political Watch

• The California state Senate approved a bill authored by **Sen. Hannah-Beth Jackson (D-Santa Barbara)** that would direct the state's Division of Oil, Gas, and Geothermal Resources (DOGGR) to assess the eventual costs of shutting down California's entire oil and gas infrastructure, including cleaning up and remediating wells, facilities, and equipment associated with production. The legislation, Senate Bill 551, passed the Senate in a 22-13 vote on May 29, and now moves to the Assembly. "The cost of cleaning up abandoned oil and gas infrastructure is significant to California taxpayers," Jackson said in a press release. "In the Santa Barbara region alone, we have spent over \$150 million of taxpayer dollars to clean up facilities such as Platform Holly and the abandoned Summerland wells. Senate Bill 551 will provide the state and taxpayers with the transparency we need to understand the full scope of the problem and plan for liabilities in the future." As California works to meet its climate goals over the next several decades, Jackson says the state will face challenges regarding former oil and gas production sites. While many assume that oil and gas operators bear the ultimate financial responsibility, Jackson says that California taxpayers often pay considerable costs for removing major infrastructure and remediating sites left abandoned by bankrupt oil companies. Decommissioning Platform Holly, which was implemented off the Santa Barbara coast in 2017 as a result of the 2015 Refugio oil spill, is currently estimated to cost more than \$180 million.

• **Assemblymember Jordan Cunningham's (R-San Luis Obispo)** Anti-Eavesdropping Act passed the state Assembly on May 28. If approved, Assembly Bill 1395, would prohibit smart speaker manufacturers from retaining or distributing voice recordings or transcriptions without user consent. "Today, the state Assembly sent a strong message to the tech giants who have spent years recording and retaining private conversations in the home via smart devices," Cunningham said in a press release. "Tech giants have provided consumers with a false choice: Live in a smart and interconnected home, or keep your conversations private. We can have both." The Anti-Eavesdropping Act had bipartisan support in the Assembly, according to Cunningham's office, and is a part of the Assembly's Republican-led #YourDataYourWay privacy package, which was unveiled earlier this year. The bill will now move to the Senate for consideration.

• In response to the increasing number of horse racing deaths in California, **Gov. Gavin Newsom** announced on May 30 that he supported Senate Bill 469, which would authorize the California Horse Racing Board to suspend horse racing licenses to protect the health and safety of horses and riders. The announcement comes after this season's 26th horse death at Santa Anita Park, a popular racing track in Arcadia. "The recent horse fatalities in California are unacceptable," Newsom said in a press release. "We must hold the horse racing industry to account. If we can regulate horse race meets, we should have the authority to suspend licenses when animal or human welfare is at risk." Newsom also announced that his administration has taken additional regulatory actions through the California Horse Racing Board, including special investigations into all fatalities at Santa Anita this year, suspended authorization of 11 previously lawful corticosteroid and anti-inflammatory drugs, and increased veterinarian and safety steward staffing at Santa Anita. There are also several recently proposed regulatory packages on the table, and a new regulation going into effect July 1 will greatly expand out-of-competition testing and provide a means for the board to prosecute offenders who abuse prescribed medications, according to Newsom's office. ○

Animal Kingdom wins small claims court case

A San Luis Obispo County small claims court recently released a ruling in favor of Animal Kingdom Pet Shop, a local pet store accused of knowingly selling an unhealthy puppy to an Arroyo Grande family.

Jen Toste, who purchased an \$1,800 goldendoodle puppy from Animal Kingdom in July 2018, filed a complaint against the pet store on March 8, claiming that the store's owners and employees sold her an unhealthy puppy, which was later found to have serious, preventable health issues. Toste requested \$10,000 in punitive damages from Animal Kingdom owner Adam Tipton, who she claimed sold her the puppy knowing of its health issues, which later cost Toste tens of thousands of dollars in medical bills.

Just days after Toste's hearing in Grover Beach on April 26, San Luis Obispo County Commissioner Leslie Kraut filed her decision on May 3, ruling that Animal Kingdom does not owe Toste additional money.

"The evidence presented to support plaintiff's claim of fraud by the defendant does not meet the clear and convincing standard of proof required, nor does it meet the lesser burden of proof under a preponderance-of-the-evidence-standard," Kraut wrote in her decision. "Judgement is therefore entered for the defendant."

In court on April 26, Toste testified that her puppy, Lola, was diagnosed with bilateral hip dysplasia—a hereditary disease in which the hip joints develop incorrectly—just weeks after her purchase. Since then, Toste has spent more than \$10,000 on veterinary appointments, surgeries, and medications for Lola. Although Animal Kingdom paid Toste more than \$2,000 in medical reimbursement costs that are required by law, Toste claimed that because Lola's disease is preventable, she's owed more.

In court, Toste blamed irresponsible breeding—which can lead to higher rates of disease in animals—for her dog's health issues, and she claimed that Animal Kingdom knowingly purchased Lola from a shady out-of-state breeder to increase its profit margin. Toste provided the court with information she found on Lola's breeder, Peaceful Acres Kennel in Missouri, including a Missouri Department of Agriculture inspection report from 2011 that listed a number of code violations.

The report states that Peaceful Acres had hundreds of dogs on site during that inspection and that portions of dog houses were chewed up; facilities were dirty and dilapidated; outdoor pens were filled with standing water; feeders were caked with wet dog food; and some pens housed three dogs each, where they were not able to sit or stand in a normal position.

Animal Kingdom's owners provided evidence that subsequent inspections found that the issues were corrected, and that the breeder hasn't incurred a single violation since 2011.

"None of the reports provided evidence of breeding concerns which would result in congenital or hereditary deformities in their puppies," Commissioner Kraut wrote in her decision.

Despite the win, Animal Kingdom closed its stores in Santa Maria and Pismo Beach in April, and will continue business out of a single location in Grover Beach. The store also stopped selling puppies that month and is still fighting another lawsuit brought by animal rights groups Bailing out Benji and Animal Legal Defense Fund, which claim Animal Kingdom circumvented a new state law by selling commercially purebred puppies labeled as rescues.

Neither Toste nor Animal Kingdom owner Tipton responded to requests for comment before the *Sun's* press time.

—Kasey Bubnash



BIG CLAIMS IN SMALL CLAIMS: From left to right: Animal Kingdom Pet Shop owners Michelle Crook, Adam Tipton, and disgruntled customer Jen Toste took their disagreements to small claims court on April 26. The court ruled in favor of Animal Kingdom on May 3.

County puts kibosh on cannabis rumors in 'open letter to residents'

It's been more than two years since Santa Barbara County formally started its debate over how to deal with the state's legalization of recreational cannabis, a process that has included dozens of lengthy public meetings, community input, and workshops across the county.

But county officials say rumors are starting to spread—rumors that the county's handling of the issue has been carried out behind closed doors.

That, according to county Deputy CEO Dennis Bozanich, is simply not true.

"I think we live in an interesting time where people feel like they can even use media to promote inaccurate information," Bozanich told the *Sun*, "and it's a real challenge for all of us to be able to understand what's truthful and real."

In an attempt to set the record straight, the county released an "open letter to residents" on May 31 regarding cannabis, which includes a synopsis of the county's public input gathering process and a list of facts about recent illegal cannabis enforcement operations.

Like any land-use issue, Bozanich said the dispute over recreational marijuana has stirred up tensions across the county, including in the Santa Ynez Valley, Tepusquet, and Carpinteria. Residents have been debating the benefits and costs of recreational cannabis grows and shops in the county for years now, but Bozanich said people tend to join in on discussions like these at different times for different reasons.

That's understandable, he said, but in this instance, it led to the spread of misinformation about how the county's cannabis policies were made, and insinuations that county officials have certain insidious intentions. The letter, Bozanich said, is just the county's first attempt to stop the gossip in its tracks.

"Let's reset the foundational facts of what's happened here regardless of what people are saying," he said.

In the letter, county officials say they've been working since 2016 to build a local regulatory structure that would ease the negative impacts of cannabis cultivation and reduce illegal grows. That process has been conducted in a "very public manner," the letter states, with hundreds of stakeholders and more than 30 public meetings across the county.

All permitted cannabis operators are required to meet strict development standards, and conditional use permits are now required of cannabis operators in existing rural neighborhoods. The letter also states that the county's compliance teams have been enforcing county regulations and those required by the state.

Since August 2018, the county says that 30 criminal enforcement actions have resulted in the removal of 832,649 live plants and the confiscation or elimination of 31,706 pounds of illegal products. In addition to criminal enforcement, the compliance team is actively pursuing civil and land-use violations to enforce health and safety concerns, which the county says will drive out bad actors and lead to higher-wage jobs with benefits for legal cannabis industry employees.

Since the county released its letter, Deputy CEO Bozanich said some residents have already pushed back, asking for a list every of meeting the county has hosted regarding cannabis. Bozanich

NEWS continued page 6

Weekend Weather

KSBY NEWS
Microclimate Weather Forecast
Dave Hovde
KSBY Chief Meteorologist

<p>Thursday</p> <p>COASTAL > High 70 Low 55 INLAND > High 76 Low 56</p>	<p>Friday</p> <p>COASTAL > High 68 Low 53 INLAND > High 74 Low 53</p>
<p>Saturday</p> <p>COASTAL > High 76 Low 53 INLAND > High 81 Low 52</p>	<p>Sunday</p> <p>COASTAL > High 78 Low 56 INLAND > High 83 Low 55</p>

After a thicker marine morning Friday, the weekend looks to feature less and as a result we warm up at the coast and inland.

NEWS from page 5

said he's working to compile that and other facts, including the number of state cannabis licenses the county has approved—928 as of June 3.

Bozanich said it's not only important for community members to have these facts but to know the context. There may be 928 licenses, but that doesn't mean there are 928 cannabis farms in the county—one farm typically needs multiple licenses. There are only about 100 operators on 174 acres of Santa Barbara County's 756,000 acres of farmland, he said.

—Kasey Bubnash

Santa Maria residents urge city to resume water fluoridation

The city of Santa Maria is reconsidering its decision to discontinue the fluoridation of the city's water supply after some residents pushed back on the move at a recent City Council meeting.

Santa Maria began fluoridating its water in 2004, but stopped last year as a cost-saving measure. According to the city's 2018-19 budget, not fluoridating the city's water saves about \$48,000 annually.

The budget document states that discontinuing fluoridation doesn't affect water quality delivered to the public. However, some people who spoke at the May 21 meeting said residents are missing out on the health benefits of fluoride.

"There's a lot of proof that it helps reduce cavities in children and adults," Santa Maria dentist Hendrick Gonzalez said during the meeting.

Fifteen years ago, the city started adding fluoride to its water after receiving grant funding to install the necessary equipment and to cover the first 10 years of fluoridation. After

2014, the city was able to decide whether to continue fluoridating its water, according to the budget document.

At the time of receiving the grant funding, a group of residents protested the process, which culminated with a ballot measure in 2004 that would have blocked adding fluoride to the city's water. The city was able to move forward with fluoridation after the measure failed in a tight 51 percent to 49 percent vote, according to Santa Barbara County election records.

Santa Maria dentist Glenn Prezkop, who has practiced in the city for 24 years, told the council on May 21 that working to implement fluoridation in Santa Maria was the most significant challenge of his professional career. At the meeting, he called on the city to restart the process, noting that the only public mention of eliminating fluoridation can be found in one paragraph in the city's 336-page budget.

"We're here to ask you to turn that back on," Prezkop said. "It got turned off last October without hardly any notice. In fact, I think it was really slipped by, and I have good reason to say that."

Aside from the two dentists, six other people at the meeting urged the city to restart fluoridation, including representatives from the Santa Barbara County Public Health Department and the California Department of Public Health's Office of Oral Health.

During the public comment period, County Oral Health Program Coordinator Meredith Nasholds restated the contents of a letter the county sent the city earlier this year, urging it to resume fluoridation.

"When a community stops fluoridating its water, local residents spend more money on decay-

related dental problems," Nasholds said. "Every \$1 invested in fluoridation saves an average of \$20 in unnecessary dental treatment costs."

City Councilmember Michael Moats questioned Nasholds on what the county is doing to encourage other nearby cities to begin fluoridation. Prior to discontinuing the process, Santa Maria was the only city in the county to fluoridate its water, according to the State Water Resources Control Board.

City Council didn't take any action on fluoridation at the meeting. Santa Maria Public Information Officer Mark van de Kamp said city staff will bring forward the issue as a budget item for City Council to consider at its meeting on June 18.

—Zac Ezzone

Bill to keep firearms from drunk drivers passes Senate

A bill that would keep guns away from those who have been convicted of some alcohol-related crimes passed the state Senate on May 23, the fifth anniversary of the Isla Vista shooting, which left six dead and 14 injured at the hands of 22-year-old Elliot Rodger.

Senate Bill 55, which state Sen. Hannah-Beth Jackson (D-Santa Barbara) introduced on Dec. 12, 2018, would make it illegal for people who rack up multiple driving under the influence convictions in a three-year timespan to own firearms for 10 years. A vehicular manslaughter while intoxicated conviction would lead to the same decade-long restriction.

The bill passed the Senate in a 26-10 vote and will now move to the Assembly.

"Too many innocent lives have been lost to gun

violence," Jackson said in a press release. "This is especially clear today, on the five-year anniversary of the tragic Isla Vista shooting. We must do more to keep deadly firearms out of the hands of people at risk of committing violence."

California law already prohibits people convicted of some crimes from possessing and owning firearms, either permanently or for a 10-year period. Jackson said her bill would simply add some alcohol-related crimes to the list.

The bill, she said, was inspired by a study published in 2017 by UC Davis, which found that individuals who have been convicted of some alcohol-related crimes are four to five times more likely to commit violent or gun-related crimes later on.

The study, which was conducted through the UC Davis Violence Prevention Research Program, examined the association between prior convictions for alcohol-related crimes, chiefly driving under the influence, and risk of subsequent arrest.

Researchers followed 4,066 individuals who purchased handguns in California in 1977, and found that by 1991, nearly 33 percent of the 1,272 people with prior alcohol-related convictions had been arrested for a violent or firearm-related crime. Only about 6 percent of the 2,794 with no prior criminal history had been arrested for the same reasons.

About 16 percent of those who had prior alcohol-related convictions were later arrested for murder, rape, robbery or aggravated assault, compared to only 3 percent of those without prior convictions. ○

—Kasey Bubnash

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PUBLIC HEARING

to solicit input regarding

The Santa Maria Valley Management Area 2018 Annual Report of Hydrogeologic Conditions, Water Requirements, Supplies and Disposition

Prepared by Luhdorff and Scalmanini Consulting Engineers, April 2019, according to the terms of the June 30, 2005, Stipulation in the Santa Maria Valley Water Conservation District v. City of Santa Maria, et al.

Monday, June 10, 2019 • 2:00 p.m.
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The 2018 Annual Report of Hydrogeologic Conditions, Water Requirements, Supplies and Disposition is available at <http://bit.ly/TMAdocs>

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Oil and water

Local groups capitalize on unofficial groundwater, oil field study results

BY ZAC EZZONE

Preliminary findings in a U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) study show indications of oil field-related substances mixing with groundwater at various sites in the Orcutt oil field. Local environmental groups are using these unofficial findings to protest further oil and gas projects in Santa Barbara County. In a 33-page letter to the Santa Barbara County Planning Commission, the Environmental Defense Center and other groups cite these unofficial results, along with their own research, as reasons to deny a project proposal from ERG to develop 233 new oil wells in Cat Canyon.

"The purpose of this letter is to provide the commission with important new information concerning ERG's unsafe operating history ... and new evidence of local groundwater contamination from oil operations in and near Cat Canyon," the letter states.

Although ERG operates wells in Cat Canyon, which is near Orcutt, it doesn't operate in the Orcutt oil field where the USGS study took place. The Planning Commission is set to make a decision on the ERG project after a third public hearing on Aug. 14.

The USGS study that the Environmental Defense Center cited in its letter is part of a regional groundwater monitoring program run by the federal agency and the State Water Resources Control Board. Through this program, which was established by Senate Bill 4 in 2013, the state and federal agencies look at how oil and gas operations affect groundwater,

said John Borkovich, groundwater monitoring section chief at the water board.

Through this program, the USGS identified more than 100 high-priority oil fields to consider for monitoring. Orcutt is considered to be a high priority because of the high volume of injection wells present in the oil field, according to USGS Monitoring Program Chief Matthew Landon.

'We're a little sensitive about that fact that this preliminary information has been the basis for a lot of press ...'

—Kim Taylor, USGS California Water Science Center program officer

USGS researcher Robert Anders presented the preliminary results of the Orcutt study at a stakeholders meeting with other USGS and state water board officials in February. The meeting was recorded and is accessible on the water board's website.

Borkovich said it's too early to draw conclusions from information shared in that meeting regarding how oil and gas production in the Orcutt Oil Field is affecting the groundwater. The final USGS report will provide more definite answers when it's released later this year or early next year, following a peer review process.

"The assessment of looking at all these several lines of information and data and coming to a conclusion is still in the works," Borkovich said. "So I think it's speculative at this point to say for certain one way or the other."

Kim Taylor, USGS California Water Science Center program officer, said the agency was surprised that the video from the stakeholders meeting was made public and is concerned about the attention the unofficial information has received. Normally, the USGS doesn't publicly share information on its findings until they are final.

"We're a little sensitive about that fact that this preliminary information has been the basis for a lot of press and emphasizing that it's preliminary, and we will be coming out with a USGS product that will be definitive," Taylor said.

However, the federal agency's caution hasn't stopped the Ventura County Board of Supervisors from acting on information presented in the February meeting. During the same meeting, in which Anders discussed the Orcutt study, a different USGS researcher said that similar preliminary findings were collected near Oxnard.

Following this, at an April meeting, Ventura supervisors unanimously approved a 45-day moratorium on new steam injection wells in the area identified in the study. On June 4, after press time, supervisors planned to vote on extending the moratorium to one year.

In his presentation, Anders said that four of the 16 groundwater wells the USGS sampled between 2017 and 2018 in Orcutt showed some signs of oil field substances—including indicators of natural gas,

methane, and produced water in two wells overlying the oil field.

None of the four wells identified are used for public consumption, Landon said. One is used for watering landscape, one is used for industrial purposes, and two are used for monitoring water quality.

In addition to checking wells overlying the oil field, researchers sampled wells adjacent to the oil field within 3 miles.

In one of the adjacent wells, researchers found indicators of produced water—a byproduct of oil and gas production—which could be attributed to the historic use of surface pond disposal sites in the area, Landon said. These disposal sites are no longer allowed in the Orcutt field.

In the other adjacent well, researchers found oil field substances, along with chemicals found only in industrial settings and not oil production.

