

# Sun

AT THE MOVIES

*Bernadette*: It's best to forget her [28]

# Struggling to get along

*Concerned vintners fight concentration of cannabis near Buellton, while growers preach compatibility [8]*

BY ZAC EZZONE

**NEWS** Financial planning for high schoolers [10]

**ARTS** Videos on the wall at Hancock [24]

**EATS** Eating Italian fare like family [31]

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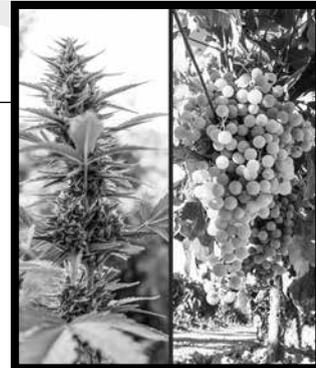
# Contents

AUGUST 22 - AUGUST 29, 2019 VOL. 20 NO. 25

**S**anta Barbara County's newest crop is struggling to coexist alongside established agriculture. Grape growers, equestrians, and avocado ranchers have complained to the county about their new neighbors, the cannabis farmers. These growers and ranchers are worried about cross-contamination, quality of life, and how tourists will perceive the new industry. Cannabis farmers are concerned about pesticide drift ruining a crop that is required by the state to be chemical free. As the county decides what to do with a handful of appeals against already approved cannabis farms, it looks at strengthening the cannabis regulations it passed last year. For this week's cover story, Staff Writer Zac Ezzone wades into the thicket of pot-related issues preventing peaceful coexistence [8].

Also this week, read about why the Santa Maria Joint Union High School District is considering making filling out FAFSAs mandatory for its seniors [10], what it means to paint with a camera [24], *The Importance of Being Earnest* at PCPA [27], and an Italian restaurant that treats its customers like family [31].

**FIGHTING TO BE:** Grapes and cannabis collide in the Santa Ynez Valley, where some residents are concerned about too much cannabis growth and its effect on quality of life.



Camillia Lanham,  
editor

Cover images courtesy of Adobe Stock > Cover design by Alex Zuniga

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## Political Watch

• On Aug. 19, **Kelly Hubbard** began serving as the director of Santa Barbara County's Office of Emergency Management (OEM), according to the county. The position was previously held by Rob Lewin, who left the county in May after serving in the role for three years. During his time leading the department, Lewin oversaw the county's response to a couple of major disasters—the Thomas Fire and the Montecito debris flows, during which a combined 38 people died and thousands of homes were damaged or destroyed. Prior to Hubbard's move to the county, she served as the emergency manager for the Municipal Water District of Orange County for 15 years, according to the county's statement. In her previous role in Orange County, Hubbard managed the emergency preparedness, planning, response, and recovery efforts among the county's 37 wastewater utilities.

• **California Attorney General Xavier Becerra** and **Massachusetts Attorney General Maura Healey** released a joint statement denouncing the federal government's decision to roll back key provision of the Endangered Species Act. "As we face the unprecedented threat of climate emergency, now is the time to strengthen our planet's biodiversity, not to destroy it," Becerra said. The attorneys general said they plan to take the federal government to court to fight these revisions. In a statement announcing the rule changes on Aug. 12, the leaders of the U.S. departments of commerce and the interior said these revisions are designed to ease regulations while still protecting endangered species. However, conservation groups, such as the National Resource Defense Council, said the changes will make it hard to do the latter. Some of the changes include reducing the future protections granted to threatened species, which is the designation given to plants and animals before becoming endangered. Additionally, the new rules make it more difficult for land to be designated as a critical habitat for plants and animals.

• Greenhouse gas emissions in California fell below the state's level of reduction targeted for 2020 for the second year in a row in 2017, according to a statement **Gov. Gavin Newsom's** office released on Aug. 12. The Global Warming Solutions Act of 2006, established a goal for the state to reduce its emission levels to 431 million metric tons by 2020. The state first fell below this mark in 2016 when it released 429 million metric tons of emissions. The state again met this goal in 2017 when it released 424 million metric tons. In addition to these continued reductions, for the first time since the state began tracking its greenhouse gas emissions, the state power grid used more energy from emission-free sources like solar and wind, than from fossil fuels in 2017. "This is further evidence that California's groundbreaking climate regulations are helping to deliver the greenhouse gas reductions needed to meet our 2020 target—and give us a running start at our even more ambitious 2030 target, too," California Air Resources Board Chair Mary Nichols said in the statement. The state's ambitious 2030 goal targets reducing emissions by another 40 percent over the next decade.

• The city of **Santa Maria** will host a public workshop to discuss proposed increases for water and sewer rates at 6 p.m. on Aug. 28 in the City Council Chambers at 110 E. Cook St. The proposed changes are being distributed with utility bills from mid-July through mid-August. A public hearing on the issue will be held on Oct. 1 at 5:30 p.m. Written protests to the proposed increases must be received before the end of the hearing. ○

## Supervisors change directions on cannabis retail plan

Santa Barbara County scrapped its plan for rolling out cannabis retail stores throughout the county, weeks after it was supposed to be implemented.

The county plans to allow a maximum of eight retail stores to operate. One store is allowed in each of the county's six community plans, such as Orcutt, and two stores are allowed in the unincorporated areas of the county.

This outline is still in place, but the process for selecting those few business operators has changed. Initially, the county planned to implement a lottery-based system where random potential applicants that meet the county's requirement would be chosen.

At its Aug. 20 meeting, the Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors voted to move away from this approach and directed staff to instead develop an outline for a merit-based system where points are awarded to the best projects.

"I believe people awarded these licenses should be awarded on the basis of what they offer to the community," 3rd District Supervisor Joan Hartmann said at the meeting.

Fifth District Supervisor Steve Lavagnino was the lone dissenting vote against this move. He said this method leaves the county open to criticism and allegations of corruption because the county would be in the position to choose between operators. With the lottery system, the business owners are chosen by chance. However, he admitted a lottery also has a downside.

"The pro for me is that we're hands off," Lavagnino said. "The con is we might not get the operator that we want."

County staff will come back with outlines for this merit-based approach at a future Board of Supervisors meeting.

While the county has yet to outline retail plans for cannabis, Lompoc continues to lead cities in the area in regard to retail stores. Currently, there are three dispensaries open with another one coming soon, Lompoc Public Information Officer Samantha Scroggin said. The city has received a total of 31 applications so far and has approved and issued licenses to 18 operators.

In addition to this discussion over cannabis retail stores, supervisors approved the first readings of a few changes to the county's cannabis cultivation regulations.

Supervisors approved a first reading of a cap that limits the amount of cannabis allowed to be cultivated throughout the unincorporated parts of the county to 1,575 acres. Additionally, the changes require cannabis farmers currently operating under a state provisional license to demonstrate the effectiveness of their odor control system earlier in the application process. These changes will be placed on the board's Aug. 27 agenda for adoption.

—Zac Ezzone

## Guadalupe is ready for some parks and rec

The city of Guadalupe plans to create a new five-person recreation commission to spend \$4.5 million the city received in state grant funding.

The commission was re-established on Aug. 13 during the Guadalupe City Council



**RETAIL CHANGE-UP:** The Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors plans to implement a merit-based system to choose the business owners who will receive permits to operate cannabis retail stores in the county.

meeting. Mayor Ariston Julian said it was one of the city's top priorities.

"We felt, and the community felt, we had to re-establish the parks and recreation commission," he said.

The city used to have its own staff to plan and manage programs like softball and basketball, or other projects like park maintenance. But when the city went through budget problems in 2012, there were cuts, and the budget was axed for the city's playing fields and parks.

The city's other priorities are nearly reached, Julian said. The city is in the black for fiscal year 2019-20, though it's still paying down some debts. And the City Council has mobilized on plans to support a new chamber of commerce or merchant association using the Santa Maria Valley Chamber of Commerce as a template.

But the parks and recreation commission has long been a priority.

"To participate, we have to go to Santa Maria for Little League," Julian said. "Re-establishing the parks and recreation commission is so kids don't have to go to Santa Maria to play, so parents don't have to go to Santa Maria to watch their kids."

Julian said the city wants to deploy the funds to LeRoy Park to renovate the Boys & Girls Club building there, which hasn't housed the club for 20 years.

He said the building is in disrepair, needs to be cleared of mold, and needs a series of renovations including to the bathroom. The question now is who takes the lead on the renovation project. The city, Julian said, wants to loop in the Boys &

Girls Clubs of Mid Central Coast and figure out whether they can take the lead on the project.

A parks and recreation commission, Julian said, would help figure out how to get the LeRoy Park project and others to the finish line. But the larger goal of the commission is to seek out further state funding to build out local soccer, baseball, and football fields. The

NEWS continued page 7

## Weekend Weather

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**Dave Hovde**  
KSBY Chief Meteorologist

Thursday	Friday
<b>COASTAL</b> > High 77 Low 57 <b>INLAND</b> > High 89 Low 55	<b>COASTAL</b> > High 76 Low 57 <b>INLAND</b> > High 87 Low 54
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**LAND GRAB:** Bruce Reithman looks over land in Santa Barbara County protected through an easement with the Land Trust of Santa Barbara County.

**NEWS** from page 4

city also wants to zero in on plans to revamp the playing fields at Jack O'Connell Park.

"We used to have our own facilities, and we want to get back to that," Julian said.

—William D'Urso

## West Cat Canyon oil project decision delayed indefinitely

Almost three months after oil company ERG requested to delay the discussion over its West Cat Canyon Revitalization Project, the company that recently purchased ERG has asked to do the same.

Discussion over this project, which includes the development of 233 new steam injection wells, originally took place during the Santa Barbara County Planning Commission's March 13 meeting. The discussion was continued until March 27 so that ERG could address questions from the commission about the project and the environmental impact review completed for the proposal.

The hearing was again continued to May 29, at which time ERG requested the discussion be further delayed so it could continue to work through the commission's questions. The item was subsequently added to the commission's Aug. 14 meeting agenda. At the August meeting, the Planning Commission agreed to postpone the item indefinitely at the request of TerraCore, the oil and gas company that recently purchased ERG.

TerraCore Chief Operating Officer Mark DePuy told the commissioners that the company needs time to continue working on the project as it assumes all of ERG's operations. Commissioner Dan Blough asked when the project would reappear on the agenda, but DePuy couldn't provide a firm timeframe.

"I'm not sure exactly when we will have an answer for you, but I can assure you within the next several weeks we should be in touch with staff and start the process of coming up with different solutions and ideas," DePuy said.

SCS Engineers representative Nathan Eady said it'll be several months before the project is ready to be placed on the commission's agenda again. During that time, the company is developing plans to add a solar energy component to the project to mitigate the amount of greenhouse gas emissions generated by the proposed new oil wells.

According to a March 13 staff report for the project, without any mitigation, the project would produce 251,000 metric tons of greenhouse gas emissions at peak operations. The commission requested that ERG create a greenhouse gas mitigation plan to significantly lower this number.

TerraCore purchased ERG sometime after the commission's May meeting. This acquisition follows ERG's declaring bankruptcy in 2015. Local oil company HVI Cat Canyon, formerly known as Greka, also recently filed for bankruptcy.

At the meeting, DePuy said the field operations in Cat Canyon will essentially remain the same as under ERG. Currently, the company operates 185 active or idle non-thermal wells and 314 active or idle thermal wells on the company's property.

—Zac Ezzone

## Land Trust announces expansion plans

The Land Trust for Santa Barbara County announced ambitious plans to broaden its conserved area to 40,000 acres by 2025.

"One of the most important innovations at the Land Trust over the past few years has been a discernible shift in the execution of our mission from an opportunistic and largely reactive organization to one that is proactive and strategic," the trust's executive director, Chet Work, said in a news release.

The trust was established in 1985, and through various partnerships with local families and other landowners, it has helped to preserve 27,000 acres. The trust's preservation work spans ranches, farms, and natural habitats in areas like Arroyo Hondo Preserve, Point Sal, Sedgwick Reserve, and the new Rincon Bluffs Preserve.

The Land Trust for Santa Barbara County was recently acknowledged by the California State Legislature for its efforts to sustain and protect local lands. The certificate of recognition lauds the "organization's work with property owners to preserve and protect key historical and natural resources."

The trust's efforts have also resulted in what it calls an agricultural easement of a 395-acre plot owned by the Hibbits family in Lompoc. An agricultural easement enables property owners such as the Hibbits family to voluntarily deed-restrict their property from being developed outside of traditional agricultural uses in perpetuity.

According to the organization, working with families like the Hibbitses is key to accomplishing its goals. The *Sun* reached out to the Land Trust for comment, but was unable to connect with a representative prior to press time.

—William D'Urso

## Lompoc sets date for sales tax discussion

Lompoc City Council is ready to resume talks about a sales tax increase measure to generate revenue about two months after the council passed a budget that included \$3 million in reductions to make up a financial shortfall.

During the months-long debate and numerous budget workshop meetings, some residents adamantly called for the council to pass its 2019-21 biennial budget along with a date for a sales tax election and no reductions. The majority of the council opted against this and instead passed a budget that included the elimination of several staff positions, among other cuts.

At the time, council members agreed to continue the conversation after the budget had passed, which they will do on Aug. 22. According to a draft agenda for the meeting, council members will discuss two possible sales tax measures.

Based on Councilmember Dirk Starbuck's recommendation, the council will consider a special sales tax option that would allocate most revenue generated by the measure to pay off the city's burgeoning pension obligation. The remaining 25 percent of the funding would be directed to the city's general fund to pay for public safety, parks, and roadways.

The council is also set to discuss a general sales tax option, which doesn't include any constraints on how revenue generated from this increase could be used.

While both measures would implement a 1 percent sales tax increase, the difference between the two options is significant. A special sales tax measure requires two-thirds voter approval, while a general sales tax options only requires a majority to pass.

If the council decides to move forward with a sales tax measure, it also has to determine when to hold the election. Previously, City Council had discussed either placing the item on the March 2020 primary ballot or on the November 2020 ballot. ○

—Zac Ezzone

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# Attempts at coexistence

*Cannabis farmers argue their crop is compatible with other crops, despite winemakers' concerns*

BY ZAC EZZONE



In the early morning, low-lying fog rolls into the Santa Rita Hills, obscuring the view of the vineyards and farms dotting the countryside. Quails, rabbits, and squirrels scurry to safety as the occasional car zips by on Santa Rosa Road, which cuts through the area, connecting Lompoc to Buellton.

Almost 8 miles down the road, west of Highway 101, Kathy Joseph grows wine grapes on a roughly 130-acre plot of land. Joseph has harvested grapes here for the last 25 years to produce wine for her own brand, Fiddlehead Cellars, and to sell to winemakers throughout Santa Barbara County and other parts of the state.

The majority of her vineyard is dedicated to pinot noir, while she also grows grapes for chardonnay. Both varieties thrive here and benefit from the cool, coastal fog that rolls in and lingers every morning.

"This is why pinot noir loves it here. It demands a cool climate," she said.

But the fog has a downside. After rolling in, it leaves a layer of moisture on the grapes, which can spur mildew growth if it's not addressed. Joseph tries to harness the wind that sweeps through the hills to dry off the grapes, but it isn't enough. To prevent mildew from ruining her crop, workers at the vineyard also spray the grapes with a mildewcide. For decades, she said, this process wasn't an issue. But that changed earlier this year when a cannabis farm moved in just northeast of her property.

Cannabis undergoes stringent state-mandated testing to ensure no chemicals have touched the plants. If a substance is found, the plant is destroyed. Earlier this year, the owner of the cannabis farm near Joseph's vineyard filed a complaint with Santa Barbara County against her vineyard, alleging the mildewcide drifted over and landed on some of the plants, she said. The county confirmed that it's investigating a complaint, but officials wouldn't say who is involved.

Following this, Joseph switched to an all-organic mildewcide spray, which won't affect cannabis testing, but it also doesn't work as well in preventing mildew. After making this switch, most of Joseph's chardonnay grapes became infected with mildew. They're now unusable, she said.

Similar issues have begun affecting avocado farmers throughout the county, especially in Carpinteria. Some farmers have expressed concerns about being unable to hire companies to apply pesticides at their orchards out of fear that they could be sued from accidentally

contaminating nearby cannabis farms.

During the public comment period of the county Planning Commission's Aug. 8 meeting, John De Friel, who owns a cannabis farm near Joseph's vineyards, said this problem of spraying applications isn't unique to cannabis. According to county regulations, pesticides drifting from one crop to another is illegal in all cases.

"Drift is a criminal trespass. It is regulated by the county agricultural commissioner," he said. "Any implication that drift is allowed by some crops versus another one is completely untrue."

As long as they're conducted appropriately, spraying applications aren't a problem, De Friel said at the meeting. Regardless, some farmers cite this issue as an example of how, under current county regulations, cannabis is incompatible with other farming industries.

Cannabis farmers disagree.

