

Sun

AT THE MOVIES



Hollywood is entertaining [28]

Displaced

A Santa Maria family was homeless for seven months after being evicted from their longtime apartment to make room for H-2A workers [8] BY KASEY BUBNASH

11TH ANNUAL
NTMA
2019
NEW TIMES
MUSIC AWARDS
ENTER YOUR SONGS
TODAY! [12]

NEWS Changes possible for food stamp eligibility [10]

ARTS Three perspectives on local landscape [24]

EATS Time for a burrito at La Unica [31]

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AUGUST 1 - AUGUST 8, 2019 VOL. 20 NO. 22

Santa Maria brings in more H-2A workers than any other city in the state. The growers and labor contractors who hire them need to provide a place for them to live, and the tight housing market puts them in direct competition with local residents. The city is developing an ordinance that could help tenants displaced by employee housing conversions, but for some residents, it's too late. For this week's cover story, Staff Writer Kasey Bubnash speaks with a family that was homeless for seven months after being evicted from their long-term residence, which was converted to serve H-2A workers [8].

Also this week, read about the USDA's plans to reduce eligibility for food stamp benefits and what it means locally [10], landscapes in pastels and oils in Los Olivos [24], *How the West Was Really Won* with fun at the Melodrama [27], and burritos at La Unica [31].



A TAXING JOURNEY: Santa Maria resident Francisca Vargas and her family were evicted from their two-bedroom apartment in 2018 because it was being converted to H-2A housing. It took them seven months to find another place to live.

Camillia Lanham,
 editor

Cover photo by Jayson Mellom > Cover design by Alex Zuniga

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Political Watch

• The Coastal State Climate Preparedness Act went through its first hearing in the House Natural Resources Committee on July 25, which moved the legislation closer to passage in the House. The bill, House Resolution 3541, was authored by **U.S. Rep. Salud Carbajal** (D-Santa Barbara) and would provide voluntary grants to coastal states in order to help them plan and implement strategies to mitigate climate change, prepare for sea level rise, and address other impacts. If passed, the bill would also allow states to use these grants for climate change adaptation, and to protect infrastructure and coastal ecosystems. “I am here today because we know that climate change is real, and we need to take action,” Carbajal said in a press release. “Coastal communities, like mine, are at the forefront of this crisis.” In the release, Carbajal said Santa Barbara expects sea levels to rise by more than 6 feet by the end of the century.

• Applications are now being accepted to fill vacant seats for five **Santa Maria** boards and commissions: The Board of Appeals, which hears appeals to decisions of the city’s building division and makes recommendations regarding building code revisions; the Central Coast Commission for the Area Agency on Aging, the entity responsible for the agency’s operations on the Central Coast; the Landmark Committee, which advises the City Council on preservation and designation of historical landmarks; the Library board of trustees, which sets library rules and regulations; and the Santa Barbara County Library Advisory Committee, a group that reviews and maintains the master plan for each county library service zone. Applications for these vacancies can be completed and submitted via email from the city’s webpage at cityofsantamaria.org/ or in person at Santa Maria City Hall, 110 E. Cook St., room 3. For more information, call (805) 925-0951, Ext. 2306.

• **Gov. Gavin Newsom** released a statement on July 25 condemning news that the Trump administration plans to resume executions in federal prisons. “The Trump administration has chosen to join North Korea’s Kim Jong-un, Saudi Arabia’s King Salman, and Russia’s Putin in executing their citizens,” Newsom said in the statement. “The intentional killing of another person is wrong, and our death penalty system has been, by all measures, a failure. It has discriminated against defendants who are mentally ill, black and brown, or can’t afford expensive legal representation.” Newsom added that the death penalty fails to provide any public safety benefit or value as a deterrent. And since 1973, 166 condemned prisoners nationwide have been freed from death row after they were found to have been wrongfully convicted. On March 13, Newsom signed an executive order placing a moratorium on the death penalty in California and closed the execution chamber in San Quentin State Prison. ○



REPEATED SPILLS: HVI Cat Canyon, formerly known as Greka Energy, filed for bankruptcy on July 25. The company has allegedly been responsible for numerous oil spills at its facilities, including one that affected Firestone Vineyard in 2008.

Company formerly known as Greka files for bankruptcy

After years of compliance violations, oil spills, and state-imposed fines, HVI Cat Canyon filed for bankruptcy in the Southern District of New York U.S. Bankruptcy Court on July 25.

In the petition, the company’s president and chief operating officer, Alex Dimitrijevic, cites numerous factors contributing to the company’s moving into bankruptcy.

“The circumstances leading to the filing ... are a reduction in revenues due to diminished oil and gas production and sales from [HVI Cat Canyon’s] assets compounded by overreaching penalty assessment and debt obligations including foreclosure proceedings ... for asset sales,” the petition states.

The petition doesn’t cite the specific penalty assessments contributing to its financial troubles. However, last year the state ordered the company, formerly known as Greka Oil and Gas, to pay more than \$12 million in fines. The California Department of Conservation’s Division of Oil, Gas, and Geothermal Resources (DOGGR) issued the fine about one year after serving the company with a stop-injection order because of its failure to comply with regulations at an oil field the company operates in Orange County.

Although the petition doesn’t identify the assets that are being foreclosed on due to the company’s debt obligations, it states that HVI defaulted on a loan from the London branch of UBS AG, an international investment bank, which resulted in a foreclosure and an upcoming sale of assets. According to the petition, the bank is the company’s largest creditor, with HVI owing the bank more than \$114 million.

The filing comes about two weeks after some residents in Orcutt were notified that the mineral rights underneath their homes, previously owned by HVI Cat Canyon, are being sold at an auction in August. The notices state that the auction is being held to ensure UBS AG gets the compensation it’s entitled to as a collateral agent.

An attorney representing UBS AG in the bankruptcy proceedings declined to comment.

Additionally, HVI Cat Canyon didn’t respond to a request for comment after the *Sun* reached out to the attorney representing the company in the proceedings.

HVI Cat Canyon’s troubles with compliance violations over the years have involved local, state, and federal jurisdictions. The Environmental Protection Agency served search warrants at the oil company’s facilities on Sinton Road in the Santa Maria Valley late last year. The U.S. government and state of California filed an ongoing lawsuit against the company in 2011, claiming it illegally spilled oil more than 20 times at its facilities between 2005 and 2010.

At a Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors hearing in February this year, John Zorovich, deputy director of the county’s Energy, Minerals, and Compliance Division, said the majority of oil and gas compliance violations in the county are committed by HVI Cat Canyon.

According to the petition filed in July, the company has about 50 employees and operates oil fields in Santa Barbara, Kern, and Orange counties. Despite filing for bankruptcy, the company plans to continue operating, the petition states.

—Zac Ezzone

and ranches grossed \$1.5 billion in 2018, the year’s profits represent a 4.9 percent decrease from those accumulated in 2017, according to the report.

Santa Barbara County’s fruit and nut crops, nursery products, and livestock and chicken commodities were the only categories to increase in value from 2017 to 2018, while others saw decreases. Vegetable crops saw a drop of more than \$76 million.

Rudy Martel, Santa Barbara County’s deputy agricultural commissioner, explained that if there is an increased supply or decreased demand for one product, its price will go down, leading to a reduction in crop values.

“Overall it’s based on the market values,”

NEWS continued page 7

Weekend Weather

KSBY NEWS
Microclimate Weather Forecast
Dave Hovde
KSBY Chief Meteorologist

<p>Thursday</p> <p>COASTAL > High 72 Low 54 INLAND > High 86 Low 54</p>	<p>Friday</p> <p>COASTAL > High 74 Low 55 INLAND > High 88 Low 55</p>
<p>Saturday</p> <p>COASTAL > High 76 Low 56 INLAND > High 92 Low 56</p>	<p>Sunday</p> <p>COASTAL > High 75 Low 56 INLAND > High 92 Low 56</p>

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NEWS from page 4

Martel told the *Sun*. "If they're down, then overall production value will be down."

Still, San Luis Obispo County's crop value hit a record of \$1.03 billion in 2018, a 12 percent increase from values reported in 2017. Although nursery products in SLO were down 2 percent, all other agricultural categories showed increases in overall value.

Wine grapes led SLO County with a record value of \$276 million, equating to a 3 percent increase from 2017. Despite an extended summer heat wave last year, wine grape growers enjoyed an 8 percent increase in production and an all-time record for San Luis Obispo County.

But Santa Barbara County was hit harder by extreme weather in 2017 and 2018.

In December 2017 and January 2018, the Thomas Fire burned 281,893 acres in Ventura and Santa Barbara counties, hurting orchards, nursery products, cut flowers, and vegetable crops on the south coast. On Jan. 9, the report states, a half inch of rain fell in five minutes, triggering debris flows and flash floods that killed 21 people and destroyed structures in Santa Barbara County.

Growers hit by the Thomas Fire also suffered from the debris flows, according to the report. The nearly two-week closure of U.S. 101 following the mudslides shut down commerce, prevented workers from accessing fields, and resulted in the loss of perishable goods.

Despite the heavy rain at the beginning of the year, 2018 was one of the driest years on record. Frost in February damaged strawberry crops, the report states, and another frost advisory was issued in December for the Santa Ynez Valley area. A heat wave in March caused blooming plants to prematurely drop their flowers, affecting the following year's yield. Record-breaking heat in July and high winds affected crops countywide and contributed to the Holiday Fire, which scorched Goleta orchard crops and livestock.

For permanent crops, the report states that heat can damage both the current crop and also the fruit set for the coming season, packing a two-year punch.

"Santa Barbara County agriculture has an inspiring story of innovation and resiliency," Agricultural Commissioner Cathy Fisher wrote in her 2018 report. "As we move forward, it's important to share this story and remember that we're all in this together as we work to safeguard for future generations what our forebears have provided for us—our Santa Barbara way of life."

—Kasey Bubnash

County sues firm that bailed on North County jail project

Santa Barbara County filed a lawsuit against engineering and architecture firm Rosser International after the company told the county it can't complete its work on the county's Northern Branch Jail project.

According to the lawsuit, on June 13 Rosser International informed the county that it's going out of business and would "no longer be providing services" to the county. On July 12, the county filed a complaint against the firm citing a breach of contract and professional negligence.

This isn't the first time the county has had issues with Rosser International over the jail project. The county filed a lawsuit against the company in November 2018, again citing a breach of contract and professional negligence. The lawsuit was dismissed about a month later.

County counsel didn't return a request for comment before press time.

The language in both lawsuits is similar, with the only significant difference being added

language in the more recent complaint regarding Rosser's inability to complete the project. Both lawsuits state Rosser and the consultants it hired failed to perform duties to the standard outlined in the contract the company signed with the county.

"This has caused significant delays to project completion, has cost the county millions of dollars in extra costs, and has exposed the county to potential claims from its general contractor," the lawsuits state.

According to both lawsuits, Rosser's actions lead to a delay in obtaining approval from the Office of the State Fire Marshall, which set the project back by 287 days. Additionally, the plans submitted by Rosser contained numerous incomplete or missing design details. Ultimately, the lawsuit states, Rosser's design plans were only about 80 percent complete.

At a Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors meeting on July 16, supervisors voted in favor of adjusting the existing contract the county has with Kitchell CEM, which will take over the remaining engineering and architectural work Rosser failed to complete. Previously, Kitchell was only in charge of construction management for the Northern Branch Jail project.

According to a staff report from the July 16 meeting, construction of the jail is about 90 percent complete, and the project is on track to be finished by the end of the year.

The county began construction on the estimated \$111 million jail in 2016 on Betteravia Road, west of Santa Maria. The county is building the 376-bed jail, which includes 32 beds for mental health purposes, to address overcrowding at the county's main jail in Santa Barbara.

—Zac Ezzone

UC Davis releases disease-resistant strawberries

Researchers at UC Davis released new varieties of strawberries for the first time in several years in July—some that are specifically designed to flourish in the Santa Maria area while helping farmers manage diseases and cut production costs.

The Public Strawberry Breeding Program at UC Davis has long been working to identify and produce strawberry plants that are resistant to certain diseases, and it received a \$4.5 million U.S. Department of Agriculture grant to continue that work in August 2017. Since then, researchers have developed and now released five new strawberry varieties, all of which are resistant to some diseases and are expected to produce higher yields of berries using less water and fertilizer, and fewer pesticides.

The beauty of the Public Strawberry Breeding Program is that it helps local farmers while also advancing plant and breeding science, according to Glenn Cole, field manager of the program.



FIGHTING BY BREEDING: Researchers developed and released five new strawberry varieties; all are resistant to some diseases and expected to produce higher yields using less water and fertilizer, and fewer pesticides.

"We're informing others about the ways to get at the problems," Cole said, "and that's a big deal."

The objective of the research is to help local strawberry growers struggling to battle soil diseases without the use of many once commonly used fumigants. As widely used fumigants have been banned in the U.S., farmers have had to turn to alternative disease- and pest-control measures, Cole said.

While all the new strawberry varieties are disease resistant to some degree, each is unique and will thrive in certain growing conditions. "They all have niches of value," Cole told the *Sun*.

Three of the new varieties—Moxie, Royal Royce, and Valiant—will perform well throughout the long, warm days of summer. Two varieties—Victor and Warrior—are bred for cooler climates from Santa Maria south along California's coast.

Warrior is most resistant to Fusarium wilt, a common fungal disease that poses a major threat to strawberry farms. Cole said that Santa Maria native Dominique Pincot, who is now a graduate student at UC Davis, was central to advancing strawberry resistance to Fusarium wilt. While working on her master's thesis project, Pincot identified a Fusarium resistant gene that only some strawberries carry.

Moxie and Royal Royce could save farmers up to \$5,000 an acre in labor costs because they sprout fewer runners, the vine-like fingers strawberries send out that produce roots and develop into duplicate plants. Runners are handy when propagating strawberries, but farmers have to continually cut them back during the growing season to help plants conserve energy for increased fruit production.

Carolyn O'Donnell, communications director for the California Strawberry Commission, said that while growers are excited to see the new berries, they won't have any real presence for at least a year or two.

Strawberries aren't grown from seed but from plants, O'Donnell said, and the plants used to grow berries first have to be grown in nurseries rather than on farms, a process that takes some time.

UC Davis plans to release two additional varieties in 2020. ○

—Kasey Bubnash

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Sun

At just past 6 p.m. when Francisca Vargas walks down the stairs of her house and takes a seat on the edge of an ottoman in the living room. Kids scatter from the room as she reaches for the remote and turns off the TV. She takes a deep breath, and gathers herself after a long day of work in the fields.

Laughter is coming from one of the four bedrooms in the house, and kids are running in a constant flow from room to room, in and out of the front door.

Vargas has a big family—there are nine of them altogether—but as farmworkers in Santa Maria, she and her husband don't make a lot of money. The place they have now isn't really big enough for so many people, but they make it work.

They're just glad to have a home at all. A year ago they didn't.

Vargas and her family had been renting the same two-bedroom apartment on the west side of Santa Maria since 2012 when they suddenly received an eviction notice in January 2018. Vargas was visiting her grandparents in Mexico when she got a panicked phone call from her oldest daughter, who had been given the letter by their landlord's employee.

They had 60 days to find a new place. Vargas rushed back to Santa Maria and immediately started searching, but despite turning in dozens of applications, paying hundreds in application fees, calling property management companies, responding to Craigslist ads, and asking family and friends for help, the 60 days ended with no luck. The landlord gave them a 10-day extension, but still nothing.

"We couldn't find a place that would rent to us because there are too many of us," Vargas says in Spanish. "I tried really hard to look, and looked in so many different places, but my last option was to go live with my mom."

In April 2018, the family packed up all their belongings and piled them into Vargas' mom's garage and onto her back patio. Her mom rents out the extra bedrooms in her house, so the family lived and slept in whatever space was available—some on couches in the living room, others in two tool sheds and a playhouse in the backyard.

That's where they stayed for seven months until they finally found the apartment they have now.

"It was a very hard experience for us," Vargas says, wiping away tears, "for my whole family."

Later Vargas found out that her neighbors had been evicted too. She discovered that the building she'd lived in for so many years was being turned into housing for the H-2A program, which allows agricultural employers to bring workers to the United States from foreign countries temporarily.

'Where are we going to go?'

As the city debates an ordinance to help those displaced by H-2A conversions, locals compete with temporary workers for shelter

BY KASEY BUBNASH

Those workers go through background checks for criminal history in both the U.S. and their country of origin and sign contracts guaranteeing a specific income and period of work. Employers have to provide transportation, meals, and housing—the latter of which has been at the center of a debate over who should be allowed in Santa Maria's already limited housing since March 2018.

Farmers say the workers are desperately needed, but some community members fear that too many landlords will sell off or rent out their properties to farmers for the higher profits, leaving long-term residents like Vargas and her family with fewer affordable housing options and nowhere to go.

It's an issue the city has been working on for more than a year now, and that Santa Barbara city and county have already addressed with ordinances requiring property owners to assist tenants displaced by employee housing conversions. Santa Maria is developing a similar set of provisions that could help tenants displaced by H-2A—something both advocacy and agricultural organizations have agreed to support.

But that change is still in its infancy, and for residents like Vargas, it's too late.

"There are many families that this has happened to," Vargas says. "I think the city should pay more attention and care so that we don't suffer—let alone our children."

Pushed out

Many of the crops grown in California, and in the Santa Maria Valley especially, are highly labor-intensive. Leafy greens and berries are still hand-picked, and the need for employees

willing to do that work is increasing. A long-running shortage of domestic workers has only compounded the situation.

So over the last decade, the agricultural industry has increasingly turned to the H-2A program to supplement its labor supply.

In 2012, the U.S. Department of Labor certified applications for 2,862 H-2A guest workers in California. The Department of Labor has certified applications for nearly four times that many H-2A positions so far this year—1,277 of which were certified in Santa Maria alone, more than in any other city in the state.

The number of applications certified isn't necessarily equal to the number of H-2A workers currently in California. Employers who want to bring foreign workers to the U.S. first have to submit applications to the Department of Labor proving there are no qualified domestic workers available for the positions offered.

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

The prevalence of H-2A housing in Santa Maria has led to community worries about overcrowded houses, crime, decreasing property values, and displaced long-term residents in a tight housing market.

In March 2018, complaints regarding H-2A housing and its growing presence in Santa Maria's residential neighborhoods sparked the city's interest about the issue. Several community members told city staff at a meeting

on March 8, 2018, that they feared residential property owners would choose to house temporary H-2A workers rather than long-term residents, displacing families like the Vargases.

Agricultural employers and labor contractors—many in desperate need of labor—are willing to pay "extremely large amounts of money" to house H-2A workers, according to a city staff report from 2018, sometimes more than double market price. That incentive, the staff report states, could make it even more difficult for long-term residents to rent or buy property in a city already experiencing a housing shortage.

In an email sent to a disgruntled community member in 2018, Sinco wrote that the city's concerns with H-2A housing are not so much about overcrowding or crime, but "the powerful economic incentive the demand for H-2A housing is creating to use the city's limited housing supply for temporary workers rather than local residents."

That's what Vargas says happened in her case. She says her former landlords, Isidro and Maria Chavez, told her neighbors that they could make more money renting through the H-2A program. The Chavezes couldn't be reached before the *Sun's* press time, but the state Employment Development Department confirmed that Vargas' old apartment building is currently being used to house H-2A workers.

Since the issue first came up in 2018, the city has hosted a number of informational forums and public hearings on H-2A, and passed an employee housing ordinance on June 4, which is now in effect.