"So we see some geochemical indicators suggesting that there's oil field water mixing with the groundwater at this site, but there also is some evidence of some other industrial source, which we don't know anything about, affecting groundwater at this site," Landon said.

While researchers identified potential reasons for finding oil field related substance in the two adjacent groundwater wells, they can't determine why the fluids were detected in the two wells overlying the oil field. Landon said the substances could've reached the groundwater through natural or unnatural processes.

A more in-depth study looking specifically at these two wells would be needed to make this determination, Taylor said.

"Sometimes we can determine pathways and other times we can't," Taylor said. "And in this situation, I think the sense is we aren't going to be able to nail down the pathways in Orcutt with this sampling." ○

Reach Staff Writer Zac Ezzone at zezzone@santamariasun.com.



Jillian Davenport, MD, FAAP

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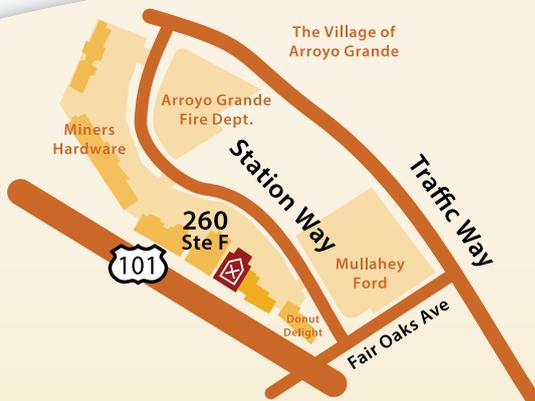


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Something in the water

Local farmer discusses new regulations for lettuce growers in wake of E. coli outbreaks

BY KASEY BUBNASH

Last year wasn't an easy one for U.S. lettuce farmers.

In the spring of 2018, an E. coli outbreak that was linked back to contaminated romaine lettuce caused nearly 210 reported illnesses, 96 hospitalizations, and five deaths across 36 states. Just months after that outbreak was declared over, in June 2018, another strain of E. coli spread across the nation—again through romaine—causing 62 reported illnesses and 25 hospitalizations in 16 states.

In direct response to those outbreaks and subsequent investigations, the Leafy Green Marketing Agreement (LGMA), a voluntary membership program that works to ensure the safety of California-grown leafy greens, is implementing a set of more stringent food safety regulations that member farms will be required to follow.

Dan Sutton, a Central Coast farmer and general manager of the Pismo Oceano Vegetable Exchange, chairs the LGMA. Sutton said the new guidelines, which were approved by the LGMA's board on April 19, will largely impact the way farmers handle open water sources—reservoirs, creeks, and canals similar to those that the 2018 E. coli outbreaks were attributed to.

"We're doing this because we want to make sure the produce we're growing and putting out into commerce are the safest we can do," Sutton told the Sun.

Part of that, Sutton said, is accepting that "not all water is created equal."

Although it had a lesser impact on the nation as a whole, the second outbreak of 2018 hit closer to home for many Santa Barbara County residents. In December of last year, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) announced that sediment from a reservoir near Adam Brothers Farming tested positive for E. coli O157:H7, the same strain that was first reported to be present in contaminated romaine lettuce a month earlier.

The Santa Maria-based farm stated in a press release that while filtered and treated water from the reservoir may have come in contact with the farm's produce after it was harvested, none of the filtered water tested positive for E. coli.

On Feb. 13, the FDA released its final report on the outbreak, which deduced that while investigators weren't sure of the exact E. coli source, water from the Adam Brothers' reservoir most likely led to the contamination of some romaine lettuce that led to illness. The FDA came to a similar conclusion in its investigation into the first romaine outbreak of 2018, which found that contaminated water in an Arizona irrigation canal likely led to the spread of E. coli.

Farmers use a number of different water sources for irrigation, Sutton said, from open creeks and reservoirs to closed underground wells, which contain water that isn't exposed to the environment until pumped out onto crops.

The LGMA's new guidelines will require farmers to categorize water sources, consider how and when water is applied to the crop, conduct testing to ensure that water is safe for the intended use, sanitize water if necessary, and verify that all of the above precautions have been taken.

One of the most significant changes, according to Sutton, is the LGMA's new requirement that if an open water source is being used on crops within 21 days of harvest, the water must be treated.

The new regulations are in line with the LGMA's core mission, Sutton said.

The LGMA launched in 2007, after an E. coli outbreak in spinach sickened hundreds of people. At the time, leafy greens growers faced the threat of forced government restrictions in response to the outbreak. Sutton said industry leaders instead came together to develop the food safety requirements that LGMA members abide by today.

Membership in the LGMA is voluntary, but members must adhere to strict food safety codes and pass compliance audits about five to six times a year.

Sutton's farm, the Pismo Oceano Vegetable Exchange, is just one of about 14 produce farms from Lompoc to the Five Cities area that are certified LGMA members and will have to adhere to the new regulations. Adam Brothers Farming is not listed as a member on the LGMA's website.

While Sutton said the new regulations will impact each farm differently, growers who use open water sources will need to make the biggest changes.

"For all growers," he said, "we'll need to get a little more in depth for understanding our water and water delivery systems."

At the Pismo Oceano Vegetable Exchange, Sutton said he and his staff will be updating the water testing protocol, and they are looking for ways to address the open water sources they've used in the past. They may treat that open source water in the future, he said, or implement a drip irrigation system so that the water doesn't actually come in contact with the leaves of the produce.

Sutton doesn't expect consumers to see any major changes in lettuce prices because of these regulations, although he said some farmers may incur some additional expenses.

With board approval, the LGMA is already working toward implementing its new food safety regulations. Leafy greens farmers will have a chance to give feedback and ask

'... we'll need to get a little more in depth for understanding our water and water delivery systems.'

—Dan Sutton, chair of the Leafy Green Marketing Agreement

questions for the next several weeks, Sutton said, and the LGMA conducted implementation training events across California throughout the last week of May, including one at the Radisson in Santa Maria on May 29.

The LGMA auditors need to be trained, and Sutton said the regulations should be fully implemented within about 60 days.

"In the leafy greens community, we want to get this done," Sutton said. "It was important to us that we do this as quickly as possible." ○

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

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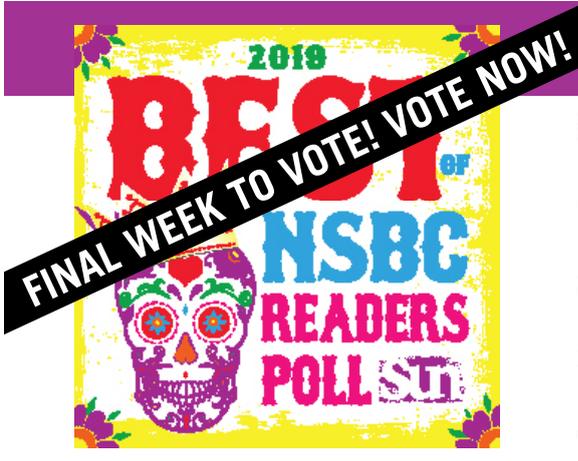
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We need you!

Our annual Best Of issue is here once again—and we're looking to you, the community, to help with the task at hand. Specifically, we need you to step up with your opinions so we can put together this publication/celebration about all of the eateries, drinkeries, businesses, and people that make Northern Santa Barbara County so special.

So now isn't the time to be shy. Get in there and fill out this ballot. Speak your mind, folks. We won't judge you. Then talk to your family, friends, and neighbors, so you're not the only one doing your part. They all need to fill out ballots of their own! You can even go online to vote at santamariasun.com. Just remember, you need to complete at least 25 categories to be counted.

Return this ballot to the Sun office or go online by 5 p.m. on June 10. Then get ready to read all about the winners on Aug. 8.

Tell everyone!

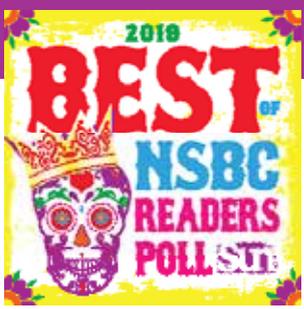
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BEST OF BALLOT from previous page

44. Best Thai Food

45. Best Carniceria

46. Best Panaderia

47. Best Barbecue

48. Best Salad

49. Best Place to Go On a First Date

50. Best Caterer

LIQUID CONNECTIONS

51. Best Red Wine

52. Best White Wine

53. Best Winery for Sparkling

54. Best Brewery

55. Best Tasting Room

56. Best Tasting Transportation

57. Best Margarita

58. Best Fancy Cocktail

59. Best Dive Bar

60. Best Liquor Store

61. Best Happy Hour

62. Best Coffee Shop

63. Best Michelada

64. Best Local IPA

65. Best Sports Bar

66. Best Dog-Friendly Winery

ARTS AND ENTERTAINMENT

67. Best Live Music Venue

68. Best Local Band or Musician

69. Best Shop for Musicians

70. Best Photographer

71. Best Artist

72. Best Art Gallery

73. Best Community Event

74. Best Theater Group

75. Best Museum

76. Best Radio Station

77. Best Media Personality

78. Best Movie Theater

79. Best Place for Karaoke

80. Best Place to Dance

81. Best DJ

82. Best Public Art

83. Best Festival

84. Best Tattoo Artist

85. Best Day Trip

86. Best Place for a Big Bash

87. Best Place to Have a Kids Party

88. Best Place to Shop for a Quinceañera

89. Best Car Show

BURNING CASH

90. Best New Business of 2018

91. Best Clothing Store

92. Best Eyewear Store

93. Best Place to Buy Kids Clothes

94. Best Thrift Store

95. Best Antique Store

96. Best Bookstore

97. Best Place to Geek Out

98. Best Medical Marijuana Delivery Service

99. Best Smoke Shop

100. Best Financial Planner/Accountant

101. Best Local Bank or Credit Union

102. Best Lawyer/Attorney

103. Best Auto Maintenance/Repair

104. Best Car Audio/Security

105. Best Place to Buy Tires

106. Best Car Wash/Detail

107. Best Used Car Dealer

108. Best New Car Dealer

109. Best Veterinarian

110. Best Place to Pamper Your Pet

111. Best Moving Company

112. Best Jewelry Store

113. Best Place for Gifts

114. Best Flower Shop

115. Best Hardware Store

116. Best Home and Garden Store

117. Best Real Estate Company
(Specific City)

118. Best Customer Service

119. Best Electrician

120. Best Landscaper

121. Best Contractor

122. Best Plumber

123. Best Furniture/Decor Store

124. Best Carpet/Flooring Company

125. Best Consignment Store

126. Best Pet Sitter or Boarding

127. Best Cleaning Service

128. Best Pest Control Service

129. Best Tree Trimming Service

130. Best Mortgage Company

131. Best Child Care

132. Best Window Cleaning Service

133. Best Place to
Fill Up Your Car

FEELIN' GOOD

134. Best Health Club/Gym

135. Best Martial Arts Gym

136. Best Health Food/Vitamin Store

137. Best Place for Skin Care

138. Best Place to
Get a Massage

139. Best Yoga Studio

140. Best Hike or Bike Trail

141. Best Barbershop

142. Best Hair Salon

143. Best Nail Salon

144. Best Tanning Salon

145. Best Dentist

146. Best Orthodontist

147. Best Doctor

148. Best Chiropractor

149. Best OB-GYN

150. Best Pediatrician

151. Best Alternative Healer

152. Best Counselor/Therapist

153. Best Senior Living Community

154. Best Place to Put Up
Visiting Family

155. Best Golf Course

156. Best Bike Shop

GETTING HITCHED

157. Best Wedding Venue

158. Best Wedding Caterer

159. Best Wedding Planner

160. Best Place for Wedding Flowers

161. Best Wedding Band

162. Best Tuxedo Rental

163. Best Place to Buy a Wedding Dress

164. Best Place to Buy a Wedding Ring

165. Best Limo or Party Bus Service

166. Best Place for a Rehearsal Dinner

167. Best Place for Wedding Reception

168. Best Winery Wedding Venue

COMMUNITY ON MY MIND

169. Best Eco-Friendly Business

170. Best Community Center/Nonprofit

171. Best Man or Woman
Behind the Badge (specify agency)

172. Best News Source

173. Best Social Media Presence

174. Best Kids After-School Program

175. Best Place to Volunteer

176. Best Take-It-To-The-Man
Local Activist

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THE RULES: One ballot per person. No more than two ballots may be submitted per envelope or in person at one time. No photocopies can be accepted. To prevent ballot-box stuffing (also known as cheating), all ballots must have at least 25 categories completed and must include the name and address of the voter, for verification purposes only. All information is kept in complete confidence. Ballots must be in our office by Monday, June 10, at 5 p.m. Winners will be announced in our Aug. 8 special publication. All entries become the property of *Sun*.

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BY ZAC EZZONE

About eight years ago, Annie Looysen and her husband acquired a few pet finches and purchased a table to place the birds' cage on. Unfortunately, the avians didn't work out as pets in their 800-square-foot home, so Looysen painted the table and sold it on Craigslist for much more than she anticipated.

Although the birds didn't work out, Looysen's passion for breathing new life into furniture persists.

"Biggest thing I love is the end result," Looysen said. "Even if I just paint a piece for the store, I love the before and after. It's some weird high that I get."

Looysen said she began drawing and painting before high school; however, she didn't think these passions would translate into a career until she sold that first piece on Craigslist. Soon after, Looysen began receiving inquiries from customers asking her to paint, stain, and restyle old tables and dressers.

Looysen fulfilled these custom orders and sold pieces online and at the Deja Vu Antique Mall in Orcutt until opening her own store in Nipomo in May 2018.

"I really felt like I needed to showcase my furniture more and be able to put a face to the actual pieces of furniture," Looysen said.

In her store, Simply Chic on West Dana Street, Looysen stocks pieces of furniture that she's painted alongside a variety of other gifts and home decor products. She prefers selling

locally crafted items, like the coconut wax candles made by Botanica 805 in Nipomo.

In addition to the items she sells, Looysen is beginning to offer workshops for people interested in learning how to paint and perform other activities. At the first workshops on June 6 and 8, attendees can learn how to make cards just in time for Father's Day.

Despite everything going on at the store, Looysen said custom orders to paint, stain, and restyle furniture are still the primary focus of her business. She said she currently has two months of orders to get through, with each project taking a different amount of time depending on its scope.

"I think we're going to have to restructure because I keep getting more custom work, and I hate telling people it's going to take two months," Looysen said.

Also integral to Looysen's business is her philosophy of reusing and recycling old furniture that could otherwise end up in a landfill. Looysen said this mindset was borne out of witnessing a U-Haul truck drop off numerous pieces of furniture at a dump, which were then run over by a tractor and reduced to rubble.

"It's perfect furniture, but people don't understand," Looysen said. "It's grandma's furniture or mom's furniture that they don't want anymore and think nobody else will want, but there's always people like me who want that kind of stuff because we can see the potential it has."

Spotlight on: Simply Chic Annie Looysen, owner



UPCYCLING: Simply Chic owner Annie Looysen paints, stains, and restyles old pieces of furniture.

Highlight:

• The Central Coast Coalition of Chambers is holding its 11th annual Central Coast Business Symposium on June 13 at the Clark Center in Arroyo Grande. Reservations are required for this event, which includes a presentation from Firestone Walker Brewing Company

Founder Adam Firestone and his brother, Andrew Firestone, who is the founder of StonePark Capital, a hospitality firm based in Santa Barbara. ○

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





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- 25% No—it could deter people from responding.
- 16% The data potentially gathered by the question isn't worth the risk of an undercount.
- 5% I assumed that was already a question.

24 Votes

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Ego foregoes common sense

The truth according to Jim Mosby

BY RON FINK

Lompoc City Councilmember Jim Mosby is still searching for truth but can't seem to find it. His recent statements and the actions he supported on May 28 are indicative of a person who is totally out of touch with the needs of the constituents he serves and seemingly unable to simply tell the truth.

Preparing a two-year budget is a complicated task; having council members who consistently misrepresent the information they feel is important to their cause isn't helpful. Mosby is a master at misrepresentation, which has been proven dozens of times during the current and past budget debates.

For example, during a budget workshop on May 15, flapping his ever-present stack of papers, he claimed that "it was never really discussed with us what's going on with revenue," and "it was never discussed why [10-year] revenue projections were \$1.5 million off in 2019-20 and \$2 million off in 2020-21."

This, of course, was false. During a special workshop on Dec. 8, 2018, the management services director told the council that the cause of revenue projection shortfalls was partially due to a "housing bubble," meaning that when comparing 2018 to 2006, there is a remarkable decrease in housing construction.

He also told them that rising interest rates influence Lompoc city government; those funds with large balances like the enterprise and special funds earn revenue, but it brings very little increase to the general fund that has a much smaller balance.

Then the management services director discussed "where we are" at great length, specifically explaining revenue "variances" or missing the target. The variances occurred because of the lower revenue stream, not because of budgeted expenses.

The loss of revenue in the fiscal year ending on June 30, 2018, was \$1.3 million. The primary losses were caused by not meeting revenue projections for transient occupancy taxes; issuance of building permits and planning and development fees caused by a lack of planned buildout; lower recreation venue fees; inability to sell excess city property; and lower street and road fund transfers from the state.

This condition will likely continue since new development is moving at a snail's pace.

In a May 28 letter to the editor in the *Lompoc Record*, Mosby said, "I'm not willing to allow the drastic budget measures presented by city staff in the last two budget workshops as the only course of action for council to take on our city budget" and claimed that "the average income in Lompoc was \$20,000, well below the median income of city management."

He also wrote that "there needs to be discussion about how much more money City Hall will be taking from the people with the proposed sales tax increase, how long the 100 percent increase will be in effect, and for what specific purpose."

First, according to the U.S. Census Bureau's website, the median household income in Lompoc is \$49,074. And, secondly, a 1 percent sales tax increase does not equal a 100 percent increase of the current 7.5 percent sales tax rate. A fifth grader could figure that one out.

To cap it off, Councilmembers Mosby, Dirk Starbuck, and Victor Vega have consistently said that they had no intention of cutting public safety. This, too, turned out to be a total misrepresentation of what they would eventually direct the staff to do.

The May 28 meeting began when staff made

a very short presentation of five cost-cutting scenarios; each cut public safety by anywhere between \$1.2 million and \$1.9 million.

This really upset the folks attending this meeting, and in an unusual move for this series of workshops, Mayor Jenelle Osborne wanted to hear from the public before the council made any decisions. All but one of the several speakers harshly criticized the three councilmen for taking the position that the public should not be allowed to vote on a sales tax measure.

