

# SUN

AT THE MOVIES



*Biggest Little Farm: Inspiring sustainable journey [27]*

# LABOR

*A battle over H-2A workers in Santa Maria pits the agricultural industry against some city residents [12]*

BY CAMILLIA LANHAM

# DISPUTE



**NEWS** More locals can receive CalFresh [8]

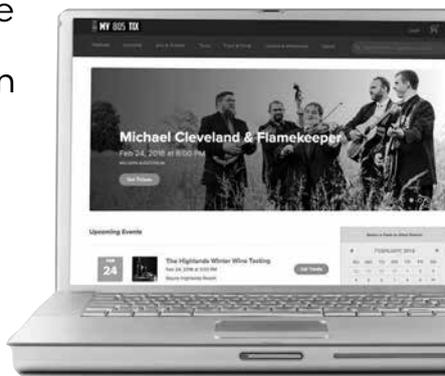
**ARTS** Local author draws on swordplay [24]

**EATS** Guadalupe serves Southern specialties [30]

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# Contents

JUNE 13 - JUNE 20, 2019 VOL. 20 NO. 15



**TENDING ROWS:** The discussion about H-2A housing in Santa Maria pits agriculture against some city residents

**S**anta Maria's been talking about what to do with H-2A housing since March 2018. The agricultural industry has stepped up its use of the federal temporary guest worker program in recent years. Some city residents have voiced concerns about overcrowded houses, unruly and unsafe neighbors, crime, property values, and displaced long-term residents in a tight housing market. Farmers, ranchers, pickers, packers, and labor contractors have fought back, questioning whether the complaints have merit and asking the city and its residents to understand the difficult situation that they're in when it comes to finding the labor they need. I speak with stakeholders and city officials for this week's cover story about Santa Maria's struggle to pass an employee housing ordinance [12].

Also this week, read about why more locals can now apply for CalFresh benefits [8], what state agencies can and can't do to save the endangered steelhead trout in the Santa Ynez River watershed [9], how local author Kathryn Blanche's pursuit of swordplay informs her novels [24], the small moments captured in a retired photojournalist's new Cypress Gallery exhibit [26], and the delicious Southern flavors coming out of Papa Jay's restaurant in Guadalupe [30].

Camillia Lanham, editor

Cover design by Alex Zuniga

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## Political Watch

- Two bills aimed at addressing human trafficking, authored by **Assemblyman Jordan Cunningham (R-San Luis Obispo)**, passed out of the Assembly on May 31. Assembly Bill 662 would update and simplify a current law that could be useful in closing trafficking locations. Assembly Bill 663 would increase the maximum fines imposed on traffickers who prey on minors. The bill would also allow counties to keep 75 percent of all fines collected to fund counseling and rehabilitation services for trafficking victims. "Human trafficking is modern-day slavery, and it's happening right here on the Central Coast," Cunningham said in a statement. "These bills will give law enforcement the tools they need to fight trafficking, and direct needed resources to victims of trafficking." On June 6, both bills were referred to the Senate Committee on Public Safety.

- The state Senate passed Senate Bill 182 on May 29, which would strengthen local planning requirements in areas prone to wildfires and would encourage local jurisdictions to seek fire-resistant development strategies. The bill, authored by state **Sen. Hannah-Beth Jackson (D-Santa Barbara)**, requires local jurisdictions to create plans to fix at-risk structures, change planning ordinances to reduce fire risk through design, and curb development in high-risk fire areas. With the Senate's approval, the bill moves to the Assembly for a vote. In a statement, Jackson said that with the number of homes and lives devastated by wildfires, the state must approve measures to make homes more fire resistant. This includes using different building materials in homes, like metal or tile, and covering vents with mesh wiring, among other possible solutions. "The risk is simply too high to continue with business as usual in our state," Jackson said. "SB 182 will ensure our communities are better prepared and more fire-resilient without sacrificing new home construction."

- On June 6, **Gov. Gavin Newsom** issued a statement thanking the federal government for passing a disaster relief bill that allocates about \$19 billion to help communities recover from disasters that occurred over the last three years, including numerous wildfires throughout the state. "I want to thank President Trump and Congress for bringing much-needed relief to communities impacted by wildfires and other natural disasters," Newsom said in a statement. "This legislation will bring our state critical disaster funding to help Californians rebuild and recover." The most significant funding allocation is dedicated to the U.S. Department of Agriculture, which receives \$4.5 billion to cover agricultural-related losses, repair farmland, restore timber, and perform watershed recovery work. Additionally, the bill provides funding to the U.S. Forest Service for wildfire suppression.

- State **Sen. Hannah-Beth Jackson (D-Santa Barbara)** recognized 805HELP as her district's nonprofit of the year in a resolution on June 5. According to Jackson's office, the nonprofit is an online organization that encourages local residents to support survivors of recent disasters through donations, volunteering, and other services. The online nonprofit was launched after the Thomas Fire in 2017 and also supports survivors recovering from the Montecito debris flow, Holiday Fire, Hill Fire, Woolsey Fire, and the 2018 shooting in Thousand Oaks. "As our community continues to rebuild from the devastating Thomas Fire and other local disasters, 805HELP has proven to be an effective tool to connect our most vulnerable survivors with the resources they need to recover," Jackson said in a statement. ☐

## Judge orders Guadalupe to give employees salary increases

A judge recently ruled that the city of Guadalupe acted unlawfully when it suddenly announced in 2017 that employees would no longer be eligible for merit-based salary step increases.

In the proposed decision, which was filed by a California Public Employment Relations Board judge on May 24, the judge wrote that the city of Guadalupe violated California law when it failed to give employees salary increases as required by a contractual agreement between the city and its employees. Despite the city's claims that the salary increase suspensions are necessary to improving its poor financial situation, the judge wrote that the city failed to adequately inform and bargain with union representatives before making the decision.

"... even when an employer faces an 'economic collapse of unknown proportions,'" the judge wrote, "it must bring its concerns to the bargaining table before taking unilateral action on negotiable subjects."

Although the city could appeal the decision, Guadalupe City Attorney Philip Sinco said he does not plan to do so.

"Although the city of Guadalupe does not agree with the reasoning of the decision issued by the administrative law judge, the city has decided not to appeal the decision," Sinco wrote in a statement to the *Sun*. "Instead, the city wishes to move forward and put this matter behind it."

The unfair practices complaint was filed in August 2017 by Santa Barbara-based field representatives of Service Employees International Union (SEIU) Local 620, a workers union that represents 11 Guadalupe city employees.

In the complaint, SEIU claims that Guadalupe City Administrator Cruz Ramos unfairly suspended the possibility of merit-based salary increases for all employees in June 2017 without prior notice. Ramos, according to the complaint, then denied salary advancements to at least five city employees who were owed them after July 2017, even though three employees who were due to receive salary increases before July 2017 did get raises.

In an email sent to Guadalupe SEIU representatives on June 14, 2017—after employees were informed of the salary increase suspension—Ramos wrote that "in lieu of 'furloughs' there will be no step increases this upcoming fiscal year due to a continuing budget deficit."

Ramos wrote that the decision was an effort to take control of the city's spending, reduce its long-standing \$700,000 deficit, and help pay the ever-increasing yearly costs of California Public Employees Retirement System (CalPERS) contributions. She also wrote that the city would continue working to find other ways to reduce expenses and address its financial shortfalls.

"The city regrets this action," she wrote, "as our employees are all hard-working, dedicated employees."

In a formal hearing in September 2018, Ramos testified that when she was hired as the city's administrator in October 2017, she promised the Guadalupe City Council that she would do all she could to improve the city's financial woes. While looking over Guadalupe's financial reports from 2012 to 2017, she found that each report concluded that the city's financial liabilities exceeded



**GIVING OUT RAISES:** After Guadalupe city officials announced in 2017 that employees would no longer be eligible for merit-based salary increases, the Service Employees International Union (SEIU) Local 620 filed an unfair practices charge. A judge ruled in favor of the employees.

its assets, and questioned the city's ability to continue running independently.

The city can't afford to give out raises, she said.

Ramos and the city also argued that Guadalupe's contract with SEIU employees does not automatically require salary step increases, but that those increases are subject to the approval of the city administrator.

Still, the California Public Employment Relations Board ruled that the contract language clearly requires the increases, and that because the city's financial issues are not new or unanticipated, it is not an adequate defense for the sudden suspensions. The city's contract with SEIU was drawn up before City Administrator Ramos was hired, but well after Guadalupe first started struggling with its finances.

"Thus, absent a valid defense," the judge wrote, "the city had no legal authority to repudiate the terms it negotiated over and reached agreement on with SEIU."

The judge ordered Guadalupe to meet and confer in good faith with SEIU and grant salary step increases to all deserving employees.

—Kasey Bubnash

now and will not in the future. Additionally, he said, natural barriers would prevent fluids injected into the proposed exemption area from traveling to shallow freshwater aquifers that are used for drinking water and agricultural activities.

"There are hundreds of feet of confining features between the water wells and the aquifer proposed for exemption," Kimber said.

This explanation didn't satisfy numerous commenters who voiced concerns about oil and gas projects possibly contaminating the water supply. Center for Biological Diversity staff attorney Lauren Packard was one of the many opponents who spoke against the exemption while citing data from a preliminary U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) study of the Orcutt oil field that found oil-related substances in some water wells in and near the field.

"The oil companies have not shown that their injections won't contaminate the groundwater," Packard said. "Steam injection wells and

NEWS continued page 7

## Public opinion split on Cat Canyon aquifer exemption

Hundreds of people filled the Santa Maria Veterans Memorial Building on June 5 to voice their opinion on a proposed aquifer exemption that would expand the area in Cat Canyon where oil companies can build injection wells.

Some environmental activists and students pushed back on the proposal during the hearing, while some local ranchers and labor unions encouraged the California Department of Conservation's Division of Oil, Gas, and Geothermal Resources (DOGGR) to move the exemption forward. DOGGR and other state agencies are considering recommending that the Environmental Protection Agency approve the expansion.

In a presentation prior to the public comment portion of the hearing, DOGGR engineer Jeff Kimber said the exemption meets federal requirements because the water in the proposed aquifer doesn't serve as drinking water

## Weekend Weather

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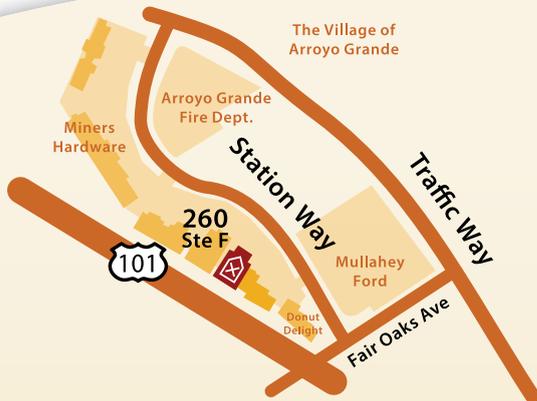
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<p><b>Saturday</b></p> <p><b>COASTAL</b> &gt; High 70 Low 53 <b>INLAND</b> &gt; High 76 Low 52</p>	<p><b>Sunday</b></p> <p><b>COASTAL</b> &gt; High 69 Low 53 <b>INLAND</b> &gt; High 77 Low 52</p>

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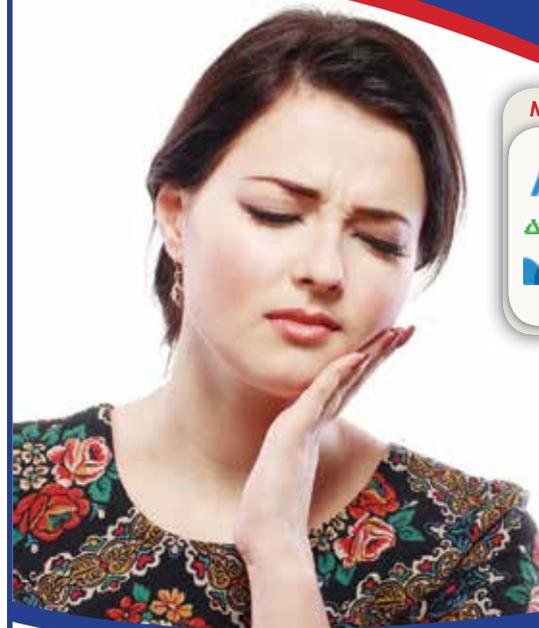


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NEWS from page 4

injection disposal wells create pathways for vertical and lateral contamination.”

Wendy Motta, a representative from U.S. Rep. Salud Carbajal’s (D-Santa Barbara) office said the USGS plans to conduct a study in Cat Canyon similar to the one in Orcutt. She said Carbajal believes the exemption shouldn’t be considered until after the Cat Canyon study is complete.

Ben Oakley, a representative from Pacific Coast Energy Company, which operates wells in Orcutt, pushed back on the usage of this preliminary study because the results aren’t official yet. He said oil and gas operations have taken place in Orcutt for more than a century without any major incidents.

Local labor union representatives also spoke in favor of the exemption and the possible jobs future oil projects in Cat Canyon could create for Santa Maria residents. Additionally, some ranchers—like Roy Reed, who owns two ranches where oil and gas companies operate wells—spoke in favor of the exemption.

“I am happy to say both ranches have had mineral production,” Reed said. “Both ranches still have water of very high quality in all of our wells.”

Residents who were unable to attend the meeting can submit written comments on the proposal through June 20 at [comments@conservation.com](https://comments@conservation.com). People can also submit comments through the mail to the Department of Conservation’s office in Sacramento.

—Zac Ezzone

## Grand jury releases two reports on Santa Barbara County Jail

The Santa Barbara County grand jury released reports on two of its investigations into the Santa Barbara County Jail on June 11—one looking into the prevalence of contraband inside the jail and another exploring the reasons behind an inmate’s death in March 2018.

In the first report, the jury found that despite efforts to keep illegal drugs, alcohol, and other contraband out inmates’ hands, many of those substances are still being found inside the jail. Although the report states that there haven’t been any drug overdose deaths recorded in the jail since an inmate died of a heroin overdose in 2009, two inmates were treated for drug overdoses in January of this year.

The jury also found that in 2018, 118 attempts were made to bring drugs and alcohol into the jail. That same year, there were also 96 recorded instances in which alcohol or drugs were found in the jail itself or in an inmate’s possession.

The jury concluded that despite the sheriff’s response to the overdose death in 2009—which includes hundreds of random, daily inmate and cell searches—little has changed.

“Now, over nine years later, this challenging situation has remained the same,” the report reads. “Indeed, one experienced custody officer the jury interviewed candidly observed that in the last few years the contraband problem actually worsened.”

In the report, the jury recommends that the Sheriff’s Office require all custody officers be trained specifically to pat-down arrestees more effectively at intake. The jury suggested that at least one or more X-ray scanners be

purchased and installed at both the Main Jail and Northern Branch Jail, and that the Sheriff’s Office purchase one more specially trained drug sniffing dog for each jail.

The Sheriff’s Office has until Aug. 6 to formally respond to the report. In a written statement to the *Sun*, Public Information Officer Kelly Hoover said the contraband issue is most likely connected to the national opioid and local methamphetamine problems.

“There is a supply and demand situation that unfortunately does not stop at our walls,” Hoover wrote in the statement. “Given a sufficient market and a high level of criminal sophistication, inmates will continue to find ways to thwart our efforts at detecting drugs coming into the facility. Our job is to continue interdicting them in the facility and cutting off the pathways into the facility as we find them.”

The Sheriff’s Office is still studying the recommendations from the grand jury and will submit a formal response by the due date, Hoover said.

In the second report, the jury investigated the death of a 60-year-old inmate in March 2018. The jury concluded that the inmate had a recorded history of serious health issues, that jail staff followed all pertinent rules and regulations prior to his death, and that he died of natural causes.

—Kasey Bubnash

## ‘Meaningless vote’ sparks contentious conversation among county supervisors

A purely symbolic vote to support the Green New Deal, proposed federal legislation aimed at limiting climate change, sparked a tense conversation between Santa Barbara County supervisors during a meeting in June.

Fourth District Supervisor Peter Adam kicked off the debate with a 20-minute monologue, where he claimed there isn’t consensus among the scientific community on climate change and recalled times throughout history when environmentalists previously made apocalyptic predictions that turned out to be wrong.

He also responded to comments 3rd District Supervisor Joan Hartmann made during a May 21 meeting where Adam felt like she compared him and other climate change skeptics to Nazis.

“I’ve had many disagreements with the seats on this dais, but I have never felt so viciously and wrongly attacked by a colleague as I did on May 21,” Adam said.

Hartmann didn’t respond directly to Adam’s comments during her time speaking on the resolution. Instead, she discussed why denying climate change is no longer an option and mentioned Republican officials throughout the country who are beginning to embrace changes to address the issue.

