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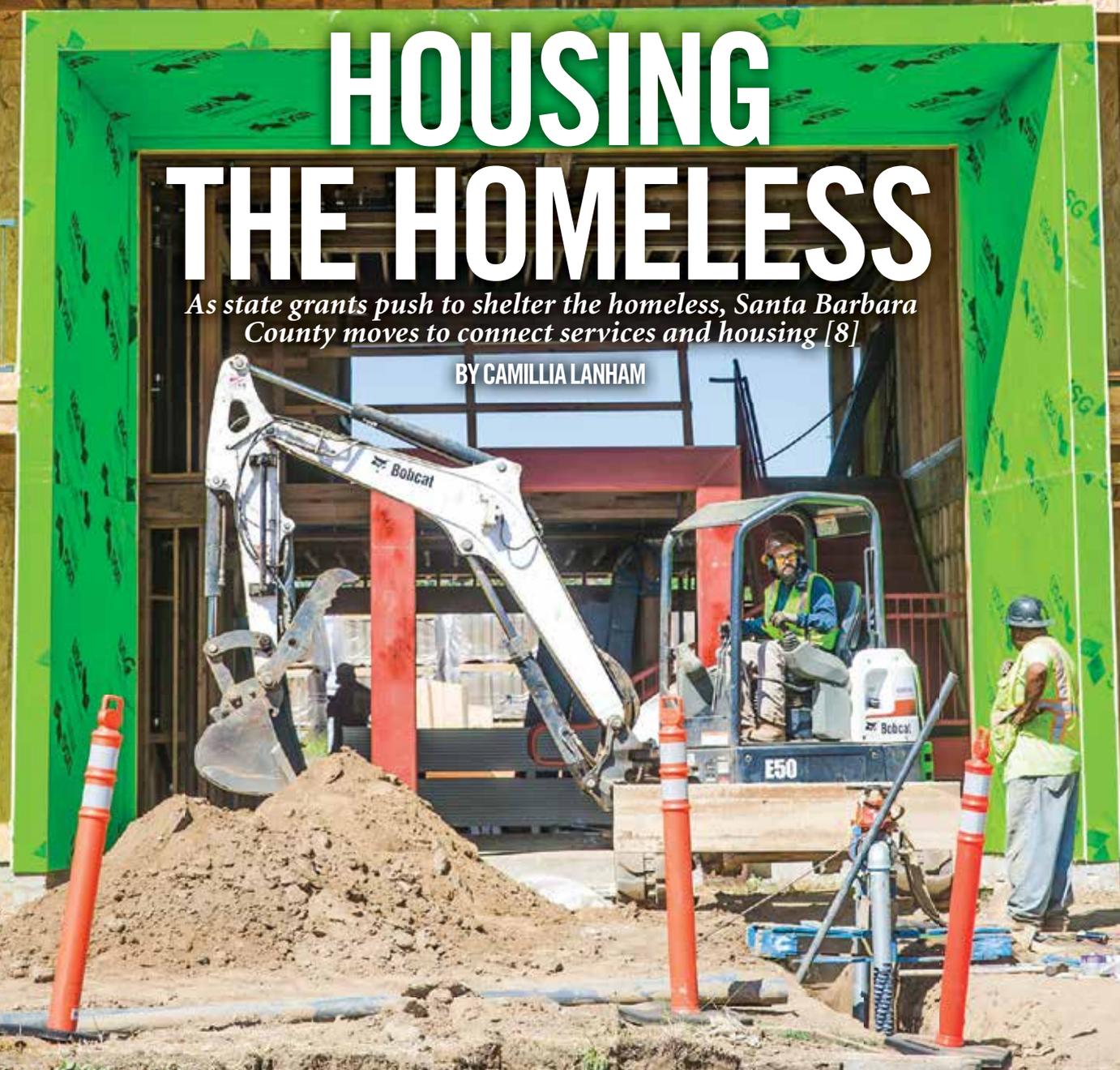
After the Wedding
is awkward [28]



HOUSING THE HOMELESS

As state grants push to shelter the homeless, Santa Barbara County moves to connect services and housing [8]

BY CAMILLIA LANHAM



NEWS Lompoc is fired up over grease traps [10]

ARTS Solvang filmmaker takes on the *Old Spanish Trail* [24]

EATS Blast 825 is pretty delicious [31]

e-waste

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SEPTEMBER 5 - SEPTEMBER 12, 2019 VOL. 20 NO. 27

Money coming into Santa Barbara County from state and federal grants is targeting a housing-first model of addressing homelessness. The county allocated about \$9 million in Homeless Emergency Aid Program money last year, and about half of it is being used to build units that will house some of the county's most vulnerable population of homeless and combine that with a variety of services those individuals will need to be successful. It's a collaborative effort between nonprofit housing and service providers and the county to try and address the homeless crisis on the Central Coast. For this week's cover story, I speak with stakeholders about what the process entails and what's needed to reach that goal [8].

Also this week, read about why Lompoc is arguing about grease traps and whether every food establishment needs one [10], the city of Solvang's beef with its tourism agency [11], the new documentary filmed by a Solvang resident [24], Guadalupe's new outdoor sculptures [27], and what's on tap and the plate at Blast 825 Brewery [31].



UNDER CONSTRUCTION: The 80-unit development known as the Residences at Depot Street is about halfway completed. In March, it could start providing housing to some of the county's most vulnerable residents.

Camillia Lanham,
editor

Cover design by Alex Zuniga

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Political Watch

• On Aug. 28 **Assemblyman Jordan Cunningham** (R-San Luis Obispo) introduced Assembly Constitutional Amendment 18, which would allow nuclear power to qualify as a renewable energy source based on state standards. The amendment would allow the state to including nuclear energy as part of its climate goals, which could potentially allow the Diablo Canyon Power Plant an opportunity to remain open. Currently the plant is scheduled to close in 2025. "If we are serious about combatting climate change, and we should be, both nuclear and large hydropower must play an important role in our transition to an emission-free energy grid," Cunningham said in a statement.

