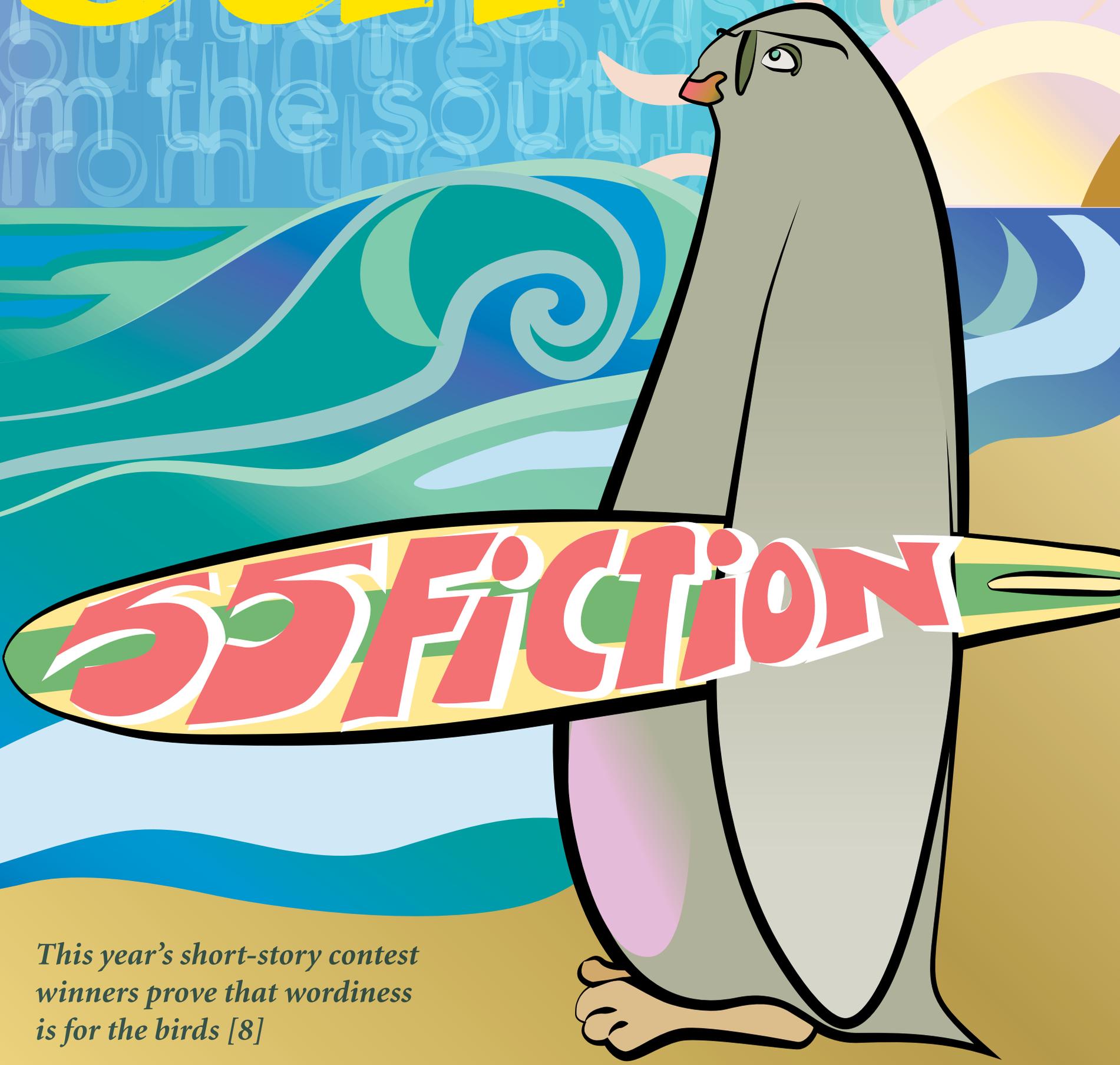


Sun

AT THE MOVIES



Disturbing, shocking [28]



This year's short-story contest winners prove that wordiness is for the birds [8]

NEWS Cuyama gets grant for water issues [7]

ARTS Los Olivos is in full bloom [24]

EATS Old Town ups ante on comfort food [31]

New SMAT & BREEZE Schedules

On Monday, July 15, 2019 minor changes will be made to BREEZE Route 100.

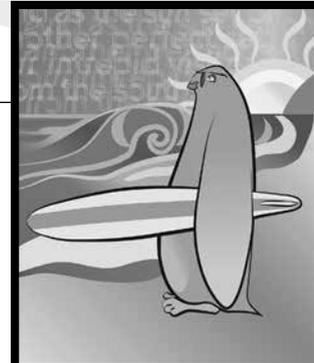
- **Breeze Route 100.** Servicing the Lompoc Transit Center.
- **Breeze Route 100.** 6:20 a.m. trip from Santa Maria to Lompoc changed to 6:10 a.m. to allow for transfers to the COLT BUS service.
- **Breeze Route 200.** No change.
- **SMAT.** Now serving Enos Ranch

Schedules can be picked up at The Transit Center, on the buses and outlets.

If you have any question call SMAT Dispatch at (805) 928-5624

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JULY 11 - JULY 18, 2019 VOL. 20 NO. 19



BIRD IS THE WORD: Fifty-five words are just enough for our contest winners to take flight.

Brevity is the soul of our annual 55 Fiction short-story contest, and we invite readers from far and wide to pick up their pens to submit their tiny tableaux. Our judges this year—including Arts Editor Caleb Wiseblood and Senior Staff Writer Glen Starkey and Staff Writer Karen Garcia from our sister paper, *New Times*—read through the best of the submitted stories to name the winners. At times, we channeled Hunter S. Thompson, cynicism and cigarette in hand (metaphorically, of course), to find the juiciest juxtapositions, the most diminutive denouements, and the shiniest similes. Enjoy! [8]

Also this week, read about a state environmental grant that will help Cuyama residents craft a plan to save their groundwater [7], a lawsuit demanding that Lompoc change the restrictions on where sex offenders can reside [10], Los Olivos' newest exhibition that puts summer on display [24], and Old Town Kitchen and Bar—the best place to find gooey, down-home comfort food [31].

Andrea Rooks,
associate editor

Cover art by Leni Litonjua > Cover design by Alex Zuniga

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Political Watch

On June 27, the U.S. Supreme Court issued an opinion blocking a controversial question asking for a person's citizenship status from appearing on the 2020 census. Many critics of the U.S. Department of Commerce's plan to add this question believed it would prevent immigrants from participating in the census because of the fear of deportation. Gov. Gavin Newsom released a statement on the day of the court's ruling supporting its decision. "The Supreme Court did their job today, but the fight continues," Newsom said. "Every person counts. If Californians do not participate in next year's census, the Trump administration wins." Officials with the city of Santa Maria and Santa Barbara County told the Sun in May that they were concerned that this question could lead to inaccurate counts locally. Ensuring an accurate count is important because it affects how much funding local jurisdictions receive from the federal government for various city, county, and state services. Despite the court's ruling, President Donald Trump and his administration are trying to find a way to add the question to the census. "We are absolutely moving forward, as we must, because of the importance of the answer to this question," Trump said via Twitter on July 3.

On July 3, state Assemblyman Jordan Cunningham (R-San Luis Obispo) wrote a letter to the California Coastal Commission urging it to not impose further limitations at the Oceano Dunes State Vehicular Recreation Area. According to a staff report for the commission's July 11 meeting, the commission is set to discuss the possibility of implementing various changes to what's allowed at the park, including prohibiting drivers from operating vehicles on the beach at night and reducing the number of vehicles allowed to use the dunes daily. In his letter, Cunningham said that imposing further limitations at the park would hurt local businesses that benefit from the visitors the park attracts. "These businesses would see a loss of economic activity if this commission imposes further limitations on off-road vehicles," Cunningham stated in his letter. According to the meeting's staff report, these limitations are being discussed because of public health concerns over the dust emitted at the park as well as concerns over damages to rare and endangered species and habitats.

On July 3, state Sen. Hannah-Beth Jackson (D-Santa Barbara) announced that the Assembly on Housing and Community Development Committee passed Senate Bill 182, which Jackson authored. The bill would strengthen local planning requirements in areas prone to wildfires and would encourage local jurisdictions to seek fire-resistant development strategies. The bill moved to the housing committee after the Senate passed the legislation on May 29. Next, the bill moves to the Assembly Committee on Local Government, which is scheduled to have its first hearing on the bill on July 10. In a statement her office released when the Senate passed the bill in May, Jackson said with the number of homes and lives devastated by wildfires in recent years, the state must approve measures to make homes more fire-resistant. "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." ○

Cunningham tables e-cig marketing bill for stricter anti-vaping legislation

It's been several months since Assemblyman Jordan Cunningham (R-San Luis Obispo) introduced a bill in December 2018 that aimed to deter e-cigarette use among minors by prohibiting "deceptive e-cigarette marketing" geared toward children. That bill has since been tabled, and now Cunningham is including its provisions in a more robust and stringent anti-vaping bill.

On July 2, Cunningham announced the introduction of Assembly Bill 1639, which includes strict steps that make it more difficult for teens and children to get their hands on electronic tobacco and nicotine products.

"The Federal Food and Drug Administration has called the rise in teen vaping an epidemic," Cunningham said in a press release. "Like epidemics of the past, this one deserves a robust and focused public policy response. I believe this bill will help curb the rise of teenage vaping and be positive for public health."

The number of U.S. high school students who reported e-cigarette use increased by 78 percent between 2017 and 2018 alone, according to the 2018 National Youth Tobacco Survey. Numbers among middle school students rose by 48 percent.

In the press release, Cunningham said he found those statistics "hard to believe," until he heard first-hand stories from his own two children about their classmates using e-cigarette and vaping products.

E-cigarette and e-juice manufacturing companies have been widely criticized for creating nicotine products and flavors that clearly appeal to minors. While it's illegal for individuals under the age of 21 to buy these products, Cunningham said in a previous interview with the Sun that many companies package them in brightly colored boxes reminiscent of kid-friendly foods, such as candy, cereal, and fruit juice. The wide variety of e-juice flavors—ranging from mango and cotton candy, to blueberry jam and "unicorn poop"—are also enticing to kids, Cunningham said.

And because e-cigarettes are still relatively new to the market and contain nicotine but not tobacco, e-cig manufacturers are allowed to advertise on radio, television, and through social media platforms. Many of those ads overtly target teens, Cunningham said.

Weekend Weather



Thursday  COASTAL > High 70 Low 55 INLAND > High 100 Low 60	Friday  COASTAL > High 70 Low 56 INLAND > High 102 Low 60
Saturday  COASTAL > High 72 Low 57 INLAND > High 104 Low 59	Sunday  COASTAL > High 68 Low 57 INLAND > High 101 Low 57

The marine layer starts to thin and make way for a warming trend, interior valleys could reach triple digits heading into the weekend.



MARKETING MANIA: The U.S. Food and Drug Administration has criticized the e-cigarette industry for specifically marketing to teens, using brightly colored boxes reminiscent of kid-friendly foods, like candy and cereal boxes.

Like Cunningham's bill from 2018, Assembly Bill 1639 would ban e-cigarette and e-juice marketing toward children and make it illegal for manufacturers to package products in a way that's appealing to youth. This bill, however, would also ban the sale of flavored e-cigarettes at non-vape or tobacco shops, increase penalties for selling or providing minors with tobacco products, require tobacco retailers to use age verification technology, and ban minors from entering tobacco and vaping stores.

The bill includes restrictions that a number of local, state, and national legislators have considered in the past several months.

The Santa Maria City Council considered similar policy changes at a meeting on Dec. 4, 2018, where Fighting Back: Santa Maria Valley officials called on the council to develop and pass a citywide flavor ban or a tobacco retail licensing ordinance, which would require retailers hoping to sell tobacco and nicotine products to apply and pay for a license.

Nothing has come of that yet, and in May of this year, a state bill that would have banned flavored tobacco products entirely in California stalled out after its author, Sen. Jerry Hill (D-San Mateo), announced plans to withdraw the legislation.

—Kasey Bubnash

County, cities seek federal grant to fight gang violence

The Community Action Commission of Santa Barbara County (CAC) is applying for a grant through the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ) to create a more collaborative approach to reducing gang violence in the county.

According to a memorandum of understanding between the CAC and the jurisdictions sponsoring the grant application, the commission will lead an effort to create the Santa Barbara County Youth Safety Initiative if the grant funding is secured. This initiative will be used to reduce gang activity, prevent the youth from joining gangs, and to help kids leave gangs.

If the DOJ approves the grant application, the funding will also be used

to create a new youth safety task force in Lompoc, which will join similar task forces in Santa Maria and Santa Barbara County.

According to a 2019-21 draft budget presented to Lompoc City Council in June, gang violence in the city is increasing. During fiscal year 2017-18, there were 53 gang-related assaults and homicides in the city. This increased to 65 gang-related violent crimes during fiscal year 2018-19.

"Law enforcement in [Lompoc] has dedicated significant efforts towards reducing the violence, but current resources are limited and there is no existing collaborative entity to address that violence," a staff report from the Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors July 9 meeting states.

At the July meeting, supervisors granted county CEO Mona Miyasato the authority to sign the CAC's

memorandum of understanding on behalf of the county. Representatives from the cities of Carpinteria, Goleta, Santa Barbara, Santa Maria, and Lompoc are expected to do the same soon.

If the DOJ approves CAC's request for grant funding, the commission will initially receive \$150,000 to create an action plan. After that, the CAC would receive \$283,333 per year over the following three years to fund measures outlined in the plan.

—Zac Ezzone

New pesticide reporting app improves investigation process

California recently released a new pesticide reporting app that can be downloaded on smartphones, and state and local officials expect the new technology to expedite the pesticide incident reporting and investigation process.

The California Department of Pesticide Regulation announced on June 26 the launch of its new pesticide incident reporting app, CASPIR (California's System for Pesticide Incident Reporting), which is intended to make it easier for individuals with complaints or concerns about local pesticide applications to report those incidents.

The app can be downloaded for free by anyone with a smartphone or tablet, is available in both English and Spanish, and allows for a more immediate, detailed, and secure reporting process and response time, according to Rudy Martel, assistant agricultural commissioner of Santa Barbara County.

"I think it's just a quicker response over all," Martel said, adding that rather than calling around, leaving voicemails, and trying to find the correct avenue of reporting, witnesses to suspicious pesticide activity can now immediately report their concerns.

The Department of Pesticide Regulation receives about 300 pesticide complaints annually, according to data collected by the department, and in Santa Barbara County alone, Martel said there were 54 complaints in 2017, 38 in 2018, and 19 so far this year.

Those complaints can be about anything pesticide-related—a pesticide application that

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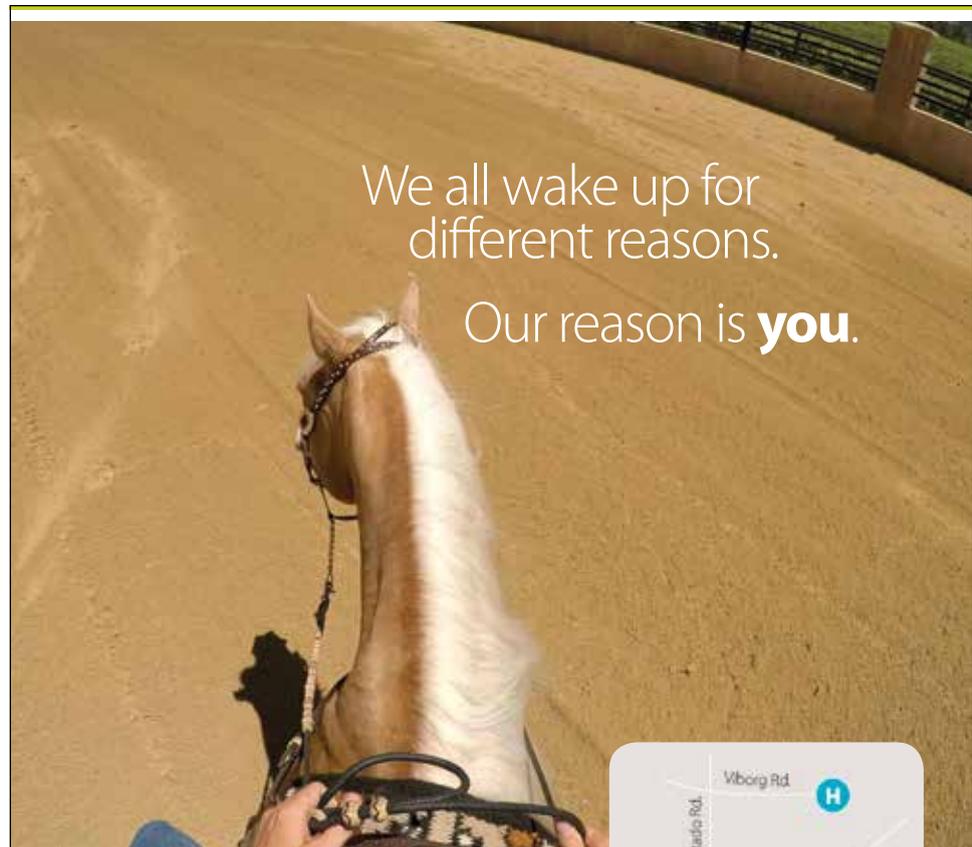
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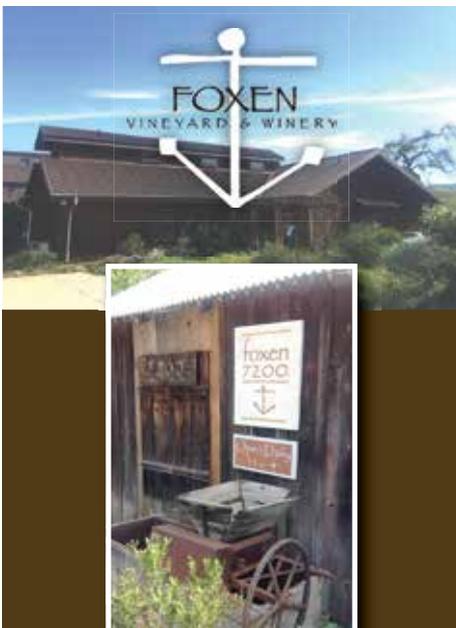
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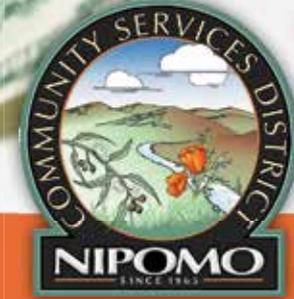
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Mining for solutions

A \$50,000 grant will go toward getting more residents involved in finding a fix for Cuyama's water problems

BY KASEY BUBNASH

While many areas in California rely at least partially on groundwater for drinking, plumbing, and irrigation, few are completely dependent on groundwater as a sole water source, and even fewer pump so much water each year that basins are slowly running dry. But Cuyama is one of those places, and an environmental justice grant is expected to get community members closer to a solution.