The conversation among supervisors began after 14 people spoke in favor and against the resolution during a public comment period. During his comments, 5th District Supervisor Steve Lavagnino rhetorically asked people who spoke on the topic whether the supervisors’ discussion had persuaded them to feel different about climate change.

“That’s why I’m not a big fan of hijacking the time we have set aside for honorary resolutions to force meaningless, nonbinding votes on politically-charged wedge issues,” Lavagnino said. “It’s great for sound bites, it’s great for theater, but for me, all it does is ramp everybody up and get everybody upset.”

Although the resolution is inconsequential, 1st District Supervisor Das Williams said, it’s important for the county to support the measure and be a leader in addressing climate change through local policies.

“This is a symbolic act, but while the country is convulsed in debate over this, I think it’s appropriate for us to take a stand,” Williams said.

Ultimately supervisors approved the resolution, with Lavagnino and Adam voting against it. While the resolution was symbolic, more practical conversations regarding climate change could come up in future meetings as the county weighs numerous oil and gas projects that could end up on the supervisors’ agenda.

Exxon Mobil submitted a proposal to begin trucking oil to refinery sites throughout the county in 2017. Additionally, energy companies ERG and Aera have both submitted project proposals to build more than 500 oil wells in the Cat Canyon oil field.

—Zac Ezzone

## Open Streets event returning in 2020

Santa Maria residents will have a second opportunity to run, walk, bike, and skate on a portion of Main Street next year when it closes for an Open Streets event in late March.

The event’s organizer, Carlos Escobedo, announced the 2020 event during a presentation at the June 4 City Council meeting where he discussed the turnout for the event that took place earlier this year. He said the event introduced attendees to businesses, nonprofits, and other organizations in the community.

“Resources are out there, but that link was kind of missing between the community and those resources,” Escobedo said.

On March 31, Main Street was closed between Broadway and Blosser roads. More than 200 booths, various activity providers, and about 20,000 participants filled the closed street during the event, said Kent Epperson, director of traffic solutions for the Santa Barbara County Association of Governments, which hosted the event.

In addition to the numerous activities, the event was an opportunity to promote the small businesses located on Main Street, Escobedo said.

The owner of Xtreme Electronics, Roger Galvan, spoke during the council meeting about how the event helped his local store. He said having thousands of people walk past his store introduced his business to a lot of new customers.

Galvan said events highlighting the locally owned small businesses in Santa Maria are important because most people are inclined to shop at the national chains in shopping centers such as Enos Ranch and the Crossroads on Betteravia Road.

“I’m a small business owner and, you know what, we feel like we’re neglected on West Main,” Galvan said. “Look at the mall, it’s empty.”

While the event helped small businesses, hosting free events downtown also benefits members of the community, Santa Maria-Bonita School District Assistant Superintendent Mark Muller said during the meeting.

“This also was about as wonderful an event as you can have for people of limited means, and that was the way it was for many of our families,” Muller said. ○

—Zac Ezzone

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# Cashing in

Recipients of supplemental income payments are now eligible for CalFresh for the first time in decades

BY KASEY BUBNASH

There are roughly 8,388 Santa Barbara County residents who receive supplemental income payments from the government because they are either disabled, over the age of 65, or both.

The Supplemental Security Income (SSI) and State Supplemental Payment (SSP) programs use tax revenue to help disabled and retired individuals—who may not be able to work long hours or at all—buy food, clothes, and pay bills each month. But for years SSI and SSP recipients in California have not been eligible for CalFresh, the state's Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program—aka food stamps—the program that gives low-income individuals up to \$192 a month for groceries.

That all changed on June 1, when a bill that creates two new state programs went into effect, making SSI and SSP recipients eligible to apply for CalFresh for the first time in decades.

For most SSI and SSP recipients, that extra help can go a long way, according to Maria Gardner, deputy director of the Santa Barbara County Department of Social Services.

"It really does make the difference between life and death," she said.

Most who participate in the SSI and SSP programs receive an average of about \$931 a month from the programs and have little to no other source of income, Gardner said. That isn't much to live on, especially in California, and Gardner said she's heard "horror stories" from clients who've had to ration their medications throughout the month just to pay for groceries.

SSI and SSP recipients' inability to access CalFresh has long been talked about in California. The issue stems from a \$10 cash-out that SSI and SSP recipients receive each month in lieu of CalFresh benefits, a part of the program that was developed by state legislators decades ago.

When the in-lieu cash-out was originally developed in 1974, Gardner said it was intended to simplify the process, so that people receiving SSI or SSP wouldn't also have to go through an application process for food stamps. When the cash-out was developed in 1974, \$10 went a lot further than it does today, and Gardner said that number hasn't changed to keep pace with inflation.

CalFresh recipients get an average of \$100 a month for groceries, but because of the cash-out, those in the SSI and SSP programs have been receiving \$10 a month instead.

Now, Gardner said, they'll be able to apply to get both.

About 39,000 Santa Barbara County residents receive CalFresh in roughly 21,000 households, according to Gardner. Roughly 8,388 receive SSI, and Gardner said that while the county wants all of them to apply for CalFresh, it's estimated that 3,381 will meet the requirements

necessary to receive CalFresh benefits.

"The trick is, will they all apply?" she said.

Although the expansion just went into effect at the beginning of June, Gardner said the county's Social Services offices are already seeing about double the number of applications they usually get—though Gardner said they're not sure if all the additional applications are coming in because of the expansion.

SSI and SSP recipients were able to begin applying for CalFresh in May, and Gardner said that although the county won't be hiring any new employees to help with the heavy load, county staffers have been working overtime to process those applications and deal with those still coming in.

For months the county Department of Social Services has been working to get the word out about the CalFresh expansion and all the ways to apply—in person, online, or over the phone. Partner organizations, like the

Area Agencies on Aging and the Foodbank of Santa Barbara County, have also been helping to do some of the heavy lifting.

Daisy Basulto is the Foodbank's CalFresh outreach coordinator. She helps individuals apply for CalFresh, helps process the applications—which she said takes about 30 days on average—and she trains employees at other county agencies how to process CalFresh applications.

Basulto said California is one of the last states to allow SSI recipients to apply for food stamps. She said she's not entirely sure why, but the issue is complex. In some instances, a household receiving CalFresh benefits could actually lose money each month by adding a family member who receives SSI to the household plan.

It took a while for legislators to work out those kinks, but with the passage and implementation of the 2018-19 human services omnibus bill, the state made room in its budget for two new programs: the Supplemental Nutrition Benefit and Transitional Nutrition Benefit programs. Both programs ensure that recipients won't lose benefits for their households by applying for CalFresh.

County staff and other organizations like the Foodbank can help applicants figure those specifics out, Basulto said. What's important now, she said, is that SSI and SSP recipients at least apply for CalFresh. For years, many of the county's SSI and SSP recipients have relied on the Foodbank for groceries because she said the \$10 monthly cash-out just wasn't enough.

"A lot of people who receive SSI and SSP are seniors or disabled and need a lot of help, and they can't apply for this benefit that would go a long way for them," Basulto said. "So I think that's why California finally decided to get on board." ○

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

### Cash in on CalFresh

To apply for CalFresh, visit [calfresh.dss.ca.gov/food](http://calfresh.dss.ca.gov/food), where you can print off an application, or apply in-person at the Foodbank of Santa Barbara County's Santa Maria location, 490 W. Foster Road.

# One fish, no fish

*Local jurisdictions oppose plan to restore endangered trout population, raise water rights concerns*

BY ZAC EZZONE

An attempt to restore the population of endangered Southern California steelhead trout living in the Santa Ynez River is being opposed by some jurisdictions that rely on the river and Cachuma Lake for their water supply.

The number of trout, which travel to and from the ocean throughout their lifecycle, in the river began declining after the construction of Bradbury Dam on Cachuma Lake in 1953. Prior to construction, there were about 20,000 adult fish living in the Santa Ynez River, but with the dam limiting their ability to travel to and from the ocean, the population dropped to 100 adult fish by 1991, according to the State Water Resources Control Board.

"This river had about half of the steelhead trout in Southern California. That makes it a very important river," said Brian Trautwein, environmental analyst and watershed program director with the Environmental Defense Center.

More recently, Trautwein said that since 2008 the highest number of trout identified in the river in any year was four.

Since the fish were declared endangered in 1997, numerous stakeholders have held hearings and discussions to identify measures to prevent the trout from going extinct, while not harming the rights of jurisdictions that rely on the water.

In 2000, the National Marine Fisheries Service issued a biological opinion calling for an increase of flows from the lake to the river, among other measures, to help the fish reach the ocean. Earlier this year, the state water board released a revised draft order building on this opinion and outlining additional changes to help the trout, said Michael Buckman, hearings unit chief with the water board's division of water rights.

After releasing the order, the water board sourced public comments from various water users and stakeholders interested in the dam's operations. Buckman said the water board could potentially vote on this order or review it during closed session in July.

While the proposed order is similar to the biological opinion, one key difference is the order calls for increased releases from the lake during years when the area receives additional rain. Buckman said the increase in flows during these years will provide more habitat for juvenile trout to complete their lifecycles.

"Basically, what's happening now is there isn't enough flow in the river at all times," Buckman said. "That is leading to increased predation, that's leading to the fish getting stranded ... and generally leading to decreased survival rates for juvenile habitats that are in the river system downstream of Bradbury Dam."

However, in its comment letter on the draft order dated May 28, the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation, which operates Bradbury Dam, said increasing water released for fish changes the intended use of the dam. According to the

letter, the dam was originally built to supply water for irrigation and municipal use for cities in south Santa Barbara County.

North County jurisdictions downstream from the dam also rely on the lake for their water supply. Occasional releases from the lake into the Santa Ynez River recharge groundwater basins that communities such as Lompoc rely on. The city is concerned that the increase of releases for fish could disrupt water releases for municipal usage.

"The city of Lompoc has concerns that the [revised draft order] fish releases may shift the timing of water releases to the Santa Ynez River in a manner that provides fewer replenishment and water quality benefits to the Lompoc Plain groundwater basin than

**'Basically, what's happening now is there isn't enough flow in the river at all times. That is leading to increased predation, that's leading to the fish getting stranded ... .'**

—Michael Buckman, California State Water Resources Control Board

[the biological opinion]," Lompoc public information officer Samantha Scroggin wrote in an email to the *Sun*.

In addition to the increased releases, the draft order calls for numerous studies to identify other ways to restore the steelhead population, Buckman said.

One of the primary studies would look for ways to allow the trout to bypass the dam to reach habitat upstream better suited for rearing and spawning, which Trautwein said the EDC has advocated for and believes would help restore the population.

"We need to get some fish [upstream] into the [Los Padres] National Forest, where the creeks flow year round," Trautwein said.

According to the draft order, the Bureau of Reclamation would be in charge of carrying out this study. However, in its comment letter, the federal agency said that it can only do so if directed by Congress.

"We are not aware of any legal precedent which allows the state board to reauthorize federal reclamation projects or studies through water right terms and conditions which supersede the normal processes under the federal reclamation laws," the letter states.

Lompoc and the Santa Ynez River Water Conservation District also expressed concerns over future studies in their comment letters to the revised draft order. In its letter, the conservation district stated that if additional studies to benefit the trout are completed, the water board should also commission studies that evaluate any impacts to water users downstream from the dam.

"Such reciprocity is consistent with the twin objectives of the proposed project and revised draft order, that is to protect both public trust values and downstream water rights," the conservation district's letter states. ○

Staff Writer Zac Ezzone can be reached at [zezzone@santamariasun.com](mailto:zezzone@santamariasun.com).

# PREHISTORIC FOREST



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PHOTO BY KASEY BUBNASH

BY KASEY BUBNASH

Before there were walk-in clinics and urgent care centers, there were family doctors—the doctors grandma talks about, who spent years looking after the health needs of entire families; made house calls; and, on the less rosy side of things, worked about 100 hours a week.

Those long weeks proved unsustainable for most, leading many family physicians to encourage patients to schedule appointments at hospitals instead. The shaky transition led to packed emergency rooms, filled with patients who didn't really have "emergency" health issues.

Emergency care physicians like Mark Pomerantz saw the need for a space where patients with non-life-threatening issues could be treated but without making appointments well in advance—something in between emergency rooms and family doctors.

That's where the idea for walk-in clinics and urgent care centers stemmed from, and the first popped up sometime in the '70s. Pomerantz, a local doctor, helped open one of the Central Coast's first in Santa Maria in 1983. It was called Central Coast Urgent Care, and it was immediately a hit.

"We were so busy," Pomerantz told the *Sun*.

Since then, Pomerantz and several other doctors have spent years providing walk-in care to Santa Maria residents. But the building at 340 Betteravia Road is now several decades old; it's small and needs major renovations. So the center is starting fresh with a new location, new

equipment, and a new name.

Central Coast Urgent Care officially reopened as Med Plus Central Coast on May 13, and the new facility at 2271 South Depot St. is decked out with all-new medical equipment, including digital radiology machines, mechanical examination tables, no-touch lamps, and a new IT system that will allow Med Plus staff

to transition from paper health records to an electronic system.

The electronic records system makes it easy for Med Plus to share information with Marian Regional Medical Center and other Dignity Health locations and will allow the center to more efficiently offer increased services.

In short, Pomerantz said, "it's quicker and it's better."

The new facility also has space for physical therapy services, which Pomerantz said Med Plus has long provided but at another location.

Physicians have been working for months to get the word out, and they plan to host a ribbon cutting and open house in celebration of the new facility on June 18 at 4:30 p.m.

So far, Pomerantz said, things are going as well as they went in 1983.

"People love it," he said.

### Highlights:

- Santa Maria's Code Compliance Division announced on June 6 that The Garden Mediterranean Restaurant and Cafe was awarded the Code Officers Distinguished



**NO PAIN, NO GAIN:** A Med Plus Central Coast staffer works in the facility's physical therapy room at 2271 South Depot St. The center's previous location lacked space for its physical therapy services.

Excellence (CODE) Award, which honors local businesses that focus on "neighborhood pride, preservation, and beautification." The owners of The Garden, located at 122 E. Boone St., updated the building, beautified landscaping, and made other improvements that enhanced the area's appearance, according to the city.

- The Sweet Spot planned to celebrate its grand opening in the Santa Maria Town Center Mall at 4 p.m. on June 7. The newly opened candy store features an assortment of sweet treats from a number of countries—including Japan, where co-owners Tracy and Rudy Ruiz, former Air Force veterans, were both stationed for three years.

- The Santa Maria Valley Chamber of Commerce recently joined Santa Barbara for Safe and Local Transport, a coalition focusing on supporting the reopening of ExxonMobil's Santa Ynez Unit. The Santa Ynez Unit opened in 1970 and closed in 2015, after a third-party pipeline ruptured. According to the chamber, restoring the Santa Ynez Unit would bring jobs back to the community and improve Santa Barbara County's economy. ○

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

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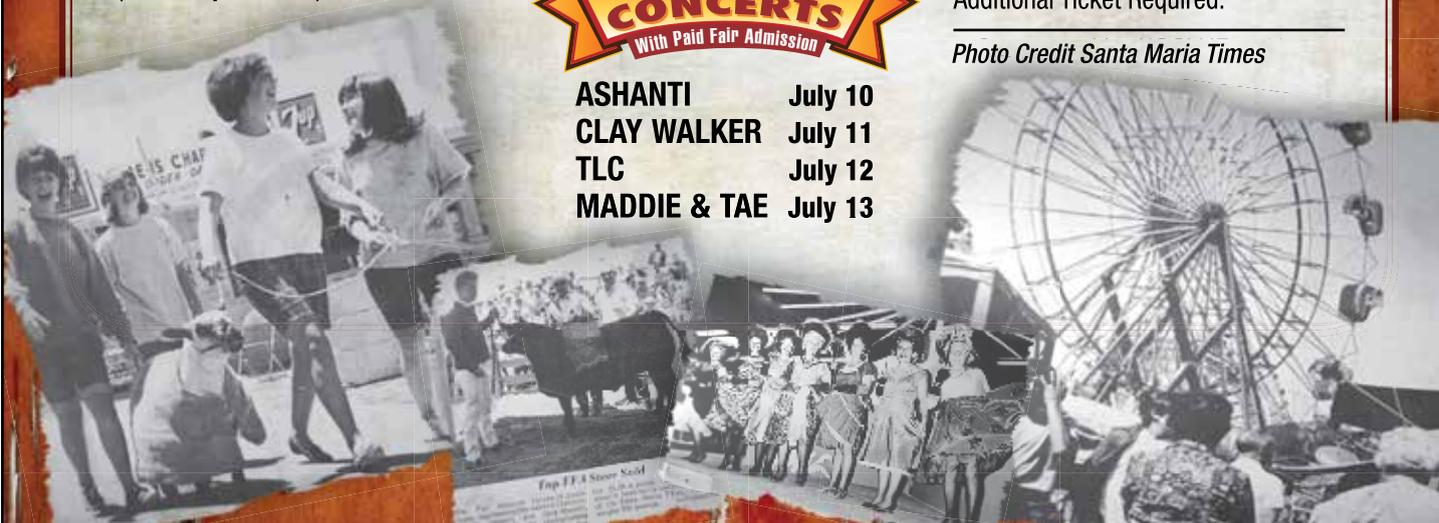
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# Temporary solution

**HOT SEAT:** The Santa Maria City Council passed an employee housing ordinance on June 4 that covers where H-2A workers can be housed in the city, and how many can occupy a housing unit.