• At its Aug. 27 meeting, the **Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors** appointed Carol Gregor to the county's Library Advisory Commission to represent the county's 5th District. According to county documents, Gregor has experience working in the Santa Barbara County Education Office as well as for the Guadalupe Union and Santa Maria-Bonita school districts. Some members of this commission also serve on an ad hoc library committee the county created earlier this year to identify solutions that will make the county's library system—which usually runs a deficit—financially sustainable. During budget discussions in April, county staff outlined an anticipated \$415,000 deficit for the county's libraries. Through various measures, most of this deficit was covered except for \$68,000, which the Board of Supervisors filled with revenue from cannabis enforcement and compliance at its Aug. 13 meeting.

• On Aug. 28, **Gov. Gavin Newsom** announced the state has reached an agreement on changes to the state's charter school system after signing Assembly Bill 1505. The bill revises numerous provisions regarding the establishment of new charter schools. For example, the bill requires that charter schools don't financially impact existing school districts. "This agreement focuses on the needs of our students," Newsom said in a statement. "It increases accountability for all charter schools, allows high-quality charter schools to thrive, and ensures that the fiscal and community impacts of charter schools on school districts are carefully considered."

• **Rep. Salud Carbajal** (D-Santa Barbara) hosted a community hike on the Rattlesnake Canyon Trail in the Los Padres National Forest on Aug. 31. Carbajal hosted a community hike earlier this year prior to announcing House Resolution 2199, which he co-authored. The resolution would designate about 25,000 acres of public land in the forest and Carrizo Plain National Monument as wilderness to grant the land additional governmental protection. "With this administration taking action to open up public lands and national monuments on the Central Coast to oil and gas drilling, it is more important than ever that we act to permanently protect our open spaces that provide invaluable local watersheds and recreational outdoor activities," Carbajal said in a statement earlier this year. The last action on the bill was taken on July 10, when the House Natural Resources Subcommittee on National Parks, Forests, and Public Lands held a hearing on the legislation. ○



VESSEL FIRE: On Sept. 2, a commercial diving boat with 39 people onboard caught fire near Santa Cruz Island.

Boat fire near Channel Islands under investigation

Around 3 a.m. on Sept. 2, a 75-foot commercial diving boat with 39 people onboard became engulfed in flames before sinking to the ocean floor off the north shore of Santa Cruz Island.

The Santa Barbara-based boat *Conception* was being chartered for a Labor Day weekend diving trip near the Channel Islands. Five people managed to escape the burning vessel after jumping into the ocean and were rescued by a nearby boat. The cause of the fire is still under investigation.

As of a 10 a.m. press conference on Sept. 3, Santa Barbara County Sheriff Bill Brown said officials have found the bodies of 20 victims, leaving 14 unaccounted for. At the press conference, Brown said officials are working to stabilize the underwater vessel so they can search through the boat's wreckage to find the remaining missing passengers. Investigators are beginning to work with victims' family members, he said, to identify the bodies officials have recovered so far.

The five survivors are crew members who were in the boat's crew quarters on the vessel's third level at the time of the fire. The remaining 34 passengers, including one crew member, were sleeping in the ship's lowest level when the fire broke out. During the press conference, Brown said it appears the stairwell and escape hatch that passengers could have used to escape the lower level were both blocked by the flames.

Coast Guard Capt. Monica Rochester, who also spoke at the Sept. 3 press conference, said the boat is required to have smoke detectors as well as fire fighting equipment. She added that the boat has always been in compliance with federal regulations during annual inspections by the Coast Guard. During the press conference, she said she couldn't confirm when the last inspection took place.

The Coast Guard suspended its search for survivors at 9:40 a.m. on Sept. 3, Rochester said.

The Coast Guard moved on to assisting local agencies with their recovery efforts.

"The Coast Guard will continue working alongside our partner agencies throughout the recovery and now investigation phase of this incident to try and determine why this incident occurred and what we can learn from this tragedy moving forward," Rochester said.

At the press conference, Brown declined to comment on the written statements the five surviving crew members have submitted to officials. Brown said officials were planning to interview the crew members later on Sept. 3.

—Zac Ezzone

Jeff Hodge back to get more details about what Solvang wants.

"I think the more important thing is opening up that dialogue," Hodge said. "Is there potential for saving through economies of scale? Potentially. Potentially not."

Santa Ynez charges \$74 per connection, which, Hodge said, is included as part of property taxes. Santa Ynez also manages a little less than 800 waste water connections, fewer than half that of Solvang.

If the two sides did agree to work together, it would build on an existing relationship they

NEWS continued page 7

Solvang shops around for better deal on waste water

The city of Solvang is looking to upgrade its waste water system, but it wants the best deal. With a handful of alternatives available, it's seeking out another one with the Santa Ynez Community Services District (CSD).

Solvang City Council was scheduled to vote on a plan Aug. 26 but pushed the date until it has more information about what kinds of options are available. The city has a population of 6,000 people who would be on the hook for a major expense if it went through with one of its current plans. The price tag could be upward of \$16 million. The city said it wants to make sure that's the best option before it writes a check.

The proposal the Solvang City Council opted to send to the CSD ran through the basics: To manage the 400 manholes the city has, the 169,000 linear feet of sewer line, and the various waste policies that Solvang wants observed.

Santa Ynez CSD held a special meeting on Friday to discuss Solvang's proposal. They were interested, but ultimately decided to send CSD General Manager

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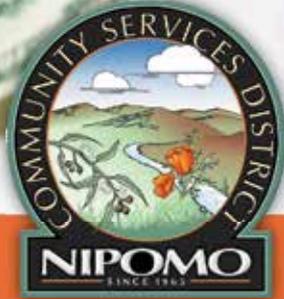
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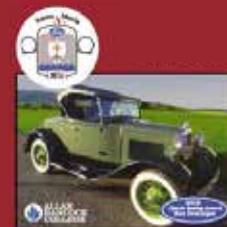
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NEWS from page 4

have with Solvang's current waste water setup. "We've been a 20 percent owner of the capacity at Solvang since the early '80s," Hodge said. He thinks the relationship would also include running Solvang's waste water treatment facility, but that's part of what the two sides have to hash out. The CSD has also been managing the treatment facility on the Santa Ynez Band of Chumash Indians reservation. Hodge said that relationship goes back to when it was built 15 years ago. Hodge's next step is to meet with City Manager David Gassaway to learn more about what Solvang is looking for. "[The CSD's] motion was to go back to Solvang and ask them exactly what they're looking for," Hodge said.