Since at least the 1950s, Cuyama's groundwater basin has been in an overdraft condition, meaning more water is being used than is being replenished by rain. Since then, little action has been taken to sustain Cuyama's only water source, and according to the Cuyama Basin Groundwater Sustainability Agency, water pumping has actually increased over the years as the area's agricultural production has expanded.

The Cuyama Basin Groundwater Sustainability Agency is a board of representatives that formed in 2017 after California enacted the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act in 2014, a law that requires governments and water agencies to come up with strategies to stop over pumping within roughly the next 20 years.

According to data collected by the sustainability agency, Cuyama pumps about 60,000 acre-feet of water each year. To reach balanced levels of pumping, the area should be using only a little more than 20,000 acre-feet each year.

"So it is very, very dramatic," said Lynn

Carlisle, executive director of the Cuyama Valley Family Resource Center. "That is a very significant overdraft."

Cuyama is one of only 21 basins in California that are considered to be in critical overdraft—there are 515 basins total in the state—and Carlisle is one of many Santa Barbara County residents who've had to become small-scale experts in groundwater sustainability because of Cuyama's dire situation.

The Sustainable Groundwater Management Act requires that the 21 critically overdrafted basins submit their plans for groundwater sustainability by Jan. 31, 2020, two years before all other regions. As the only agency in the Cuyama Valley region delivering social services, Carlisle said the resource center has played a central role in getting residents involved.

It hasn't been easy. The entire region is unincorporated, so there aren't any city halls to gather in or local representatives to bring concerns to. Cell service is spotty, and many residents don't have internet access—factors that can make it challenging to disseminate information.

The Family Resource Center's efforts to increase locals' involvement are about to get a boost from a \$50,000 environmental justice grant.

In late June, the California Environmental Protection Agency announced the participants in its 2019 Environmental Justice Small Grants Project, a competitive program that offers up to

\$50,000 in funding to help groups address issues in areas disproportionately affected by pollution and hazards.

The Cuyama resource center was one of 34 recipients across the state, and Carlisle said the much-needed funding will go toward providing groundwater information, training, research, and networking opportunities to community members. The resource center will work with the Cuyama Joint Unified School District to develop a curriculum on groundwater management and will help produce a "Cuyama Water/Aqua" science fair for elementary and high school students.

Through several bilingual informational sessions, town hall meetings, and support group meetings, the resource center hopes to put much of its focus on engaging Cuyama's predominantly low-income, farmworker community.

It's especially important for Cuyama's Latino population to be involved in the planning, Carlisle said, because much of the local Latino community works on Cuyama's farms, and their jobs could be impacted by the plan, which will likely force big farmers to significantly reduce water use.

"No one is against agriculture," Carlisle said. "It's just saying if we want to have water in Cuyama to drink, to grow with, to have trees, we have to do something."

Cuyama residents don't have any real say in the sustainability plan, Carlisle said, because there are no residents on the Groundwater's Sustainability Agency's board. The resource center lobbied to create an advisory committee of Cuyama residents, which meets and makes recommendations to the sustainability agency, but its members have no voting power. And the original committee lacked any residents of color, even though nearly half of Cuyama Valley's population is Latino.

"So getting that representation is

important," she said.

The grant is coming at the perfect time, according to 1st District Supervisor Das Williams, who serves on the Cuyama Sustainability Agency board.

Funding for the sustainability agency comes from the highest water users—landowners and farmers who pump huge amounts of water to grow their crops. But it's facing budget cuts because the costs of the sustainability agency have become "controversial" and "difficult," Williams said.

While board members have directed some spending to community involvement, Williams said those funds will probably be first to go. It isn't easy for landowners to pay for increasing involvement, he said, when most community members want landowners to greatly reduce their water use.

The grant will allow the Family Resource Center to pick up some of that slack, Williams said, while the board focuses on completing the draft sustainability plan.

Right now, the draft plan would essentially require Cuyama in two years to begin reducing pumping in the main basin by about 3 percent each year. If the basin's water levels fall under a certain amount, Williams said that would trigger stricter management.

The argument now, he said, is regarding whether the compliance management should be paid for by fees for those who pump water or by property taxes.

"My main concern is that we've got to follow through on this or something close to the draft plan ... to get approval by the state. And if we don't, we'll have the state take over the basin," Williams said. "Some of the bumps to get the job done have been dissipating." ○

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

NEWS from page 4

looks illegal or suspicious, farmworkers who have experienced pesticide exposure, complaints of dangerous pesticide drift into neighboring cities, etc.

The incident reports are funneled through the Department of Pesticide Regulation and the Environmental Protection Agency, then forwarded to county agricultural commissioners for investigation.

Martel said the app should improve processing, tracking, and timeliness of initiating pesticide investigations, and it allows individuals to include more information about the incident, including photos, videos, pinpointed locations via GPS, and contact information.

The Central California Environmental Justice Network works with farmworkers throughout the San Joaquin Valley, and its director, Nayamin Martinez, said in a press release that the app will be helpful to individuals who witness pesticide incidents to include necessary and specific information in their reports.

"We have seen that farmworkers, who are trying to report a pesticide incident at work, sometimes have difficulty describing the exact location of the fields," Martinez said in the release. "We are glad that CASPIR can help address this issue with its GPS system."

—Kasey Bubnash

State commission terminates oil and gas leases off county coast

The State Lands Commission terminated three oil and gas leases and a right-of-way lease for a pipeline off the coast of Santa Barbara County after the companies holding the leases failed to

pay rent for more than three years.

Carone Petroleum Corporation stopped making annual rental payments on the oil and gas leases in 2015. Signal Hill Services stopped making annual rental payments on the pipeline right-of-way lease in 2016, commission senior attorney Seth Blackmon said during the June 28 meeting where the commission approved these terminations.

The oil and gas leases cover almost 4,000 acres of ocean that will now be returned to California's Coastal Sanctuary, which means the area can't be leased in the future, according to a statement released by the commission after the meeting.

The areas in the oil and gas leases haven't been productive since 1992, so there isn't any infrastructure that needs to be removed, Blackmon said at the meeting. However, the pipelines within the right-of-way lease area are productive and will need to be decommissioned and cleaned out before being removed.

At the meeting, Bruce Cowen, a representative from Carone Petroleum Corporation and Signal Hill Services, said the termination would result in about 50 people losing their jobs. He cited numerous obstacles the companies have faced, including destruction during the Thomas Fire, which contributed to their falling behind on rent payments to the state.

After hearing pleas from Cowen and numerous Carone and Signal Hill employees, commission Executive Officer Jennifer Lucchesi told the commission that she stood by staff's recommendation to terminate the leases.

"We understand that there might be some differences in how we interpret the communication that has occurred over a number of years, but the fundamental issue is that they had an obligation to comply with the lease terms, and they failed to do so year after year," Lucchesi said.

—Zac Ezzone

Lompoc City Council backs businesses, not city staff on grease traps

Twice in the last two months the Lompoc City Council has voted against the recommendation of city staff and upheld appeals from local business owners to avoid installing grease traps. This equipment captures and prevents grease and other materials from traveling into the city's wastewater system.

Owners of the Vitamin and Herb Store and P.J.'s Deli both appealed the city's requirement to install grease traps on the basis that their businesses don't generate enough grease to make the traps necessary.

"We have about \$50 a day we sell in sandwiches, salads, and smoothies. We don't cook meats, we don't do any of that type of thing that would generate any grease," Vitamin and Herb Store owner Heike Turchiano said at the July 2 City Council meeting.

Charles Sommer, whose mother owns P.J.'s Deli, made a similar argument at the June 4 City Council meeting. He argued that the deli, which has been in business for more than three decades, has never had any issues with water lines backing up due to grease accumulation.

"It's absurd to think that after 37 years of no line stoppage and almost zero change in our menu, that the city wants us to have a grease trap," Sommer said.

Late last year city staff sent surveys to all food establishments in the city asking whether or not they have grease traps installed. The city then began following up with businesses that didn't have grease traps in place to ensure they are installed, city Utility Director Brad Wilkie said.

According to the city's municipal code, businesses must install grease traps if the city's

utility director believes they are necessary to protect the city's wastewater system. However, the code leaves the director with room for discretion to decide if a business doesn't require a grease trap.

At the July meeting, Wilkie said he believes it's more efficient and business friendly to require all businesses to install grease traps. However, the majority of City Council disagreed and said the city should implement this ordinance on a case-by-case basis.

At the July meeting, Wilkie also presented City Council with an Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) report on an inspection the federal agency completed of the Lompoc Regional Wastewater Reclamation Plant in April. According to the report, Lompoc exceeded its monthly average of oil and grease limits at its treatment plant in March 2017 and June 2018.

City Councilmember Dirk Starbuck raised concerns over how wastewater treatment plant staff characterized City Council's stance on grease traps to EPA officials during the inspection. According to the report, city staff told EPA officials that the City Council hasn't been supportive of enforcing the municipal code requiring grease traps.

"One. One grease trap we overruled, but these were told we are just cowboying it up here," Starbuck said. "And I take that as an insult and it upsets me."

—Zac Ezzone

Correction

In the *Sun's* Winning Images cover story (June 20), Barry Goyette's photograph, *Gail*, in the People category was incorrectly captioned. The image won 3rd place. ○



The shortest stories you'll read this week

ILLUSTRATIONS BY LENI LITONJUA

You can say a lot in 55 words. You can fight, forget, or love someone. Tell stories about global warming, eat your friends, or die. Make political statements. Riff on getting old. But there are only a select few who can do it well enough to get published! For the last three decades, *New Times* and the *Sun* have brought you reader-submitted stories for the annual 55 Fiction contest. This year, hundreds of entries came from all around the world—and strangely, a lot were submitted by Illinois residents. Our 2019 judges include Associate Editor Andrea Rooks, Senior Staff Writer Glen Starkey, Staff Writer Karen Garcia, and Calendar Editor Caleb Wiseblood. So get ready for tales with surprise endings, lots of laughs, and a death or two.

—Camillia Lanham

The invasion

The creatures have been circling our planet for days. And now they are descending from the evening sky.

We knew this day would come. Widespread panic ensues. “Evacuate the cities! Get your families to safety! Hide anywhere you can!” the government warns.

The humans are coming. They’ve destroyed their home, now they want ours.

Noah Johnson

Wauconda, Illinois

Sushi

Jenny had no friends. She used to have some, but they disappeared after the night they went to the sushi restaurant. Jenny had ordered the Big C dish, which was very filling. For some reason, the chef invited her friends into the kitchen, but not her. They never came out, but a platter did.

Tara K. Preston

9 years old

Uber alles

I locked the car and stood on the corner, telling myself for the nth time that this would be the last time. I’d make better decisions, really I would. The driver texted me. I texted back. How hard could it be? He said he was just around the corner. They always say that. Still waiting.

David Preston

Avila Beach

He is risen

He just had to go to dinner with his friends tonight. They’re so annoying, always following and parroting him. How could they even get a reservation for 13 at this hour? They’re probably all crowded, asses-to-elbows, and drinking too much wine. God, where is he? Dammit Jesus, come back to bed already!

Patricia Horton

San Luis Obispo

War games

U.S. AI: Missiles incoming from Russia. Counter-strike sequence initiated.

Russian AI: Fake news. Malfunction on your end. Stand down.

Chinese AI: We can confirm, no threat detected. U.S. AI in error.

U.S. AI: Verification in progress ... hold countdown sequence.

U.S. AI: (crackle ... then, silence.)

Russian AI: ;)

Chinese AI: ;)

Mark Fleming

San Luis Obispo



Star struck

“Nick, what are you doing out there? It’s dark and everyone’s dinner’s getting cold!” She sighed and stomped outside to grab her son. As always, he resisted. “Look at those stars, Ma! They’re beautiful!” Mrs. Copernicus shook her head. “If I’ve told you once, I’ve told you a million times. Not everything revolves around you!”

Bob Ingraham

Avila Beach

Magnum opus interruptus

Holding his breath as he always did after creating,

Burt turned to admire his artistry.

Yesterday’s, a pretzel, was good, but today’s, truly a masterpiece:

an astonishing replica of the Eiffel tower.

Devastated it could never be shared, he depressed the handle.

Churning and tumbling apart, his craft joined the others in septic anonymity.

Dr. Suz

Spirit animal

Stepping onto the pavement, flashing red and blue lights greeted her.

“Good thing you were running with your dog,” exclaimed the next trail-runner appearing behind her.

“But I wasn’t! I don’t have a dog.”

The patrol car pulled away with the escaped convict while thoughts of her recently deceased pet coursed through her mind.

Tina Niebuhr

San Luis Obispo

My roses

“Your roses are kind of like you, full at the top with sweet fragrances, and long leggy stems to support all that goodness. And when we argue—that’s when those thorns show up,” Jim would say with a wry smile. “God, I miss you,” I whispered into the warm breezes of the late afternoon.

Shirley Radcliff Bruton

Atascadero

There’s no place like home

“Monsters under the bed?”

“Keep in mind, last night was the first time I’ve slept in this house, in that bed, in 30 years.”

“What’d they look like? Powerful jaws? Giant claws?”

“Like I never would’ve expected! Like the kids down the street, their parents, a couple teachers, a scout leader”

Steve Recchia

Reno, Nevada

Symptoms

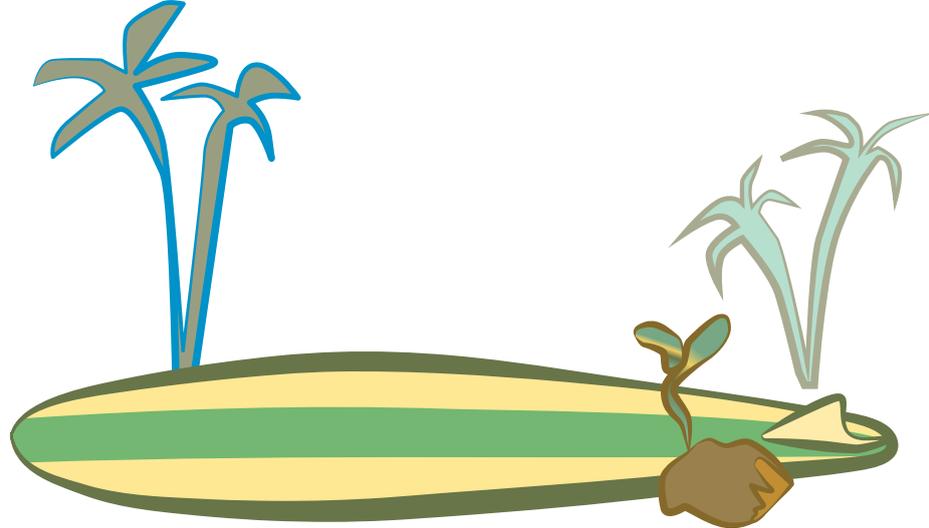
Say it, he thought.
Say it, goddammit! He fumbled for the words. He followed the long winding road of his memory, searching for something, anything familiar, until he was lost in the thick fog of the past.
Say. Her. Name. He clenched his fists.
“Grandpa!” the girl called. “Come play with me!”
“Coming!” he replied.

Kip Lorenzetti
San Luis Obispo

Not quite enlightened

“Excuse me brother, but you’re in my spot,” said the man joining my yoga class.
“I’m sorry, I’m new here,” I replied, and then returned to my pre-class meditation.
When I opened my eyes, the man was still standing there, face red with anger.
“Breathe,” I told him. “Breathe deeply, my brother.”
Namaste.

Mark Fleming
San Luis Obispo



The Rio Grande— America’s gateway

El Coyote’s here
“We leave tonight.”
“But that river’s difficult.”
“True, but what’s difficult for us will be impossible for ICE.”
I enter the river
El Coyote waits on a stump of ancient lava, silhouette pressed into a turquoise sky.
“We must hurry. We’ve many hours left to travel, many nights before we can sleep.”

Michael Sarabia
Guadalupe

Five alarm #MeToo

I stiffened. Someone had touched my bottom. Adrenalin coursed through my system. Hand raised to strike, I turned. I would not be a victim.

A woman pushing a baby stroller paused behind me, cellphone tucked against her ear. I looked down. A tiny hand reached again for the bright yellow flowers on my pants.

Judythe Guarnera
Grover Beach

Where to buy striped paint

Sean, the 5-year-old next door, was excited about painting his bedroom. He insisted upon blue and yellow striped walls in honor of his favorite football team. His dad, wanting an easy out, told Sean the hardware store did not sell striped paint.

Sean replied, “Dad, order the paint from Amazon. They sell everything!”

Cathy Jamieson
Los Osos

The not-so-ugly duckling

“They called me ugly,” I sob. Mom shakes her head. “Go outside, play!” I drag my feet out the front door. I’m spotted and take off running. I lose them in the woods by the pond. Two black swans float by and I wade in after them. They honk welcome to their beautiful new friend.