In other California counties, and in some parts of Santa Barbara County, cannabis already coexists with grapes and other crops without major issues. But the path to achieve this level of crop compatibility in the unincorporated areas of the county remains unclear.

## Points of contention

Slightly northeast of Joseph's property, Blair Pence has operated his vineyard and winery just west of Buellton on Highway 246 for close to 15 years. Like Joseph and other grape growers in the area, he primarily grows pinot noir and chardonnay on about a quarter of the 200-acre property.

About two years ago, Pence said, the horse ranch across the street from him was sold and converted into a cannabis farm. Soon after, another sale and cannabis conversion occurred at the property directly east of his vineyard.

Pence claims the proximity of his winery to both of these farms created numerous issues, most noticeably a persistent odor that customers complained about. To escape the obnoxious smell, Pence said he and his wife began spending most of their time at their rental home in Montecito.

Additionally, he said, the ranch experienced a decrease in its equestrian business. Clients expressed feeling unsettled and intimidated by the armed security guards monitoring the farm to the east of Pence's ranch while riding their horses.

Earlier this year, the sheriff's Cannabis Compliance Team raided and shut down both farms for operating with fraudulently obtained licenses, according to the Sheriff's Office. The

farm that was directly east of Pence was part of a four-day raid in late June, during which the compliance team seized 20 tons of processed cannabis and eradicated about 350,000 plants.

After dealing with these illegal farms, Pence is attempting to prevent other cannabis farmers from obtaining permits in the area. In May, he filed appeals on two different permits the county's Planning and Development Department has approved for cannabis cultivation projects located off Highway 246.

These are the only appeals on which Pence is listed as the aggrieved party, but members of a group he cofounded have appealed other cannabis cultivation projects in the area. The Santa Barbara County Coalition for Responsible Cannabis—a group of farmers, winemakers, and county residents—has been vocal in calling for the county to adopt more stringent cannabis regulations. Pence said different members of the coalition will appeal every project the county approves along the stretch of Highway 246 through the Santa Rita Hills and into the Santa Ynez Valley.

"There's 13 of them right now in process right here in our little 2-mile stretch," Pence said. "Absolutely all 13 will get appealed. The county has pushed us into this place."

As of Aug. 11, the county has approved 25 cannabis land permits. Seven have been appealed. Four of those appeals are for projects on Highway



**BUREAUCRATIC HURDLES:** At least seven cannabis farmers are tied up in an appeal process that will significantly delay how long it takes them to receive their county business license.

246, one is for a project in Santa Ynez, and two are for projects in Carpinteria, according to county data. Pence said the coalition, which has members in each supervisorial district, plans on appealing more projects as they are approved.

In addition to the prospect of dealing with circumstances similar to what he experienced with the previous cannabis farms near his property, Pence said he also appealed these projects because he's concerned that the terpenes—organic compounds produced by a variety of plants—released by cannabis can alter the taste of wine grapes, although there is no scientific proof that this happens.

Pence said he's even more concerned that the materials used on some cannabis farms, such as fencing, hoop houses, and lighting fixtures, affect the aesthetics of the Santa Rita Hills and the Santa Ynez Valley.

"It's a blight on the landscape, and it doesn't belong. ... [Highway 246] is the gateway to the Santa Ynez Valley ... and it's also the gateway to the Santa Rita Hills," Pence said. "So this is a critical area for both the wine industry and tourism, and for residents and for the perception of the Santa Ynez Valley."

Pence said many of his problems with cannabis could be addressed if the county required all cannabis to be grown indoors.

At its Aug. 8 meeting, the county Planning Commission held hearings for the two appeals Pence filed, which were the first appeals on outdoor cannabis farms the commission has discussed. Earlier this year, the commission denied an appeal on an indoor farm in Carpinteria, which has been passed on to the county Board of Supervisors.

Despite a nearly nine-hour meeting, the commission only discussed one of the projects and didn't make a decision on Pence's appeal. The majority of commissioners expressed concern over several aspects of Santa Rita Valley Ag Inc.'s project, including a lack of detail in its lighting plan and how the company planned to keep the 25 shipping containers it plans to use for processing out of the eyesight of Highway 246 drivers.

While Planning Commission Chair John Parke said he wasn't as concerned about the project details, he and the rest of the commission got hung up on the programmatic environmental impact review (PEIR) the county completed when crafting its cannabis ordinance. Planning staff use this document as a guideline when reviewing cannabis permits to check whether the project would negatively affect the environment.

Commissioner Dan Blough acknowledged that that project met the specifics of the county's ordinances but said he didn't think the regulations themselves are adequate.

"I'm perplexed as to whether we ... should continue this and work on a compromise, or uphold the appeal," Blough said. "But I'm not comfortable with that, because in my view, it's us and the board that didn't make the right decisions and didn't create the right structure moving forward."

Commissioners were concerned that the PEIR doesn't take into account the size of some

FILE PHOTO BY JAYSON MELLOM

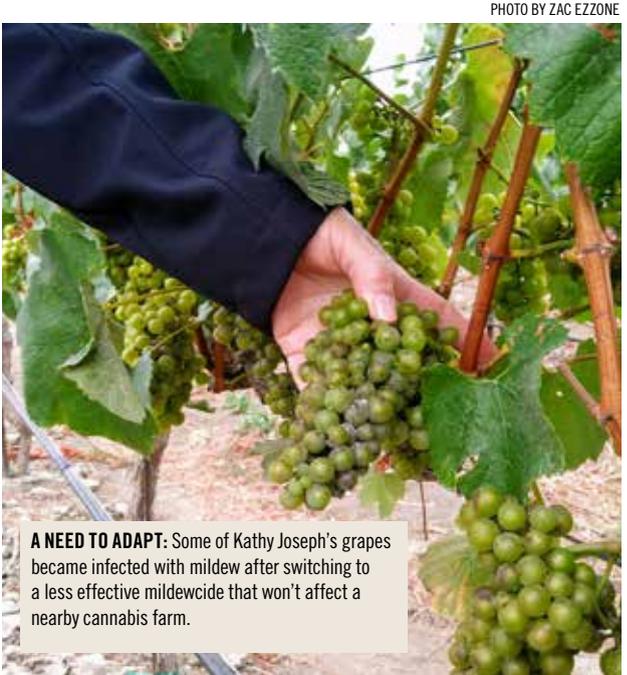


PHOTO BY ZAC EZZONE

**A NEED TO ADAPT:** Some of Kathy Joseph's grapes became infected with mildew after switching to a less effective mildewcide that won't affect a nearby cannabis farm.

of the cannabis farms being discussed or the concentration of farms in a small area, like the stretch on Highway 246. Parke said the commission needs more information on the PEIR before making a decision on the appeals discussed at the meeting, as well as future appeals.

"I think somebody has to educate me that this PEIR is adequate, because I can't find that right now," Parke said. "And in the absence of that finding, I think that this would warrant the preparation of a new environmental document. I think an EIR analyzing the cumulative impact of all the projects along Highway 246 is really what we need."

The hearings for both appeals were postponed until Sept. 13, when planning staff will give a presentation on the PEIR used to review cannabis cultivation projects before the commission decides how to move forward on both projects. Pence considers this a victory. He said he wants the county to slow down and really examine how a high concentration of cannabis farms could affect a small area in between the Santa Rita Hills and the Santa Ynez Valley.

John Harris, one of the leaders behind the Santa Rita Valley Ag Inc. project, told the *Sun* that he and the other owners are disappointed with the result of the hearing, but they feel confident that planning staff will be able to demonstrate how the project complies with the PEIR and the county's regulations at the next hearing. He said he believes a lot of the concerns being raised about cannabis farms can be attributed to its being a new industry.

"I think at this point the conflict is based on fear rather than on reality," Harris said. "You'll need some period of time to understand how it will all work, but there's adequate land to support [all farming] industries [in the county]."

## Potential to coexist

A few miles east of Pence's property, Sara Rotman and her husband, who comes from a family of Carpinteria-based avocado farmers, have grown medical marijuana on their ranch since 2015.

They originally purchased the ranch on Highway 246 in 2014 as a retreat place and for Rotman's horses, she said. But the farm's purpose quickly changed. Three weeks after buying the property, Rotman became gravely ill and was diagnosed with Crohn's disease.

"That led me on a rather lengthy odyssey through Western medicine and non-Western medicine, and we quickly discovered that science has no cure or real help for Crohn's other than some very, very frightening drugs, which didn't function for me anyway," Rotman said. "We very quickly discovered that cannabis was the only thing that was able to help me in any way and immediately founded a collective."

After cultivating medical marijuana on the property for four years, Rotman obtained a provisional license from the state to continue growing as she navigates the county permitting

process. She filed a permit application for her farm, Busy Bees Organics, in November 2018, which the county Planning and Development Department approved on May 7. Ten days later, an avocado grower on Santa Rosa Road, southwest of Rotman's farm, appealed the project.

"I can tell you [the appeal has] been a surprise to my husband and I because we have enjoyed positive relationships with our immediate neighbors throughout our whole existence," Rotman said. "So, it's been surprisingly disappointing for me to be pointed out as somebody who's a challenge."

The farmer appealing Rotman's project, Sharyne Merritt, declined to comment.

According to a copy of the appeal, Merritt's attorney for this process is Courtney Taylor. The San Luis Obispo-based attorney is also representing Pence in his

appeals, as well as winemaker John Wagner, who is appealing a permit that Santa Barbara County approved for another cannabis farm on Highway 246.

The Planning Commission originally planned to hold a hearing to discuss the appeal on Rotman's farm in July, but it was postponed to Aug. 28. Planning staff told the *Sun* the hearing has been delayed again and that a new date hasn't yet been set.

Despite these appeals and the open opposition from some residents, Rotman ultimately believes that the cannabis and wine industries can coexist—and even thrive together—in the county. She points to her own personal experiences as proof.

"We have a great relationship with our neighbors on either side, both of whom are traditional agricultural," Rotman said. "We have grapes on one side and broccoli on the other ... and we've had zero conflict with them."

The same is true in other parts of the county and elsewhere in the state. The Sonoma County-based Wine Industry Network held its third annual Wine and Weed Symposium in August, where leaders from both industries assembled to discuss how they can work together and learn from one another.

The keynote speaker at this year's event was Corey Beck, who is the CEO and winemaking chief of film director Francis Ford Coppola's wine company. Last year The Family Coppola began selling its own line of cannabis products and only lost two of its 10,000 wine club members in the process.

In a clip of his presentation, which is available online, Beck said the company decided to embrace cannabis rather than compete against it.

"We've looked at [cannabis] as an opportunity," he said. "If you choose to look at it as a competitor, you're going to miss out on a few things."

However, throughout the state and locally there are some instances where the industries may have to compete, such as for land and agricultural labor, which is already in short supply. And although not all wine drinkers are weed smokers and vice versa, winemakers may be concerned about cannabis cutting into wine's market share, Harris of Santa Rita Valley Ag Inc. said.

"The vineyards see competition for consumers buying their products and see pressure on that from a new industry," Harris said.

However, he added that he thinks "vineyards and cannabis cultivators can continue to grow and thrive symbiotically in Santa Barbara County."

Rotman agrees. Prior to becoming a cannabis farmer, she built a career in the branding and marketing world. Through this lens, she said she can see a lot of opportunities for both the cannabis and wine industries to thrive together. She said the way organizations in Sonoma County have embraced this combination serves as a good example for Santa Barbara County. For example, tour company The Sonoma County Experience offers combined wine and cannabis excursions to educate guests about the county's historic wine

industry and budding cannabis businesses. But tensions need to cool in Santa Barbara County before widespread collaboration is a possibility. It's still early in this process, but 5th District Supervisor Steve Lavagnino hopes people begin to feel better as the county starts rejecting unfit projects and approving solid ones.

Lavagnino and 1st District Supervisor Das Williams have been criticized by some people over their perceived support of the cannabis industry. In his defense, Lavagnino said he doesn't think banning cannabis in the county would've been effective, given the county's past problems with illegal farms years before voters legalized cannabis. At least by creating a regulatory framework, the county can work to identify and eradicate illegal farms—such as the ones busted near Pence's property—while having the resources to monitor legal projects, Lavagnino said.

In regard to the complaints winemakers have raised over cannabis, Lavagnino said that if there are real consequences that emerge as this process continues, the county will obviously have to address them. For example, if wineries drastically lose clients because of cannabis odors, the county will have to do something to protect them, he said.

He further noted that, ironically, the concerns winemakers are raising over cannabis remind him of the issues residents raised about the wine industry in the mid-2000s. Prior to then, there were vineyards in the county, but not a lot of wineries or tasting rooms. Residents appealed most of the wineries that county staff approved and complained that they would ruin the perception of the county, he recalls.

Now these tasting rooms are a major part of the county's wine industry, which was estimated to be worth about \$1.7 billion in 2013, according to a report Stonebridge Research Group completed for the Santa Barbara County Vintners Association in 2015. Last year, wine grapes were the county's second highest yielding crop, grossing more than \$121 million, according to the county's most recent agricultural production report.

Lavagnino thinks cannabis can similarly benefit the wine industry the way that tasting rooms have if vintners and local cannabis farmers are open to working together.

"There's going to be a whole tourism industry over pairing cannabis and wine," Lavagnino said. "Cannabis isn't going anywhere. ... It's here; there's a huge base of people who enjoy this product. Why not lean into that?"

## What's next?

The county's working to address some of the issues that residents have raised over the last year since it implemented its existing regulations. At its Aug. 20 meeting, the Board of Supervisors continued to move forward with changing the business license process, placing a cap on the total acreage of cannabis allowed in the county, and implementing odor abatement in some situations.

However, many of these changes are dedicated solely to the county's Agricultural-I zone and don't address issues in the Agricultural-II zone, which is where most vineyards and farmers are located. The Agricultural Commissioner's Office is creating an informal stakeholders group to examine how to rectify some of the issues between cannabis growers and traditional agricultural farmers, said Assistant Agricultural Commissioner Rudy Martel.

"There's got to be understanding with whatever their issues are, regarding cannabis growers and what conventional agriculture are experiencing," Martel said. "[We] hope there can be understanding and movement forward so that both can coexist."

Even if the county can work through some of these existing problems, there are upcoming issues that may further complicate matters.

While there's been a lot of debate regarding cannabis cultivation, the Board of Supervisors has yet to approve its plan for retail cannabis stores. Lavagnino said the county is planning on permitting eight stores throughout the unincorporated area of the county.

The Aug. 8 Planning Commission meeting offered an early glimpse of some issues residents

might raise as the process begins. Residents expressed concerns at the meeting about proposed services for a non-storefront cannabis delivery service moving into Old Town Orcutt next to Elmer's.

The commission decided to reject the proposal based on the idea that the space should be reserved for a retail store that generates foot traffic, not because the business is cannabis related.

In addition to permitting and regulating cannabis grows and retail stores, the county will allow farmers to grow hemp throughout unincorporated areas next year. Hemp is a variety of cannabis with a THC concentration of less than 0.3 percent, and the crop has a number of uses—including fiber, paper, and oils the latter of which is often marketed as having medical benefits.

Congress passed the farm bill in late 2018, which removed hemp's status as an illegal substance. The U.S. Department of Agriculture is working on its regulatory frameworks for farmers to follow. After that's complete, California must submit its own plan to the federal agency. Once those are in place, the county will adopt its own standards—although because hemp is a crop, the county's hands are tied when it comes to crafting its own regulations.

Supervisor Lavagnino said he believes that once they're allowed, farmers will opt to grow hemp if they can't obtain cannabis permits or if they own a smaller property where cannabis will soon be banned. A potential proliferation of hemp grows could be a problem for residents, as hemp has a similar odor to the cannabis currently being grown as marijuana.

Cannabis farmer De Friel made this point during the public comment period of the Planning Commission's appeal hearing for Santa Rita Valley Ag Inc. on Aug. 8.

"Hemp is coming, and it will not be regulated," he said, "so in a lot of ways the cat's out of the bag with a lot of these issues, and people won't be coming to the Planning Commission for similar approvals."

Given the existing odor and spray application issues, plus the potential for such problems to become more complicated as hemp and cannabis retail stores enter the county, Lavagnino half-jokingly said residents can forget about petroleum and oil projects for a while. For the foreseeable future, cannabis will continue to dominate most county discussions.

However, he said he hopes this is all part of an adjustment phase that will get better in time.

"I would love to look back on this five years from now and say, 'Wow, now why was this such a big deal?'" Lavagnino said. ○

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

FILE PHOTO BY THE SANTA BARBARA COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE



**BUSTING ILLEGAL GROWS:** The county Sheriff's Office Cannabis Compliance Team has raided and shut down numerous illegal cannabis farms near the Buellton area this year.

# College loot

*Santa Maria high school district aims to make financial aid forms mandatory for graduating seniors*

BY WILLIAM D'URSO

Diana Perez and her fellow members of the Santa Maria Joint Union High School District board of education saw a problem: Too few students were attending college. The culprit in their minds? Not enough students filing financial aid applications.