—William D'Urso

Santa Barbara County opioid abuse higher than state average

Recent state data shows Santa Barbara County continues to struggle with opioid abuse rates and deaths higher than the state average.

Over the last decade, the county has had a higher rate of non-fatal emergency room visits linked with drug usage compared to the state average. This trend continued in 2018, during which the county recorded 648 non-fatal drug-related emergency room visits, according to recent data released by the California Department of Public Health.

The rate of emergency room visits in the county related to opioids has increased by more than 55 percent from 2010 to 2018, according to a news release from the Santa Barbara County Public Health Department. The county recorded 69 drug-related deaths last year, 31 of which were related to opioids. Of those opioid deaths, 29 percent were related to fentanyl, which is an increase from 9 percent in 2015.

"Recent drug overdose trends in Santa Barbara County are concerning. ... The most critical interventions to prevent future overdoses are local harm reduction strategies and substance use disorder treatment programs that provide medications for opioid use disorder," county senior epidemiologist Joy Kane said.

The day the county released its statement on the recent state data, it also announced that county officials found heroin in a housing unit at the county jail.

Around 2 p.m. on Aug. 29, jail personnel responded to an inmate who collapsed in a general population housing area with 27 inmates, according to a press release. The jail's nursing staff recognized that the inmate was experiencing an opioid overdose and administered naran, which began to reverse the effects.

While jail officials were attending to the inmate, others in the housing unit began experiencing levels of opioid-related symptoms. Santa Barbara County emergency medical service personnel arrived to the jail to begin evaluating and transporting inmates experiencing opioid use symptoms. In total, 15 inmates and five deputies were treated for symptoms related to opioid exposure, according to the county.

Jail personnel escorted the remaining inmates from the housing unit, and then began decontaminating and searching the area. During their investigation, officials found heroin within the housing unit. The Sheriff's Office is still investigating how the drugs were smuggled into the facility, as well as how the widespread exposure occurred.

Earlier this year, the Santa Barbara County



ABLAZE: Fire fighters responded to a fire behind the Winepress Church on Aug. 23. Law enforcement arrested the suspect in association with arson, vandalism, and hate crimes.

grand jury released a report on the prevalence of illegal drugs and alcohol found inside the county jail. Although the report states that there haven't been any drug overdose deaths recorded since an inmate died of a heroin overdose in 2009, two inmates were treated for drug overdoses in January of this year.

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

—Zac Ezzzone

Santa Maria proposing water, sewer rate increases

Water users in Santa Maria may have to pay higher rates over the next four years if the City Council approves water and sewer rate increases proposed by the city's Utilities Department.

According to a public notice announcing the increases, the current rate charge for the lowest tier of water consumption—up to five units monthly—is about \$3.79. The Utilities Department is proposing an increase to \$4.77 in 2020, which is a roughly 26 percent increase. This rate would continue to increase annually until reaching \$5.37 in 2023.

Utilities Department Director Shad Springer and a consultant who worked on a study to develop the rates discussed the proposed increases at a public workshop at City Hall on Aug. 28. At the workshop, Springer said these increases are necessary to cover the city's increasing cost of operating and maintaining its water and sewer infrastructure. In addition, this revenue would be used to fund capital improvement projects.

The Utilities Department is also proposing to rework the city's water rate structure.

Currently, the city has four different rate tiers depending on water usage. The existing rates for these four tiers range from \$3.79 to \$5.98. The Utilities Department's proposal would restructure these rates and create three different tiers ranging from \$4.77 to \$5.30 in 2020. The three different tiers would top out at \$5.37, \$5.57, and \$5.97 in 2023.

Residents who attended the public workshop argued that this restructure doesn't reward users for consuming less water because there is little difference between the costs of the three

different tiers. Residents argued that the city should set higher rates for people who consume more water.

Springer said that according to Proposition 218, which state voters approved in 1996, the city has to base its rates on how much the city pays to serve water to its customers. Because of this, the city can't set rates higher than the amount it costs to serve its customers. All rates must cover infrastructure costs, such as water lines, which all residents pay for regardless of the amount of water they use.

"Those costs are paid by the system whether or not anybody takes a drop or not," Springer said. "Those are the capital costs of that infrastructure that have to be in place."

The Santa Maria City Council will consider the proposed rate increases at a public hearing on Oct. 1. Residents can submit a written protest to the proposed increases to the city by the end of the October meeting. If a majority of the 22,000 water users in the city protest the increase, City Council may not approve the changes.

City Council approved three years of water rate increases in 2015, with the last increase taking effect on July 1, 2017.

—Zac Ezzzone

Santa Maria arson suspect nabbed on scene

When deputies from the Santa Barbara County Sheriff's Office rolled up to a fire at the Winepress Church on Aug. 23, they found 19-year-old Gage Rowdy Tuttle.

According to a release from the Sheriff's Office, while speaking with Tuttle "[deputies] learned that the man actually started the fire."

Heavy smoke was billowing from a structure behind the church, located 896 Cambria Ave. in Santa Maria. According to the release, deputies saw Tuttle standing in front of the fire. During their conversation with Tuttle, they decided to book him into Santa Barbara County jail in association with arson, vandalism, and hate crimes.

Deputies said that Santa Barbara County firefighters were able to put out the blaze.

Tuttle was booked on \$50,000 bail and, according to the release, fire investigators continue to investigate exactly how the fire was started. ○

—William D'Urso

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Housing the vulnerable

State funding helps Santa Barbara County build affordable housing units to address homelessness

BY CAMILLIA LANHAM

The number of people experiencing homelessness in Santa Barbara County hasn't really fluctuated all that much over the last six years. It's hovered between 1,900 and 1,800 since 2013, with the latest homeless point-in-time count tallying up 1,803 on one night in January 2019.