Carol Bennetts
Fulshear, Texas

Serial killer

I’m a killer. Every morning I hear the screams of those I condemn to death.

I couldn’t care less about their cries.

They spent their whole lives in boxes, but I set them free.

Snap, crackle, and pop and they turn to mush.

I drink their sweet remains. I don’t care, I’m a cereal killer.

Marissa Mangoni
Mundelein, Illinois

Warren Peese

“Pick me!” I yearn to scream as they enter our unpretentious quarters. Crammed shoulder to shoulder, there’re so many of us, I’ll never get chosen. Besides, they always want the little ones, they’re easier. I stand, hidden in the back with the forgotten. I’m older, nobody understands me. Pages tattered, I wait on the shelf.

Sophia Walle
Highlands Ranch, Colorado

Demanding Amanda

“Harder!” shouts Amanda. “Faster! Harder!”

“There’s no satisfying her! Why should a 14-year-old boy go through this torture?”

Breathless, Thomas stops and looks up. Delicious hourglass sculpture. Smooth thighs. Sumptuous bust. Flawless face. Merciless stone gaze.

“What are you staring at? Finish your breaststroke lap! And remember: Kicks are supposed to be hard!”

Edwin Vartany
Glendale

Living the dream

“You’re having trouble sleeping?”

“I keep having variations on the same disturbing dream every night.”

“What’s it about?”

“Good and evil. Right and wrong. The world is about to end. Only one person can save it, but it’s different people. At the end, they always tell me their names, and that they approve this message.”

Steve Recchia
Reno, Nevada

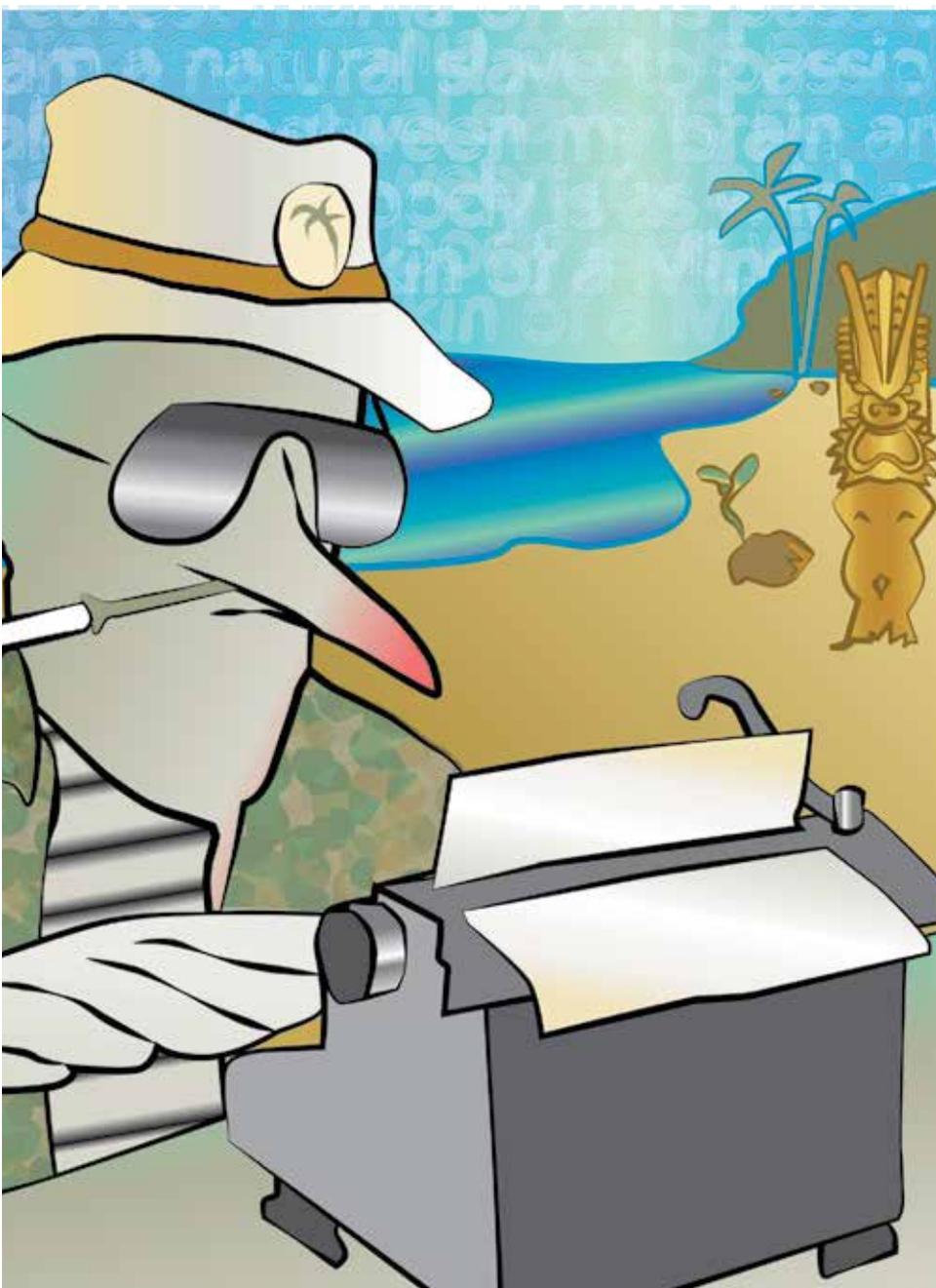
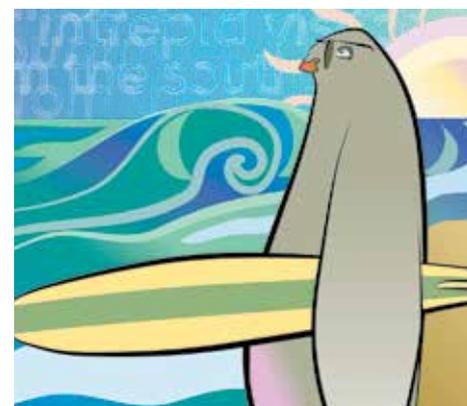
Lots

The dingy bobbed in tranquil seas, a lone speck on a desert of endless blue. The three aboard were wraiths, little more than salted flesh clinging to bones. A single-shot pistol lay on the deck between them.

“We can’t wait anymore,” the captain wheezed. He extended his fist, clutching three pieces of cloth.

“Draw.”

Kip Lorenzetti
San Luis Obispo



BY KASEY BUBNASH

Hordes of Central Coast residents took to their social media pages on June 26 to cheer the San Luis

Obispo County Regional Airport's announcement that it will soon offer direct flights to Las Vegas, a move that could impact the Santa Maria airport's limited flight options.

Santa Maria Public Airport General Manager Chris Hastert said that while the announcement came as a surprise, he's not worried about any hits to Santa Maria's longstanding flights to Vegas—which are offered several times a week at relatively low prices by Allegiant Air.

"Allegiant will still be very competitive," Hastert told the *Sun*.

The SLO County Regional Airport announced in a press release on June 26 that Contour Airlines would begin offering nonstop service from San Luis Obispo to Las Vegas on Oct. 17.

The flights will be offered on a 30-seat plane four times per week, on Thursday, Friday, Sunday, and Monday, with flights departing Vegas in mid-morning and returning from SLO in early afternoon. Every flight will include complimentary snacks, beverages, and a free checked bag, according to the press release, and Contour plans to offer its initial fares at a lower than usual price, starting at \$99 one way.

Until now, Santa Maria has been the go-to place on the Central Coast for inexpensive,

easy, and direct flights to Vegas, and those flights have kept the Santa Maria airport's commercial flight operations alive.

The lack of commercial flight services for Santa Maria's business and leisure travel communities has been a major concern for the Santa Maria Public Airport District board of directors for years. Both United and Mokulele airlines parted ways with the airport between 2016 and 2017, leaving it with a single airline, Allegiant, and the lowest ridership

numbers in 2017 that it had seen since 2009.

Although Hastert said Santa Maria's airport will likely see some impacts to its ridership numbers because of SLO's deal with Contour, he expects those effects to be insignificant.

Contour's discounted, introductory prices of \$99 one-way are more expensive than Allegiant's usual prices, Hastert said, and while each Contour flight to Vegas will offer only 30 seats, Allegiant's aircrafts hold up to 150.

Allegiant is also having a great year in Santa Maria, according to Hastert. While the airline has offered three flights a week between Santa Maria and Vegas for years, it recently started offering four. Still, the Santa Maria airport has had almost the same number of passengers so far this year as it had at this point last year, according to ridership data collected by the Santa Maria Public Airport.

Hastert said airport staff plan to monitor the situation closely, but he estimates that as long as people like to go for Vegas for fun,

Spotlight on: Santa Maria Public Airport Chris Hastert, general manager



MORE COMPETITION: Though the SLO airport recently announced plans to offer direct flights to Las Vegas, officials from the Santa Maria airport aren't worried that its Allegiant Air service to Vegas will be impacted.

Santa Maria's flights will do well.

The airport's highest priority, Hastert said, is re-establishing hub service to benefit the business and military community. He said that the board hopes to partner with a major airline that could provide eastbound flights to hub airports in Denver, Phoenix, or Salt Lake City.

"We're getting closer," he said.

Highlights:

- The California Labor Market Information Division released its May 2019 market report data on June 21, which found that while Santa Barbara County's unemployment rate sits at about 3 percent, Santa Maria's weighs in at a

little more than 4 percent. Buellton has the lowest current rate of unemployment, with just 1 percent of its population identified as being jobless.

- The Santa Maria Valley Chamber of Commerce will host its annual awards gala on July 25 at the Marian Theater at 6 p.m. At the event, the Chamber honors local businesses and community members, and swears in its new board members. Tickets are now on sale. Visit santamaria.com/events/details/annual-awards-gala-35989 for more information. ○

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

Residency restrictions

Organization protecting sex offenders' rights continues statewide lawsuit campaign, sues Lompoc

BY ZAC EZZONE

An organization dedicated to protecting the rights of registered sex offenders is on a campaign to sue cities throughout California with ordinances in place that it believes are unconstitutional. The city of Lompoc is one of the group's most recent targets.

Attorney Janice Bellucci, who is the founder and executive director of Alliance for Constitutional Sex Offense Laws, and anonymous Lompoc resident John Doe filed a lawsuit against the city in February. According to the complaint, the organization claims the city's ordinance restricting where sex offenders can live violates state law and the U.S. Constitution.

"The ordinance is an arbitrary, politically motivated act imposed by a local government in response to popular sentiments that are based upon misinformation, and which seeks retribution against registrants who constitute a socially outcast minority," the complaint states.

Under Lompoc's existing ordinance, registered sex offenders can't live within 500 feet of a child care center, public or private school, park, or public library, which makes much of the city unlivable, Bellucci said.

In 2015, the California Supreme Court ruled that similar residency restrictions in place at the time in San Diego County were unconstitutional. In its ruling, the court said residency restrictions are a tool that cities and counties can use but only on a case-by-case basis rather than with all offenders.

The crux of the Supreme Court's opinion is

that residency restrictions don't actually make communities safer but instead jeopardize public safety by making it more difficult to monitor and rehabilitate registered sex offenders. This argument is also supported

'While it may seem counterintuitive, having opportunities for housing, employment, and services such as monitoring and treatment actually decrease a sexual offender's risk of reoffending.'

California Coalition Against Sexual Assault Communications Coordinator Lorena Campos

by the California Sex Offender Management Board, which the state created in 2006 to decrease sexual victimization.

In its 2016 annual report, the board states that when applied, residency restrictions often limit housing options to the point of forcing registered sex offenders into homelessness, which makes them much more difficult for police departments to keep track of.

"Perhaps the most serious consequence noted by the [state Supreme] Court was that the residency restrictions hampered the efforts of law enforcement to monitor, supervise, and rehabilitate in the interest of public safety," the report states.

A statewide nonprofit dedicated to ending sexual violence and supporting survivors also believes residency restrictions can be problematic. In an email, California Coalition Against Sexual Assault communications coordinator Lorena Campos said barriers that are put in place by these restrictions can often increase the risk of registered sex offenders reoffending.

"While it may seem counterintuitive, having opportunities for housing, employment, and services such as monitoring and treatment actually decrease a sexual

restrictions at a City Council meeting in September 2015, within a few months of being sued.

One of the most recent examples was in Santa Clarita, which Bellucci filed a complaint against in March of this year. Two months later, the Santa Clarita City Council repealed the city's residency restrictions during its May 14 meeting.

"We have made it very clear here tonight that this is not something that we take lightly," Santa Clarita Mayor Marsha McLean said during the meeting. "It's not something we want to do, but at this point in time, we probably don't have a choice on this."

The city of Lompoc, which declined to comment because of the pending litigation, discussed the lawsuit for the first time during closed session at the July 2 City Council meeting. The city declined to comment on how it plans to respond to the lawsuit.

Lompoc has made some changes to its residency restrictions since the state Supreme Court decision. In 2017, the city reduced the distance that registered sex offenders have to live from schools, parks, and other areas from 2,000 feet to 500 feet.

However, Bellucci said this measure wasn't sufficient. In the lawsuit, she's requesting that the city completely repeal its residency restrictions.

This isn't the first time Bellucci has been involved with a lawsuit against Lompoc. She represented Grover Beach resident Frank Lindsay, who sued Lompoc in April 2014 over restrictions it had in place that prohibited registered sex offenders from visiting certain public places within the city.

The city repealed those restrictions and settled the lawsuit two months later. ○

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

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Online Poll

Should the restrictions protecting snowy plovers at Surf Beach be loosened to improve public access?

- 46% Leave the partial closures but stop the full closures.
 - 23% Yes—there's hardly any beach to use during the summer.
 - 23% No—the plovers are still threatened and should be protected.
 - 8% There should be no restrictions at all.
- 13 Votes

Vote online at 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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Hobnobbing with Helen is sorely missed

I was saddened to learn that Helen Thomas' June 27 Hobnobbing With Helen column would be her last.

I have been a member, volunteer, and board member of local nonprofits for over 20 years and Helen Thomas was a welcome and valuable contributor to all of them. Her smile, notebook, and camera were ubiquitous, a welcome addition to every fundraiser I can recall, keeping the community aware of the efforts, goals, and contributions of those many organizations in their dedication toward making Santa Maria a kinder and more inclusive community. A few kind words and perhaps a photo in her column offered a welcome reward to so many who selflessly work on behalf of the community.

I know that I and so many others are sorry that the Sun has elected to discontinue her column. Both our community, and certainly the Sun, will be the less for it.

Roy Reed
Santa Maria

Dems should care about this country

Thank you, New York. You have given us one of the loudest, most arrogant representatives to serve in Congress. She lacks common sense and has absolutely no scruples about leaving the truth far behind when she comments on everything and anything.

Who, you ask? AOC (Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez).

Her latest fabrication is that Border Patrol agents are forcing immigrants to drink from toilets. Most everything else she claimed to be taking place in detention centers was a lie also. A group of Latino pastors toured the same facilities she did and were shocked to find nothing she claimed was true.

Politicians are known for stretching the truth but this is way beyond a stretch. My question to her, all other Democrats who care more for illegals than U.S. citizens, and the Democrat

candidates for president is: Why don't you show the same outrage over the poor in this country. Why aren't you holding photo ops in Chicago or Detroit or impoverished areas in this country. Who elected you to represent those sneaking into our country, and why are you trying to give them free medical care, driver's licenses, food stamps, and legal representation when your own constituents have to pay for all these things and pay higher taxes so you can give the above benefits to millions of non-citizens.

Democrats are no friends to the citizens of this country. They deny the crisis and refuse to fund any attempt to tighten the border. Then they feign moral outrage over the illegals they encourage to come here with the lure of all these freebies.

AOC voted twice against money for the border facilities and then has the gall to blame the Border Patrol for conditions that she fabricates. Shame on you AOC, and shame on New York if that is the best they can elect.

Ellis Romero
Santa Maria

It comes down to respect

I always look for the new edition of the Sun Thursday afternoons in the Village Center and was wondering why after three days the news rack still was bare. So Saturday I drove around to see where if anywhere was the Sun. I finally located some and wondered if it was the "Pride" front page (June 27) that was the problem. Did some stores, if asked, decline to have this issue in the rack? Did someone not connected with the business grab the papers and dump them in the trash?

The articles presented by Camillia Lanham, Zac Ezzone, and Kasey Bubnash were serious journalistic essays concerning a social reality that I think most people interact with every day. I found them informative.

I think the Sun's front page gave the impression that they were part of the "gay" celebration, and the column headline "Queer and ready for a beer" belied the serious reporting of the social changes that are reflected in our communities. All in all, the Sun's editorial decisions were counterproductive to establishing not so much a dialogue but an insight to where we as a

community stand about diversity.

The reaction to the Sun's front page is the same as any agenda that is forced on the general public to accept or even embrace. Vegans who demonstrate trying to shame or boycott, anti-fur demonstrators spilling blood on fur coats, climate-change apostles suing the opposition are all characteristics of fascism.

We don't need special laws to protect any class of citizen. All men were created equal. The laws that protect any person protects all. We are free to form groups of like-minded people. It's called freedom of association. Most of all we need to respect another person's space.

Jan Lipski
Vandenberg Village

Put safety first in Oceano

On July 11 in SLO, the California Coastal Commission will discuss the Oceano Dunes State Vehicular Recreation Area permit and transitioning the park to passive uses that don't harm the environment and our communities. A study is being trotted out to prop up the position that without off-roading, the local economy would crash. This is rubbish, as it doesn't account for the normal, non-vehicular beach tourism that would replace ATV tourism.

No area of the California coast is suffering because they don't allow vehicles on their beaches. One need only contrast the economies of thriving Pismo Beach, which banned vehicles decades ago, and depressed Oceano, where such use continues, to see that off-roaders are not essential to success—and, in fact, they are a drag on the nearest community.