"I think the students who were missing were middle-income students," Perez said. "I think middle-income students sometimes have this misconception that they don't qualify."

Perez and school district administrators found what they believe is their answer at the Val Verde Unified School District. The top educators there had installed a program mandating that every high school graduate fill out financial aid forms.

At issue is FAFSA—the Free Application for Federal Student Aid. And Perez's school district isn't the only one loaded with students who don't apply for funding.

Personal finance website NerdWallet estimates that students missed out on \$2.6 billion in grants in 2018, simply because a pool of 661,000 eligible high school graduates didn't complete financial aid forms.

In 2019, students can earn about \$6,100 in Pell Grants, possibly more depending on several factors including whether students are full time. That amount doesn't include the potential loan opportunities or other free money grants and scholarships offered by the state or local municipalities that could be available if students filled out and filed financial aid forms.

But critics have said the form is too cumbersome. In March 2019, Tennessee Republican Sen. Lamar Alexander proposed to simplify the application by cutting 108 questions from the form.

Locally, district board member Perez said that students need support to complete and turn in the document and that making FAFSA completion mandatory would be a good step in that direction.

"It's so they have a head start in choices," Perez said. "If a student decides last minute they're not going to college, there's really no harm."

Successful filing of those forms could set students up for Pell Grants, free money that goes directly toward college expenses. A student is offered funding depending on the financial information in their legal guardian's

tax returns.

Assistance can also take the form of loans, which have varying structures but are typically low interest and often allow students to begin paying them off after graduation.

Perez and other school district officials started conversations about making FAFSA submissions mandatory as the school year ended in June. Further discussions were postponed until the fall, with parents and other community members invited to the Sept. 10 school district board meeting.

While the process at the Santa Maria high school district may just be getting started, the idea itself isn't new.

Louisiana was the first state to pass a law mandating high school students to complete financial aid planning for college starting in the 2017-18 school year. Filling out a FAFSA is one of four options students can choose from. According to numbers from the National College Access Network, 78.7 percent of graduating seniors in Louisiana filed FAFSA forms for the coming school year, more than any other state. That's a 25 percent more students than the previous year.

Texas and Illinois followed suit this summer making submitting FAFSA forms a requirement for graduation. California has legislation on the docket with Assembly Bill 1617, introduced by Assemblymember Eloise Reyes (D-San Bernardino) in April 2019.

"The research is clear, by providing students and families assistance with completing and submitting a FAFSA, you significantly increase the chances of that student enrolling into college and achieving academic success," Reyes said in a statement to the *Sun*.



**FINANCE FORMS:** The Santa Maria Joint Union High School District is mulling over whether to make filling out a FAFSA mandatory for graduating seniors.

In California, that idea began in the Val Verde Unified School District in the Moreno Valley.

"We're trying to eliminate as many barriers for kids who want to access post-secondary options," said Val Verde Assistant Superintendent Mark LeNoir.

LeNoir said the district is about two years into the policy, and officials spent roughly a year researching and discussing the requirement that Louisiana implemented.

While he didn't have hard numbers, LeNoir said the program is having its intended effect.

"We know that it's equating to millions more dollars for our kids to explore options," he said.

LeNoir said the FAFSA application requirement hasn't caused much dismay with parents or students, and that of the 1,556 seniors who graduated last year, just 11 opted out.

But LeNoir said there's still a long way for the program to go. The district is happy with the improved engagement of students in the financial aid application process, but he wants to ensure that students don't lose steam during the summer.

"We call it summer snowmelt," LeNoir said.

It's what teachers and administrators call July and August, when students can get bogged down filling out college forms for a range of necessities like housing. Sometimes, LeNoir

said, such forms pose a hangup that prevent students from attending college that fall.

"We want to make sure they enroll," he said. "We want to make sure we have people available over the summer who can help a student if they get tripped up with a housing form or whatever it might be."

He said the Val Verde district has allocated funds to guidance counselors who can answer questions and provide support during the summer.

In Santa Maria, Perez and her colleagues began crafting their policy by watching LeNoir give presentations on how mandatory FAFSA submissions worked in his district. One of the keys is offering students the ability to opt out, so those who object can still get their diploma.

But Perez is still having conversations within the district, especially with parents, and everyone will have a chance to offer their thoughts on Sept. 10. Using that information, Perez hopes the district can craft a policy that could be ready for a vote in November.

"If parents disagree, then they ought to come and tell us," Perez said. "If they agree, we want to hear that too." ○

Reach Staff Writer William D'Urso at [wdurso@santamariasun.com](mailto:wdurso@santamariasun.com).



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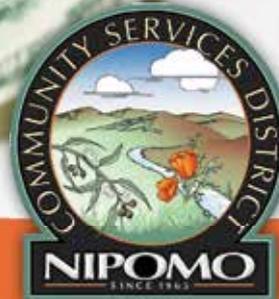
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BY WILLIAM D'URSO

What would become personal trainer April Sargeant's life's work first began as a request.

It came from Lisa Murray, a fellow attendee of a women's group who asked Sargeant to work with her husband, Jim. He had been diagnosed with Parkinson's disease, a degenerative condition that weakens motor skills and often slurs speech.

Sargeant had been working with elderly patients but hadn't done anything with those who have Parkinson's.

"I did some research and told her, 'Yeah let's do it,'" Sargeant said.

She enrolled in an LA program called Neuroboxing, and three years later she runs her own Neuroboxing classes in Santa Maria. The program taught her how to work with patients who suffer from Parkinson's.

Sargeant was shepherding her class on Aug. 14 in the space she rents on the third floor of the Marian Regional Medical Center at 116 S. Palisade Drive. By October, she hopes to move across the street to the Marian Health and Wellness Center on 1207 E. Main St. She said a new gym under renovation there can accommodate her classes, which often number more than 20 students.

Sargeant said the skills and techniques associated with boxing help people with Parkinson's adjust. They punched and punched the air, moving their bodies, doing things their

bodies have forgotten how to do.

"Their brains have to forge new neural pathways," Sargeant said.

She ran her 13 students that day through drills. Sargeant uses interval training on a circuit, just like the pros, but she keeps each station somewhere between 30 seconds to two minutes.

"There are people in this class who had never worked out before," she said. "You use it or you lose it."

That lack of activity had stagnated the reflexes and neural response of Gary Peterson, who has been attending the classes for two

years. When he began attending, he wore slip-on shoes.

"They were hideous and his wife hated them," April said. "Then one day I got a text from Gary that said, 'I can tie my own shoes. First time in 10 years.'"

There's all kinds of success stories like that, Sargeant said, and it's not really about boxing. It's just about moving and forcing the body to find new ways of doing things.

But elements of boxing training are broadly represented in her program. She has participants doing agility drills and incorporating squats into punching-bag exercises.

There are also the non-boxing exercises. She pushes her students to speak loudly because many speak softly. She brings in shoes for them to practice tying, preschool toys, and miniature shirts so they can work on buttoning them.

At Neuroboxing, it's about the little things.

## Spotlight on: April Sargeant, owner, Neuroboxing Santa Maria



KNUCKLE UP: April Sargeant's Neuroboxing class gets punching to fight Parkinson's on Aug. 14.

Learn more about Neuroboxing by calling (805) 698-1983 or emailing [neuroboxingsantamaria@gmail.com](mailto:neuroboxingsantamaria@gmail.com).

### Highlights

- Marian Regional Medical Center is hosting a blood drive on Friday, Aug. 30, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. The drive, in partnership with Vitalant, will be located at 1400 East Church St. in Santa Maria. To donate, visit [blood4life.org](http://blood4life.org).
- For the third year in a row Cal Poly has

hosted the California Cyber Innovation Challenge from June 21 to 23. Winners of the 2019 challenge were honored on Aug. 19. The teams, made up of high school students, received their awards in Sacramento. The cybersecurity competition aims to stoke interest in the subject. ○

Staff Writer William D'Urso wrote this week's Biz Spotlight. Send ideas, news tips, and interesting tidbits to [spotlight@santamariasun.com](mailto:spotlight@santamariasun.com).

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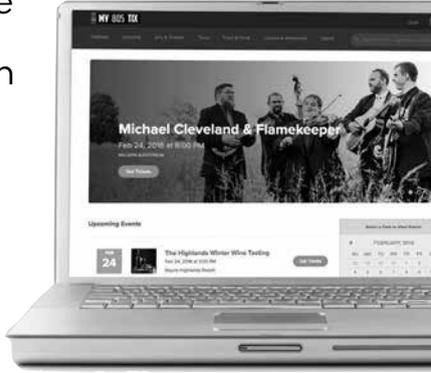
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Award-winning Newspaper

**VERIFIED**

# Welcome back to school

## The beginning of the academic year provides continuity, sense of promise

**BY SUSAN SALCIDO**

Starting in Guadalupe on Aug. 8 and ending in Carpinteria on Aug. 26, schools throughout Santa Barbara County are welcoming students back into their classrooms. The beginning of the school year can signal optimism, wonder, and a fresh start for students, families, and the entire education community.

This year, the start of school may even bring needed comfort as it reminds us that despite tumultuous and challenging events in our nation, there is a rhythm to the year upon which we can rely. The beginning of the academic year arrives just like clockwork and provides continuity and sense of promise for all of us.

Classroom walls get redecorated to feature new student artwork, cafeterias are stocked with nutritious food for our children's meals, and boxes that are piled in offices during the summer months are emptied and put away to signal that students are arriving. Our children are greeted by principals, teachers, school secretaries, custodians, bus drivers, crossing guards, support staff, parent volunteers, and fellow students all crackling with the almost electric first-day-of-school excitement. It is a tribute to our professionalism, our resilience, and the optimistic human spirit.

Educators and school staff make these openings appear seamless and effortless but, of course, they are not. Starting a new school year requires a great deal of preparation, elbow grease, and skill. While the summer break offers a time of renewal and refreshment, we also know that the vast majority of administrators, teachers, and staff members spent time planning for and working on the coming school year so that all will go as smoothly as possible for students and parents.

This summer, in fact, many educators throughout our county attended conferences, studied, refined, planned, and deepened their knowledge about content and instructional approaches, and connected with professionals about impactful ways to support students.

For the students who will reap the benefits of these efforts, excitement is no doubt building for the new school year, but it is also quite normal for them to have some trepidation.

Michele Frantz, the 2020 Santa Barbara County Teacher of the Year, from Joe Nightingale School in Orcutt, had this advice for students: "Know that it is normal to feel both excited and nervous about returning to school. Remember that you are one of a kind and have special gifts and qualities that only you can bring to your classroom, so just be you!"

That's great advice for parents to share with their children. Here are some other tips from experts that have proven helpful:

- Make extra time for your children, especially as they go through the transition to a new year with new teachers and new friends. Listen to their questions and concerns. Stress your love and support to help ease their worries. Talking together about school can strengthen your family bonds and ease any anxiety your children may be feeling.

- Parents can help children transition back into a good sleep routine for school a week or so before the opening day. We know it is vitally important for children to get the right amount of sleep in order to be alert and ready to learn all day. Parents can start now to have children get to bed at a reasonable time and get up and eat about the same time each day.

- Try to structure time so that the morning is calm. You can work backward from the time your children need to be at school, figuring out how long it will take to get dressed, eat breakfast, and travel to school. Build in time for unexpected delays.

- Make an after-school game plan. How will your children get home? Will there be after-school programs, sports practices, or music lessons? Where and when will your children do their homework?

Parents can be assured that all our dedicated and skilled school professionals have a common goal of supporting your children, and they are excitedly looking forward to welcoming them back to the classroom. It is a ritual that we've all gone through in our own childhoods, and it will continue for generations to come.

Let me add my voice to those welcoming your children to the new school year. May it be productive and fun, full of joy, wonder, and new learning for every member of our school community. ○

*Susan Salcido is the Santa Barbara County superintendent of schools. Send comments to the editor at [clanham@santamariasun.com](mailto:clanham@santamariasun.com), or write a letter and submit it to [letters@santamariasun.com](mailto:letters@santamariasun.com).*

## LETTERS

### We need some independent thinkers

Again, the wholesale attack against the National Rifle Association (NRA) is mounting to a fevered pitch. U.S. Rep. Salud Carbajal's (D-Santa Barbara) recent town hall was filled with cheers denouncing the NRA. Let's make a couple of things clear. The NRA promotes gun safety and gun ownership rights.

None of the shootings, mass executions, or the

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

daily carnage in major cities have been committed by members of the NRA. Representative Carbajal would do well to align himself with the NRA to accomplish the desires to keep guns out of the hands of people who would not be fit to join the NRA. The nodding heads I saw at the town hall need to educate themselves and apply a little independent thought.

Jan Lipski  
Vandenberg Village

### Decision time for clean energy

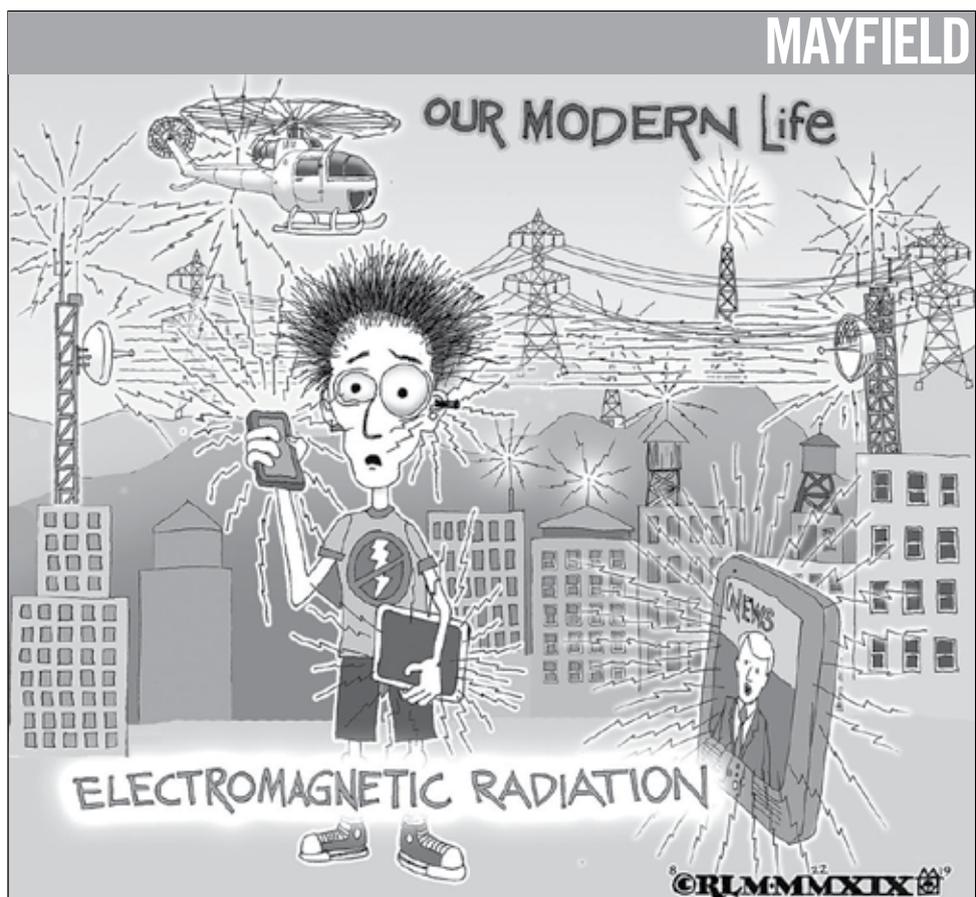
The Santa Barbara County Planning Commission and the Board of Supervisors face a choice to promote a future of clean energy development in the county or double down on our past history of high-risk and polluting oil development. ERG and Aera's dangerous oil project proposals are being stretched out to wear the county down and get officials to approve these high-intensity, long-term drilling schemes, through our drinking water aquifers.

A recent BNP Paribas Bank analysis predicts that oil prices are poised to crash due to future low demand, thanks to rapid clean solar/wind energy production worldwide. The report posits that further oil development will result in major bankruptcies of oil companies with local and national governments picking up the cleanup tab ([thinkprogress.org](http://thinkprogress.org), Aug. 8).

Does the county want to approve 30 to 40 year oil expansion projects in this environment? Haven't we learned our lesson with the Venoco bankruptcy due to the Platform Holly cleanup costs?

Let's nip this disaster in the bud!

Larry Bishop  
Buellton



# Caged bird will sing

In case you thought I had turned into a cockatiel and finally found my way into the Santa Barbara County Jail cell I deserve, I just want to clear the air. It definitely wasn't me.

That being said, the person who took over for Santa Barbara County Sheriff's Office Public Information Officer Kelly Hoover is having oh so much fun with puns. They're probably just twitterpated pink over a press release they sent out on Aug. 19. A domestic cockatiel showed up at the Main Jail—"Likely an escapee from its home, the bird somehow found its way into sherrif's custody," Lt. Erik Raney wrote in the release. "Staff took in the 'jail bird' and provided food and shelter."