While volunteers counted 670 individuals living in emergency shelters or transitional housing, 1,133 persons were experiencing unsheltered homelessness during that count. That's 240 more than during the 2017 count.

Providing more beds for people who are either experiencing homelessness or are on the verge of becoming homeless is one of the goals the county set for itself in the first phase of the Community Action Plan to Address Homelessness in Santa Barbara County, released in 2018. According to Dinah Lockhart, deputy director of the county's Housing and Development Division, the key to addressing homelessness is housing.

"At the height of the matter really is the issue of affordable housing, and there really isn't enough of it for most demographic groups," Lockhart said. "There are many households that are what they call precariously housed. ... They miss one paycheck and they could become homeless."

Money coming to the county through state and federal grants is expected to help bridge a portion of the housing gap. In 2018, the county received about \$9 million in one-time funding through the state's Homeless Emergency Aid Program (HEAP), which is meant to help address the homelessness crisis. A little more than half of that was awarded to capital projects—construction of affordable housing. Because one-time funding can't necessarily be used to provide ongoing services, using those funds for housing makes sense, according to Kimberly Albers, the county's homeless program manager.

"If you have resources that are one-time, obviously an excellent use for them is to create beds," Albers said. "When we knew funding was coming, what we heard from the community through the planning process is that to increase the number of beds was critical."

Simply building housing, though, isn't enough. Services need to be coupled with that housing in order for it to be successful and keep people housed over the long term.

"Never are we saying that any of these housing projects will just be housing projects. All of these housing projects need intensive services in order to succeed," Albers said. "It just emphasizes the need for housing and services and not one without the other."

Housing first

The Housing Authority of the County of Santa Barbara is spearheading two such housing projects in Santa Maria.

One wing of an 80-unit apartment complex called the Residences at Depot Street is nearly finished, while the second 40-unit building is just getting started, according to John Polansky with the Housing Authority. It should be



HOUSING THE HOMELESS: The Housing Authority of the County of Santa Barbara is working on an 80-unit development in Santa Maria that aims to house homeless individuals and wrap a variety of social services around them.

PHOTOS BY JAYSON MELLOM

completed by the first of the year. The West Cox Cottages, which received \$1.35 million in HEAP funds and \$1.5 million from the state's No Place Like Home program, is a 30-unit project that's expected to start construction in 2020.

In 2016, the state enacted the No Place Like Home program to invest in the development of permanent support housing for people in need of mental health services who are experiencing homelessness, are chronically homeless, or are at risk of chronic homelessness. The funding is allocated to supportive housing that's required to have low barrier tenant selection practices, to prioritize vulnerable populations, and to have individualized support services.

West Cox and the Residences at Depot Street projects were specifically designed for the provision of support services, Polansky said, and to house the most vulnerable of the homeless population. That includes the chronically homeless, veterans, those with mental health challenges, and/or developmental and physical disabilities.

"Part of each of those funding sources is intended for people to build because if you don't have any units for people to live in, you can't provide services for them," he said. "If you don't have housing, it's very difficult providing support services to stabilize and move forward. It's much more difficult when they are still on the streets, as opposed to when they are still in housing."

Grant funding received from the state is used to leverage the remainder of what it costs to build projects like these, Polansky said. Residences at Depot Street will cost about \$37 million to build while West Cox Cottages should cost a little less than \$10 million. That includes the cost of land and the planning process.

Much of the funding for projects like these comes in the form of low-income tax credits. The Housing Authority applies with either the state or federal government for the credits, which it can then sell to banks or others who have some sort of tax liability they need to write off. It tends to be the last piece of the funding puzzle that falls into place on projects like these, Polansky said.

"Unless you can fund it, you can't build it. The money is a big part of it. We know there's a need and if there's funding to address it, then you can do something," Polansky said. "It's very difficult otherwise."

Wrap-around services

Determining who's eligible for housing such as a unit at the Residences at Depot Street is done through a coordinated entry system, said Emily Allen, the director of homeless and veterans programs with the Northern Santa Barbara County United Way.

The system, also known as Home for Good, was established in 2017, and is a better way to identify and track clients as they move through the system of care—which includes both county and nonprofit service providers. United Way is the lead agency for the system, which Allen said helps match homeless individuals or families who enter the system with housing and support services.

"It does give us a much more accurate picture of how many people are experiencing homelessness, what are their needs," she said. "It prioritizes people based on vulnerability. ... And that's how many people are basically matched—maybe they need short-term temporary assistance or this person needs more long-term case management and ongoing support."

About 2,000 people have been surveyed in the coordinated entry system since it started.

Home For Good has identified 758 individuals and families in the county who are in need of permanent supportive housing, such as the soon-to-be West Cox Cottages. The program also identified 739 individuals and families who are in need of rapid rehousing, which could mean a number of things. Some may simply need help securing a deposit for a new rental, while others might need to be connected with services that help them stay in a safe, sheltered place temporarily.

The picture that's emerged about homelessness in Santa Barbara County hasn't necessarily changed, Allen said. What Home for Good does is give the county a better way of tracking data over the long term. It collects more quantifiable data that can be shared with elected officials and policymakers to help them make more informed decisions. And it also highlights some of the gaps in county services.

"From my perspective, a lot of this data that we've collected, and information, speaks to some of the gaps we have, especially in the supportive services side," Allen said. "The key is finding the units of housing and pairing the right supportive services with that unit of housing."



COMING SOON: This empty lot on West Cox Street in Santa Maria will eventually hold 30 units of housing for homeless individuals with space to provide them with the services they need to stay housed.

'Unless you can fund it, you can't build it. The money is a big part of it.'

— John Polansky, Santa Barbara County Housing Authority

The sort of intensive case management that is necessary to pair with housing the most vulnerable population isn't something Santa Barbara County really has in place, Allen said. But, given the shift in emphasis from the state and federal governments, which allocate funding based on a housing-first model that wraps support services around it, the county is also shifting its focus.