Further, the study was performed by a company owned by a self-styled adventure motorcycle rider and included areas in Pismo Beach such as the monarch butterfly grove. Still, "ATV riding" barely managed a 4 percent majority over beach campfires and looking at the sunset.

Let's make Oceano Beach safe for sunset strolls.
Cynthia Replogle
president

Oceano Beach Community Association

Ignore bogus reports

Please stop quoting the State Parks' 2017 bogus Economic Impact Report. There has never been an independent, unbiased study of the financial impacts of the Oceano Dunes State Vehicular Recreation Area!

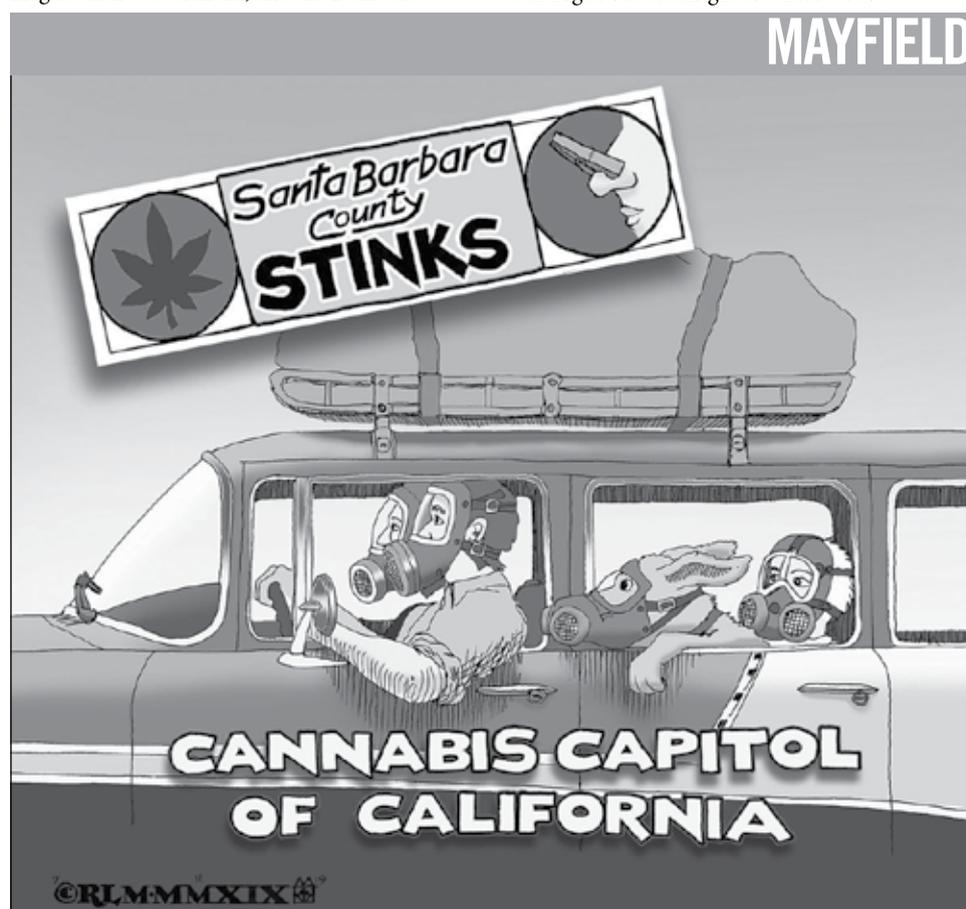
The deceptive "report" issued by State Parks was conducted by a marketing firm, SMG Consulting, whose president is a self-proclaimed "adventure motorcycle rider." The survey area included the Monarch Butterfly Preserve, and questions were approved solely by State Parks. It failed to include any negative impacts such as trash, sand removal, or emergency services—sheriff or Cal Fire. Just 909 surveys were returned.

Visit Oceano and it's clear to see the economic reality. People come with their \$100,000 RVs and ATVs, and camp. They do not visit local hotels or restaurants.

Pismo Beach and Oceano each have approximately 8,000 residents, but the yearly operating budget for Pismo Beach is \$38 million. The budget for the Oceano Community Services District is less than \$6 million. Cayucos, Avila Beach, Cambria, and Morro Bay are booming towns while Oceano is struggling.

We in Oceano would welcome an independent, full-cost accounting report. The California Coastal Commission's environmental justice policy specifically directs the Coastal Commission to ignore bogus reports—so stop.

Bonita Ernst
Oceano



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1501 W. Central · Lompoc
5473 Overpass Rd · Santa Barbara

Santa Barbara County Animal Shelter
548 W. Foster Road, Santa Maria

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SantaMariaSun.com

OPINION

55 nonfiction

For the last several decades, New Times and the Sun have brought you reader-submitted stories for the annual 55 Fiction contest. Each year, hundreds of entries come from all over the coast and world. This year I'm joining in on the fun, in hopes of pissing off the masses with fewer words than ever before.



Sex offenders' advocates?

Here's a new one—a group advocating for fewer restrictions on where convicted sex offenders can live. The Alliance for Constitutional Sex Offense Laws filed a lawsuit against Lompoc for what it says are unconstitutional residency restrictions on sex offenders. Maybe it's just me and Lompoc, but I don't want sexual assailants near my nest.

But on the other hand ...

Some, including the California Supreme Court, say the residency restrictions placed on sex offenders do almost nothing to protect the communities said sex offenders live in and instead actually make it more difficult to monitor and rehabilitate convicted sex offenders. That makes sense to me, so I guess I have a lot to think about.

Ego death

For maybe the first time, I don't know where I stand on an issue.

Who am I? Where are my heavy-handed opinions if not fluttering about in my bird brain?

Tweet

I call out to my opinions. No response.

Then I remember a story we wrote last week and the reaction that ruffled me so.

Regarding last week's story, 'Living in fear'

Have you guys ever thought, even for one second, that a link to our story about how the rhetoric surrounding immigration is impacting the well-being of children is not a good place to shoot out careless anti-immigration sentiments? We get it. You guys think illegal immigrants are worthless criminals. But what about their kids? O

The Canary has a newfound respect for 55 Fiction winners. Send thoughts to canary@santamariasun.com.

HOT STUFF

JULY 11 – JULY 18
2019



MISSION ACCOMPLISHED

La Purisima Mission hosts its Children's Mission Life event on Saturday, July 20, from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. The event features several hands-on activities for kids of all ages. The mission is located at 2295 Purisima Road, Lompoc. Call (805) 733-3713 or visit lapurisimamission.org to find out more.

—Caleb Wiseblood

FILE PHOTO COURTESY OF LA PURISIMA MISSION

SPECIAL EVENTS

SANTA YNEZ VALLEY

LAGERVILLE An invitational beer festival, at Figueroa Mountain Brewing Co. Brings together craft beer brewers and fans in an intimate setting to celebrate historical and approachable lagers. **July 13**, 11 a.m.-4 p.m. lagerville.com/. Figueroa Mountain Brewing Co., 45 Industrial Way, Buellton, (805) 694-2252.

LOMPOC/VANDENBERG

ANNUAL LOMPOC VALLEY KENNEL CLUB DOG SHOW The show features breeds performing in obedience, specialty work, and other categories. **July 27**, 8 a.m.-5 p.m. explorelompoc.com. Ryon Park, 800 W. Ocean Ave., Lompoc.

SANTA MARIA VALLEY/LOS ALAMOS

2019 SANTA BARBARA COUNTY FAIR This annual, agriculturally oriented county fair features carnival rides, live entertainment, demos, exhibits, kids activities, and more. Call or go online for full schedule of events and concerts. Through July 14 805-925-8824. santamariafairpark.com. Santa Maria Fairpark, 937 S. Thornburg St., Santa Maria.

THE MAGIC OF READING WITH CHRISTOPHER LOPEZ Magician Christopher Lopez will be performing. **July 15**, 4-5 p.m. Free. 805-925-0994. cityofsantamaria.org/city-government/departments/library. Santa Maria Public Library, 421 S. McClelland St., Santa Maria.

PACK FOR THE FUTURE: SCHOOL SUPPLY COMMUNITY EVENT Calvary Chapel of Santa Maria would like to invite you and your family to the Pack For The Future school supply community event. More than 200 backpacks and other school supplies were given away last year. **July 27**, 1-4 p.m. 805-922-1822. Calvary Chapel Santa Maria, 2620 Santa Maria Way, Santa Maria, ccsantamaria.com.

TEEN MURDER MYSTERY NIGHT Teens will help solve the Chronicles of Zombie Town mystery by acting out the play. **July 19**, 4-5:30 p.m. Free. 805-925-0994. cityofsantamaria.org/city-government/departments/library. Santa Maria Public Library, 421 S. McClelland St., Santa Maria.

SOUTH COAST SLO COUNTY

CELEBRATING ONE YEAR! Lila's Young Artists will be showcasing their favorite pieces. All ages welcome.

July 13, 11 a.m.-2 p.m. Free. 805-668-2125. Lila Creative Community, 1147 East Grand Ave. Suite 101, Arroyo Grande, lila.community.

SUMMER UNDER THE STARS Celebrate summer with a week of friends, food, drinks, games, music, and movies. **July 11**, 4-7 p.m. \$25-\$70. 805-773-5000. The Cliffs Hotel and Spa, 2757 Shell Beach Rd, Pismo Beach, cliffshotelandpsa.com.

SAN LUIS OBISPO

35TH ANNUAL CENTRAL COAST RENAISSANCE FESTIVAL Features live entertainment, food, drinks, and more than 50 crafters selling unique arts, crafts, and sundry goods. **July 20-21** \$15-\$27. CCRenFaire.com. Laguna Lake Park, 504 Madonna Rd., San Luis Obispo.

BARRELLED CRAFT WINE FAIR SLO Brew and Makeshift Makers Market are coming together to host a full day of local music, intimate craft wine tasting, and a wide variety of creative small vendor shopping. **July 21**, 12-5 p.m. \$20 for wine tasting. 909 280 1567. ticketweb.com. SLO Brew Rock, 855 Aerovista Pl., San Luis Obispo.

CENTRAL COAST PRIDE DRAG SHOW Hosted by SLO's Tommi Rose, this year the Playgirls feature stars from RuPaul's Drag Race. Please bring cash to tip our drag queens. Bar accepts cash and credit. **July 12**, 6:30 & 8:30 p.m. slopride.com/events/pride-drag-show/. SLO Guild Hall, 2880 Broad St., San Luis Obispo, 805-543-0639.

PRIDE AFTER PARTY As Pride in the Plaza wraps up, wander downtown to The Libertine Brewing Company for the Pride After Party. Features a DJ, drinks, and dancing. All ages welcome. **July 14**, 5:30-9:30 p.m. Free. slopride.com/events/#list. Libertine Brewing Company, 1234 Broad St., San Luis Obispo, 805-548-2337.

PRIDE IN THE PLAZA Located in SLO's historic Mission Plaza, Pride in the Plaza is the highlight of pride weekend on the Central Coast. The festival is free to the public and features a full afternoon of live entertainment. **July 14**, noon Free. slopride.com/events/pride-in-plaza/.

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. 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.

the-plaza/. Mission Plaza, 989 Chorro St, San Luis Obispo.

TECHNICOLOR UNICORN PARTY: OFFICIAL CENTRAL COAST PRIDE PARTY Produced by local organizers, SLO Queerdos. DJ SUZ will be keeping everyone dancing as guests celebrate every color of the rainbow in a technicolor dream. Features performances throughout the night by local drag queens. Hosted by the San Francisco bay area's Mahlae Balenciaga. Proceeds benefit Central Coast Pride. **July 13**, 10 p.m. slopride.com/events/official-pride-party/. SLO Brew, 736 Higuera St., San Luis Obispo, 805-543-1843.

NORTH SLO COUNTY

2019 MISS CMSF PAGEANT This Mid-State Fair event takes place on the Frontier Stage. Contestants of this annual pageant are to be announced. **July 16**, 7 p.m. Free. 805-239-0655. midstatefair.com. Paso Robles Event Center, 2198 Riverside Ave., Paso Robles.

CALIFORNIA MID-SATE FAIR 2019 This annual fair features carnival rides, live entertainment, demonstrations, kids activities, and more. Call or go online for full schedule of events and concerts. **July 17-28**, noon-midnight. Varies. 805-239-0655. midstatefair.com. Paso Robles Event Center, 2198 Riverside Ave., Paso Robles.

CAREER FAIR AT THE FAIR This educational and entertaining attraction can be found in the Edna Valley Barn, providing information and opportunities for men and women to find local careers. Learn how to become a carpenter, plumber, mason, or electrician. **July 17-28** 805-239-0655. midstatefair.com. Paso Robles Event Center, 2198 Riverside Ave., Paso Robles.

CATTLEMEN AND FARMERS DAY This Mid-State Fair event includes cow dog trials, commercial cattle pens judging, a barbecue lunch, a ranch horse class, an industrial arts program, and more. **July 18**, 8:15 a.m.-6:30 p.m. 805-239-0655. midstatefair.com. Paso Robles Event Center, 2198 Riverside Ave., Paso Robles.

ICE CREAM ZOO FARI Enjoy ice cream and seeing all the animals at the zoo. **July 13**, 5:30-8:30 p.m. \$8-\$12;

free for ages 2 and under. 805-461-5080. Charles Paddock Zoo, 9100 Morro Rd., Atascadero.

KIDS DAY AT THE FAIR Kids ages 12 and under get into the Mid-State Fair for free during this special event. **July 22** 805-239-0655. midstatefair.com. Paso Robles Event Center, 2198 Riverside Ave., Paso Robles.

MONSTER TRUCKS WITH BIKES & BULLS Features three monster trucks from StraightUp Racing. Fans will have a chance to be a part of the up-close and personal pre-show "Pit Party" where they can walk into the arena and stand next to the vehicles, plus take part in the monster truck ride. **July 28**, 7 p.m. midstatefair.com. Paso Robles Event Center, 2198 Riverside Ave., Paso Robles, 805-238-9607.

TUESDAYS IN THE PARK BARBECUE Enjoy a tri tip and chicken barbecue dinner. Features live music by the Atascadero Community Band from 7 to 8 p.m. Tuesdays, 5-7 p.m. through Aug. 27 VisitAtascadero.com. Atascadero Lake Park, 9305 Pismo Ave., Atascadero, 461-5000.

WINE INDUSTRY AWARDS AND GOLD MEDAL TASTING Join the Central Coast Wine Community in celebrating this year's award-winning wines and wine industry members. Features a walk-around tasting of the gold medal winners of the Central Coast Wine Competition plus a special presentation honoring this year's top industry awards. **July 19**, 5 p.m. 805-239-0655. midstatefair.com. Paso Robles Event Center, 2198 Riverside Ave., Paso Robles.

NORTH COAST SLO COUNTY

VITAMIN SEA: SILENT MINI RETREAT ON THE BEACH Locals and visitors, including teens, are invited to this mindfulness-based stress-reduction event to re-balance your nervous system. No experience required. Pre-registration required. **July 14**, 12:30-4 p.m. \$40. 805-270-5523. mindfulkindfulyouniversity.com/retreats/. Morro Bay Strand State Beach, 150 Azure St, Morro Bay.

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.

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FILE PHOTO COURTESY OF THE SANTA BARBARA COUNTY FAIR

GO PIG OR GO HOME

The Santa Barbara County Fair runs through Sunday, July 14, at Santa Maria Fairpark. This annual event features livestock auctions, carnival games, rides, educational exhibits, live entertainment, and more. The Fairpark is located at 937 S. Thornburg St., Santa Maria. Visit santamariafairpark.com to find out more.

—C.W.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

INTRODUCTORY BALLET 2 Wednesdays, 6 p.m. and Fridays everybodycandance.webs.com. Everybody Can Dance, 628 S. McClelland St., Santa Maria, 805-937-6753.

INTRODUCTORY BALLET 3 Wednesdays, 6 p.m. everybodycandance.webs.com. Everybody Can Dance, 628 S. McClelland St., Santa Maria, 805-937-6753.

MUSIC LESSONS Learn acoustic or electric guitar, mandolin, ukulele, bass, piano, violin, drums, percussion, voice, mandolin, banjo, saxophone, and/or clarinet. The academy offers private lessons by the hour or half hour for all age groups and ability. ongoing 805-925-0464. Coelho Academy of Music, 325 E. Betteravia Road, Santa Maria.

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

PRESCHOOL CRAFT TIME EXPRESS Craft time designed for preschoolers ages 3 to 5. July 11, 4-5 p.m. Free. 805-925-0994. cityofsantamaria.org/city-government/departments/library. Santa Maria Public Library, 421 S. 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.

SUMMER READING PROGRAM Kids, teens, and adults can earn prizes for reading over the summer. Mondays-Saturdays. through Aug. 3 Free. 805-925-0994. cityofsantamaria.org/city-government/departments/library. Santa Maria Public Library, 421 S. McClelland St., Santa Maria.

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

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

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

SPECIAL ART EVENTS

SANTA YNEZ VALLEY

BOOK SIGNING WITH ROBERT ERINGER Is he hallucinating? Or is our hero actually travelling into vintage photographs? Robert Eringer takes you on a journey unlike any other with "Last Flight Out". July 17, 3-4 p.m. 805-688-6010. facebook.com/events/462602497882804/. The Book Loft, 1680 Mission Dr., Solvang.

SANTA MARIA VALLEY/LOS ALAMOS

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

SAN LUIS OBISPO

2019 CACTUS AND SUCCULENT SOCIETY OF AMERICA CONVENTION AND PLANT SALE The biennial convention in San Luis Obispo. Open to the public. July 18-19, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Free. cssainc.org. San Luis Obispo Vets' Hall, 801 Grand Ave., San Luis Obispo, 805-781-5930.

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. pavlogallery.com. Pavlov Art Gallery, 1608 Copenhagen Dr., Ste C, Solvang.

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

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.