Not enough crime in the county to keep you busy, Raney?

Just a quick note: The *SLO Tribune* also thought it was fun enough to hop on the pun wagon. "How did pet bird end up at Santa Barbara jail? He's not a stool pigeon and he isn't singing," *The Trib's* web headline read.

The lead? "An unlikely fugitive was found at the back of the Santa Barbara County Jail on Monday: a domestic cockatiel. The literal jail bird seems to have flown far from its home."

Good one **Katelyn Leslie!** Aug. 19 must have been a slow news day. Ready, set, clickbait?

Meanwhile, Lompoc is actually going to talk about a potential ballot measure for a sales tax increase on Aug. 22. I'm not going to count my canaries yet, but the fact that the city is willing to discuss it could be a good sign that a new source of revenue could hatch for Lompoc—and possibly save it from the impending financial disaster also known as pension obligation. I hope **City Councilmember Jim "Read My Lips" Mosby** doesn't get a hernia over it.

I'd also like to give a big shout out to U.S. **Rep. Salud Carbajal** campaign dude **Ben Romo** for being such a good sport about last week's column! He sent me a lovely little letter telling me how funny I am—which I simply just fluttered over. He also defended himself, saying he is well aware about what term the Congressman is in—his second—and that he either was misheard or possibly misspoke (he really doesn't think it was that second one).

Honestly, sometimes people say one thing when they really mean another. We once had an elected official chastise one of our reporters because she swore up and down that she didn't say something at a meeting that we quoted her as saying.

Turns out, she did. The meeting was recorded. But she wanted us to run a correction because it wasn't what she *meant* to say. My word, people.

Words are muy importante. And for that, I must admit, I said that Ben was new to the Central Coast when all I meant was that he was acting like it. Ben's been around for years.

I'm not sure what Ben said because I wasn't there, but the *Sun* heard what it heard, and so the Canary must tweet! I do believe that Ben understands this, and for that, he deserves a feather-tipped salute and a nod of the beak. Keep on doing you, Ben, my twiggly friend. ○

*The Canary loves to sing. Send your thoughts to canary@santamariasun.com.*

# ANNUAL SIREN TEST



**9P** SATURDAY  
**20** AUGUST 24  
12:00 PM AND 12:30 PM

The San Luis Obispo County Early Warning System sirens will be tested on Saturday, August 24. Sirens will sound at 12:00 pm and again at 12:30 pm for three minutes. During the tests, no action is required on the part of the public.

Local radio and television stations will conduct normal programming during the tests. If you hear the sirens at any other time, tune to a local radio or television station for important emergency information. When at sea, tune to Marine Channel 16.

SATURDAY, AUGUST 24 - IT'S ONLY A TEST



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**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](mailto: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](http://www.whhosts.com)

World Heritage is a public benefit, non-profit organization based in Laguna Beach, CA.

# HOT STUFF

AUG. 22 – AUG. 29  
2019



## SATURDAY IN THE PARK

American Veterans United hosts its annual Family Barbecue at Ryon Park in Lompoc on Saturday, Aug. 24, from noon to 3 p.m. WWII and Korean War veterans and their spouses can enjoy a free dinner, which includes tri-tip, beans, bread, salad, and water or a soft drink. The event also includes free hot dogs for children. Regular admission is \$10. The park is located at 800 W. Ocean Ave., Lompoc. Visit [avuinc.org](http://avuinc.org) for more info on the organization.

—Caleb Wiseblood

PHOTO COURTESY OF SUZANNE DE ST. JEAN

## SPECIAL EVENTS

### SANTA YNEZ VALLEY

**WHEELS 'N WINDMILLS CAR SHOW** This annual car show showcases vehicles of all kinds. **Aug. 24**, 12.5 p.m. [solvangcc.com](http://solvangcc.com). Downtown Solvang, Mission Dr., Solvang.

### LOMPOC/VANDENBERG

**AMERICAN VETERANS UNITED FAMILY BARBECUE** WWII and Korean Vets and their spouses eat for free. Also features free hot dogs for kids, a raffle, and live entertainment. AVU is a non-profit veterans group committed to helping vets with claims and benefits. **Aug. 24**, 12-3 p.m. Ryon Park, 800 W. Ocean Ave., Lompoc.

**MICROMANIA MIDGET WRESTLING** Show will feature the Micro Athletes and the Battling Bombshells. **Aug. 23**, 8 p.m. Starts at \$20. [my805tix.com](http://my805tix.com). Johnny's Bar and Grill, 321 W. Ocean Ave., Lompoc.

**MOUNTAIN MEN ENCAMPMENT** Buckskin clad members of the American Mountain Men share mountain men history and skills, including cooking, hide preparation and tanning, leather working, rope making, and blacksmithing. **Aug. 23** [explorelompoc.com](http://explorelompoc.com). La Purisima Mission, 2295 Purisima Mission, Lompoc.

**PLANET LUCHA: LIVE LUCHA LIBRE** An exciting hybrid of American Pro Wrestling and Mexican Lucha Libre, with a retro twist. **Aug. 24**, 6 p.m. \$15. [my805tix.com](http://my805tix.com). Lompoc Veterans Memorial Hall, 100 E. Locust Ave., Lompoc.

**VILLAGE DAYS** Demonstrators help visitors learn a variety of skills such as grinding acorns, basket weaving, building a tule house, making soapstone beads or tule dolls, and more. **Aug. 24**, 11 a.m.-2 p.m. [explorelompoc.com](http://explorelompoc.com). La Purisima Mission, 2295 Purisima Mission, Lompoc.

### SANTA MARIA VALLEY/LOS ALAMOS

**PREVIEW KOMBUCHA TASTING** A sneak-peek before their grand opening, Piper's Kombucha Brew will be offering an information session and free tastings of their current line of kombucha flavors. Hosted at OASIS and open to the public. **Aug. 22**, 1-2 p.m. Free. 805-937-9750. [facebook.com/events/493560647882072/](http://facebook.com/events/493560647882072/). Oasis Senior Center, 420 Soares Ave., Orcutt.

**R.H. TESENE FREE FAMILY DAY AT THE RANCH** A free community day to celebrate one of the biggest supporters of the Discovery Museum and barbecue legend R.H. Tesene. Enjoy ranching themed crafts and

more. **Aug. 25**, 12-4 p.m. Free. 805-928-8414. Santa Maria Valley Discovery Museum, 705 S. McClelland St., Santa Maria.

**TAKING OUR CITY** Features jump houses, face painting, magic shows, barbecues, an appearance from Mayor Alice Patino, live music, and more. **Aug. 24**, 12-7 p.m. [victoryoutreachsantamaria.com](http://victoryoutreachsantamaria.com). Town Center West, Broadway and Main, Santa Maria.

### SOUTH COAST SLO COUNTY

**AGING IN PLACE: STAYING PUT FREE SEMINAR** Learn the pros and cons about aging in place during this lively and informative panel discussion. **Aug. 29**, 10-11:30 a.m. Free. 805-710-2415. Hilton Garden Inn, 601 James Way, Pismo Beach.

**AVILA APPLE FESTIVAL** Featured will be entertainment by the group "Not Street Legal" with Lyne Hamel and Ron Pagan. There will be wine, beer, and cider tastings, demonstrations by local chefs, apple-inspired appetizers and sliders, and a silent auction. **Aug. 24**, 3:30-7 p.m. \$40. 805-627-1997. [avilaapplefestival.com/](http://avilaapplefestival.com/). Avila Beach Community Center, 191 San Miguel St., Avila Beach.

**FIESTA LATINA** Includes gourmet dinner, music, dessert auction, dancing, live auction and silent auction. This event benefits the LOC Scholarship Fund. **Aug. 24**, 5:30 p.m. \$65. [my805tix.com](http://my805tix.com). DANA Adobe Cultural Center, 671 S. Oakglen Ave., Nipomo, 805-929-5679.

**STONE SOUP: MUSIC FESTIVAL** Features 13 live bands, kids activities, food, crafts, and more. **Aug. 24** and **Aug. 25** Free. 805-489-1488. Ramona Garden Park Center, 993 Ramona Ave., Grover Beach, [groverbeach.org](http://groverbeach.org).

### SAN LUIS OBISPO

**BLAZE PIZZA FUNDRAISER FOR THE HOMELESS** 20% of your purchase will be donated to Hope's Village of SLO. **Aug. 28**, 4-9 p.m. 805-720-8011. Blaze Pizza, 892 Foothill Blvd, San Luis Obispo,



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](http://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](mailto:cwiseblood@newtimeslo.com).

[blazepizza.com](http://blazepizza.com).

**BOOTY PAGEANT** Ignite Booty School presents a variety show of comedy, competition, dance, SLOlebrity judges, drag and a fundraiser for Stoke the World. Cheer our competitors as they get compete for Booty Babe of 2019. **Aug. 30**, 8-11 p.m. \$20 pre-sale/\$25 at the door. 805-543-1843. SLO Brew Rock, 855 Aerovista Pl., San Luis Obispo.

**BREWS AND BITES: BEER AND FOOD FEST** Features beer, food, live entertainment, and more. **Aug. 31**, 11 a.m.-4 p.m. \$22-\$54. Mission Plaza, 989 Chorro St, San Luis Obispo.

**FAMILY ENGINEERING DAY** Explore engineering through fun family activities such as LEGO building, Hex Bug Mazes, Geo Mags, Marble Runs, and more. **Aug. 24**, 10:30-11:30 a.m. Free. 805-781-5775. San Luis Obispo Library, 995 Palm St., San Luis Obispo.

**SLO OVERDOSE AWARENESS EVENT** An evening of learning and remembrance. Includes a candlelight vigil in memory of lost loved ones. Learn about the addiction epidemic and help end the stigma. **Aug. 29**, 6:30-8 p.m. Free. [facebook.com/SLOCountyODAwareness/](http://facebook.com/SLOCountyODAwareness/). San Luis Obispo Library, 995 Palm St., San Luis Obispo.

**WORLD CLIMBING DAY: FREE CLIMBING** Free climbing for all at all Pad locations. **Aug. 24**, 11 a.m.-10 p.m. Free. (844) 254-6287. The Pad Climbing Gym SLO, 888 Ricardo Ct, San Luis Obispo.

### NORTH SLO COUNTY

**THE INSPIRED HOME GARDEN AND GOURMET EXPO OF PASO ROBLES** Explore major ways of renovating and decorating a home and a garden. This expo will draw the attention of the attendees who want to give their home a modern outlook. **Aug. 24**, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. and **Aug. 25**, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Free. 805-772-4600. [inspiredexpos.com](http://inspiredexpos.com). Paso Robles Event Center, 2198 Riverside Ave., Paso Robles.

**TRADING DAY AND KIDS FLEA MARKET** Known as North SLO County's largest yard sale, the event

features vendors of all types, including collectibles and handmade items. **Aug. 24**, 9 a.m.-3 p.m. Free admission. 805-238-4103. [pasoroblesdowntown.org](http://pasoroblesdowntown.org). Downtown City Park, 11th and Spring St., Paso Robles.

### NORTH COAST SLO COUNTY

**PIRATE CRUISE SCHOLARSHIP BENEFIT** South Bay Women's Network will be hosting the Annual Scholarship Benefit to raise funds for Cuesta College female re-entry students. **Aug. 30**, 7-9 p.m. \$60-\$70. Chablis Cruises, 1204 Embarcadero, Morro Bay, 805-772-2128.

## ARTS

### CLASSES & WORKSHOPS

#### SANTA MARIA VALLEY/LOS ALAMOS

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

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

**BEADING WORKSHOP** Thursdays, noon [oasisorcutt.org](http://oasisorcutt.org). Oasis Senior Center, 420 Soares Ave., Orcutt, 805-937-9750.

**CHILDREN'S BOOK WORKSHOP** Learn how to write and illustrate your book, how to choose age, type of book, typeface, printing, layout, design, type of art, and a bit of marketing. Saturdays, 10 a.m.-noon through Sept. 14 \$150 for 5 weeks. 805-910-9548. [bunkeybooks.com](http://bunkeybooks.com). Treasures 1, 210 W. Fesler St., Santa Maria.

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

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

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

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

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Orcutt, 805-937-9750.

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

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

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

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

**MUSICAL THEATRE AND CABARET WORKSHOP**

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

**SALSA DANCE CLASS** No partner or experience needed. Wednesdays, 7-9 p.m. Free. 805-937-1574. CentralCoastSwingDance.com. Old Town Brew, 338 W. Tefft St, Nipomo.

**SANTA MARIA SEWING SUPERSTORE CLASSES**

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

**SWING, BALLROOM, AND LATIN DANCE**

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

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

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

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

**AERIAL SILK SKILLS** Learn to fly with grace in this mixed level aerial silks class. Geared toward those familiar with climbing, straddle-ups, foot locks, and hip keys on aerial silks. Thursdays, 7-8:15 p.m. Varies. 805-549-6417. levityacademy.com. Levity Academy, 207 Suburban Rd., San Luis Obispo.

**AERIAL SILK SKILLS: ALL AGES** Learn to fly with grace in this mixed level aerial silks class. Geared toward those familiar with climbing, straddle-ups, foot locks, and hip keys on aerial silks. Saturdays, 10:15-11:45 a.m. Varies. 805-549-6417. levityacademy.com. Levity Academy, 207 Suburban Rd., San Luis Obispo.

**AERIAL SILKS FUNDAMENTALS AND BASICS**

Elevate dance, gymnastics, acrobatics, fitness, and fun to new heights on aerial silks. All levels welcome. Wednesdays, 7-8:15 p.m. Varies; see site for details. 805-549-6417. levityacademy.com. Levity Academy, 207 Suburban Rd., San Luis Obispo.

**AERIAL SILKS SKILLS: 18+** Learn to fly with grace in this mixed level silks class. Geared toward those familiar with climbing, straddle-ups, foot locks, and hip keys on aerial silks. Tuesdays, 5:30-6:45 p.m. Varies. 805-549-6417. levityacademy.com. Levity Academy, 207 Suburban Rd., San Luis Obispo.

**CABARET SINGING AND PERFORMANCE CLASS** Learn the art of singing in a Cabaret style and setting. Find your key and style with a skilled accompanist. You may start anytime during the semester. Wednesdays, 6:30-9:30 p.m. \$185 for 12 week class or \$20 per night as a drop-in student. 805-772-2812. cuesta.edu/communityprograms. Cuesta College, Highway 1, San Luis Obispo.

**DATE NIGHT POTTERY** Guests can enjoy sharing wine, throwing pots on the wheel, and more. Fridays, Saturdays, 6-8 p.m. \$30 per person. 805-896-6197. Anam Cre Pottery Studio, 1243 Monterey St, San Luis Obispo, anamcre.com.

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



FILE PHOTO BY CAMILLIA LANHAM



**LAKESIDE**

Santa Barbara County Parks hosts a guided nature walk at Cachuma Lake on Saturday, Aug. 24, from 10 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. The hike is limited to 20 participants, who can join on a first-come, first-served basis. Admission is \$10. No dogs are allowed. Call (805) 693-0691 or visit [chnaturecenter.org](http://chnaturecenter.org) to find out more.

—C.W.

**SOUTH COAST SLO COUNTY**

**OPEN STUDIO FOR HOMESCHOOLED CHILDREN**

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

**PLAY EXPLORE CREATE 2** Includes drawing, pastel, watercolor, tempera, collage, printmaking, sewing, and building. Tuesdays, Thursdays, 9-10:30 a.m. & 1:30-3 p.m. \$20. 805-668-2125. lila.community. LiA Creative Community, 1147 East Grand Ave. Suite 101, Arroyo Grande.

**SAN LUIS OBISPO**

**PACIFIC HORIZON CHORUS WELCOMES WOMEN SINGERS**

Visit site or come by in person to see if these music lessons are right for you. Tuesdays, 6:30-9 p.m. 805-441-1405. pacifichorizon.org. SLO United Methodist Church, 1515 Fredericks St., San Luis Obispo.

**POLE FITNESS**

Learn the basics or master new skills on static or spinning pole at this all-levels pole fitness class. Mondays, 7-8:15 p.m. \$25-\$30 for a drop-in; check site for more details. 805-549-6417. levityacademy.com. Levity Academy, 207 Suburban Rd., San Luis Obispo.

**SATURDAY ART WORKSHOP FOR KIDS: "BELIEVE IN YOUR DREAMS"** Each student

ARTS continued page 18

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### SPECIAL ART EVENTS

#### SANTA YNEZ VALLEY

#### WORLD OF THE WEASEL RETURNS TO SOLVANG

Author Salvo Lavis returns to sign kids' favorites *Once Upon a Weasel* and *Wild Wild Weasel*. Filled with rich illustrations for younger kids and great vocabulary words for budding readers, these are picture books that parents and children can enjoy together. **Aug. 24**, 10 a.m.-2 p.m. 805-688-6010. bookloftsolvang.com. The Book Loft, 1680 Mission Dr., Solvang.