... a 1 percent sales tax increase does not equal a 100 percent increase of the current 7.5 percent sales tax rate. A fifth grader could figure that one out.

Speaker after speaker pleaded with them to place a tax measure on the ballot. Mayor Osborne made a motion that council direct staff to prepare a budget that included a place holder for the proposed tax revenue and continue with staffing as approved in the 2017-19 budget. This motion failed on a 3-2 vote.

Then, in what appeared to be a rehearsed action by the three councilmen, Starbuck introduced the idea of adopting one of five options that included elimination of all code enforcement officers, two planners, the public information officer, support for the chamber of commerce, suspension of two negotiated pay steps for firefighters, holding vacant several positions, and a total of \$1.9 million in public safety cuts primarily to the fire department.

I say rehearsed, as in pre-coordinated, because just as Starbuck was finished speaking, Mosby made the motion to direct staff to exercise that option, and Vega quickly seconded it. Of course, it passed 3-2; so much for their commitment to not

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cut public safety dollars.

Mayor Osborne was clearly upset. "There is nothing wrong with putting off those firings if we don't have to eliminate those people. I ask you why you'd want to go ahead and see blood and see pink slips go out as of July 1 just to

prove your point that you want to cut now," she said.

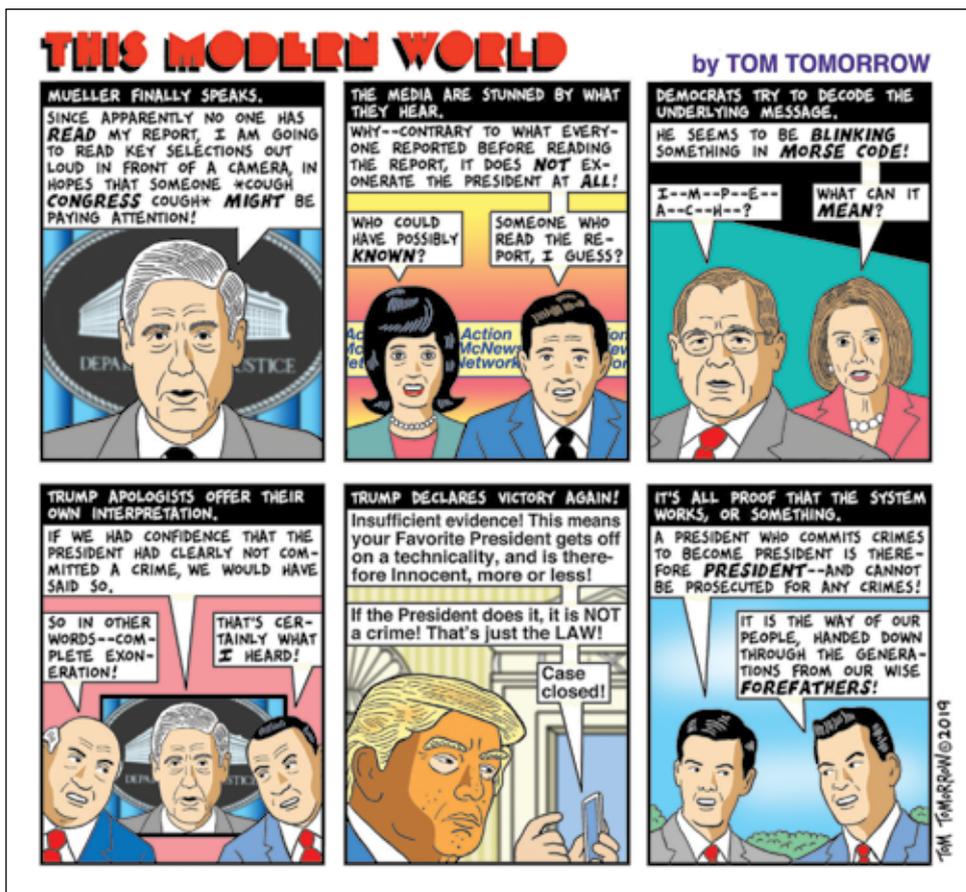
"It's not visionary," she later said of the path taken by the council majority. "It's setting up a legacy of failure. It's saying you have no will to respect

the community, and I think better of you all [the public]."

An observer of government once said, "Politicians will do the right thing, but only after everything else they tried failed." Trying to solve this problem by cutting the budget is a sure path to failure. It's time for the citizens to act and submit a petition to place a sales tax measure on the ballot.

While they are at it, maybe they should submit three recall petitions for three councilmen who have failed to place the interest of the community above their own selfish egos while thinking, "Look at me, finally the big man on the block; get in my way and you're gone." ○

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



Cannabis conspiracy

Apparently, there are some residents of Santa Barbara County who choose to live under rocks for years at a time. I'm having a hard time believing that people actually exist who don't realize that the county has spent a massive amount of public time developing its cannabis ordinance in a very public way.

I guess those self-righteous few do exist though. And the rumors they have spread are so numerous that the county felt compelled to issue an open letter to residents to dispel the misinformation out there. Apparently, county staff also live under a rock. You think people are going to pay attention to an open letter if they haven't followed any of the major news outlets in the county since 2016?



Hah!

CEO Dennis Bozanich told the *Sun* that "people feel like they can even use the media to promote inaccurate information." Gasp! Quick, someone catch me before I faint and flutter to the floor. Yep, Dennis, that's something that's been going on since the beginning of print. It's annoying.

"Every land use issue in Santa Barbara County is controversial," the letter states. No kidding.

According to Bozanich, there are folks out there insinuating that county officials are being shady and secretive. Speaking of shade, dentist Glenn Prezkop threw some at the city of Santa Maria during a May City Council meeting, accusing officials of slipping by the fact that fluoride had slipped out of the city's water supply. Really, the city just ran out of funding. I was just sad there weren't any tin foil hats in the audience at that meeting because fluoride causes some people to really let the conspiracy theorist inside of them out—facts or no facts!

Speaking of conspiracies, Bozanich said the county is just looking to reset the cannabis discussion with some cold hard facts, which don't do diddly for a discussion like this one. People just double down on their dumbassery. Cough, cough: **President Donald Trump**.

Since the letter was released, some disgruntled cannabis haters requested a list of all of the public meetings the county has had on the issue. Don't worry, though, when they get the list, they'll just accuse the county of lying. Fake news! He's compiling it right now, and the number of meetings is nearing 60.

It makes sense. I would roll my eyes when I heard about another meeting about cannabis—like, get to the issuing business permits parts already, people! We've got things like a hoop houses ordinance to work on over here. Also, who would have thought hoop houses would be so dramatic?

It all started with some berries that needed shade. Three years and eight hearings later, the county finally passes an ordinance, and guess what happens?

The county gets sued by the **Santa Barbara Coalition for Responsible Cannabis** (aka, no cannabis). Ugg, you anti-cannabis people are soooo annoying. ○

The Canary hates insinuations and innuendo. Send comments to canary@santamariasun.com.

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55 words or less



Here are some key rules to remember:

1. No more than 55 words. It's in the title of the contest. Don't forget it.
2. Hyphenated words count as individual words, except for words like "re-open" where both parts are not words on their own.
3. The title does not count toward the 55 total, but it should not exceed seven words.
4. Contractions are single words (i.e. "should've, could've, would've").
5. Initials are one word, and acronyms are one word.
6. Numerals count as a single word, but if written out, they fall under rule No. 2 (e.g. 67 funky monkeys counts as three words; sixty-seven funky monkeys counts as four).
7. Punctuation doesn't count, so feel free to use all the semicolons you want, but only if they're correctly used!

Please see the full rules and tips for entries at: bit.ly/55Fiction

You may mail, email, or hand deliver your entries to either office.

Entries are due by 5 p.m. on Monday, June 10.

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New Times

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San Luis Obispo, CA 93401

email submissions to
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winning stories will be published
in our July 11th newspapers

Sun

attn: 55 Fiction
2540 Skyway Dr. Suite A
Santa Maria, CA 93455



GAME-CHANGING: The couple behind Creme De La Ice Cream created cold goodies for canines, which are made of dog treats, yogurt, and either fruit or bacon.



SWEETS FOR ALL: Chocolate lovers can indulge in Coco Loco without worrying about an upset stomach as Creme De La Ice Cream uses lactose-free milk in all of its pints.



MELTING AWAY: Santa Maria-based Creme De La Ice Cream strives to bring fresh, homemade ice cream back to the community.

for four-legged customers. They sell dog treats covered in frozen yogurt that's mixed with fruit, peanut butter, or bacon.

It takes Victor about an hour to make three gallons of ice cream at a time, so depending on the number of people they're catering for, he said he usually takes an order a few days or a week in advance. He likes to make the ice cream a day before it's ready to be served, keeping it as fresh as possible.

Victor and Natalie have plans to open up a brick-and-mortar shop in Santa Maria this year. While customers will still have the option of a cup, cone, or waffle cone, Victor said they're introducing a cookie cup, chocolate spoon, and chocolate or chocolate-covered straws.

"That's part of the creativity that we're hoping to bring to ice cream, to really kind of enhance that experience," he said. ○

New Times Staff Writer Karen Garcia is eating her fifth spoonful of ice cream at kgarcia@newtimeslo.com.

Ice cream with a twist

A Central Coast couple is working to bring homemade ice cream back to town

BY KAREN GARCIA

Whenever summer decides to grace us with its presence, certain treats are a must at picnics, Fourth of July parties, and community gatherings. Among fresh watermelon, pies, and lemonade, the vital ingredient to a well-rounded gathering is ice cream.

According to the International Dairy Foods Association, ice cream's origins are known to reach as far back as the second century B.C. The first official account of the dessert in the United States came in the form of an advertisement in the *New York Gazette* on May 12, 1777. At the time, ice cream was an exotic treat enjoyed mostly by the elite.

In the 19th century, the confection was more available to the public—until the dessert was rationed during World War II. As prepackaged ice cream sold at supermarkets gained popularity in the 1940s through the 1970s, traditional ice cream parlors and soda fountains started to disappear.

One Santa Maria couple is ready to bring

the local ice cream shop vibe back to their community. Victor and Natalie Bryson have loved ice cream since they were kids.

"I absolutely love it. When I was going to school I would go to the ice cream shops around here, and I just had a lot of ideas about flavors as well as other things that just weren't being done," Victor said.

It didn't really occur to Victor that he could bring his ideas to fruition with his own business until about 10 years ago. After testing out different recipes and flavors, Victor and Natalie found something that stuck—an ice cream

catering business called Creme De La Ice Cream.

"We wanted to start a company to do different things where people can come to our ice cream shop, have fun, and enjoy flavors they want, wouldn't expect, or could possibly even create themselves," he said.

The pair began taking orders last year and

really has tried to customize their flavors to their customers' desires or the specific event. For this past Cinco De Mayo celebration, the

couple was asked to cater an event where they made horchata and tres leche cake batter flavors scooped into homemade waffle cones that were dyed red and green.

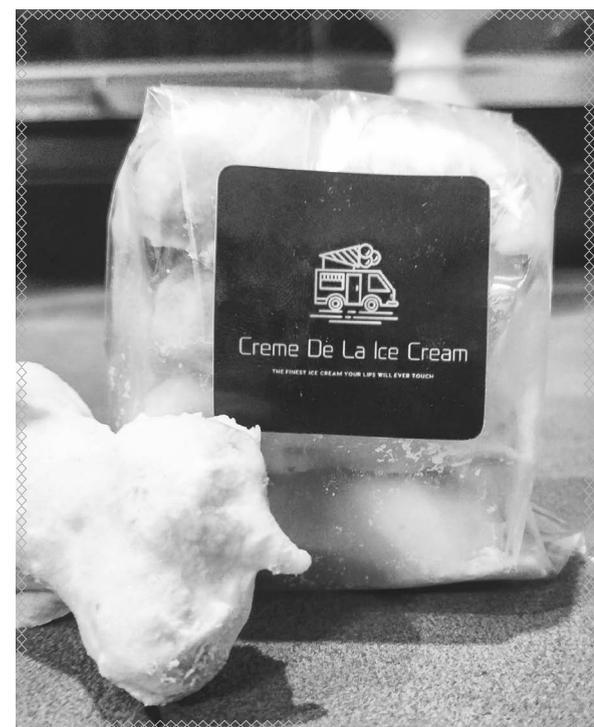
They also have more traditional flavors like strawberry, mint and chip, peach cobbler, and vanilla bean. The difference between Creme De La Ice Cream and some of its competitors is that all the ingredients are fresh, from the Santa Maria-grown strawberries to the freshly scraped vanilla beans. They even have ice cream push pops and sorbet flavors.

Their most popular flavor is s'mores. It's covered by a layer of chocolate that, when broken, exposes a rich and creamy vanilla ice cream packed with roasted marshmallows and pieces of graham cracker. While it sounds like a lot in one pint of ice cream, every ingredient is perfectly balanced.

Victor uses lactose-free milk in all of his ice creams. Natalie said it's easier on the stomach to use this milk for all ages to enjoy.

The couple also has creamy treats

FOOD & DRINK



PUP TREATS: When Victor and Natalie Bryson say they want everyone to enjoy their confections, they even mean pups.



Kathleen Gerber, 2018



Dylan Kyle, 2018



Cary Geihns, 2018



Wes Bracken, 2018



Barry Goyette, 2018

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New Times

Opening night at the San Luis Obispo Museum of Art is June 19, 2019.

Sun

A lunch a day

Foodbank's summer Picnic in the Park program adds locations, needs volunteers

BY KASEY BUBNASH

Sunshine, laughter, and free food—that's what kids can expect each day if they attend the Foodbank of Santa Barbara County's Picnic in the Park program this summer.

Most importantly, parents don't need to fill out any paperwork or bring anything to enroll their children in the program. That's Patsy Aguirre's favorite part, anyway, because while Picnic in the Park is geared toward feeding low-income kids who typically rely on school meals for food, all children under the age of 18 are welcome to attend.

There's no stuffy sign-in or qualification process. Kids just show up, eat, play games, and enjoy the beautiful summer weather, Aguirre said.

"It's a picnic," she said. "It's fun."

Aguirre, a Santa Maria resident, has volunteered for the program for the past two summers and will continue her work this year as well. She originally signed up because her own children—three boys ages 13, 15, and 17—were all allowed to volunteer, too.

"Picnic in the Park allowed us to all go together," she said, "which I really loved."

The Foodbank launched Picnic in the Park in 2011 as a way to provide low-income kids across the county with at least one nutritious meal a day throughout the summer.

Santa Barbara County has the highest rate of childhood poverty in California, according to Judith Smith-Meyer, marketing and

PHOTOS COURTESY OF JACQUELINE PILAR



PICNIC TIME: Kids enjoy their free lunches in Grogan Park at a Picnic in the Park event last summer.

To volunteer or participate:

For a list of Picnic in the Park locations and start times, visit foodbanksbc.org/programs/picnic-in-the-park/. To volunteer, call (805) 722-5251 or visit foodbanksbc.org/give-help/volunteer/.

communications manager of the Foodbank, and hundreds of local kids rely entirely on school meals for food.

Roughly 1 in 5 children in Santa Barbara County face hunger, Smith-Meyer said, and 89 percent of children enrolled in the Santa Maria-Bonita School District are eligible for free and reduced-cost meals.

"We know these are kids whose families count on that support to get well nourished," Smith-Meyer said, "and without school, that's just absent."

Picnic in the Park starts on June 10 this year and runs every weekday until Aug. 16 at 17 locations countywide. Start times vary at each location, and lunches run for an hour each day. Attendees are served a free meal on a first-come, first-served basis.

The meals will be provided by the Santa Barbara Unified School District for the first time this year, and Smith-Meyer said the Foodbank also added several serving locations—mostly parks, community centers, and public libraries—to make the program even more accessible this time around.

Countywide, the program typically serves about 1,000 children a day, and Smith-Meyer said hundreds of volunteers are still needed to help out with this summer's operation. Volunteers are needed everywhere, but especially in Lompoc, Goleta, and Carpinteria.

The work is fairly simple, as is the brief training process, according to Smith-Meyer. And most importantly, volunteers are helping kids.

"It's just a huge need," she said. ○



HEALTHY AND DELICIOUS: The Santa Barbara Unified School District will be providing meals for Picnic in the Park this year, an effort that the Foodbank said will make the free lunches better and healthier than ever.



MORE LOCATIONS: The Foodbank of Santa Barbara County will host its Picnic in the Park program at 17 locations countywide this summer—20 percent more than last year—including 11 in North County and six in South County.

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

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Staying caffeinated on Highway 166

New Cuyama Buckhorn owners open coffee shop emphasizing local products

BY ZAC EZZONE

Together Jeff Vance and Ferial Sadeghian run the Los Angeles architecture firm iDGroup, and as of March 2018, they're also the new owners of Cuyama Buckhorn on Highway 166.

Vance, who used to live about one hour away from the hotel in Frazier Park, has visited the Cuyama Valley countless times over the last 20 years and is always enchanted by the beauty of the area, he said.

"When I'm out here, everything seems to slow down and I feel so connected to the surrounding

landscape, so when we found out Cuyama Buckhorn was for sale, we decided to take advantage of this unique opportunity," Vance said.

When Vance and Sadeghian purchased Cuyama Buckhorn, they did so with the intention of renovating the hotel, while highlighting the history of the property, which first opened in 1952. On June 5, the partners realized the first step of this process with the opening of The Buck Stop, a coffee shop located inside the hotel.

Without many other options on long stretches of Highway 166, Cuyama Buckhorn's marketing and operations manager Savannah Fox said the coffee shop is a place for drivers to stop by and grab a coffee, cappuccino, or pastry.

Baristas at the shop prepare drinks using coffee roasted by the Santa Cruz-based company Verve Coffee Roasters, which sources its beans from Honduras, Colombia, Kenya, Ethiopia, Brazil, and Papua New Guinea.

As a nod to the era the hotel was founded, The Buck Stop uses Verve's The 1950 Blend for its drip coffee, which according to Verve contains notes of allspice and Earl Grey. Espresso drinks are prepared with Sermon, which is a velvety coffee with notes of blueberries and chocolate, according to Verve.

Fox said that Cuyama Buckhorn

PHOTOS COURTESY OF CUYAMA BUCKHORN



CAFFEINE FIX: The Buck Stop serves drinks made with coffee roasted by Verve Coffee Roasters.

decided to partner with Verve because, unlike other coffee roasters, Verve works closely with the farmers it sources its beans from. This connection between farmer and retailer is similar to the connection the Buckhorn hopes to establish with nearby ranchers, she said.

For example, in addition to the coffee, The Buck Stop sells pastries, including handmade fruit pies, some of which are made with fruit from local farms, Fox said.