The newly adopted provisions require property owners or operators to apply for and receive conditional use permits before housing seven or more employees in units located in single-family residential zones. The permitting process could take four to six months, according to the city, and does not apply to facilities in multi-family residential neighborhoods.

Operators of new employee housing facilities within multi-family residential zones must file a statement of acknowledgment form with the city within 30 days of acquiring new properties for employee housing. Owners of already existing employee housing units in any residential zone are required to apply for a ministerial employee housing certificate before Dec. 13 of this year.

According to the city, the provisions are intended to ensure that employee housing "does not have significant negative impacts to the neighborhoods where they are established."

But some say the provisions won't do anything to help neighbors themselves, those individuals who have to compete with wealthy business owners for housing.

While the City Council discussed including displacement assistance requirements in the new provisions, they decided against it. Proponents say that vulnerable groups will likely be hit hardest—young families just starting out, seniors, and even domestic farmworkers—which could worsen the labor shortage and lead to an endless cycle.

Helping the displaced

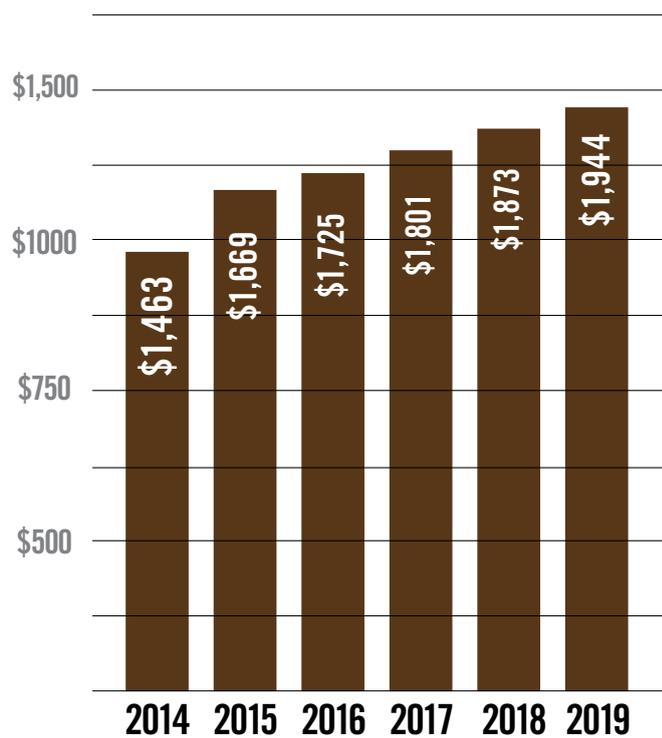
When Vargas and her family were looking for an apartment, they tried everything.

Vargas says she applied for at least 25 properties. After turning in every application—usually with an application fee—the rental agents and landlords always seemed to tell her the same thing: She had too big of a family for the apartments she was applying for.

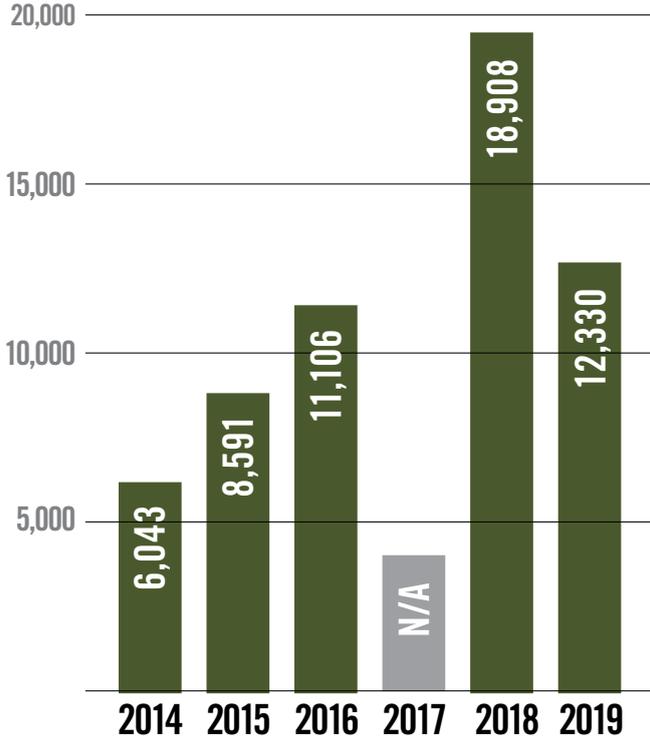
But Vargas says she rarely saw apartments or homes with more than three bedrooms available, and those larger ones that did exist were too costly for her family's cumulative annual income of about \$40,000.

Vargas and her husband even considered buying, but couldn't get a loan. They tried to buy in Bakersfield where prices are lower, but they couldn't find any available work. Then they considered living in Bakersfield and

Average cost of rent per month in Santa Maria:



Number of H-2A positions certified in California:



commuting to work in Santa Maria, but their employers told them they had to live within 50 miles of the fields. Agricultural employers are required to offer domestic workers housing locally if the workers don't live within a reasonable distance of work.

So they continued the search in Santa Maria. "It hurt us so much," Vargas says. "But I tried to not let it affect my children."

She'd tell them they were staying at their grandma's for fun. That sleeping in the playhouse was like a game they were playing.

"Only I knew how I felt to see my kids in the little house and sheds," she says.

Vargas' experience is the exact kind of situation some community members and organizations like CAUSE (Central Coast Alliance United for a Sustainable Economy) have been worried about. In April, CAUSE's community organizing director, Hazel Davalos, sent an email to Santa Maria City Council members outlining a proposal for an ordinance aimed at helping residents displaced by H-2A conversions.

In the proposal, CAUSE said Santa Maria's limited housing stock is home to a number of lower-income individuals and families, including local farmworkers. Affordable housing is already difficult to find, and it will likely become increasingly scarce as homes and apartment buildings are bought by employers hoping to house temporary H-2A workers.

CAUSE said the city's new provisions might actually make the situation worse by encouraging employers to use apartment buildings and duplexes in multi-family residential areas for H-2A rather than homes in single-family zones, which are typically out of reach for most low-income families.

That could force farmworkers to look for housing and work elsewhere—like Vargas and her husband did—and if they find it, CAUSE said it could just worsen the ag industry's labor shortage.

CAUSE suggested that the city require employers or landlords to provide tenants displaced by H-2A conversions with three months' median market rent, which the organization said would give those displaced the ability to avoid homelessness and pay security deposits and moving costs. It would also discourage mass evictions, CAUSE said in its proposal, and force farmers to consider building new housing developments instead of buying those that already exist.

Other nearby jurisdictions already have similar requirements in place. In Santa Barbara, landlords who convert rental housing into employee housing of any kind are obligated to pay displaced tenants four months' rent—five months' if the tenants are considered to be low-income. Landlords with properties in unincorporated areas of Santa Barbara County are required to pay tenants displaced by employee housing three months' rent.

It's an idea organizations like CAUSE, People's Self-Help Housing, and the Grower-Shipper Association of Santa Barbara and San



SUPPLEMENTING THE SHORTAGE: According to the city's best estimates, in fiscal year 2016-17, about 1,700 guest workers were housed in Santa Maria: 900 in residential dwellings and 800 in hotels or motels.

Luis Obispo Counties all agree on.

Grower-Shipper President Claire Wineman said the local ag industry has been working with the city on issues related to H-2A housing for quite some time, and the organization's members agreed to support the three months' rent displacement requirement for the sake of compromise.

But while City Council members discussed adding a displacement assistance provision in the ordinance that was passed on June 4, they opted to hold off.

The decision came as a disappointment to many, but Ryan Hostetter, Santa Maria's manager of the planning division, said some sort of help for displaced tenants is being developed.

Hostetter said that although the City Council did discuss displacement provisions, council members have "different schools of thought" on how that should be handled. Hostetter said it's something city staff are researching.

Although other local jurisdictions have broad displacement policies that affect all employee housing, Hostetter said Santa Maria's leaders want an ordinance specific to H-2A, and that's something city staff haven't been able to find

a precedent for. They hope to bring a drafted ordinance forward in the near future that can be reviewed by the City Council and the public.

The lack of affordable housing in general is something the city is always trying to change, and Hostetter said it usually brings on tough conversations. Developers often complain that they'd build more housing if the state didn't have so many land and building regulations and restrictions, so Hostetter said putting more restrictions on what home builders can and can't do in an effort to create more housing for low-income residents could actually make the housing market smaller.

Still, she said, something has to be done.

"There are all these symptoms we're seeing as a result of the lack of housing," Hostetter said, "and especially affordable housing."

The argument over H-2A is just one of them.

Not completely safe

Despite a devastating few months last year, Vargas and her family seem happy where they are now.

Although their new place is nearly \$700 more

each month, it has more space and it's in better shape, and Vargas says her kids are doing well here. The experience of near homelessness was hardest on them. All of their bad experiences with housing have been hardest on the kids.

Though they had lived in their last apartment for years, Vargas says that place wasn't easy to find either. She and her husband had to tell the landlord they only had three kids so they'd be accepted.

So for years, every time Vargas saw her landlord or one of his employees walk up to the house, she'd tell her kids to hurry up and hide behind the bushes in the backyard, behind the curtains, or in the closet.

They're in a new apartment now where every family member is allowed, but some of the kids

still run to hide when a stranger comes over.

When they were evicted and living with Vargas' mom, she says she could tell how difficult that time was for the kids. It was cramped, the tool sheds and playhouse were tiny and hot, and the kids asked her every day after school if she had found a new place to live. They tried to be strong, but she could tell they were ashamed and uncomfortable.

Vargas still cries when she talks about it.

Vargas says she knows some other families who have been displaced by H-2A conversions, but she knows many more who are struggling simply because there is so little housing available, and most of what does exist is unaffordable.

As defined by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, housing is considered affordable when a person pays no more than 30 percent of his or her income toward housing costs, including utilities.

The majority of California renters pay far more than 30 percent of their income toward rent, according to "California's Housing Future: Challenges and Opportunities," a statewide housing assessment published in January 2017. Nearly one-third of the state's renters pay more than 50 percent of their income toward rent, according to the assessment, and 43 percent of all California households are considered low-income.

Santa Maria is no different.

Many residents live two or three families to a house, Vargas says. Some rent out their living rooms and bedrooms to strangers because one family can't pay rent alone, giving children in those families less space to play and study quietly and feel safe. Vargas says her kids have classmates who live on the street or in cars.

The city should be doing more to build housing for everyone, Vargas says, not just foreign workers and wealthy people.

While things are good for Vargas and her family now, she's not sure they'll ever feel completely safe or comfortable in a rental again.

"Because every day we fear we'll get that letter that says we'll have to leave by a certain amount of days," she says. "And where are we going to go?"

Contact Staff Writer Kasey Bubnash at kbubnash@santamariasun.com.

FILE PHOTO BY DYLAN HONEA-BAUMANN



LABOR-INTENSIVE: Many of the crops grown in the Santa Maria Valley are highly labor-intensive and have to be handpicked. Because of that and a long-running shortage of domestic workers, the agricultural industry has increasingly turned to the H-2A program.

Reversing progress

Federal policy could limit the county's increasing CalFresh participation rate

BY ZAC EZZONE

In 2014, fewer than half of all Santa Barbara County residents eligible for CalFresh, the state's Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), were enrolled in the program. The county's participation rate of 42 percent was one of the lowest rates of all counties in the state at the time.

After three years and some program changes, the county's rate topped out at 62 percent in 2017, the most recent year data is available.

However, a recent federal policy proposal could undo some of the county's progress. On July 23, the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), which oversees SNAP, announced its intentions to revise a policy that allows states to broaden the range of people who can sign up for the assistance program.

These changes could reduce the number of residents eligible for CalFresh throughout the state, which has one of the lowest statewide participation rates in the country at 72 percent. According to a report released by California Food Policy Advocates this year, the average participation rate nationwide is 85 percent, with some states providing SNAP benefits to all eligible residents. If California were to do the same for CalFresh, the state would receive an extra \$1.8 billion for the program annually, said Jared Call, a managing policy advocate with California Food Policy Advocates.

"We have a persistent problem in California with signing people up for federal food assistance," Call said. "Right now ... we are the fifth worst. We are slowly but steadily improving, but still not even keeping pace with

the other states that are improving access."

For years, the state struggled with reaching eligible CalFresh recipients because of arduous policies that made the process time consuming and complex, Call said. For example, the state used to require clients to visit a county office to have their fingerprints scanned before signing up for the program. California was one of the last states to abandon this policy.

Despite removing the fingerprint requirement and other potential barriers, the state could still be suffering from a perception problem that's negatively affecting its participation rate, Call said.

Additionally, the state relies on a decentralized, county-based system, which makes implementing new policies difficult. This also creates differences in how some counties administer CalFresh. For example, the program's application process requires an interview, which some counties allow to take place over the phone, while others require it take place in person.

In Santa Barbara County, the interview process can be completed over the phone; however, until recently, after completing the interview clients were required to sign and then mail paperwork to the county. Now, through technology the county acquired last year, the client can provide a telephonic signature, said Maria Gardner, deputy director of the county's Department of Social Services.

In addition to introducing this signature option, the county has made other improvements since it began its CalFresh Utilization Project in 2014 to increase its

program participation rate.

Some of these changes have been administrative, such as making phone calls to remind clients of upcoming appointments. Other changes focus on making the program more accessible to clients, such as creating an online portal that allows clients to submit documents outside of office hours.

"We're really just trying to leverage technology in as many beneficial ways as possible, without bombarding our clients," Gardner said.

While the county is trying to enroll more people in CalFresh, the USDA is proposing to do the opposite through changes to its categorical eligibility option. This option—which has been adopted by 43 states, including California in 2008—allows people who receive assistance from other federal programs to automatically be eligible for SNAP, as long as they make less than 200 percent of the federal poverty level.

Normally, applicants must make less than 130 percent of the federal poverty level to be eligible for SNAP. Either way, applicants' income must still be below the federal poverty level after taking out basic need expenses such as housing and health care costs, Gardner said.

Through this type of eligibility, applicants also aren't required to submit to an asset test, which prevents clients from enrolling in SNAP if the value of their car or savings account exceeds a certain amount. Call said this categorical eligibility is especially important for low-wage working residents who are trying to save money and move out of poverty.

"That helps [people] climb the economic ladder a little bit and get a better paying job and eventually to the point that [they] won't need to be on SNAP," Call said.

In a July 22 conference call with reporters, Brandon Lipps, the USDA's acting deputy under secretary for Food, Nutrition, and Consumer Services, said the federal agency isn't

proposing to eliminate categorical eligibility completely. The revisions proposed would reinstate the asset test and specify how much federal assistance residents are receiving from other programs before becoming automatically eligible for SNAP.

According to the USDA, these changes would remove about 3.1 million people from the federal assistance program. The County Welfare Directors Association of California, along with other groups, released a joint statement claiming that the changes would remove 120,000 households from CalFresh. According to that estimate, Gardner said, an estimated 1,200 households in Santa Barbara County would be affected.

In the conference call, U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Sonny Perdue said the USDA plans to implement these changes to close a "loophole" that states use to provide federal assistance to residents who would otherwise not qualify for help.

U.S. Rep. Salud Carbajal (D-Santa Barbara) told the *Sun* that last December, when Republicans still controlled the House of Representatives, they tried to include something similar to the USDA's proposal in their version of the farm bill. This bill was rejected, and Congress instead passed the Senate's farm bill, which didn't include these changes.

"When you consider that the initial bill had language that would be consistent with what this rule would be," Carbajal said, "again it's trying to do something that Congress came to consensus that it was a bad idea."

Carbajal said he and a number of his colleagues have signed a letter urging the USDA to rescind this rule, which hasn't gone into effect yet. Before the USDA can enact the proposal, the revision must undergo a public comment period where residents can submit their input online at regulations.gov by Sept. 23. ○

Staff Writer Zac Ezzone can be reached at zezzone@santamariasun.com.

BY ZAC EZZONE

For more than a century, the Santa Maria Valley Railroad has helped local businesses ship products across the country.

The railroad company picks up produce, lumber, and other items from businesses within the city and transports the products across 14 miles of local tracks to the train station in Guadalupe. From there, the railcars are attached to Union Pacific Railroad locomotives, which carry the products across state lines.

This local rail service, which began in 1911, has played a vital role in the city's development, said Santa Maria Valley Railroad President Rob Himoto.

"Before railroads, Santa Maria was basically a very small town, and the railroad is what really grew it," Himoto said. "But fast-forward to today's world, we're still relevant."

Himoto's company, Coast Belle Rail Corporation, purchased the railroad in 2006. Since then, the railroad has increased the amount of freight it hauls every year. Despite railroads being around for more than 150 years, Himoto said they are still one of the cheapest and most efficient ways to ship large amounts of products.

When Himoto first took over the railroad, about 85 percent of the products shipped were agriculture related. Now that's closer

to 50 percent, as the railroad has increased the other commodities it ships. Himoto said diversification was one of his priorities when he first took over.

Spotlight on: Santa Maria Valley Railroad Rob Himoto, president

In addition to shipping items, Himoto said the railroad could eventually begin transporting people as well. As the Central Coast population continues to grow and traffic congestion continues to worsen, state and local officials may look to emphasize rail as a transportation option.

Last year, county officials from San Luis Obispo, Santa Barbara, Santa Cruz, Monterey, and Ventura officially formed the Coast Rail Coordinating Council. The goal of this group is to improve passenger rail service from San Francisco to Los Angeles.

Although Himoto said there are no plans in the works yet, he anticipates the railroad will eventually add commuter services within the next 20 years or so. However, any sort of commuter plans would require new tracks and investment from not only the railroad, but state and local jurisdictions as well.

"In order to make it work would require subsidies," Himoto said. "But in the future, it might be cheaper to subsidize commuter rail rather than keep maintaining congested roads and dealing with congestion."

In the meantime, the railroad plans to reintroduce the occasional dinner excursion service sometime next year. This allows the



MOVING FORWARD: After 108 years of operating, the Santa Maria Valley Railroad continues to grow its business.

railroad's customers, as well as other city residents, the opportunity to eat dinner on the train as it travels over its 14 miles of local tracks.

Regardless of what the future holds for the railroad, whether it's an emphasis on carrying passengers or products, it will remain an important, unique part of Santa Maria.

"There's not very many communities in California that are served by a local railroad," Himoto said. "There are only 25 short-line railroads left in California."

Highlight:

• The city of Lompoc and Surf Connection are hosting the city's annual skateboard competition on Aug. 17 for skaters 7 years and older. The event takes place at the city's skate park on West College Avenue. Participants must check in at 10 a.m. and pay \$5 to register for each event. Visit cityoflompoc.com for more information. ○

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



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ENTER UP TO 13 SONGS & 1 ALBUM

1

SONG ENTRY BY GENRE

(please check one box per song title to indicate song genre)

SONG TITLE #1 _____

Name of performing artist(s) EXACTLY as it should appear on CD
(band name, stage name, etc.) _____

Rock/Alternative County/Americana/Folk R&B/Blues
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SONG TITLE #2 _____

Name of performing artist(s) EXACTLY as it should appear on CD
(band name, stage name, etc.) _____

Rock/Alternative County/Americana/Folk R&B/Blues
 Hip-Hop/Rap Open Youth

2

SONGWRITER CATEGORY ENTRY

Upload (or include) a .doc file of lyrics with your entry.