Allen said that United Way is working to bring in trainers, people with clinical backgrounds, who can help nonprofit and county providers figure out how to be more effective with their services and define best practices. The goal is to make sure that providers can give the right level of supportive services to the people who need it—and that service should cater to each individual, because everyone's needs are different.

"Training of providers is one piece, identifying providers that can provide that level of intense case management is another piece, and then even the billing, being able to bill MediCal so the program is sustainable," Allen said. "We want to be able to look at it from a systemwide level, how do we provide this service to the number of people who need it."

Not enough

Sylvia Barnard, executive director of the Good Samaritan Shelter in Santa Maria and Lompoc, said although much of the funding coming down from the state and federal levels is targeting the most vulnerable, that only makes

up about 10 percent of the homeless population in the county. The other 90 percent also need services, just not as intensely.

Good Samaritan received HEAP funding to provide some of those services through what it's calling Navigation Centers. Services include rapid rehousing money (for rent or a deposit) and diversion (keeping people housed) for people and families who might not be considered part of the most vulnerable population. Barnard said the services are already being provided in both cities, but they just don't have a physical space yet.

"It's kind of like a triage center for homeless individuals and families," Barnard said.

Good Samaritan also received some HEAP funding to build two small houses in Lompoc for families in need. The majority of the people Good Samaritan serves are homeless families. Barnard said the recent point-in-time count is fairly accurate, and the number of homeless families is highest in North County.

"It also reflects the poverty numbers in North County as well. The majority of poverty is in North County as well," Barnard said. "It's pretty consistent."

Although the money provided through HEAP and No Place Like Home is helping spur construction of units and focus on providing more support services, Barnard said it's barely touching the surface of the population that organizations like Good Samaritan are serving.

"Nine million dollars sounds like a lot of funding, and it is, but it's not enough," Barnard said. "It's not enough to get us out of the homeless crisis that we're in in Santa Barbara



SEEKING SHELTER: One of the goals laid out in the Community Action Plan to Address Homelessness in Santa Barbara County is creating housing units that will help address homelessness.

County right now."

Santa Maria City Councilmember Mike Cordero, who sits on the board for the United Way, said the benefits that come with housing someone are communitywide. In a way, it's preventative. If homeless individuals are getting housed, they aren't necessarily relying on urgent services such as hospital emergency rooms to meet their needs, because those needs are being met before they become emergencies.

"When you house someone, it's one hand helping the other and you can cut down on

thousands and thousands and thousands of dollars in tax money by resolving the homeless issue because they are no longer using the services," Cordero said. "There's no one-size-fits-all when you're dealing with these homeless people. You have to have caseworkers there who can move through the system to make sure that these people are getting cared for. It's really us caring for our community." ○

Reach Editor Camillia Lanham at clanham@santamariasun.com.

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PHOTO COURTESY OF THE CITY OF LOMPOC

Trapping grease

Lompoc City Council, city staff disagree over implementation of the city's grease-trap ordinance

BY ZAC EZZONE

Three times in as many months, the Lompoc City Council voted against city staff's recommendations and upheld appeals from local business owners protesting the need to install grease traps in their restaurants.

During the appeal hearings, the majority of City Council members raised concerns about staff's recent approach to implementing the city's grease trap ordinance. Starting last year, staff began requiring all restaurants within the city to install the equipment, rather than only certain businesses. City staff said this widespread approach is necessary to comply with an agreement the city has with the state.

At the City Council's Aug. 20 meeting, while discussing the latest appeal filed by the owner of the local Subway franchise, Councilmember Dirk Starbuck expressed his exasperation over city staff's stance on the issue.

"Personally, I think it's a crock," he said. "I'm sorry we have to waste everybody's time. I wish the staff would make a decision on common sense and not this freakin' mass-mailing-generated document."

The mass-mailing that Starbuck referred to occurred last year when city staff stepped up its enforcement of the city's grease-trap ordinance. In October 2018, staff sent out surveys to all businesses that serve food within the city, asking whether the establishments have grease traps installed.

According to a Feb. 5 staff report, out of the 134 businesses surveyed, only 28 identified not having a grease trap. City staff followed up with those businesses and sent violation notices to 18 that were not complying with the city's request to install a trap. Fourteen of those 18 businesses were in the process of installing one in February, according to the report.

P.J.'s Deli was one of the businesses to receive a violation notice. The owners of the long-standing sandwich shop filed an appeal with the city contesting the violation in February. At the June 4 City Council meeting where the appeal was discussed, Charles Sommer—whose mother owns P.J.'s Deli—said they have never had any issues with their sewer or water lines backing up in the three decades they've been in business.

"It's absurd to think that after 37 years of

no line stoppage and almost zero change in our menu, that the city wants us to have a grease trap," Sommer said.

With a 4-1 majority, City Council upheld the deli's appeal. In addition to upholding appeals from P.J.'s Deli and Subway, the council upheld an appeal from the Vitamin and Herb Store in July.

The city operates its water treatment plant under a National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System permit administered by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and through a state-approved sewer system management plan. Water is discharged from the plant into a tributary of the Santa Ynez River.

Part of the federal permit requires the city to implement a pretreatment program, which is outlined in the city's sewer management plan. The purpose of this program is to prevent pollutants from reaching the city's treatment plant that could interfere with its operation, according to the EPA.

The city's grease trap ordinance is part of this pretreatment program. According



PREVENTING DAMAGE: Lompoc recently stepped up its enforcement of an ordinance designed to prevent grease and oil from reaching the city's water treatment plant.

city wasn't effectively implementing its pretreatment program. Wilkie, who transitioned from being the city's finance director to his new position in January 2019, said he isn't sure why the city was falling short on its pretreatment at the time.

don't cook any ingredients in their kitchens. "Why would you want to mandate something that is not needed?" Mosby said "That doesn't make sense. It's an increased burden on small businesses that need not apply."

Wilkie said he believes the discrepancy between what's outlined in the sewer management plan and the city's municipal code is what's causing the disconnect between city staff and City Council over the grease traps. The city is currently reviewing its sewer management plan and could make changes to the part of the plan about grease traps so it more closely aligns with the city's ordinance, as long as the state approves the changes. Or, the city could make changes to its ordinance to provide further clarification.