Just as important as the coffee and pastries sold at The Buck Stop is the retail side of the shop, which sells local items reflecting the Cuyama Valley. This includes wine from Condors Hope Winery and Sagebrush Annie's Winery, nuts from the Santa Barbara Pistachio Company, and honey from Rock Front Ranch, among other items.

"We are committed to connecting our business to the local farms, ranches, and wineries that surround us, which was a major driver for us to build The Buck Stop Coffee Shop," Sadeghian said.

Aside from the coffee shop, the new owners have a lot of other changes in the works. They just hired a new executive chef for the restaurant, and they plan to roll out a new menu at the end of the summer while keeping the classic burgers and tri-tip sandwiches on the menu. Additionally, the hotel's bar will undergo some minor renovations to reflect the mid-century farmhouse aesthetic the owners are trying to achieve throughout the property.

Fox said all of the hotel rooms are closed for renovation, but the property will open its 22 rooms for booking later this year. Vance and Sadeghian are also working on adding an event space, pool, and other features to the hotel. ○

Staff Writer Zac Ezzone has a lot of 1950s verve. He can be reached at zezzone@santamariasun.com.



LOCALLY MADE: The Buckhorn's coffee shop showcases locally made wine, honey, nuts, and other products.

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Carnivore's delights

Three local butcher shops carry on the old ways

BY ANNA STARKEY

You could say butchery is in our bones. Archaeologists have unearthed mastodon tusks with cuts and grooves next to rudimentary knives. While we've evolved into a society where most of us never see the sentient creatures whose story ends on our dinner table, the tradition of butchery is still passed on from master to apprentice, parent to child, generation to generation.

Even though the heyday of butcher shops may have been snuffed out by the invention of the supermarket, small town shop owners still skin, slice, and smoke day after day for their loyal, quality conscious customer base. Hidden among the sprawling agricultural beauty of the Central Coast are three such master butcher shops.

The first weekend in June, I set out with my trusty sidekick of a husband to see what these gems had to offer up for my palate and my barbecue.

First, we headed north, where J&R Natural Meats is tucked into a bustling shopping center on Rossi Road in Templeton. A full-service butcher, J&R has a USDA-certified processing operation and a focus on local, naturally raised meats, from poultry to beef and everything in between.

Butcher Colton Godfrey greeted us, and when I asked what amazing creation they had in the smoker to elicit such a tummy rumbling odor, he laughed and said, "Oh, nothing actually. We smoked tri-tip yesterday; that's just the fans pumping everything out. But if you need something smoked, we can do that!"

It's clear that customer service is No. 1 at this company, as is a commitment to humanely sourced meats raised as locally as possible. J&R has an MHU—mobile harvesting unit—based out of its Paso Robles location. Bringing the processing to the ranches greatly reduces the stress on animals in their final moments.

Pasture raised animals given fresh air and freedom, and humanely processed, ultimately translate to better meat on your table.

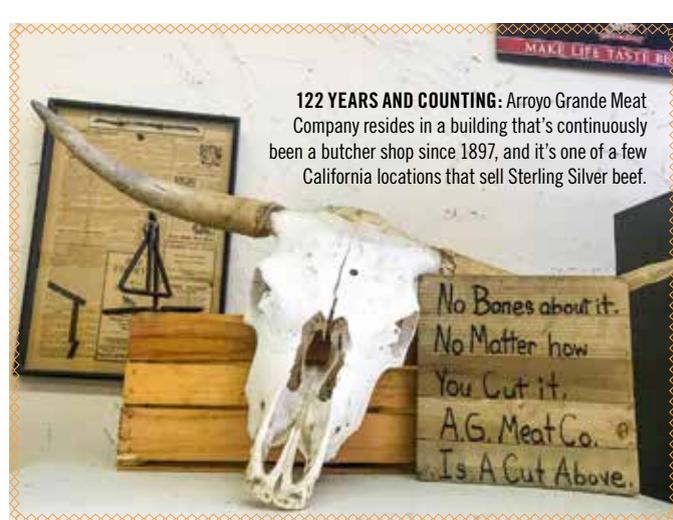
Fellow butcher Jim "Griff" Griffin joined us as Godfrey took our order of a porterhouse steak (his recommendation) to the back. I asked about why customers would shop at a local butcher instead of the supermarket, and Griffin ticked off reason after reason.

"We have superb quality meats and real meat cutters who know this stuff backwards and forwards. We can accommodate special requests, cuts, even help people with certain food allergies get what product will work for them," Griffin said.

Our porterhouse arrived at the counter wrapped along with Shamrock sausage and hickory peppered bacon that we couldn't leave without.

We wound our way down the Cuesta Grade, passing longhorns on our left and praising the late season rain for green crests as we swooped down the hill. After a quick stop in SLO to drop off our haul at home and make room in our ice chest, we headed into the heart of the Arroyo Grande Village.

The Arroyo Grande Meat Company has continuously run a butcher shop since 1897. First owned by Matt Swall, and changing hands at this point or that, the Gonzales family bought it in 1992. As the saloon doors swung open, Ennio Morricone's spaghetti Western



122 YEARS AND COUNTING: Arroyo Grande Meat Company resides in a building that's continuously been a butcher shop since 1897, and it's one of a few California locations that sell Sterling Silver beef.

theme song welcomed us in.

Butcher Geoff Montgomery stood behind the counter feeding beef into a grinder, catching the hamburgers-to-be in his hand like a practiced pro. The Meat Company offers Sterling Silver beef—prized for its marbling and incredible flavor. You won't find this on the shelves of any supermarket.

"What's unique about Sterling is they don't grade their meat like everyone else. Their standards are above and beyond the normal markers. Marbling, tenderness, and flavor all must be premium," Montgomery said.

The tight-knit team runs by one simple rule—if it's not good enough for Mom, it's not good enough for you. The tradition and quality that has lived in these walls over the past 122 years is evident in every product they offer, including in-house ham, bacon, and sausage—the latter of which comes in 40 varieties. Tubs, bags, and bottles in varying sizes of the shop's Santa Maria-style seasoning line the walls. Montgomery recommended all of it.

"Seriously, it's simple and amazing on its own, or you can add to it. Toss in thyme and rosemary and you've got an amazing pork rub, or cumin and cayenne and it's great taco seasoning," Montgomery said.

We grabbed a tub along with a couple of tri-tips and headed out the swinging doors toward our last stop.

Lunchtime approached, and I knew exactly where to satiate ourselves; Woody's Butcher Block in Santa Maria. Tim Woodbury, who goes by the title of head honcho, was in the food service industry for 28 years before switching gears into the premium meat market world after seeing a gap in his community. From beef jerky to filet mignon, if the product doesn't meet his lofty standards, Woody's simply won't carry it.

"All of our meats are fed a 100 percent vegetarian diet. Much of the 'commodity' meats sold in grocery chains and box stores are fed animal by-products as feed supplements. This is not natural and would never be available at Woody's," Woodbury said.

He recommended that everyone try the

FOOD & DRINK

relatively unknown hanger steak at least once. The taste is "luscious and surprising," Woodbury said. "You will always remember your first hanger."

He's not wrong. I'll never forget you, first hanger!

Wafts of smoke from the back barbecue filled my nostrils, and I was ready to chow down. Woody's has a wonderful selection

of sandwiches, but none are as popular as the Santa Maria-style tri-tip. Certified angus beef tri-tip is seasoned with Woody's Grilling Salt—in-house Santa Maria-style seasoning—and slow-roasted over red oak. Served in a toasted French roll with seasoned butter, the tri-tip slices are dipped in a hot au-jus and paired with fresh homemade salsa.

We stuffed our ice chest not once but twice with everything from beef jerky to bacon, hanger steaks and porterhouse, sausages, spices, and more. We hauled home a little more than

PHOTOS BY ANNA STARKEY

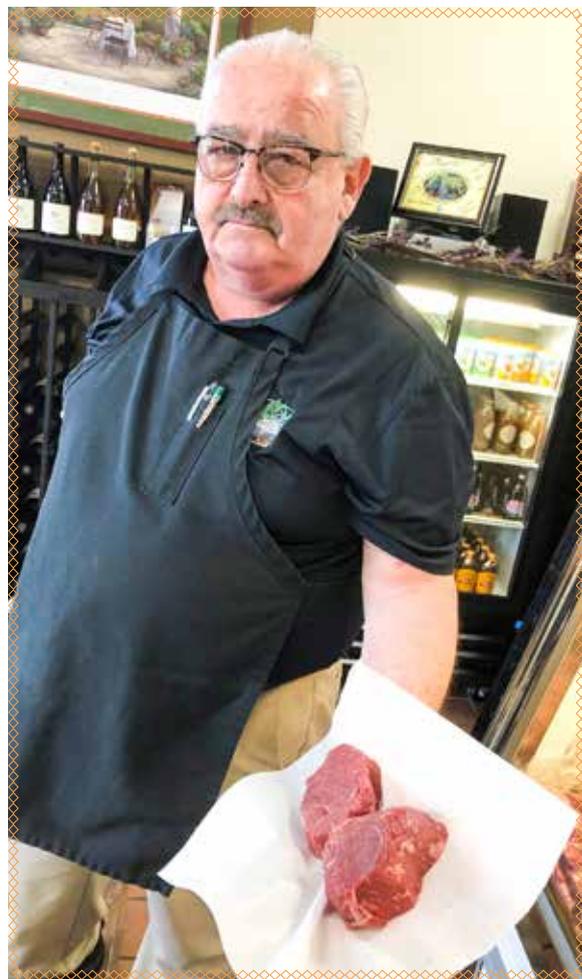


MEAT MARKET: You might not be able to find a date at J&R Natural Meats in Templeton, but you'll definitely find top quality, humanely sourced meat.

15 pounds of quality meat that we can feel good about eating. It may not be the cheapest way to procure your protein, but there's no comparison in quality, customer service, and flavor when you buy from passionate people knowledgeable about their business.

Best of all, it turns out butchers are pretty much the nicest people in the world! So grab your wallet, walk through their door, inhale deeply, and you'll never look back. ○

Sun contributor Anna Starkey is still hung up on that hanger steak. Send comments and questions through the editor at clanham@newtimeslo.com.



WOODY: Tim "Woody" Woodbury runs a top-notch butcher shop, but all his Yelp reviews gush about his tri-tip sandwiches.

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HOT STUFF

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LIVE AND LET OLIVE

The Los Olivos Rotary Club hosts the annual Los Olivos Jazz and Olive Festival at Lavinia Campbell Park on Saturday, June 10, from 1 to 4 p.m. The event features select olive product vendors, tastings from 30 local wineries, food from 30 local chefs, live music, a silent auction, and more. Call (805) 325-9280 or visit jazzandolivefestival.org for tickets and more information.

—Caleb Wiseblood

FILE PHOTO COURTESY OF PETER ROBBINS

SPECIAL EVENTS

SANTA YNEZ VALLEY

LOS OLIVOS JAZZ AND OLIVE FESTIVAL Enjoy tastings from more than 30 local wineries and chefs. **June 10**, 1-4 p.m. jazzandolivefestival.org. Lavinia Campbell Park, 2398 Alamo Pintado Ave., Los Olivos.

OLD SANTA YNEZ DAY Features a parade, booths, food, and more. Proceeds benefit SYV schools. **June 8**, 11 a.m.-4 p.m. solvangusa.com. Downtown Santa Ynez, Saqueto St., Solvang.

RIO MEMORIAL GOLF TOURNAMENT A fun-filled day of golf and afternoon festivities in support of The Santa Ynez Pirate Football Program. Your registration includes: 18-holes of golf, a cart, goodie bag, and dinner. **June 8**, noon solvangusa.com. Alisal Guest Ranch and Resort, 1054 Alisal Rd., Solvang.

LOMPOC/VANDENBERG

LGBTQ+ 101 - FREE COMMUNITY WORKSHOP Topics include identities, respectful language, and ways you can help make Lompoc a safer and more welcoming city for the LGBTQ+ community. The workshop is a safe and welcoming environment. Students, employees, healthcare workers, and more welcome. **June 8**, 9:45 a.m.-noon No charge; free continental breakfast. 805-588-0908. Lompoc City Hall, 100 City Hall Dr., Lompoc.

SANTA MARIA VALLEY/LOS ALAMOS

11TH ANNUAL GOLF TOURNAMENT AND COMEDY NIGHT Hosted by the Santa Maria Police Council. Comedian Rocky LaPorte will be performing. **June 10**, 11 a.m. & 7 p.m. smpcgolf.com. Santa Maria Country Club, 505 W. Waller Lane, Santa Maria.

SAN LUIS OBISPO

THE HEMP AND CANNABIS FAIR A celebration of legal marijuana and hemp. Browse through hemp and cannabis products, accessories and tools, and more. **June 8**, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. and **June 9**, 11 a.m.-4:30 p.m. \$10 Alex; \$15 GA. 541-201-8497. thcfair.com. Alex Madonna Expo Center, 100 Madonna Rd, San Luis Obispo.

ARTS

CLASSES & WORKSHOPS

SANTA YNEZ VALLEY

PAINTING BIG SUR WITH PASTELS Over the course of this 3 hour workshop, you will complete a pastel painting while learning the basics of handling pastels. **June 8**, 1-4 p.m. \$65. 805-686-8315. wildlingmuseum.org/news/painting-big-sur-with-pastels. Wildling Museum of Art and Nature, 1511-B Mission Dr., Solvang.

SANTA MARIA VALLEY/LOS ALAMOS

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

INTRODUCTORY BALLET 1 Tuesdays, 5 p.m. everybodycandance.webs.com.

Everybody Can Dance, 628 S. McClelland St., Santa Maria, 805-937-6753.

INTRODUCTORY BALLET 2 Wednesdays, 6 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 Learn acoustic or electric guitar, mandolin, ukulele, bass, piano, violin, drums, percussion, voice, mandolin, banjo, saxophone, and/or clarinet. The academy offers private lessons by the hour or half hour for all age groups and ability. 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.

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

SWING, BALLROOM, AND LATIN DANCE CLASSES Hosted by the Kings of Swing. All skill levels welcome (adults). Couples and singles welcome. Pre-registration recommended. Thursdays, 7-8 p.m. \$45.

805-928-7799. Adkins Dance Center, 1110 E. Clark Ave., Santa Maria.

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

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

SOUTH COAST SLO COUNTY

DRUM MAKING Drum making with Julie Johnson. Second Saturday of every month, 12-4 p.m. \$250. 805-674-4277. Halcyon Store Post Office, 936 S. Halcyon Rd., Arroyo Grande.

GET INTO THE FLOW! WATERCOLORS BIG AND SMALL Summer Art Program for kids ages 7 to 12. **June 10-13**, 3:15-4:45 p.m. \$80. 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.

SUMMER ART PROGRAM FOR KIDS Offers programs in watercolors, mixed media drawing, gelli plate printing, mobiles, sculpture, handmade books, paper mâché, and more. Every 4 days, 3:15-4:45 p.m. \$80 per session. 805-668-2125. LiA Creative Community, 1147 East Grand Ave. Suite 101, Arroyo Grande, lila. community.

SAN LUIS OBISPO

AERIAL HOOP Dance, spin and develop strength and grace on the lyra, an aerial hoop apparatus. All levels welcome. Mondays, 5:30-6:45 p.m. Varies. 805-549-6417. levityacademy.com. Levity Academy, 207 Suburban Rd., San Luis Obispo.

AERIAL SILKS FUNDAMENTALS AND BASICS Elevate dance, gymnastics, acrobatics, fitness, and fun to new heights on aerial silks. All levels welcome. Wednesdays, 7-8:15 p.m. Varies; see site for details.

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.

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805-549-6417. levityacademy.com. Levity Academy, 207 Suburban Rd., San Luis Obispo.

PHOTOGRAPHY HIKE Enjoy a beautiful evening with dunes photographer, Chuck Jennings as he shares tips and tricks to dunes photography. **June 8**, 5-6:30 p.m. Free; \$5 suggested donation. 805-343-2455. dunescenter.org/event/photography-hike-2/. Pacific Dunes Ranch, 1205 Silver Spur Pl, Oceano.

SPECIAL ART EVENTS

SANTA YNEZ VALLEY

BOOK SIGNING WITH ELDONNA EDWARDS Set against the backdrop of a 1970s commune in Northern California, *Clover Blue* is a compelling, beautifully written story of a young boy's search for identity. Author Eldonna Edwards is a writing instructor who lives on the Central Coast. **June 8**, 1-2 p.m. 805-688-6010. The Book Loft, 1680 Mission Dr., Solvang.

SANTA MARIA VALLEY/LOS ALAMOS

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

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

EXHIBITS

SANTA YNEZ VALLEY

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.

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

THIS AND THAT: ARTISTS JAYNE BEHMAN AND JULIE FISH Jayne Behman, a digital artist, Julie Fish, a mixed media artist and Patti Robbins, an oil painter, join together once again for an exhibit. Mondays-Sundays, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. through June 30 Free. 805-688-7517. GalleryLosOlivos.com. Gallery Los Olivos, 2920 Grand Ave., Los Olivos.

LOMPOC/VANDENBERG

PHOTO EXHIBIT BY SUSANNE SCHENCK Open during library hours. Through June 28, 10 a.m.-7 p.m. Grossman Gallery, 501 E. North Ave., Lompoc, 805-875-8775.

SANTA MARIA VALLEY/LOS ALAMOS

FEATURED ARTISTS: MAY, JUNE, JULY, AUGUST The featured artists at the gallery during the months of May, June, July, and August are TBA. Saturdays, 10 a.m.-3 p.m. and Tuesdays-Fridays, 12-6 p.m. through Sept. 1 Valley Art Gallery, 125 W. Clark Ave., Orcutt, 805-937-2278, valleygallery.org.

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 Starzyk, to spotlight local art and artists. Each show includes an artist reception. ongoing Ameriprise Financial, 2605 S Miller St., Suite 104, Santa Maria.

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

STAGE

SOUTH COAST SLO COUNTY

TREASURE ISLAND A stolen treasure map falls into the hands of young Jim Hawkins as he becomes the pirates' next prey. Wednesdays-Sundays. through June 16 \$23-\$30. 805-489-2499. americanmelodrama@gmail.com. Great American Melodrama, 1863 Front St., Oceano.

SAN LUIS OBISPO

COMEDY NIGHT AT 7 SISTERS Enjoy live stand-up comedy from local and touring comics with locally brewed beverages. Second Saturday of every month, 7-9 p.m. \$5 suggested donation. 805-868-7133. 7Sisters

Brewing Company, 181 Tank Farm Rd. Suite 110, San Luis Obispo, 7SistersBrewing.com.