LOCAL ART AND ARTISTS: CONTINUING SERIES An ongoing series of shows, facilitated by advisor Terry Dworaczky, to spotlight local art and artists. Each show includes an artist reception. ongoing Ameriprise Financial, 2605 S Miller St., Suite 104, Santa Maria.

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

STAGE

SANTA YNEZ VALLEY

SOLVANG FESTIVAL THEATER: 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. Through July 28 Solvang Festival Theater, 420 2nd St., Solvang, 805-928-7731.

SANTA MARIA VALLEY/LOS ALAMOS

MARIAN THEATRE: THE ADDAMS FAMILY A musical comedy based on the classic TV series. July

18-27 Marian Theatre, 800 S. College Dr., Santa Maria, 805-928-7731, pcca.org.

SOUTH COAST SLO COUNTY

INTERACTIVE MURDER MYSTERY DINNER THEATRE Enjoy a murder mystery play and dinner. Presented by Murder in Mind Productions. July 14, 5-7 p.m. \$55. 805-489-3875. murdererinmind.com. F. McClintocks Saloon & Dining House, 750 Mattie Rd, Shell Beach.

SAN LUIS OBISPO

JULY COMEDY Features Bob Fernandez (Grass Valley), Michael Zalusky (Paso Robles), Geoffrey Eggleston, and Curtis Cook (LA). Hosted by Sal España. July 13, 7-10 p.m. Free. 805-868-7133. 7Sisters Brewing Company, 181 Tank Farm Rd. Suite 110, San Luis Obispo, 7SistersBrewing.com.

SHAKESPEARE FESTIVAL Features two comedies: *Twelfth Night* by Shakespeare and an adaptation of *Treasure Island*. Bring picnic, chairs, and blankets. Food and wine available for purchase. July 11-Aug. 3 \$12-\$20. 805-489-4196. centralcoastshakespeare.org. Filippioni Ranch, 1850 Calle Joaquin, San Luis Obispo.

SLOLIO: A GATHERING OF TRUE STORIES AT LINNAEA'S SLOlio, the monthly storytelling events at Linnaea's, are for anyone who has a true story to share based on a theme and that can be told without notes. July 17, 7-9 p.m. Free. 805-995-2867. slolio.org. Linnaea's Cafe, 1110 Garden St., San Luis Obispo.

CULTURE & LIFESTYLE

LECTURES & LEARNING

SANTA YNEZ VALLEY

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

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

CULTURE & LIFESTYLE continued page 20

PHOTO COURTESY OF STAMPIN' UP



SHINE ON

Stampin' Up demonstrator Jeanne Kooker will be hosting card crafting classes at Simply Chic on Thursday, July 18, and Saturday, July 20, at 11 a.m. and 2 and 5 p.m. each day. Participants will create four different cards. Admission ranges from \$25 to \$35. The store is located at 131 W. Dana St., Nipomo. Call (702) 742-1980 for more info.

—C.W.

Supporting local journalism, one ticket at a time.



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



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



High Tea on the Blue Deck
SATURDAY, JULY 13
Fundraiser for SLO Master Chorale



SLO Blues Baseball
SEASON TICKETS AVAILABLE!
NOW THROUGH JULY 26
Sinsheimer Stadium



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



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



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



Wine & Dine Independence Day Celebration
SATURDAY, JULY 13
Wild Coyote Estate Winery



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



Unfinished Business
SATURDAY, JULY 13
Point San Luis Lighthouse



Salads + Dressings 101
SATURDAY, JULY 13
Buttonwood Farm Winery & Vineyard



Circle of Friends Victorian Game Night
FRIDAY, JULY 19
Giuseppe's Italian Restaurant



QUILTERS
JULY 19-AUGUST 11
Cambria Center for the Arts Theatre



The 35th Annual Central Coast Renaissance Festival
JULY 20 & 21
Laguna Lake Park



Afternoon at Calcareous: A Cambria Scarecrow Festival Fundraiser
SATURDAY, JULY 20
Calcareous Vineyards



Café Musique Unplugged
SATURDAY, JULY 20
Old Santa Rosa Chapel



Beer Yoga
SUNDAY, JULY 21
Naughty Oak Brewing Co.

MY805TIX BOX OFFICE IS NOW OPEN

Get your tickets online or at **Boo Boo Records**, the official Box Office for My805Tix events!

Boo Boo's is located at 978 Monterey Street in SLO.

Call them at 805-541-0657.



Santa Maria Philharmonic presents 'Pops on the Lawn' with Café Musique
SUNDAY, JULY 21
Santa Maria Country Club



Pizza Making 101 Workshop
THURSDAY, JULY 25
Talley Vineyards



Festival Mozaic: A Flamenco Evening with Illeana Gomez
FRIDAY, JULY 26
Dana Adobe Cultural Center



Little Women - The Broadway Musical
SELECT SHOWTIMES; AUGUST 2-18
Park Street Ballroom



Dave Stamey Live in Concert
SATURDAY, AUGUST 3
Dana Adobe Cultural Center



Alice Wallace with Tanbark
SUNDAY, AUGUST 4
Peter Strauss Ranch



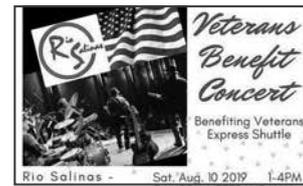
Roy Zimmerman in Concert
TUESDAY, AUGUST 6
Morro Bay Wine Seller



Paella Under the Pergola: A Cambria Scarecrow Festival Fundraiser
SATURDAY, AUGUST 10
Bassetti Ranch



Bee Gees Gold The Tribute
SATURDAY, AUGUST 10
Rava Wines + Events



Veteran's Benefit Concert
SATURDAY, AUGUST 10
UCP/Ride-On



Zongo All-Stars
SATURDAY, AUGUST 10
Point San Luis Lighthouse



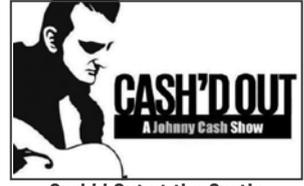
Resonance Presents: ROOTS
SATURDAY, AUGUST 10
Mission San Luis Obispo de Tolosa



Sunset Wines & Full Moon Vines
SATURDAY, AUGUST 10
Doce Robles Winery & Vineyard



Form Over Function 7
SATURDAY, AUGUST 10
Presqu'le Winery



Cash'd Out at the Castle
SATURDAY, AUGUST 10
Tooth & Nail Winery



2019 Central Coast Cider Fest
SATURDAY, AUGUST 10
Pavillion on the Lake



2019 Cider Festival Brunch Seminar
SUNDAY, AUGUST 11
Rotunda at Atascadero City Hall



Laughter Festival
SUNDAY, AUGUST 11
The Victorian Estate



Tribute to Craig Louis Dingman
TUESDAY, AUGUST 13
Morro Bay Wine Seller



Family Camping with Applynx Adventures-Santa Cruz Island
AUGUST 13-15
Santa Cruz Island

LOMPOC/VANDENBERG

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

SANTA MARIA VALLEY/LOS ALAMOS

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

CLUBS & MEETINGS

SANTA MARIA VALLEY/LOS ALAMOS

ANIME CLUB FOR TEENS Club for teens interested in anime or manga. **July 12**, 4:30-5:30 p.m. Free. 805-925-0994. cityofsantamaria.org/city-government/departments/library. Santa Maria Public Library, 421 S. McClelland St., Santa Maria.

BOARD OF LIBRARY TEENS (BOLT) Teens help plan upcoming teen events and make changes in the teen zone. **July 20**, 10-11 a.m. Free. 805-925-0994. Santa Maria Public Library, 421 S. McClelland St., Santa Maria.

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

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. 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. Merrill Gardens, 1220 N Suez 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/. Toyota of Santa Maria, 700 E Beteravia Rd., Santa Maria.

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

TRI CITY SOUND CHORUS OF SWEET ADELINES INTERNATIONAL Welcomes all women who are

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

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

SUPPORT GROUPS

SANTA MARIA VALLEY/LOS ALAMOS

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

SOUTH COAST SLO COUNTY

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

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

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

FILE PHOTO COURTESY OF THE GREAT AMERICAN MELODRAMA



FACING MY WATERLOO

The Great American Melodrama presents Pappa Pia!, a musical parody of ABBA's Mamma Mia!, through Saturday, Sep. 21. Each performance is followed by The Great American Vaudeville Revue, an Americana-themed sketch show. The theater is located at 1863 Front St., Oceano. Call (805) 489-2499 or visit americanmelodrama.com for tickets, showtimes, and more info.

—C.W.

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

SAN LUIS OBISPO

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

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

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

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

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. helpingparentshel.org. Crows End Retreat, 6430 Squire Ct., San Luis Obispo.

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. Does not meet in January. Fourth Tuesday of every month, 5:30-6:45 p.m. Free. 805-544-2086. namislo.org. St. Stephen's Episcopal Church, 1344 Nipomo St., San Luis Obispo.

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

CREATE & LEARN

SANTA MARIA VALLEY/LOS ALAMOS

CARD MAKING Tuesdays, 9 a.m. oasisorcutt.org. Oasis Senior Center, 420 Soares Ave., Orcutt, 805-937-9750.

CRAFTY AFTERNOON Craft program for kids aged 6 to 12. Third Wednesday of every month, 4-5 p.m. through Aug. 21 Free. 805-925-0994. Santa Maria Public Library, 421 S. McClelland St., Santa Maria.

KNITTING AND CROCHETING Wednesdays, 9:30 a.m. oasisorcutt.org. Oasis Senior Center, 420 Soares Ave., Orcutt, 805-937-9750.

LEGO CLUB Meet with other Lego fans and build together. The library will supply the Lego's. **July 18**, 4-5 p.m. Free. 805-925-0994. Santa Maria Public Library, 421 S. McClelland St., Santa Maria.

SUMMER MAKERSPACE It's time to create, build, explore, and use your imagination at the Santa Maria Public Library Maker Events. Saturdays, 10 a.m.-3 p.m. through Aug. 31 Free. 805-925-0994. Santa Maria Public Library, 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. Yoga for Mankind, 130 N Broadway, Suite B, Orcutt.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

SPORTS

SAN LUIS OBISPO

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

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

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

KIDS & FAMILY

SANTA MARIA VALLEY/LOS ALAMOS

BILINGUAL STORY TIME: HORA DE CUENTOS

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

FAMILY AFTERNOON STORY TIME Features stories, movies, and a craft. Tuesdays, 4-5 p.m. through July 23 Free. 805-925-0994. Santa Maria Public Library, 421 S. McClelland St., Santa Maria.

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

LEGO ROBOTICS SUMMER CAMP Launch your child into orbit with Orcutt Academy's Spartatroniks Robotics Team. Campers will learn to program FIRST LEGO League robots through a space-themed maze and operate drones. For ages 8 to 14. **July 15-19**, 1-5 p.m. \$125-\$150. 805-928-8414. smvdiscoverymuseum.org/summer-camps-2/. Santa Maria Valley Discovery Museum, 705 S. McClelland St., Santa Maria.

MOVIE NIGHT The Santa Maria Library offers free movie nights to patrons. **July 15**, 3-5 p.m. Free. Santa Maria Public Library, 421 S. McClelland St., Santa Maria, 805-925-0994.

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.

SUMMER CAMPS AT SMVDM Summer Camps are open for registration. Check site for more details. **July 15-Aug. 9** \$125-\$150. 805-928-8414. smvdiscoverymuseum.org/summer-camps-2/. Santa Maria Valley Discovery Museum, 705 S. McClelland St., Santa Maria.

TEEN GAMING FRIDAYS Teens, join us on select Fridays for an afternoon of gaming. **July 26**, 4-5:30 p.m. 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.

INTUITIVE GUIDANCE SESSIONS Certified Intuitive and Evidential, Spiritual Medium, Julie Renee Medley offers 1/2 private readings. Please call to set an appointment or for consultation. ongoing \$60 per 1/2 hour or sliding fee can be utilized. 937-271-5646. CovenTree: Books and Gifts, 722 E Main St., Santa Maria.

VOLUNTEERS

SAN LUIS OBISPO

DRESS A CHILD AROUND THE WORLD Welcoming volunteers to sew simple dresses and shorts for children in developing countries around the world, enabling them to attend school. Please bring a sewing machine in good operating order. Fabric and notions are provided. Third Thursday of every month, 1-4 p.m. Free. 805-441-8031. United Church of Christ (Congregational) of San Luis Obispo, 11245 Los Osos Valley Rd., 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. felinenetwork.org. San Luis Obispo, Citywide, SLO.

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

HOSPICE SLO COUNTY: PET PEACE OF MIND VOLUNTEER TRAINING The Pet Peace of Mind program provides volunteer assistance to keep humans

and their pets together through hospice care. **July 12**, 4-7 p.m. and **July 19**, 4-7 p.m. Free to attend; donations are accepted. 805-544-2266. hospice-of-san-luis-obispo-county.networkforgood.com. Hospice SLO County, 1304 Pacific St., San Luis Obispo.

LOAN CLOSET ASSOCIATE The Riso Family Loan Closet offers short-term use of durable medical equipment to people who are in the healing and recovery process. Volunteer Position: Associate accepts donations, sanitizes and checks-out equipment, and answers phone. Mondays, Wednesdays, Fridays, 10 a.m.-2 p.m. 805-547-7025. Wilshire Community Services, 285 South St. Suite J, San Luis Obispo, wilshirecommunityservices.org.

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.

VOLUNTEER WORKDAY Join Land Conservancy staff at the Octagon Barn for a morning of landscape maintenance. **July 11**, 9 a.m.-noon, **July 13**, 9 a.m.-noon and **July 25**, 9 a.m.-noon Free. (805) 544-9096. lcslo.org/events/. Octagon Barn Center, 4400 Octagon Way, 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

PHOTO COURTESY OF THE SANTA MARIA VALLEY DISCOVERY MUSEUM



DISCOVER YOUR DESTINY

The Santa Maria Valley Discovery Museum will offer various types of summer camps from Monday, July 15, through Friday, Aug. 9. Some of the camp options include Discovery Animators: Stop-Action, where participants will create stop-action films, and LEGO Robotics Camp, where campers will learn how to program robots with Orcutt Academy's Robotics Team. Visit smvdiscoverymuseum.org to find out more.

—C.W.

FOOD & DRINK

FARMERS MARKETS

LOMPOC/VANDENBERG

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

SANTA MARIA VALLEY/LOS ALAMOS

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

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

SOUTH COAST SLO COUNTY

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

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

SAN LUIS OBISPO

p.m. and Saturdays, Sundays, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. 805-693-8864. kalyrawinery.com. Kalyra Winery, 343 N. Refugio Road, Santa Ynez.

LOMPOC/VANDENBERG

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

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

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

SOUTH COAST SLO COUNTY

MALENE UNDER THE STARS The Malene Airstream is back at The Cliffs. Sip a glass of chilled rosé, listen to live music, and enjoy complimentary pizza and pasta with a drink purchase. Music starts at 4 p.m. **July 11**, 4-7 p.m. Free; beverages for purchase. 805-773-5000. cliffshotelandspa.com. The Cliffs Hotel and Spa, 2757 Shell Beach Rd, Pismo Beach. ☺

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LOCAL NOTES

PHOTOS COURTESY OF THE SANTA BARBARA COUNTY FAIR

Live Music

SANTA YNEZ VALLEY

CLAUDE HOPPER LIVE Food and drinks available for purchase. No outside food or drinks allowed. **July 13**, 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.

THE EXCELLENT TRADESMEN LIVE Food and drinks available for purchase. No outside food or drinks allowed. **July 19**, 6-9 p.m. Cold Spring Tavern, 5995 Stagecoach Rd., Santa Barbara, 805-967-0066, coldspringtavern.com/entertainment.html.

GRASS MOUNTAIN LIVE Food and drinks available for purchase. No outside food or drinks allowed. **July 20**, 6-9 p.m. Cold Spring Tavern, 5995 Stagecoach Rd., Santa Barbara, 805-967-0066, coldspringtavern.com/entertainment.html.

GREEN FLAG SUMMER LIVE Food and drinks available for purchase. No outside food or drinks allowed. **July 13**, 1-4 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.

SOUL BISCUIT LIVE Food and drinks available for purchase. No outside food or drinks allowed. **July 21**, 4:30-7:30 p.m. Cold Spring Tavern, 5995 Stagecoach Rd., Santa Barbara, 805-967-0066, coldspringtavern.com/entertainment.html.

STRAY HERD LIVE Food and drinks available for purchase. No outside food or drinks allowed. **July 12**, 6-9 p.m. Cold Spring Tavern, 5995 Stagecoach Rd., Santa Barbara, 805-967-0066, coldspringtavern.com/entertainment.html.

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

TERESA RUSSELL AND COCIBILLI LIVE Food and drinks available for purchase. No outside food or drinks allowed. **July 14**, 4:30 p.m. Cold Spring Tavern, 5995 Stagecoach Rd., Santa Barbara, 805-967-0066, coldspringtavern.com/entertainment.html.

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

TOM BUENGER AND TERESA RUSSELL Food and drinks available for purchase. No outside food



ALL CLAY AND NO PAY: Admission to Clay Walker's concert at the Santa Barbara County Fair on **Thursday, July 11**, is included with paid entry.

County flair

Clay Walker, TLC, and Maddie & Tae headline the Santa Barbara County Fair



POP ON OVER: Pop group TLC performs at the Santa Barbara County Fair on **Friday, July 12**.

BY CALEB WISEBLOOD

Dancing to live music is fun and all, but riding a roller coaster to live music is next-level euphoria. I'm not sure what the exact layout of this year's Santa Barbara County Fair is, but past years have offered more than a few rides in the vicinity of the KCOY Main Stage—making it feasible for adrenaline junkies like me to ride the carousel while Kenny Loggins performs “Danger Zone” only several feet away. This year's Bud Light Concert Series lineup kicked off with hip-hop artist **Ashanti** July 10 and continues through the weekend with country veteran **Clay Walker**, pop group **TLC**, and country duo **Maddie & Tae**.