"Those are in conflict, and until those are no longer in conflict, that's to me the issue. ... We have to get those two in sync," Wilkie said.

Mayor Jenelle Osborne has been the lone dissenting vote in the three appeals that City Council has heard so far. She voted against upholding the appeals because they don't address the ordinance itself, which she said is the core issue.

"For me, when you create a scenario that results in numerous appeals, there's a problem with the process and ordinance as a whole," Osborne said. "Instead of going through all of these appeals and make exceptions ... we need to correct that." ○

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

'Why would you want to mandate something that is not needed? That doesn't make sense. It's an increased burden on small businesses that need not apply.'

—Lompoc City Councilmember Jim Mosby

According to his reading of the city's sewer system management plan, all food service establishments within the city must have a grease trap, Wilkie said. However, there's a discrepancy between what's outlined in the plan and what's in the city's municipal code, which states that restaurants are required to install a grease trap at the utility director's discretion.

During previous appeal hearings, the majority of City Council members expressed concerns over Wilkie not exercising this discretion. Councilmember Jim Mosby said that he thinks Wilkie is forcing some businesses that don't need grease traps to install them, such as sandwich shops that

to the Feb. 5 staff report, these traps are used to prevent fats, oils, and grease from accumulating in the city's sewer lines. In the past, large accumulations of these substances, called "fat bergs" have traveled to the city's treatment plant, which require multiple employees to chop them into chunks to be thrown away. If they aren't dealt with, these bergs could damage equipment at the treatment plant or cause a sewer overflow, which would have to be reported to the state and can result in fines.

City Utility Director Brad Wilkie said city staff stepped up its enforcement of the city's grease-trap ordinance last year after a series of EPA audits in 2016 and 2017 found that the

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Solvang looks for new options after separating from its tourism and conference bureau

BY WILLIAM D'URSO

Talks between the city of Solvang and its tourism nonprofit have failed. Again. And both parties say discussions are done for good.

With negotiations dead, the city insists that the Solvang Conference and Visitors Bureau (SCVB) has gone dark while the people who run the bureau are under a different impression.

"We're not going to go dark," said the bureau's president, Kim Jensen. "We're going to go private."

He was talking from his perch on a pink upholstered stool in the showroom at Ingeborg's Danish Chocolates, his shop at 1679 Copenhagen Drive. Less than a block away, behind one of the city's windmills, City Manager David Gassaway was sifting through the bureau's books in the SCVB office.

Jensen said he doesn't have anything to hide. "That's why we're letting David look at the books," he said.

What's at issue is more than \$822,000 that the city said was marked as "unspecified" expenses.

Jensen said that money was spent on salaries for bureau employees and other labor-related costs.

Gassaway and Solvang City Council members also want to know why the SCVB has been behind on its tax filings. Tax returns obtained by the *Sun* show that tax forms from 2016 and 2017 were dated July 2019 by former Executive Director Tracy Farhad.

"We're not the sharpest tools in the shed when it comes to CPA work," Jensen said. "But we do have people to back up what we do."

Mayor Ryan Toussaint and the rest of the City Council have become increasingly frustrated over what they say is a lack of answers.

"They didn't even know they hadn't done their tax returns until we asked for them," Toussaint said.

More than that, the city doesn't agree with some of the SCVB's expenditures. The city hired efficiency consultant Tom Widroe to assess the bureau's books. He said he didn't like the \$822,000 in "unspecified" expenses, and he didn't like the investment the bureau had made in "awareness marketing," not unlike product placement

techniques that giant brands like Starbucks use in films and TV.

"It's very expensive and not very effective," Widroe said of such marketing.

Jensen said he wanted to expand the city's efforts to seize broad, national attention. He was planning to spend \$30,000 to help draw *The Bachelorette* to Solvang. He also wanted to bring in Hallmark and Netflix to film content in the city and hoped *O, The Oprah Magazine* would profile Solvang.

To attract that kind of attention, he said, the city needed to provide the bureau with more funding.

But a total shake-up in the city's politics has radically shifted the way the council sees the SCVB.

Toussaint said the tension began with a change in the city's political climate. He ran for City Council in 2016 on a platform that was heavy on fiscal belt tightening. His ideas found more allies in 2018 when every incumbent was bounced off the council, except Toussaint who moved up to the mayor's seat.

'We're not going to go dark. We're going to go private.'

—Kim Jensen, Solvang Conference and Visitors Bureau president

That changeover set the stage for new conversations, Toussaint said, and one of them was about the money the city sent to the SCVB to run and operate the Visitor's Center and accompanying website.

Once conversations began in July about money—the city's money—and how the bureau was spending it, Toussaint said questions were raised that never received answers.

The first was the contract, which interim City Attorney Chip Wullbrandt said wasn't a real, legal contract and declared it void. That was on June 24, though the city manager didn't provide notice to the SCVB that the contract was void until July 8.

But Toussaint said the city wanted to renew the relationship with the SCVB,



TOURISM CHANGEUP? Solvang separated from its tourism agency, the Solvang Conference and Visitors Bureau, which helped facilitate annual events in the city such as the Taste of Solvang.

because the bureau has well-established relationships with vendors for events like the Grape Stomp and Festival (STOMP) and Julefest—both seen as critical to the city's tourism business.

With that in mind, the City Council offered \$600,000 to the SCVB for a year-long

the Visitor's Center and website operational with a funding estimate of approximately \$80,000. SCVB would like to add the two events, STOMP and Julefest, which would increase the funding total to approximately \$150,000," Collison wrote in the email.

The city refused that request and didn't offer a new deal.

Now, the council is shifting focus. The city has contracted Visit the Santa Ynez Valley to promote its upcoming events, and consultant Widroe is planning to help field bids to contract out some of the other services the SCVB provided to the city.

Toussaint said he wants to refocus on hotel bookings. He estimates that the city is making about \$4.5 million in taxes from hotel room stays—money that goes directly to city coffers.