PHOTOS BY JAYSON MELLOM

## Santa Maria is close to passing an H-2A housing ordinance, but the issue isn't settled yet

BY CAMILLIA LANHAM

Main Street Produce was expecting its first crew of H-2A workers to arrive when the conversation over the federal foreign worker program exploded in Santa Maria.

"We were just kind of dipping our toes in the water to try it last year," Alexandra Allen said. "I was just kind of struck by what seemed to me to be the fundamental unfairness with which we were being characterized."

Allen works on the legal side of things for the agricultural company that she and her husband own in Santa Maria. She spoke at the March 2018 meeting where the City Council passed an urgency moratorium on housing more than six temporary agricultural workers in single-family and medium-density neighborhoods.

The moratorium was a direct hit to six months of paperwork, vetting, and compliance checks. Workers were already contracted, en route, and slated to begin their temporary jobs for Main Street in April 2018. The Allens were planning on housing 10 workers per house in homes that their family already owned in the city.

Although the City Council let the urgency moratorium expire in May 2018, it set the stage for a long citywide discussion over the H-2A program, agriculture's role in the community, and what, if any, employee housing should be allowed in Santa Maria.

Over the last decade, the agricultural industry has increasingly turned to the federal temporary guest worker program to supplement its labor supply. The H-2A program, established in the early 1980s, allows employers to legally bring temporary employees to the United States from another country. Those workers go through background checks for criminal history in both the U.S. and their country of origin and sign contracts guaranteeing a specific income and period of work. And employers have to provide housing, transportation, and either catered meals or an adequate kitchen facility. Program regulations also require employers to provide at least 50 square feet of sleeping space to each employee, laundry facilities, and bathrooms with at least one showerhead per 10 workers.

"You have to make decisions months in advance of what you're going to do," Allen told the *Sun*. "You can't just make last-minute changes."

Main Street had 20 to 25 H-2A workers arrive on June 1 of this year, Allen said, and they've been working on it since last fall. The discussion

that's evolved in the city over the past several months has been important, Allen said, and she believes the city's staff has been patient in hearing all sides. But, she added, sometimes it's hard to hear the complaints that people have leveled at the ag industry and its employees.

Comments made at that first meeting in March 2018 against housing guest workers in Santa Maria have been echoed in the forums and meetings that followed. Some city residents are worried about overcrowded houses, unruly and unsafe neighbors, crime, property values, and displaced long-term residents in a tight housing market.

"To my knowledge, there haven't been real complaints from people, just concerns about what could happen," Allen told the *Sun*. "It really doesn't feel good to me to hear comments in terms of 'these people.' That's from a dark part of American history."

According to the city's best estimates, in fiscal year 2016-17, about 1,700 guest workers were housed in Santa Maria; 900 were in residential dwellings, and 800 were in hotels or motels. Interim City Attorney Phil Sinco told the *Sun* that maybe 60 percent of those workers were housing in R-1 zones—single-family residential neighborhoods.

"Unfortunately, we are kind of at the forefront. Not a lot of cities in California have had to deal with this like we have," Sinco said. "Salinas has, but after Salinas, we're the most impacted by H-2A."

### Nervous neighbors

Sinco said a number of complaints have been lodged by residents who live in single-family residential zones. Most of the complaints, he said, come from people who own their homes.

"It's partly because it stands out there more than it does in other neighborhoods," Sinco said. "Most of the complaints we have received, if not all, about H-2A housing have turned out not to be H-2A housing."

As far as he knows, Sinco said, no H-2A workers have been arrested in Santa Maria, and there haven't been any code enforcement issues, although a few workers have been sent back to their home countries due to bad behavior. The houses are well-maintained and quiet, and the workers are usually gone before most people get up, he said.

"I think the farmers have done a good job of showing that these are not villains, these are not bad people," Sinco said. "But neighbors are still nervous about bunked housing."

The city hosted five H-2A forums over the last year and a half and has had a couple of public hearings on an employee housing ordinance, which the City Council passed 4-1 on June 4, with Councilmember Etta Waterfield voting against it. A second reading of the ordinance is scheduled for June 18.

The city has come a long way from the days of a moratorium on housing H-2A workers. Although the ordinance does limit the number of workers that can be housed in single-family residential units to seven, it allows employers to apply for a conditional-use permit to house more (which would involve holding a public hearing). There aren't any limits placed in the medium- and high-density areas of the city known as R-2 and R-3 zones, which is one of the reasons that Waterfield said she voted against the ordinance. Another reason is that the ordinance didn't include any noticing requirements for housing H-2A workers unless the employer wants to house more than seven in a single-family home.

"R-1 gets special treatment, and R-2 and R-3 are just getting thrown out there," Waterfield told the *Sun*. "They should all have the same rights as R-1s. A lot of the constituents have come to us—I should say, have come to me—just even for noticing. ... Notice the neighborhood. Let the neighborhood have their fair share of say in the whole thing."

Some residents who spoke on the issue during public comment at the April 16 City Council meeting said they thought they should be notified if a home was going to be sold and used for H-2A purposes or if housing was going to be converted to accommodate guest workers. Allen from Main Street Produce spoke during public comment at that meeting, responding to her fellow city residents.

"You never get to approve your neighbors before they move in," Allen said. "This is probably the only time that your neighbors get a background check before moving in."

After public comment was over, Councilmember Mike Cordero responded to some of the speakers calling for noticing requirements by saying that the City Council doesn't get to decide whether someone is allowed to purchase a property.

"We've got no voice on what the sale is that some property owner has," Cordero said. "These individuals that come here to do this work are not illegal aliens. They're here on a

visa; they have every single right that you or anyone else has."

The call for noticing, though, Waterfield told the *Sun*, has to do with businesses operating in residential neighborhoods. Housing H-2A workers is part of the cost of doing business with the federal program. It's employee housing.

"Businesses are coming into neighborhoods. You couldn't come into your own home and sell stuff that a convenience store would sell and have people drive in and out," Waterfield said. "I'm all for profit, but my gosh, I don't want business in my backyard."

### Economics of housing

Waterfield wonders why farmers can't house farmworkers on their land, in the county, outside of city limits.

"I just wish the farmers would make more effort into placing people onto their own properties where they pick the fruits. You know, you can bring in tiny homes, tiny modulars, just like the Bracero Program used to do," she said. "They could all go in together and build some type of housing. ... You've got a lot of growers here who could go in on that and pay for it."

The Bracero Program ended in 1964 after 22 years of allowing short-term labor contracts between the agricultural industry in the U.S. and workers from Mexico. One of the issues with the program was the poor conditions where some of the laborers were housed, overcrowded and dilapidated quarters that workers had to pay rent to live in.

Santa Barbara County is working on loosening the permitting restrictions for housing workers in agriculturally zoned areas, but it's not easy to build housing on ag land. An H-2A housing complex approved in Orcutt in 2016 was shelved by Betteravia Farms due to the cost of building, permitting, installing the sewer, and other necessities, according to Joe Leonard, the company's chief executive officer who spoke at one of Santa Maria's H-2A forums earlier this year.

Others are also advocating for the agricultural industry to house the employees they need on agricultural land. One woman who spoke during public comment at the City Council's June 4 meeting talked about the housing crisis and long-term renters being displaced by H-2A workers.

"There's nowhere to go here," she said. "These ranchers are coming in to pay cash. These families that are living here, they're not going to be able to do that. ... These field workers are here temporarily. Why not put them in a place where

“The ranchers can provide their housing?” Allen from Main Street Produce told the *Sun* that what farmers can pay to laborers and for housing is relegated by the revenue they bring in. The cost of building on agricultural land is much more expensive than it would be to purchase a house and remodel it or even build an apartment complex in town. Farmers certainly wouldn’t be paying more to bring in labor and house them if they weren’t desperate for workers. And farmers definitely aren’t paying cash for anything, she said.

“I can’t help but chuckle when I hear about the rich farmers,” she said during public comment at the June 4 meeting. “There is a cap on the economics of how this works.”

Whatever money the companies are spending to house H-2A workers has to make the most economic sense, Allen told the *Sun*. The state of California’s recent decisions to increase minimum wage and decrease the number of hours that farmworkers are allowed to work before overtime has put more strain on the bottom line for a lot of farmers. Plus, the fate of the H-2A program is unclear, as it’s been roped into the immigration discussion at the federal level.

The uncertainty of their labor situation is something that makes agricultural companies hesitant to put a lot of money into building housing in areas where it can’t be repurposed, Allen told the *Sun*.

“Why would you do that if the federal program and the direction of it is uncertain?” she asked. “There are real, substantive factors that need to be weighed.”

## Displacement

Carlos Castaneda of Castaneda and Sons, a labor contracting company, told the *Sun* that they’ve been operating H-2A housing in the city for more than five years and haven’t had any issues with code enforcement or law enforcement.

“Zero calls for public service. We have a fantastic, a fantastic group that we work with,” Castaneda said.

He said he gets upset when he hears complaints that housing guest workers in neighborhoods is going to bring property values down. What agricultural employers are doing is bringing property values up.

Castaneda and Sons has cleaned up and remodeled dilapidated or abandoned homes in Santa Maria and repurposed them for H-2A housing, he said. He can think of one location that had 18 code violations before they bought it, and another that had up to 300 calls for public service for a stabbing, drugs, and prostitution. He said he and his father have picked up things like heroin needles.

“We’re going into neighborhoods that the developers don’t go into because they don’t get a



**SPEAKING UP:** Carlos Castaneda spoke during a November 2018 forum about the H-2A program and employee housing in Santa Maria. For the last five to six years, his labor contracting firm, Castaneda and Sons, has housed temporary workers in Santa Maria who they brought into the country through the federal H-2A program.

return on their investment,” Castaneda said. “It just makes economical sense for us.”

The labor contracting company also has three new building projects currently under construction in Santa Maria. They’re being used for H-2A, he said, but the units are being built as apartments.

“We’re not taking any inventory off the market,” he said. “That’s inventory that stays there. ... When automation starts to surpass the need for hand labor, that inventory is going to be here to stay.”

Hazel Davalos, the community organizing director for Central Coast Alliance United for a Sustainable Economy (CAUSE), is worried that the booming demand for H-2A housing creates an incentive for landlords to convert their buildings to house seasonal workers rather than renting to long-term residents.

“Displacement of rental units will particularly impact our fixed-income seniors, our young people starting out on their own, and our low- and moderate-income working families including farmworkers,” she wrote in an email to the *Sun*. “One of the main reasons for the need for H-2A is it’s become harder and harder for local farmworkers to find affordable apartments to rent in Santa

Maria. If our low-cost rental housing stock is converted into H-2A housing, it will worsen the shortage of local workers, resulting in farms needing even more H-2A, and create an endless cycle.”

Some farmers argue that limiting the number of H-2A workers that can live in a house also takes valuable housing units off the market because it forces the agricultural industry to house fewer workers in more units.

However, CAUSE and others—such as Peoples’ Self-Help Housing and even the ag industry members of the Grower-Shipper Association of San Luis Obispo and Santa Barbara Counties—support a solution that requires landlords to provide financial support for up to three months to any displaced tenants forced to move because the homes they are renting get converted to H-2A housing. Although the City Council debated whether to include mandating displacement assistance in the ordinance that was passed on June 4, they opted to hold off and possibly make it a separate ordinance.

“I’m disappointed because it’s clearly so intertwined with and complementary to the general employee housing policy, as it works to ensure that the general policy doesn’t have unintended negative consequences on local

families,” Davalos said.

Interim City Attorney Sinco said there’s a complicated answer as to why displacement assistance should be considered in a separate ordinance, but the short answer is that adding displacement to the current iteration of the employee housing ordinance would require another change to the city’s zoning code. Changes to the zoning code have to be approved by the Planning Commission, which would delay passage of the ordinance even further.

In addition to the ordinance focused on residential H-2A housing, the city is also looking to craft an ordinance that will focus on H-2A housing in commercial areas, such as hotels and motels.

Chuen Ng, Santa Maria’s director of community development, said the city would most likely host more H-2A forums in the future and hopefully begin crafting an ordinance that can be passed before the end of the year.

“We want to get the residential housing ordinance through and let it settle for a bit,” Ng said. ○

Reach Editor Camillia Lanham at [clanham@santamariasun.com](mailto:clanham@santamariasun.com).



**EQUALITY:** City Councilmember Etta Waterfield was the lone vote against the employee housing ordinance on June 4, advocating for all residential areas of the city to be treated in the same manner.



**THE FACTS:** During the June 4 City Council meeting, when discussing whether to require landlords to financially assist displaced long-term tenants, Councilmember Mike Cordero said he’d only heard that one person in the city had been displaced because of H-2A housing.

## Strength in compromise

### *Finding common ground and hope for Santa Maria*

**BY SCOTT FINA**

Cities are difficult to govern. They are not empowered, protected, or even recognized by the U.S. Constitution. They cannot print money or set interest rates. They cannot control the people and businesses that move into them, or move out. They sit between the rock and hard place of raising enough tax revenue to cover the municipal services that their constituents are ever demanding, without chasing residents and businesses away by raising taxes by too much. Cities are good places for leaders to be “damned if they do and damned if they don’t.”

I have lived in Philadelphia and worked in and around the cities of Newark, Elizabeth, and Patterson, New Jersey. I’ve seen city administrations in these municipalities tested by fiscal crises, transit and sanitation strikes, persistent poverty, endemic housing abandonment, crumbling infrastructures, declining populations, high crime rates, and displacement of working class and impoverished residents through gentrification.

These cities are larger and more complex than Santa Maria. Yet, their leaders have not faced what Santa Maria’s city administration is dealing with today: a virtual assault on the local political economy by the executive branch of our federal government.

Santa Maria is at “ground zero” for our national controversy over immigration. During the Obama administration, ICE worksite enforcement inspections decimated the workforces of some of our long established and respectable farming enterprises in the Santa Maria Valley. Our local growers and shippers had already been experiencing labor shortages and were highly dependent on undocumented workers. The dismissal of hundreds of farmworkers by ICE worksite enforcement shook Santa Maria’s most important industry like an earthquake.

Under the Trump administration, ICE worksite enforcement has stepped up its activities across the U.S. Fear of labor losses from more worksite inspections hangs heavy over the farming industry in our region. Moreover, playing upon people’s unfounded fears and prejudice to amass political power, President Trump errantly and unjustly disparages undocumented aliens, who constitute a sizable portion of Santa Maria’s hard-working and upright residents.

Lack of an effective national immigration policy is also challenging Santa Maria’s housing policy. A local housing issue has arisen because of the federal H-2A visa program, which allows growers and farm labor contractors to bring in foreign workers for up to 10 months a year. The program was established in 1986 (<https://fas.org/sgp/crs/homesec/R44849.pdf>), but for decades few growers and labor contractors participated in it.

Participation in the H-2A visa program is difficult and expensive. Among a plethora of requirements, is the provision of free housing for the guest workers, which must meet a number of standards.

The cost-benefit calculus of employing guest farmworkers through H-2A visas shifted dramatically over the last several years in our region with the rising farm labor shortage, compounded by increased ICE worksite enforcement action. Growers and farm labor contractors now have little choice but to participate in the program.

By 2017, the number of H-2A guest workers being housed in Santa Maria totaled approximately 1,700. This took city officials by surprise, because few complaints had been filed over H-2A housing. Workers here on H-2A visas have proven to be well behaved and quiet residents. But a substantial number of H-2A guest workers in Santa Maria are residing in groups in single-family houses in residentially zoned neighborhoods.

A long and divisive but relatively civil argument has ensued among residents and the agriculture industry on the appropriate placement of housing for H-2A guest workers in Santa Maria. Perhaps the greatest concern over H-2A housing is the conversion of existing residential properties into guest worker housing and the resulting increase in rents and diminishment of available affordable housing in Santa Maria.

Many would categorize H-2A housing as another “no win” issue for Santa Maria’s leadership. I take issue with that assessment, however, because of something that happened in the struggle over H-2A housing that shows promise for the city. It involves the agreement of two influential and talented leaders in the Santa Maria community.