HELLO, DOLLY! The Tony Award-winning musical comedy about a matchmaker, a millionaire, a milliner, and a marriage. Wednesdays-Sundays, 7-9:30 p.m. through June 30 \$20-\$39. 805-786-2440. slorep.org/shows/hello-dolly/. San Luis Obispo Repertory Theatre, 888 Morro St., San Luis Obispo.

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

INTRO TO IMPROV COMEDY CLASSES All intro courses taught by CCCT owner, Sabrina Pratt. Wednesdays, 6-8 p.m. \$225 for all 6 weeks. 805-242-3109. centralcoastcomedytheater.com. Tigerlily Salon Studio, 659 Higuera St., San Luis Obispo.

CULTURE & LIFESTYLE

LECTURES & LEARNING

LOMPOC/VANDENBERG

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

SOUTH COAST SLO COUNTY

BEEKEEPING Beekeeper Erin Holder will discuss the basics of keeping bees: hive design and equipment, procuring bees, bee hierarchy, honey harvest, and pest management. **June 8**, 2-3 p.m. Free. 805-473-7161. Arroyo Grande Library, 800 W. Branch, Arroyo Grande,

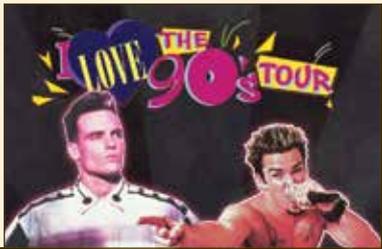
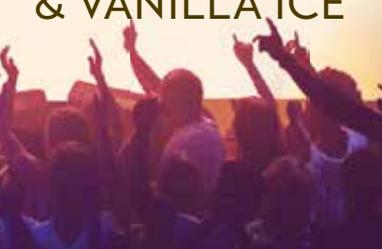
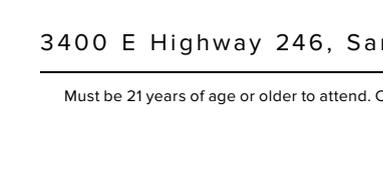
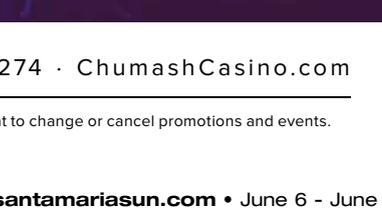
CULTURE & LIFESTYLE continued page 23



CHUMASH

CASINO RESORT

ALWAYS AMAZING. NEVER ROUTINE.

 <p style="text-align: center; font-weight: bold; font-size: 1.2em;">BOZ SCAGGS: OUT OF THE BLUES TOUR</p>	<p>FRIDAY</p> <p style="background-color: #333; color: white; padding: 5px; font-weight: bold;">JUN 7</p> <p>8 PM</p>	 <p style="text-align: center; font-weight: bold; font-size: 1.2em;">CHIQUIS RIVERA & SPECIAL GUEST EL DASA CON MARIACHI</p>
 <p style="text-align: center; font-weight: bold; font-size: 1.2em;">THUNDER FROM DOWN UNDER</p>	<p>FRIDAY</p> <p style="background-color: #333; color: white; padding: 5px; font-weight: bold;">JUN 14</p> <p>8 PM</p>	 <p style="text-align: center; font-weight: bold; font-size: 1.2em;">I LOVE THE 90S TOUR FEAT MARK MCGRATH & VANILLA ICE</p>
 <p style="text-align: center; font-weight: bold; font-size: 1.2em;">THUNDER FROM DOWN UNDER</p>	<p>FRIDAY</p> <p style="background-color: #333; color: white; padding: 5px; font-weight: bold;">JUN 21</p> <p>8 PM</p>	 <p style="text-align: center; font-weight: bold; font-size: 1.2em;">I LOVE THE 90S TOUR FEAT MARK MCGRATH & VANILLA ICE</p>
 <p style="text-align: center; font-weight: bold; font-size: 1.2em;">THUNDER FROM DOWN UNDER</p>	<p>FRIDAY</p> <p style="background-color: #333; color: white; padding: 5px; font-weight: bold;">JUN 28</p> <p>8 PM</p>	 <p style="text-align: center; font-weight: bold; font-size: 1.2em;">I LOVE THE 90S TOUR FEAT MARK MCGRATH & VANILLA ICE</p>

3400 E Highway 246, Santa Ynez · 800-248-6274 · ChumashCasino.com

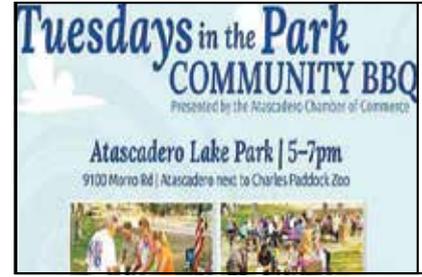
Must be 21 years of age or older to attend. Chumash Casino Resort reserves the right to change or cancel promotions and events.



Summer BBQ 101 Workshop
FRIDAY, JUNE 7
 Talley Vineyards



Pop-Up Dinner: Sally Loo's & Danior Kitchen, Gramma Ruth's Southern Cooking
FRIDAY, JUNE 7
 Sally Loo's



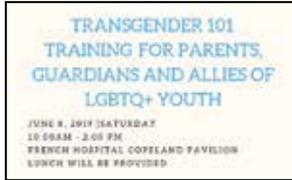
Benefiting Joy Playground
TUESDAY, JUNE 11
 Atascadero Lake Park



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



CC Aquarium Summer Camp
SELECT WEEKS IN JUNE, JULY & AUGUST
 CC Aquarium, Avila Beach



Transgender 101
SATURDAY, JUNE 8
 French Hospital Copeland Pavilion



Beer Yoga
SUNDAY, JUNE 9
 Naughty Oak Brewery, Orcutt



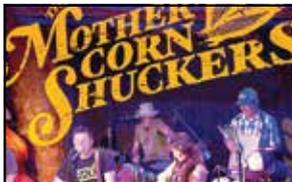
Tribute to Kris Kristofferson
TUESDAY, JUNE 11
 Morro Bay Wine Seller



A Breast Exposé The Breast Kept Secret Movie Premiere
THURSDAY, JUNE 13
 The Palm Theatre



Wine & Dine Father's Day
SATURDAY, JUNE 15
 Wild Coyote Estate Winery



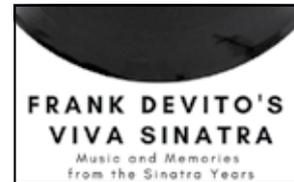
Mother Corn Shuckers
SATURDAY, JUNE 15
 Point San Luis Lighthouse



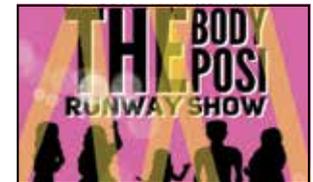
The Pods - Politics of Dancing
SATURDAY, JUNE 15
 Maverick Saloon



Sunset Wines & Full Moon Vines
SATURDAY, JUNE 15
 Doce Robles Winery & Vineyard



Frank DeVito's Viva Sinatra
SATURDAY, JUNE 15
 Rava Wines + Events



Q Youth Body Positivity Fashion Show
SATURDAY, JUNE 15
 San Luis Obispo Guild Hall



Father's Day Brunch
SUNDAY, JUNE 16
 Tooth & Nail Winery



Eva & The Vagabond Tales
TUESDAY, JUNE 18
 Morro Bay Wine Seller

MY805TIX BOX OFFICE IS NOW OPEN

Get your tickets online or at **Boo Boo Records**, the official Box Office for My805Tix events!
 Boo Boo's is located at 978 Monterey Street in SLO.
 Call them at 805-541-0657.



DVD Screening of DWOS Atascadero's Time Machine: Back to the 80's
WEDNESDAY, JUNE 19
 Galaxy Theatre Atascadero



Women Making Waves
THURSDAY, JUNE 20
 Morro Bay High School



Romancing the West Dinner Show
FRIDAY, JUNE 21
 Dana Adobe Cultural Center



Summer Sipping 2019 Wine Passport
JUNE 22-JUNE 23
 Foxen Canyon Wine Trail



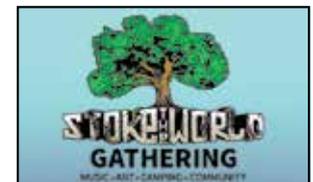
Floral Arranging Workshop
SUNDAY, JUNE 23
 Ancient Peaks Winery



Gen-Cal Professional Wrestling
SUNDAY, JUNE 23
 The Graduate



Mid-State Metal Fest
JUNE 28-29
 Sweet Springs Saloon & The Graduate



Stoke the World Gathering 2019
JUNE 28-JUNE 30
 Live Oak Campground



Planet Lucha at the Lompoc Flower Festival
SATURDAY, JUNE 29
 Ryon Memorial Park



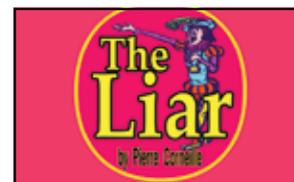
Summer Wine Stroll
SATURDAY, JUNE 29
 Downtown Paso Robles Wineries



Banksy Street Art Paint Bar
SUNDAY, JUNE 30
 Tooth & Nail Winery



Avila Beach 4th of July Doggie Parade
THURSDAY, JULY 4
 Avila Beach Promenade



The Liar
FRIDAY, JULY 5-28
 By the Sea Productions



Hwy 46 West Summer Block Party
SATURDAY, JULY 6
 Paso Robles HWY 46 West Wineries



The Lovin' Spoonful
SATURDAY, JULY 6
 Sea Pines Golf Resort



The Lonely Heartstring Band with Sparky & The Ancient Mariner
SUNDAY, JULY 7
 Peter Strauss Ranch



The Little Mermaid, JR!
JULY 12-21
 SLO Repertory Theatre



Pop-Up Dinner: Sally Loo's and Danior Kitchen, Boat to Table
FRIDAY, JULY 12
 Sally Loo's



Stargazer's Winemaker Dinner at Riverstar Vineyards
SATURDAY, JULY 13
 Riverstar Vineyards



Pottery On My Mind: Workshop in Ceramics: A Cambria Scarecrow Festival Fundraiser
SATURDAY, JULY 13
 Cambria Center for the Arts

slolibrary.org.

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

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

SAN LUIS OBISPO

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

FREE ADOPTION INFORMATION SESSION Free sessions on adoption information at our San Luis Obispo office located at 1540 Marsh Street, Ste 130. The FCCA has placed over 5,100 waiting children into forever families since 1983. First Thursday of every month, 6-8 p.m. Free. 805-542-9084. fcaoptions.org. Family Connections Christian Adoptions, 1540 Marsh St. #130, San Luis Obispo.

HOW TO READ SLO BUILDINGS LIKE A BOOK Join architectural historian James Papp as he unlocks the messages two centuries of builders have scattered through San Luis Obispo. **June 8**, 10:30-11:30 a.m. Free. 805-781-5989. San Luis Obispo Library, 995 Palm St., San Luis Obispo.

NORTH COAST SLO COUNTY

E-DEVICE HELP Please sign up in advance. Thursdays, 8:30-10 a.m. Morro Bay Library, 625 Harbor St., Morro Bay.

CLUBS & MEETINGS

SANTA MARIA VALLEY/LOS ALAMOS

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

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

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

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

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.

SUPPORT GROUPS

SANTA MARIA VALLEY/LOS ALAMOS

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

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

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

#METOO: DROP-IN SUPPORT GROUP FOR WOMEN These monthly support groups are for adult women who have experienced sexual harassment or sexual abuse. The focus of the group is to create a safe place for participants to share, be connected with local resources, and get support in the healing process. First Tuesday, Friday of every month, 12-1 p.m. RISE, 51 Zaca Ln., Ste. 100, San Luis Obispo, 805-226-5400.

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.

FIBROMYALGIA SUPPORT GROUP A free support

group for those who suffer from Fibromyalgia. Second Saturday of every month, 11 a.m.-noon Free. 805-543-6236. ccfibro.com. San Luis Obispo Library, 995 Palm 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.

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.

RESOLVE GENERAL INFERTILITY SUPPORT GROUP Support for those suffering through the trauma of infertility. A peer led group through RESOLVE, the national infertility association. Second Wednesday of every month, 6:30-8:30 p.m. Free. 619-807-7006. Downtown SLO, Higuera 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.

MAKE YOUR OWN DRINK COASTER Kids ages 6 to 12 will create a drink coaster to take home. **June 12**, 4-5 p.m. Free. 805-925-0994. Santa Maria Public Library, 421 S. McClelland St., Santa Maria.

SUMMER MAKERSPACE It's time to create, build, explore, and use your imagination at the Santa Maria Public Library Maker Events. Saturdays, 10 a.m.-3 p.m. through Aug. 31 Free. 805-925-0994. Santa Maria Public Library,



CULTURE & LIFESTYLE continued page 24

SAN LUIS OBISPO - THIS WEEKEND!

FEATURING:



**LEARNING SESSIONS
VENDOR BOOTHS**

**ALEX MADONNA EXPO CENTER
100 MADONNA RD, SAN LUIS OBISPO
JUN 8-9, 2019; SAT 10-5 & SUN 11-4:30**

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FOOD TRUCKS!**

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CELEBRATE!**

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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. **June 12**, 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.

FIT CLUB A club to energize both body and soul. Pre and post workout drinks will be available. Mondays-Fridays, 9 a.m. Balance Nutrition, 1975 S. Broadway, Ste. E, Santa Maria.

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.

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

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

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

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

YOGA TEACHER TRAINING INFORMATION

SESSION Learn what it takes to receive certification to become a yoga instructor. **June 9**, 4:30-5:30 p.m. Free. 805-680-6542. yoga4mankind.org/event-workshops/. Yoga for Mankind, 130 N Broadway, Suite B, Orcutt.

SPORTS



GRAB YOUR CLUBS

The Santa Maria Police Council hosts its 11th annual Golf Tournament and Comedy Night at the Santa Maria Country Club on Monday, June 10. The tournament starts at 11 a.m., dinner is served at 7 p.m., and comedian Rocky LaPorte performs at 7:30 p.m. Call (805) 268-1669 or visit smpegolf.com for the full schedule of events. The club is located at 505 W. Waller Lane, Santa Maria.

—C.W.

YOUTH BASKETBALL CAMP For boys and girls going into first through sixth grade. All skill levels welcome. **June 10-13** 805-929-5437. nipomorecreation.org. Nipomo High School, 525 N Thompson Ave, Nipomo.

SAN LUIS OBISPO

SHOTOKAN KARATE A family-friendly class for ages 8 and over. Tuesdays, Thursdays, 4:30-6 p.m. Included in YMCA membership. 805-543-8235. sloymca.org. SLO County YMCA, 1020 Southwood Dr, San Luis Obispo.

SLO BLUES BASEBALL: 2019 SEASON The San Luis Obispo Blues are a Summer Collegiate Baseball team. Individual tickets and season passes available. Through July 26 Varies. 805-512-9996. Sinsheimer Park, 900 Southwood Dr., San Luis Obispo, slocity.org/Home/Components/FacilityDirectory/FacilityDirectory/18/956.

FILE PHOTO COURTESY OF KAREN CORDARY

Luis Obispo Blues are a Summer Collegiate Baseball team. Individual tickets and season passes available. Through July 26 Varies. 805-512-9996. Sinsheimer Park, 900 Southwood Dr., San Luis Obispo, slocity.org/Home/Components/FacilityDirectory/FacilityDirectory/18/956.

SLO BLUES BASEBALL: LUAU NIGHT Come cheer on your hometown team on Luau Night. **June 7**, 6-10 p.m. Sinsheimer Park, 900 Southwood Dr., San Luis Obispo, 805-781-7222, slocity.org/Home/Components/FacilityDirectory/FacilityDirectory/18/956.

KIDS & FAMILY

SANTA MARIA VALLEY/LOS ALAMOS

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

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

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

MOVIE NIGHT The Santa Maria Library offers free movie nights to patrons. **June 10**, 3-4:45 p.m. Free. Santa Maria Public Library, 421 S. McClelland St., Santa Maria, 805-925-0994.

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, cabooses, 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.

SOUTH COAST SLO COUNTY

CCA SUMMER CAMP Explore, learn, and discover

CULTURE & LIFESTYLE continued page 25

“I CHANGED MY ODDS AT HANCOCK.”

Nelly Guerra
AHC Class of 2017

After discovering Hancock’s student support services and a passion for agriculture, first-generation AHC alum Nelly Guerra changed her odds and is now a Cornell University graduate.

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Register now for summer AND fall classes.

Summer classes begin - June 10
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SANTA MARIA'S 3rd ANNUAL

PRIDE 2019

pride celebration & resource fair

SATURDAY JUNE 29TH | 11-4 PM
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DJ SUZ | FOOD | MUSIC
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for more information:
www.houseofprideandequality.org
www.santamariapride.com

WE ARE STILL PROUD!

marine science with the Central Coast Aquarium during various Summer Camps offered. Campers can enjoy hands-on marine science activities, including exploring marine habitats, interacting with live animals, and conducting experiments. **June 10-Aug. 16** \$225-\$325. Central Coast Aquarium, 50 San Juan St., Avila Beach, 8055957280, centralcoastaquarium.org.

FAMILY GAME NIGHT An activity time inspired by the surrealists, who played many games together that helped open new possibilities in their creative practice. Second Wednesday of every month, 6-7 p.m. \$5. 805-668-2125. LiA Creative Community, 1147 East Grand Ave. Suite 101, Arroyo Grande, lila.community.

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

face painting, games, and... Part of the 2019 Summer Lunch Program. **June 12**, 11 a.m.-1 p.m. Free. 805-781-5775. San Luis Obispo Library, 995 Palm St., San Luis Obispo.

TIDEPOLS ON TOUR The Central Coast Aquarium in Avila Beach will bring their mobile touch tanks with live tide pool animals and other marine science artifacts for kids and adults alike to learn about marine life firsthand. **June 11**, 10:30-11:30 a.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 Certified Intuitive and Evidential, Spiritual Medium, Julie Renee Medley offers 1/2 private readings. Please call to set an appointment or for consultation. ongoing \$60 per 1/2 hour or sliding fee can be utilized. 937-271-5646. CovenTree: Books and Gifts, 722 E Main St., Santa Maria.