Song Title #1 _____

Song Title #2 _____

Song Title #3 _____

SONG TITLE #3 _____

Name of performing artist(s) EXACTLY as it should appear on CD
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SONG TITLE #4 _____

Name of performing artist(s) EXACTLY as it should appear on CD
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SONG TITLE #5 _____

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SONG TITLE #7 _____

Name of performing artist(s) EXACTLY as it should appear on CD
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 Hip-Hop/Rap Open Youth

SONG TITLE #8 _____

Name of performing artist(s) EXACTLY as it should appear on CD
(band name, stage name, etc.) _____

Rock/Alternative County/Americana/Folk R&B/Blues
 Hip-Hop/Rap Open Youth

3

BEST ALBUM ENTRY (only 1 total)

Album Title _____

4

TOTAL NUMBER OF ENTRIES _____ x \$10 = _____

PAYMENT ENCLOSED _____

I certify that I am the writer or co-writer of the song(s) or lyrics submitted. I also certify that I have read, understood, and accept the rules and regulations of the New Times Music Awards. If entrant is under 18 years old, the signature of a parent or guardian is required.

Signature _____

Date _____

LOCAL LEGEND AWARD NOMINEE

The Local Legend Award recognizes an individual or group who has contributed to help enrich, support, and further music's reach in our community; someone whose ideas, inspiration, and dedication to this art scene have helped nurture and grow the music scene—whether it's bringing new sounds to the area or

giving people the tools they need to create their own. We would love your input! Please use this space to nominate an individual, group, or organization, you feel should be considered for this award:

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GENERAL RULES

- All entries must be received by 5pm on Monday, August 19, 2019, to be considered for the 2019 New Times Music Awards (NTMAs).
- Entries are \$10 for each song and for the Best Album award.
- Participants may enter a maximum of 13 songs (10 genre category, 3 songwriting category) and 1 album.
- ONLINE ENTRIES ARE PREFERRED.** Please fill out the entry form, upload songs, and pay for your entries with a credit card at www.NewTimesSLO.com.
- If you wish to pay with cash or check, you may drop off your entries at either the New Times or Sun offices (addresses listed below). Bring your music entries on a CD or USB drive along with your completed entry form. Checks should be made payable to "New Times."

- All entrants must reside primarily in San Luis Obispo County or Northern Santa Barbara County.
- All entrants must be able to play at the showcase event on **FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 8, 2019**.
- All entrants under 18 years of age must select the Youth category and must have a parent or guardian sign the entry form.
- By entering the contest, all entrants give permission to New Times Media Group to reproduce submissions on compact disc and on the web. All entries remain the property of performers.
- The top 3 songs in each category need to provide high-quality versions of their songs (16 Bit, 44.1 Sample Rate).
- Songs may have multiple co-writers, but please designate one contact name only on entry form.
- New Times Music Awards is not responsible for lost, damaged, incomplete, or late entries.
- The top 3 songs in each category need to provide high-quality versions of their songs (16 Bit, 44.1 Sample Rate).
- Songs may have multiple co-writers, but please designate one contact name only on entry form.

- Winners will be chosen by a select panel of judges.
- Songs will be judged on overall performance.
- Live performers will share the 'Back Line'.
- Check NewTimesSLO.com or contact NTMA@NewTimesSLO.com for more information.
- The New Times Music Awards Showcase and Competition is an all ages show. Performers agree to eliminate explicit lyrics during their performance.

GENRE CATEGORIES

- The Youth category is for anyone entering music who is under the age of 18.
- The Open genre includes reggae, world beat, jazz, classical, new age, electronic, etc.
- Each song submission must have a genre selected. If nothing is selected, the song will go into the Open genre.

- If judges determine a song to be a better fit with a different genre category than what was originally submitted, they reserve the right to recategorize it.

SONGWRITER CATEGORY

- You may enter up to 3 songs in the Songwriting genre, which is being judged separately.
- Upload (or include) a .doc file of lyrics with your entry.

ALBUM CATEGORY

- Albums must have been released between July 1, 2018 and August 19, 2019 to be eligible. Please deliver a hard copy to either the New Times or Sun office along with a completed entry form by 5pm on Monday, August 19, 2019 for consideration. The entire presentation will be judged, including quality of songs, sound, and packaging.
- Only 1 album per entrant total.

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- 16% The entire 82 acres should remain open park space.
- 16% They should give up on this idea.
- 7% It'll fail like all previous attempts.

13 Votes

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Who pays?

Power shutoffs will cost communities hundreds of millions of dollars—utilities should be held accountable

BY RON FINK

Who is held accountable when a major utility doesn't maintain its distribution systems so that the places the conveyances (pipes and wires) run through are safe for the people living there, and who pays for their mistakes?

The city of Lompoc has owned the electric utility serving city residents since 1923, however Pacific Gas and Electric (PG&E) owns the transmission lines that bring power into town. The city owns and maintains the distribution system within the city limits.

While there have been short interruptions of power over the last eight decades, none have caused serious damage to surrounding property. When compared to PG&E or Southern California Edison customer outage rates, Lompoc's offline averages of an hour or less are dramatically lower.

This could change substantially soon, not because of anything the city's electric utility is doing, but because of errors and omissions by PG&E. Instead of repairing and maintaining its transmission lines on a regular basis, PG&E has chosen to simply shut off the power during high fire danger with as little as 24 hours' notice.

And, unlike the one-hour average outage, the city staff says that these outages could last for several days until the weather event is over and because it would take a considerable amount of time to safely re-energize the lines.

So, what does that mean? Almost everything in your house and workplace relies on electricity. All commercial establishments will be without power. This includes not only the city of Lompoc, but also every customer within the area served by those transmission lines. In other words, the whole city and large parts of the North County could go dark when one of these outages occurs.

This would be more than an inconvenience. It would be a major disruption of life as we know it.

Besides the disruption of normal life, the cumulative monetary loss from food damage, loss of business, and loss of income would be several hundred million dollars. In addition, persons who rely on medical aids requiring electric power could become seriously ill or even die during the outages. Phones would not work unless connected to hard-wired systems, and your cellphone batteries would drain in a couple of days, so you couldn't call for help.

Many people are unaware of the hazards associated with cooking on open fires or operating generators in their garages or close to window openings. Not only is there a fire hazard, but carbon monoxide poisoning is a distinct possibility. The city of Lompoc has an informative guide for using home generators that includes many safety tips on the city electrical department's website: cityoflompoc.com/home/showdocument?id=1084.

To try and be somewhat proactive, the city of Lompoc is offering to pay building permit fees associated with installing an emergency generator for any customer who asks for it. I was unsure of the Santa Barbara County Air Pollution Control District rules, so I asked; the answer was that if the generator was less than 50 brake horsepower, you didn't need a permit.

When this announcement was made, Councilman Jim Mosby, ever vigilant at micromanaging costs, asked if a policy like this should have come to the council first

for approval. After a short discussion and staff concern that the urgency of this matter necessitated immediate action, he made a motion to bring the matter to the council for approval. This would have delayed action for several weeks.

But he needed three votes in order to get his request approved. Surprisingly, he only got a second on his motion, but couldn't get the third vote, so the motion failed.

What's clear in this whole scenario is that both PG&E and SoCal Edison have been negligent for many years concerning the maintenance of their transmission lines. Over the decades, tens of thousands of fires have occurred as a result of their policy of accepting the risk associated with operation of their power distribution systems.

It was only after losing entire communities, including numerous fatalities and the resultant claims for billions in reimbursement, that they created another potential disaster. This time, instead of community-sized losses, the losses will be spread over wide regions along the path of the distribution lines.

Who will compensate families and businesses for the hundreds of millions of dollars lost? Perhaps any attorneys reading this article would be willing to provide some generalized advice or initiate a class action lawsuit on behalf of the public.

The governor and state Assembly approved a bailout plan for PG&E. What about the taxpayers who must pay for both the bailout and for any losses they incur when the lights go out for several days? I thought that elected officials were supposed to represent all the people, not just individual companies.

Maybe it's time for local elected officials to weigh in on this issue. Some strongly worded letters sent to the governor and state elected

officials from elected bodies such as community services districts, boards of supervisors, and city councils concerning the potential impact to their constituents would explain the monetary losses that would occur when the power is shut off for several days.

Just shutting off the power isn't a reasonable solution. ○

Ron Fink is a resident of Lompoc. Send your comments through the editor at clanham@santamariasun.com or write a letter to the editor for publication by emailing it to letters@santamariasun.com.

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We expect more from you

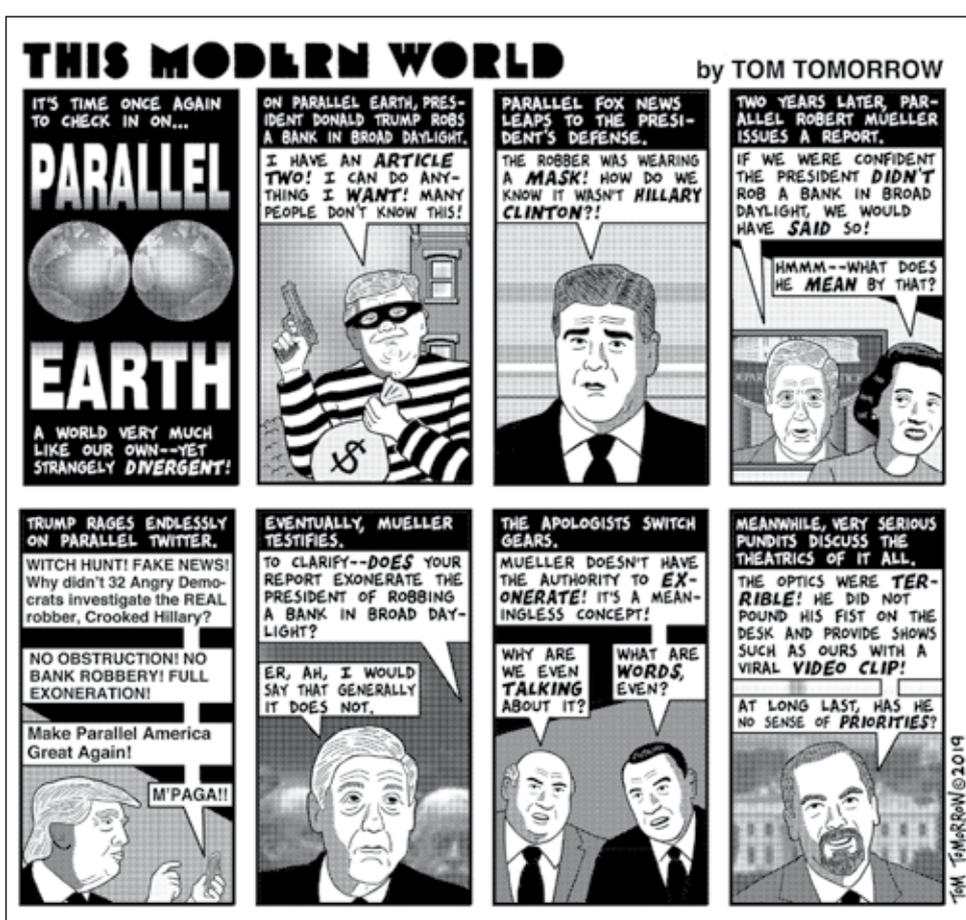
I would like to know why the Sun failed to edit last week's Ross Mayfield cartoon. It draws an ugly picture of Bernie Sanders, with yellow teeth and a yellow button calling himself crazy. It quotes Bernie as saying he won't pay his staff the same \$15 an hour he is fighting to get for all Americans, or provide free health care to his workers because it doesn't pencil out.

Not only did Bernie never say those words, but before press time in Santa Maria, his campaign negotiated with and agreed to pay even his young interns a \$15 minimum wage. He also took on 100 percent of the health care burden for all workers earning less than \$60,000 a year. Bernie Sanders, the first candidate to unionize his workers.

Jonathan Williams, a spokesman for United Food and Commercial Workers Local 400 said, "Both the campaign staff and management have engaged in this process in good faith and to achieve a mutually agreed upon outcome. This is what democracy in the workplace looks like."

The Sun has a responsibility for accuracy regardless of its political viewpoint. Bashing an honest man with lies is not what we expect from the Sun.

Gale McNeeley
Santa Maria



SANTA MARIA-BONITA SCHOOL DISTRICT

Bus Schedules for 2018/2019 Modified Single Track (Listed are Pick-up/Drop-off Times)

BATTLES		Pick-up	Drop
7:05 a.m.	Battles/Rosemary (@ yellow poles)	3:10 p.m.	
7:12	Bradley/Bello - West side of Bradley	3:13	
7:16	Bradley/Bello - East side of Bradley	3:19	
6:55	2745 Telephone Rd	3:05	
	1912 E Prell Rd. (p.m. only)	3:10	
7:27	San Ysidro/Miller	3:02	
7:14	Stephen/Bradley	3:16	
7:33	McCoy/Miller (SMAT Zone)	3:10	
7:25	Knightbridge turnout (off Miller)	3:00	
7:29	San Miguel/San Lino	3:04	
7:23	McCoy/Caballero	2:55	
7:19	Del Sur/Crossroads	3:09	
7:20	(on) Lincoln/(before) Newlove	2:50	
7:40	Drop Battles		
11:10	Pick up a.m. Kinders		

BATTLES KG			
	a.m. KG drop	p.m. KG in	p.m. KG drop
1912 E Prell Rd.	12:35 p.m.	9:39 a.m.	3:10 p.m.
2745 Telephone Rd.	12:40	9:44	3:05
San Ysidro/Miller	12:04	10:01	3:02
Stephen/Bradley	12:15	10:12	3:16
Knightbridge turnout (off Miller)	12:02	9:59	3:00
San Miguel/San Lino	12:06	10:03	3:04
McCoy/Caballero	11:59	9:54	2:50
Del Sur/Crossroads	12:09	10:07	3:09
Bradley/Bello (West side)	12:18	10:08	3:13
Bradley/Bello (East side)	12:21	10:15	3:19
Miller/McCoy/SMAT Zone	12:25	10:20	3:24
(on) Lincoln (before) Newlove	11:52	10:30	3:00
Drop P.M. KG		10:35	

MILLER			
Pick-up		Drop	
7:10	Rosemary Farms	2:55p.m.	
7:20	Concepcion/Cypress	2:45	
7:20	Palisade/Marilyn	3:00	
7:20	Lincoln/Boone	2:45	
7:25	Church/East	2:40	
7:30	Drop Miller		
11:40	Pick up a.m. Kinders		

P.M. KG Pick-up		A.M. KG Drop	P.M. KG Drop
10:05 a.m.	Rosemary Farms	12:28 p.m.	2:55 p.m.
10:10	Palisade/Marilyn (Joe White Park)	12:18	3:00
10:35	Lincoln/Boone	11:50	2:45
10:20	Concepcion/Cypress	12:10	2:45
10:25	Church/East	12:00	2:40
10:45	Drop Miller		

RICE SCHOOL			
Pick-up		Drop	
7:30 a.m.	1628 N. Pine	3:00	
7:40	Drop Rice		

P.M. KG	A.M. KG Drop	P.M. KG Drop
10:45 a.m.	1628 N Pine	11:35 a.m.
Drop Rice	10:55	3:00 p.m.

TUNNELL SCHOOL			
Pick-up		Drop	
7:20 a.m.	Siratt & Weldon	2:56 p.m.	
7:30	Domingues/Hearst	2:45	
7:35	Navarra/Main	3:00	
7:25	Centennial/Mt. Whitney	2:52	
7:45	Drop Tunnell		

A.M. KINDERS			
Pickup		Drop	
7:25 a.m.	Centennial/Mt. Whitney	11:50 a.m.	
7:30	Domingues/Hearst	11:55	
7:35	Navarra/Main	12:00	

P.M. KINDERS			
Pickup		Drop	
10:30 a.m.	Centennial/Mt. Whitney	2:52 p.m.	
10:35	Domingues/Hearst	2:45	
10:40	Navarra/Main	3:00	
10:45 a.m.	Drop Tunnell		

EL CAMINO JUNIOR HIGH			
Pick-up / Thursday		Drop	
8:05 / 8:50 a.m.	Hanson Way/Main	3:55 p.m.	
8:15 / 9:05	Church/Russell	3:40	
8:20 / 9:05	Cox/DeJoy	3:40	
8:00 / 8:45	1482 Black road	4:15	
	3740 W. Main (p.m. only)	4:18	
7:55	Furukawa Way	3:59	
8:10 / 9:00	Thornburg/Cook	3:45	
8:25	Drop El Camino		

FESLER JUNIOR HIGH			
Pick-up		Drop	
0 period / Reg / Thurs			
6:48 / 7:58 / 8:49 a.m.	Stephen/Bradley	4:08 p.m.	
6:40 / 7:50 / 8:40	McCoy/Miller (SMAT Zone)	4:10	
6:35 / 7:41 / 8:35	Del Sur/Crossroads	3:52	
6:43 / 7:49 / 8:40	Knightbridge turnout (off Miller)	4:00	
6:40 / 7:52 / 8:43	San Ysidro/Miller	4:02	
6:48 / 7:53 / 8:45	San Miguel/San Lino	4:04	
6:35 / 7:45 / 8:37	McCoy/Caballero	3:54	
7:00 / 8:00 / 8:45	Newlove/Miller	3:57	
6:50 / 8:05 / 8:50	McClelland/Inger	4:03	
6:55 / 8:10 / 8:55	Enos (back of Battles)	3:45	
6:45 / 8:10 / 8:55	Lincoln/Newlove	3:50	
6:51 / 7:58 / 8:53	Bradley/Bello (West side)	4:14	
6:55 / 8:02 / 8:55	Bradley/Bello (East side)	4:16	
6:45 / 8:20 / 9:00	Lutheran Church	3:45	
6:35 / 8:05 / 8:53	Rosemary Farms	4:20	
6:22 / 7:57 / 8:45	Prell Road	4:10	
6:25 / 8:00 / 8:48	2745 Telephone Road	4:10	
6:55 / 8:15 / 8:55	Enos/Depot (by Minami)	3:50	
6:55 / 8:15 / 8:55	Boone/Curryer	3:45	
7:10 / 8:25 / 9:10		Drop Fesler	

KUNST JUNIOR HIGH			
Pick-up		Drop	
Reg / Thur			
8:00 / 8:45	Willow Walk/Big Pine (Pick-up midblock West side)	3:55 p.m.	
8:00 / 8:55	Fesler/Palisade - Pick-up on Palisade (North side of Fesler)	3:50	
7:57 / 8:51	Siratt/Weldon	4:03	
8:10 / 8:55	Palisade/Dena	3:45	
8:07 / 8:52	Magellan/Degama	3:52	
7:57 / 8:46	Centennial/Mt. Whitney	3:55	
8:10 / 8:55	Canyon/Seaward	3:59	
8:00 / 8:49	Domingues/Hearst	3:59	
8:13 / 8:58	Carlotti/Seaward (In turn-out)	3:57	
8:03 / 8:55	Main/Navarra	4:05	
8:10 / 9:05	1628 N. Pine	3:40	
8:10 / 8:50	McClelland/Donovan	3:45	
8:20 / 9:10		Drop Kunst	

ARELLANES JUNIOR HIGH (7th & 8th grade)			
Pick-up / Late		Drop	
8:10 / 9:00 a.m.	Knudsen/Western	3:50 p.m.	
8:15 / 9:00	Carmen/Vista del Oro	3:50 (pick up/drop off across the street)	
8:10 / 9:00	Westgate/Bethel	3:55	
8:05 / 8:55	Calle Mirasol/Jacaranda	3:50	
8:10 / 9:00	Sonya Lane (mid block)	3:55	
8:16 / 9:05	Sheila/Thornburg	3:50	
8:00 / 8:50	A Street	4:00	
8:18 / 9:05	Rayville/Mahoney	3:43	
8:15 / 9:05	Biscayne/Provance	3:53	
8:05 / 8:55	McCoy/Westbury	4:00	
8:10 / 9:00	Sandpiper/McCoy	4:05	
8:15 / 9:05	Madison/Heritage	3:55	
8:10 / 8:55	Pershing/Russell	3:55	
8:15 / 9:00	Meredith/McCoy	4:10	
8:25 / 9:15	Drop Arellanes		