Hazel Davalos, who leads the Central Coast Alliance United for a Sustainable Economy (CAUSE) in our North County region, publicly expressed support for H-2A housing in Santa Maria—but also urged City Council to adopt a tenant displacement compensation ordinance. The ordinance will assist residents who are required to move out of rented housing units when they are purchased and/or converted to accommodate H-2A guest workers. Owners of the properties would be required to pay a fee to tenants in the amount of three to four months’ rent to help them obtain another place to live.

Claire Wineman, president of the Grower-Shipper Association of Santa Barbara and San Luis Obispo Counties, has publicly

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

supported Ms. Davalos’ tenant displacement compensation proposal, with a relaxing of the permitting of H-2A housing in medium density, residential neighborhoods.

Davalos leads a coalition of grassroots interests in our region. It includes organized labor and also advocates for the rights of the least empowered workers in the city, including undocumented farm laborers. Yet, despite this commitment to worker rights, Davalos and her coalition have not lost sight of the need for the agriculture industry of Santa Maria to thrive. After all, it is this industry that provides so many of the city’s residents with a living.

Wineman leads an association of more than 170 growers, produce shippers, labor contractors, and related businesses. Despite factors challenging the farming industry, including labor shortages and decreasing water resources, Wineman and her association members have not lost sight of the needs of the Santa Maria community. After all, many of the association members call this community home, as do many of their employees.

Davalos and Wineman found common ground on the need and placement of H-2A housing and how to help mitigate its unintended impact on residents of Santa Maria.

Common ground is what Santa Maria must find more of. It is the place where the city will find strength to take its stand for the welfare of its people and economy—and push back against external forces that threaten them. ○

*Scott Fina is a Santa Maria resident. Send comments through the editor at [clanhams@santamariasun.com](mailto:clanhams@santamariasun.com) or write a letter for publication and email it to [letters@santamariasun.com](mailto:letters@santamariasun.com).*

### Online Poll

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

- 67% They should follow the LGMA's new food safety guidelines.
- 25% Stop letting their cows pee in creeks!
- 8% They should be more careful with irrigation.
- 0% Everything's fine; last year's outbreaks were just fluke situations.

12 Votes

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

# Sun

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2540 Skyway Drive, Suite A  
Santa Maria, CA 93455

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E-MAIL | [mail@santamariasun.com](mailto:mail@santamariasun.com) WEB | [www.santamariasun.com](http://www.santamariasun.com)

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

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## MAYFIELD

### DEMOCRATIC PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATES



I'M SO CONFUSED !



VOTER

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# Word problems

How often do you think Santa Maria City Councilmember Michael Moats brings up the house he lives in when discussing city issues?

I know it's a weird question, but the best skin doctor in town is obsessed with his 3,500-square-foot, five-bedroom, three-bath home and how many H-2A workers could be housed in it. He's brought it up multiple times—in public, mind you—over the last 15 months.

It's the ultimate in stupid mathematical word problems. Ugg, I hate those. He has three showerheads in his house. If you need one showerhead for every 10 temporary guest workers, does that mean they can put 30 H-2A workers in the mansion? One inquiring mind really wants to know.

OK, maybe it's not *his* house. It's simply a "hypothetical" house that sounds like it's identical to the ones in his neighborhood.

Moats, who probs has a couple of boats he really needs an excuse to talk about at a City Council meeting (Can we get an oversized vehicle parking ordinance back on the docket, please?), brought it up at an H-2A forum in August 2018, the April 2019 meeting on a potential employee housing ordinance, and the June 4 hearing where the Santa Maria City Council passed the ordinance. We get it already! You live in a really nice neighborhood. Rub it in, why don't you.

Should we take bets on whether it will come up during the second reading of the ordinance at the City Council's June 18 meeting? Do you think he will pull it from the consent agenda so he can query city staff one more time? I might start a pool.

Maybe City Councilmember Mike Cordero can get in on this sweet action. He was poking fun at Moats at one of the recent hearings. Don't worry, man, Cordero told him. Those agricultural employees aren't showing up on your front lawn anytime soon.

But still, Moats must be worried.

"To have employee housing come in next door to you without any knowledge, I think is going to be upsetting for some people," he said in April.

I think he means that he would be upset if they moved in next door to him.

Alexandra Allen from Main Street Produce told the City Council in June that those kinds of houses aren't quite in the price range of the agricultural industry.

"We can't go in and rent these

3,000-square-foot, five-bedroom palatial places to house 15 people," she said. "So I don't think that will happen."

Yeah, these guys are running a business over here. They're already spending way more to bring a foreign labor force in than they would if the workers lived down the street. I don't think the temporary guest workers that ag is bringing into Santa Maria through the federal H-2A program are moving in next door to your mansion on the "good" side of town. You have to be a doctor to afford those places! O

The canary lives in a birdcage. Send your comments to [canary@santamariasun.com](mailto:canary@santamariasun.com).



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Wild Coyote Estate Winery



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SATURDAY, JUNE 15  
Maverick Saloon



**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



**DVD Screening of DWOS Atascadero's Time Machine: Back to the '80s**  
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 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



**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



**Sunset Wines & Full Moon Vines**  
SATURDAY, JULY 13  
Doce Robles Winery & Vineyard



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SATURDAY, JULY 13  
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## LIMITLESS

The Santa Ynez Valley Performing Arts Company, under the sponsorship of Art Without Limits, presents *An Invitation to Dance at the Santa Ynez High School Little Theater*, starting Thursday, June 20, at 7 p.m. Additional performances take place on Friday, June 21, and Saturday, June 22, both at 7 p.m. Dancers will be performing a mix of ballet, jazz, hip-hop, and tap choreographies. Call (805) 688-8494 for more info.

—Caleb Wiseblood

# HOT STUFF

JUNE 13 – JUNE 20  
2019

PHOTO COURTESY OF CHRISTINE FOSSEMALLE

## SPECIAL EVENTS

### SANTA YNEZ VALLEY

#### REMEMBERING RAY STRONG: A COMMUNITY CELEBRATION

Join us for a special presentation to remember the artist, man, and environmentalist during "Remembering Ray Strong". Seating is limited and the program is free. **June 23**, 3-4:30 p.m. Free. 805-686-8315. wildlingmuseum.org/news/remembering-ray-strong-a-community-celebration. Wildling Museum of Art and Nature, 1511-B Mission Dr., Solvang.

### SANTA MARIA VALLEY/LOS ALAMOS

**COMMUNITY CLEAN UP DAY** In an effort to facilitate responsible disposal and recycling, Waste Management will be hosting a Community Clean Up day to provide residents of the City of Guadalupe with the opportunity to more easily dispose of waste in an environmentally safe manner. **June 22**, 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Free. 805-242-7937. Kermit Mckenzie Junior High School, 4710 W Main St., Guadalupe, mckenziejrigh.com/.

**RANCHO BOWL: 60TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION** The event features Santa Maria style barbecue, carnival games, live music, bowling specials, a water dunk tank, a bounce house, and more. All ages are welcome. **June 15**, 12-5:30 p.m. ranchobowl.com. Rancho Bowl, 128 E Donovan Rd., Santa Maria.

**SUMMER READING KICK-OFF EVENT** Sign-up the whole family for the 2019 Summer Reading Program. **June 15**, 10 a.m.-3 p.m. Free. 805-925-0994. Santa Maria Public Library, 421 S. McClelland St., Santa Maria.

**SUMMER SIPPING 2019** Use your passport to explore the Foxen Canyon Wine Trail and spend your 20 pours of wine as you choose from 14 wineries. **June 22**, 11 a.m.-5 p.m. \$45. kazzit.com/event/summer-sipping-2019.html. Foxen Canyon Wine Trail, Foxen Canyon Rd., Santa Maria.

### SOUTH COAST SLO COUNTY

**POP-UP PLAY** Join Brunch on Wheels for food, live music, Knockerball, and more. **June 23**, 10 a.m.-2 p.m. \$5-\$10. 805-776-3588. knockerballslo.com/public\_events/. Avila Beach Resort, 6464 Ana Bay Dr., Avila Beach.

**SUMMER FUN DAY AT OSO FLACO** This morning of discovery includes kids crafts, cultural history, and a stroll through the park. **June 22**, 10 a.m.-noon \$5 parking lot fee. 805-772-2694. Oso Flaco Lake Natural Area, Oso Flaco Lake Rd., Nipomo.

#### TWO YEAR ANNIVERSARY: TASTING ROOM OPENING EVENT

Grand opening of the Cathy Amore Tasting Room. Includes live music by Akusaa Delorbe. Also features live art demos by Michelle Kenny, wine, and finger foods. **June 14**, 5:30-8 p.m. Free. 805-550-9963. theartgalanipomo.com. Gala De Arte Plaza, 136 N Thompson Ave. B, Nipomo.

### SAN LUIS OBISPO

**JUNETEENTH CELEBRATION** Recognizing the oldest national commemoration of the ending of slavery in the U.S. The event will feature a resource fair, live music, health panel, a silent auction, and a kids area. Dinner options also available. **June 15**, 12-5 & 7-9:30 p.m. Free. 805-748-9735. 65strong.org. San Luis Obispo Vets' Hall, 801 Grand Ave., San Luis Obispo.

**MORRO COAST AUDUBON SOCIETY: ANNUAL JUNE PICNIC POTLUCK AND BIRD WALK MCAS** will hold its annual June Bird Walk and Picnic Potluck at the poppy picnic area. **June 17**, 5-7:30 p.m. Free. 805-772-1991. slobg.org. El Chorro Regional Park, California 1, San Luis Obispo.

**Q YOUTH: BODY POSITIVITY FASHION SHOW** A diverse fashion show presented by GALA. All ages welcome. Food and soft drinks available from Zen Dog. **June 15**, 6-10 p.m. Free. 805-543-0639. my805six.com. SLO Guild Hall, 2880 Broad St., San Luis Obispo.

## ARTS

### CLASSES & WORKSHOPS

#### SANTA MARIA VALLEY/LOS ALAMOS

**BALLROOM, LATIN, AND SWING LESSONS** Marie King and Kings of Swing offer dance lessons for all ages and skill levels. Couples and singles welcome.

Wednesdays, 6:30-8:30 p.m. \$36 for 4-week session. 805-928-7799. Oasis Senior Center, 420 Soares Ave., Orcutt.

**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.

**MUSICAL THEATRE AND CABARET WORKSOP 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.

**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.

## SPECIAL ART EVENTS

### SANTA YNEZ VALLEY

**BOOK SIGNING WITH NANETTE VIRDEN** Join local author Nanette Virden as she signs copies of her new teen book, *The Secret of Emma Pryce*. **June 19**, 3-4 p.m. 805-688-6010. The Book Loft, 1680 Mission Dr., Solvang.

### SAN LUIS OBISPO

**CENTENNIAL FILM: WHEN THE CLOUDS ROLL BY** In honor of the Library Centennial celebration, the library will present a classic silent movie. **June 15**, 11 a.m.-1 p.m. Free. 805-781-5989. San Luis Obispo Library, 995 Palm St., San Luis Obispo.

## EXHIBITS

### SANTA YNEZ VALLEY

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

**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-

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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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.

**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 Dworaczyk, 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.

Robert L. Freedman. Music and lyrics by Steven Tivak. **June 13-30** Solvang Festival Theater, 420 2nd St., Solvang, 805-928-7731.

**SANTA MARIA VALLEY/LOS ALAMOS**

**MARIAN THEATRE: MILLION DOLLAR QUARTET** Centered on the twist of fate that brought young Elvis Presley, Jerry Lee Lewis, Johnny Cash, and Carl Perkins together at Sun Records in Memphis for what would be one of the greatest jam sessions ever. **June 20-29** Marian Theatre, 800 S. College Dr., Santa Maria, 805-928-7731, pcpa.org.

**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.

**INTERACTIVE MURDER MYSTERY DINNER THEATRE** Enjoy a murder mystery play and dinner. Presented by Murder in Mind Productions. **June 23**, 5-7 p.m. \$55. 805-489-3875. murderinmind.com. F. McIntocks Saloon & Dining House, 750 Mattie Rd, Shell Beach.

**SAN LUIS OBISPO**

**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.

FILE PHOTO COURTESY OF RANCHO BOWL AND LOUNGE



**SPARE NECESSITIES**

Rancho Bowl and Lounge hosts its 60th Anniversary Celebration on Saturday, June 15, from noon to 5:30 p.m. The event features Santa Maria-style barbecue, carnival games, live music, bowling specials, a water dunk tank, a bounce house, and more. All ages are welcome. The bowling alley is located at 128 E. Donovan Road, Santa Maria. Visit [ranchobowl.com](http://ranchobowl.com) for more info.

—C.W.

**CALLS FOR ARTISTS**

**NORTH COAST SLO COUNTY**

**CALL FOR ARTISTS: THE MORROS** Submit "morro" or "Nine Sisters" themed work for MBAA's "The Morros" exhibit, celebrating the famous chain of volcanic plugs in SLO County. Through June 25 \$5-\$10 each submission. 805-772-2504. [artcentermorrobay.org](http://artcentermorrobay.org). Art Center Morro Bay, 835 Main St., Morro Bay.

**CALL FOR ARTISTS: MBAA JURIED EXHIBIT 2019** Award winning artist Dennis Curry will serve as judge. Through Aug. 1 Check site for details. 805-772-2504. [artcentermorrobay.org](http://artcentermorrobay.org). Art Center Morro Bay, 835 Main St., Morro Bay.

**CALL FOR ARTISTS: THRU THE LENS II** Visit site for show prospectus. Entry deadline is June 15. Photographer/instructor Brady Cabe will serve as judge for this celebrated event. Through June 15 Varies. 805-772-2504. [artcentermorrobay.org](http://artcentermorrobay.org). Art Center Morro Bay, 835 Main St., Morro Bay.

**STAGE**

**SANTA YNEZ VALLEY**

**SOLVANG FESTIVAL THEATER: A GENTLEMAN'S GUIDE TO LOVE AND MURDER** Book and lyrics by

**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](http://centralcoastcomedytheater.com). Tigerlily Salon Studio, 659 Higuera St., San Luis Obispo.

**KILLER COMEDY EXTRAVAGANZA II** Enjoy two hours of laughs from UK comic Griffin Daley, plus Burbank's Erika Innes (Flappers) and local phenom Aidan Candelario. **June 22**, 7-9 p.m. \$10. 805-868-7133. 7Sisters Brewing Company, 181 Tank Farm Rd. Suite 110, San Luis Obispo, 7SistersBrewing.com.

**NORTH COAST SLO COUNTY**

**WHERE THE WILD THINGS ARE** An original Dance Fusion performance by kids ages 6-13 choreographed by Liora Odell. **June 15**, 3-5 p.m. \$10. 805-203-6318. Cayucos Elementary School, 301 Cayucos Dr., Cayucos, [cayucossschool.org](http://cayucossschool.org).

**IMPROV COMEDY SHOWS** This live, improvised show will feature advanced improv students performing fast-paced long form improv and short form games. **June 16**, 6-8 p.m. \$5. 805-242-3109. [centralcoastcomedytheater.com](http://centralcoastcomedytheater.com). Libertine Pub, 801 Embarcadero Way, Morro Bay.