#### SOUTH COAST SLO COUNTY

#### SCREENING: STAR WARS: EPISODE IV A NEW HOPE

A community screening with special guest, author and Arroyo Grande native, Ken Napzok. **Aug. 24**, 6-9:30 p.m. Varies. 805-692-3000. clarkcenter.org/event/star-wars-iv-a-new-hope/. Clark Center for the Performing Arts, 487 Fair Oaks Ave., Arroyo Grande.

#### ART IN THE PARK AT DINOSAUR CAVES

Features original art and handmade crafts created by local artists, food, live music, and more. First Sunday of every month, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. through Dec. 1 Free. 805-704-7083. artintheparkshellbeach.com. Dinosaur Caves Park, 2701 Price St, Pismo Beach.

#### WOMEN'S EVENING OF RENEWAL

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

### 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, Wednesdays-Sundays, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. through Jan. 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 use diverse materials and methods to create their works. Mondays, Wednesdays-Sundays, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. \$5. 805-686-8315. wildlingmuseum.org. Wildling Museum of Art and Nature, 1511-B Mission Dr., Solvang.

#### NATURE REGENERATED

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

#### PAVLOV GALLERY: FEATURED ARTISTS

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

#### 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

#### ART EXHIBIT: MARGIE BOWKER

A display of painting and art tiles. ongoing Santa Maria Country Club, 505 W. Waller Lane, Santa Maria.

#### FEATURED ARTISTS: MAY, JUNE, JULY, AUGUST

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

#### LOCAL ART AND ARTISTS: CONTINUING SERIES

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

#### SANTA BARBARA PRINTMAKERS JURIED EXHIBITION

ongoing smartscouncil.org. Betteravia Gallery, 511 E. Lakeside Parkway, Santa Maria.

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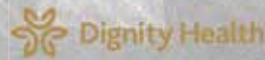
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ARTS from page 18

## SOUTH COAST SLO COUNTY

### ARTWORK OF THE TRILOGY ART GROUP (TAG)

The Exhibit features a variety of art including paintings, collage, photography, and sculpture, displayed in the lobby of the Clark Center. Through Aug. 29, 12-5 p.m. 805-489-4196. [clarkcenter.org](http://clarkcenter.org). Clark Center for the Performing Arts, 487 Fair Oaks Ave., Arroyo Grande.

### FROM ARTISTS, FOR ARTISTS, BY ARTISTS

Featuring fine art oils and pastels from Corynn Wolf, acrylics from Ryan Adams, and works from various mediums by Marc Wolf ongoing Free. 805-773-6563. Puffers of Pismo, 781 Price St., Pismo Beach, [puffersofpismo.com/](http://puffersofpismo.com/).

## STAGE

### SANTA YNEZ VALLEY

#### SOLVANG FESTIVAL THEATER: THE ADDAMS FAMILY

A musical comedy based on the classic TV series. Through Aug. 25 Solvang Festival Theater, 420 2nd St., Solvang, 805-928-7731.

#### SOLVANG FESTIVAL THEATER: THE IMPORTANCE OF BEING EARNEST

PCPA's production of Oscar Wilde's classic. Aug. 29-Sept. 8 Solvang Festival Theater, 420 2nd St., Solvang, 805-928-7731.

### SANTA MARIA VALLEY/LOS ALAMOS

#### MARIAN THEATRE: THE IMPORTANCE OF BEING EARNEST

PCPA's production of Oscar Wilde's classic. Through Aug. 24 Marian Theatre, 800 S. College Dr., Santa Maria, 805-928-7731, [pcpa.org](http://pcpa.org).

### SOUTH COAST SLO COUNTY

#### INTERACTIVE MURDER MYSTERY DINNER THEATRE

Enjoy a murder mystery play and dinner. Presented by Murder in Mind Productions. Sept. 1, 5-7 p.m. \$55. 805-489-3875. [murderinmind.com](http://murderinmind.com). F. McIntocks Saloon & Dining House, 750 Mattie Rd, Shell Beach.

### SAN LUIS OBISPO

#### GREATER TUNA SLO REP

will kick off the 2018-2019 Season with this madcap comedy featuring two actors playing 20 different characters. Wednesdays-Saturdays, 7-9 p.m. and Saturdays, Sundays, 2-4 p.m. through Aug. 25 \$20-\$37. 805-786-2440. [slore.org/shows/greater-tuna/](http://slore.org/shows/greater-tuna/). San Luis Obispo Repertory Theatre, 888 Morro St., San Luis Obispo.

#### INTRO TO IMPROV COMEDY CLASSES

All intro courses taught by CCCT owner, Sabrina Pratt. Wednesdays, 6-8 p.m. \$225 for all 6 weeks. 805-242-3109. [centralcoastcomedytheater.com](http://centralcoastcomedytheater.com). Tigerlily Salon Studio, 659 Higuera St., San Luis Obispo.

#### SCENE STUDY ACTING CLASS

This course will be an opportunity to work with professional director, Claire Edmonds, and take a deep dive into rehearsing a scripted scene for live, theatrical performance. Aug. 22, 6-8 p.m. \$150 for all 6 weeks. Tigerlily Salon Studio, 659 Higuera St., San Luis Obispo, 805-541-9911, [tigerlilysalon.com](http://tigerlilysalon.com).

## CULTURE & LIFESTYLE

### LECTURES & LEARNING

### SANTA YNEZ VALLEY

#### ALMA ROSA PRESENTS WINE TALK WEDNESDAYS

An informational series that host speakers that discuss different aspects of the local wine industry. Fourth Wednesday of every month, 6:30-8:30 p.m. Free. 805-688-9090. [almarosawinery.com](http://almarosawinery.com). Alma Rosa Tasting Room, 181 C Industrial Way, Buellton.

### LOMPOC/VANDENBERG

#### COMMUNITY FOOD CENTER

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

### SANTA MARIA VALLEY/LOS ALAMOS

#### BI-LINGO

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

#### COMPUTER BASICS WORKSHOP

The City of Santa Maria Public Library is pleased to announce a free Computer workshop. The workshop will be presented in the Learning Center. Every other Tuesday, 1-2 p.m. through Dec. 11 805-925-0994. Santa Maria Public Library, 421 S. McClelland St., Santa Maria.

#### 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.



## RANCH OUT

The Santa Maria Valley Discovery Museum hosts its R.H. Tesene Free Family Day at the Ranch on Sunday, Aug. 25, from noon to 4 p.m. Guests can create their own ranch-themed crafts and enjoy other activities. Admission is free. The museum is located at 705 S. McClelland St., Santa Maria. Call (805) 928-8414 or visit [smvdiscoverymuseum.org](http://smvdiscoverymuseum.org) to find out more.

—C.W.

## STEM CELL AND REGENERATIVE MEDICINE CLASS

Join us to learn about stem cell allograft services as an option for knee, hip and shoulder pain. Every other Thursday, 5:30-6:45 p.m. Free. 805-614-7820. [RestorativeSpineandJoint.com](http://RestorativeSpineandJoint.com). Moxie Cafe, 1317 W. McCoy Ln., Santa Maria.

## CLUBS & MEETINGS

### SANTA MARIA VALLEY/LOS ALAMOS

#### COFFEE AND CONVERSATION

Tuesdays, 1 p.m. [oasisorcutt.org](http://oasisorcutt.org). Oasis Senior Center, 420 Soares Ave., Orcutt, 805-937-9750.

#### 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](http://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.

#### RECREATION AND PARKS DEPARTMENT: MAH JONGG

Wednesdays, 11:30 a.m.-4 p.m. 805-922-2993. Elwin Mussell Senior Center, 510 Park Ave., Santa Maria.

#### SANTA MARIA TOASTMASTERS WEEKLY MEETING

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

#### TRI CITY SOUND CHORUS OF SWEET ADELINES INTERNATIONAL

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

#### TRIVIA NIGHT

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

## SUPPORT GROUPS

### SANTA MARIA VALLEY/LOS ALAMOS

#### TRAUMA INFORMED PARENTING GROUP

A foster parent class presented by Calm. Tuesdays 805-965-2376. [calm4kids.org](http://calm4kids.org). Church For Life, 3130 Skyway Dr., Suite 501, Santa Maria.

### SOUTH COAST SLO COUNTY

#### GENERAL GRIEF SUPPORT GROUP (SOUTH COUNTY)

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

#### SPOUSE AND PARTNER LOSS SUPPORT GROUP (SOUTH COUNTY)

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

### SAN LUIS OBISPO

#### CHILD LOSS SUPPORT GROUP

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

#### FAMILY CAREGIVER SUPPORT GROUP

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

#### HEALING DEPRESSION SUPPORT GROUP

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

#### NAMI FAMILY SUPPORT GROUP

Hosted by NAMI (National Alliance on Mental Illness). A confidential and safe group of families helping families who have a loved one living with mental health challenges. Does not meet in January. Fourth Tuesday of every month, 5:30-6:45 p.m. Free. 805-544-2086. [namislo.org](http://namislo.org). St. Stephen's Episcopal Church, 1344 Nipomo St., San Luis Obispo.

#### NAR-ANON: LET IT BEGIN WITH ME

Nar-Anon is a support group for those who are affected by someone else's addiction. Tuesdays 805-458-7655. [naranoncentralca.org/meetings/meeting-list/](http://naranoncentralca.org/meetings/meeting-list/). San Luis Obispo, Citywide, SLO.

#### PET LOSS SUPPORT GROUP

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

## CREATE & LEARN

### SANTA MARIA VALLEY/LOS ALAMOS

#### CARD MAKING

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

#### KNITTING AND CROCHETING

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

#### LEGO CLUB

Meet with other Lego fans and build together. The library will supply the Lego's. Aug. 22, 4-5 p.m. Free. 805-925-0994. Santa Maria Public Library, 421 S. McClelland St., Santa Maria.

#### SUMMER MAKERSPACE

It's time to create, build, explore, and use your imagination at the Santa Maria Public Library Maker Events. Saturdays, 10 a.m.-3 p.m. through Aug. 31 Free. 805-925-0994. Santa Maria Public Library, 421 S. McClelland St., Santa Maria.

### SOUTH COAST SLO COUNTY

#### SEWING CAFE CLASSES AND WORKSHOPS

Sewing Cafe offers various classes and workshop. Call for full schedule. ongoing Sewing Cafe, 541 Five Cities Dr., Pismo Beach, 805-295-6585.

CULTURE & LIFESTYLE continued page 21



PHOTO COURTESY OF LA PURISIMA MISSION STATE HISTORIC PARK

## IT TAKES A VILLAGE

*Village Days at La Purisima Mission takes place on Saturday, Aug. 24, from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Demonstrators will guide visitors through various activities, including basket weaving, grinding acorns, and building tule houses. Admission is \$6. The mission is located at 2295 Purisima Road, Lompoc. Call (805) 733-3713 or visit lapurisimamission.org for more info.*

—C.W.

## CULTURE & LIFESTYLE from page 20

## MIND & BODY

### SANTA MARIA VALLEY/LOS ALAMOS

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

**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, [unitysantamaria.net/](http://unitysantamaria.net/).

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

**GENTLE YOGA** Tuesdays, Thursdays, 8:30 a.m. [oasisorcutt.org](http://oasisorcutt.org). Oasis Senior Center, 420 Soares Ave., Orcutt, 805-937-9750.

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

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

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

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

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

## OUTDOORS

### SANTA MARIA VALLEY/LOS ALAMOS

**BIKE KITCHEN** During August, free bike clinics will be offered at the Library. Patrons can bring in their bicycles and a representative will be available to assist you in learning how to repair the bicycle. Tools and consumables will be provided free of charge during the bicycle clinics. Every other Friday, 3-5 p.m. through Aug. 23 805-925-0994. Santa Maria Public Library, 421 S. McClelland St., Santa Maria.

**WALKING/VOLKSMARCHING CLUB MEETING** Come learn all about the fun sport of Volksmarching (non-competitive walking) at the monthly meeting of the Central Coast Beach Boardwalkers. **Aug. 22**, 6:30-7:30 p.m. Free. 805-714-1552. [beachboardwalkers.org/](http://beachboardwalkers.org/) training. Giovanni's Pizza, 1108 E Clark Ave, Orcutt.

## KIDS & FAMILY

### SANTA MARIA VALLEY/LOS ALAMOS

**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.

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

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

**TEEN GAMING FRIDAYS** Teens, join us on select Fridays for an afternoon of gaming. **Aug. 30**, 4-5:30 p.m. Free. 805-925-0994. Santa Maria Public Library, 421 S. McClelland St., Santa Maria.

## SPIRITUAL

### SANTA MARIA VALLEY/LOS ALAMOS

**FREE WOMEN'S EXERCISE CLASS** Open to all women regardless of denomination. Class includes stretching, aerobics, and floor exercises while listening to uplifting, spiritual music. Free childcare offered on site. Mondays, Wednesdays, Fridays, 9-10 a.m. Free. 805-922-1919. [cornerstonesm.org](http://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](http://hopesm.com). Hope Community Church, 3010 Skyway Dr. Suite F, Santa Maria.

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

## VOLUNTEERS

### SAN LUIS OBISPO

**BE A VOLUNTEER FOR WILSHIRE HOSPICE** Wilshire Hospice is always looking for caring individuals to be Hospice In-Home Volunteers. **Aug. 28**, 1-5 p.m. Free. 805-782-8608. Wilshire Hospice, 277 South Street,

### SUITE R, SAN LUIS OBISPO

**CASA INFO SESSION** Learn about volunteer opportunities at CASA of SLO County. Become an advocate for an abused or neglected infant, toddler, child or teen, or a mentor for a young adult leaving foster care. Training provided. Or join the CASA Guild. Please RSVP. **Aug. 27**, 1-2 p.m. 805-541-6542. [slocasa.org](http://slocasa.org). CASA of San Luis Obispo County, 75 Higuera St., Suite 180, San Luis Obispo.

### FELINE NETWORK OF THE CENTRAL COAST

Seeking volunteers to provide foster homes for foster kittens or cats with special needs. The Feline Network pays for food, litter, and any medications needed. Volunteers also needed to help with humanely trapping and transporting feral cats for spay/neuter. ongoing 805-549-9228. [felinenetwork.org](http://felinenetwork.org). San Luis Obispo, Citywide, SLO.

### HOSPICE SLO COUNTY IN-HOME VOLUNTEER TRAINING

This 30-hour comprehensive training explores personal attitudes about dying and death, the history of hospice, current end-of-life care, and more. Thursdays, 1:30-6 p.m. through Aug. 29 Free to attend; donations are gratefully accepted. 805-544-2266. [hospice-of-san-luis-obispo-county.networkforgood.com/events/12885-hospice-slo-county-in-home-volunteer-training-summer-2019](http://hospice-of-san-luis-obispo-county.networkforgood.com/events/12885-hospice-slo-county-in-home-volunteer-training-summer-2019). Hospice SLO County, 1304 Pacific St., San Luis Obispo.

### HOSPICE SLO COUNTY VOLUNTEER TRAINING

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

### LOAN CLOSET ASSOCIATE

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

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

### SLO REP SEEKING VOLUNTEER BARTENDERS

Must be 21 or over. All volunteers receive complimentary tickets. Email [volunteer@slorep.org](mailto:volunteer@slorep.org) for more info. ongoing [slorep.org](http://slorep.org). San Luis Obispo Repertory Theatre, 888 Morro St., San Luis Obispo, 805-786-2440.

**VOLUNTEER WORKDAY** Join Land Conservancy staff at the Octagon Barn for a morning of landscape maintenance. **Aug. 22**, 9 a.m.-noon Free. (805) 544-9096. [lcslo.org/events/](http://lcslo.org/events/). Octagon Barn Center, 4400 Octagon Way, San Luis Obispo.

## FOOD & DRINK

### FARMERS MARKETS



PHOTO COURTESY OF THE PIPER'S KOMBUCHA BREW FACEBOOK PAGE

## NEW BREW

*Piper's Kombucha Brew holds its grand opening in Orcutt on Saturday, Aug. 31, at 1 p.m., but a special sneak-peek preview tasting takes place at the Oasis Senior Center on Thursday, Aug. 22, from 1 to 2 p.m. The event includes free samples and information on the brewery's current line of kombucha flavors. Call (805) 937-9750 or visit [oasisorcutt.org](http://oasisorcutt.org) for more info.*

—C.W.

### LOMPOC/VANDENBERG

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

### SANTA MARIA VALLEY/LOS ALAMOS

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

### SOUTH COAST SLO COUNTY

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

### 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/](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://lompocwinefactory.com). Lompoc Wine Factory, 321 N. D St., Lompoc.

**TASTING AT MONTEMAR WINES** Offering handcrafted wines, charcuterie, and cheeses. Fridays-Sundays, 12-5 p.m. 805-735-5000. [facebook.com/montemarwines](http://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](http://flyinggoatcellars.com). Flying Goat Cellars, 1520 Chestnut Court, Lompoc. ☺

### Live Music

#### SANTA YNEZ VALLEY

**BACK POCKET LIVE** Food and drinks available for purchase. No outside food or drinks allowed. **Aug. 23**, 6-9 p.m. Cold Spring Tavern, 5995 Stagecoach Rd., Santa Barbara, 805-967-0066, coldspringtavern.com/entertainment.html.