ARELLANES ELEMENTARY (grades K thru 6th)			
Pick-up		Drop (K thru 6th)	
7:10 a.m.	McCoy/Westbury	2:30 p.m.	
7:05	Sandpiper/McCoy	2:28	
7:20	Rayville/Mahoney	2:25	
7:30	Drop Arellanes		
11:25	Pick up a.m. Kinders		

Kinders			
Drop a.m. KG			
11:30 a.m.	Rayville/Mahoney		
11:35	McCoy/Westbury		
11:40	Sandpiper/McCoy		

NO P.M. KINDER CLASS (10:30-2:10)



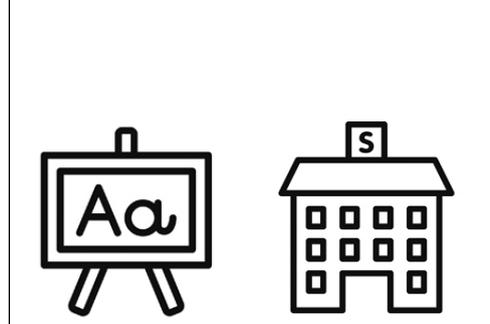
BONITA SCHOOL			
Pick-up		Drop	
6:30 a.m.	Stowell Rd.	2:55 p.m.	
6:30	Black Rd.	3:00	
6:45	Thornburg/Cypress	2:20	
6:45	Thornburg/Cook (South side)	2:20	
6:45	1025 W. Boone	2:20	
6:45	Cypress/Russell	2:20	
6:45	Orange/Russell	2:20	
6:45	Cook/Oakley (North side)	2:20	
6:45	Cook/Oakley (South side)	2:25	
6:50	Ray Road	2:25	
6:50	Hanson Way/Main	2:25	
7:00	Souza Farms	2:15	
7:05 a.m.	Drop Bonita		
11:25 a.m.	Pick-up a.m. Kinders at Bonita School		

A.M. Kinder Drop		P.M. Kinder Pick up	P.M. Kinder Drop
	Souza Farms	11:10 a.m.	3:15 p.m.
11:50 a.m.	Hanson Way/Main	11:00	3:08
11:56	1025 W. Boone	10:45	3:20/3:12
			Los Adobes
			ASES
12:10 p.m.	Cook/Oakley (North)	10:50	3:17
12:15	Cook/Oakley (South)	10:52	3:15
12:20	Cypress/Russell	10:55	3:12
12:05	Orange/Russell	10:42	3:16
12:25	Thornburg/Cypress	10:35	3:15
12:28	Thornburg/Cook (South side)	10:38	3:12
11:20 a.m.	Drop p.m. Kinders at Bonita		
3:00 p.m.	Pick-up p.m. Kinders at Bonita		

TAYLOR SCHOOL			
Pick-up		Drop	
6:55 a.m.	Cesar Chavez/side of Kunst	2:24 p.m.	
6:55	Taylor/Curryer (South side)	2:30	
6:48	Taylor/Curryer (North side)	2:30	
6:50	Railroad/Boxcar (East side of Railroad)	2:25	
6:45	Railroad/Boxcar (West side of Railroad)	2:30	
6:45	Hidden Pines/Central Park	2:35	
6:50	Johnson/Bennetta	2:25	
6:55	Preisker/Cedar	2:32	
6:50	Hidden Pines/Boxwood	2:30	
7:10	Drop at Taylor		
11:30	Pick up a.m. Kinders at Taylor		

TAYLOR KG			
A.M. Kinder pick-up		a.m. KG drop	
6:55 a.m.	Cesar Chavez/Hidden Pines	11:30 a.m.	
6:50	Railroad/Boxcar (East side of Railroad)	11:25	
6:45	Railroad/Boxcar (West side of Railroad)	11:27	
6:50	Taylor/Curryer (South side)	11:20	
6:48	Taylor/Curryer (North side)	11:22	
6:45	Hidden Pines/Central Park	11:33	
6:50	Johnson/Bennetta	11:35	
6:50	Hidden Pines/Boxwood	11:38	
6:55	Preisker/Cedar	11:43	
7:10	Drop at Taylor		

P.M. KG			
Pick-up		P.M. KG drop	
10:00 a.m.	Cesar Chavez/Hidden Pines	2:25 p.m.	
9:55	Railroad/Boxcar (East side of Railroad)	2:30	
9:45	Taylor/Curryer (South side)	2:35	
9:50	Taylor/Curryer (North side)	2:25	
9:57	Railroad/Boxcar (West side of Railroad)	2:25	
10:03	Hidden Pines/Central Park	2:35	
10:07	Johnson/Bennetta	2:25	
10:10	Hidden Pines/Boxwood	2:30	
10:15	Preisker/Cedar	2:32	
10:25	Drop at Taylor		



LIBERTY ELEMENTARY			
Pick-up		Drop	
7:18 a.m.	Russell/Church	2:45 p.m.	
7:20	Russell/Cook	2:48	
7:20	Boone/Western (1026 W. Boone)	2:45	
7:15	Russell/Las Flores	2:53	
7:20	Knudsen/Blosser	2:45	
7:23	Oakley/Knudsen	2:55	
7:20	Madison/Heritage	2:40	
7:30	Drop Liberty		
11:40 a.m.	Pick up a.m. Kinders		

a.m. KG Drop		p.m. KG In	p.m. KG Drop
11:37 a.m.	Russell/Las Flores	10:14	2:53
11:44	Russell/Church	10:21	2:45
11:47	Russell/Cook	10:25	2:48
11:50	1026 Boone/Western	10:27	2:45
11:55	Oakley/Knudsen	10:32	2:55
12:00	Knudsen/Blosser	10:37	2:45
11:35	Madison/Heritage	10:40	2:40
Drop p.m. Kinders 10:45 a.m.			

JIMENEZ SCHOOL			
Pick-up		Drop	
7:27 a.m.	Prairie/Depot West	2:35 p.m.	
7:05	Roschelle/Thornburg	2:45	
7:10	Sheila/Lincoln	2:37	
7:25	Lolita/Thornburg	2:58	
7:33	Dal Porto/Thornburg	3:05	
7:35	Prairie/Depot	3:08	
7:25	521 Sonya @ gate mid-block	2:49	
7:28	Depot/Carmen Ln.		

Unstoppable

What do you think it's *actually* going to take to put the company formerly know as Greka Oil and Gas out of business?

Being sued by the **United States of America**, the **state of California**, and the **California Department of Fish and Wildlife** for a series of oil spills that occurred between 2005 and 2010? The government claims that Greka (now known as **HVI Cat Canyon**) violated the Clean Water Act, the California water code, the California Fish and Game code, and failed to implement any sort of spill prevention and control plan as required by the state. Nope. That lawsuit was filed in 2011 and is still ongoing.

Want to solve something in a timely manner? Don't file a lawsuit.

How about a stop-injection order from **State Oil and Gas Supervisor Kenneth A. Harris Jr.** for failing to basically do anything correctly in more than 1,500 instances? Harris is the same dude that **Gov. Gavin Newsom** just fired because his agency (the **Division of Oil, Gas, and Geothermal Resources**, aka DOGGR, which has been in the dog house since 2013) was accused of handing out an increasing number of fracking permits. That's the dude who was overseeing DOGGR officials who environmental activists allege actually hold stock in the very same companies they oversee. Dog. House.

If that guy is telling you that you're shady, then you're definitely shady.

That stop-injection order was filed in 2017—and Greka, err, HVI, still managed to continue injecting, outjecting, and rejecting environmental regulations.

A \$12 million fine from the very same department in April 2018? Negative, Ghost Rider. How about the **U.S. Environmental Protection Agency** serving search warrants on the company in December 2018? Nope, nope.

In fact, the shadiest of the shady oil companies might actually be unkillable if it's only violating environmental regulations. Who cares about that? The thing that might actually get HVI/Greka, aka **The Suckiest Oil Company in California**, is all of the money that it owes people and fails to pay back. It's all spelled out in the little bankruptcy petition HVI filed in a U.S. District Court in New York! At least 15 actions have been levied against the company for breach of contract, loan defaults, property tax liens, and other legal type things.

Basically, get it line, people! We ain't doin' nothin' right!

This includes the impending auction of mineral rights in Orcutt, which the company supposedly used as collateral to secure a loan from the international bank **UBS AG**. A loan that it, of course, defaulted on.

Actually, now that I think about it, HVI might actually get out of its payment obligations too. **ERG Resources** filed for bankruptcy in 2015 and is currently in the middle of a project that could increase the number of wells on its property in Cat Canyon and cost millions of dollars. So really, what does bankruptcy even mean in the grand scheme of things?

Companies that can't keep their assets together still get to play in the oil field—so maybe HVI really is untouchable. Nothing will bring it down. Nothing! ☹

The Canary is convinced that the system is rigged. Send comments to canary@santamariasun.com.



a Marriott Autograph Collection Hotel

Opens Soon in Pismo Beach.

Vespera on Ocean celebrates the best of Pismo's beach culture, offering stylish rooms and a casual upscale beach aesthetic.

Currently, we are seeking talented and experienced people to join our team.

Along with exciting hotel career opportunities, we are also offering a variety of positions in our new **Oceanfront Restaurant, Somerset Grill.**



Here are just a few of the current opportunities:

- Experienced Cook
- Dishwashers
- Host and Hostess
- Pastry cooks
- Food Server
- Food Runner
- Bartender
- House Attendants
- Laundry Attendant
- Housekeeping Supervisor

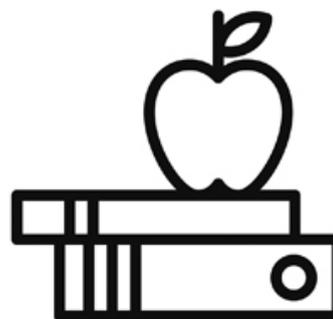
For more details on these positions and to apply...

Visit the careers page on our webpage at www.VesperaPismoBeach.com or call **805-773-1011**. Apply today for immediate openings!

SANTA MARIA-BONITA SCHOOL DISTRICT MODIFIED SINGLE TRACK

2019/2020 School Schedules - All Schools Start on August 12, 2019

	AM/PM Kindergarten	1st thru 6th	
ADAM	a.m. 7:50 - 11:10 p.m. 11:10 - 2:30	8:00-2:25/buses arrive 2:30 p.m.	
ALVIN	a.m. 7:50 - 11:10 p.m. 11:10 - 2:30	8:00 - 2:25	
ARELLANES (K-6)	a.m. 7:45 - 11:25 p.m. 10:30 - 2:10	7:45 - 2:10	
BATTLES	a.m. 7:50 - 11:10 p.m. 11:10 - 2:30	8:00 - 2:25	
BONITA	a.m. 7:45 - 11:05 p.m. 11:40 - 3:00	7:35 - 2:00	
R. BRUCE	a.m. 7:45 - 11:25 p.m. 10:45 - 2:25	8:00 - 2:25	
FAIRLAWN	a.m. 7:50 - 11:30 p.m. 11:20 - 2:40	8:00 - 2:25	
JIMENEZ	a.m. 8:00 - 11:40 p.m. 10:40 - 2:20 10:40-11:00 AM K Lunch 11:05-11:25 PM K Lunch THURSDAY SCHEDULE ALL KINDERS a.m. 9:50 - 1:30	8:00 - 2:25	
LIBERTY	a.m. 7:45 - 11:25 p.m. 10:45 - 2:25 TK: 7:45 - 11:25	8:00 - 2:25	
MILLER	a.m. 8:00 - 11:40 p.m. 10:45 - 2:25	8:00 - 2:25	
OAKLEY	a.m. 7:55 - 11:15 p.m. 11:15 - 2:35	8:00 - 2:25	
ONTIVEROS	a.m. 7:50 - 11:30 p.m. 10:55 - 2:15 (PM Kinders eat lunch from 10:35 to 10:55) THURSDAY SCHEDULE ALL KINDERS a.m. 9:35 - 1:15	8:00 - 2:25	
RICE	a.m. 7:50 - 11:10 p.m. 11:15 - 2:35 (PM Kinders eat lunch from 10:55 to 11:15)	8:00 - 2:25	
SANCHEZ	a.m. 8:00 - 11:20 p.m. 11:16 - 2:36	8:00 - 2:25	
TAYLOR	a.m. 7:30 - 10:50 p.m. 10:50 - 2:10 TK: 10:50 - 2:10	7:45 - 2:10	
TUNNELL	a.m. 8:00 - 11:40 p.m. 10:45 - 2:25	8:00 - 2:25	
JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOLS			
Arellanes	8:36 - 3:30		
El Camino	8:30 - 3:24		
Fesler	8:15 - 3:17		
Kunst	8:32 - 3:25		

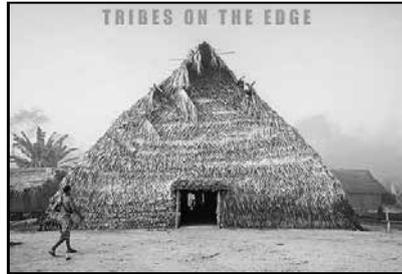


Supporting local journalism, one ticket at a time.



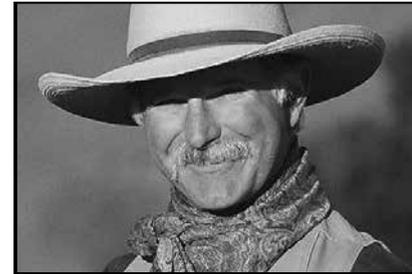
QUILTERS
JULY 19 - AUGUST 11, 2019
FRIDAY-SATURDAY 7:00PM
SUNDAY 2:00PM

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



TRIBES ON THE EDGE

SLO Motion Presents: Tribes On The Edge, An evening with Céline Cousteau
SATURDAY, AUGUST 3
The Palm Theatre



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



CENTRAL COAST AQUARIUM AVILA BEACH

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



Little Women
AUGUST 2-18
Park Street Ballroom



Alice Wallace with Tanbark
SUNDAY, AUGUST 4
Peter Strauss Ranch



Cheese and Beer Pairing with Cailloux Cheese Shop
SUNDAY, AUGUST 4
Naughty Oak Brewing Co.



August Brewasana
SUNDAY, AUGUST 4
7Sisters Brewing Co.



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



AUGUST: OSAGE COUNTY

August Osage County Play
AUGUST 9-25
Santa Maria Civic Theatre



11TH ANNUAL ZONGO YACHTING CUP
MORRO BAY TO AVILA BEACH
FRIDAY, AUGUST 9 2019

Zongo Yachting Cup
FRIDAY, AUGUST 9
Morro Bay Yacht Club



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



BEE GEES GOLD THE TRIBUTE

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



Veterans Benefit Concert

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



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



RESONANCE

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



VINEYARD HAYRIDE

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

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.




WORDS SAUCE DRIVE-IN ROMEOS
BURNING, BAD & COOL

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



CASH'D OUT
A Johnny Cash Show

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



CENTRAL COAST CIDER FESTIVAL
08.10.2019
Atascadero Pavilion on the Lake & Park

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



CENTRAL COAST CIDER FESTIVAL
08.11.2019
SUNDAY BRUNCH SEMINAR

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



Laughter Festival

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



TOOTH & NAIL WINERY
CASTLE DINNER SERIES

Castle Dinner Series
THURSDAY, AUGUST 15
Tooth & Nail Winery



Watercolor + Wine
THURSDAY, AUGUST 15
Talley Vineyards



Woodstock 50 Years Later with Tiny Porch Concerts
FRIDAY, AUGUST 16
Five Threads Brewing Company



wine & Dine
Aug. 17th 6:30pm
FOOD FOR THE SOUL

Wine & Dine Pre-Harvest
SATURDAY, AUGUST 17
Wild Coyote Estates



EVENING UNDER THE ESTRELLA SKY
WINEMAKERS' DINNER

An Evening Under the Estrella Sky Winemaker's Dinner
SATURDAY, AUGUST 17
Harley Farms



The Big Sirs of Swing
SUNDAY, AUGUST 18
Old Santa Rosa Chapel



Aireene Espiritu in Concert
TUESDAY, AUGUST 20
Morro Bay Wine Seller



Andrew Dice Clay
SATURDAY, AUGUST 24
Rava Wines + Events



Fiesta Latina

Fiesta Latina
SATURDAY, AUGUST 24
Dana Adobe Cultural Center



Avila Apple Festival

Avila Apple Festival
SATURDAY, AUGUST 24
Avila Beach Community Center Garden



41k Summer Set
SATURDAY, AUGUST 24
Bonnie's Bungalow, Los Osos



SLUDGE
HIS FINAL MATCH ON THE CENTRAL COAST

Planet Lucha
SATURDAY, AUGUST 24
Lompoc Veteran's Memorial Hall



Shell Beach Showcase
SUNDAY, AUGUST 25
Point San Luis Lighthouse

Interested in selling tickets with My805Tix? Contact us for a demo today! info@My805Tix.com POWERED BY: *NewTimes* & **SUN** FOLLOW US ON FACEBOOK! 

HOT STUFF

AUG. 1 – AUG. 8
2019

PLANT AHEAD

Growing Grounds Farm in Santa Maria hosts its annual Summer Succulent Sale on Saturday, Aug. 10, and Sunday, Aug. 11, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. both days. This event features an extensive selection of rare and exotic succulents in a variety of pot sizes. The farm is located at 820 W. Foster Road, Santa Maria. Call (805) 934-2182 to find out more.

—Caleb Wiseblood

PHOTO COURTESY OF PEYTON OLIVER

SPECIAL EVENTS

SANTA MARIA VALLEY/LOS ALAMOS

ANNUAL SUMMER SUCCULENT SALE Come to this annual celebration of all things succulent. Featuring an extensive selection of rare and exotic succulents in a variety of pot sizes to suit all your project and landscaping needs, as well as some houseplants. **Aug. 10**, 10 a.m.-3 p.m. and **Aug. 11**, 10 a.m.-3 p.m. 805-934-2182. t-mha.org. Growing Grounds Farm, 820 W. Foster Rd., Santa Maria.

HOT AUGUST DANCE PARTY Featuring Riptide Big Band with vocalist, Bob Nations. Free thanks to grant funded by the Community Foundation of San Luis Obispo County. Refreshments available. **Aug. 11**, 1:30-4 p.m. Free. 775-813-5186. RiptideBB.com. Elwin Mussell Senior Center, 510 Park Ave., Santa Maria.

OASIS FIFTH ANNUAL BARBECUE Come enjoy a barbecue lunch of tri-tip with all the fixings. Also features raffles, prizes, and more. **Aug. 5**, 12-2 p.m. \$15. 805-937-9750. oasisorcutt.org. Oasis Senior Center, 420 Soares Ave., Orcutt.

TEA AND TALES: CRAZY HATS Wear your craziest hat to the Library while you enjoy stories, refreshing tea, lemonade, and snacks. **Aug. 7**, 4-5 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

52ND ANNUAL RAINBOW OF GEMS SHOW

Features more than 50 gem dealers, displays and lapidary arts demonstrations, kid's activities, and more. **Aug. 2**, 10 a.m.-5 p.m., **Aug. 3**, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. and **Aug. 4**, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Free. 805-489-6590. Nipomo High School, 525 N Thompson Ave, Nipomo.