**THE REBOOT: STORYTELLING REIMAGINED** Curated mix of invited storytellers and open mic for

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This week's online poll 6/13-6/20

**Should the proposed aquifer exemption in Cat Canyon be approved?**

- Yes — the water from the proposed area can't serve as drinking water
- No — oil containments could still pollute usable groundwater
- Additional oil and gas projects can create more jobs
- We need to move away from oil and gas and look at renewable energy projects

Enter your choice online at: [SantaMariaSun.com](http://SantaMariaSun.com)



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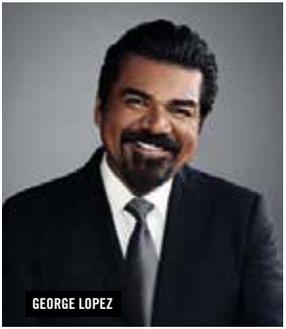
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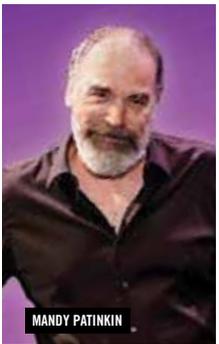
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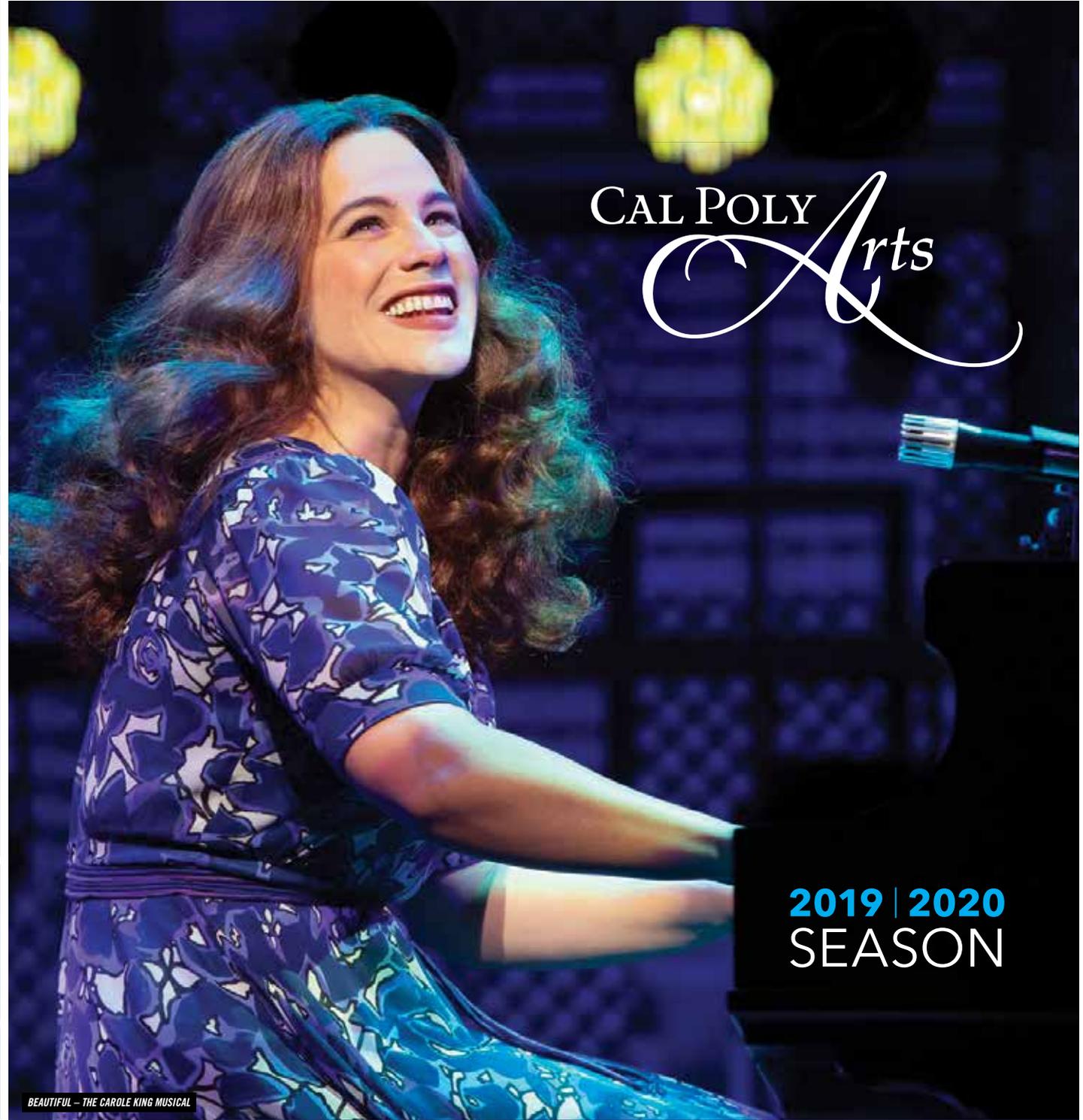
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### 2019

FRI	OCT 11	Leo Kottke	SUN	NOV 10	<i>The Hip Hop Nutcracker</i>
FRI	OCT 18	<i>Thelma Houston's Motown Experience</i>	TUE	NOV 12	<i>Nat Geo Live – Ami Vitale</i>
TUE	OCT 22	Jake Shimabukuro	SAT	NOV 16	George Lopez – <i>The Wall World Tour</i>
TUE	OCT 29	Aspen Santa Fe Ballet	SUN	NOV 17	Raúl Prieto Ramírez
WED	OCT 30	Las Cafeteras – <i>Día de los Muertos</i>	WED	NOV 20	Mandy Patinkin – <i>Diaries</i>
FRI	NOV 1	Jon Batiste and Stay Human	WED	DEC 4	Pink Martini featuring China Forbes
TUE	NOV 5	An Evening with David Sedaris			

### 2020

WED	JAN 22	<i>Beautiful – The Carole King Musical</i>	SAT	MAR 14	Christian Elliott – <i>Why Be Good?</i>
THU	JAN 23	<i>Beautiful – The Carole King Musical</i>	TUE	MAR 17	Dorrance Dance – <i>SOUNDspace</i>
TUE	JAN 28	Emanuel Ax	FRI	APR 3	Lula Washington Dance Theatre
SAT	FEB 1	George Winston	SUN	APR 5	Diego Figueiredo Trio – <i>Brazilian Nights</i>
WED	FEB 5	<i>Nat Geo Live – Steve Winter</i>	THU	APR 9	<i>The Illusionists – Live from Broadway</i>
FRI	FEB 7	Metta Quintet	WED	APR 15	<i>TAO – DRUM TAO 2020</i>
SAT	FEB 8	A.J. Croce – <i>Croce Plays Croce</i>	SUN	APR 19	Loreto Aramendi
SUN	FEB 9	Waipuna	WED	APR 22	<i>Nat Geo Live – Bryan Smith</i>
TUE	FEB 11	Cirque Éloïze – <i>HOTEL</i>	FRI	MAY 8	Colin Mochrie & Brad Sherwood
FRI	FEB 28	Flor de Toloache	WED	MAY 13	<i>An American in Paris</i>
TUE	MAR 3	<i>The Mikado</i>	FRI	MAY 29	The Improvised Shakespeare Company
THU	MAR 12	Cherish the Ladies	SUN	JUN 7	<i>Waitress</i>
FRI	MAR 13	Siberian State Symphony Orchestra			

novice storytellers. Spoken word, improv, character sketches and interactive games. Every third Friday of the month. Third Friday of every month, 7-9 p.m. Free. 805-772-9225. facebook.com/topdogcoffeebar/. Top Dog Coffee Bar, 857 Main St., Morro Bay.

## CULTURE & LIFESTYLE

### LECTURES & LEARNING

#### SANTA YNEZ VALLEY

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

#### LOMPOC/VANDENBERG

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

#### SANTA MARIA VALLEY/LOS ALAMOS

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

#### SOUTH COAST SLO COUNTY

**BUSINESS BRANDING WORKSHOP: BUILDING A LONG-LASTING, MEMORABLE BRAND** Ted Holladay, chief creative officer at EMPATH, will offer a presentation on brand and design and take the time to critique the design assets of attendees. **June 19**, 2-5 p.m. Free. 631-767-6175. bit.ly/Brand19. South County Regional Center, 800 W. Branch, Arroyo Grande.

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

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

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

#### SAN LUIS OBISPO

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

**CORNERS OF THE MOUTH** Featured poets are Francesca Bell and James Cushing with an open mic to follow. **June 16**, 7-9 p.m. Free. 805-903-3595. languageofthesoul.org. Linnaea's Cafe, 1110 Garden St., San Luis Obispo.

**SMALL BUSINESS DISASTER PREPAREDNESS AND BUSINESS CONTINUITY** Disasters don't plan ahead, but you can. Protect your business today. **June 18**, 8:30 a.m.-noon \$25. 805-595-1357. mcscorp.org/workshops. The Kinney Hotel, 1800 Monterey Street, San Luis Obispo.

**UC MASTER GARDENERS SLO COUNTY: FREE WORKSHOP AND PLANT SALE** Stop vertebrate pests from eating your produce before you can harvest it. SLO Master Gardeners will teach you how to identify and control vertebrates including gophers, skunks, squirrels, and more. **June 15**, 10 a.m.-noon Free. 805-781-5939. Garden of the Seven Sisters Demonstration Garden, 2156 Sierra Way, San Luis Obispo.

### CLUBS & MEETINGS

#### SANTA MARIA VALLEY/LOS ALAMOS

**BOARD OF LIBRARY TEENS (BOLT)** Teens help plan upcoming teen events and make changes in the teen zone. **June 15**, 10-11 a.m. Free. 805-925-0994. Santa Maria Public Library, 421 S. McClelland St., Santa Maria.

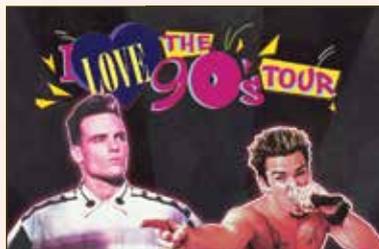
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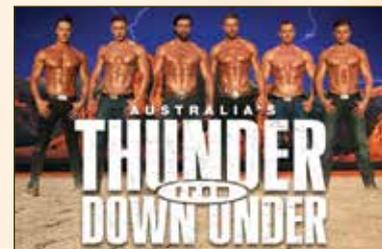
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## TO DIE FOR

*The Pacific Conservatory Theatre (PCPA) presents its production of A Gentleman's Guide to Love and Murder at Solvang Festival Theater from Thursday, June 13, through Sunday, June 30. Brad Carrol directs this rendition of the musical comedy, based on the novel by Roy Horniman. Call (805) 922-8313 or visit [pcpa.org](http://pcpa.org) for performance times and more info.*

—C.W.

## CULTURE & LIFESTYLE from page 19

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

**DEMOCRATIC CLUB OF SM VALLEY: MONTHLY MEETING** Social at 6 p.m. Guest speaker at 7 p.m. Business meeting for members follows. Third Thursday of every month, 6 p.m. Free. 805-349-2708. [santamariademocrats.info](http://santamariademocrats.info). IHOP, 202 Nicholson Ave, Santa Maria.

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

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

**SANTA MARIA CAMERA CLUB COMPETITION MEETING** Meet monthly for a friendly competition where guests get feedback on images and recognition for hard work. Third Wednesday of every month, 7-9:30 p.m. through Nov. 21 805-801-2879. [santamariacameraclub.org](http://santamariacameraclub.org). Merrill Gardens, 1220 N Suey Rd, 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/](http://santamaria.toastmastersclubs.org/). Toyota of Santa Maria, 700 E Beteravia Rd., Santa Maria.

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

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

**TRIVIA NIGHT** Wednesdays, 7 p.m. Free. [naughtyoak.com](http://naughtyoak.com). Naughty Oak Brewing Co., 165 S Broadway St Ste 102, Orcutt, 805-287-9663.

## SUPPORT GROUPS

### SANTA MARIA VALLEY/LOS ALAMOS

**TRAUMA INFORMED PARENTING GROUP** A foster parent class presented by Calm. Tuesdays 805-965-2376. [calm4kids.org](http://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](http://hospiceslo.org). New Life Pismo, 990 James Way, Pismo Beach.

**NAMI FAMILY SUPPORT GROUP** Hosted by NAMI (National Alliance on Mental Illness). A confidential and safe group of families helping families who have a loved

one living with mental health challenges. Third Saturday of every month, 10-11:30 a.m. Free. 805-544-2086. Safe Haven, 203 Bridge St, Arroyo Grande.

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

### SAN LUIS OBISPO

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

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

**HELPING PARENTS HEAL** Helping Parents Heal is dedicated to assisting bereaved parents, giving them support and resources to aid in the healing process. Third Saturday of every month, 9-11 a.m. through Oct. 18 Free. 805-441-6280. [helpingparentsheal.org](http://helpingparentsheal.org). Crows End Retreat, 6430 Squire Ct., 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/](http://naranoncentralca.org/meetings/meeting-list/). San Luis Obispo, Citywide, SLO.

## CREATE & LEARN

### SANTA MARIA VALLEY/LOS ALAMOS

**CARD MAKING** Tuesdays, 9 a.m. [oasisorcutt.org](http://oasisorcutt.org). Oasis Senior Center, 420 Soares Ave., Orcutt, 805-937-9750.

**KNITTING AND CROCHETING** Wednesdays, 9:30 a.m. [oasisorcutt.org](http://oasisorcutt.org). Oasis Senior Center, 420 Soares Ave., Orcutt, 805-937-9750.

**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, 421 S. McClelland St., Santa Maria.

## MIND & BODY

### SANTA MARIA VALLEY/LOS ALAMOS

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

**EASE, RELEASE AND MIND WITH AROMATHERAPY** In the midst of the daily hustle and bustle, take the time to immerse yourself in guided meditation and gentle and restorative postures. **June 22**, 2-4 p.m. \$27. 805-680-6542. [yoga4mankind.org/event-workshops/](http://yoga4mankind.org/event-workshops/). 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](http://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](http://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/](http://unitysantamaria.net/).

**REFLEXOLOGY AT OASIS** Tuesdays, 9 a.m. [oasisorcutt.org](http://oasisorcutt.org). Oasis Senior Center, 420 Soares Ave., Orcutt, 805-937-9750.

**TAI CHI AT OASIS** Tuesdays, Thursdays, 9:45 a.m. [oasisorcutt.org](http://oasisorcutt.org). Oasis Senior Center, 420 Soares Ave., Orcutt, 805-937-9750.

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

## OUTDOORS

### SOUTH COAST SLO COUNTY

**OCEANO'S BEAVERS** Learn about beaver adaptations, westward expansion, local history and why they were hunted. Half mile walk where they are currently active.

**June 15**, 10 a.m.-noon Free. 805-474-2667. Oceano Dunes Visitor Center, 555 Pier Ave, Oceano.

## SPORTS

### SOUTH COAST SLO COUNTY

**YOUTH BASKETBALL CAMP** For boys and girls going into first through sixth grade. All skill levels welcome. Through June 13 805-929-5437. [nipomorecreation.org](http://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](http://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.



## RISE AND SHINE

*CCSPA hosts Summer Fun Day at Oso Flaco Lake on Saturday, June 22, from 10 a.m. to noon. Attendees can enjoy learning cultural history about the area while strolling through the park. The event also features arts and crafts activities for kids. The Oso Flaco Lake parking lot charges \$5 per vehicle. Call (805) 772-2694 or visit [centralcoastparks.org](http://centralcoastparks.org) for more info.*

—C.W.

## CULTURE & LIFESTYLE continued page 21

FILE PHOTO BY STEVE E. MILLER

Saturday of every month. 12-4 p.m. ongoing 805-714-4927. Santa Maria Transit Center, Miller and Boone St., Santa Maria.

**SHINING STARS STORY TIME** Features stories, songs, finger plays, digital storytelling, and a book-on-DVD. Open to preschoolers ages 3 to 5 and their families. Wednesdays, 10:30-11 a.m. through July 24 Free. 805-925-0994. Santa Maria Public Library, 421 S. McClelland St., Santa Maria.

## 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.

## VOLUNTEERS

### SAN LUIS OBISPO

**CENTRAL COAST HOSPICE VOLUNTEER TRAINING SUMMER 2019** Central Coast Hospice is seeking volunteers to provide 2-4 hours a week to hospice patients and their families. Fridays, 9 a.m.-4 p.m. through June 28 Free. 805-540-6020. Central Coast Home Health and Hospice, 253 Granada, San Luis Obispo.

**FELINE NETWORK OF THE CENTRAL COAST** Seeking volunteers to provide foster homes for foster 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. feline-network.org. San Luis Obispo, Citywide, SLO.

**HOSPICE SLO COUNTY THRESHOLD SINGERS SEEK NEW VOICES** Sing for individuals experiencing

life-limiting or end-of life conditions. Third Sunday of every month, 2-4 p.m. Free. 805-544-2266. hospiceslo.org/services/hospice-slo-county-threshold-singers. Hospice SLO County, 1304 Pacific St., San Luis Obispo.

**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.

**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.

### NORTH COAST SLO COUNTY

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

## 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

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

#### SOUTH COAST SLO COUNTY

**ARROYO GRANDE FARMERS MARKET** Includes produce, artists and musicians. Saturdays, 12-2:25 p.m.

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

### SAN LUIS OBISPO

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

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

**SLO GUILD TUESDAY FARMERS' MARKET** Tuesdays, 2-5 p.m. through Dec. 31 Free. 805-762-4688. facebook.com/TuesdayFarmersMarketSLOGuildHall/. SLO Guild Hall, 2880 Broad St., San Luis Obispo.

## EVENTS

### SANTA YNEZ VALLEY

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

**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. lompcowinefactory.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. ☐

PHOTO COURTESY OF FOXEN VINEYARD AND WINERY



## TICKET TO WINE

Wineries located along the Foxen Canyon Wine Trail are participating in Summer Sipping on Saturday, June 22, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., and Sunday, June 23, from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Summer Sipping Passport holders can redeem a total of 20 samples from the trail's 14 wineries. Tickets are \$45 and are available at my805tix.com. Visit foxencanyonwinetrail.net for more info.

—C.W.