VOLUNTEERS

VALLEY/LOS ALAMOS

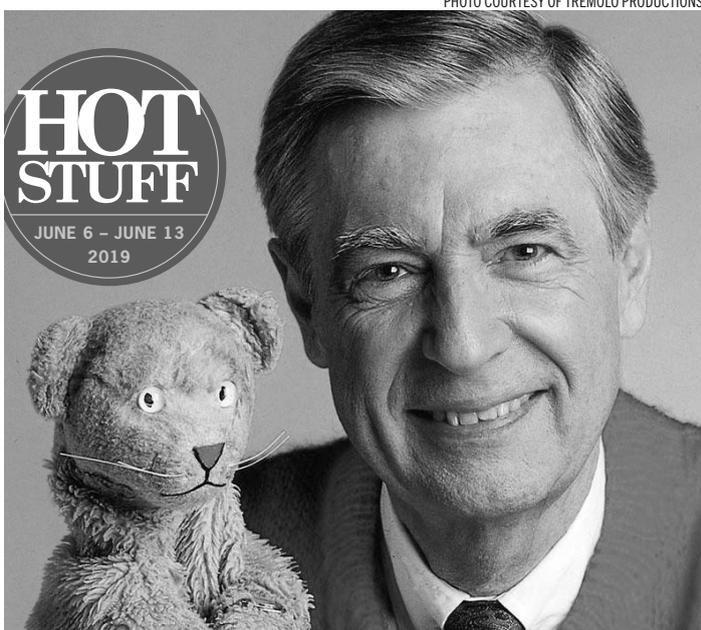
SUMMER TEEN VOLUNTEER ORIENTATION Orientation for teens interested in volunteering at the library. You must attend an orientation to volunteer. **June 10**, 5-6 p.m. Free. 805-925-0994. Santa Maria Public Library, 421 S. McClelland St., Santa Maria.

SAN LUIS OBISPO

CASA INFO SESSION Learn about volunteer opportunities at CASA of SLO County. Become an advocate for an abused or neglected infant, toddler, child or teen, or a mentor for a young adult leaving foster care. Training provided. Or join the CASA Guild. Please RSVP. **June 12**, 6:30-7:30 p.m. 805-541-6542. slocas.org. Starbucks, 3971 S Higuera St., San Luis Obispo.

FELINE NETWORK OF THE CENTRAL COAST Seeking volunteers to provide foster homes for foster

CULTURE & LIFESTYLE continued page 26



HOT STUFF
JUNE 6 - JUNE 13
2019

ALL GOOD IN THE HOOD

The Santa Maria Public Library hosts a screening of *Won't You Be My Neighbor?* In Shepard Hall on Monday, June 10, at 3 p.m. This documentary explores the life and legacy of iconic children's television host Fred Rogers. Admission is free. The library is located at 421 S. McClelland St., Santa Maria. Call (805) 925-0994, Ext. 8562 for more info.

—C.W.

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

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.

SUMMER LUNCH KICK-OFF BARBECUE AND PARTY Kick off summer with a free family barbecue,



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CITY OF SANTA MARIA www.cityofsantamaria.org

Utilities Department

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Baby Simon is 10 weeks old and looking for a family to love. He is very friendly, and enjoys playing with his toys and chewing on his brother, Mike (who is also available for adoption). Contact us today if you would like to add a puppy (or two) to your home!

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Email: centralcoastspca@yahoo.com
(805) 937-1766

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SWEET SPRINGS SALOON
\$20 | 21+ | 3PM
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LOS OSOS, CA.

SATURDAY JUNE 29

THE GRADUATE
\$20 | ALL AGES | 3PM
990 INDUSTRIAL WAY
SLO, CA.

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7-4-19 PUBLICATION DATE

SANTA BARBARA COUNTY FAIR

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Don't miss the ride.

Market your business in the amusement-filled Santa Barbara County Fair program! This *Sun* insert is the place readers and fairgoers will turn to for essential fair information including concerts, activities, exhibits, schedules, and all event entertainment.

Contact your sales rep today!

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CULTURE & LIFESTYLE from page 25

kittens or cats with special needs. The Feline Network pays for food, litter, and any medications needed. Volunteers also needed to help with humanely trapping and transporting feral cats for spay/neuter. ongoing 805-549-9228. felineNetwork.org. San Luis Obispo, Citywide, SLO.

HOSPICE SLO COUNTY VOLUNTEER TRAINING Preregistration required. In-Home Volunteers assist individuals with a life-limiting illness and their families by providing caregiver respite, practical assistance, emotional support, companionship, and comfort. Thursdays, 1-6 p.m. Free. 805-544-2266. hospiceslo.org/workshops. Hospice SLO County, 1304 Pacific St., San Luis Obispo.



PHOTO COURTESY OF YOGA FOR MANKIND FACEBOOK PAGE

LEARN TO TEACH
Yoga For Mankind in Orcutt hosts a yoga teacher information session on Saturday, June 9, from 4:30 to 5:30 p.m. This meeting covers the requirements needed to become a certified yoga instructor. Admission is free. The studio is located at 130 N. Broadway, suite B, Orcutt. Call (805) 680-6542 or visit yoga4mankind.org for more info.

—C.W.

LITERACY FOR LIFE TUTOR TRAINING Work one-on-one with non-literate adults learning to read, write, and speak English. **June 8**, 10 a.m.-3:30 p.m. \$25. 805-541-4219. literacyforlifeso.org. Union Bank, 995 Higuera St., San Luis Obispo.

MEALS ON WHEELS Meals on Wheels, San Luis Obispo, needs noon time drivers. Must have own car to deliver prepared meals. Mondays-Fridays, 11 a.m.-2 p.m. 805-235-8870. San Luis Obispo, Citywide, SLO.

SLO REP SEEKING VOLUNTEER BARTENDERS Must be 21 or over. All volunteers receive complimentary tickets. Email volunteer@slorep.org for more info. ongoing slorep.org. San Luis Obispo Repertory Theatre, 888 Morro St., San Luis Obispo, 805-786-2440.

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.

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

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

SOUTH COAST SLO COUNTY
ARROYO GRANDE FARMERS MARKET Includes produce, artists and musicians. Saturdays, 12:25 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.

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. Mondays-Fridays, 11 a.m.-5 p.m. and Saturdays, Sundays, 10 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/. Croma Vera Wines, 3592 Broad St., Ste. 106, San Luis Obispo.

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

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.

LIVE MUSIC

SAN LUIS OBISPO

LIVE MUSIC WITH BEN HEIN Live music on the patio. **June 8**, 2:30-5:30 p.m. Free. 805-439-4300. PierFront Wine & Brew, 480 Front Street, Avila Beach, pierfrontwineandbrew.com.

SUMMER ART

SAN LUIS OBISPO

SLOMAC PRESENTS THUMBELINA The SLO Movement Arts Center in collaboration with the Movement Arts Collective present this adaptation of Hans Christian Andersen's classic tale. **June 9**, 1-3 & 6-8 p.m. \$20-\$30. 805-756-4849. pacso.org. Spanos Theatre, Cal Poly, San Luis Obispo.

ARROYO GRANDE VILLAGE SUMMER CONCERT SERIES

Enjoy great **FREE** Sunday concerts at 1pm with hot dogs, beer, wine, and ice cream.

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June 9th

Unfinished Business
'60s Rock and Roll

Clifford Cook, CFP
Morgan Stanley

LIVE MUSIC

SANTA YNEZ VALLEY

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

THE EXCELLENT TRADESMEN LIVE Food and drinks available for purchase. No outside food or drinks allowed. **June 7**, 6-9 p.m. Cold Spring Tavern, 5995 Stagecoach Rd., Santa Barbara, 805-967-0066, coldspringtavern.com/entertainment.html.

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

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

SPOONFUL LIVE Food and drinks available for purchase. No outside food or drinks allowed. **June 8**, 5-8 p.m. Cold Spring Tavern, 5995 Stagecoach Rd., Santa Barbara, 805-967-0066, coldspringtavern.com/entertainment.html.

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

TERESA RUSSELL AND COCOBILLI LIVE Food and drinks available for purchase. No outside food or drinks allowed. **June 9**, 4:30-7:30 p.m. Cold Spring Tavern, 5995 Stagecoach Rd., Santa Barbara, 805-967-0066, coldspringtavern.com/entertainment.html.

THE THIRD MAN LIVE Food and drinks available for purchase. No outside food or drinks allowed. **June 8**, 1-4 p.m. Cold Spring Tavern, 5995 Stagecoach Rd., Santa Barbara, 805-967-0066, coldspringtavern.com/entertainment.html.

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

LOMPOC/VANDENBERG

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

SANTA MARIA VALLEY/LOS ALAMOS

ANNUAL DINNER MEETING: SANTA MARIA PHILHARMONIC SOCIETY The Annual Meeting of the Santa Maria Philharmonic Society

MUSIC LISTINGS continued page 28

Mad to the bone

The Mads Tolling Quartet take over Solvang Festival Theater

BY CALEB WISEBLOOD

All it took was a Miles Davis cassette tape to change one Danish classical violin student's life forever. **Mads Tolling** was 14 when his father introduced him to Davis' music, which spawned an everlasting adoration of jazz, soul, and R&B of the 1960s. Within this decade's sounds, Tolling found a paradoxical sense of freedom and intimacy—a vibe he's strived to adapt for his violin playing ever since.

Born and raised in Copenhagen, Denmark, Tolling moved to the U.S. at the age of 20 to pursue studying jazz at the Berklee College of Music in Boston. He joined Stanley Clarke's jazz band while still in school. The young musician toured with Clarke for more than 100 concerts worldwide before starting his own group, **The Mads Tolling Quartet**, in 2007. Featuring Colin Hogan on piano, Sam Bevan on bass, and Eric Garland on drums, the group has performed at festivals and venues all over the U.S.—including the Russian River Jazz Festival, the Monterey Jazz Festival, and Blues Alley in Washington, D.C.

The quartet's latest album, *Mads Tolling and The Mads Men – Playing the '60s*, serves as the foundation for their concert at the Solvang Festival Theater on **Sunday, June 16**. The band will perform its own unique, jazzy renditions of popular movie and television themes of the '60s, including but not limited to the likes of *Mission Impossible*, *The Pink Panther*, and *The Flintstones*. Oh hell ye—err, I mean, yabba dabba doo! No surprises there, I'm sure. Nothing screams the swinging '60s more than "Meet the Flintstones" as far as I'm concerned. I just hope it's not the only Hanna-Barbera theme attendees will hear that evening. If there's an encore, I'm rooting for "Scooby-Doo, Where Are You?"

Mads, if you're reading, hear me out though: I'm fully aware *The Smurfs* didn't air until 1981, but can I persuade you to make an exception? How many Scooby Snacks is it going to take? Name your price!

Tickets to the Mads Tolling Quartet's performance at the Solvang Festival Theater are \$30 each. The theater is located at 420 2nd St., Solvang. Call (805) 686-1789 or visit solvangtheaterfest.org to find out more.



GETTING EVEN WITH MAD: The Mads Tolling Quartet perform at Solvang Festival Theater on Sunday, June 16.

Island in the sun

Kupaoa, featuring Hawaiian musicians Kellen and Lihau Paik, perform at the Unity Chapel of Light Church in Orcutt on **Saturday, June 8**, from 7 to 8:30 p.m. This husband-and-wife duo has

PHOTO COURTESY OF KUPAOA



HAWAIIAN ROLLER COASTER RIDE: Musical duo Kupaoa perform at the Unity Chapel of Light Church on Saturday, June 8.

been performing together for more than 15 years, producing seven albums in the process. The couple is currently touring in celebration of their eighth, *Ka Lei Moana*, which was released this spring.

As lifelong students of the Hawaiian language, the Paiks enjoy covering beloved cultural favorites just as much as performing their own original compositions. Attendees of their Orcutt performance can expect to hear both, including new songs from *Ka Lei Moana*. The duo has described the album as an eclectic mix, but what binds these songs together is a common thread of "the connectedness of all things," according to their website.

Tickets to the Unity Chapel of Light concert start at \$20. The church is located at 1165 Stubblefield Road, Orcutt. Visit kupaoa.com for more info.

More music

Orcutt native and former *The Voice* contestant **Pryor Baird** teams up with fellow country artist **Kaleb Lee** to perform a joint show at Presqu'ile Winery in Santa Maria on **Saturday, June 8**. Advance tickets range from \$17 to \$20, while tickets at the door start at \$25. All ages are welcome, and kids 10 and under get in for free.

Pop singer and reality television star **Chiquis Rivera** performs at the Chumash Casino Resort, with special guest **El Dasa con Mariachi**, on **Friday, June 14**, at 8 p.m. Concert guests can expect to

LOCAL NOTES continued page 28

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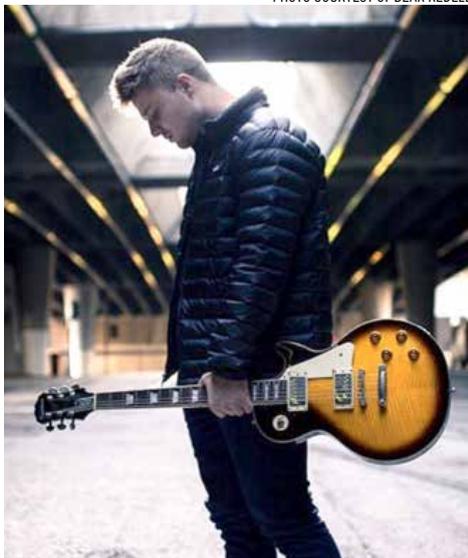
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PHOTO COURTESY OF THE CHUMASH CASINO RESORT



TAKE ME TO THE RIVER: Singer and reality TV star Chiquis Rivera performs at the Chumash Casino Resort on Friday, June 14.

PHOTO COURTESY OF BEAR REDELL



FLAIR BEAR: Pop artist Bear Redell performs at Maverick Saloon on Saturday, June 8.

LOCAL NOTES from page 27

hear a variety of fan favorites, including "Paloma Blanca," "Esa No Soy Yo," "Vas a Volver," and "Hora Extras." Tickets to the show range from \$39 to \$69 and are available at chumashcasino.com. Also in Santa Ynez, '80s cover band **The Molly Ringwald Project** performs at Maverick Saloon on Friday, June 7, at 8:30 p.m. On Saturday, June 8, the saloon hosts three acts in a row in celebration of Old Santa Ynez Day. Pop artist **Bear Redell** starts things off from noon to 3:30 p.m., followed by **The Only Cash Band**, a Johnny Cash tribute band, from 4 to 7 p.m. Blues, country, and rock group **Tex Pistols** conclude the festivities at 8 p.m.

Country and neo-surf band **The Excellent Tradesmen** perform at the Cold Spring Tavern on Friday, June 7, from 6 to 9 p.m. The tavern also hosts bohemian lounge act **The Third Man** (from 1 to 4 p.m.) and blues, funk, and rock group **Spoonful** (from 5 to 8 p.m.) on Saturday, June 8. Rags duo **Tom Ball and Kenny Sultan** perform their signature blend of guitar and harmonica blues on Sunday, June 9, from 1:15 to 4 p.m., followed by blues/rock group **Teresa Russell and Cocobilli**, who finish off the weekend from 4:30 to 7:30 p.m. ○

Arts Editor *Caleb Wiseblood* wrote this week's Local Notes. Contact him at cwiseblood@newtimeslo.com.

MUSIC LISTINGS from page 27

provides an opportunity to hear a status report on the Orchestra. **June 10**, 5:30-7 p.m. \$25. 805-925-0412. smphilharmonic.org/event/annual-meeting-of-the-members/. Masonic Lodge, 700 E. Lakeview Blvd., Santa Maria.

FREE JAZZ CONCERT FEATURING CENTRAL CITY SWING Central City Swing, a 17-piece jazz band, will perform a free concert (voluntary donations accepted at the door) featuring the area's top musicians playing a wide assortment of jazz and swing music. **June 11**, 7:30-9 p.m. Free. 805-720-3840. centralcityswing.com. Unity Chapel of Light Church, 1165 Stubblefield Rd., Orcutt.

KUPAOA Enjoy an evening of Aloha with award-winning Hawaiian artists, Kupaoa, as they launch their new album. *Hula by Hoapili Pomaika'i Aloha* and featuring Kanoa Kahaku of award-winning Halua Na Wai Ola. Kupaoa will be performing originals in addition to time-honored favorites. **June 8**, 7-8:30 p.m. \$20. 805-878-6793. kupaoa.com/. Unity Chapel of Light Church, 1165 Stubblefield Rd., Orcutt.

RIPTIDE AND SANDY Featuring Riptide Big Band with guest vocalist, Sandy Smallwood. Grant funded by the Community Foundation of San Luis Obispo County. **June 9**, 1:30-4 p.m. Free. 775-813-5186. riptidebb.com. Elwin Mussell Senior Center, 510 Park Ave., Santa Maria.

THE WAVEBREAKERS BAND PLAYS MOXIE CAFE Performing favorite popular hits from the 1950s to the '80s. **June 7**, 5:30-7:30 p.m. Free. 805-361-2900. moxiecafe.com/. Moxie Cafe, 1317 W. McCoy Ln., Santa Maria.

SOUTH COAST SLO COUNTY

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

ARROYO GRANDE VILLAGE SUMMER CONCERT SERIES: UNFINISHED BUSINESS The Arroyo Grande Village Summer Concert Series presents Unfinished Business. **June 9**, 1-3 p.m. Free. 805-473-2250. arroyograndevillage.org/summer-concert-series. Heritage Square Park, 201 Nelson St., Arroyo Grande.

COMMUNITY SING-A-LONG Join Jan Grigsby and John Roullard in a celebration of traditional and contemporary folk songs. **June 12**, 3:30-4:30 p.m. Free. 805-473-7161. slolibrary.org. Arroyo Grande Library, 800 W. Branch, Arroyo Grande.

THE JUMP JAX LIVE June 7, 7-10 p.m. No cover. 805-474-8525. jumpjax.com. Figueroa Mountain Brewing Co, AG, 1462 E. Grand Ave., Arroyo Grande.

LIDO LIVE Live music at Lido at Dolphin Bay. Tuesdays, Thursdays, Fridays, 5-8 p.m. Free. 805-773-8900. thedolphinbay.com/lido. Lido Restaurant at Dolphin Bay, 2727 Shell Beach Rd., Pismo Beach.

MUSICIAN CRAIG NEWTON All ages welcome. **June 11**, 2-3 p.m. Free. 805-473-7161. slolibrary.org. Arroyo Grande Library, 800 W. Branch, Arroyo Grande.

SAN LUIS OBISPO

BURNING, BAD & COOL June 7, 6-9 p.m. Free. 805-868-7133. 7Sisters Brewing Company, 181 Tank Farm Rd. Suite 110, San Luis Obispo, 7SistersBrewing.com.

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

CAL POLY SYMPHONY SPRING CONCERT: FATE Come join the symphony as it traces the crushing depths of despair and passionate moments of hope in Tchaikovsky's epic musical struggle. **June 8**, 8 p.m. \$12 and \$14 general; \$9 and \$12 students. 805-756-4849. music.calpoly.edu/calendar/. Performing Arts Center, 1 Grand Ave., San Luis Obispo.