STRIDE WITH THE TIDE 5K FUN RUN

Registration includes a t-shirt. Call or visit site for more info. **Aug. 3**, 7:15 a.m.-noon \$15-\$25. 805-773-7063. pismoeach.org/73/Recreation. Pismo Beach Pier, West end of Pomeroy, Pismo Beach.

SAN LUIS OBISPO

AFTERNOON AT THE RANCH Celebrate summertime and support ECOSLO with this benefit event featuring live music by Carbon City Lights, Dante Marsh, and Dr. Danger, and food from Beda's

Biergarten. Guest speakers include Herb Filipponi of Filipponi Ranch and Mary Ciesinski of ECOSLO. **Aug. 10**, 1-5 p.m. Starts at \$25. 805-544-1777. ecoslo.org. Filipponi Ranch, 1850 Calle Joaquin, San Luis Obispo.

SLO RAILROAD MUSEUM: ICE CREAM SOCIAL

Enjoy railroad-themed art and all the Museum train displays during this open house along with free samples from the McConnell's Gourmet Ice Cream truck (full servings available for purchase). All ages welcome. **Aug. 2**, 6-9 p.m. Free. 805-548-1894. slorm.com/190802.html. San Luis Obispo Railroad Museum, 1940 Santa Barbara Ave, San Luis Obispo.

NORTH SLO COUNTY

2019 CENTRAL COAST CIDER FEST The 4th Annual Central Coast Cider Festival is a culmination of this craft beverage, giving attendees a great opportunity to taste a variety of ciders, meet the cider makers, and enjoy the community of Atascadero. **Aug. 10**, 5-8 p.m. \$25-\$65. Pavilion on the Lake, 9315 Pismo Ave., Atascadero.

NORTH COAST SLO COUNTY

CELEBRATING CAMBRIA LIBRARY'S 98TH BIRTHDAY

An afternoon birthday celebration with treats, goodie bags, party hats, and more. **Aug. 1**, 3:30-5 p.m. Free. 805-927-4336. slolibrary.org. Cambria Library, 1043 Main St., Cambria.

CAMBRIA ANNUAL WINE AND BEER FESTIVAL

Ticket holders will be treated to unlimited pours from 18 local wine and craft beer purveyors and live music by The Chad Band. Funds raised will support Infant Essentials. **Aug. 3**, 1-4:30 p.m. \$49-\$59. 805-927-1625. harmonywineandbeerfestival.com/.

Harmony, 2177 Old Creamery Road, Harmony.

THIRD ANNUAL OLALLIEBERRY FESTIVAL

Features live music, cooking demos, dessert contest, and kid's

New Times and the Sun now share their community listings for a complete Central Coast calendar running from SLO County through northern Santa Barbara County. Submit events online by logging in with your Google, Facebook, or Twitter account at newtimeslo.com. You may also email calendar@newtimeslo.com. Deadline is one week before the issue date on Thursdays. Submissions are subject to editing and approval. Contact Calendar Editor Caleb Wiseblood directly at cwiseblood@newtimeslo.com.

activities. Local vendors offer Olallieberry treats, drinks, and local wine and beer. **Aug. 10**, 11 a.m.-4 p.m. Free. 805-927-3624. Cambria Historical Museum, 2251 Center St., Cambria, cambriahistoricalsociety.com.

FUNDRAISERS

SANTA YNEZ VALLEY

FSA BENEFIT: PCPA THEATER RECEPTION

Join Family Service Agency/SMVYFC for an unforgettable evening of world-class theater under the stars. Tickets include wine and beer tastings, raffle, hors d'oeuvres, live music, and admission to *The Addams Family*. **Aug. 4**, 5-10 p.m. \$60. 805-965-1001 ext. 421. fscares.org/pcpa. Solvang Festival Theater, 420 2nd St., Solvang.

SANTA MARIA VALLEY/LOS ALAMOS

EAT, PLAY, LOVE LOS ALAMOS Enjoy 21 local businesses, complete the punch card and be entered in to a grand prize drawing to win a week in South Lake Tahoe. Must be 21 or older. **Aug. 3**, 1-5 p.m. \$40. Los Alamos Library, 405 Helena St, Los Alamos.

FORM OVER FUNCTION 7 FUNDRAISER

A concert festival fundraiser benefiting the Ian M Hassett Foundation. Features live music from three local acts. **Aug. 10**, 6-10 p.m. \$25/\$45 VIP. 805-878-1334. ianmhassett.com/fundraiser-info.html. Presqu'île Winery, 5391 Presqu'île Dr., Santa Maria.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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

HUMMINGBIRD IN UNDERWORLD: BOOK SIGNING WITH DEBORAH TOBOLA

Alternating between tales of teaching drama in prison and the author's own story, this memoir takes readers on an unforgettable literary journey. **Aug. 3**, 2-3 p.m. 805-688-6010. bookloftsolvang.com. The Book Loft, 1680 Mission Dr., Solvang.

ARTS continued page 18

SUBMIT YOUR EVENTS

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SANTA MARIA VALLEY/LOS ALAMOS

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

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

EXHIBITS

SANTA YNEZ VALLEY

CELEBRATING THE NATIONAL LANDS OF CALIFORNIA A showcase of fine art inspired by national parks, monuments, preserves, and recreation areas located within the state of California. Mondays,



CONJUNCTION FUNCTION

The seventh annual *Form Over Function*, a festival fundraiser to benefit the Ian M. Hasset Foundation, takes place at Presqu'ile Winery on Saturday, Aug. 10, from 6 to 10 p.m. This event includes live music from three local acts, various raffles, wine, beer, food from Cubanissimo and BBQ in The Stix, and more. The winery is located at 5391 Presqu'ile Drive, Santa Maria. Tickets start at \$25 and are available at my805tix.com.

—C.W.

Wednesdays-Sundays, 10 a.m.-10 p.m. 20 \$5. 805-686-8315. wildlingmuseum.org/news/celebrating-the-national-lands-of-california-art-exhibit. 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

ARTS continued page 20

FILE PHOTO COURTESY OF PRESQU'ILE WINERY



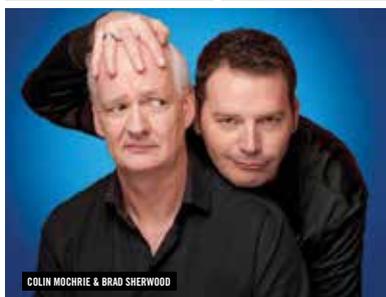
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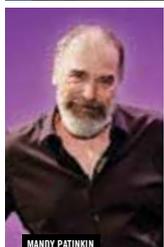
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CIRQUE ELOIZE



COLIN MOCHRIE & BRAD SHERWOOD



MANDY PATINKIN



FLOR DE TOLOACHE



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2019

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

2020

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



CHAMBER WELCOMES NEW MEMBERS

July 2019

- SeaCrest OceanFront Hotel**
2241 Price Street, Pismo Beach
(805) 773-3715
www.seacrestpismo.com
- Figueroa Mountain Brewing Co. & Pizzeria**
560 E. Betteravia Rd, Ste. A, Santa Maria
(805) 925-7992
www.figmtnbrew.com/taprooms/santa-maria
1462 E. Grande Ave, Arroyo Grande
(805) 474-8225
www.figmtnbrew.com/taprooms/arroyo-grande
- Adriana's Insurance**
1827 N. Broadway, Santa Maria
(805) 254-4480
www.adrianasinsurance.com

- Fitzpatrick Professional Accountancy, LLP**
555 Chorro Street, Ste. B, San Luis Obispo
(805) 781-0688
fitzpatrick-accountancy.com
200 W. Victoria Street, Santa Barbara
(805) 963-1781
www.fitzpatrick-accountancy.com

- Santa Maria BMX**
4040 Highway 101, Santa Maria
www.santamariabmx.com

- Johnson Family Dental**
www.johnsonfamilydental.com
745 Betteravia Road
Santa Maria, CA 93455
(805) 623-4228
7/22/2019

- Central Coast Garage Door Lighting**
Orcutt, CA 93457
(805) 868-6699
www.centralcoastgaragedoorlighting.com

(805) 925-2403 | www.santamaria.com

Calendar of Events

SEPT

14 **The Purple xPeRleNCE**
- Marshall Charloff recreates
the magic of Prince.

NOV

16 **Four Italian Tenors**
- Young stars of Italian opera
in their USA Debut.

23 **Little Texas**
- Country Band Reunited!

24 **Harlem 100**
- Celebration of
the Harlem Renaissance.

JAN

23 **The Peking Acrobats**
- Triumphant Return!

26 **Steep Canyon Rangers**
- Bluegrass Stars!

FEB

7 **Remember When Rock Was
Young: The Elton John
Tribute**

15 **Riders in the Sky**
- Cowboy Music & Humor

MAR

5 **Dinosaur World Live!**
- Family show with giant puppets.

7 **Live from Laurel Canyon**
- Legendary classic LA Rock scene!

14 **Glenn Miller Orchestra**
- The Big Band of All Big Bands.

28 **American Diamond**
- Jay White IS Neil Diamond.

APR

4 **The Drifters**
- Classic 60's Group reunited!

18 **Desperado**
- The Eagles Tribute

MAY

2 **Best of San Francisco
Stand-Up Comedy**

9 **Stunt Dog Experience**
- Family Show with rescue dogs.



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THE FAB FOUR

FRIDAY

AUG
2

8 PM

FRI & SAT

AUG
9 & 10

8 PM



TYLER HENRY



LOS RIELEROS
DEL NORTE
& SPECIAL GUEST
REGULO CARO

FRIDAY

AUG
16

8 PM

SATURDAY

AUG
17

8 PM



MARTIN NIEVERA
+
POPS FERNANDEZ
TWO-GETHER AGAIN 2019

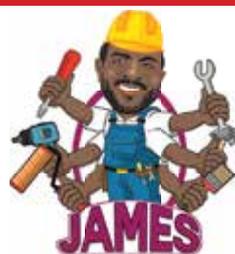


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Must be 21 years of age or older to attend. Chumash Casino Resort reserves the right to change or cancel promotions and events.

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- ◆ Orcutt Learning Center - Grades 9-12
- ◆ SLO Center - Grades K-12
- ◆ Morro Bay - Grades K-5



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p.m. Free. 805-686-1080. pavlovgallery.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.

THREE VIEWPOINTS Three regionally recognized Gallery los Olivos artists join in August to exhibit landscapes from oceans to deserts. Carrie Givens and Morgan Green will exhibit pastel paintings and Ellen Yeomans will exhibit oil paintings. Mondays-Sundays, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. through Aug. 31 805-688-7517. GalleryLosOlivos.com. Gallery Los Olivos, 2920 Grand Ave., 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.

PHOTO COURTESY OF THE ELVERHOJ MUSEUM OF HISTORY AND ART



DRESS TO IMPRESS

The Elverhoj Museum of History and Art hosts the Gallery Walk and Talk for The Art of Dress on Saturday, Aug. 3, at 4 p.m. Exhibit organizer Georganne Alex and Elverhoj Executive Director Esther Jacobsen Bates will lead the tour. A closing reception will follow, from 4:30 to 6 p.m. The museum is located at 1624 Elverhoy Way, Solvang. Visit elverhoj.org for more info.

—C.W.

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

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

STAGE

SANTA YNEZ VALLEY

SOLVANG FESTIVAL THEATER: THE ADDAMS FAMILY A musical comedy based on the classic TV series. **Aug. 2-25** Solvang Festival Theater, 420 2nd St., Solvang, 805-928-7731.

SOUTH COAST SLO COUNTY

CAMP BROADWAY: WILLY WONKA JR. For boys and girls grades K-8. Through Aug. 9, 9 a.m.-3 p.m. \$625. 805-489-1210. stpatschoolag.com/performing-arts/st-pats-summer-camps/. St. Patrick Catholic School, 900 W. Branch St., Arroyo Grande.

INTERACTIVE MURDER MYSTERY DINNER THEATRE Enjoy a murder mystery play and dinner. Presented by Murder in Mind Productions. **Aug. 11**, 5-7 p.m. \$55. 805-489-3875. murderinmind.com. F. McIntocks Saloon & Dining House, 750 Mattie Rd, Shell Beach.

AUDITIONS

SANTA MARIA VALLEY/LOS ALAMOS

DIMENSIONS IN DANCE AUDITIONS Come and audition for AHC's Dimensions in Dance concert. Beginning to advanced dancers. All styles of dance. **Aug. 10**, 9 a.m.-2 p.m. Free. 805 922 6966 Ext. 3845. hancockcollege.edu/dance. Marian Theatre, 800 S. College Dr., Santa Maria.

CULTURE & LIFESTYLE

LECTURES & LEARNING

LOMPOC/VANDENBERG

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

SANTA MARIA VALLEY/LOS ALAMOS

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

SIMPLE SPANISH Instructor based Spanish class for beginners. Tuesdays, 2:30-3:30 p.m. Free. 805-937-9750. Oasis Senior Center, 420 Soares Ave., Orcutt.

SPANISH COMPUTER CLASS Covers basic concepts. Best suited for those with little or no computer experience. **Aug. 1**, 1-2 p.m. 805-925-0994. Santa Maria Public Library, 421 S. McClelland St., Santa Maria.

CLUBS & MEETINGS

SANTA MARIA VALLEY/LOS ALAMOS

BOARD OF LIBRARY TEENS (BOLT) Teens help plan upcoming teen events and make changes in the teen zone. **Aug. 5**, 4-5 p.m. Free. 805-925-0994. Santa Maria Public Library, 421 S. McClelland St., Santa Maria.

BOOK CLUB Meet once a month to discuss a book. This month's book: *The Goldfinch* by Donna Tartt. **Aug. 8**, 1:30-2:30 p.m. Free. 805-937-9750. oasisorcutt.org. Oasis Senior Center, 420 Soares Ave., Orcutt.

HAM RADIO HAM Radio operators can show guests how to build their own radio and share information about operating them. Mondays, 8:30-10:30 a.m. Free. 805-937-9750. oasisorcutt.org. Oasis Senior Center, 420 Soares Ave., Orcutt.

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.

SANTA MARIA CAMERA CLUB PROGRAM AND BUSINESS MEETING An open, friendly group of people who love taking pictures. Learn from guest speakers, go on field trips, and share pictures you've taken. First Wednesday of every month, 7-9:30 p.m. through Nov. 7 805-801-2879. santamariacameraclub.org. Merrill Gardens, 1220 N Suey Rd, Santa Maria.

SANTA MARIA PUBLIC LIBRARY GARDEN CLUB These meetings will offer gardening tips, a variety of presentations, succulent exchanges, and demos. First Saturday of every month, 10:30-11:30 a.m. through Nov. 30 805-925-0994. Santa Maria Public Library, 421 S. McClelland St., 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.

SPOUSE AND PARTNER LOSS SUPPORT GROUP

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

CREATE & LEARN

SANTA MARIA VALLEY/LOS ALAMOS

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

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

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.

DANCES OF UNIVERSAL PEACE Simple, meditative, and joyous circle dances using music, mantras and movements from a variety of cultures and spiritual traditions. First Sunday of every month, 2-4 p.m. \$8 - \$10 donation. 805-717-1933. Unity Chapel of Light Church, 1165 Stubblefield Rd., Orcutt, unitiesantamaria.net/.



THE FUN IN FUNDRAISER

Solvang Festival Theater hosts a fundraiser to benefit the Santa Maria Valley Youth and Family Center and the Family Service Agency on Sunday, Aug. 4, from 5 to 10 p.m. This event includes wine and beer tastings, hors d'oeuvres, a raffle, and a showing of PCPA's production of The Addams Family. Admission is \$60. The theater is located at 420 2nd St., Solvang. Visit fscares.org/pepa for more info.

—C.W.

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.

KIDS & FAMILY

SANTA MARIA VALLEY/LOS ALAMOS

DISNEY/PIXAR FAMILY FUED Round up the family and come to the Library to compete in a Disney/Pixar-themed Family Feud night. All questions will be based on Disney and Pixar films. **Aug. 6**, 4-5 p.m. Free. 805-925-0994. cityofsantamaria.org/city-government/departments/library. Santa Maria Public Library, 421 S. McClelland St., Santa Maria.

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

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

NEON NIGHTS AT ROCKIN' JUMP Fridays, Saturdays, 8-10 p.m. 805-266-7080. Santa Maria Town Center, 142 Town Center East, Santa Maria.

PHOTO COURTESY OF LUIS ESCOBAR REFLECTIONS PHOTOGRAPHY STUDIO

PYJAMA DRAMA: PIRATES AND MERMAIDS SUMMER CAMP Enjoy dancing, singing, and playing like pirate and mermaids with Pyjama Drama of the Central Coast. **Aug. 5-9**, 9 a.m.-noon \$125-\$150. 805-928-8414. smvdiscoverymuseum.org/summer-camps-2/. Santa Maria Valley Discovery Museum, 705 S. McClelland St., Santa Maria.

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

READING BUDDIES Teen Volunteers and kids will read aloud to each other, helping build kids' confidence, comprehension skills and complete the Library's Summer Reading Program. Mondays-Thursdays, 3-5 p.m. through Aug. 8 Free. 805-925-0994. Santa Maria Public Library, 421 S. McClelland St., Santa Maria.

SANTA MARIA VALLEY RAILWAY HISTORICAL MUSEUM The Santa Maria Valley Railway Historical Museum features a locomotive, boxcar, caboose,

CULTURE & LIFESTYLE continued page 21

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

STUFFED ANIMAL SLEEPOVER Drop off your stuffed friend for a sleepover. Registration begins Aug. 2. **Aug. 9**, 10:45 a.m.-5:30 p.m. Free. 805-925-0994. cityofsantamaria.org/city-government/departments/library. 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. Through Aug. 9 \$125-\$150. 805-928-8414. smvdiscovymuseum.org/summer-camps-2/. Santa Maria Valley Discovery Museum, 705 S. McClelland St., Santa Maria.

TEEN SUPER SMASH BROS. TOURNAMENT Open to teens. Game play starts at 3:15 p.m. **Aug. 2**, 3-5 p.m. Free. 805-925-0994. cityofsantamaria.org/city-government/departments/library. 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 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.



ARROYO GRANDE FARMERS MARKET Includes produce, artists and musicians. Saturdays, 12-2:25 p.m. Arroyo Grande Farmers Market, Olohan Alley, Arroyo Grande.

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

SAN LUIS OBISPO

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

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

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

EVENTS

SANTA YNEZ VALLEY

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

STANDING SUN: TASTING ROOM

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

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

LOMPOC/VANDENBERG

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

TASTING AT MONTEMAR WINES Offering handcrafted wines, charcuterie, and cheeses. Fridays-

IMAGE COURTESY OF MATTHEW EGBERT



JOINT OF INTEREST

Moxie Cafe hosts a stem cell and regenerative medicine class every other Thursday, from 5:30 to 6:45 p.m. This new class started on Thursday, July 25, and offers information on stem cell allograft services and innovations in joint care. Admission is free. The cafe is located at 1317 W. McCoy Lane, Santa Maria. Call (805) 614-7820 or visit restorativespineandjoint.com for more info.

—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.

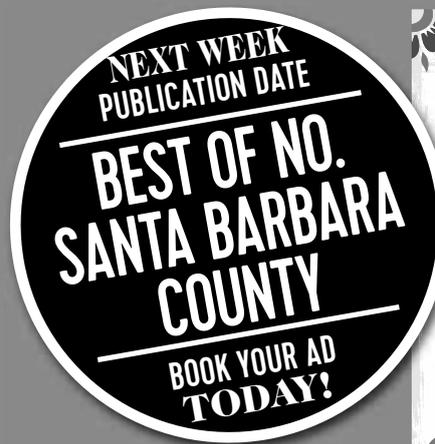
Sundays, 12-5 p.m. 805-735-5000. facebook.com/montemarwines. Montemar Wines, 1501 E. Chestnut Ave., Lompoc.