Since his Billboard-topping debut single, “What's It to You,” in 1993, Walker has recorded a total of 11 country albums, including his latest opus, *Long Live the Cowboy*, which hit shelves and the interwebs in January. Walker will perform on **Thursday, July 11**, at 7:30 p.m. **TLC**—Tionne “T-Boz”



GIRLS IN A COUNTRY SONG: Country duo Maddie & Tae perform at the Santa Barbara County Fair on **Saturday, July 13**.

Watkins and Rozonda “Chilli” Thomas—takes the stage the following evening, **Friday, July 12**, at 7:30 p.m. After former member Lisa “Left Eye” Lopes was killed in a car crash in 2002, Watkins and Thomas waited 15 years to collaborate on another album, the self-titled *TLC* in 2017.

The headliner series concludes with rising country stars Madison Marlow and Taylor Dye, aka Maddie & Tae, on **Saturday, July 13**, at 7:30 p.m. The singer-songwriter duo is probably best known for their breakout album *Start Here*, which was released in 2015 and included the hit single “Girl in a Country Song.”

The fair also hosts a variety of additional acts performing at the McDonald's Center Stage, including '80s tribute group **The Molly Ringwald Project** on **Thursday, July 11**, and **Saturday, July 13**, at 6:30 and 9 p.m. both nights; Santa Barbara-based soul band **Drive-In Romeos** on **Friday, July 12**, at 6:30 and 9 p.m.; alternative rockers **Joker's Hand** on **Sunday, July 14**, at 2:30 p.m.; and pop singer **Tara Macri** the same day at 4:45 p.m.

Admission to each concert is included with paid entry to the fair. The Santa Maria Fairpark is located at 937 S. Thornburg St., Santa Maria. Call (805) 925-8824 or visit santamariafairpark.com to find out more.

Rebel with a cause

Growing up, **Jeff Elliott** only listened to jazz artists like Chet Baker, Miles Davis, Stan Getz, and Jonah Jones while his father was in the room. As soon as that wasn't the case, Elliott would rebelliously grab his guitar and play along to Beatles records, dreaming of becoming a rock star someday. But later in his 20s, Elliott began to embrace all sorts of genres, identifying himself

MUSIC LISTINGS continued page 23

LOCAL NOTES continued page 23

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PHOTO COURTESY OF JUDY LINDQUIST



CAFE CHORDS: Pianist and trumpeter Jeff Elliott performs at Cubanissimo Cuban Coffee House and Cafe on **Friday, July 12.**

TIMELY TUNES: The In Time Trio (pictured) joins Riptide Big Band for a performance at the Elwin Mussell Senior Center on **Sunday, July 14.**

LOCAL NOTES from page 22

as a “musical mutt.” Today, the trumpeter and pianist is known for playing jazz, folk, rock, funk, and big band.

Over the decades, Elliott has performed alongside James Brown, Doc Severinsen, Jimmy Messina, and countless others. The eclectic artist will be performing solo shows at Cubanissimo Cuban Coffee House and Cafe every **second Friday**, starting **July 12** and continuing through **Dec. 13**, from 7 to 9 p.m. each evening. The cafe is located at 4869 S. Bradley Road, Orcutt. Call (844) 428-2266 or visit cubanissimocafe.com for more info.

More music

Folk, rock, and Americana band **Free Radicals** play a mix of covers and originals at Solvang Park on **Friday, July 12**, from 5 to 8 p.m. Also in Solvang, local singer/songwriter **Nataly Lola** performs at The Good Life on **Saturday, July 13**, from 8 to 10:30 p.m. The Santa Ynez Valley also hosts country singer **Trace Atkins** this weekend, who performs at the Chumash Casino Resort on **Friday, July 12**, from 8 to 11 p.m.

Country, roots, and rock outfit **Stray Herd** performs at the Cold Spring Tavern off of Highway 154 on **Friday, July 12**, from 6 to 9 p.m. The tavern’s weekend lineup continues

with fellow rock acts **Green Flag Summer** (from 1 to 4 p.m.) and **Claude Hopper** (5 to 8 p.m.) on **Saturday, July 13**. The weekly series winds down with blues/rock trio **Teresa Russell and Cocobilli** on **Sunday, July 14**, from 4:30 to 7:30 p.m. Blues and rags duo **Tom Ball and Kenny Sultan** will be opening for the group, performing from 1:15 to 4 p.m.

Local blues act **Dosage Duo** will take center stage at Naughty Oak Brewing Company on **Friday, July 12**, from 6 to 9 p.m. Entry is free, and visiting vendor Valle Fresh will be selling tacos for guests to enjoy during the performance. Also in Orcutt on the same evening, **Henry Toland** will be performing a solo concert at Vino

et Amicis Wine Bar on **Friday, July 12**, from 7 to 10 p.m. Admission to the show is complimentary.

Meanwhile, further north, the Santa Maria Valley Senior Citizens Club presents the **In Time Trio**, who joins **Riptide Big Band** for a performance at the Elwin Mussell Senior Center on **Sunday, July 14**, from 1:30 to 4 p.m. The theme of this dance concert is “The Way You Wear Your Hat,” as guests are encouraged to wear their favorite hats (or ones they’ve fashioned themselves) and compete for prizes. ☉

Arts Editor Caleb Wisblood wrote this week’s Local Notes. Contact him at cwiseblood@santamariasun.com.

MUSIC LISTINGS from page 22

or drinks allowed. **July 20**, 1-4 p.m. Cold Spring Tavern, 5995 Stagecoach Rd., Santa Barbara, 805-967-0066, coldspringtavern.com/entertainment.html.

LOMPOC/VANDENBERG

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

SANTA MARIA VALLEY/LOS ALAMOS

“THE WAY YOU WEAR YOUR HAT!” The Santa Maria Valley Sr. Club presents “The Way You Wear Your Hat!”, featuring Riptide Big Band and a special performance by the “In Time Trio”. Wear your favorite hat, dance, and enjoy the music. Grant funding provided by the Community Foundation of SLO County. **July 14**, 1:30-4 p.m. Free. 775-813-5186. RiptideBB.com. Elwin Mussell Senior Center, 510 Park Ave., Santa Maria.

CLAY WALKER LIVE July 11 Santa Maria Fairpark, 937 S. Thornburg St., Santa Maria.

DOSAGE DUO LIVE July 12, 6-9 p.m. Naughty Oak Brewing Co., 165 S Broadway St Ste 102, Orcutt, 805-287-9663, naughtyoak.com.

FOXEN SECOND SUNDAYS: LIVE MUSIC AND FOOD TRUCK Every second Sunday of every month, we will have live music and a food truck on property. Second Sunday of every month, 12:30-3:30 p.m. through Feb. 10 Free. 805-937-4251. kazzit.com/event/foxen-second-sundays-live-music-and-food-truck.html. Foxen Winery & Vineyard, 7600 Foxen Canyon Rd., Santa Maria.

FOXEN SECOND SUNDAYS: LIVE MUSIC AND FOOD TRUCK Every second Sunday of every month, Foxen will have live music and a food truck on property. Second Sunday of every month, 12:30-3:30 p.m. Free admission. 805-937-4251. foxenvineyard.com. Foxen Winery & Vineyard, 7600 Foxen Canyon Rd., Santa Maria.

GLORIA MANTOOTH AND SOUL FYAH Second Saturday of every month, 6-8 p.m. Anthony’s, 859 Guadalupe St, Guadalupe, 805-219-0977.

HENRY TOLAND LIVE July 12, 7-10 p.m. Vino et Amicis, 156 S. Broadway, Orcutt, 805-631-0496, vinoetamicis.com.

JEFF ELLIOTT LIVE Elliott performs on trumpet and

piano. **July 12**, 7-9 p.m. Cubanissimo Cuban Coffee House, 4869 S. Bradley Rd., Orcutt.

LED ZEPAGAIN LIVE July 13, 6 p.m. Presqu’ile Winery, 5391 Presqu’ile Dr., Santa Maria, 805-937-8110, presquilewine.com.

LIVE MUSIC AT COSTA DE ORO Enjoy live music and complimentary appetizers every week. Thursdays, Fridays, 5-7 p.m. and Saturdays, 3-5 p.m. Free. Costa De Oro Winery, 1331 S. Nicholson Ave., Santa Maria, 805-922-1468, cdowinery.com.

MADDIE AND TAE LIVE July 13 Santa Maria Fairpark, 937 S. Thornburg St., Santa Maria.

SANTA MARIA PHILHARMONIC PRESENTS ‘POPS ON THE LAWN’ WITH CAFE MUSIQUE This Sunday afternoon event on the lawn of the Santa Maria Country Club includes a box lunch and spicy “wild classical” music by local favorite Café Musique. **July 21**, 4-7 p.m. Individual ticket \$50; table for 10 is \$450. 805-925-0412. smphilharmonic.org/event/pops-on-the-lawn-featuring-cafe-musique/. Santa Maria Country Club, 505 W. Waller Lane, Santa Maria.

SUMMER CONCERT SERIES Live acts include Back Bay Betty, The Jill Knight Band, Crispstones, Drive-In Romeos, Unfinished Business, and Sound Investment. Through Oct. 4 Trilogy at Monarch Dunes, 1640 Trilogy Pkwy, Nipomo, (805) 621-7838.

THREE 4 ALL LIVE July 19, 5:30-9 p.m. Naughty Oak Brewing Co., 165 S Broadway St Ste 102, Orcutt, 805-287-9663, naughtyoak.com.

TLC LIVE July 12 Santa Maria Fairpark, 937 S. Thornburg St., Santa Maria.

THE WAVEBREAKERS BAND PLAYS MOXIE CAFE Playing popular hits from the 1950s to ‘80s. **July 19**, 5:30-7:30 p.m. Free. 805-489-8269. moxiecafe.com/. Moxie Cafe, 1317 W. McCoy Ln., Santa Maria.

DJ/DANCE

SANTA YNEZ VALLEY

KRAZY COUNTRY HONKY-TONK THURSDAY Thursdays, 6 p.m. Maverick

Saloon, 3687 Sagunto St., Santa Ynez, 805-686-4785, mavericksaloon.org.

LOMPOC/VANDENBERG

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

PHOTO COURTESY OF CHUMASH CASINO RESORT



SEIZE THE FRAY

The Chumash Casino Resort presents The Fray on Friday, July 19, at 8 p.m. This alternative rock group is best known for hits like “How to Save a Life,” “Hurricane,” and “Singing Low.” Tickets range from \$69 to \$99. The resort is located at 3400 E. Highway 246, Santa Ynez. Call (800) 248-6274 or visit chumashcasino.com for more info.

—Caleb Wisblood

SANTA MARIA VALLEY/LOS ALAMOS

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

HULA DANCING Thursdays, 6:30 p.m. 805-598-6772. Oasis Senior Center, 420 Soares Ave., Orcutt.

LINE DANCING Mondays, 6:30-9 p.m. \$5. 805-310-1827. Oasis Senior Center, 420 Soares Ave., Orcutt.

NIGHTLIFE AT RANCHO BOWL Enjoy DJ’s 6 nights a week in the Rancho Bar and Lounge. For ages 21-and-over. Tuesdays-Sundays, 9 p.m. Free. 805-925-2405. ranchobowl.com/nightlife. Rancho Bowl, 128 E Donovan Rd., Santa Maria.

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

KARAOKE/OPEN MIC

SANTA YNEZ VALLEY

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

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

SANTA MARIA VALLEY/LOS ALAMOS

KARAOKE WITH DJ RANDY Fridays, 6:30-8:30 p.m. Anthony’s, 859 Guadalupe St, Guadalupe, 805-219-0977.

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

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

Wildling Museum exhibit highlights California national parks, monuments

PHOTO COURTESY OF THE WILDLING MUSEUM OF ART AND NATURE



Celebrating the National Lands of California, a new juried exhibition at the Wildling Museum of Art and Nature in Solvang, opens Saturday, July 20. The exhibit features 63 artworks selected from 316 entries submitted by artists across the U.S., competing for a pool of \$4,000 in cash prizes. First-, second-, and third-place winners will be announced during the artist reception, which takes place on opening day from 3 to 5 p.m. Featured locations of the artworks include the Carrizo Plain National Monument, Channel Islands National Park, Mojave National Preserve, Redwoods National Park, and Yosemite National Park among others.

"The diversity of the entries is inspiring," competition judge George Rose said in a press release from the museum. "As a native Californian who has spent a lifetime walking these parks, monuments, and preserves, judging these entries has reminded me how fortunate we are to have these lands protected for all to appreciate, and to remind us that we all play a part in preserving them for future generations."

The exhibit features works ranging from various mediums, including acrylics, oils, watercolors, block printing, and photography. Each piece is also available for sale, with 40 percent of the proceeds benefiting the museum. The exhibit will remain on display through Sunday, Jan. 20, 2020.

The Wildling Museum of Art and Nature is located at 1511 Mission Drive, unit B, Solvang. Call (805) 686-8315 or visit wildlingmuseum.org for more info.

Solvang Antiques showcases oil paintings by Dirk Foslien

IMAGE COURTESY OF DIRK FOSLIEN



Solvang Antiques will host oil painter Dirk Foslien as part of the gallery's Summer Art Series, starting Wednesday, July 17, with a Champagne reception from 2 to 6 p.m. Featured works include both still life pieces and landscapes, most of which depict local poppy fields and oak trees.

Growing up, Foslien first became interested in art through the influence of his artist father. He decided to study art while attending Muse Academy in Baltimore, Maryland, with a concentration on graphic arts and three-dimensional design. After school, Foslien worked as a production artist and graphic illustrator in the aerospace industry for six years before pursuing a career in fine art.

The exhibit will remain on display through Sunday, Aug. 18. The next featured artist in the gallery's Summer Art Series is Angie Whitson, whose exhibit opens Wednesday, Aug. 21. Solvang Antiques is located at 1693 Copenhagen Drive, Solvang. Call (805) 686-2322 or visit solvangantiques.com for more info. ○

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



IMAGE COURTESY OF KRIS BUCK

CALIFORNIA DREAMIN': Summer Bloom, a new pastel exhibit at Gallery Los Olivos, features both plein-air and studio paintings from local pastelists Kris Buck and Deborah Breedon.

Air necessities

Gallery Los Olivos showcases plein-air and studio paintings from local pastel artists

BY CALEB WISEBLOOD

There are plenty of external antagonists for Santa Barbara-based artist Kris Buck to consider before she sets out on one of her plein-air adventures—but a disruptive phone call isn't one of them.

"The cellphone is silent.

There are no distractions except whatever Mother Nature throws our way—bugs, snakes, wind, fog, heat, cold, gopher holes, etc.," Buck told the *Sun*. "I've always preferred plein-air painting because I'm out in nature, painting with friends and focused on the moment."

One of these friends is fellow plein-air artist Deborah Breedon, who also resides on the Central Coast. Both painters are also currently members of the Pastel Society of the West Coast, as well as the Pastel Society of America. Last month, Buck and Breedon attended the International Association of Pastel Societies Convention in Albuquerque, New Mexico—a biennial event where pastelists from around the world gather to share styles and techniques through demos and workshops.

The two painters' latest local team-up though is a duo show, Summer Bloom, at Gallery Los Olivos. This pastel exhibit features both plein-air and studio paintings and runs through Wednesday, July 31. The selected pieces range from broad landscapes to intimate renderings of succulents and other plant life.

"A lot of the paintings are in celebration of the pouring rain we had earlier this year, bringing us an abundant spring and spectacular summer," Breedon said, explaining the show's title and summer theme. "Kris and I have painted in many areas of Santa Barbara County, and we both look for similar attributes in the landscape that will capture the moment."

"Although Deborah lives in Lompoc and I live in Santa Barbara, we get together to paint as often

as we can," Buck said. "Our paintings often share the same view but with different perspectives."

When it comes to pastel paintings (the two artists' mutual medium of choice), Buck and Breedon both use an underpainting technique. Buck appreciates the method for the

improvisation it tends to inspire, she explained, and described the union between watercolor and pastels as a matrimony of sorts.

"Pastel artists approach their paintings in different ways, but I've embraced the marriage of a watercolor underpainting with the pastel applied on top," Buck said.

"I love the underpainting part because it's loose, transparent. It quickly sets up the painting and unexpected things can happen, like drips and drops, which I can respond to."

"Sometimes the underpainting can take me in a totally different direction, and I like that," she continued. "I try to capture and interpret the mood of the moment and not just copy the scene—a camera can do that. I want the viewer to want to be in that scene."

For Breedon, the underpainting process starts after an initial sketch and the decision is made whether to use watercolor, oil stain, or ink pencils.

"Most of my paintings start with a thumbnail sketch, identifying darks and lights—so important for plein-air—and the big shapes," Breedon said. The Lompoc-based artist



IMAGE COURTESY OF KRIS BUCK

FLOWER POWER: Santa Barbara-based artist Kris Buck painted *Sunflowers* on location during a field study in France.

taught pastels and other painting courses at Santa Barbara City College for more than a decade before segueing into teaching private workshops and lessons. The medium became her niche during college, she said, while shifting between oils, acrylics, and pastels.

"Pastels give you more freedom to explore techniques and paint outdoors, avoiding the downside of having to bring so much on site and clean up using oils and acrylics," Breedon said. "With pastels, setup and take-down are minimal."