**CADILLAC ANGELS LIVE** Food and drinks available for purchase. No outside food or drinks allowed. **Aug. 25**, 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.

**HOODLUM FRIENDS LIVE** Food and drinks available for purchase. No outside food or drinks allowed. **Sept. 1**, 4:30 p.m. Cold Spring Tavern, 5995 Stagecoach Rd., Santa Barbara, 805-967-0066, coldspringtavern.com/entertainment.html.

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

**THE NOMBRES LIVE** Food and drinks available for purchase. No outside food or drinks allowed. **Aug. 24**, 6-9 p.m. Cold Spring Tavern, 5995 Stagecoach Rd., Santa Barbara, 805-967-0066, coldspringtavern.com/entertainment.html.

**PARADISE ROAD LIVE** Food and drinks available for purchase. No outside food or drinks allowed. **Aug. 31**, 1-4 p.m. Cold Spring Tavern, 5995 Stagecoach Rd., Santa Barbara, 805-967-0066, coldspringtavern.com/entertainment.html.

**THE ROBERT THOMAS BAND LIVE** Food and drinks available for purchase. No outside food or drinks allowed. **Aug. 30**, 6-9 p.m. Cold Spring Tavern, 5995 Stagecoach Rd., Santa Barbara, 805-967-0066, coldspringtavern.com/entertainment.html.

**SEAN WIGGINS LIVE** Food and drinks available for purchase. No outside food or drinks allowed. **Aug. 24**, 1-4 p.m. Cold Spring Tavern, 5995 Stagecoach Rd., Santa Barbara, 805-967-0066, coldspringtavern.com/entertainment.html.

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

**THE TAILGATERS LIVE** Food and drinks available for purchase. No outside food or drinks allowed. **Aug. 31**, 5-8 p.m. Cold Spring Tavern, 5995 Stagecoach Rd., Santa Barbara, 805-967-0066, coldspringtavern.com/entertainment.html.

**MICHAEL SHELTON LIVE** **Aug. 24**, 7 p.m. Blast 825 Brewery, 241 S Broadway St., Ste. 101, Orcutt, 805-934-3777, rooneysirishpub.net.

**NATALY LOLA LIVE** **Aug. 23**, 6 p.m. Blast 825 Brewery, 241 S Broadway St., Ste. 101, Orcutt, 805-

MUSIC LISTINGS continued page 23

PHOTO COURTESY OF ST. MARK'S-IN-THE-VALLEY CHURCH



**JUST BREATHE:** Musician and sound designer Jesse Flower-Ambroch will host A Night of Meditative Sound at St. Mark's-in-the-Valley Episcopal Church on **Thursday, Aug. 22**, at 7 p.m.

## Breathe in the air

*Local sound designer Jesse Flower-Ambroch combines music and meditation in Los Olivos*

BY CALEB WISEBLOOD

The sounds of bells, chimes, and singing bowls are set to enrapture participants at St. Mark's-in-the-Valley Episcopal Church during A Night of Meditative Sound, which takes place on **Thursday, Aug. 22**, at 7 p.m. Local musician, sound designer, and mixer **Jesse Flower-Ambroch** will utilize a variety of instruments to lead an experimental meditation during this interactive performance. The artist will also discuss how music can be used as a tool for self-discovery and share tips on "mindful listening."

Guests will be encouraged to participate in deep breathing exercises and group vocalizations during this free event, which will be followed by a meet-and-greet reception with Flower-Ambroch. Currently a member of the Santa Ynez Valley Zen Sangha, Flower-Ambroch is dedicated to sound exploration through experimental, collaborative projects in film, interactive media, and other media.

To find out more about A Night of Meditative Sound, call St. Mark's-in-the-Valley at (805) 688-4454 or visit smitv.org.

The church is located at 2901 Nojoqui Ave., Los Olivos. Admission to the event is free, but donations will be accepted at the door.

## We built this city on rock (not sand)

If live music isn't enough to shift your attention toward Victory Outreach Church's Taking Our City event, would the promise of jump houses, face painting, magic shows, barbecues, and the promoted presence of (drum roll, please) Mayor Alice Patino do anything for ya? Several Christian bands will

be performing during this faith-based festival, which takes place in the Santa Maria Town Center's west parking lot (in front of Fallas) on **Saturday, Aug. 24**, from noon to 7 p.m.

**12th Tribe**, **Doxa Music**, and **Young Preach** are among the live local acts set to perform throughout the day. For the event's full schedule and more info, call (805) 922-1328 or visit victoryoutreachsantamaria.com. The parking lot is located at 201 Town Center E., Santa Maria.

## Going south

Go ahead and stick Cold Spring Tavern in your back pocket, as the venue presents rock band **Back Pocket** on **Friday, Aug. 23**, from 6 to 9 p.m. Janis Joplin, Sheryl Crow, and Pink Floyd are just a few influences the group credits for its eclectic sound. The tavern also hosts rock and R&B artist **Sean Wiggins** (from 1 to 4 p.m.) and local act **The Nombres** (from 6 to 9 p.m.) on **Saturday, Aug. 24**. The venue's weekend lineup concludes on **Sunday, Aug. 25** with heaven-sent **Cadillac Angels** (from 4:30 to 7:30 p.m.), who follow blues, rags, and good-time duo **Tom Ball and Kenny Sultan's** weekly gig (from 1:15 to 4 p.m.).

Country duo **Big & Rich** are bringing their Peace, Love, and Happy Tour to the Chumash Casino Resort on **Friday, Aug. 23**, at 8 p.m. Cowboy collaborators Big Kenny and John Rich became game changers after scoring triple platinum with 2004's "Horse of a Different Color," which guests can expect to hear among other hits, including "Save a Horse, Ride a Cowboy," "Comin' to Your City," and "Rollin'." Also in the Santa Ynez Valley, **Athena**

LOCAL NOTES continued page 23

PHOTO COURTESY OF 12TH TRIBE



**HOP TO IT:** Christian hip-hop and rap band 12th Tribe will perform at the Santa Maria Town Center on **Saturday, Aug. 24**, as part of Victory Outreach's Taking Our City event.

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FILE PHOTO COURTESY OF SEAN WIGGINS



**SEAN TILL DUSK:** Rock and R&B artist Sean Wiggins performs at the Cold Spring Tavern on **Saturday, Aug. 24**, from 1 to 4 p.m.

PHOTO COURTESY OF ONLY CASH BAND'S FACEBOOK PAGE



**WALK THE LINE:** The Only Cash Tribute Band performs at the Maverick Saloon on **Saturday, Aug. 24**, at 8 p.m.

**LOCAL NOTES** from page 22

**Coming** performs at the Maverick Saloon on **Friday, Aug. 23**, from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Later the same evening, **Soundhouse** will take the saloon's stage, performing from 8 to 11 p.m. Johnny Cash aficionados best not miss **The Only Cash Tribute Band**, which plays **Saturday, Aug. 24**, from 8 to 11 p.m. Musician Danny Millsap portrays The Man in Black during this homage concert, backed by his band The Hennessee Three.

Anything with Cash's name attached to it might seem a tad intimidating to follow, but Santa Barbara-based singer-songwriter **Wil Ridge** is up to the task, as he performs at the

saloon on **Sunday, Aug. 25**, from 1 to 5 p.m.

This local Americana and roots artist has become defined by the melancholy subjects of his songs, with lyrics usually full of personal turmoil and heartache. Ridge counts Bob Dylan, Tom Waits, Hank Williams Jr., and other poetic souls among his chief influences.



**CAFE COOL:** Local alternative rock group Carter performs at Moxie Cafe on **Thursday, Aug. 22**, at 5:30 p.m.

FILE PHOTO COURTESY OF CARTER

**MUSIC LISTINGS** from page 22

934-3777, rooneysirishpub.net.

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

**THE WAVEBREAKERS BAND LIVE** Enjoy popular hits from the 1950s to '80s. **Aug. 23**, 5:30-7:30 p.m. Free. 805-361-2900. moxiecafe.com/. Moxie Cafe, 1317 W. McCoy Ln., Santa Maria.

PHOTO COURTESY OF KEITH COX



**SOLO ROUND**

Blast 825 Brewery in Orcutt presents classic rock artist Keith Cox on **Friday, Aug. 30**, at 7 p.m. Cox is best known locally for his work with *Different Strings*. Admission to the show is free. The brewery is located at 241 S. Broadway, Orcutt. Call (805) 934-3777 or visit facebook.com/blast825brewery to find out more.

—Caleb Wiseblood

**NORTH SLO COUNTY**

**KACEY MUSGRAVES LIVE** Grammy-winning singer/songwriter Kacey Musgraves performs. **Aug. 24**, 8-10 p.m. \$45-\$65. 805-286-3680. vinaroblesamphitheatre.com. Vina Robles Amphitheatre, 3800 Mill Rd., Paso Robles.

**RINGO STARR AND HIS ALL STARR BAND** The band features Steve Lukather, Colin Hay, Gregg Rolie, Warren Ham, Gregg Bissonette, and Hamish Stuart. **Aug. 31**, 8-10 p.m. \$75-\$175. 805-286-3680. vinaroblesamphitheatre.com. Vina Robles Amphitheatre, 3800 Mill Rd., Paso Robles.

**SONGWRITERS AT PLAY FEATURES DEREK SENN** All ages welcome. **Aug. 25**, 1-4 p.m. Free; tips accepted. 805-226-8881. songwritersatplay.com. Sculpterra Winery, 5015 Linne Rd., Paso Robles.

**STEVE MILLER BAND AND MARTY STUART AND HIS FABULOUS SUPERLATIVES** **Aug. 22**, 7-10 p.m. \$59-\$125. 805-286-3680. vinaroblesamphitheatre.com/concerts. Vina Robles Amphitheatre, 3800 Mill Rd., Paso Robles.

**VERN SANDERS LIVE** This jazz pianist covers songs from the Great American Songbook. Sundays, 5-8 p.m. 805-238-2834. Enoteca Restaurant and Bar, 206 Alexa Ct., Paso Robles, labellaser.com/enoteca-restaurant.

**ZZ TOP** Rock and Roll Hall of Famers ZZ Top are celebrating their 50th year with a massive North American tour this summer. **Aug. 25**, 7-9 p.m. \$65-\$135. 805-286-3680. vinaroblesamphitheatre.com/concerts/2019/zz-top. Vina Robles Amphitheatre, 3800 Mill Rd., Paso Robles.

**DJ/DANCE**

**SANTA YNEZ VALLEY**

**KRAZY COUNTRY HONKY-TONK THURSDAY** Thursdays, 6 p.m. Maverick Saloon, 3687 Sagunto St., Santa Ynez, 805-686-4785, mavericksaloon.org.

**LOMPOC/VANDENBERG**

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

**SANTA MARIA VALLEY/LOS ALAMOS**

**805 NIGHTS** For ages 21-and-over only. Come enjoy dancing to your favorite music videos. Fridays, Saturdays, 9 p.m.-2 a.m. Free. 805-219-0977. Anthony's, 859 Guadalupe St, Guadalupe.

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

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

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

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

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

**KARAOKE/OPEN MIC**

**SANTA YNEZ VALLEY**

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

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

**SANTA MARIA VALLEY/LOS ALAMOS**

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

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

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

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

**More music**

Blast 825 Brewery in Orcutt hosts a slew of solo acts this weekend, including pop artist **Nataly Lola** on **Friday, Aug. 23**, at 6 p.m., local singer-songwriter **Michael Shelton** on **Saturday, Aug. 24**, at 7 p.m., and Lompoc-based folk musician **Jacob Cole** on **Sunday, Aug. 25**, at noon. Also in Orcutt, Vino et Amicis Wine Bar's weekend offering takes shape with **Steve Shape** on **Friday, Aug. 23**, from 7 to 9 p.m. The bar also hosts the **NYC Duo** on **Saturday, Aug. 24**, from 7 to 9 p.m.

Moxie Cafe in Santa Maria kicks off its weekly lineup with alternative rock band **Carter** on **Thursday, Aug. 22**, from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. Cover band **The WaveBreakers** plays on **Friday, Aug. 23**, from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m., and local accordionist **Chuck Osborn** is bringing his Roland FR-7 to the cafe for a genre-bending performance on **Saturday, Aug. 24**, from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. ☺

Arts Editor Caleb Wiseblood wrote this week's Local Notes. Contact him at [cwiseblood@santamariasun.com](mailto:cwiseblood@santamariasun.com)

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## Arts Briefs

### Gallery Los Olivos announces September show

IMAGE COURTESY OF GALLERY LOS OLIVOS



Feathers and Fur, a new duo exhibition featuring paintings by local artists Emil Morhardt and Claudia Chapman, will debut at Gallery Los Olivos on Sunday, Sept. 1, and run through Tuesday, Oct. 1. Both Santa Barbara-based artists were inspired by the beauty and expressive nature of wild birds and mammals while creating the show's paintings on canvas.

Morhardt, also a professional ecologist, bases his acrylic portraits on photographs of birds he's taken himself, according to the gallery.

"Lately I've been thinking about my long career as an ecologist and climate change scientist and the subtle ways it seems to be driving me to paint birds," Morhardt said in a press release. "As a sort of antidote to the unrelenting onslaught of bad environmental news."

"My thoughts were amplified recently on a trip aboard the *National Geographic Orion* from Tahiti to the Marquesas Islands," he added. "This is a lightly populated and largely undisturbed part of the watery world, full of marine life. It felt good to celebrate what we have rather than bemoan what has been lost."

Like Morhardt, Chapman travels far and wide for artistic inspiration to record animals in their natural settings, while also supporting efforts to preserve their environments.

"I strive to capture and preserve a fascinating moment in nature in my paintings," Chapman said in the release. "When I focus on some aspect of the interaction of animals in their environment, and the forces pressing on both, it brings out incredible emotions of excitement, wonder, awe, and a strong drive to somehow preserve what is left of the natural world."

For more info on Feathers and Fur, call Gallery Los Olivos at (805) 688-7517 or visit gallerylosolivos.com. The gallery is located at 2920 Grand Ave., Los Olivos.

### Guadalupe holds ribbon cutting for sculpture project

To celebrate the Squire Foundation's new public exhibition of sculptures, prominently displayed in various locations throughout Guadalupe, a ribbon cutting ceremony will take place at Guadalupe City Hall on Thursday, Aug. 29, at 11 a.m. After the reception, guests will be provided with a map, which they can use to guide them through a walking tour of the 20 different sculptures. Among the statues are figures of musicians, dancers, and other artists.

To find out more about the sculptures and the Squire Foundation, visit the [squirefoundation.org](http://squirefoundation.org). Guadalupe City Hall is located at 918 Obispo St., Guadalupe. ○

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

IMAGES COURTESY OF BRYN FORBES



**CITY OF NIGHT:** "There is so much going on detail-wise that the chaos kind of melts into a texture," digital artist Bryn Forbes said, describing his composite video of cityscapes, "and thus allows the brain to absorb it more calmly."

## Blurred lines

### Ann Foxworthy Gallery projects digital video art from Bryn Forbes

BY CALEB WISEBLOOD

Using long exposures and intentional camera movement, digital artist Bryn Forbes strives to capture "the essence of motion" in his abstract photography and video art.

While eliminating certain details that the human eye usually perceives, the process leaves only broad strokes of color behind, allowing viewers to bridge the gaps for themselves.

"It's the photographic equivalent of painting a landscape with a painter roller rather than a brush," Forbes told the *Sun*, before recalling his "accidental" discovery of the process.

"I first started playing with slow shutter

techniques while riding in a car," he said. "I noticed I could see the mountains behind the trees whipping past, but a photograph only showed the trees."

Forbes then attempted to capture said mountains, but he accidentally moved the camera at one point, leading it to track a single tree instead.

"The result was a reasonably sharp tree while the rest of the forest became abstract blurs, and I really liked that look," Forbes said.

Next, the artist decided to apply the technique, which he describes as "painting with a camera," to capture one of his favorite subjects: the ocean. The images became some of the first of Forbes' Blur Campaign, a series of impressionistic landscapes and seascapes.

"I had been frustrated with my pictures of waves, coming out sharp but looking frozen as if they were made by backlit green and blue glass or ice," Forbes said. "By using slow shutter speed and following the waves, I felt I got closer to evoking the feeling of the motion of the wave, even though the eye never really sees it that way."

The pieces in Forbes' latest exhibit—currently on display at the Ann Foxworthy Gallery at Alan Hancock College—were chosen for their calm, soothing qualities, traits to contrast with the chaotic first weeks of classes at the school, the artist said.

But some pieces contrast the two sides of the spectrum directly, including one video that overlays a scene of tulips in the breeze with an overwhelming flood of Twitter posts. Another is a composite video of different cityscapes.