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.

SANTA MARIA VALLEY/LOS ALAMOS

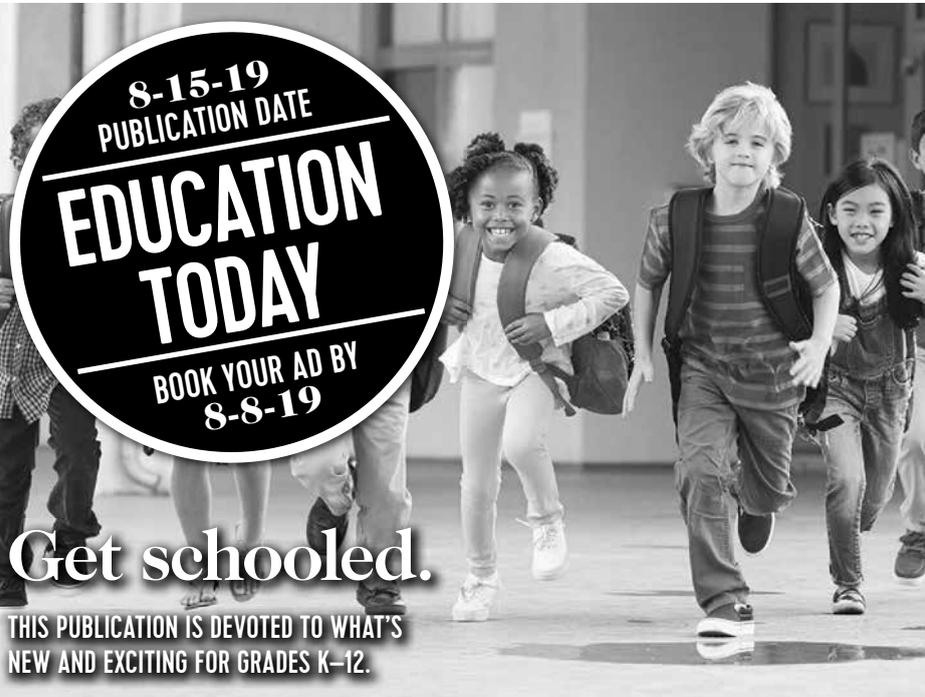
CHEESE AND BEER PAIRING: CAILLOUX CHEESE SHOP A guided tasting of eight Naughty Oak beers that have been paired with eight different cheeses from all over the globe. **Aug. 4**, 2-4 p.m. \$25. my805tix.com. Naughty Oak Brewing Co., 165 S Broadway St Ste 102, Orcutt, 805-287-9663.

PANCAKE BREAKFAST Enjoy pancakes, eggs, sausage, coffee, and juice while you meet new and old friends. Proceeds support OASIS Community Center. Second Saturday of every month, 7:45-9:45 a.m. \$5. 805-937-9750. Oasis Senior Center, 420 Soares Ave., Orcutt. ☺



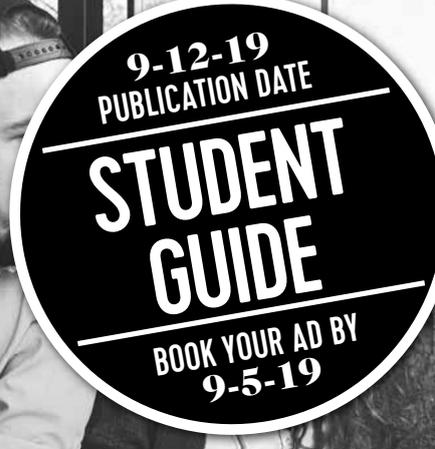
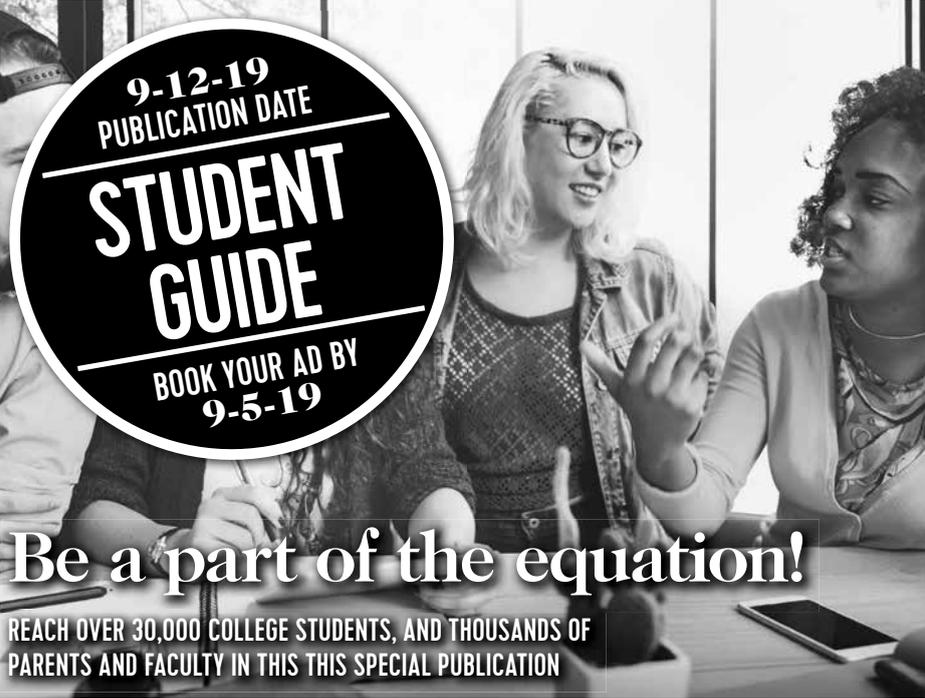
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Live Music

SANTA YNEZ VALLEY

BRANDI ROSE LIVE Food and drinks available for purchase. No outside food or drinks allowed. **Aug. 10**, 1-4 p.m. Free. Cold Spring Tavern, 5995 Stagecoach Rd., Santa Barbara, 805-967-0066, coldspringtavern.com/entertainment.html.

DO NO HARM LIVE Food and drinks available for purchase. No outside food or drinks allowed. **Aug. 3**, 5-8 p.m. Cold Spring Tavern, 5995 Stagecoach Rd., Santa Barbara, 805-967-0066, coldspringtavern.com/entertainment.html.

DUSTY JUGZ LIVE Food and drinks available for purchase. No outside food or drinks allowed. **Aug. 4**, 4:30-7:30 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.

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

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

ODDLY STRAIGHT LIVE Food and drinks available for purchase. No outside food or drinks allowed. **Aug. 2**, 6-9 p.m. Cold Spring Tavern, 5995 Stagecoach Rd., Santa Barbara, 805-967-0066, coldspringtavern.com/entertainment.html.

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

RML LIVE Food and drinks available for purchase. No outside food or drinks allowed. **Aug. 10**, 5-8 p.m. Free. Cold Spring Tavern, 5995 Stagecoach Rd., Santa Barbara, 805-967-0066, coldspringtavern.com/entertainment.html.

THE SALT MARTIANIS LIVE Food and drinks available for purchase. No outside food or drinks allowed. **Aug. 3**, 1-4 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. **Aug. 9**, 6-9 p.m. Free. Cold Spring Tavern, 5995 Stagecoach Rd., Santa Barbara, 805-967-0066, coldspringtavern.com/entertainment.html.

STUDIO C LIVE Food and drinks available for purchase. No outside food or drinks allowed. **Aug. 10**, 5-8 p.m. Cold Spring Tavern, 5995 Stagecoach Rd., Santa Barbara, 805-967-0066, coldspringtavern.com/entertainment.html.

SUNDAY ROUND-UP Enjoy live music on the

MUSIC LISTINGS continued page 23



LIVERPOOL LADS: The Chumash Casino Resort presents The Fab Four on Friday, Aug. 2, at 8 p.m. This tribute group re-creates several of the Beatles' most notable performances, including their 1964 appearance on *The Ed Sullivan Show*.

Ticket to ride

Beatlemania strikes again with The Fab Four in Santa Ynez

BY CALEB WISEBLOOD

Blue Meanies and Mr. Mustard affiliates best keep away from the Chumash Casino Resort in Santa Ynez come **Friday, Aug. 2**. **The Fab Four** may not be the *real* Beatles, but how many tribute bands can you name with bragging rights to performing at Tom Hanks' birthday party?

From the iconic mop-tops to each band member's idiosyncratic mannerisms, the group's goal is for concertgoers to feel as if the real John, Paul, George, and Ringo are performing right before their very eyes. This uncanny tribute band is also best known for the members' various costume changes throughout their shows, reflecting the different eras of the Beatles' career.

The mise-en-scène factor allows the group to re-create several of the Beatles' most memorable performances, including their 1964 appearance on *The Ed Sullivan Show* and their final concert on the rooftop of Apple Corps in London.

Guests of the show can expect to hear tracks like "Can't Buy Me Love," "I Want to Hold Your Hand," "Please Please Me," "Yesterday," "Help," "Lucy in the Sky with Diamonds," "A Day in the Life," "Here Comes the Sun," and "Hey Jude," among so many others.

The Chumash Casino Resort is an age-21-and-older venue and is located at 3400 E. Highway 246, Santa Ynez. Admission to the concert, which takes place in the resort's Samala Showroom, ranges from \$19 to \$39. The concert starts at 8 p.m. Call (800) 248-6274 or visit chumashcasino.com for tickets and more info.

Wild, Wild West

Nationally acclaimed country artist **Dave Stamey** performs at the DANA Cultural Center in Nipomo on **Saturday, Aug. 3**, from 4:30 to 6 p.m. Often dubbed "the Charlie Russell of Western Music," Stamey has been elected seven times Entertainer of the Year, seven times Male

Performer of the Year, and five times Songwriter of the Year by the Western Music Association. In 2016, Stamey was inducted into the Western Music Hall of Fame.

Gates open at 2 p.m. Admission to the show includes a barbecue dinner and one complimentary drink (additional drinks may be purchased throughout the performance). Tickets start at \$50 and are available in advance at my805tix.com. Guests are encouraged to bring chairs, blankets, and—of course—their best dancing boots.

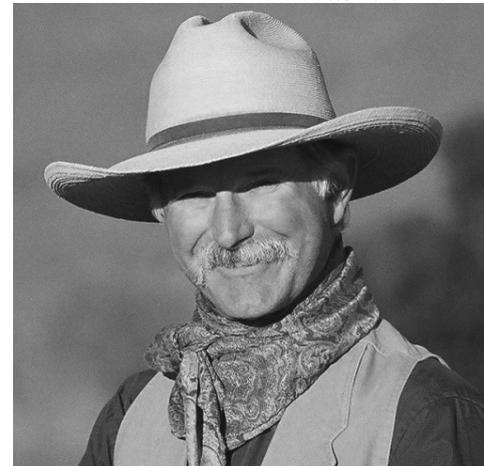
The DANA Cultural Center is located at 671 S. Oakglen Ave., Nipomo. Call (805) 929-5679 or visit danaadobe.org to find out more.

Going south

Local '80s tribute band **The Molly Ringwald Project** performs at the Maverick Saloon in Santa Ynez on **Friday, Aug. 2**, from 8:30 to 9:30 p.m. The saloon also hosts country act **Pull the Trigger** on **Saturday, Aug. 3**, from 8 to 11 p.m., and solo pop artist **Bear Redell** on **Sunday, Aug. 4**, from 1 to 5 p.m. As part of the venue's Tales from the Tavern series, **Dave Alvin** will be appearing at the saloon on **Wednesday, Aug. 7**. This

LOCAL NOTES continued page 23

PHOTO COURTESY OF DAVE STAMEY



COUNTRY CLASSICS: Country legend Dave Stamey performs at the DANA Cultural Center on Saturday, Aug. 3, at 4:30 p.m.

HOST AN EXCHANGE STUDENT TODAY!

(for 3, 5 or 10 months)



Pablo from Spain, 17 yrs. Loves soccer and would like to learn to play baseball. Pablo is a boy scout and enjoys the outdoors.

Make this year the most exciting, enriching year ever for you and your family. Welcome a high school student, 15-18 years old, from Italy, France, Norway, Denmark, Spain, Germany, Brazil, Thailand or China as part of your family for a school year (or less) and make an overseas friend for life.

For more information or to select your own exchange student please call:

Nancy at 805-310-2072 or Marcy at 1-800-888-9040 (Toll Free) or e-mail us at info@world-heritage.org

For privacy reasons, photos above are not photos of actual students



Julie from Denmark, 16 yrs. Enjoys gymnastics, swimming and photography. She's positive, fun loving and easy to get along with.

www.whhosts.com

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PHOTO COURTESY OF ERIN AND THE EARTHQUAKES



I FEEL THE EARTH MOVE: Rock, funk, blues, and jazz band Erin and the Earthquakes celebrate the release of their debut album, *Seismic Matter*, at Blast 825 Brewery on **Saturday, Aug. 3**, at 10 p.m.

LOCAL NOTES from page 22

Americana, country, and folk artist is performing in celebration of the 25th anniversary of his 1994 solo album, *King of California*. Tickets start at \$34 and are available in advance at talesfromthetavern.com.

Cold Spring Tavern's weekend lineup kicks off with classic rock/Americana duo **Oddly Straight** on **Friday, Aug. 2**, from 6 to 9 p.m. Bluegrass band **Salt Martians** take over the Tavern's stage on **Saturday, Aug. 3**, from 1 to 4 p.m., followed by Santa Barbara-based blues, rock, Motown, and soul group **Do No Harm**, from 5 to 8 p.m. The lineup

concludes with Americana and blues band **The Reserve** (from 1:15 to 4 p.m.) and country group **Dusty Juzg** (from 4:30 to 7:30 p.m.) on **Sunday, Aug. 4**.

More music

Arroyo Grande-based rock outfit **Erin and the Earthquakes** performs at Blast 825 Brewery in Orcutt on **Saturday, Aug. 3**, from 10 p.m. to past midnight. The band is made up of Erin Montgomery (vocals and guitar), Chris Roullard (lead guitar), Wayne Gamble (bass and backing vocals), and Dan Robba (drums

and backing vocals). These local rockers like to dabble in blues, pop, funk, and jazz as well, and are currently touring the Central Coast in celebration of their debut album, *Seismic Matter*.

The Naughty Oak Brewing Company in Orcutt presents Southern California-style reggae artist **Kyle Smith** on **Friday, Aug. 2**, starting at 5:30 p.m. This Ventura-based singer-songwriter blends reggae and acoustic

rock, laced with dashes of hip-hop, punk rock, and roots. Admission to the concert is free, but char-grilled hot dogs and sausages from Beau's Dogs will be available for purchase (along with fresh-baked pretzels and buns). Also in Orcutt, local acoustic duo **About Time** (featuring Aaron

Salazar and Caitlyn Vassaur) perform at Vino et Amicis Wine Bar on **Friday, Aug. 2**, from 7 to 10 p.m. Entry is complimentary. ○

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



PHOTO COURTESY OF KYLE SMITH

REGGAE REGULAR: The Naughty Oak Brewing Company presents reggae artist Kyle Smith on **Friday, Aug. 2**, starting at 5:30 p.m.

MUSIC LISTINGS from page 22

patio and special menu offerings every Sunday morning. Sundays, 11 a.m. Free. Maverick Saloon, 3687 Sagunto St., Santa Ynez, 805-686-4785, mavericksaloon.org.

TERESA RUSSELL AND COCOBILLI LIVE Food and drinks available for purchase. No outside food or drinks allowed. **Aug. 11**, 4:30-7:30 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.

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

PHOTO COURTESY OF BRANDI ROSE



SHE HEARS HIM SAY, BRANDI

Cold Spring Tavern presents Brandi Rose on Saturday, Aug. 10, from 1 to 4 p.m. This local solo artist performs a blend of hip-hop, blues, soul, R&B, and pop. Admission to the concert is free. The tavern is located at 5995 Stagecoach Road, Santa Barbara. Call (805) 967-0066 or visit coldspringtavern.com to find out more.

—Caleb Wiseblood

Saturday of every month, 6-8 p.m. Anthony's, 859 Guadalupe St, Guadalupe, 805-219-0977.

GOSPEL BRUNCH WITH BROTHA FRANK First Sunday of every month, 2-5 p.m. Anthony's, 859 Guadalupe St, Guadalupe, 805-219-0977.

HAVANA NIGHTS Enjoy live music acts, including Victor Valencia and others. Fridays, 7-9 p.m. Cubanissimo Cuban Coffee House, 4869 S. Bradley Rd., Orcutt.

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.

LIVE MUSIC AT MOXIE CAFE Enjoy live music from local artists, food, and drinks. Thursdays-Saturdays, 5-8 p.m. Free admission. moxiecafe.com/music/. Moxie Cafe, 1317 W. McCoy Ln., Santa Maria, 805-361-2900.

LIVE MUSIC AT NAUGHTY OAK Enjoy a different musical act and food vendor every Friday evening. Fridays, 5:30 p.m. Free admission. Naughty Oak Brewing Co., 165 S Broadway St Ste 102, Orcutt, 805-287-9663, naughtyoak.com.

LIVE MUSIC AT O'SULLIVAN'S Featuring live entertainment from local and touring alternative, indie, rock, punk, reggae, ska, alt-country, and other left-of-center musicians several times throughout each month. ongoing Free. O'Sullivan's Pub, 633 E. Main St., Santa Maria, 805-925-0658, osullivanpub.net.

PETTY AND THE HEARTSHAKERS Aug. 2, 6 p.m. Presqu'ile Winery, 5391 Presqu'ile Dr., Santa Maria, 805-937-8110, presquilewine.com.

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

DJ/DANCE

SANTA YNEZ VALLEY

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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

Civic Theatre presents August: Osage County

As part of its 61st season, the Santa Maria Civic Theatre presents its production of *August: Osage County*, which opens Friday, Aug. 9 and runs through Saturday, Aug. 24. Director Stuart Wenger helms this iteration of the 2008 Pulitzer Prize and Tony Award winner, from writer Tracy Letts, about a large family reuniting after the disappearance of its patriarch. Due to mature themes, the play is strongly suggested for ages 15 and older only.

Performances of *August: Osage County* will be held Fridays and Saturdays at 7 p.m. and Sundays at 1:30 p.m. Doors open 30 minutes before each show. Tickets range from \$7.50 to \$15 and are available in advance at my805tix.com. The theater is located at 1660 N. McClelland St., Santa Maria. Visit smct.org for more info.

Hancock holds auditions for Dimensions in Dance

Dancers of all skill levels and styles are invited to audition for Allan Hancock College's Dimensions in Dance program on Saturday, Aug. 10, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. The showcase, which traditionally features faculty and student works in ballet, jazz, modern, tap, and other genres, is scheduled to open Wednesday, Oct. 9, and will run through Sunday, Oct. 13. Auditions will be held in the Marian Theatre, located at 800 S. College Drive, Santa Maria. Call (805) 922-6966, Ext. 3845, or visit hancockcollege.edu/dance to find out more.