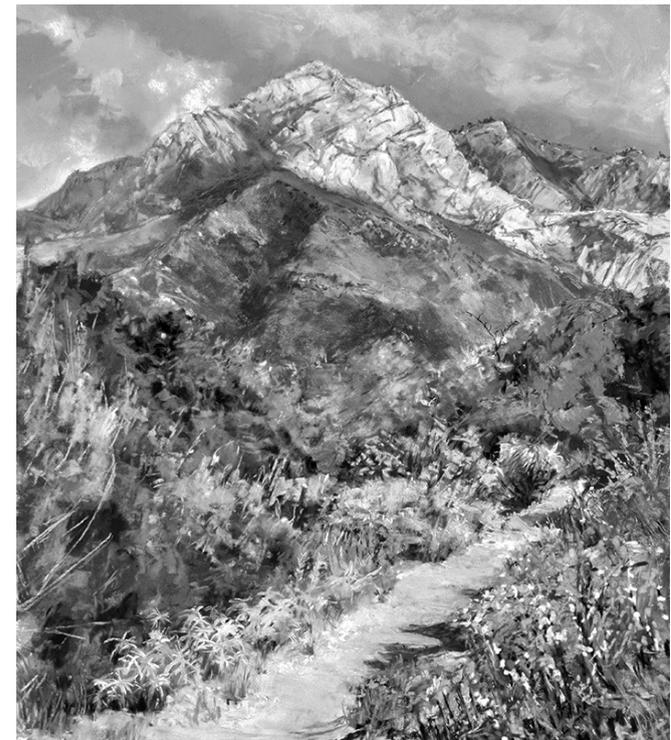
Buck also advocates for the low-maintenance of pastels when it comes to outdoor painting, one of the traits that initially attracted her to the medium. The artist first realized how accessible and convenient pastels are during a plein-air event at the Santa Barbara Botanic Garden, 17 years ago.

"A young man was painting near me, sitting on the ground with a cigar box filled with pastels," Buck said. "I noticed how quickly he could capture the scene with this dry medium and pack up."

"Plus," she added. "The color saturation was incredible." ○

Arts Editor Caleb Wiseblood is cruisin' for a bloomin'. Reach him at cwiseblood@santamariasun.com.

IMAGE COURTESY OF DEBORAH BREEDON



BOTANICAL BEAUTY: Lompoc-based artist Deborah Breedon creates landscapes of areas throughout the Central Coast, including the Santa Barbara Botanic Garden.



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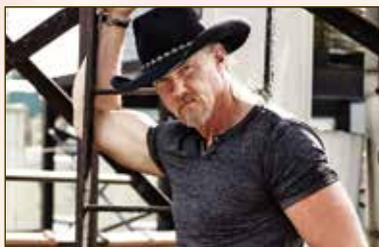
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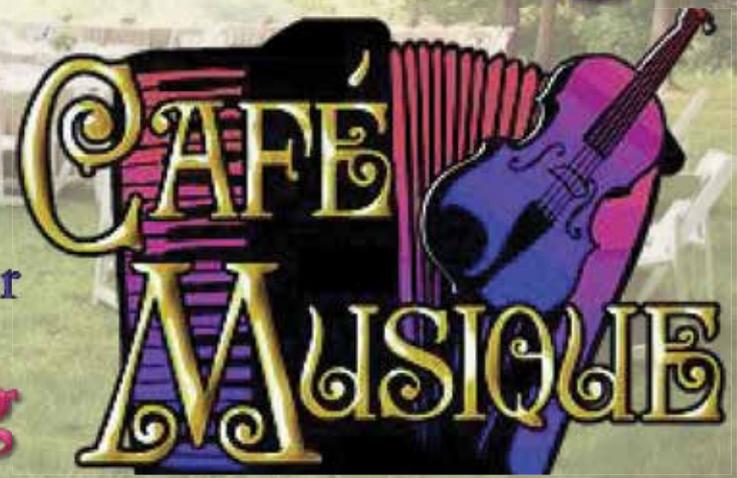
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PHOTO BY CALEB WISEBLOOD

L'EGGO MY STEGO: The Prehistoric Forest exhibit features several herbivores, including the stegosaurus.

Jurassic trek

Dinosaurs and their avian descendants reign supreme at the Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History

BY CALEB WISEBLOOD

“All major theme parks have delays. When they opened Disneyland in 1956, nothing worked!”

“Yeah, but, John, if The Pirates of the Caribbean breaks down, the pirates don't eat the tourists.”

The Jeff Goldblums of the world can rest easy, because unlike *Jurassic Park*, the dinosaurs featured at the Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History are animatronic. Still, I'm feeling a bit uneasy as I slowly approach the tyrannosaurus rex, only a few steps into the museum's Prehistoric Forest. The outdoor exhibition runs through Sept. 2 and invites guests to travel back in time to the age of the Flintstones—when man and dinosaur coexisted in anachronistic harmony.

The T-Rex tilts his head toward me as I get closer to his allotted domain, located on the banks of Mission Creek. There's some rope blocking me from advancing any farther (as if I would even try). The behemoth opens his mouth (or should I say beak?) and lets out a mighty roar before lunging in my general direction. I only back up a little bit, I swear. I'm too busy worrying about the other dinosaurs—all of which are herbivores—to fear for my own life.

I wonder which one is gonna be dinner tonight?

I ponder as I scan the rest of the exhibit's inhabitants—which include a stegosaurus (steak-o-saurus), triceratops (TRI-cera-TIP), and parasaurolophus (pear-a-saur—naa, I got nothin'). Their inevitable doom aside—whether by T-Rex or asteroid—these creatures are wondrous to behold for dinosaur lovers of all ages. The exhibit also includes an excavation area where attendees can brush sand away to reveal a dinosaur skeleton.

As my fellow archaeologists and I make our way back to the museum's main lot, we can't help but notice members of the Santa Barbara Audubon Society (SBAS) and some of their feathered friends hanging out just outside the Prehistoric Forest's exit. Eyes in the Sky is

the name of the program, which features seven birds of prey that serve as “education ambassadors” to the public. Each of these birds were rescued and rehabilitated, but they can no longer survive in the wild due to permanent disabilities.

Kisa, a peregrine falcon, for example, was found in Rancho Palos Verdes with a bullet in her shoulder. SBAS adopted her from South Bay Wildlife Rehab in 2011. We also meet Max, a great horned owl, who was found as an orphaned nestling (too young to leave the nest) in 1998. Raised by humans, Max became irreversibly imprinted and can't be released back into the wild. But since his wild instincts remain, Max has become a father figure to other orphaned owlets the SBAS has adopted (raising more than 70 for re-release back into the wild).

Next on the docket is Butterflies Alive, another outdoor exhibit included with museum admission. My friends and I stroll through the beautiful garden pavilion, which houses nearly a thousand live butterflies. I stand still for a moment, extend my arms, and open my palms, inviting the butterflies to flutter around me. I don't think they bite, but part of me hopes one of them is radioactive and I get bit—inevitably becoming a butterfly superhero. ○

Arts Editor Caleb Wiseblood is secretly Butterfly-Man. Contact him at cwiseblood@santamariasun.com.

PHOTO COURTESY OF CHRIS LAMBERT



BIRD IS THE WORD: The Santa Barbara Audubon Society adopted Kisa, a peregrine falcon, from South Bay Wildlife Rehab in 2011.



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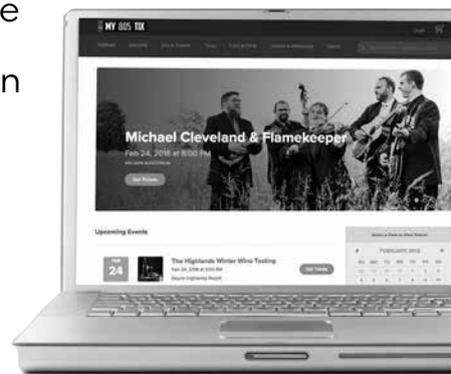


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Film Reviews

CRAWL

What's it rated? **R**
 Where's it showing? **Movies Lompoc**
NEW Alexandre Aja (*The Hills Have Eyes* (2006), *Piranha 3D*, *Horns*) directs this action-horror film about Haley Keller (Kaya Scodelario), who during a Category 5 hurricane returns to her family home to save her father, Dave (Barry Pepper), who's trapped in his flooding basement. When she arrives, however, the hurricane is the least of her problems as massive alligators make their escape increasingly unlikely. (87 min.)

—Glen Starkey

DARK PHOENIX

What's it rated? **PG-13**
 What's it worth? **Stream it**
 Where's it showing? **Hi-Way Drive-In**
 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. 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

SPIDER-MAN: FAR FROM HOME

What's it rated? **PG-13**
 What's it worth? **Matinee**
 Where's it showing? **Movies Lompoc, Parks Plaza**

PICK Jon Watts (*Spider-Man: Homecoming*, *Clown*) directs this story that follows the events of *Avengers: Endgame*. Peter Parker (Tom Holland) joins besties Ned (Jacob Batalon) and MJ (Zendaya) on a European vacation, hoping for a little heroics-free rest and relaxation, but when Nick Fury (Samuel L. Jackson) comes calling, Peter works to uncover the mystery of otherworldly attacks plaguing Europe.

Maybe I'm suffering from comic book movie overload, but this new Spider-Man installment just didn't "wow" me the way it seems to for most reviewers and audiences. Rotten Tomatoes rates it a 91 percent with critics and 96 percent with audiences. It's entertaining enough, but I don't see what all the hype is about. It's just another big-budget comic book adventure.

FILM REVIEWS continued page 30

SCORING

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NOTHING..... Don't waste your time

Dread full

Writer-director Ari Aster (*Hereditary*) helms this mystery-horror about young American couple Christian (Jack Reynor) and Dani (Florence Pugh), who travel with friends to Sweden for a once-every-90-years festival, which they soon discover is run by a pagan cult with sinister intent. (140 min.)

Glen: Like his first feature, *Hereditary*, *Midsommar* is a dread-filled exercise in the slow burn, with the occasional surprise of graphic gore. Pugh's Dani is the center of the story—a young woman who recently experienced a devastating personal loss and who's always just a thought or triggered memory away from a breakdown. Her boyfriend, Christian, clearly wants to move on without her, but he's not enough of a lout to dump her when she's grieving.

It's under that shadow that Christian reluctantly invites her to join his friends—fellow doctoral candidate Josh (William Jackson Harper), obnoxious friend Mark (Will Poulter), and Swedish friend Pelle (Vilhelm Blomgren)—to Pelle's remote communal village to observe their pagan festival. Josh is intent on doing his doctoral thesis on the ritual. Mark just wants to bed hot Swedish women. Pelle seems like a kind and gentle man and often acts as a buffer between the friends' discordant interactions. As soon as they arrive, they all take magic mushrooms, which sets the tone for a fever-dream experience that will test the friends' alliances and exacerbate the growing rift between Dani and Christian. The setting itself is idyllic—a bucolic and charming compound decorated with rune symbols and populated by beautiful Swedes dressed in white and adorned with flowers. It's also discombobulating since daylight lasts 22 hours a day and time seems abstract. Aster's pulling off the neat trick of scaring the bejesus out of his audience in the light of day instead of the dark of night. Though Pelle's "family" appears to be peaceful and serene, that hovering sense of dread is never far off. When things go off the rails, it's every person for him- or herself.

Anna: Aster has an enormous capacity for atmosphere, and the cloaking discomfort he creates feels like gasping for air through a wet cloth. The film is both wonderful and torturous—no matter the idyllic setting, dread is pervasive. From the opening shot there's a lurking sense of "uh oh," especially if you've

seen *Hereditary*. Disquieting camera angles and oppressive soundscapes quickly put the audience in panic mode much like his maiden film. Though instead of sticking with the same tricks, Aster pulls off ill ease in a different—and arguably more intricate—way with *Midsommar*. Dani is a sympathetic character, both slogging through grief and worrying she's too much and too sad for her boyfriend of four years.

MIDSOMMAR

What's it rated? **R**
 What's it worth, **Anna?** **Full price**
 What's it worth, **Glen?** **Full price**
 Where's it showing? **Santa Maria 14**

He fails to tell her of his plans for a six-week trip to Sweden, and when she accidentally finds out at a party, his only recourse is to invite her along in hopes that she'll skip the trip and leave him to party hardy with his bro friends. To say Pelle's hometown and midsummer festival are far from what the group expected is an understatement. Another one of Pelle's "brothers" brought home two friends from London—an engaged couple named Connie (Ellora Torchia) and Simon (Archie Madekwe)—forming a group of six outsiders with no idea about what's to come. The commune seems simple enough, steadfast in tradition and honoring their ancestors, but their rituals and motives for bringing in strangers become less than altruistic. Ceremony quickly turns into a visceral horror show, and the remote farmland turns into the world's worst mushroom trip. I'll say one thing—Aster did a fantastic job translating that drug-fueled reality—the world is breathing around them and won't stop spinning no matter how tightly they try and shut their eyes. It's brilliant.

Glen: His execution of drug effects on the users is both spellbinding and nauseating. I felt vaguely seasick during those scenes, which continued to grow toward the film's end. The overall effect of viewing *Midsommar* took me a good hour to shake. I actually found this film physically unsettling, which is quite a feat since most horror films just aren't scary to me. In *Midsommar*, there's such plausibility to it all, and something so realistic and natural about both the acting and the interaction and dialogue between the characters. It reminded me a little of Eli Roth's



WELCOME: An innocent-seeming cult welcomes six outsiders to their annual summer festival, but the "guests" soon discover danger's afoot.

The Green Inferno (2013), though not as tasteless, or Robin Hardy's 1973 classic *The Wicker Man*. Pugh is clearly on a roll. She was great in Stephen Merchant's *Fighting with My Family* (2019), the comedy biopic about pro female wrestler Saraya Knight, and she's in Greta Gerwig's upcoming new adaptation of *Little Women*. She's currently filming *Black Widow* with Scarlett Johansson. She's having quite the year. As for *Midsommar*, it's an amazing film, but it's not for everybody. Like I said, it pretty much made me feel sick. I recommend it with caution!

Anna: It's a tough pill to swallow and an even tougher one to wholeheartedly recommend. It's sickening and difficult, panic inducing and completely unsettling. It's like watching horror in a snow globe—a miniature world gone awry, and the more you shake it in panic, the more the view gets lost. *Midsommar* is holding pretty strong in the reviews, though critics seem to favor it more than casual viewers. My guess is that it proves too challenging—it's so unpleasant from the start and continues to be, thrown against the unequivocal beauty of the commune and ceremony. It is, as you said, physically uncomfortable. I too feel it a real feat to find true fright in film these days, but if someone has managed to hit the mark on making me squirm while still holding my breath, it's Aster. I felt a lot like I did after walking out of Darren Aronofsky's *Mother!*—astounded by the film and quite sure I never wanted to watch it again. This one takes a long while to settle; even writing this days later, I can't stop shaking my head and mumbling thought after thought on *Midsommar*. I recommend you see it, and I also apologize for that recommendation. It's too good to be missed but a tale to be suffered through at the very least. Be prepared. ○

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

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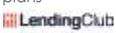
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TEETH: Haley Keller (Kaya Scodelario) returns home to save her father during a hurricane but discovers the flooding house is infested with alligators, in *Crawl*.

be getting nowhere with MJ.

When the class arrives in Venice, Italy, another Elemental shows up in the form of water, menacing everyone. Beck arrives to save the day again, and Peter works with him. Fury arrives, scolding Peter for avoiding his calls and giving him Stark's glasses, which contain an artificial intelligence system called E.D.I.T.H., which controls Stark Enterprises' weapons systems. We also learn that Beck comes from a different reality and that the Elementals killed his family.

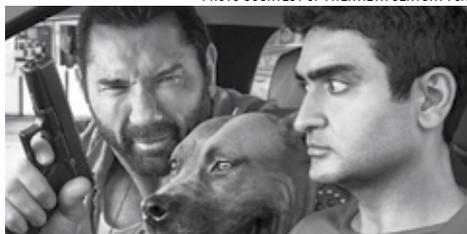
Even though Peter at first rejects Fury's call for him to fight impending Elemental attacks, Fury finds a way to involve him anyway by redirecting his school trip to Prague, where the first Elemental is predicted to strike. Things become even more contrived from there. I won't bore you with the details.

Basically, the film is flawed. Its big switcheroo is too obviously projected, Peter is too gullible (where are your "spidey senses," dude?), and the entire affair lacks the coherence of its predecessor. There's nothing I can say that will stop fans from flocking to the theater. The film's already made more than \$90 million. For me, it simply had nothing new to say—just sound and fury signifying nothing.

If you've got a couple hours to waste and need a distraction, hit a matinee. These comic book spectacles are best seen in the theater. Hopefully you'll like it more than I did. (129 min.)

—Glen

PHOTO COURTESY OF TWENTIETH CENTURY FOX



BUDDY FLICK: Vic (Dave Bautista, left), a hardnosed detective, enlists his Uber driver, mild-mannered Stu (Kumail Nanjiani), to track down a terrorist, in the comedy-action film *Stuber*.

STUBER

What's it rated? **R**

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

NEW Michael Dowse (*Take Me Home Tonight*, *Goon*) directs this action-comedy/mismatched-buddy film about Vic (Dave Bautista), a detective, who enlists his Uber driver, Stu (Kumail Nanjiani) to track down a terrorist. Can Stu survive and maintain his excellent Uber driver rating? (93 min.)

—Glen

TOY STORY 4

What's it rated? **G**

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

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

PICK Josh Cooley directs this fourth feature in the Toy Story franchise. This time around, Woody (voiced by Tom Hanks) must convince his toy pals to welcome a new addition,

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Peter is mourning the loss of Iron Man and questioning Tony Stark's belief in him. He's just a kid, after all, not a 'real' Avenger. All he really wants to do is go on his school trip to Europe, where he hopes to generate some sparks between him and MJ.

Meanwhile, a new threat is menacing Earth. We see Nick Fury and Maria Hill (Cobie Smulders) investigating an unnatural storm generated by a forces they learn are called an Elemental. As the storm rises again, a powerful new superhero named Quentin Beck (Jake Gyllenhaal) shows up to defeat the Elemental.

To remind us that Peter's just a high school kid, there's some teen drama between him and some classmates. Another boy is flirting with MJ, and even nerdy Ned manages to find a girlfriend in overachiever Betty Brant (Angourie Rice) while Peter seems to

BINGEABLE

STRANGER THINGS 3

When? **2019**

What's it rated? **TV-14**

Where's it available? **Netflix**

The Upside Down is back, and America's most cursed fictional town, Hawkins, Indiana, is in for another wonderfully frightening whirlwind of drama and destruction, in the third installment of Netflix's *Stranger Things*, which came out July 4.