"There is so much going on detail-wise that the chaos kind of melts into a texture and thus allows the brain to absorb it more calmly," Forbes said of the video.

### Morphin' time

The Ann Foxworthy Gallery hosts an exhibition of Bryn Forbes' digital video art through Tuesday, Aug. 27. The gallery is located at Allan Hancock College, 800 S. College Drive, Santa Maria. Visit [hancockcollege.edu/gallery](http://hancockcollege.edu/gallery) for more info on the exhibit. To find out more about Forbes, visit [brynforbes.com](http://brynforbes.com).



**AGENT OF CHAOS:** One of the themes of Bryn Forbes' latest exhibit is the contrast between the calm and the chaotic, as explored in one video that overlays a scene of tulips with a feed of Twitter posts.

"It draws you in with its unique format, movement, and unexpected imagery that unfolds slowly as you view the art," said Laura-Susan Thomas, director of the gallery. "His work has a Zen or calming feeling as it morphs and changes in front of you."

Thomas first saw Forbes' work at a SLOMA pop-up show and was immediately entranced, she said. Forbes' piece in the show was a large-scale video displayed on monitors that took up an entire wall, similar to the installations viewers will find at the Ann Foxworthy exhibit.

"Some might assume digital artwork is easy as an exhibit because it's just a file," Forbes said. "But installing monitors and digital players that survive having the power turned off at the end of the day and recover the next morning adds a challenging infrastructure aspect to it."

Among the variety of video art, the exhibit includes some of Forbes' fractal works, which the artist generated through software-rendered equations. Forbes described the results as "a sort of digital Rorschach."

"I describe them more as explorations than creations because I generate many different random permutations and find interesting aspects that I like and tweak them," Forbes said.

The combination of art and mathematics is already intrinsically intriguing, but Forbes doesn't find the comparison particularly unusual, he said.

"I don't think it's weird at all as both are trying to solve problems with the materials at hand to achieve a specific result," he said.

"I also have enjoyed hearing what other people see in them. People see dragons or flowers, when it's all really a digital construct, starting with math." ○

Arts Editor Caleb Wiseblood barely passed his last math class with a C-minus. Send official transcript requests to [cwiseblood@santamariasun.com](mailto:cwiseblood@santamariasun.com).



**DIGITAL RORSCHACHS:** "People see dragons or flowers, when it's all really a digital construct, starting with math," Bryn Forbes said, describing his fractal works, which he generates through software-rendered equations.



**MOTION OF THE OCEAN:** Bryn Forbes used a slow shutter speed to capture these waves, in one of the pieces in the artist's Blur Campaign, a series of impressionistic landscapes and seascapes.

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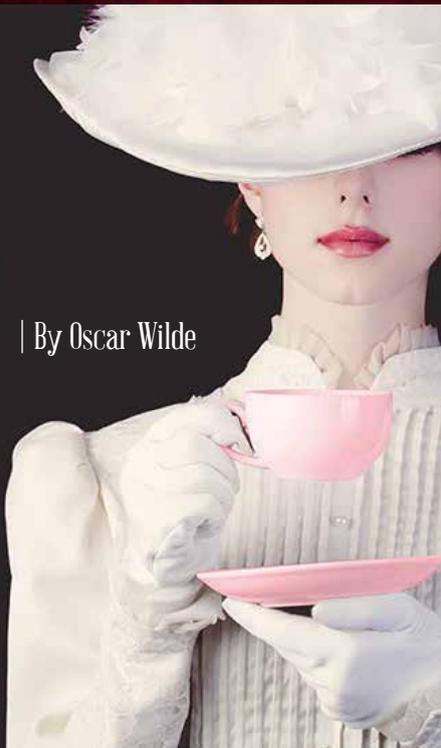
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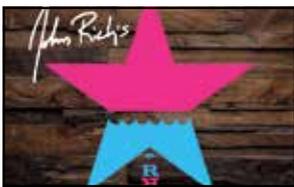
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**TRUE ROMANCE:** Real-life husband and wife Michael Brusasco and Emily Trask portray Jack Worthing and Gwendolen Fairfax, respectively, in PCPA's production of *The Importance of Being Earnest*.

# Name dropping

PCPA's *The Importance of Being Earnest* is an engagement not to be missed

BY CALEB WISEBLOOD

The trivialities of high society get thrown on the chopping block in the Pacific Conservatory Theatre's (PCPA) rendition of Oscar Wilde's *The Importance of Being Earnest*. In order to win their loves' hearts, Jack Worthing (Michael Brusasco) and Algernon Moncrieff (Yusef Seevers) must be christened new identities, for both Gwendolen Fairfax (Emily Trask) and Cecily Cardew (Kaitie Fuchs-Wackowski) are quite certain they could not justify marrying any man whose first name wasn't ... Earnest.

That's only the tip of the iceberg when it comes to comedic complications, as both women are led to believe they've become engaged to the same man, one named Earnest Worthing (a title both Worthing and Moncrieff assume at one point with riotous results). The most hilarity ensues, in my opinion, immediately following a confrontation between Fairfax and Cardew on the subject, when tea is being served and the two try to keep their cool in front of Worthing's servant, Merriman (Peter S. Hadres, who doubles as Moncrieff's butler, Lane, with equal excellence). The servant is visibly confused as the passive aggressive Cardew serves tea cake rather than bread and butter to Fairfax, against

her specific request.

Speaking of food, I can't be the only one who left the theater craving cucumber sandwiches and muffins, right?

## Bread and butter

The Pacific Conservatory Theatre (PCPA) presents its production of *The Importance of Being Earnest* through Saturday, Aug. 24, at the Marian Theatre, located at Allan Hancock College, 800 S. College Drive, Santa Maria. The show moves to the Solvang Festival Theater, located at 420 2nd St., Solvang, starting Thursday, Aug. 29, and runs through Sunday, Sept. 8. Call (805) 922-8313 or visit [pcpa.org](http://pcpa.org) for more info.

as the disapproving Lady Bracknell, the most formidable obstacle between Worthing (the real Worthing) and Fairfax's proposed engagement, aside from the much more pressing Earnest dilemma, of course.

Among the best Wilde witticisms she delivers is: "To lose one parent may be regarded as a misfortune. To lose both looks like carelessness."

*"The Importance of Being*

As for the rest of the cast, every character gets a standout performance. Erik Stein and Polly Firestone Walker play off one another perfectly as Rev. Canon Chasuble and Miss Prism, respectively. And Kitty Balay probably has the most fun with wordplay



**LADY IN RED:** Kitty Balay is fantastic as Lady Bracknell, one of the most formidable obstacles between Jack Worthing and Gwendolen Fairfax's proposed engagement.

*Earnest* is like a linguistic ballet, or a verbal opera," Trask, who gets to dish out her own share of witticisms as Fairfax, told the *Sun*. "Once you get Oscar Wilde's lines down, performing them feels like the best glass of Champagne—bubbly, refreshing, delicious, and just a little bit dangerous."

For Trask, part of the fun in playing Fairfax was acting opposite Brusasco, her real-life husband. Although the two have acted together in several productions over the years, *Earnest* marks the first occasion in which they play love interests. Trask's and Brusasco's onstage romance in the show posed a unique opportunity for their families, who never got to see the couple get married.

"We ran off to the West Texas desert and eloped in a tiny town called Marfa," Trask said. "It was just the two of us, and we were married in a pink stucco courthouse by a judge in snakeskin cowboy boots and magenta tinted glasses. It was a dream."

Although Fairfax and Worthing don't get married onstage during the play, the engagement aspect was enough for both Trask's and Brusasco's parents to fly in for the show.

"Since they didn't have a chance to meet at the wedding, this will be the first time that any of our parents will meet each other," Trask said. "They all separately bought plane tickets to come out and see. I suppose if they couldn't be at the wedding, they can at least be at the engagement." ○

Arts Editor Caleb Wiseblood is still craving cucumber sandwiches. Reach him at [cwiseblood@santamariasun.com](mailto:cwiseblood@santamariasun.com).



**BITTER BUTTER BATTLE:** The cast of *The Importance of Being Earnest* includes Katie Fuchs-Wackowski, Erik Stein, Polly Firestone Walker, Michael Brusasco, and Yusef Seevers (left to right).

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## Film Reviews

### ANGEL HAS FALLEN

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

**NEW** After being framed for attempting to assassinate the president, Secret Service Agent Mike Banning (Gerard Butler) must evade the FBI and his own agency as he works to clear his name and find the true culprit, who aims to take over Air Force One. (120 min.)

—Glen Starkey

### THE ANGRY BIRDS MOVIE 2

What's it rated? **PG**  
What's it worth? **Full price**  
Where's it showing? **Movies Lompoc**

**PICK** Thurop Van Orman directs this animated adventure comedy based on the mobile puzzle game. In this second installment, the feud between the flightless birds and green pigs escalates. Jason Sudeikis, Josh Gad, Leslie Jones, Bill Hader, Rachel Bloom, Awkwafina, and others provide voice work.

Thanks to some great writing and voice work, this film delivers the laughs. Yes, it's obnoxious and chaotic, but it's fun for both the kids and their parents, which is a bit of a small miracle. (96 min.)

—Glen

### THE ART OF RACING IN THE RAIN

What's it rated? **PG**  
What's it worth? **Matinee**  
Where's it showing? **Parks Plaza**

**PICK** Simon Curtis (*My Week With Marilyn, Woman in Gold, Goodbye Christopher Robin*) directs this screenplay by Mark Bomback based on Garth Stein's novel about a dog named Enzo (voiced by Kevin Costner), who learns from his aspiring Formula One race car driver owner, Denny Swift (Milo Ventimiglia), that racetrack techniques can also successfully guide us through life.

Yes, it's overly sentimental. Yes, it's contrived. But it's about the loyalty and companionship of a good dog! Cynics steer clear, but dog lovers, don't miss this one! (109 min.)

—Glen

### DORA AND THE LOST CITY OF GOLD

What's it rated? **PG**  
What's it worth? **Full price**  
Where's it showing? **Movies Lompoc**

**PICK** James Bobin (*Alice Through the Looking Glass, Muppets Most Wanted, Muppets*) directs this film based on Chris Gifford's book series about the titular teenage explorer (Isabela Moner), who leads her friends on a mission to rescue her parents and discover the mystery behind a lost Incan civilization.

Moner is terrific—funny, smart, and tenacious—as the can-do Latina explorer, and the film is faithful to its family

FILM REVIEWS continued page 30

### 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

# Forgetting Bernadette

*Editor's Note: New Times Staff Writer Karen Garcia and Arts Editor Caleb Wiseblood took over Sun Screen while the Starkeys enjoyed the week off.*

**C**o-writer and director Richard Linklater (*Slacker, Dazed and Confused, Waking Life, School of Rock, Boyhood*) adapts Maria Semple's novel to the big screen. Cate Blanchett stars as Bernadette Fox, who after years concentrating on being a good mother decides to reconnect with her creative passions, leading to an adventure that reinvents her life. (130 min.)

**Caleb:** There's really only one thing stopping me from calling *Where'd You Go, Bernadette* perfectly mediocre, and that's Cate Blanchett's nuanced performance as an introverted, deteriorating artist on the brink of newfound inspiration. "Retired" architect Bernadette Fox (Blanchett) is just as icy, if not more so, than the settings she inhabits, whether it's the rainy streets of Seattle or the snowy terrain of Antarctica where her 15-year-old daughter, Bee (Emma Nelson), proposes as a summer vacation destination for the family. Bee is one of the only people Bernadette can warm up to, along with her personal assistant from afar, Manjula (with whom she only communicates by email, but ironically opens up the most to in the process), and a few close friends, including fellow architect Paul Jellinek (Laurence Fishburne). Bernadette's relationship with her husband, Elgin (Billy Crudup), however, is in a constant flux, but never to the overly exaggerated point I think the film wants us to believe. And that's where things get awkward. I haven't even finished my popcorn yet and Elgin is already calling a therapist to help initiate an intervention with Bernadette and encourage her to willingly admit to a psychiatric institution. Well ... that escalated quickly. I hope the book the film is based on does a much better job of getting us to that point because it felt way too rushed and unbelievable here.

**Karen:** I completely agree; the film felt rushed and stagnant at the same time. Let me backtrack for a second. Bernadette used to be a rising architect in Los Angeles, who could solve any design puzzle that landed in her lap. No project

was too big or too small. When her husband got a gig with Microsoft and convinced Bernadette to move to Seattle, she sold her "20 Mile House" (it was made with material within 20 miles of the house). It was purchased by her hostile neighbor who quickly demolished it. She, of course, was torn up because of it and instead of working on creating designs, she decided to retire and become a mother. Four miscarriages later, she had Bee and made her daughter the focus of her life. So, fast forward to the present, and her husband is

basically only faulting Bernadette for having a form of depression. Of course, Bernadette lost herself—I mean how can you completely hold it together when you're growing apart from your partner, losing your creative juices, and are experiencing miscarriages? There's that storyline, and I don't know if it's the writing or the actors,

but it takes forever to get to that point in the story. It's confusing because I believe the novel was going for borderline satire, and the film is just a borderline mess. Again, I'm not sure if it's the acting or the writing, but the characters are just too melodramatic to me. For example, Bernadette's annoying neighbor, Audrey (Kristen Wiig), who maintains a compost pile, has parents over while the neighborhood kids perform an "African dance," and nags Bernadette about her outdated Victorian-style home. It just doesn't make me laugh or cry, or anything for that matter. I think *Where'd You Go, Bernadette* was meant to be an emotional family drama with a dash of lighthearted sentiments and a pinch of mystery—but it lacked all of that.

**Caleb:** I actually wish it was a tad messier, to be honest. I would have appreciated more loose ends and quirky characters, even if they weren't necessary to the big picture. Linklater is usually so good at capturing slice-of-life scenes (especially when they aren't plot driven). And



**WHO'LL STOP THE RAIN?** Cate Blanchett stars as dormant architect Bernadette Fox in director Richard Linklater's adaptation of Maria Semple's novel, *Where'd You Go, Bernadette*.

I think there were moments where that side of him shines, particularly during Bernadette's exchanges with Bee (that part when it's raining and they're singing in the car is good, admit it!). But even those occasional sparks of genuine humanity can't save the film from its rushed story and all-too-convenient ending. Overall, *Where'd You Go, Bernadette* seems to be missing a lot more than its title character. Again, I haven't read the book, but apparently it's told completely through emails, memos, and other correspondences. It would have been cool to see Linklater translate that kind of storytelling to film. Part of me appreciates his straightforward approach this time around, but some experimentation (maybe akin to the rotoscope animation technique he mastered with *Waking Life* and *A Scanner Darkly*) might have jazzed things up for the better.

**Karen:** I was just flat-out bored waiting for some kind of buildup that would lead to something grand. When the credits rolled, I accidentally said, "That's it?" out loud. If the novel was told through emails and memos, the film would have been more interesting with that. It just felt like your average successful artist who had artist's block and couldn't communicate her feelings, so she ditched her responsibilities to figure herself out. But her lame-o husband put his blinders on and only thought about how her actions were affecting him. It's just an overly played-out story we've seen over and over again with nothing special to add this time around. ○

*Sun Screen was written by New Times Staff Writer Karen Garcia and Arts Editor Caleb Wiseblood this week. Comment at gstarkey@newtimeslo.com.*

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**WELCOME TO THE FAMILY?** New bride Grace (Samara Weaving) finds herself fighting for her life in a time-honored tradition of her new husband's rich, eccentric family, in *Ready or Not*.

So the boys ditch school to buy a replacement drone before any parents are the wiser. This does not go as planned, and eventually the scheme devolves into our three cherubs selling a parent's sex doll for drone money, crossing a busy freeway on foot, accidentally getting hold of drugs, and then fighting drug dealing frat boys. And if you were wondering, there is in fact a fight and pouring out of emotions between the friends near the climax.

We've seen it all before, but the good boys in *Good Boys* add something truly special to this particular bud movie. They're so young, naive, and generally confused, and watching these 11-year-olds attempt to navigate the adult world is reminiscent of everyone's experience as tweens. I still feel that way as an adult most of the time.

These kids also do a lot of screaming the F-word, and I don't care who you are, watching really cute children curse is funny. (89 min.)

—Kasey Bubnash

**READY OR NOT**

What's it rated? **R**

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

**NEW** Directed by Matt Bettinelli-Olpin and Tyler Gillett, this horror thriller witnesses Grace's (Samara Weaving) wedding night take an evil turn when she's forced to participate in a time-honored tradition of her new husband's rich, eccentric family to play a terrifying and deadly game. (105 min.)

—Glen

**SCARY STORIES TO TELL IN THE DARK**

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

What's it worth? **Matinee**

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

André Øvredal (*The Autopsy of Jane Doe*) and Guillermo del Toro (*Pan's Labyrinth*, *The Shape of Water*) join forces to bring everyone's favorite trilogy of haunting children's books to the big screen for a new generation.