But severing ties with the SCVB could lead to other problems.

"What would definitely result in legal action is if they refused to return assets," Toussaint said.

Back in the chocolate shop, SCVB President Jensen was adamant that those assets in question belong to the bureau. But he agreed that the time for making a deal is over, and he insisted that every contract the city has offered has been a bad one.

"It's the same ugly sister," Jensen said. "I told you, I'm not kissing you." ○

Staff Writer William D'Urso can be reached at wdurso@santamariasun.com.



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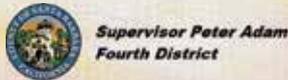
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A rare cut

From house-made seasonal sausages to the high-demand hanger steak, Woody's Butcher Block sells it all

BY WILLIAM D'URSO

"Come in and I'll give you a taste of something fun." The invitation came from Tim Woodbury, the owner, or as his business card reads, "Head Honcho" of Woody's Butcher Block. He followed it up with a wave of a meaty hand. Toothpick between his fingers, he speared a piece of sausage, an experiment he calls "Grandma's Thanksgiving Day sausage," a mix of spices and some cranberries thrown in for a bit of texture and that turkey-day magic.

"That's good, isn't it?" he said as he looked around to his staff. All three nodded agreement, mumbling in muffled tones from bulging cheeks. "We can do it all year if you want."

Woodbury is a fixture of the Santa Maria butcher scene, and he's done it by being unique. His signature? The hanging tender also called a hanger steak.

But that wasn't its first name. "It used to be called the butcher's cut because they were the ones who knew how to clean it up," he said. "If you don't clean it correctly, it's tough as a boot."

Sliced from the diaphragm, there's only one per cow, and it weighs around a pound and a half. The cut comes from underneath the cow, behind the front legs. Considered similar in flavor and texture to a flank steak, it's separated on the cutting block

from the tougher skirt steak.

Woodbury said the hanger steak is not for everyone. He calls its flavor "mineral," which to some can mean an overpowering taste of blood. For the many customers who are fans, it's \$18 a pound.

He carries Angus certified beef, and all of it, including the hanging tender, is aged.

"I had a guy come in and buy two 10-pound bags of it the other week," he said. "Pretty good sale."

In seven years, the shop has only run out of the hanging tender twice, "and boy did I hear about it," he said.

So he tries to keep about 80 pounds per week in stock with an average sale of about 50 of those pounds.

Woodbury said his beef is worth the cost because he pays attention to the details, like breed, feed, and care. Nothing he sells contains hormones or is fed with anything but grains and grass.

It wasn't the business he thought he'd be in, not after spending 28 years in the food service industry doing sales. That's where he first learned to cut. He called the butcher business plan a "bad day doodle," the sort of thing he'd scratched out on a slow day at his sales job. He stuck the business plan in a folder and left it there for 15 years. Then, one day his son reminded him about it.

"Little by little, the business grows," Woodbury said. "It's like putting on weight. All



CHOPPED: "Head Honcho" Tim Woodbury wraps a rib-eye steak in his Santa Maria butcher shop.

of a sudden you're fat."

The business is broader than the hanging tender, though that remains the specialty. They have sausages, brisket, and highly marbled wagyu beef. They have fridges with a modest offering of craft beer and frozen meats, like chicken and seafood. They have sandwiches you can eat there, like the "Here Piggy, Piggy," and packages of dry rubs for the steaks you take home.

And if you're looking for the hanging tender, more is always on the way.

The shop is located at 700 E. Main St., suite 104, in Santa Maria.

Highlight

• The city of Santa Maria Public Library announced plans to host a composting program with the Garden Club on Sept. 7. The free all-ages event runs from 10:30 to 11:30 a.m. in Shepard Hall. For more information, contact the library's information desk at (805) 925-0994, Ext. 8562. ○

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

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

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I am undocumented

I am not illegal. I am not a criminal. I am a human being who yearns to be free.

BY ADELITA DE LOS MILAGROS

In the shadows of the growing hate and immigrant bashing that is engulfing the United States, I quietly celebrated my 40th birthday in August. I, like so many of my immigrant brothers and sisters, live in constant dread and panic, fearing that today, in this current black-hearted hole that we call America, our day will come and we will be caught, arrested, jailed, and eventually deported to some God-forsaken part of Mexico or Central America that we fear will lead to a death. So in the month of my 40th birthday, I thank La Virgen de Guadalupe for watching over me, guiding, and protecting me. I am still free and alive.

I am a ghost without a home. I am an undocumented immigrant.

In today's Trump America, make no mistake, I am a criminal, an illegal alien who must be hunted down and caged. I have lived in the cold and heartless shadows of this country for more than 33 years, where Father Gregory Boyle reminds us that "on the periphery of humanity, where the pain, suffering, and need is the greatest." The United States, then, has been my purgatory, a place that I desperately want to call home, but I am denied at every turn.

I was smuggled into this country when I was about 7 years old, a child, guilty only of being born to a single mother in desperate need to find a way of keeping her family from starving and the daily violence in her native Mexico. Like so many of the children who were/are smuggled into this country, as we grow into adulthood, we lose most

of our connection to Mexico.

This country then pulverizes and mongrelizes us into sub-human status. We all become rapists, terrorists, whores, gang-bangers, leeches. All the while, this nation reminds us every second of our miserable existence that we are not American and never will be.

I have survived 33 years in a country that has denied me the human right to pursue life, liberty, and happiness. I can't get a job legally. I can't get into college legally. I can't vote. I can't call the cops.

We can never go "home" because Mexico was never our home. We were just unfortunate to be born in a geographical/political war zone, at the mercy of everyone. We have no real home, and the semi-invisible ghostlike life that we lead in this country is criminalized at every turn.

I have survived 33 years in a country that has denied me the human right to pursue life, liberty, and happiness. I can't get a job legally. I can't get into college legally. I can't vote. I can't call the cops. I am easily reduced by politicians and fearmongers to a statistical anomaly, a pathetic scapegoat. Periodically, I am hunted, rounded up, arrested, and thrown into cages, made a prisoner of a society that I have served faithfully in my adulthood.