Wildling Museum juried exhibition award winners

PHOTO COURTESY OF GEORGE ROSE



Nathan Huff, George Rose, and Stacey Otte-Demangate, jurors of the Wildling Museum's Celebrating the National Lands of California, distributed awards at the exhibit's opening reception on Saturday, July 20. The first place prize of \$2,500 was awarded to artist Alan Sonneman (pictured) for his oil painting, *Foxtail Pine, Western Slope of Cirque Peak, Sequoia National Park*. Artist Lynn Hanson was awarded the second place prize for her charcoal work, *Fieldnotes, Channel Islands National Park*. The third place prize of \$500 was awarded to artist Nancy Yaki for her acrylic painting, *Santa Monica Mountains*.

Honorable mentions were awarded to artists Sue Britt, Robert Cooke, Ivan Hernandez, Mariah Reading, and Blake Whitaker for their works. The exhibition—which features 63 artworks depicting California's national parks, preserves, and monuments—will be on display at the museum through Jan. 20, 2020. The museum is located at 1511-B Mission Drive, Solvang. Call (805) 688-1082 or visit wildlingmuseum.org for more info. ○

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



IMAGE COURTESY OF CARRIE GIVENS

DAWN TO DUSK: Goleta-based artist Carrie Givens uses pastels to create her colorful landscapes, many of which depict coastal scenes.

Rule of thirds

Three Viewpoints features regional landscapes from three local artists at Gallery Los Olivos

BY CALEB WISEBLOOD

From the desert terrain of Baja California to the rolling hills and pastures of the Santa Ynez Valley, landscape painter Carrie Givens has made a name for herself depicting areas close to home as well as afar.

"The locations I like to capture are usually places where I live or visit," the Goleta-based artist told the *Sun*.

Givens is one of the three featured artists in *Three Viewpoints*, a new landscape group show at Gallery Los Olivos. The exhibition opens on Thursday, Aug. 1, and also features works by Ellen Yeomans and Morgan Green.

"The three of us each have a different style to our artwork, and we each see the world with

different eyes," said Givens, who primarily works with pastels to create her landscapes, usually of foothills and coastal areas.

"They have a wonderful feel to them and

inspiring colors," she said about pastels. "My work is about color; I like to exaggerate with color just a bit when capturing some of my favorite places."

Givens relocated to the Central Coast 46 years ago, assuming it was only a temporary move at first, she said. The artist has been exhibiting her works locally with groups such as the Santa Barbara Art Association and the Goleta Art Association

since 2004, and is consistently inspired by the lively scenes and atmospheric diversity the area has to offer.

From every angle

Three Viewpoints, a new group show featuring landscapes by pastellists Carrie Givens and Morgan Green and oil painter Ellen Yeomans, opens at Gallery Los Olivos on Thursday, Aug. 1, and runs through Saturday, Aug. 31. Artist receptions take place on Sunday, Aug. 4 (Green), Sunday, Aug. 18 (Givens), and Friday, Aug. 23 (Yeomans). The gallery is open daily from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and located at 2920 Grand Ave., Los Olivos. Call (805) 688-7517 or visit gallerylosolivos.com for more info.



IMAGE COURTESY OF MORGAN GREEN

DEEP THRILLS: Local plein air artist Morgan Green strives to offer viewers a sensory glimpse into her travels with her landscapes.



IMAGE COURTESY OF CARRIE GIVENS

CHANGE OF SCENERY: Givens, a Central Coast resident for 46 years, is consistently inspired by the lively scenes and atmospheric diversity the area has to offer.

"We are truly blessed to be able to live in this diverse and beautiful area," Givens said. "And I feel so fortunate to be able to have the passion to work at capturing that beauty."

Like Givens, plein air artist Morgan Green uses pastels to create her naturalistic compositions. Influenced by California impressionists and Western artists of the 19th and 20th centuries, the local pastelist uses realistic colors to emphasize quality and mood of light.

"My landscapes are primarily California. I have found that many people who visit our state really do want to take a piece of it home with them," Green said. "And California gives us each so many different types of landscapes to paint."

Green will be the exhibit's first artist to host a personal reception, on Sunday, Aug. 4, followed by Givens on Sunday, Aug. 18, and Yeomans on Friday, Aug. 23.

"I've known Ellen and Carrie for years," Green said. "Both of them love landscape painting as much as I do, and we all tend to look at the outdoors as home rather than just somewhere out there."

Givens is also an avid hiker and sailor, and has always considered herself a "lifelong outdoors woman," she said.

"I tend to seek out the rough ground," the artist said. "I'm at home up a mountain, at the helm of the sailboat, or hiking in the desert."

Through her landscapes, Green strives to offer viewers a sensory glimpse into her travels—from both U.S. coasts to Alaska and Puerto Rico. Conveying the feeling of vibrations from ocean waves smashing a cliff, for example, is the goal of one of her beach scenes.

"My aim in art is to give my patrons an escape from the workaday human humdrum with visual poems about the magnificent *out there*," Green said. "It's a challenge I relish. And no matter where I'm opening my sketchbook or setting up my easel, I'm having a good time."

Like Green and Givens, oil painter Ellen Yeomans is also a lover of the great outdoors. The Santa Barbara-based artist grew up in Southern California, and camped with her family often throughout childhood and early adulthood, which led to her passion for painting outdoors.

"Many things came into focus when I discovered plein air painting," Yeomans said in the artist statement on her website. "Painting encompasses all of my interests, experiences, loves."

Also similar to Green, Yeomans hopes her landscapes retain the escapist sense of being there in the moment with her as she's painting them.

"I strive to make my paintings convey some of the joy, excitement, and peace that I experience in the making of them." ○

Arts Editor Caleb Wiseblood loves escapism, piña coladas, and getting caught in the rain. Reach him at cwiseblood@santamariasun.com.

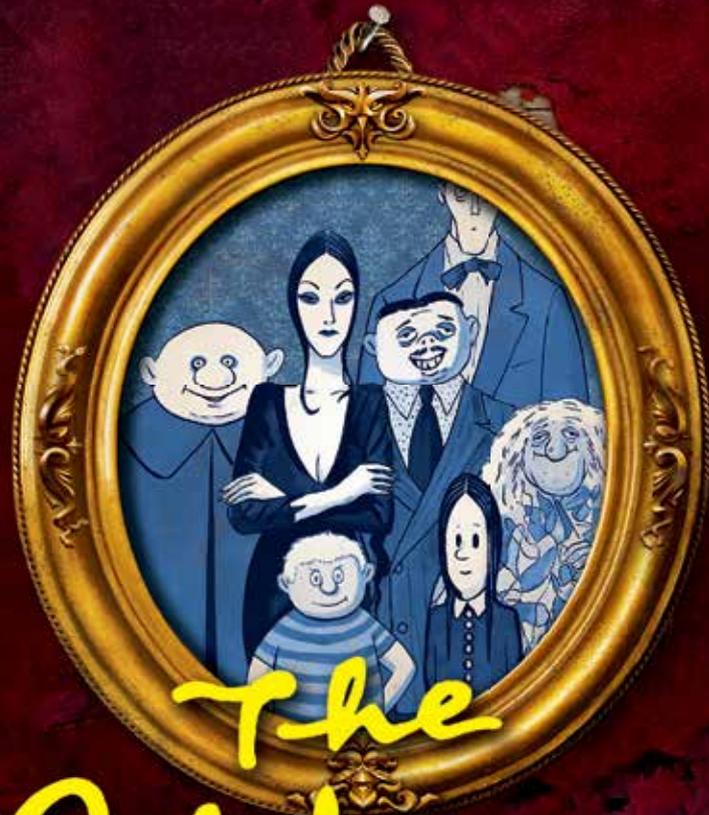


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INCUBUS W/ DUB TRIO	SEP 26
GARY CLARK JR W/MICHAEL KIWANUKA	SEP 27
ROD STEWART	SEP 28
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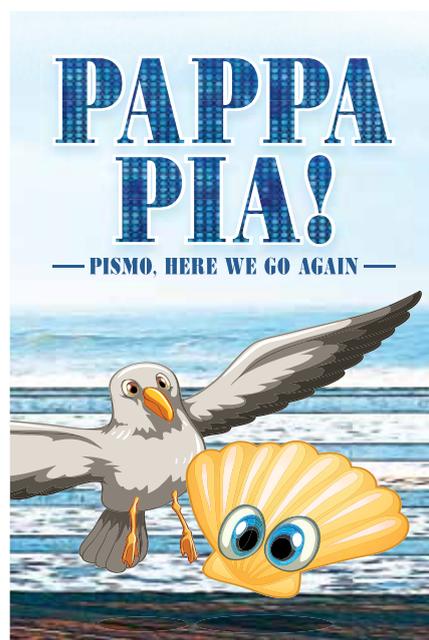
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PHOTOS COURTESY OF THE GREAT AMERICAN MELODRAMA



SHOOTOUT: What happens when the sheriff (Mike Fiore, center), a bartender (Katie Gucik, left), and an undertaker (Alejandro Gutierrez) must defend the town of Dead Water, Arizona? Find out in the Great American Melodrama's *How the West Was Really Won*

The wildest West

Melodrama regales audiences with comic tales of the Old West

BY RYAH COOLEY

Once upon a time, the Central Coast—and all of California, really—was a lawless wasteland. But not as much of a lawless wasteland as say, Arizona, if the Great American Melodrama's hilarious farcical play, *How the West Was Really Won*, is anything to go off of.

In a series of short stories that poke fun at theatrical and storytelling tropes, *How the West Was Really Won* fleshes out the world of Dead Water, Arizona, a chaotic place with water that will kill you, where even the horses drink whiskey.

Enter our brave sheriff (Mike Fiore), who is constantly going head to head with evil outlaw Snake (Ben Abbott) and his lady love, Mustang Sally (Katie Pautler). Snake is so dastardly that he kills Card Player No. 1 (Rachel Tietz) for refusing to give him 3s she didn't have in a rousing game of Go Fish. As the sheriff cautions earlier in the show, "Bad things can happen to minor characters without real names."

Upon thumbing its nose at one storytelling trope, the show promptly winks at another as Snake brings an audience member onstage to replace Card Player No. 1, all while saying, "This is called the fourth wall that you're breaking." You can guess how well that second round of cards goes.

And a *Judge Judy*-themed trial only further tips its hat as it acknowledges the comical necessity of multiple actors playing multiple parts when Tietz (formerly Card Player No. 1) must execute justice at the trial over her own character's murder.

With that first storyline's resolution, all is quiet in Dead Water, but only for a mere moment as Johnson (Tietz) and Johnson (Pautler)—the railroad tycoon and cattle baron, respectively, before they got in the business of baby powder and such—scheme up ways to get widows and small children off the ample land so they can build a railroad and

graze cattle. However, their inept henchmen (Abbott and Henry Fisher) fail them time and time again, in progressively sillier ways, resulting in Abbott's playing the femme fatale in a dress as he attempts to seduce and poison the sheriff. Oh my!

But fear not, dear audience member, there are plenty of bad guys to boo and hiss at in *How the West Was Really Won*, and there's also a love story or two (gasp!). Plus, I'm not naming names, but we even see one beloved minor character narrowly escape death and get a real, proper name!

How the West Was Really Won is simply too joyfully silly to be actually scary, but if all that talk of ne'er-do-well villains puts you on edge, there's always the *Family Fun Vaudeville Review* after the second intermission to cheer you up, pardner. ○

Arts Writer Ryah Cooley from the *Sun's* sister paper is writing off into the sunset on her trusty steed. Contact her at rcooley@newtimeslo.com.

Go west!

How the West Was Really Won shows on alternating nights with *Pappa Pia!* through Sunday, Sept. 22. Tickets range from \$23 to \$30. Each show includes two intermissions and a vaudeville review. Visit americanmelodrama.com for tickets and more information.

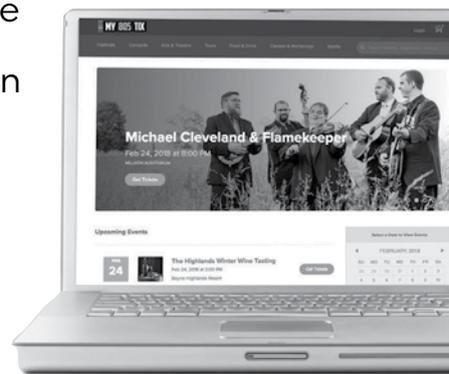


THE BAD GUYS: Railroad tycoon Johnson (Rachel Tietz, right) and cattle baron Johnson (Katie Pautler) scheme up devious ways to get their hands on coveted land.

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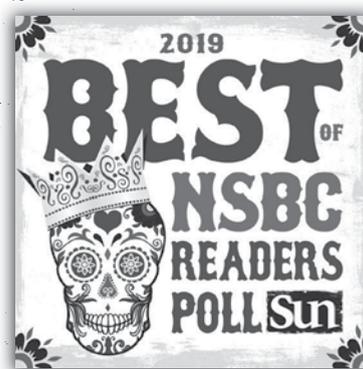
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Film Reviews

FAST & FURIOUS PRESENTS: HOBBS & SHAW

What's it rated? **R**
Where's it showing? **Movies Lompoc, Parks Plaza**
NEW David Leitch (*Atomic Blonde, Deadpool 2*) directs this new installment of the Fast & Furious franchise. This time around, genetically enhanced villain Brixton (Idris Elba) threatens humanity with a super-virus, leading lawman Luke Hobbs (Dwayne Johnson) to team up with outcast Deckard Shaw (Jason Statham) to stop him. When Shaw's sister, Hattie (Vanessa Kirby), is also drawn into fray, things get personal. (145 min.)

—Glen Starkey

THE LION KING

What's it rated? **PG**
What's it worth? **Rent it**
Where's it showing? **Hi-Way Drive-In, Movies Lompoc, Parks Plaza**
Jon Favreau (*Elf, Iron Man, Cowboys & Aliens, Chef, The Jungle Book* (2016)) helms this photorealistic-animated remake of Disney's 1994 animated classic of the same name about lion prince Simba (voiced by JD McCrary as a cub and Donald Glover as an adult), who's driven from his kingdom as a cub after his king father, Mufasa (voiced by James Earl Jones), is murdered by his jealous brother, Scar (voiced by Chiwetel Ejiofor).

The film opens strong with baby Simba's majestic unveiling to the animal kingdom, set to "Circle of Life" of course, followed by an intricately designed sequence of a mouse scurrying through its surroundings, before being plucked by Scar. "Life's not fair, is it, my little friend?" asks everyone's favorite fratricidal feline. Ejiofor (*12 Years a Slave, Children of Men*) was an inspired choice for Scar, whose original iteration is one of the greatest antagonists in Disney's pantheon. The weight and brutality he brings to the role make it all the more disappointing that the villain's murderous anthem, "Be Prepared," gets butchered down to a mere 20 seconds of talk-singing (one of the few instances the film departs from the original).

Scar of course plots to eliminate his brother, Mufasa, and nephew, Simba, the rightful heir to the throne in the event of his father's death. After Mufasa is murdered during the infamous stampede coup d'état ("long live the king"), Scar convinces Simba it's his fault and advises him to run away. The lion prince then travels to the desert, only to bump into the lovable Timon (voiced by Billy Eichner) and Pumbaa (voiced by Seth Rogan), who teach young Simba to embrace a certain carefree philosophy the whole theater is guaranteed to sing along to.

I can't quite put my finger on what got lost in translation, but somehow this highly anticipated remake—almost a shot-for-shot remake I might add—just didn't do it for me. It's both a faithful adaptation

FILM REVIEWS continued page 29

SCORING

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

Culture shock

Writer-director Quentin Tarantino (*Pulp Fiction, Kill Bill, Inglourious Basterds, Django Unchained, The Hateful Eight*) helms this story set in 1969 Hollywood about fading TV star Rick Dalton (Leonardo DiCaprio) and his stunt double Cliff Booth (Brad Pitt) as they struggle to remain relevant in the changing entertainment industry. Tarantino's ninth film features an ensemble cast and multiple storylines. (161 min.)

Glen: Tarantino takes us on an entertaining, albeit meandering, ride through 1969 Hollywood, where he's mixed real-life characters—like Charlie Manson (Damon Herriman) and his "family"; rising starlet Sharon Tate (Margot Robbie) and her director husband Roman Polanski (Rafal Zawierucha); martial arts star Bruce Lee (Mike Moh); and actor Steve McQueen (Damian Lewis)—with fictional ones like our protagonists Rick and Cliff. Some of the facts of the film are true—for instance that the Manson family lived on George Spahn's (Bruce Dern) Spahn Movie Ranch, but like *Inglourious Basterds*, Tarantino's

got some historical revisions in mind. Knowing the real history behind the Manson murders sets up viewers for the twists and turns to come, and even at two hours and 41 minutes, the film doesn't feel slow; however, it also doesn't seem like it's in much of a rush to reach its conclusion. Instead, this is a film to be savored for its attention to detail and remarkable performances. The film's mise-en-scène is incredible. Tarantino had vintage Hollywood marquees and landmarks restored to their 1969 glory and made use of landmarks that have changed little, such as Musso & Frank Grill and the Playboy Mansion and its famed grotto. The costumes are also amazing—from the Manson family's hippy garb to Rick's swank mock turtle-neck to unctuous Hollywood mover and shaker Marvin Schwarzs' (Al Pacino) double-breasted power suit. Some enterprising entrepreneur should start silk screening Champion Spark Plug T-shirts like the one Cliff's wearing. They'll make a mint! And the cars! Holy moly! You'll feel transported to the era. As for the acting, Pitt's fantastic here, taking on a speech pattern that's as memorable as the one he used as Lt. Aldo Raine in *Inglourious Basterds*. Cliff is the character most comfortable in his own skin. The laconic stuntman is perfectly happy being Rick's gofer, and he's the biggest badass in Hollywood

though he keeps it low key. DiCaprio has a more complex job to do playing an actor who we see acting. That's some meta-level work. Rick's confidence is waning, and his interactions with Schwarzs and a child actor (not "actress," which she finds demeaning) named Trudi (a truly remarkable Julia Butters) are highlights of a highlights-filled film. Trudi's character also offers Tarantino a chance to comment on method acting. She's so much more together and mature than Rick, and that's hilarious. Tarantino lets his actors shine bright.

Anna: Rick always plays the "heavy" in cowboy flicks, but the real magic lies in Cliff's badass skills as his stunt double. The two have been partners for years—Cliff acting the part of assistant, buddy, gofer, and repairman for the self-centered but vastly insecure Rick. The scenery in this film is meant to be savored—Tarantino has got his finger on the pulse of old Hollywood; the look, the feel, everything is right here. Weaving separate storylines in and out is a wonderful way to soak up the beautiful world he's created, from Manson's weird hippy compound filled with stringy young fools to the decadence of Hollywood's elite to the movie theater where Tate goes to watch herself in *The Wrecking Crew*. It's an old story reimagined, twisted, bent, and repurposed with the sole intent of entertainment. Meandering? Maybe, but this is one film I wasn't looking forward to ending, even at more than two hours and 40 minutes. Cliff is certainly a favorite character, and Pitt pulls off the relaxed but ever-watchful bad boy with panache. He's inherently distrustful but self-assured and fully capable of kicking ass. When he drives hippy teen Pussycat (Margaret Qualley) out to Spahn's ranch, the whole setup seems off. There's a bunch of young, dirty kids holed up together on his old pal's land, and that just doesn't sit right with Cliff. He finally forces himself into George's old house where he finds the man alive, surprisingly. Unimpressed with their visitor's questions, the hippies stick a knife through the wall of Rick's tire. Seems like a weird

way to get someone to leave, but his unwelcomeness is apparent nonetheless. Those kids messed with the wrong man—and the wrong man's boss' car. Cliff delivers a couple of pretty epic beat-downs in this film, including the licking of a shoeless string bean out at Spahn's ranch, which is one you won't soon forget. This is another film with Tarantino all over it, and it's a great addition to his body of work. **Glen:** There's so much more we could discuss here, like Tarantino's obvious foot fetish, how he characterizes Sharon Tate and whether he's guilty of using her as mere window dressing, and how he simultaneously romanticizes and tears down his heroes like Bruce Lee. Tarantino has repeatedly said he wants to make the kinds of films he wants to watch. Choosing to examine the societal disruption caused by the rise of the counterculture manifested in the extreme as Manson's family, using Spaghetti Westerns and B-movies as a backdrop, exploring masculinity and misogyny through Rick and Cliff's friendship—it's all very ambitious, and the film bears repeated viewings. It's classic excessive Tarantino, so if you like his filmmaking, you'll love this. I did. **Anna:** Same here. While I'm bound to hear some grumbings over "capitalizing" on the Manson murders, this reimagining is a fantastic "if only" version of the tale, where the bad guys get taken down as epically as only Tarantino can imagine and the world of these characters gets to keep spinning. It's definitely a film worthy of repeat viewings, and its almost rambling storyline pretty much demands it to catch every detail. *Once Upon a Time ... in Hollywood* is an achievement in storytelling, casting, and scenery. Get to the theater for this one simply for the visual richness Tarantino lays out—the rest is just cherries on top of the sundae. ○

way to get someone to leave, but his unwelcomeness is apparent nonetheless. Those kids messed with the wrong man—and the wrong man's boss' car. Cliff delivers a couple of pretty epic beat-downs in this film, including the licking of a shoeless string bean out at Spahn's ranch, which is one you won't soon forget. This is another film with Tarantino all over it, and it's a great addition to his body of work.