Everyone knows the basic rules of avoiding an unfortunate fate with the supernatural: Don't go into the abandoned house where a long-dead family supposedly held their daughter hostage in a dark dungeon. Nope. Don't steal that book that's allegedly written in children's blood by said daughter who was kept in said dungeon. *Do not*, for the love of God, split up to search for the medical records of said dungeon daughter in the clearly haunted insane asylum she was forced into so many years ago.

Everyone knows the rules, and yet time after time, curious teens in horror movies mock the rules and then break them, and then face the inevitable consequences.

That's pretty much the extent of what you need to know about the overarching plot of *Scary Stories to Tell in the Dark*—there's a haunted house, an old urban legend, and a group of dangerously curious teens (one kid is funny, of course) who don't really believe in the power of old Sarah Bellows and her passion to kill children from beyond the grave. What more could you possibly need?

On the surface, *Scary Stories to Tell in the Dark* is a fairly boring and formulaic teen horror movie. A group of high schoolers decide to explore the centuries-old Bellows mansion on Halloween, where the family kept their daughter, Sarah, locked in

a dark room because she was "off." There, the teens stumble upon Sarah's infamous book of scary stories, which according to legend, were written in the blood of the many children she killed using black magic. The teens take the book (big mistake) and soon find that the scary stories written about them will force them to face their biggest and most secret fears. Like, in real life.

Not real thought provoking. And yet, I had a blast watching.

It was creepy and crawly. The monsters—all based closely on the genuinely disturbing illustrations from the Scary Stories to Tell in the Dark books—were well crafted and chilling. There were some big adrenaline-pumping scares, which I always love, and I have to admit I'm a sucker for a good discovering-the-truth-behind-the-old-scary-legend-to-stop-the-ghost sequence.

There's something to be said for the mediocre, purely entertaining horror movies that act as a gateway for young and budding horror lovers to the really good movies. They're fun to watch, and they bring more people over to the dark side. And that's really what the original books aimed to do, too. (107 min.)

—Kasey

PHOTO COURTESY OF CAMPBELL GROBMAN FILMS



**FRAMED:** After being framed for attempting to assassinate the president, Secret Service Agent Mike Banning (Gerard Butler) must evade the FBI and his own agency as he works to find the real threat, in *Angel Has Fallen*.

**WHERE'D YOU GO, BERNADETTE**

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

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

See Sun Screen. ○

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

**FILM REVIEWS** from page 28

friendly source material. Think of this as a teenage female Indiana Jones-style adventure. The kids and the nerdy tween set will love it! (102 min.)

—Glen

**GOOD BOYS**

What's it rated? **R**

What's it worth? **Matinee**

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

Co-writer Gene Stupnitsky (*Bad Teacher*, *The Office*) directs this buddy adventure comedy, in which an invitation to a party with cool kids leads a group of goody-good sixth graders—Lucas (Keith L. Williams), Thor (Brady Noon), and Max (Jacob Tremblay)—to skip school, buy drugs, and sip beers.

There's one thing I've learned from the mainstream film industry: When nerds get invited to a party, they'll do some crazy shit to get there. That's apparently especially true if a crush is involved.

It's what we saw in *Superbad* (2007), when two longtime besties and obvious social outcasts spent their last few days of high school attempting to buy alcohol for a hot girl's party. It's what we saw in *Booksmart* (2019), when two inseparable and academically focused buds spent one of their last days of high school partying for the first time.

And it's what we see again in *Good Boys*, when three (plot twist) longtime best friends, who are, you guessed it, outcasts, spend their first few days of the sixth grade trying to prepare for their first ever "kissing party," which I guess is just a party where the bottle is a focal point.

It's a tried-and-true comedy formula, and as much as I want to be annoyed that *Good Boys* is just the little boy version of *Booksmart*, and that *Booksmart* is just the girl version of *Superbad*, I loved it. I loved them all, OK?! Sue me! (Just kidding, please don't.)

Sure, *Good Boys* is just like every other classic buddy adventure comedy out there. We've got three adorably nerdy boys. One gets invited to a party with cool kids. His crush will be there. There will be kissing.

These dweebs have obviously never kissed anyone, so they hurriedly attempt to research the topic. A plan to spy on a neighbor girl and her boyfriend using a parent's wildly expensive drone goes awry when the drone is destroyed in oncoming traffic—an event that will certainly lead to a grounding, which means no party, which means no crush kissing.

**THE SINNER (SEASON 2)**

When? **2018**

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

Where's it available? **USA Network, Netflix**

In the first eight-episode season, Detective Harry Ambrose (Bill Pullman) investigated why troubled young mother Cora Tannetti (Jessica Biel) fatally stabbed a man on the beach, though she had no memory of the crime. It was a gripping mystery that garnered a couple Golden Globe nominations.

In the second eight-episode season, Ambrose returns to Keller, his hometown in upstate New York, to investigate why 13-year-old Julian Walker (Elisha Henig) poisoned his parents on a trip to Niagara Falls. It's

PHOTO COURTESY OF MIDNIGHT CHOIR INC. AND ZAFITG FILMS



**MOTIVE?** Young Julian Walker (Elisha Henig) poisoned his parents on a trip to Niagara Falls, but why? *The Sinner* season 2 unravels the mystery over eight episodes.

an inexplicable crime, and Julian isn't talking. Like the first season, each episode peels back another layer of the mystery.

The first season was based on German crime writer Petra Hammesfahr's novel of the same name, which favored distraction and misdirection to keep readers guessing. Both the first season and the second continue with these techniques, so I don't want to reveal too much of the plot since a lot of the fun is being confused about where things are going.

I can tell you that we discover Julian and his parents were residents of Mosswood, a cult-like commune run by Vera Walker (Carrie Coons). The reason Ambrose returned to Keller was to help Detective Heather Novack (Natalie Paul), who

we learn was in a relationship with Marin Calhoun (Hannah Gross), who had ties to Mosswood but disappeared shortly after she and Novack had a falling out 14 years earlier.

It's twisty and turny stuff, and while the second season didn't wrap up as

**BINGEABLE**

neatly and clearly as season 1, leaving a lot of loose threads to ignore, it still offered great atmosphere, a compelling narrative, and excellent performances.

Pullman is at his pensive best as Ambrose, who harbors dark secrets of his own. He understands that what compels people to commit crimes isn't always simple or straightforward. While in Keller, Ambrose stays with his old friend Jack Novack (Tracy Letts), father to Detective Heather, and there's something off about the old friends' relationship as well. Nothing is as it appears on the surface. Letts is a terrific actor, and he portrays Jack as a complicated man.

Henig is downright amazing as Julian. Despite his youth, he brings big, intricate emotions to his character. Coons, too, paints a character who's inscrutable but compelling. The whole affair is dripping with intrigue!

Like *True Detective*, each season is its own stand-alone mystery. If you like a good whodunit, check out *The Sinner*. Both seasons are a lot of fun, and the series has been renewed for a third season. (eight episodes, 40- to 46- min. each.) ○

—Glen Starkey

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**I'LL HAVE AMORE PIZZA PIE, PLEASE:** La Botte's pizza has a bold sauce, crispy crust, and full-flavored cheese, making this simple Margherita-style pie a world-class wonder.

## Old World charm

*'Mama' treats every customer like family at La Botte Ristorante Italiano in Lompoc*

BY NICK POWELL

My family doesn't usually go out for Italian food, except for the occasional Americanized junk pizza when we're feeling lazy or hosting a sleepover or what have you. My wife's grandmother was born in Italy and passed her family's cooking techniques to her grandkids, so most of the time, my wife's two-day Bolognese sauce and white wine seafood linguine beat the pants off anything you can find at your basic Italian joint.

But La Botte is far from basic. The building itself was clearly custom designed, built around three giant wine barrels emblazoned with a mural of a gondolier rowing past a domed Italian cathedral. Inside, the ambience is all charm. The lighting is dim, the decor pays homage to old Italy without being

overbearing or cheesy, and Frank Sinatra and Dean Martin croon constantly over the whole scene.

A woman who embodies the distilled essence of "Italian grandmother" dances slightly and sings while she buses tables, "When the moon hits your eye like a big pizza pie, that's amore ..."

Her name is Caterina Agate, but she insists that everyone calls her Mama. She has owned La Botte with her husband, Nick, for 30 years and successfully "franchised" a sister restaurant in Buellton, but she still humbly wipes dirty tables, delivers drinks, and spends most of her evenings doing what she does best: making customers feel like family.

My family—which, again, never ever goes out for Italian—went to La Botte twice in the last week and will probably be back again soon.

The first night, we had a knock-out linguine alle vongole with sauteed baby clams and garlic in a white cream sauce, and a classic Margherita pizza made perfectly—crispy crust, fresh herb toppings, and a boldly delicious tomato sauce.

Everything was great, especially the friendly service from everyone we encountered (and *especially* the food), but the tiramisu was in such high demand that night that it was gone by the time we were ready for dessert. I don't let much stand between me and my sweets, so we came back a few days

### Barrels of flavor

La Botte is Italian for "the barrel," and the three big barrels attached to a colorful building on Lompoc's main thoroughfare are your guide to a classically delicious Italian meal. Stop by 812 N. H St. from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. for lunch on weekdays or every evening from 5 to 9 p.m. for dinner. If you're a winemaker, call Mama Agate at (805) 736-8525 to discuss featuring your wines at the restaurant and the possibility of creating a few special dishes to pair with them.



**SURE IS EASY EATING CAPRESE:** I'm always rediscovering the fresh simplicity of caprese salad, and this one hit all the colorful high points for me. With a little bit of acid from the tomatoes, plus the creamy cheese, vibrant basil, and sweet balsamic vinegar, this salad is balanced to perfection.

EATS continued page 33

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PHOTO BY NICK POWELL



government job in the immigration department, but a few months after her arrival, some friendly neighbors with deep pockets loved her cooking so much that they fronted her the money to open a restaurant.

She said that the cooking part was easy, but learning to understand her American customers took some time. She eventually got the hang of that, too, and established a successful pizzeria, but she and her husband craved the California sun. They packed up and headed

west in the early '80s, settling in Lompoc and opening a new venture.

"I do it because I love what I do," Agate said. "I get great joy from watching people enjoy their meal."

Decades later, Mama Agate has a family that helps in the restaurant and is ready to take over the family tradition when she retires. Our waiter was her grandson, Joshua White, who studied filmmaking at Santa Barbara City College and recently won the school's "Best Documentary" award for his 10-minute piece about his grandparents' restaurant. Apparently, the video was seen by a Food Network executive who found Mama Agate and the family charming

enough to invite her to compete on the channel's *Family Food Showdown*. Agate said she is still working the scheduling details out with the network, but expect to root for a local family on the show sometime in the next year.

In the video, Agate explains why she strives to treat her customers like a part of that family:

"Amore!" You've got to love the customer like family, more than family, because your family don't pay you," she said, beaming. "Every day I thank God for the customer." ○

*When contributor Nick Powell isn't slurping down noodles, he's searching for new restaurants to try. Send morsels to npowell@santamariasun.com.*

### Powell's Picks

• I was a hungry boy taking a late lunch break at about 2 p.m. when I wandered into **Efren's Mexican Restaurant** in Santa Maria this week. Everything on the menu looked pretty legit, but my rumbling tummy didn't have time for leisure scanning. I quickly ordered a torta al pastor thinking it would have a bit more heft than a taco or two, but I never expected the behemoth that came to my table. It was huge and loaded with everything a boy could want. It might be the hunger talking, but I'm pretty sure that torta was the best I've ever had. Try one at 1625 S. Blosser Road in Santa Maria.

• Indulge all of your senses at the **Music, Wine, and Sunday Supper at Rancho San Julian** in Lompoc on Aug. 25 from 3 to 6:30 p.m. Appetizers made from locally grown produce will be served first, with wine. Then singer Meghan Lehman will serenade guests with acoustic jams in a rustic barn, with wine.

The dreamy evening ends with a seasonal supper under shady trees, with wine. Visit [theranchtable.com](http://theranchtable.com) for tickets, with wine.

• Just north of our neck of the coast, you can sample cider, appetizers, and sliders celebrating everyone's go-to fruit at the **Avila Apple Festival** on Saturday, Aug. 24, from 3:30 to 7 p.m. There will be beer and wine to boot with live music and more apples than you can shake a stick at. Tickets cost \$40 and are available at [avilaapplefestival.com](http://avilaapplefestival.com).

• I guess this is going to sound gross to some of you fine folks, but I've got to recommend dumpster diving this week. People toss out nice stuff all the time, and this time, my wife came across an entire box of cookbooks someone was throwing out. So I guess really, I'm recommending cookbooks. Get one of those, and here's the key: Use it. We made four dishes from **John Sarich's Chef in the Vineyards** to celebrate our recent anniversary, and it turns out that if I'm taking my time and following detailed directions, I'm a damn good cook (my wife ain't too shabby either). I'm talking heirloom tomato caprese salad, seared scallops over corn and chile relish, braised pears in a wine sauce reduction, and Cornish game hens with mole sauce made from scratch. You don't have to drop a few hundos for fine dining if you've got a nice cookbook, the ability to read, a few hours to spare, and a teenaged kid obligated to do all the dishes. ○

*Contributing writer Nick Powell is cooking up ideas for fresh food recommendations. Send a grocery list of ingredients to npowell@santamariasun.com.*

EATS from page 31

later for a light caprese salad and a plate of those fantastic ladyfingers. Mama Agate dips hers in marsala wine and espresso then covers them with whipped mascarpone cheese and cocoa for a truly memorable dessert.

After our treat, Mama Agate sat with us for a spell and described her journey from Sicily to the States and her introduction to the restaurant business. Throughout the conversation, she cracked jokes and laughed easily, exuding nothing but warmth. She said she studied in Italy to be a translator and speaks five languages. She moved to Chicago in the '70s and got a

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**\$2500 4888 Tiffany Park Circle** 3+2, Orcutt 1stry hm completely updated w/all new kitchen/baths, qrtz ctrs thru-out, wetbar, lg mstr ste, lg yd/grdnr, breezeway, 2car det grg, w/d hkups, no pets, tenants to maintain soft wtr exc tank & renter's insur.

**\$2300 2625 Long Terrace** 3+2, Traditions 1stry hm w/open flrpln, cstm tile flrs thru-out, lg open kit w/ss appls, ldry rm inc w/d, ceiling fans thru-out, 2car grg, yd w/grdnr

**\$2350 2027 Mariah Dr** 4+2.5, River Oaks 2stry hm w/approx 2400sq ft near walking trails, vaulted ceilings, open flrpln, ldry rm hkups, 2car grg, yd/grdnr, no pets

**\$2295 910 Louisa Trc** 4+3, Classics Split Level hm w/Casitas w/open flrpln, L/R w/balcony, F/P, mstr ste u/s & bdrms d/s, ldry rm hkups, low maint yd, grdnr inc, no pets

**\$2250 264 Wilson Dr** 4+2, South Point Ests 1stry hm in gated com w/ lg kit w/built-in desk, cstm tile flrs/bdrms crpt, 2car grg, lg yd/grdnr, 1 sm dog neg w/add'l dep

**\$2095 949 Country Hill** 3+2, Orcutt 1stry hm w/lg frml L/R, F/P, D/R, plantation shutters, lg mstr ste w/access to a huge yd, 2car grg, w/d hkups, grdnr inc, no pets

**\$1995 422 Empire Dr** 2+2, Regency Ests 1stry hm in gated comm w/ open flrpln, office/den, 2car grg, w/d hkups, cstm tile flrs, pool/club privs inc, low maint yd, grdnr for front, no pets

**\$1695 729 E. Central Ave #A** 2+1, Beautifully remodeled centrally located 1stry hm w/open kitchen, nook, w/d and fridge inc, sm shared yd, 1car det grg, no pets

Call 805-928-4320 for additional Santa Maria houses and condos.  
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### LOMPOC VALLEY (805) 735-2492

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

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

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

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

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

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

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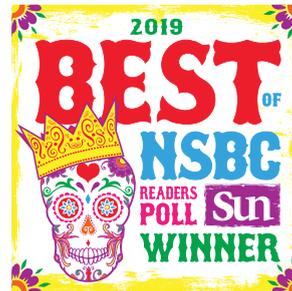
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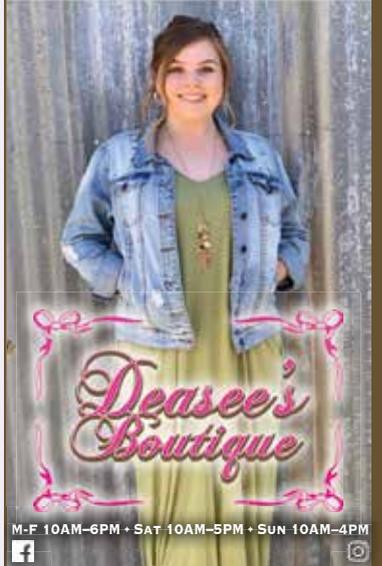


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