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PHOTO COURTESY OF KEVIN GALLOWAY'S FACEBOOK PAGE

## Live Music

### SANTA YNEZ VALLEY

**CHEYENNE SKYE LIVE** Food and drinks available for purchase. No outside food or drinks allowed. **June 22**, 5-8 p.m. Cold Spring Tavern, 5995 Stagecoach Rd., Santa Barbara, 805-967-0066, coldspringtavern.com/entertainment.html.

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

**FORT TAYLOR, CA LIVE** Food and drinks available for purchase. No outside food or drinks allowed. **June 15**, 1-4 p.m. Cold Spring Tavern, 5995 Stagecoach Rd., Santa Barbara, 805-967-0066, coldspringtavern.com/entertainment.html.

**HOODLUM FRIENDS LIVE** Food and drinks available for purchase. No outside food or drinks allowed. **June 15**, 5-8 p.m. Cold Spring Tavern, 5995 Stagecoach Rd., Santa Barbara, 805-967-0066, coldspringtavern.com/entertainment.html.

**HUBCAP STEALERS LIVE** Food and drinks available for purchase. No outside food or drinks allowed. **June 21**, 6-9 p.m. Cold Spring Tavern, 5995 Stagecoach Rd., Santa Barbara, 805-967-0066, coldspringtavern.com/entertainment.html.

**THE LEFTHAND LIONS LIVE** Food and drinks available for purchase. No outside food or drinks allowed. **June 14**, 6-9 p.m. Cold Spring Tavern, 5995 Stagecoach Rd., Santa Barbara, 805-967-0066, coldspringtavern.com/entertainment.html.

**LITTLE JONNY AND THE GIANTS LIVE** Food and drinks available for purchase. No outside food or drinks allowed. **June 16**, 4:30 p.m. Cold Spring Tavern, 5995 Stagecoach Rd., Santa Barbara, 805-967-0066, coldspringtavern.com/entertainment.html.

**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.

**ODDLY STRAIGHT LIVE** Food and drinks available for purchase. No outside food or drinks allowed. **June 22**, 1-4 p.m. Cold Spring Tavern, 5995 Stagecoach Rd., Santa Barbara, 805-967-0066, coldspringtavern.com/entertainment.html.

**SPENCER THE GARDENER LIVE** Food and drinks available for purchase. No outside food or drinks allowed. **June 23**, 4:30-7:30 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.

**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.

MUSIC LISTINGS continued page 23

# Here comes the sun

## Standing Sun Winery hosts country stars Kevin Galloway and Celeste Kellogg

BY CALEB WISEBLOOD

At age 25, **Kevin Galloway** made a life-altering decision. Tired of pursuing a career in banking, Galloway decided the time had come to chase his true dream. After relocating from East Texas to Austin, the aspiring singer and guitarist began regularly performing at local open-mic nights.

From there, he soon crossed paths with fellow performer and kindred spirit Hal Vorpahl. Both artists were raised on classic country tunes from Willie Nelson and other artists. The two began performing as a duo, eventually adding guitarist Mike Carpenter and drummer Jason Armstrong to form the band Uncle Lucius. The country rock group dropped its first studio album, *Something They Ain't*, in 2006 and three more before 2015, touring extensively between each one.

But in 2017, Galloway announced his departure from the band in order to spend more time with his wife and children. The artist reflected on this decision within the songs of his debut solo album, *The Change*, which was released last year.

"It's a love letter, and a promise to my newly formed family," Galloway said in press materials, describing *The Change*. "My wife and I have two children under the age of 3 now. After touring almost incessantly with a band for over a decade, I've decided to take a different approach. This is a sincere reflection of my mindset while reorganizing priorities."

PHOTO COURTESY OF CELESTE KELLOGG'S FACEBOOK PAGE



**SONIC YOUTH:** Country artist Celeste Kellogg opens for Kevin Galloway at the Standing Sun Winery on **Friday, June 14**.



**GOING SOLO:** Kevin Galloway, formerly of Uncle Lucius, performs an acoustic concert at the Standing Sun Winery on **Friday, June 14**.

Attendees of Galloway's acoustic concert at Standing Sun Winery in Buellton, on **Friday, June 14**, can expect to hear songs from *The Change*. Fellow country star **Celeste Kellogg** will open the show, which starts at 7:30 p.m. The young artist was crowned Female Vocalist of the Year at last year's Nashville Universe Awards.

Like Galloway, Kellogg was raised to love music, growing up singing along to Alabama, James Taylor, and The Eagles with her dad. Kellogg had experience singing in school and church choirs before joining RD7, a Disney-owned pop band, at age 12. The group was best known as the opening act for several Disney artists at the time, including Miley Cyrus, The Jonas Brothers, Raven, The Cheetah Girls, and more.

As a solo performer, Kellogg began to embrace country over pop, but continued to open for big names (regardless of their affiliation with Disney) like Scotty McCreery, Brett Eldridge, and Easton Corbin. And after this Friday, she can add Galloway to the list.

Tickets to the Standing Sun Winery show are \$12 for standing room and \$17 for reserved seating. All ages are welcome, and doors open at 7 p.m. The winery is located at 92 Second St., unit D, Buellton. Call (805) 691-9413 or visit [standingsunwines.com](http://standingsunwines.com) to find out more.

## Welcome to the jungle

"In the jungle, the mighty jungle/The lion sleeps tonight." FALSE. Well, maybe those lyrics ring true every other night, just not this Friday night. The popular Tokens song was recently debunked thanks to this week's lineup at Cold Spring Tavern off of Highway 154, which begins

LOCAL NOTES continued page 23

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FILE PHOTO COURTESY OF COLD SPRING TAVERN



**JUNGLE CRUISE:** Americana band Left Hand Lions performs at Cold Spring Tavern on Friday, June 14.

**LOCAL NOTES** from page 22

with Americana band **Left Hand Lions** on **Friday, June 14**, from 6 to 9 p.m. I could be totally wrong though—maybe they're heading straight back to the jungle after the show rather than staying the night. But I just can't accept the notion that they would be willing to leave the valley in such a rush. How can any creature, wild or domesticated, pass up Pea Soup Andersen's?

Regardless of the lions' sleeping

arrangements, the tavern's lineup continues with acoustic cover band **Fort Taylor, CA** (from 1 to 4 p.m.) and folk, rock, and surf group **Hoodlum Friends** (from 5 to 8 p.m.) on **Saturday, June 15**. The weekend concludes with rags duo **Tom Ball and Kenny Sultan** (from 1:15 to 4 p.m.) and blues band **Little Jonny and the Giants** (from 4:30 to 7:30 p.m.) on **Sunday, June 16**. Admission to each performance is free. Visit [coldspringtavern.com](http://coldspringtavern.com) for more info.

**MUSIC LISTINGS** from page 22

Sundays, 1:15-4 p.m. Free. Cold Spring Tavern, 5995 Stagecoach Rd., Santa Barbara, 805-967-0066, [coldspringtavern.com/entertainment.html](http://coldspringtavern.com/entertainment.html).

**LOMPOC/VANDEMBERG**

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

**SANTA MARIA VALLEY/LOS ALAMOS**

**HAVANA NIGHTS** Enjoy live music acts, including

Victor Valencia and others. Fridays, 7-9 p.m. Cubanissimo Cuban Coffee House, 4869 S. Bradley Rd., Orcutt.

**THE WAVEBREAKERS BAND PLAYS MOXIE CAFE** June 14, 5:30-7:30 p.m. Free. 805-361-2900. [moxiecafe.com/](http://moxiecafe.com/). Moxie Cafe, 1317 W. McCoy Ln., Santa Maria.

**SOUTH COAST SLO COUNTY**

**17TH ANNUAL SIZZLIN' SUMMER CONCERT SERIES** Features live music, food, beer and wine, bounce house, vendors and more. Sundays, 3-6 p.m. through Aug. 18 Free. 805-473-4580. [groverbeach.org](http://groverbeach.org). Ramona Garden Park Center, 993 Ramona Ave., Grover Beach.

PHOTO COURTESY OF MAVERICK SALOON



**JUST DANCE**

The **PODs**, aka *The Politics of Dancing*, perform at **Maverick Saloon** on **Saturday, June 15**, from 8 to 11 p.m. This dance band covers hits from the '70s to present day. The saloon is located at 3687 Sagunto St., Santa Ynez. Call (805) 686-4785 or visit [themavsaloon.com](http://themavsaloon.com) to find out more.

—Caleb Wiseblood

FILE PHOTO COURTESY OF AMBER ANDERSON



**DREAM ON:** Lompoc-based trio Angie and the Nightmares performs at Naughty Oak Brewing Company on Friday, June 14.

**More music**

Neo-swing and jazz band **Big Bad Voodoo Daddy** perform at Presqu'ile Winery in Santa Maria on **Friday, June 14**, at 6 p.m. For more than 25 years, the mission of this nine-piece outfit has been to celebrate and revitalize both jazz and swing music for contemporary audiences. Tickets to the show range from \$33 to \$40 and all ages are welcome. Food and wine will be available for purchase during the concert.

Naughty Oak Brewing Company in Orcutt presents Lompoc-based Americana group **Angie and the Nightmares** on **Friday, June**

**14**, from 6 to 9 p.m. Admission is free, and food from Feed My Seoul will be available for purchase. Also in Orcutt, solo artist **Ron Miller** performs at **Vino et Amicis Wine Bar** on **Thursday, June 13**, from 6 to 9 p.m. Local singer and songwriter **Sherell Jane** performs at the bar the following night, **Friday, June 14**, from 7 to 10 p.m. Admission to both performances is complimentary. ○

*Arts Editor Caleb Wiseblood wrote this week's Local Notes.*

Contact him at [cwiseblood@newtimeslo.com](mailto:cwiseblood@newtimeslo.com).

**MUSICIAN DINO O'DELL LIVE** Dino O'Dell is a folk-rock and reggae musician with over a decade of experience as a family entertainer. **June 18**, 2-3 p.m. Free. 805-473-7161. Arroyo Grande Library, 800 W. Branch, Arroyo Grande, [slolibrary.org](http://slolibrary.org).

**SONGWRITERS AT PLAY: JOSEPHINE JOHNSON** On tour from Savannah, Georgia, Josephine Johnson returns to our showcase with a new album. **June 19**, 6-8:30 p.m. 805-489-9099. [songwritersatplay.com](http://songwritersatplay.com). Branch Street Deli, 203 E. Branch St., Arroyo Grande.

**SAN LUIS OBISPO**

**PATIENCE** Central Coast Gilbert and Sullivan presents this humorous opera. **June 15**, 7:30-9 p.m. and **June 16**, 3-4:30 p.m. \$19.99. 805-234-7744. [tickets.cuesta.edu](http://tickets.cuesta.edu). Cuesta College Cultural and Performing Arts Center, Highway 1, San Luis Obispo.

**ALEJANDRO ESCOVEDO LIVE** For ages 18 and over. **June 18**, 7 p.m. SLO Brew Rock, 855 Aerovista Pl., San Luis Obispo, 209-417-7748.

**BILL CALLAHAN LIVE** For ages 18 and over. **June 16**, 8 p.m. SLO Brew Rock, 855 Aerovista Pl., San Luis Obispo, 209-417-7748.

**BUNKERS W/ FOUR DAY BEARD AT A SATELLITE OF LOVE** Electronic ambient/experimental band Bunkers and indie/experimental rock band Four Day Beard join forces. **June 20**, 6:30-10 p.m. A Satellite Of Love, 1335 Walker St., San Luis Obispo, 805-439-1604, [asatelliteoflove.com](http://asatelliteoflove.com).

**CABANA BRAZIL** June 14, 6-8 p.m. Free. 805-868-7133. 7Sisters Brewing Company, 181 Tank Farm Rd. Suite 110, San Luis Obispo, 7SistersBrewing.com.

**CHROMEO LIVE** For ages 18 and over. **June 14**, 7 p.m. \$40. SLO Brew Rock, 855 Aerovista Pl., San Luis Obispo, 209-417-7748.

**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](http://mavericksaloon.org).

**LOMPOC/VANDEMBERG**

**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](http://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.

**KARAOKE WITH DJ RICARDO** Thursdays, 9-11:30 p.m. [spotoneventservices.com](http://spotoneventservices.com). Blast 825 Brewery, 241 S Broadway St., Ste. 101, Orcutt, 805-934-3777.

**KARAOKE WITH YSABEL** Wednesdays, 6-8 p.m. Anthony's, 859 Guadalupe St, Guadalupe, 805-219-0977.

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

## Arts Briefs

### Solvang Antiques hosts demo, reception for Joe Mancuso

A champagne reception and artist demonstration for Solvang Antiques Fine Art Gallery's featured artist, Joe Mancuso, takes place on Wednesday, June 19, from 3 to 7 p.m. Named Distinguished Pastelist in 2007 by the Pastel Society of the West Coast, Mancuso is known for the quality of light in his works. In order to accurately capture changing light, the local artist usually works on location.

"When I am attracted to a certain place or scene, it is always my goal to move beyond a literal translation and say something extraordinary about light in my work," Mancuso said in a release from the gallery. "It is always the light."

Mancuso's pastel pieces are being showcased as a part of Solvang Antiques Fine Art Gallery's Summer Art Series and will remain on display through Wednesday, July 17. The gallery is located at 1693 Copenhagen Drive, Solvang. Call (805) 686-2322 or visit solvangantiques.com for more information.

PHOTO COURTESY OF HEATHER SIMIONI



### Sarah Allred paintings showcased at Flying Goat Cellars

An artist reception for Flying Goats Cellars' featured artist, Sarah Allred, takes place on Saturday, June 22, from 3 to 5 p.m. The Lompoc-based artist is also a longtime gardener and amateur botanist. For this exhibit, Allred chose acrylic and mixed-media pieces that reflect her love of plants, including vibrant garden scenes and detailed botanical studies.

Allred's paintings will remain on display at the tasting room through the end of July. Each painting will also be available for sale. Allred's art can also be viewed on her Instagram page, @sarahkatherin.

Flying Goat Cellars is located at 1520 E. Chestnut Court, unit A, Lompoc. Call (805) 736-9032 or visit flyinggoatcellars.com to find out more.

### Wildling Museum holds ceremony to remember artist Ray Strong

The Wildling Museum of Art and Nature hosts a program to celebrate the life and legacy of artist Ray Strong (1905-2006) on Sunday, June 23, from 3 to 4:30 p.m. Collector David Parker and artists Arturo Tello, Michael Drury, John Iwerks, and Chris Chapman will present personal memories of working with and being inspired by Strong. There will also be an opportunity for attendees to come forward and share stories of Strong if they wish.

Ray Strong: A Collector's Passion, a current exhibition at the museum celebrating the late artist, closes on Monday, July 8. The museum is located at 1511 B Mission Drive, Solvang. Call (805) 686-8216 or visit wildlingmuseum.org for more information. ○

Arts Briefs is compiled by Arts Editor Caleb Wiseblood. Send information to [cwiseblood@newtimeslo.com](mailto:cwiseblood@newtimeslo.com).

PHOTO COURTESY OF KATHRYN BLANCHE



**CENTRAL COAST LOCAL:** Fantasy author Kathryn Blanche, creator of the Laila of Midgard series, grew up and currently resides in Nipomo. One of her next book signing events takes place in Solvang on Saturday, June 22.

## Escape from LA

*Supernatural creatures inhabit Los Angeles in Kathryn Blanche's post-apocalyptic fantasy series*

**BY CALEB WISEBLOOD**

Vampires, dragons, and elves, oh my! It's safe to say we're not in Kansas anymore, but we certainly aren't in the merry, old land of Oz either. Laila Eyvindr, the lead protagonist of Kathryn Blanche's Laila of Midgard series, calls Los Angeles her home. Following a major cataclysm, the city has become a middle ground for humans and "supernaturals," as they're called, to coexist in relative harmony. But when things go haywire between the two sides, it's up to the Inter-Realm Security Agency (IRSA) to keep the peace.

Eyvindr is a newly recruited IRSA agent at the start of Blanche's first Midgard novel, *Caught by Demons*. The book was followed by two sequels, *Summoned by Demons* and *Infiltrated by Demons*. To celebrate the latter's release, which hit bookstands and online platforms last month, Blanche will be signing copies at The Book Loft in Solvang on Saturday, June 22. The Nipomo-based author opened up with the *Sun* about the book, her inspirations, how real-world swordplay became integral to her writing, and more.

### Apocalypse now

Nipomo-based author Kathryn Blanche will be signing copies of her books at The Book Loft on Saturday, June 22, from 2 to 3 p.m. All three entries of Blanche's Laila of Midgard series will be available for purchase at the event. The Book Loft is located at 1680 Mission Drive, Solvang. Visit [kathrynblanche.com](http://kathrynblanche.com) to find out more.

**Sun:** In your biography on your website, you thank your father for getting you hooked on books and the fantasy genre in general. How did that come about?