Glen: There's so much more we could discuss here, like Tarantino's obvious foot fetish, how he characterizes Sharon Tate and whether he's guilty of using her as mere window dressing, and how he simultaneously romanticizes and tears down his heroes like Bruce Lee. Tarantino has repeatedly said he wants to make the kinds of films he wants to watch. Choosing to examine the societal disruption caused by the rise of the counterculture manifested in the extreme as Manson's family, using Spaghetti Westerns and B-movies as a backdrop, exploring masculinity and misogyny through Rick and Cliff's friendship—it's all very ambitious, and the film bears repeated viewings. It's classic excessive Tarantino, so if you like his filmmaking, you'll love this. I did.

Anna: Same here. While I'm bound to hear some grumbings over "capitalizing" on the Manson murders, this reimagining is a fantastic "if only" version of the tale, where the bad guys get taken down as epically as only Tarantino can imagine and the world of these characters gets to keep spinning. It's definitely a film worthy of repeat viewings, and its almost rambling storyline pretty much demands it to catch every detail. *Once Upon a Time ... in Hollywood* is an achievement in storytelling, casting, and scenery. Get to the theater for this one simply for the visual richness Tarantino lays out—the rest is just cherries on top of the sundae. ○

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



DESPERATE: As TV actor Rick Dalton's (Leonardo DiCaprio, center) star fades, he finds himself struggling to remain in the limelight.

ONCE UPON A TIME ... IN HOLLYWOOD

What's it rated? **R**
What's it worth, Anna? **Full price**
What's it worth, Glen? **Full price**
Where's it showing? **Movies Lompoc, Parks Plaza**

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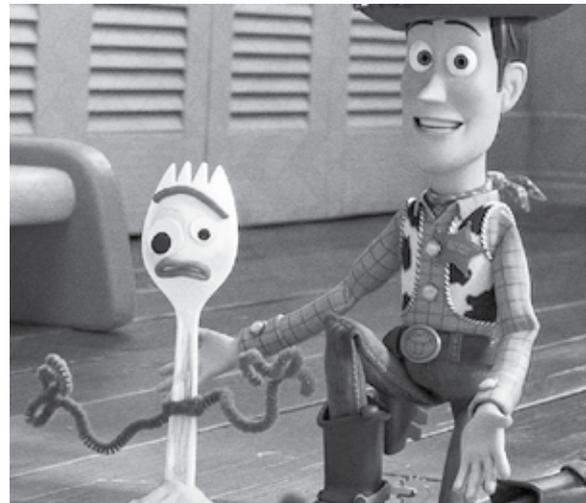


PHOTO COURTESY OF UNIVERSAL PICTURES



TEAM WORK: Lawman Luke Hobbs (Dwayne Johnson, left) joins outcast Deckard Shaw (Jason Statham) to stop a genetically enhanced villain, in *Fast & Furious Presents: Hobbs & Shaw*.

PHOTO COURTESY OF PIXAR ANIMATION STUDIOS



ACCEPTANCE: Woody (voiced by Tom Hanks, right) tries to convince his fellow toys to accept Forky (Tony Hale), a Spork that Bonnie turned into a toy during arts and crafts, in *Toy Story 4*.

FILM REVIEWS from page 28

of the original and a visually astounding spectacle in its own right—so what else could I have possibly asked for? Maybe my hopes were just too high. I went in ready to love it but left the theater feeling meh. Most of the original's charm just didn't carry over for me.

Don't get me wrong, though; it's far from terrible. Like a loving sitcom parent, I'm not angry with *The Lion King*, I'm just disappointed. Remember the moment right before Mufasa has a stern talk with young Simba (after he and Nala are rescued from the hyenas)? Simba walks over to Mufasa but pauses when one of his front paws sinks into his father's footprint. In that instance, the lion prince realizes he's got some pretty big shoes to fill someday. For me, the original *Lion King* is that footprint. But unlike Simba, who grows big enough to fill that print halfway through the film, this remake is confined to cub hood. (118 min.)

—Caleb Wiseblood

ONCE UPON A TIME ... IN HOLLYWOOD

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

PICK

TOY STORY 4

What's it rated? **G**
 What's it worth? **Full price**
 Where's it showing? **Hi-Way Drive-In**

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, 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. And in my opinion, Forky gets upstaged by at least four other new characters.

I'll start with the villain, a 1950s pull-string doll named Gabby Gabby (Christina Hendricks), who Woody and Forky encounter in an antique store on their journey back to Bonnie. Just in case the creepy doll vibe isn't already eerie enough, "Midnight, the Stars, and You"—you know, the ballroom song from *The Shining*—starts playing as Gabby Gabby sits in a baby carriage, steered by her posse of demented ventriloquist dummies. I won't reveal her insidious intentions, but like most memorable villains, things aren't so black and white. The film does a great job of exploring her side of the story, and we come to sympathize with Gabby Gabby's plight, just not the means she uses to rectify it.

PHOTO COURTESY OF WALT DISNEY PICTURES



DESTINY: Young Simba (voiced by JD McCrary) doesn't yet realize the scope of his responsibilities to come, in *The Lion King*.

Some other great new characters include a perfectly cast Duke Caboom (Keanu Reeves), a Canadian daredevil action figure, and the duo of Ducky and Bunny (Keegan-Michael Key and Jordan Peele, respectively), a couple of plush toys stuck on the prize rack at a carnival. Those three collectively deliver the best punch lines in the movie, hands down. But in all seriousness, the

most badass character in the film is series veteran Bo Peep (Annie Potts), who gets a well-deserved return to the franchise.

When I first heard *Toy Story 4* was in the works, I felt betrayed and bewildered. *Toy Story 3* had such a finality to it, why try to follow a nearly perfect ending to the series? So why keep going? Well, money of course! Little did I know Pixar's more noble intentions for this installment, which surprisingly opens the door to countless more adventures—for some characters more than others.

The final product isn't the petty cash-grab I was expecting, and believe it or not, I actually enjoyed it even more than *Toy Story 3*. Fight me! Neither film is on par with 1 or 2 in my book, but, wow, does this one get pretty darn close. There's a really genuine story here, which can't be said of too many fourth entries in a series. (100 min.) ○

—Caleb

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

FRANKENSTEIN'S MONSTER'S MONSTER, FRANKENSTEIN

When? **2019**
 What's it rated? **TV-14**
 Where? **Netflix**

Editor's note: *Welcome to Hatewatch, our newest film column, where we revel in the shows and movies we just can't look away from—shows so bad they're good, flicks so awful we get that flush of self-righteousness, B-movies more guilt inducing than pleasurable. You know you hate-watch too.*

I don't feel great about the reasons I wanted to watch Netflix's new mockumentary, *Frankenstein's Monster's Monster, Frankenstein*. The first was the title. Seriously, as an editor, I was drawn to the punctuation. It's a technically correct messy mouthful. And second: David Harbour. My husband and I just finished season one of *Stranger Things* (yes, we're way behind), and I have to admit I'd never seen Harbour in anything else, so his face caught my eye.

Another reason: One of *Arrested Development's* writers (John Levenstein) was behind this piece. How could it not be funny? And at just longer than half an hour, my husband and I had little to lose.

With eyebrows raised, we hit play. Once it started, we couldn't look away.

I love mockumentaries—especially the Christopher Guest variety (*Best in Show*, *A Mighty Wind*) and the current *Documentary Now!* series. But *Frankenstein* is a bit of a twofer—it's

half tongue-in-cheek, decent production-value mockumentary, and half super campy stage play that sends up dozens of tropes. I'm not a student of the theater, but even I was able to pick up on a bunch of in-jokes. I won't ruin any whoppers, but one character's name is a big no-no in the theater world. Chekhov's gun is definitely a thing in the play within the mockumentary. And the fourth wall? Forget about it!

Frankenstein's Monster's Monster, Frankenstein does have a bit of a plot—Harbour spoofs himself on a quest to answer questions about his fictional father and the stage career that went awry. After finding a film of his dad starring in a *Frankenstein* play, Harbour walks back through his father's footsteps to try to get answers. This is enough of a framework to set up the absurdity that ensues on stage, in which Harbour plays his father acting in multiple roles.

We watched Harbour with wide-eyed delight—he deadpans his way through

HATEWATCH

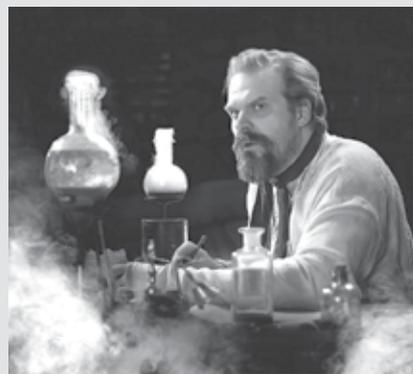
the mockumentary parts and hams it up mightily to play his egotistical father.

This messy little gem also manages to weave in bits from *The Actor's Trunk*, itself a spoof of an acting craft show, which gives insight into Harbour's father's career. There are a few words from the play's sponsors, including clips of Harbour eating and drinking a la Orson Welles in one of those infamous Paul Masson wine commercials.

This *Frankenstein's monster* of a mockumentary was entertaining, in a "what did we just watch?" kind of way, and also in a "you have to see it for yourself" way.

But if you need another reason to watch this weird one-off, here you go: Alfred Molina. (32 mins.) ○

—Andrea Rooks
 PHOTO COURTESY OF NETFLIX



MONSTROUS FUN: Was he a man or a monster? Or both? David Harbour (*Stranger Things*) attempts to answer that and other questions about his fictional father in Netflix's campy mockumentary romp, *Frankenstein's Monster's Monster, Frankenstein*.

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BY NICK POWELL

When two co-workers at two different jobs offer unsolicited recommendations of the same restaurant in the same week, the universe was trying to tell me something. The message was loud and clear: Time to go get a burrito.

I had received an email from a sales rep at the *Sun* saying she'd been to La Unica Taqueria recently and that it was "burrito heaven." A few days later at my day job, I was laying tongue-and-groove plank flooring for the third day in a row. There was sweat on my brow, a hunger in my belly, and a song in my heart when a guy on the crew said we should hit up La Unica for some bomb burritos.

I sang, "I got fiiiiiiiiive on it," and off we went.

With stomachs growling like Mufasa, we passed probably 12 taco spots along the way to La Unica, but my

co-worker assured me that this was *the* place for stuffing burritos in my face. So I kept driving, and when we finally arrived, I saw what all the fuss was about immediately.

Their burrito selection was immense. The menu had all of the expected entries—*asada*, *pastor*, *chile verde*, *chile colorado*, *pollo*, *vegetarian*—but it also proclaimed loud and proud that they offered a *tri-tip*, a *San Felipe* (with chicken breast and bacon), a *Santa Fe* (with chicken and poblano peppers), a *surf and turf*, and a *Philly cheesesteak*. Each of these special burritos came with french fries stuffed inside instead of rice and beans.

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La Unica lives up to its name, "the only one," with its dedication to putting unique twists on traditional Mexi-Cali dishes. There are a lot of taquerias around Santa Maria, but none of them are quite like this. See for yourself at 2530 S. Broadway from 8 a.m. to 9 p.m. every day but Sunday, when they close an hour earlier. Call (805) 346-2433 to put in an order for takeout.



WETTER IS BETTER: Oh man, I love wet burritos almost as much as I love tortas, but I never in my wildest dreams thought anyone would dare to crossbreed them into this miraculous creation. This *torta ahogada* was smothered in a sweet chile sauce and filled with shredded beef. And you know that fluffy bread soaked that sauce up like a sponge ... a tasty sponge.

I've had my fair share of regular burritos in my day, so I went with the *Philly* while my co-worker got the *tri-tip* special. It wasn't until I sat down to wait for my grub that I took in the full extent of the taqueria's menu.

They serve *menudo* every day of the week (which I still need to try but have heard makes an excellent hangover cure), *sopés*, dinner plates, *nachos*, more kinds of loaded fries than I ever thought possible, shrimp seven different ways somehow, and holy crap! *Wet tortas*? I didn't even know that was a thing, but it looks just like everything I've ever wanted!

I sat drooling over everything on the menu, but it was too late. I'd already ordered, and my burrito was on its way.

My co-worker and I both ate ravenously between grunts of approval. I knew I'd have to go back to work and probably shouldn't eat till I was full and suffering. So I set the big burrito down three-quarters of the way through, looked at it lying there like a *Siren*, and picked it right



PHOTOS BY NICK POWELL

PAPAS ON POINT: La Unica takes its fry game to the next level. This is the loaded surf and turf fries, complete with mad cheese, guacamole, scrumptious secret sauce, onions, bell peppers, deliciously grilled shrimp, and *carne asada* piled high on crispy shoestring fries.

EATS continued page 33

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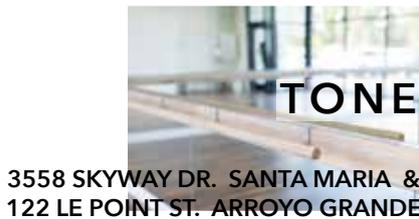
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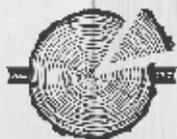
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TIP TOP: The meat in this burrito was not regular beef. That's top-notch, smokey tri-tip rolled up in a tortilla with rice, beans, cheese, and La Unica's lovely special sauce.

EATS from page 31

back up to demolish that delicious tube of flavor in its entirety.

I was stuffed, but that cheesy steak, peppers, and special sauce combination was too good to leave unfinished.

I came back a few days later with my wife and kid because I couldn't leave that wet tortilla unateen, and I wanted to get my hands on some of those loaded french fries, too.

If I had to sum up the entire restaurant in one word, it would be "indulgent." It's clear no one asked if the ideas for menu items would be healthy, or reasonable, or true to tradition. The only question asked by the menu's architect was, "What would be utterly delicious?"

Owner Mario Chavez opened the restaurant back in 1991, so I'm not exactly cluing anybody in to the hippest new joint in town. Although, the place's well-established history is part of what makes it special. Many of the workers have been there for decades, including head cook Juan Carrillo, who said the crew is tight-knit, like a second family. At first, they focused on producing the best classic dishes they could muster; they only began to experiment with the more creative menu items a few years ago, he said.

"We wanted to create other things to stand out with the new menu, add a different taste," Carrillo said. "I like serving people, trying to make better food every time."

Ultimately, Carrillo said the restaurant's goals are to make the best food they can make and give the best service they can give, a plan that has long resonated with hungry regulars.

Sick of the same old burritos? Try something unique at La Unica. ○

Roll contributing writer Nick Powell in a tortilla with cheese and french fries and call him a special burrito at npowell@santamariasun.com.

Powell's Picks

• Wine and cheese have had a beautiful relationship for centuries, but even the best routines can get a little stale. You can't blame cheese's wandering eye for landing on the

scene's hottest beverage: craft beer. Solvang's **Cailloux Cheese Shop** is hooking up with **Naughty Oak Brewing Company** for a beer and cheese pairing event on Sunday, Aug. 4, at 2 p.m. in Orcutt. Tickets cost \$25 and are available at my805tix.com or at the Naughty Oak taproom. Just don't let wine find out about all this.

• For a tiny little town, Los Alamos sure has a lot of surprisingly good grubberies. Sample the lot of 'em at **Eat, Play, Love Los Alamos**, a thoroughfare affair wherein folks such as yourselves purchase a sampling glass and a punch card for \$40 and use them to try wines, beers, appetizers, and desserts all up and down the town's main drag. Get every hole in your card punched and double your chances to win a one-week stay in South Lake Tahoe. The event takes place on Saturday, Aug. 3, from 1 to 5 p.m. and registration starts at **The Station** on 346 Bell St. Call (805) 344-1014 for more information.

• Congratulations are in order for **Presqu'ile Winery** in Santa Maria. Their tasting room is the only one from Santa Barbara County to be nominated by *USA Today* as a contender for a spot on their readers choice list of the 10 best tasting rooms across the country. Support a local winery by voting at 10best.com/awards/travel/best-tasting-room-2019/. Not familiar with the place? They're always hosting special events, like Tom Petty tribute band Petty and The Heartshakers on Friday, Aug. 2, at 6 p.m. Check it out already.

• Looking for a sweet new way to day-drink? Check out **Kitá Wines Doughnuts and Wine Experience** on Saturday, Aug. 3, with servings at 10:30 a.m. or 11:30 a.m. They'll be pairing gourmet doughnut bites—think blueberry cake with fresh, local lemon icing—with their newest white wines and a bright rosé. Tickets are \$15 for club members and \$30 for the general public. Visit kitawines.com for tickets. Early bird gets the doughnut! ○

Contributing writer Nick Powell doesn't know about dipping doughnuts in wine, but he's willing to try anything once at npowell@santamariasun.com.

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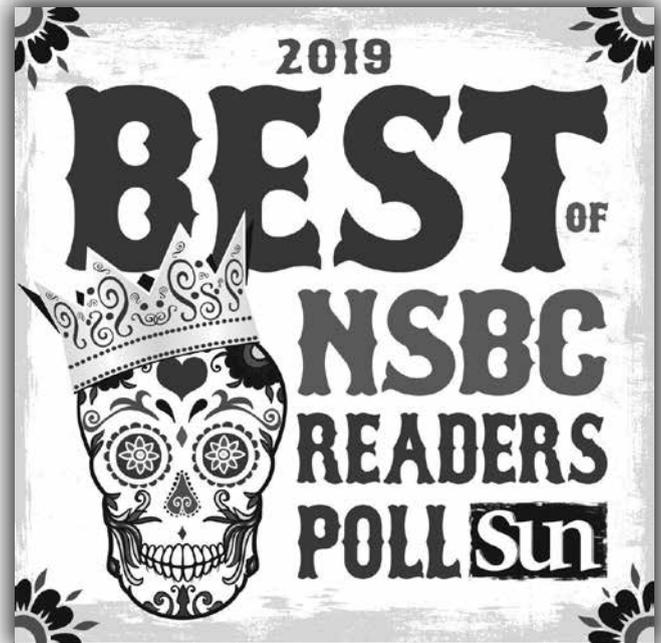
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