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

CAL POLY WIND BANDS' SPRING CONCERT: COLOR OF SOUND The Wind Orchestra and Wind

MUSIC LISTINGS continued page 29

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PHOTO COURTESY OF THE LOW DOWN DUDES

MUSIC LISTINGS from page 28

Ensemble investigate the relationship between spectra of music and visual color through works by James Stephenson and Michael Colgrass. **June 9**, 3 p.m. \$12 and \$14 general; \$9 and \$12 students. 805-756-4849. music.calpoly.edu/calendar/. Performing Arts Center, 1 Grand Ave., San Luis Obispo.

CAL POLY'S 'ALL THAT BRASS' Presented by the Cal Poly Brass Ensembles. **June 7**, 7:30 p.m. Free. 805-756-2406. music.calpoly.edu/calendar/. SLO United Methodist Church, 1515 Fredericks St., San Luis Obispo.

JAZZ VESPERS CONCERT Jazz Vespers Concerts returns to the historic sanctuary at SLO First Presbyterian Church welcoming the Dave Becker Trio playing Brazilian choro music. **June 9**, 4 p.m. Donations appreciated. 805-543-5451. fpcsl.org. First Presbyterian Church of San Luis Obispo, 981 Marsh St., San Luis Obispo.

LIVE MUSIC AND FROG AND PEACH Enjoy live music and craft beer seven nights a week. ongoing Complimentary admission. Frog and Peach Pub, 728 Higuera St., San Luis Obispo, 805-595-4764, frogandpeachpub.com.

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

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

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

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.



KEEP IT ON THE DOWN LOW

The Solvang Music in the Park Series presents the Low Down Dudes at Solvang Park on Wednesday, June 12, from 5 to 8 p.m. This Santa Ynez-based group performs classic rock. Admission is free. The park is located on the corner of Mission Drive and First Street in Solvang. Visit solvangusa.com for more info.

—Caleb Wiseblood

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.

DJ VEGA: OLD SCHOOL AND PARTY MIX Saturdays, 9 p.m. Anthony's, 859 Guadalupe St, Guadalupe, 805-219-0977.

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.

RANDY LATIN PARTY MIX Fridays, 9:30 p.m. Anthony's, 859 Guadalupe St, Guadalupe, 805-219-0977.

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 RANDY Fridays, 6:30-8:30 p.m. Anthony's, 859 Guadalupe St, Guadalupe, 805-219-0977. ○

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Arts Briefs

LVA presents Captured Moments at Cypress Gallery

PHOTO COURTESY OF BILL MORSON



Captured Moments, a new exhibit showcasing photography by Bill Morson, which opened Tuesday, May 28, and runs through Sunday, June 23, at Cypress Gallery in Lompoc. Morson is a Central Coast-based photographer with professional experience in both corporate photography and photojournalism. The exhibit showcases an eclectic selection of Morson's photos, from nature photography to portraits.

Cypress Gallery is located at 119 E. Cypress, Lompoc. Captured Moments is presented by the Lompoc Valley Art Association (LVAA). Call (805) 737-1129 or visit lompocvalleyartassociation.com for more information.

Gavin's Books holds *Murder in the Cards* book signing

Local mystery author Tony Piazza will be signing copies of his new novel, *Murder in the Cards*, at Gavin's Books in Santa Maria on Saturday, June 15, from noon to 3 p.m. Piazza will also be reading a portion of the novel during the event. Copies of the book will be available for purchase. Guests will also be able to enter a drawing to win an audiobook version of the novel.

Murder in the Cards is the fifth novel in Piazza's Tom Logan series. Set in the 1930s, the plot follows Logan, a private investigator, as he's invited to a Halloween party at a mysterious castle. It soon becomes apparent that one of the party's guests is the killer in a murder case he's currently investigating.

Gavin's Books is located at 230 Betteravia Road, suite K, Santa Maria. *Murder in the Cards* is also available for purchase online at amazon.com. For more info on Tony Piazza and the Tom Logan series, visit tonypiazza.wordpress.com.

stART showcases artists with disabilities at CORE Winery

The artist reception for stART, which displays works created by student artists from the Special Needs Network and Vocational Training Program, takes place at CORE Winery in Orcutt on Sunday, June 9, from 4 to 6 p.m. Last year's show included abstract pieces, mixed media, kinetic art, and sculptures. Nineteen pieces were sold at the event.

The stART show is sponsored by the Ian M. Hassett Foundation, which provides arts scholarships and materials to local artists and students. CORE Winery is located at 105 W. Clark Ave., Orcutt. Call (805) 937-1600 or visit corewine.com for more information. ○

Arts Briefs is compiled by Arts Editor Caleb Wiseblood. Send information to cwiseblood@newtimeslo.com.

Colorful perspectives

This and That showcases three local artists at Gallery Los Olivos

BY CALEB WISEBLOOD

For oil painter Patti Robbins, no still life begins without a "treasure hunt," as she calls it. A collection of vessels, plants, fabrics, and other items that appeal to the artist ensues before she's ready to start painting.

Robbins will occasionally borrow vases, bowls, and plates from friends or purchase new ones that catch her eye. Flowers, succulents, citrus, weeds, and branches are gathered during a walk around her property in Arroyo Grande. These assembled treasures take center stage on the canvas, with each object carefully coordinated to fit Robbins' compositional preferences.

"I enjoy the process of orchestrating the elements," Robbins told the *Sun*. "The objects chosen are arranged in such a way that they invite you into the painting and hopefully keep your attention."

The last step of Robbins' preparation process—before sketching and finally painting—is studying the shadows, cast by sunlight coming through her studio windows. This is when items become subject to rearrangement or removal.

"Color ties the objects together," Robbins said. "Placement creates the dialogue between the objects."

The language of this dialogue? Pattern and rhythm, Robbins explained. The vibrant backgrounds of Robbins' still life paintings always consist of colorful patterns, usually polka dots, stripes, swirls, or batik patterns—never solid colors, she said.

"Color, pattern, and movement create a contemporary feel. The more complicated the pattern, the better," Robbins said. "Sometimes even I get dizzy trying to paint them!"

Attendees of *This and That*, a new group show at Gallery Los Olivos, will be able to view some of Robbins' newest still life paintings. The exhibit opened in late May and runs through Sunday, June 30. Robbins is one of the show's three featured artists, along with digital artist Jayne Behman and painter Julie Fish.

This and That marks the second occasion this local trio has collaborated on a group show at Gallery Los Olivos, the first being *Women at Work: Three Artistic Visions* in July 2017. Prior to the exhibit's opening reception on Saturday, June 1, Robbins hadn't seen the pieces her colleagues chose for the show, and nor did they see hers, she said.

"We like the element of surprise," Robbins said. "However, we are familiar with each other's body of work, and we know what to anticipate. We share the element of color—bold, in-your-face color."

Although each artist mutually embraces colorful vibrancy, their creative methods couldn't be more different from one another. Behman's digital paintings and collages, for example, were all completed through intricate platforms on her iPad.

"Because of its [the iPad's] portability combined with unlimited choices of art related applications, I have been allowed to create anywhere, all the time," Behman said in an artist statement on her



TREASURE HUNT: Oil painter Patti Robbins assembles an assortment of pottery, glassware, plants, fabrics, and other items to be the subjects of her still life paintings.

website. "Regardless of the final effort, all of my compositions adhere to the simple disciplines of line, form, and color relationships."

Meanwhile, Fish's pieces for *This and That* are the products of an "intuitive technique," as she calls it. It's a method she's used since first learning how to paint, under the tutelage of artist Benigno Gomez while living in Honduras during the mid 1980s.

"I do not plan my paintings usually," Fish told the *Sun*, while explaining the process. Rather than begin each painting with a definitive vision in mind, Fish starts with lines and shapes and discovers figures and scenes within those boundaries. The imagery is fleshed out from that point on.

With subjects ranging from island princesses to bear riders, many of Fish's pieces share a whimsical touch of fantasy. But a recent circumstance in Fish's life inspired a bit of experimentation, she explained. Some of her paintings selected for *This and That* were created while the artist was in a wheelchair for three months, healing a broken ankle.

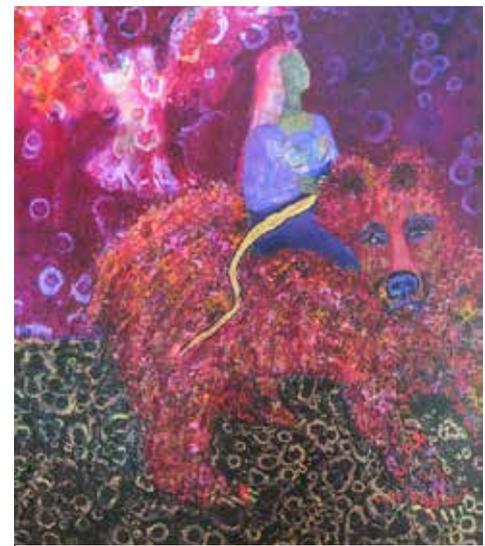
"My perspective changed because I had only done these intuitive paintings while standing my full 6 feet," Fish told the *Sun*. "I became more inventive and used different techniques that were spontaneous."

Instead of brushes, for example, Fish used window scrapers to paint one of her new pieces. Throwing and pouring paint on a tilted canvas were other methods Fish hadn't tried before. Exploring new techniques reinvigorated her creativity, she said, and kept her painting during the healing process.

"I realized then that I had to keep painting and making things to be who I am and be happy," Fish said. ○

Arts Editor Caleb Wiseblood would rather throw paint than a football, baseball, or Frisbee any day. Contact him at cwiseblood@newtimeslo.com.

BELOW IMAGES COURTESY OF JULIE FISH



BEAR NECESSITIES: With subjects ranging from island princesses to bear riders, many of artist Julie Fish's pieces share a whimsical touch of fantasy.



EMBRACING EXPERIMENTATION: One of Julie Fish's pieces selected for *This and That* was created from pouring paint on a tilted canvas, a method Fish hadn't tried before this year.

PHOTOS COURTESY OF LARRY MCLELLAN



MAN'S BEST FRIEND: Jack the dog (Jarrod Zinn) gets adopted by Joel (Craig Scott) in Lompoc Civic Theatre's production of *A Dog's Life*.

Who let the dogs out?

Lompoc Civic Theatre's production of A Dog's Life is a barking good time

BY CALEB WISEBLOOD

Three dogs at the pound eagerly await their chances of getting adopted when they hear a new human's voice coming around the corner. Joel (Craig Scott) doesn't want a dog, but his ex-girlfriend does, and he's just about ready to try anything to win her back.

The canine candidates flaunt themselves before Joel, desperately competing for his affection. Even "Big Dog" (Phil Epstein), a textbook curmudgeon, trades his icy gaze for a fresh set of puppy-dog eyes when Joel approaches his side of the fence. Meanwhile, the super spunky "Little Dog" (Kimberly Washington) uses every weapon at her disposal—spazzing out, chasing her tail, one-upping her larger compatriot's puppy-dog eyes—to win the potential human companion's attention.

But at the end of the day, all it takes is one dog paw gently clasping Joel's hand to reach a final verdict. Joel names his new dog Jack (Jarrod Zinn) and thus begins Lompoc Civic Theatre's production of *A Dog's Life*, a heartwarmingly humorous musical about the joys and challenges of dog ownership.

From dog park trips to veterinarian appointments, the play presents both Joel's and Jack's perspectives during their various outings. When the vet (also played by Epstein) tells Joel

that Jack won't feel a thing during his neutering procedure, for example, all the poor dog hears is, "You're gonna die! You're gonna die!" Jack can never fully understand what Joel or any other human says but starts to learn words based on association—including his all-time favorite: bacon.

"Did you just say what I think you said? Don't you dare tease me with that word," Jack sings during "Bacon," a loving ode to his favorite treat. "The sizzle sounds like a symphony! And it makes me your saliva slave!"

The musical also pokes fun at the differences in time perception between dogs and humans. During the song "Separation Anxiety," Joel leaves the house for five minutes—which translates into an eternity for Jack.

"What did I do? I gave him everything! Oh please come back, and bring your Jack a little snack," Jack sings. "My water

bowl can't hold my tears today!"

While Joel's and Jack's adventures are at the forefront of the musical, Big Dog and Little Dog get a side story of their own after a married couple adopts both of them—declaring the pair "inseparable," much to Big Dog's dismay (at first). Epstein and Washington play off each other perfectly no matter whose shoes they're filling during the show. They're equally hilarious as Jack's seemingly sadistic veterinarians as they are at playing two overly enthusiastic coffee shop employees. (The name of the coffee shop is

StarBark's, in case you were wondering.)

Zinn and Scott have great chemistry as well, comedically and emotionally, especially as time progresses. Jack is 12 years old by the end of the show, about 84 in dog years. Whether you're a pet owner or not, the finale, "I Have to Go," is sure to touch dog, cat, canary, gold fish, and ferret lovers alike. ○

Arts Editor Caleb Wiseblood can't refuse puppy-dog eyes. Contact him at cwiseblood@newtimeslo.com.



CANINE CHRONICLES: From left to right, Craig Scott, Phil Epstein, Jarrod Zinn, Kimberly Washington, and Mary Merriman star in *A Dog's Life*.

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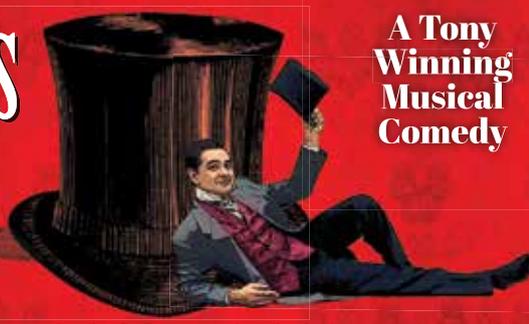
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Film Reviews

ALADDIN

What's it rated? **PG**
 What's it worth? **Full price**
 Where's it showing? **Movies Lompoc, Parks Plaza**
PICK Co-writer and director Guy Ritchie (*Lock, Stock and Two Smoking Barrels, Snatch, King Arthur: Legend of the Sword*) helms this live-action remake of Disney's animated 1992 film of the same name. Mena Massoud takes on the title role as a kindhearted street urchin who dreams of winning the heart of Jasmine (Naomi Scott), a princess living a constricted life. Aladdin is ordered by Grand Vizier Jafar (Marwan Kenzari) to bring him a magical lamp, but Aladdin soon discovers the lamp, when rubbed, releases a genie (Will Smith), who grants the lamp bearer's wishes. Can Aladdin use the genie to stop Jafar's evil intentions and win the heart of his love?

I would be very interested to see this *Aladdin* one more time (probably an understatement) with someone who has never seen the original. This year's remake is by no means better than the 1992 film, but it's still a gem in its own right—or should I say a diamond in the rough? But I'm curious if there are any huge faults I'm ignoring because my brain is subconsciously filling in those blanks with plot details from the original film. I need an outsider's perspective! Who out there hasn't seen the animated film? Putting a Craigslist ad out tonight: Seeking someone who had a terrible childhood.

If you peek at the film's reviews on Rotten Tomatoes, you'll notice how polarizing the reactions to *Aladdin* have been—with a critics' score of 58 percent versus an audience score of 94 percent. I'm happy (and darn proud) to say I'm with the latter crowd. There's nothing glaringly bad about *Aladdin* that I can think of—and believe me, I've tried. But please, don't go in expecting Smith's take as the genie to top Robin Williams' unmatched performance. Smith does his own thing. It's nowhere near Williams' level, but it's enjoyable enough. The overall vibe reminded me a lot of *Hitch*, where Smith played a dating coach who mentors a bumbling client (Kevin James) into winning someone's heart.

Massoud has great chemistry with both Smith and Scott, but now I can't help imagining James in the Aladdin role. *Aladdin* **Blart: Mall Cop?** Quick, I need a lamp. I have a wish. (128 min.)

—Caleb Wiseblood

DARK PHOENIX

What's it rated? **PG-13**
 Where's it showing? **Parks Plaza**
NEW Simon Kinberg directs this X-Men sci-fi adventure about Jean Grey (Sophie Turner), who develops overwhelming powers that threaten humanity. Where do her fellow X-Men's allegiances lie, with Jean or mankind? (113 min.)

—Glen Starkey

FILM REVIEWS continued page 34

SCORING

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

Rock star down

Dexter Fletcher (*Wild Bill, Sunshine on Leith, Eddie the Eagle*) directs "a musical fantasy about the fantastical human story of Elton John's breakthrough years," with Taron Egerton in the lead role as the singer of "Rocket Man," "Your Song," "Daniel," and dozens of other hits. (121 min.)

Glen: Written for the screen by Lee Hall (*Billy Elliot, War Horse, Victoria & Abdul*), this loosely accurate biopic is constructed with an interesting frame. We start with Elton—née Reginald "Reggie" Dwight—walking into an AA meeting in full stage costume, where he introduces himself as Elton Hercules John, an alcoholic, sexoholic, and cocaine and pill addict. He proceeds to chronicle through flashbacks his troubled childhood (Matthew Illesley), adolescence (Kit Connor), and his rise to fame, as well as his subsequent descent into addiction. As we move back and forth through time, the various characters frequently break into song and sing their dialogue like a standard musical. We meet his less-than-maternal mother, Sheila (Bryce Dallas Howard), his cold and distant father, Stanley (Steven Mackintosh), and his rather wonderful grandmother, Ivy (Gemma Jones). We also see his early gigs with a band called Bluesology, his first break into publishing with Dick James' (Stephen Graham) company under management by Ray Williams (Charlie Rowe), who introduces him to lyricist Bernie Taupin (Jamie Bell), which develops into a lifelong friendship and one of the most successful creative partnerships in rock 'n' roll history. We also meet his second manager, John Reid (Richard Madden), who brings him to the heights of fame and becomes his lover, but who also facilitates his addictions and breaks his heart. Along the way, we get a lot of amazing songs. It's highly entertaining but also rather sad. Being a rock star isn't as fun as it's supposed to be.