**Blanche:** When I was about 6 years old, the first Harry Potter movie came out, and after watching it with me, my dad decided we should read the books. It sort of became a family tradition where all of us would sit down in the evening before bed and he'd read a few chapters at a time. In addition to the Harry Potter books by J.K. Rowling, we also read other fantasy books like *Eragon* by Christopher Paolini and *Artemis Fowl* by Eoin Colfer.

**Sun:** Did you already know that you wanted to become a writer at that point? When did the transition from avid reader to aspiring author occur?

**Blanche:** Growing up I just loved books, I read all the time. I experimented with writing when I was in high school but that didn't really work at the time. I just didn't have enough life experience. Partway through my university studies, I moved to Los Angeles. Growing up in a small town, I found that I really wasn't happy living in the city. I tried to escape the chaos of the city by reading, but as a student I couldn't afford to be buying books all

the time. So I decided to try writing again. That's how the Laila of Midgard series was born. I didn't plan to publish it at the time, that came later, after I graduated from my university studies. The more I focused on my writing career, the more it became clear that this was truly my passion.

**Sun:** In your biography, you also mention your passion for historical fencing and how your training in stage combat has improved your ability to write detailed fight scenes in your books. How so?

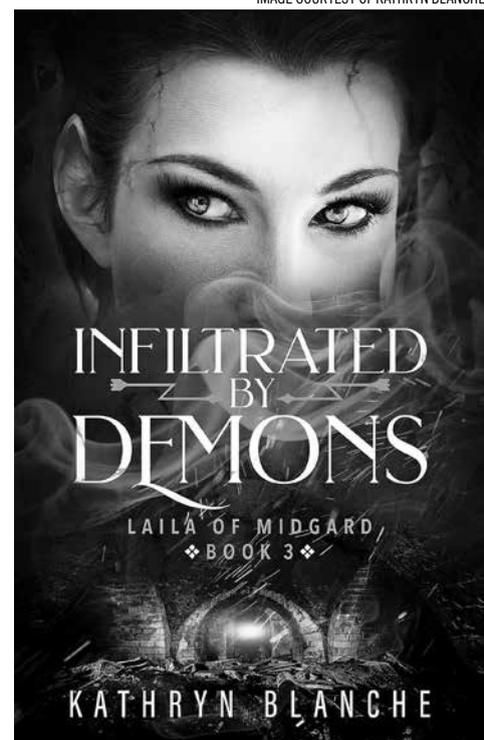
**Blanche:** I started to study historical fencing about seven years ago through the Association for Historical Fencing. Most people are familiar with the sport fencing you see in the Olympics. But this is pretty different, it's the study of historical martial arts systems that were used in Europe. I started the stage combat training about a year after that, when I moved to Los Angeles. I find that both are useful in writing because I understand the technical aspects of the fight (this comes from the fencing background), but I also can describe the action in a way that makes sense to any reader (which comes from the stage combat background). Basically, I write a fight on the page in a similar way to how it would be choreographed for a film or the theater.

**Sun:** Is there anything you can tell us about your latest Midgard novel, *Infiltrated by Demons*, without giving too much away?

**Blanche:** In my latest book, Laila is facing a series of murders with a vampire suspect. But when she starts investigating, she discovers that the murders are just the beginning of a plot that threatens the peace of the entire city. There are also constant riots in the city and a potential traitor in their [IRSA's] office who is feeding information to the demons [the series' primary antagonists]. Basically, tensions are rising on all fronts and Laila is struggling to hold everything together. There's more at risk than there was in the previous books, and she's going to need all the help she can get to stop this newfound threat. ○

*It's the end of the world as we know it, and Arts Editor Caleb Wiseblood feels fine. Contact him at [cwiseblood@newtimeslo.com](mailto:cwiseblood@newtimeslo.com).*

IMAGE COURTESY OF KATHRYN BLANCHE



**EPISODE III:** The third and latest entry in Kathryn Blanche's Laila of Midgard series, *Infiltrated by Demons*, was released at the end of last month. The book is available in print and digital through Barnes & Noble, Amazon, eBooks, and other platforms.

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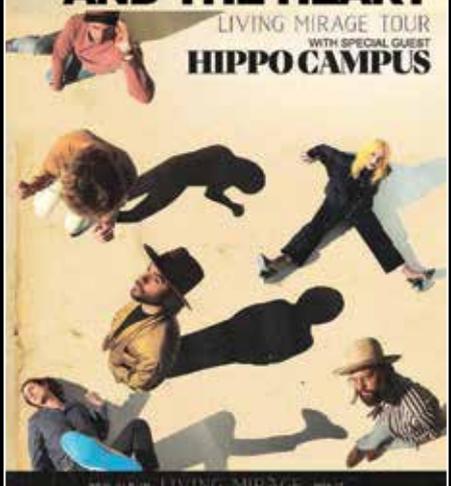
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JOSH GROBAN	SEP 05
MAGGIE ROGERS	SEP 17
OF MONSTERS AND MEN	SEP 19
MARK KNOPFLER	SEP 20
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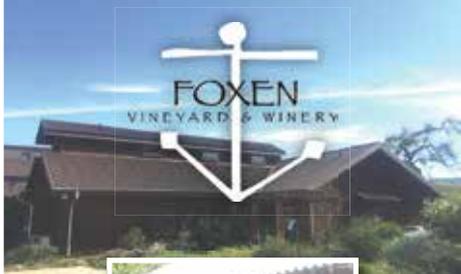
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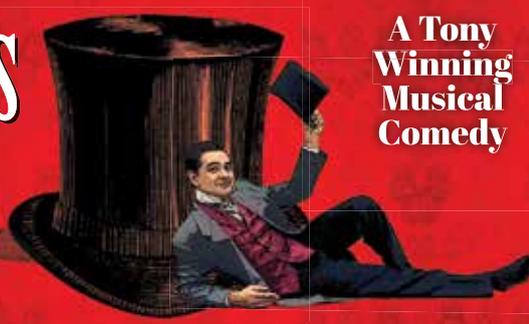
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Sun NewTimes

PHOTOS COURTESY OF BILL MORSON



**STEALING SECOND BASE:** Photographer Bill Morson's *Out at Second* was taken during a high school baseball game in Santa Ynez.

**Split seconds**

*Cypress Gallery showcases metal prints by retired photojournalist Bill Morson*

BY CALEB WISEBLOOD

Throughout childhood and up until college, future photographer Bill Morson was never dead set on a specific career.

"I would tell my friends that, if possible, I'd like to just become a professional observer of life one day," Morson told the *Sun*.

He chose to major in geography as a potential outlet for his love of observation, fascinated by the physical world surrounding us. Later, Morson joined the military and underwent training as a photo processing specialist. He soon discovered that photography quenched his curiosity about the world more than studying geography ever had.

"I found myself inevitably on a path to a career in documentary and news photography," Morson said, "where I could remain a curious observer of people and places and have the chance to photograph my discoveries."

Morson's photos were published by various outlets throughout Santa Barbara County during his long career as a professional photojournalist. But guests of the retiree's new exhibit at Cypress Gallery in Lompoc, which runs through Sunday, June 23, get the chance to see his works in a new light as dye-infused metal prints. The medium has allowed his photos to appear more vibrant than ever, Morson said.

"It's a high-quality printing process that really makes the images pop," he said. "It's an exciting difference in quality from years of having my images printed on newsprint."

The exhibit, titled *Captured Moments*, encompasses a wide range of both subject matter and genres, from nature to sports photography. Morson's photos weren't curated at random however, as each piece was taken with the same goal in mind: to capture a fleeting moment, preserving it forever.

"A scenic view, a man at work, a group of flowers, a sporting event all have the potential to be a special moment in time, only waiting to be discovered, recorded, and created into a lasting work of art," Morson said. "Nature, people, or anything of human interest that happens to strike my fancy can be my subject matter."

*Out at Second*, for example, was taken during a high school baseball game in Santa Ynez. It's one of Morson's favorite moments he's ever photographed.

"The image of a shortstop placing a tag on a base runner as he attempts to steal second base captures a very fleeting moment in time," Morson said. "Anyone that has ever played baseball can appreciate the skill and timing that goes into making that play."

*Harvest Time*, another of Morson's favorites on display at the exhibit, is an image of a worker in a Lompoc flower field.

"The image of a man obviously hard at work while immersed in a colorful field of flowers really seems to get the interest of people," Morson said. "I receive a lot of comments on that shot, perhaps because it's such an iconic image of our agricultural region."

For Morson, the trick to capturing these split-second moments most of the time is what brought him to love photography in the first place: the act of observation.

"Sometimes the moment to capture an image comes upon you quickly. Other times, you just have to exercise patience and wait," Morson said. "You quickly learn how to anticipate how people will or should react under certain circumstances or surroundings. It's something anybody can learn to do with some time and effort." ○

Arts Editor Caleb Wiseblood loves life's little moments. Contact him at [cwiseblood@newtimeslo.com](mailto:cwiseblood@newtimeslo.com).



**A DAY IN THE LIFE:** One of Bill Morson's favorite photos of his own is *Harvest Time*, which he took in a Lompoc flower field.

## Film Reviews

All theater listings are as of Friday, June 14.

### ALADDIN

What's it rated? **PG**  
 What's it worth? **Full price**  
 Where's it showing? **Movies Lompoc**  
 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? (128 min.)

—Caleb Wiseblood

### DARK PHOENIX

What's it rated? **PG-13**  
 What's it worth? **Stream it**  
 Where's it showing? **Parks Plaza**  
 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?  
 I've always liked the X-Men premise. It touches on the next step of human evolution as well racism and scapegoating, two topical societal woes. While this film also explores those themes, it does it in a ham-fisted way. The film is more interested in exploring Charles Xavier's (James McAvoy) "I know what's best for mutants" hubris—also handled ham-fistedly—and the X-Men saving humanity from space aliens. Yes, there are space aliens. Groan.  
 Following the excellence of *Logan* (2017) or even the hilarious side story of *Deadpool 2* (2018), *Dark Phoenix* is sorely disappointing.

After the obligatory backstory about how Jean Grey came into Xavier's care as a child, she and some other X-Men are sent into space to rescue an endangered NASA mission that's encountered what's supposed to be a solar flare but instead is a mysterious cosmic force, which Jean internalizes, becoming unfathomably powerful.

Long story short, Jean's new uncontrollable powers are sought by said shape-shifting space aliens. She has a falling out with Xavier and destroys some stuff, putting government operatives on her trail, so she seeks refuge with Erik Lehnsherr/Magneto (Michael Fassbender), who frankly doesn't want the trouble, and then it all goes to hell as Xavier and his X-Men, the government ops, Magneto and his crew, and the shape-shifting aliens all descend on Grey in an incoherent mess of a battle, led by head alien Vuk (Jessica Chastain), to kill Jean and take the power.

These surprisingly good cast members—which also

FILM REVIEWS continued page 28

### 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

# Idealism meets realism

John Chester (*Lost in Woonsocket*, *Rock Prophecies*) directs this documentary about his and his wife's developing a sustainable farm on a 200-acre patch of depleted ground in Ventura County. They work to rehabilitate the soil, plant orchards and row crops, and raise a variety of animals. Hoping to live in harmony with nature, they discover that nature isn't always interested in living in harmony with them. (91 min.)

**Glen:** John and Molly Chester are idealists through and through. They want to live a life of purpose, and Molly—a personal chef who records online cooking tutorials—dreams of living on a farm and raising all their food.

When their rescue dog, Todd, gets them evicted from their apartment for excessive barking, they see it as an opportunity to make Molly's dream come true. Through investors who share their vision of a sustainable agriculture model, they raise enough money to buy Apricot Lane Farms, a dusty patch of earth that had been foreclosed on twice. They had no experience. What made them think they'd be able to make this farm work in the midst of California's brutal drought? Alan York—a soil, plant, and biodynamic consultant—told them it was possible to rejuvenate the land, and a lot of the film has to do with their ongoing struggle through diversification to create the fertile ground that York envisions. It's an inspiring dream, and York promises them that when balance is restored to the land, profitability will come. The Chesters can't seem to explain that to the flocks of birds that feast on their stone fruit trees; the gophers that eat the roots out from under the trees, killing them; and the coyotes that slaughter their chickens—initially the only profitable part of the farm—en masse. You'll laugh, you'll cry, and you'll watch in wonder through the magic of birth, death, and everything in between. Mostly, I was reminded of how unbelievably difficult farming can be and the deep work ethic and perseverance it takes to continue in the face of adversity. For anyone with a passing interest in food or farming, this is a must-see.

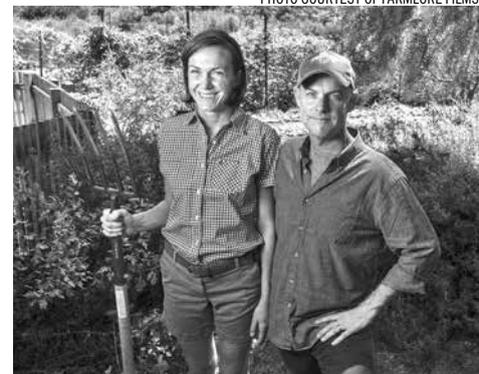
**Anna:** As a former chef and farm-to-table enthusiast, Molly's ideals and mine run parallel. I spent the early 2000s reading up on permaculture, attending Food Not Bombs meetings, exploring communal living, and dreaming of a span of land that had everything needed to feed as many as possible. Joel Salatin, owner of Polyface farms and featured expert in

Michael Pollan's *An Omnivore's Dilemma*, was my first intro into the concept of old-school farming, ruling out monocultures and letting nature bring balance—sometimes in very dramatic ways. One thing all of that research taught me is that it's hard, thankless work a lot of the time, heartbreaking and exhausting, often unprofitable and downright frustrating. One thing the Chesters don't lack is perseverance. Watching them make their seemingly impossible dream a reality and slowly build on itself as they make the soil fertile and profitable is beautiful. Sometimes that means building a house for

worms; sometimes it means birthing piglets or shooting coyotes. When the farm and wildlife are in balance, there are solutions to any problem: You just have to be clever enough to realize the assets you have on hand. Snails ruining your crops? Release

the ducks! Too many flies from cow manure? Get those chickens in there! John and Molly are beacons of hope in an ever increasing factory-farmed world. It isn't an easy life, but it's a glorious one.

**Glen:** The story's constant underlying theme is finding balance, and its overarching message is that we can, through hard work and ingenuity, return our entire world to harmonious balance. What the Chesters did to these 200 acres is nothing short of amazing and exactly what humanity needs to do to the entire planet, but current corporate agriculture puts profitability before sustainability. As inspiring as the film is, it's hard to imagine manifesting this form of agriculture worldwide. We have too many mouths to feed and an economic system—capitalism—that demands constant expansion to function. Hence, our very way of life is unsustainable, and to meet demand, our Big Ag food system generates inexpensive food that sustainable farming can't compete with. I guess what it comes down to are small choices—choices to pay more for produce from local growers, choices to source meat locally from humane farmers, and choices to reject Tyson, Foster Farms, Monsanto, and other corporate ag entities that are part of the problem. Anything's better than nothing. Obviously, we can't all be like the Chesters, but we can strive to be part of the solution, however small that part might be. Billions of people making small choices can have a big impact, and watching this documentary



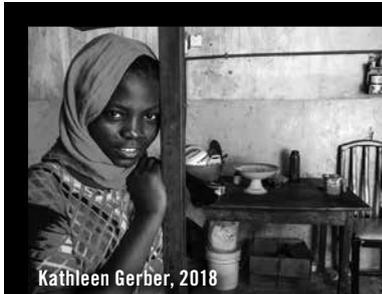
**AMERICAN GOTHIC:** Documentarian and nascent farmer John Chester and his wife, Molly, chronicle over eight years their attempt to create a sustainable farm that works in harmony with nature.

might be just the inspiration you need to start making those small but essential choices.

**Anna:** The Chesters are not alone—there are people and farms doing this hard work all over the place. You're 100 percent right: Putting your money where your mouth is keeps them in business and able to continue the cause. PSA—Get to farmers' market and support local farmers and ranchers! York is certainly a force behind their drive and dedication, but John and Molly are left feeling abandoned when health issues no longer allow their mentor to consult.