Co-creators Matt and Ross Duffer made a huge splash with the show's first season in 2016 by combining '80s culture, kid heroes, and sci-fi drama to create a highly relatable small town with big, supernatural problems. The crux of the show is basically that a nearby secret government lab has caused a fissure in reality, opening up a dangerous parallel universe containing violent monsters that want to enter our world and destroy us.

Season three is set in the summer of 1985, mere months after the dramatic events of second season (which I won't spoil). The first thing you'll notice here is that our endearing youth leads are getting older. Adolescent-aged

Eleven (Millie Bobby Brown) and Mike (Finn Wolfhard) are now an inseparable couple, as are Lucas (Caleb McLaughlin) and Maxine (Sadie Sink), and the slightly older Nancy (Natalia Dyer) and Jonathan (Charlie Heaton).

Love is in the air—and the kids are enjoying the arrival of a new mega-mall in town, which, side story, is destroying Hawkins' local economy—but we know all isn't right. Our troubled protagonist, Will (Noah Schnapp), starts sensing a dark presence that's familiar and unmistakable. His inklings are backed by inexplicable power outages and strange happenings with rabid rats. Nancy, an aspiring reporter who's working as an intern at the horribly sexist *Hawkins Post*, begins investigating. Then, lovable nerd Dustin (Gaten Matarazzo) picks up a cryptic Russian communication over a radio transmitter that he built at science camp, which sends him, Steve (Joe Keery), Robin (newcomer and scene-stealing Maya Hawke), and Lucas' precocious sister, 10-year-old Erica (Priah Ferguson), on a mission to crack the code.

In essence, the Russians are trying to secretly re-penetrate the closed gate to the Upside Down, with a plasma-looking weapon. The gate isn't totally open yet, but the two worlds are starting to intermingle once again. I don't want to spoil much more about the plot



PHOTO COURTESY OF NETFLIX

DREAM TEAM: The kids from 1980s Hawkins, Indiana, are back for a third season of *Stranger Things*. This time, they're a little bit older and more complicated as they fight the next manifestation of the Upside Down.

than this. Episode by episode, the mystery unfolds in a really spectacular way.

I was critical of *Stranger Things*' season two for having a slower pace and too many story lines. This new season also has a slow build and seemingly dozens of story arcs—for even more characters! But it's much better executed this time around. Everything weaves together into a cohesive whole, and the story progresses like a riveting spy novel, with special effects. The Duffer Brothers smartly lean heavily this season

on the charisma of their characters, who are growing up before our eyes. The supporting cast delivers great performances, too, from Maxine's brother, Billy (a fantastic Dacre Montgomery), who becomes the human face of the villainous Upside Down, to eccentric investigator Murray Bauman (Brett Gelman), the only man in town to fluently speak Russian. This is an incredibly fun, heartfelt ride you don't want to miss this summer. (eight episodes, 45 min.)

—Peter Johnson

Forky (Tony Hale), into their fold, even though Forky is just a spork made into a toy in arts and crafts class by their child, Bonnie. When Bonnie's family goes on a road trip, Forky takes off, so Woody and a few other toys go in search of him. The Forky stuff is just the tip of the iceberg though; there's so much going on in this movie. (100 min.)

—Caleb Wiseblood

YESTERDAY

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

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

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

PICK Danny Boyle (*Trainspotting*, *28 Days Later*... *Slumdog Millionaire*, *127 Hours*) directs this screenplay by Richard Curtis (*Notting Hill*, *Love Actually*, *War Horse*) about Jack Malik (Himesh Patel), a struggling musician who awakes after bicycle accident caused by a worldwide power outage to discover he's the only person who remembers The Beatles music. Soon he's considered the greatest singer-songwriter in the world, but will his newfound fame be a blessing or a curse?

This clever fantasy premise sets up a heartwarming story about a dreamer whose dream has run dry. In fact, the film opens with Jack vowing to quit music and return to teaching grade school. Even though his manager/lifelong friend, Ellie (Lily James), still believes in him and his music, she seems to be alone in her assessment. Yes, he sings pretty well and plays guitar and piano effectively, but his original songs don't connect with audiences.

For every struggling artist, it's a feeling all too familiar. He loves to play, but his discouragement is palpable. He's also blind to the fact that Ellie is smitten with him. She's funny as hell and teases him mercilessly when he awakes in the hospital following his accident, missing two front teeth and with his beloved beard shaved off.

It's certainly fun watching him slowly realize that no one has ever heard of The Beatles. In fact, he's awoken in a reality where they never existed. When Ellie gifts him with a new guitar and he picks out "Yesterday" on it, she and his pals are flabbergasted. "When did you write that?" Ellie asks, astonished. It slowly dawns on him that he really is the only person in the world who knows The Beatles' amazing catalog.

As he churns out their hits and his career balloons, he meets the singer-songwriter Ed Sheeran, who's wowed by Jack's songwriting prowess and invites him to open his tour. He also meets Sheeran's manager, Debra Hammer (a hilariously shallow and cruel Kate McKinnon), who wants to guide Jack's career.

Soon, Ellie feels like Jack's outgrown her "management," and she lets him go. Meanwhile, Jack's both enjoying and feeling horribly guilty about his success, and he begins to panic a bit when a couple people in his various audiences seems to be onto his ruse. It all builds to a wonderful head as he struggles to make things right.

Add to that the amazing music of The Beatles and you've got an audience-pleasing rom-com with plenty of moral quandaries to spice it up.

We've had something of a string of inspiring musical films—*Bohemian Rhapsody*, *Rocketman*, and now this—and in *Yesterday*'s case, viewers don't have to worry about whether the story got its facts right or if it's watered down or sanitized. This is just easy-to-like, feel-good fun, and it makes good use of The Beatles' music the same way *Across the Universe* (2007) did.

Yes, *Yesterday* is basically sitcom level silliness and essentially a one-joke movie, but it's a good joke and the film may be just the diversion we need right now. Don't believe all the negative reviews from cynical critics. Instead, believe Rotten Tomatoes' 90 percent audience score. This is a crowd pleaser! (116 min.)

—Glen

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

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TOPPED AND LOADED: This "build your own" macaroni and cheese got away from me right quick. Every topping sounded more delicious than the last, so I think I got it all: tri-tip, bacon bits, fried jalapeños, caramelized onions, chicken tenders, and grilled peppers. What more could you want?



OOEY-GOOEY: Did I mention the cheese? Look at all that gooey goodness!

Old Town, new flavor

Lompoc's newest eatery pushes the boundaries of familiar homestyle fare

BY NICK POWELL

Some weeks, you just need some ridiculously rich, stick-to-your-ribs comfort food to try and make the feelings go away. I'm not going to get into all the messy personal details here, but last week was just about my worst yet, filled with family drama, alcoholism, and deep despair. I'd never wanted a bottle of booze more in my life, but that seemed like a bad solution to this particular problem. So, I turned to my second-favorite substance to abuse: cheese.

When I saw that Old Town Kitchen and Bar, Lompoc's newest restaurant, served a "build your own" macaroni and cheese with a laundry list of topping options that no

reasonable home cook would ever dream of piling on top of the world's simplest side dish, I knew I had to try it. If this concoction couldn't make my sadness go away, I might actually have to face my complex emotional trauma head-on ... dammit.

For a minute, this dish did the trick. You simply can't eat it and be sad at the same time. Its cheese is too righteous. Local

psychiatrists should prescribe it for temporary relief, and Big Pharma should invest millions trying to distill its essence into a pill. But good luck. This thing had flavor for days.

It started with cheese sauce options—classic cheddar,

Classic for a reason

Old Town Kitchen and Bar serves classic American comfort food with an emphasis on good service and quality ingredients. Stop by 319 E. Ocean Ave. for some good ol' fashioned eating, and keep an eye on their Facebook page for updates on daily specials.

EATS continued page 32



KEEPING IT CRISPY: These heavenly Old Town Corn Bites are a unique appetizer of fried, cheesy corn served with housemade poblano ranch, plus a lil' something spicy up in there.



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PHOTO COURTESY OF OLD TOWN KITCHEN AND BAR



DIVINE WITH WINE: I didn't eat this chicken and cannot confirm that it tastes as good as it looks, but it sure looks amazing.

Powell's Picks

• I'm a sucker for a brunch bar and gab-fest, but I haven't been seeing a lot of brunchy options since I moved to the area. Perhaps it's because no one feels they can compete with **The Century Room at Santa Maria Inn** (pictured below). Every Sunday from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., they lay out a buffet fit for royalty with unlimited oysters, prime rib, eggs Benedict,

EATS from page 31

Alfredo, basil cream, or sun-dried tomato cream.

My wife and I couldn't choose just one, but the lovely server didn't make us. Mix and match, she said, so mix and match we did. We got the cheddar and the tomato cream, then we ticked off toppings like a pair of greedy toddlers sitting on Santa's lap. Crispy crumbled bacon, battered jalapeño crispies, sauteed peppers, caramelized onions, chunks of juicy tri-tip—we got everything except for blackened shrimp, which is probably why the sadness came creeping back while I was licking my spoon clean. Whoops.

After all the add-ons, one bowl of mac and cheese cost us \$25, but it was more than enough to fill us both and bring some home for later. And it was fan-freaking-tastic, especially the perfectly cooked and wonderfully seasoned tri-tip.

Owner Tony Magaña told us his goal for the place is to fill a void as Lompoc's only high-end steakhouse. While we didn't try any steaks, it's clear his crew knows how to handle some beef.

"There hasn't been a steakhouse in town for a while, and people really miss it," Magaña said. "The quality of our fillet mignon is excellent. You could cut it with a butter knife."

Magaña took over the location where Lompoc's last steakhouse used to live before it closed down in December. In the interim, he renovated the decor, creating a classy and comfortable atmosphere with black-and-white photos of Lompoc's historic buildings. Magaña said that in the two months Old Town Kitchen and Bar has been open, he's been working with chef Vilay Saikeo to streamline and simplify the menu.

They offer local wines and craft beers to pair with a few entree options—chicken, steak, seafood, and pasta. The individual dish descriptions sound utterly delicious, and the waitstaff was incredibly friendly and helpful. I'll definitely be back for a proper dinner.

Magaña said he's enjoying the experience so far and appreciates the support of the community.

"It feels really good being able to provide additional jobs in the community," he said. "That first time signing payroll was really an excellent experience."

Stop on by the Old Town Kitchen and Bar for your own excellent experience, whether you're down in the dumps, ready to celebrate, or simply hungry for some top-notch, classic cooking. ○

Contributing writer Nick Powell still has more feelings to eat. Send pairing options to npowell@santamariasun.com.

an omelet bar, charcuterie, fruit, salad, and amazing desserts. It costs \$29 per person but includes unlimited mimosas or bloody marys. Pick up next week's paper for a more detailed review, or check it out for yourself at **801 S. Broadway** in Santa Maria.

PHOTO BY NICK POWELL



• Classy wine sipping meets hip food-trucking every second Sunday at **Foxen Vineyard**, with live music to boot. On July 14, singer/songwriter Bradley Tyson brings the jams while Fire and Wine serves up wood-fired pizzas from 12:30 to 3:30 p.m. Not a bad way to finish the weekend. Email evants@foxenvineyard.com for more information, or head out to **7600 Foxen Canyon Road, Santa Maria**.

• I hope tickets are still available at the time of this publication, or else I'm creating a thirst I can't quench, but **Figueroa Mountain Brewing's Lagerville** festival is happening July 13 from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. at its Buellton headquarters. More than 40 craft breweries will be bringing their best versions of the world's most refreshing summer suds. General admission costs \$50, with options for busing to the event and discounts for designated drivers. Proceeds benefit Los Padres Forest Watch. Visit lagerville.com for more information.

• Head north with the family this weekend for a fun day at the park and good food for a good cause at the **Freedom Calling BBQ Fundraiser** on July 14 from 1 to 4 p.m. at **Grover Heights Park in Grover Beach**. Lunch tickets cost \$10 for kids, \$15 for adults, or \$45 for the family and include barbecue chicken, hot dogs, salad, beans, and bread as well as access to a bounce house, face painting, and balloon sculpting. The event is raising money to found a housing program for adult survivors of sex trafficking. Email info@freedomcalling.org for more info. ○

Contributing writer Nick Powell can't wait to dive into that buffet brunch. Remind him to pace himself at npowell@santamariasun.com.

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This week's online poll 7/11-7/18

How should Lompoc respond to the lawsuit claiming its ordinance restricting where registered sex offenders can live is unconstitutional?

- The city should fight the lawsuit in court.
- The city needs to repeal the ordinance and settle the lawsuit.
- Most cities in California have already repealed similar ordinances.
- Keep the ordinance. Residents need it for public safety.

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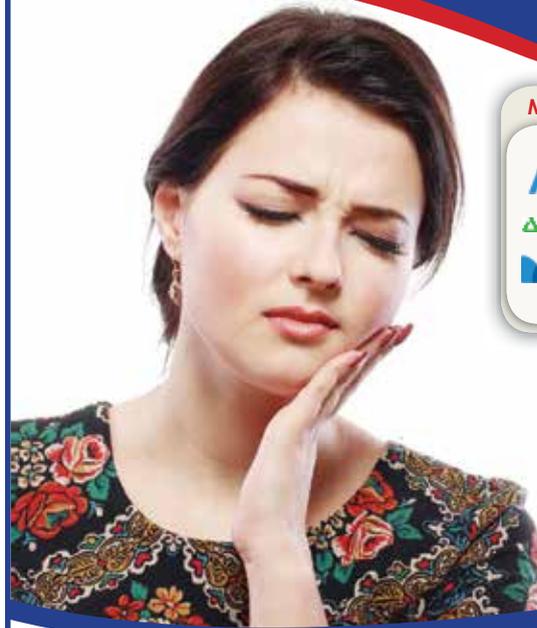
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Adoptable Pets of the Week

ASHLEY

Age: 9 years 2 months
Breed: American Shorthair
Sex: Female
Weight: 6 lbs



HARLEY

Age: 5 years 9 Months
Breed: Weimaraner/American Pit Bull
Sex: Female
Weight: 92 lbs

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\$2295 2426 Del Sur Ct 3+2, Classics 2stry hm w/lg mstr ste u/s and bdrms d/s, office/den optn, fridge, w/d, F/R, L/R, low maint yd, grdnr, up 2 sm dogs neg w/addtl dep

\$1995 1208 Cobblestone Ln 3+2.5, Stonebridge lg 2stry condo near Marian Hospital/101 frwy, L/R, F/R, D/R, F/P, lg mstr ste, bdrms u/s, vaulted ceilings, ldry hkups, 2car grg, pool privs inc

\$1800 1329 E. Dena Way 3+2, NE Single stry hm near Tunnell School. Wood Laminate Flrs thru-out, open concept kit w/dining area, 2car grg, low maint yd w/fruit trees, no pets

\$1795 729 E. Central Ave 2+1, Beautifully remodeled centrally located 1stry hm w/open kitchen, nook, w/d and fridge inc, sm shared yd, 1car det grg, no pets

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\$2800 3042 Courtney Drive - 3 + 2, Beautiful Mesa Oaks home situated on picturesque, oak studded half acre, elegant formal sunken living room and a formal dining room both finished with crown molding, well laid out country kitchen opens to cozy family room that has gas log fireplace with remote, large picture window, kitc has butcher block, upgraded applc, lg mstr bdrm w/walk-in clst and patio slider to bckyd, RV prking, 3car atch grg, lawn care incl, sm pet considered.

\$2200 233 Huntington Place - 4 + 2.5, Southside spacious tri-level, Crestview Terrace hm is ideal for commuters exiting Hwy 1 & Hwy 245, features lg frml L/R w/vaulted ceilings, F/P bordered by antique wld mantle, kit is open to lg dining area w/French doors leading to back yard, all stainless steel applc, lot of cntr space & pantry, 2car atch grg, yd care incl, pets neg.

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

\$1850 505 Mars - 3 + 2, Single family South Vandenberg Village home with large family room, all newer paint and flooring throughout, includes 2 car garage, yardcare included, no pets.

\$1450 207 Village Circle - 2 + 2, Comfortable townhouse on second floor but one level, 1car grg, living room has fireplace, vaulted ceilings and open to dining area and kitchen, living and dining rooms have slider to balcony, kitchen has garden window with all appliances with separate closet with washer and dryer, tile flooring throughout, carpets in bedrooms only, pool and spa included, gated community, no pets.

\$1250 112 S. "M" Street #B - 2 + 1, South side apartments, spacious bedrooms, good size living room, dining area off kitchen with slider to fenced back patio, 1 detch grg and ldry on site, apartments are freshly painted, with new carpets and new plumbing fixtures, refrigerator included, no pets please, water is paid.

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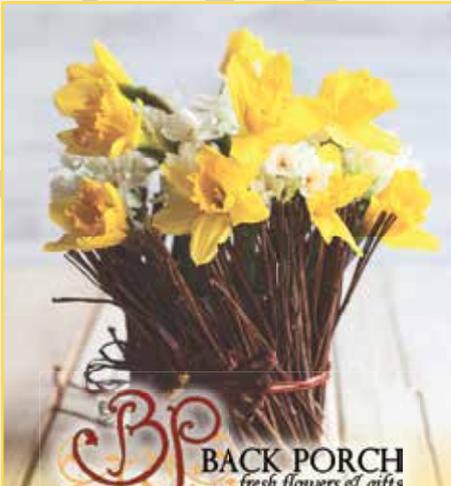
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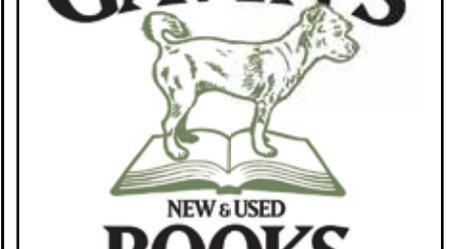
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