Anna: The tagline for *Rocketman* is "based on a true fantasy," and the film is a true blend of hard-hitting, nitty-gritty life moments and fantastical scenes set to Elton's iconic music. Egerton is a force in the role, playing Elton's insecurity and bravado from one moment to the next. His family life is rocky at best. His mother's a put-upon martyr, embarrassed by her son's flamboyance and frequent appearance in the newspapers due to drinking and drugging. Elton can't help but feel

he's disappointing everyone around him—except perhaps his fans—and the larger-than-life person onstage is small and sad off stage. He's burned bridges without the intent of causing harm. When he takes on Reid as his manager, it's clear he let his heart rule, but unfortunately that left a wake of his

loyal friends high and dry. When he laments to Reid, "Can't we just keep on Ray? He's such a nice guy," Reid's scathing tongue scolds him to remember that record sales aren't about friendships. Either trust him or fail. Elton is so enamored of Reid he can't get past it and follows him even when he's being used and abused,

pleading for help but not finding any. It's heavy stuff. Luckily throughout, we know our hero comes through in the end. Elton is still kicking ass onstage, seemingly happy and healthy in the longtime sobriety he finally found.

Glen: As dark as a lot of the film is, from a suicide attempt to a drug-induced heart attack, there are so many tender moments. When Elton as a young child listens to the radio and can easily pick out on the piano the notes he's hearing, we know he's a prodigy. When he takes Taupin's lyrics and finds the perfect melody, it illustrates the magic of creativity. When Elton gets his big break in the U.S. with a gig at LA's famed Troubadour, though he's racked with stage fright, he transcends it and quickly has the audience in the palm of his hand, depicted in the film's trailer as everyone being lifted off the ground. These "fantastical" moments remind viewers that the film is fictionalized. Many of the details, characters, and events are correct, but the chronology and other particulars are entirely invented, which frankly makes the film stronger. It's an impression of Elton's life. It's about his struggle with homosexuality, his estrangement from his parents, his rocky relationships, his handling of fame, and his eventual realization that his lifestyle isn't sustainable. One of his biggest fears is whether or not he'll be as good without the drugs and alcohol, which allowed



FAME'S DARK SIDE Elton (Taron Egerton, center) poses for the cameras as his manager and lover, John Reid (Richard Madden, right), looks on.

him to overcome his fears and become a superstar. He had to kill Reggie Dwight to become Elton John, but he had to reclaim Reggie to regain and maintain his sobriety. The best part of the film for me was his relationship with Taupin, who had to put up with Elton's flamboyance, eccentricities, addiction, and bad behavior. He was the one person who was Elton's true friend, and that's a beautiful thing to behold. Both entertaining and inspiring, this one's worth seeing in the theater.

Anna: We all need a friend like Bernie, whose unconditional love for Elton transcended the boozing, the diva-level tantrums, the crazy showmanship that the singer kept pushing further and further. He was always trying to remind Elton of what it was like before stardom hit, begging him to take a break, go home, get back to making music together. He was there when it all came crashing down, ready to help Elton pick up the pieces. The two obviously were in it through thick and thin—they still work together today. The music and musical scenes in the film are awesome. Beyond his time onstage, there are organic intros into the songs followed by fantastical imagery; it's a pretty great blend of fact and fantasy in my opinion. I like this director, too. *Eddie the Eagle* was a lot of fun, and *Rocketman*, while a different kind of "underdog" story, follows that lead. I'm a big fan of Elton John's music—who isn't, right? *Rocketman* gave me a glimpse into facets of his life and career I didn't know about, particularly his complicated relationship with family and his manager, who comes off as quite smarmy and coldhearted in this telling. I agree that this is one to see in the theater, so grab some popcorn and let the music overtake you. ○

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

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F I L M

FILM REVIEWS from page 33

A DOG'S JOURNEY

What's it rated? **PG**
What's it worth? **Matinee**
Where's it showing? **Hi-Way Drive-In**
PICK Gail Mancuso directs W. Bruce Cameron's adventure dramedy about a dog (voiced by Josh Gad), who finds his life's meaning through the humans he meets, such as Ethan (Dennis Quaid), CJ (Kathryn Prescott), and Hannah (Marg Helgenberger).

Yes, this is sentimental and manipulative as heck, but it's also sweet as can be. It's not going to win any awards or curry much favor with haughty film critics, but for openhearted audiences, this film will fill those hearts with all the feels. (108 min.)

—Glen

MONARCH: KING OF THE MONSTERS

What's it rated? **PG-13**
What's it worth? **Stream it**
Where's it showing? **Movies Lompoc, Parks Plaza**
Monarch, a cryptozoological agency, tries to deal with the emergence of monsters—Godzilla, Mothra, Rodan, and King Ghidorah—who are battling for supremacy on Earth. The sequel to 2014's *Godzilla* is co-written and directed by Michael Dougherty (*Krampus*, *Trick 'r Treat*).

If all you want out of a movie is some awesome CGI Kaiju battles, *King of the Monsters* might do the trick, but all the "story" surrounding said battles is a mess. Dr. Emma Russell (Vera Farmiga) is a paleobiologist working for Monarch. She and her daughter, Madison (Millie Bobby Brown), witness the birth of Mothra and are promptly kidnapped by eco-terrorists led by Col. Alan Jonah (Charles Dance).

In a page torn from every wannabe blockbuster ever written, Monarch and doctors Ishir Serizawa (Ken Watanabe) and Vivienne Graham (Sally Hawkins) approach Mark Russell (Kyle Chandler), Emma's ex-husband, to track down his family. What follows is Jonah trying to release more monsters and Mark trying to stop them.

There are a few switcheroos about who's a good guy and who isn't, but it's mostly a semi-coherent mess and an excuse for giant monsters to wage epic battles. Secret underwater cities, mythological texts, outer space aliens, a plan to revive Godzilla by letting him feed off of radiation from a nuclear bomb—you name it, this film's thrown it into the mix.

If you like this kind of stuff, you're in luck—the film tees up a sequel. Will Godzilla battle King Kong? Keep spending money on these films and it's guaranteed. (131 min.)

—Glen

FLEABAG

When? **2016-present**
What's it rated? **TV-MA**
Where's it available? **Amazon Prime**
Fleabag is the funniest thing on TV right now—a bone-dry British comedy-drama about a selfish, angry, sexually voracious but nameless woman (Phoebe Waller-Bridge), who's floundering through life. She can't hold down a relationship, though she strings along her ex-boyfriend, Harry (Hugh Skinner), whenever she needs a booty call—that's when she's not shagging one of her other love interests like Arsehole Guy (Ben Aldridge), Bus Rodent (Jamie Demetriou), or the Catholic priest (Andrew Scott) she falls for in Season 2.

Created by Waller-Bridge from her one-woman play she debuted at the 2013 Edinburgh Festival Fringe, the program's hallmark is the way the lead character breaks the fourth wall, looking directly into the camera and speaking to the audience. Waller-Bridge's comic timing, facial expressions, and these fourth-wall asides are simply brilliant. They allow her to make a running commentary on her life's travails, of which there are many.

Much of the drama stems from the lead character's relationship with her much more successful but just as unhappy sister, Claire (Sian Clifford), and her exasperated father (Bill

Paterson) and the sisters' godmother (Olivia Colman), who took up with their father upon their mother's death. Claire's loutish, alcoholic husband, Martin (Brett Gelman), also manages to generate a lot of drama. The family's dysfunction is spellbinding! The tension between the various characters is pushed below the surface in that most British of ways. Sarcasm has never sounded so polite.

The lead character, let's just call her Fleabag, runs a small and largely unsuccessful café that she started with her best friend, Boo (Jenny Rainsford), who's deceased but visits Fleabag in her head, conjured by some guilt Fleabag harbors, which is slowly revealed over the first two seasons. The show plays like a comedy but exposes itself as a tragedy, which helps explain Fleabag's abhorrent behavior—she's recovering from a deep psychological trauma.

I've come late to this game. The first season's six episodes aired in 2016, and I didn't discover the show until recently, upon the release of the second season's six episodes. With brief 23- to 28-minute run times, I gobbled up the first season one day and the second the next, and I hope there's more on the horizon and we don't have to wait three years for them.

This is hilarious, devastating TV, and it's certainly deserving of its 100

PHOTO COURTESY OF 20TH CENTURY FOX FILM CORPORATION



BURN, BABY, BURN: In the new X-Men film *Dark Phoenix*, we witness Jean Grey (Sophie Turner) develop overwhelming powers that threaten humanity.

PHOTO COURTESY OF UNIVERSAL PICTURES



PET SOUNDS: Max (voiced by Patton Oswalt) has a whole other life his owners don't know about, in *The Secret Life of Pets 2*.

ROCKETMAN

What's it rated? **R**
What's it worth? **Fill price**
Where's it showing? **Movies Lompoc, Parks Plaza**
PICK See Sun Screen.

THE SECRET LIFE OF PETS 2

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

NEW Co-directors Chris Renaud (*Despicable Me*) and Jonathan del Val helm this continuation of Max (voiced by Patton Oswalt) and his pet friends' stories of what their lives are like after their humans leave the house. (86 min.) ○

—Glen

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

BINGEABLE

PHOTO COURTESY OF TWO BROTHERS PICTURES



HOT MESS: Writer-creator-actress Phoebe Waller-Bridge stars in *Fleabag*, a British dramedy about an unhappy young woman floundering through life in the most devastatingly hilarious way.

percent Rotten Tomatoes critic score. Laughs are followed by poignant moments, and Waller-Bridge is so charismatic and likable, bringing a deep humanity to her irreverent and broken character. This show bears repeated viewing. (12 episodes) ○

—Glen Starkey

Island of flavor

If you squint real hard, this little corner of Lompoc tastes like paradise

BY NICK POWELL

Have you ever avoided an entire cuisine out of pure spite? To be clear, I'm not talking about race-based spite here. I'm an idiot, not an asshole, and for decades my aversion to Hawaiian food has been based entirely on an unarticulated resentment from being too broke to visit America's favorite tropical getaway.

Forget Hawaii, I'd told myself in anger thinly masking jealousy. It's probably crowded with upper-middle class "sheep" wolfing down Spam between their surf sessions on perfect, warm waves; snorkel excursions through underwater wonderlands; and epic hikes through lush, volcanic jungle ... If Hawaii doesn't want me, I don't want it, I'd mutter to no one as I passed by a fun-looking island-themed restaurant.

All that was subconscious, though. I didn't even realize I'd been avoiding Hawaiian grub until I found myself eating it for the first time last week wondering why I'd avoided it for 30-plus years.

The opportunity presented itself when my family and I were enjoying our favorite liquid treat: that sweet, quirky boba tea. It's a weekend tradition in our clan, and when we first moved to Lompoc, we were disappointed to find the town utterly boba-less. But our despair was short-lived. TEAklish Boba and Cafe opened in October of 2018 and has been scratching our itches ever since.

It's a nice spot, like a Pinterest page in 3D, and the drinks are top-notch, far better than the tea chains that first got us hooked on that chewy goodness.

I'm kind of insulated in my family life, so I don't know if people generally know about boba. Are y'all into this stuff? If you haven't

tried it, know that the texture is a little weird, but that's part of the fun, and the flavors are many and exotic.

Basically, these places serve refreshing iced tea—green or black—mixed with fruit syrups, milk, and traditional Asian flavors like purple taro, green matcha, and jasmine. Then, they add soft chewy morsels to the drink, which shouldn't work but it totally does. Boba itself is just little blueberry-sized pearls of tapioca. It's usually pretty flavorless but is still fun to suck through the oversized straw and chew with the drink.

At TEAklish, they infuse the boba with honey to add little bursts of sweetness to each bite. They have other options for add-ons like fresh fruit, chia seeds, slivers of custard pudding, and cubes of mango-coconut jelly, but I've always preferred those titular boba pearls.

The quality of tea and balance of flavor is really what sets TEAklish apart from other boba places. They import many of their ingredients from Taiwan for an authentic taste, and they don't overload the fruity drinks with sickly sweet syrup. It's the only option in Lompoc, but it's also genuinely the best boba I've ever had.

The cafe is clean and pleasant with board games to play while you wait for drinks and popular snack brands from Asia you don't usually see in the states.

But the only food items at TEAklish are those little bags of cookies and chips. Last weekend, my family was thirsty *and* hungry. Very hungry. Hungry enough to take a second look at QQ Aloha BBQ, the Hawaiian take-out joint that's been right nextdoor to TEAklish this whole time.

The interior was bright with tropical colors and a coral collage, and for a take-out place, the service was great. A very friendly cashier

Teamwork makes the meal work

Surrounded by the worst of Lompoc blanditude (Walmart/Applebees/Round Table), there exists a nigh undiscovered oasis of tropical flavors. TEAklish Boba and Cafe supplies the drinks while QQ Aloha BBQ grills the meats at 515 and 517 W. Central Ave. They aren't affiliated though there's a mere wall betwixt them, but that didn't stop me from visiting both at the same time, and it shouldn't stop you, either.



TRYIN' HAWAIIAN: I was 33 before I first tried Hawaiian food. Would've been nice to be soaking up the tropical sun 1,000 miles from work at the time, but the grilled meat and macaroni salad at QQ Aloha BBQ was still pretty damn good.

made helpful suggestions to us first-timers, and we settled in to try the barbecue beef ribs, teriyaki chicken, and fried fish and shrimp. Each plate came with steamed rice, macaroni salad, and a green salad.

The combination of smokey char and tangy teriyaki made the chicken my favorite dish, and the fish was surprisingly tender and juicy inside that crispy breading.

The macaroni salad was probably the most "Hawaiian" thing on the plate, and I could've eaten a bucket of that simple, comforting side dish.

The real star of the show though was our appetizer of fried sesame balls. That chewy dough was stuffed with some sort of sweet mush and tasted like piping-hot heaven.

EATS continued page 36

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AMAZING ACCOMPLISHED: How many layers of flavor does your drink have... one? ONE?! TEAklish Boba and Cafe's fresh beverages rock three delicious layers without breaking a sweat. Pictured from left to right are the cheese foam green tea, TEAklish Gold with signature premium gold milk tea and Oreo crumbles, and the Sunset passion fruit tea, all with honey boba.

PHOTO COURTESY OF KATRINA DORSEY



HANDFUL O' BALLS: These sesame balls from QQ Aloha BBQ are possibly the best \$3 I've ever spent, and there used to be two more... before I ate 'em that is.

best selection and prices on produce (pineapples for just 99 cents each?! Mangoes, three for a dollar?! That's practically ridiculous!) Their deli and meat selection is pretty good, too, but avoid the boxed and canned goods, where mark-up is king. Also, their beer selection could be improved. There, I said it. Get yourself some produce at **601 W. Central Ave.** • **Chef Rick's** in Orcutt has opened softly for lunch and seems to be a big hit.

EATS from page 35

All told, it was a good, solid meal, but probably not the most authentic introduction to Hawaiian cuisine. Owner Anthony Wang immigrated from China six years ago and cooked in a local Chinese restaurant for several years before he noticed a lack of Hawaiian options in town and decided to fill the void. A friend taught him a few recipes and Hawaiian techniques, and QQ Aloha BBQ was born.

"We work for the customer always," Wang said. "We are happy when they are happy."

It's hard not to be happy with a full plate of three meats and sides for just less than \$10. Add some boba and sesame balls, and you've got yourself a sweet, affordable vacation from the standard Central Coast food scene. ○

Contributing writer Nick Powell is still feeling fishy. Send seafood recommendations to npowell@santamariasun.com.

Powell's picks

• Also right near QQ Aloha BBQ and TEAklish Boba and Cafe is my favorite Lompoc grocery store: **Foods Co.** It's not the prettiest place, but it has the town's

As of this typing, the restaurant is only open from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m., Monday to Saturday and the parking lot is packed to the gills every time I pass by. I haven't tried it yet, but Chef Rick is a local legend, and the food is likely fantastic. Stay tuned for more info, or squeeze in for lunch at **135 E. Foster Road.**

• I traveled to good ol' San Luis Obispo for hiking, breakfast, and the Central Coast Cactus and Succulent Society annual show and sale this past weekend. It was a good time, especially the breakfast at **Bon Temps Creole Cafe.** I'd never enjoyed a bloody mary till then and also never thought to use an artichoke heart as the base for a poached egg breakfast. These folks know what they're doing, and it's definitely worth the trip. Have yourself some *bon temps* at **1819 Osos St. in SLO.**

• Treat dad to a breakfast for kings at Solvang's **Root 246** this Father's Day, June 16. Bottomless eggs accompany ribeye and New York strip steaks for \$30-plus a plate. Add bottomless beer for \$16 and let dad know you appreciate all those lessons and love and whatever. Call (805) 686-8681 for reservations. ○

Contributing writer Nick Powell is the king of breakfast. Send steak and eggs—and food news—to npowell@santamariasun.com.



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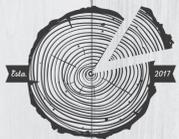
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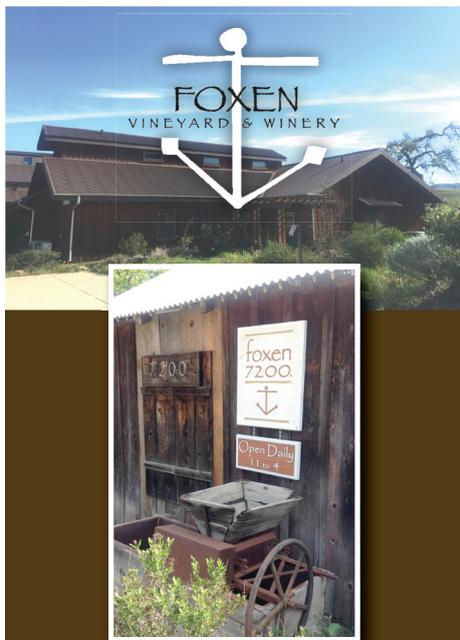
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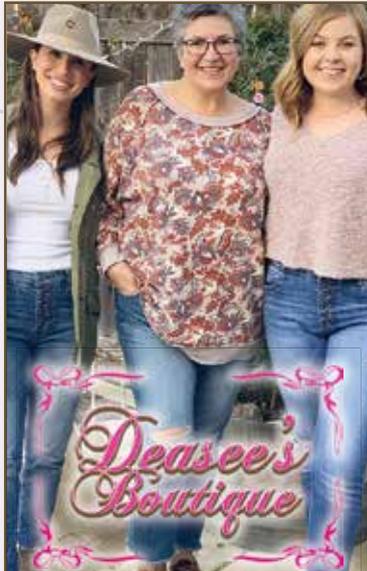
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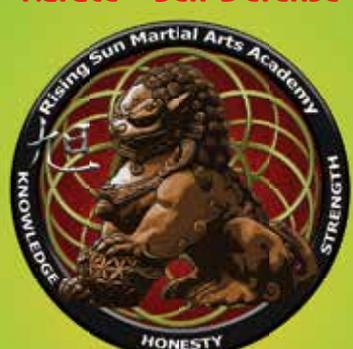
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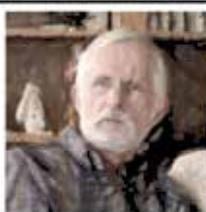
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