They must forge on, hoping the skill set and mindset he has instilled in them leads them to profitability. Along the way they collect a family of like-minded folks looking to learn and make their way along the same path. John is a filmmaker with a knack for capturing the small moments—whether it be time-lapse video of coyotes or snails, or slow-mo of ladybugs feasting or aphids laying eggs, it's a visually stunning piece of work. While the hope and idealism is saturated, the film doesn't gloss over the rough parts. I'm not going to lie—I cried a whole bunch, mostly over animal stuff. Whether it was with worry over Emma, their pig, not wanting to eat after birthing 17 piglets or the countless chicken carcasses after a coyote raid, the farm life isn't easy. *The Biggest Little Farm* is triumphant, hopeful, and tender. The Chesters may have you thinking about carving out a little piece of paradise for yourself one day. I know they certainly reminded me of the reasons I've longed for farm life since I was a kid feeding goats, rabbits, and chickens in my parents' yard. See this one in theaters. It's a joy. ○

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



Kathleen Gerber, 2018



Dylan Kyle, 2018



Cary Geihs, 2018



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## FILM

### FILM REVIEWS from page 27

includes Nicholas Hoult as Hank McCoy/Beast, Jennifer Lawrence as Raven/Mystique, Tye Sheridan as Scott Summers/Cyclops, Evan Peters as Peter Maximoff/Quicksilver, and Kodi Smit-McPhee as Kurt Wagner/Nightcrawler—are wasted on this substandard adaptation of Stan Lee and Jack Kirby's comic books.

If you're an X-Men fan, wait to stream this hot mess, but to be honest, if I'd never seen it, I would care a whit. It's terrible. (113 min.)  
—Glen Starkey

### 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

### MEN IN BLACK: INTERNATIONAL

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

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

**NEW** F. Gary Gray (*Friday, Set It Off, The Italian Job, Fate of the Furious*) directs this new installment in the sci-fi comedy franchise Men in Black. This time around, new Agent M (Tessa Thompson) joins the U.K. Men in Black team, including Agent O (Emma Thompson), High T (Liam Neeson), and Agent H (Chris Hemsworth), to search for an enemy mole in their organization. (115 min.)  
—Glen

### ROCKETMAN

What's it rated? **R**

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

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

**PICK** 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.

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 flashback his troubled childhood

### GREEN PORNO

When? **2008-09**

What's it rated? **Not rated**

Where's it available? **Sundance TV, YouTube**

Did you know that hamster mothers often eat their babies? That male bedbugs stab their mates with knife-like penises and then ejaculate into the bloodstream? Or that snails have both vaginas and penises?

Those unusual facts are the main focus *Green Porno*, the Sundance TV miniseries in which Isabella Rossellini explores the sexual nature of animals and insects.

Yep, you read that correctly. Isabella Rossellini: the Italian actress and model famous for her captivating roles in movies like *Blue Velvet* (1986). The same Isabella Rossellini whose face has graced covers of *Vogue* and whose parents are film legends Ignrid Bergman (*Casablanca, Spellbound*) and Roberto Rossellini (*Rome, Year Zero*). She's the very same Isabella Rossellini who wrote, directed, and starred in every episode of *Green Porno*.

PHOTO COURTESY OF SUNDANCE TV



### IF I WERE A PRAYING MANTIS:

In *Green Porno*, Isabella Rossellini explores the sexual nature of animals and insects while dressed as those animals and insects.

When I first heard about *Green Porno*, I imagined a nature documentary—rugged landscapes, impeccable cinematography—all narrated by Rossellini. It didn't seem strange since Americans love nature docs narrated by hosts with foreign accents (I'm lookin' at you Steve Irwin and David Attenborough), and Rossellini's Italian intonation is almost as recognizable as her face.

But after the first episode of *Green Porno*, which looks at the mating habits of bees, it became clear that my assumptions were wrong. The episode starts seemingly normal, then almost immediately cuts to a wide shot of Rossellini dressed as a giant queen bee.

Rossellini goes on to not only describe how bees reproduce, but acts it out while dressed like different kinds of bees. It's an insane juxtaposition—an icon running around in a bumble bee jumpsuit, humping papier-mâché bee figurines. While Rossellini illustrates how bees mate in flight, her paper bee penis falls off inside the female.

"But pulling out from her, my penis would break off!" Rossellini shouts, looking

**TEAMWORK:** New recruit, Agent M (Tessa Thompson), and Agent H (Chris Hemsworth) join forces to find an enemy mole in their organization, in *Men in Black: International*.



PHOTO COURTESY OF COLUMBIA PICTURES

(Matthew Illesley), adolescence (Kit Connor), and his rise to fame, as well as his subsequent descent into addiction.

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 him to overcome his fears and become a superstar. He had to kill Reggie Dwight to become Elton John, but he needed to reclaim Reggie to regain and maintain his sobriety. (121 min.)  
—Glen

### THE SECRET LIFE OF PETS 2

What's it rated? **PG**

What's it worth? **Stream it**

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

Chris Renaud (*Despicable Me, The Lorax, The Secret Life of Pets*) and Jonathan de Val band together to co-direct the second installment of the animated *Secret Life of Pets*. This time around, the New York apartment furry residents leave their owners once again on an adventure to save a new wild friend.

## BINGEABLE

down at her wound through bug-eye goggles. "It would get stuck in her vagina like a cork in a bottle, but it would prevent other males from mating with her."

It's the best thing that has ever been filmed in all of history.

The rest of the three-season series is more of the same, and Rossellini dives into and acts out the strange, and often aggressive, mating habits of spiders, dragonflies, and whales (which can get 6-foot erections). In season three, she focuses on sea creatures that are being impacted by overfishing.

That's the thing about *Green Porno*—it's completely ridiculous but incredibly informative. Unlike most shows today, the episodes only run a few minutes each, making the show digestible and forcing Rossellini to break down the information into its most understandable terms.

Admittedly, it seems like a strange project for a rich and famous senior citizen to put time and energy into, but in a behind-the-scenes interview, Rossellini says she simply loves animals. "Do I do this because I have a sexual obsession? Do I do this because I have to learn how to behave sexually?" Rossellini asks as she laughs. "I don't do it for that at all. I always wanted to make films about animals."

But while people aren't necessarily interested in biology and animals, Rossellini said they do love sex. ○  
—Kasey Bubnash

While there are plenty of one-liners that are definitely flying over the heads of the young audience in the theater, the plot of the film is all over the place. An elementary-school-aged kid is probably not going to notice the three stories that honestly should have been separate animated shorts, which somehow clumsily come together, but all you adults out there definitely will.

Back in New York in the concrete jungle where dreams are made, we find Max (Patton Oswalt, who replaced Louis C.K.) and his buddy, Duke (Eric Stonestreet), living the good life with their owner. Their life turns upside down once their owner falls in love, gets married, and has a little boy named Liam. Of course Max wants to take care of Liam but realizes the city is a dangerous place for a toddler. His helicopter-parent instincts result in a nervous tick. Maybe Max just needs a little vacation, so the family leaves the city and visits an uncle in the country. It's there that he meets Rooster (Harrison Ford), a no-nonsense kind of a dog (very Harrison Ford), who's going to teach Max to get over his fear.

Before Max goes on his trip, he leaves his favorite bee-shaped squeaky toy with Gidget (Jenny Slate) to protect. Predictably, within the first day of guardianship, she loses the toy and it bounces into the window of an apartment that's filled with cats. Seriously, the neighbor has dozens of cats—it's pretty ridiculous. But the cats are scratch-your-eyes-out catty, and Gidget needs help. She needs to learn how to be a cat in order to get the toy back.

Meanwhile (I know, another damn story to follow), Snowball (Kevin Hart) is more than just a cute bunny; he's a pajama-wearing superhero, or so he thinks. He's hired by Daisy (Tiffany Haddish), who's witnessed the cruelty of a tiger being held against its will by an evil circus owner. Daisy needs Snowball's help to rescue the tiger.

Somehow these three entirely different stories come together in the end with the same goal in mind: help the tiger find a safe home away from his large-nosed jerk captor.

I mean, there were definitely kids laughing when Max was freaking out in the country at all the new sounds of the farm land—a cow farting, a frog chilling on a lily pad, and a freaking turkey that won't stop following him. And the soundtrack that accompanied the film had the kids in my row dancing in their seats. Not to mention the A-list actors giving so much personality to these four-legged creatures that we wish we could talk to in real life.

But the storyline just wasn't there. It's a lot to keep up with in the beginning once you realize that this isn't just one story and there are so many different characters. Save your pretty pennies, parents, and just wait to Redbox it or stream it on your preferred service. (86 min.)  
—Karen Garcia

### SHAFT

What's it rated? **R**

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

**NEW** Tim Story (*Barbershop, Think Like a Man, Ride Along*) directs this story about John "JJ" Shaft Jr. (Jesse T. Usher), an MIT grad specializing in cyber security. When his best friend dies under mysterious circumstances, JJ turns to his estranged father, private investigator John Shaft I (Samuel L. Jackson). Together they explore the Harlem underworld in search of answers, eventually teaming with John Shaft I (Richard Roundtree). (105 min.) ○

—Glen

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

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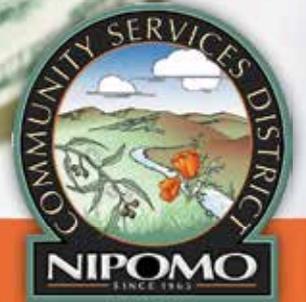
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**HOT 'N' HEARTY:** I'm a pretty decent cook, but the simple yet sensational Southern staple of red beans and rice has always eluded me. I can never get it quite like those I first came across in Tennessee, but Papa Jay's can. Their sausage is spicy, the beans are rich, and the rice is just right.



**ETOUFFEE, MON AMI:** (It means "delicious crawfish stew, my friend" in Cajun) Crawfish are fun to catch, a real pain in the ass to clean, a fantastic forageable food to eat, and they go great with collard greens and cornbread. Now that I'm typing about it, I really just want to eat this meal all over again. Ça c'est bon!

### Southern comfort

If you're looking for good, stick-to-your-ribs victuals with a spicy kick, make the trek to Papa Jay's Southern Quezine, located at 4721 W. Main St. in Guadalupe. They're open from 11:30 a.m. to 7 p.m. and are available for catering as well. Just call (805) 219-0660.



**AUNTIE MAE:** I didn't get to meet Papa Jay, the restaurant's namesake, but his wife, Merril Stevens (or Auntie Mae), does most of the joint's cooking, and she's a delight. I sincerely wish them both all the happiness in the world. The stories she told my family about hers really made it sound like they're the sweetest couple around. Plus, they cook like the dickens.

but we've got a (very welcome and appreciated) plethora of Chinese, Japanese, and Thai places in Santa Maria and Lompoc, with some Korean and Vietnamese thrown in the mix for variety.

But according to some very casual Googling, there is only one authentic restaurant serving Dixie dishes between the hub cities of San Luis Obispo and Santa Barbara. We've got plenty of barbecue, but hardly any gumbo, grits, or collard greens, and it's a dreadful shame. That's a lot of good eatin' gone un-ate, but a couple of Louisiana transplants operating in Guadalupe are filling that void with gusto.

Jerome and Merril Stevens grew up as childhood neighbors in Louisiana, but when he was 8 years old, Jerome's parents separated. Jerome moved to the Central Coast with his

EATS continued page 32

## Creole for your eat hole

*Papa Jay's Southern Quezine is well worth the trip to Guadalupe*

BY NICK POWELL

I knew it would be good the moment I heard about it. My wife and I ran into her co-worker at Home Depot in Lompoc, and this good ol' boy from Louisiana couldn't stop himself from singing the praises of his new favorite restaurant. All we had said was, "Hello, how're you doing?"

I'm paraphrasing, but his response was basically: "Yeah, I'm fine. Y'all need to eat at Papa Jay's in Guadalupe as soon as you possibly can."

But we were busy, so it took an entire agonizing week before we had the opportunity to drive to this tiny, isolated farming town that had never seemed a likely candidate for Cuisine Capital of Northern Santa Barbara County. I'll be damned if this place wasn't exactly what I've been missing without even knowing it.

It's insane that there are so few traditional Southern restaurants around here. The world's largest ocean separates California from Asia,

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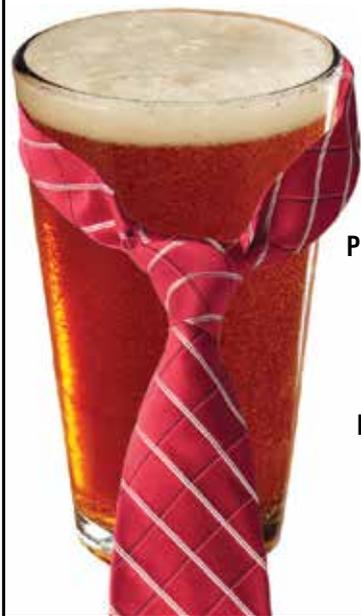


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**CATFISHED DELISH:** It's no good to get "catfished" on the internet, but I don't know how that crispy, flaky goodness got such a bad rap. It can be rubbery and weird in the hands of amateurs, but the pros at Papa Jay's make tender nuggets of moist and flavorful catfish served with their own signature tartar sauce alongside the traditional version.

**EATS** from page 30

father, an Air Force man at Vandenberg. As he left, the young boy told Merrill that someday he'd come back to Louisiana and marry her. Sure enough, the two reunited when he was back visiting family as an adult, and he made good on his promise.

They worked in the music industry for several years, promoting concerts and artists, and the influence shows on their restaurant's decor. At some point, the couple transitioned from organizing concerts to serving food on the festival circuit. Then they ran a food cart in Orcutt for a few years before opening their brick-and-mortar location in Guadalupe.

Merril said she was hesitant at first because their then potential space was so run down and dirty, but for three months Jerome told her he was working late at his day job while he secretly cleaned and modernized the kitchen in their eventual headquarters. The surprise won Merrill over and they opened shop about four years ago.

The food my family got was utterly delicious. Everything had a little spice to it, but nothing was overwhelming. I ordered the crawfish etouffee, which was creamy, hot, and satisfying with sides of spiced collard greens and fresh cornbread. My wife got the fried catfish nuggets, which were great with a splash of hot sauce and Merrill's signature mustard tartar sauce. Our daughter, technically a Southern native though she was raised on the coast, got red beans and rice with spicy sausage.

"I don't have any recipes," Merrill said. "I just work off of taste the way my momma taught me."

It's only been a few days, and I already want to go back. I can't stop thinking about the things we didn't sample. Merrill was sold out of ribs and pie by the time we stopped in, so those options went right out the window, leaving only lingering regret in their wake. I asked if there was anything in particular we didn't try that qualifies as a specialty.

"I'm real proud of my gumbo. Everybody really seems to like that," Merrill said, "And my fried chicken is to die for." ○

*Contributing writer Nick Powell has a fried drumstick shaped hole in his heart, but I bet if you sent directions to a bar with really novel cocktails to npowell@santamariasun.com, he could soothe his sorrows the old-fashioned way... with old fashioned.*

**Powell's picks**

• Usually, when I'm driving through for fast food, I'm not there for salad. These folks can barely cobble together some greasy meat and cheese, so I'm not expecting their berry-and-feta game to be on point. But, the **Berry Burst Chicken Salad at Wendy's** somehow had seemingly fresh greens, good berries, herb roasted chicken, and a delicate raspberry vinaigrette. I can hardly tell a dog from a weird wolf, but that was a pretty good salad.

• Michelin doesn't just hand out stars like Halloween candy. They're a big freakin' deal, OK? So don't be too disappointed to learn that no restaurant in Santa Barbara County has a Michelin star. Instead, be super jazzed that, **First and Oak of Solvang** earned a "Michelin plate," which is still a high honor. I haven't been there yet, but holy crap, does it look good (pictured below)! A five course meal costs \$85 a plate, but Michelin says it's worth it. See for yourself at **409 First St. in Solvang**, inside the Mirabelle Inn.

FILE PHOTO BY BRENNAN SWANSTON



• Enjoy dinner, drinks, and a show at **PCPA: Summerfest 2019**. The Pacific Conservatory Theatre is throwing its summer party and scholarship fundraiser at the Solvang Festival Theater on June 15 at 6 p.m. Tickets are a steep \$85 generally and \$75 for students, but they include wine and food tasting from several local purveyors, a live auction, and the opening night of their play, *A Gentleman's Guide to Love and Murder*. Visit [pcpa.org](http://pcpa.org) for tickets and more information. ○

*Contributing writer Nick Powell is a gentleman. Send love (but not murder) to npowell@santamariasun.com.*

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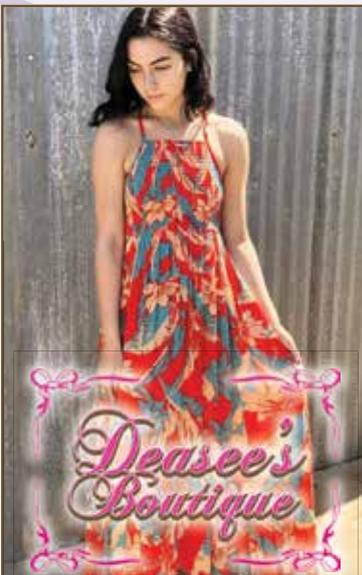
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