In this schizophrenic and hypocritical land of laws (for some), I must have legal "papers" to breathe freedom openly. Perversely, in order to have legal "papers," I must somehow wipe away all of my 33 years of illegal existence in this country and return to a foreign and foreboding Mexico and pray for celestial intervention that I live long

enough to complete the impossibly arduous process of legal immigration and re-entry into the United States, my estranged home of 33 years.

How surreal is that?

Today, worldwide, there are millions of migrants (I am one of them) traversing the globe, seeking a country that will provide the peace, compassion, love, and refuge from the violence, starvation, war, hatred, and persecution that we are all desperately trying to escape. The journey that each and every one of us migrants takes happens when all of the other options have been exhausted, and there is no other choice.

"¡Al camino o muerte!" The road or death.

That is what my mother did; that is why she smuggled me into this country 33 years ago; and that is why I am alive today to celebrate my 40th birthday. One day before I die I hope that this country, my home, my country will see the tragic error of its current inhumane immigration policies and transform itself back into the world's beacon and a refuge for those persecuted and huddled migrant masses that yearn to be free. ○

Adelita de los Milagros wrote to the Sun under a pseudonym for obvious reasons. Send your response for publication to letters@santamariasun.com.

LETTERS

More information is needed about ERG's postponed project

The third postponement of ERG's Planning Commission hearing on the West Cat Canyon Oil Project ("West Cat Canyon oil project decision delayed indefinitely," Aug. 22) takes place in a larger context that needs clarification.

ERG is one of three oil companies to declare bankruptcy in our county in the last five years. Oil prices and demand are falling, and clean energy jobs now outnumber jobs in the fossil fuel industry 5 to 1, according to a recent study.

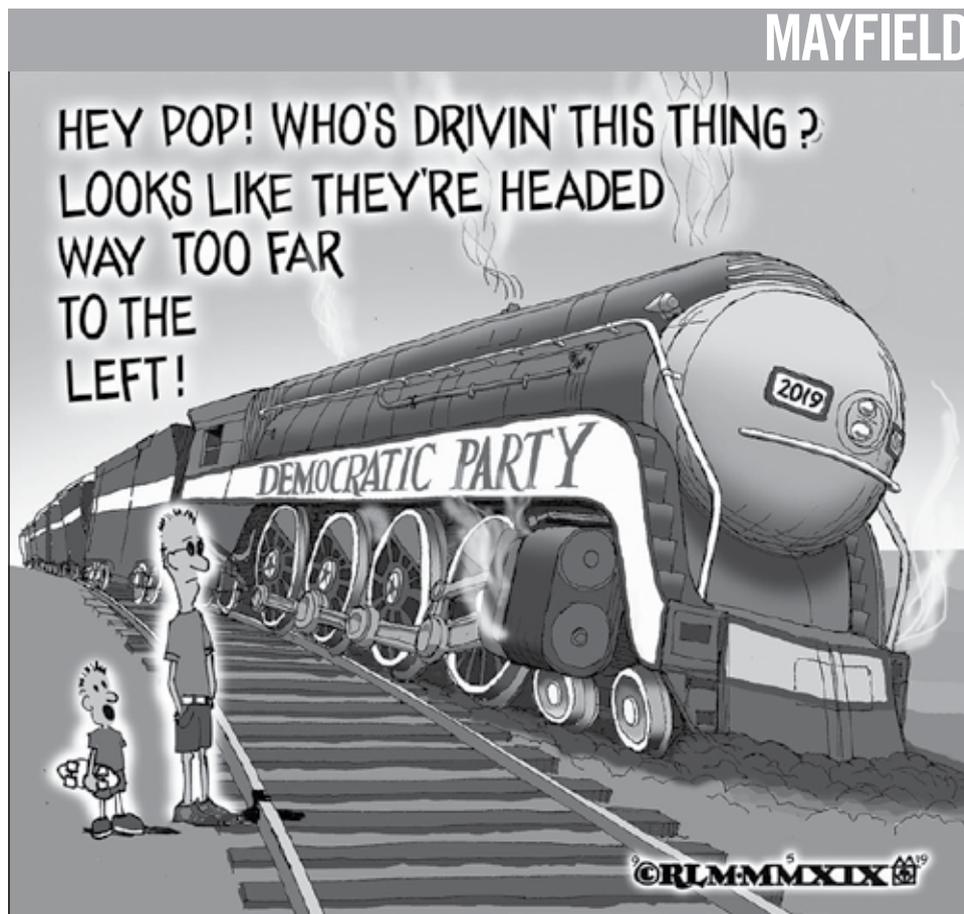
ERG's project has faced opposition from local residents, who turned out at three Santa Barbara County Planning Commission meetings in droves to express concerns about the proposed use of cyclic steam injection, a high-risk, high-energy intensive method of extracting oil that is too heavy and sticky to pump otherwise.

There is evidence that the recent 1.3 million gallon Chevron oil spill near Bakersfield was caused by cyclic steam injection that took place close to the site of the spill, demonstrating the risks of this technique. California's acting oil and gas supervisor, Jason Marshall, said it "looks to me" like steam contributed to the problem, according to the *Bakersfield News*.

Meanwhile, ERG was purchased by Terracore Operating Company LLC, who is quoted in the article as stating that they are investigating the use of solar panels to offset the 251,000 metric tons of greenhouse gas emissions the project would produce. However, it would require 1,000 acres of solar panels just to power the steam injection engines—an unlikely and unrealistic scenario.

An added note: Coloradan Will McConathy, who might be "the youngest member of the Koch network," according to a 2016 article in *The Hill*, is the president of Terracore. Do we want to gamble our environment on corporations who have demonstrated total disregard for its protection?

Rachel Altman
Santa Barbara



Meltdown mode

Lompoc is simply melting down over grease traps. Apparently, the city stepped up its code enforcement of an ordinance that requires all food establishments to have a grease trap. Even the shops that don't cook anything! And let me tell you, these food purveyors aren't having it! Well, actually only four out of a few dozen of them aren't having it at this point.



This non-greasy business has been stopping up the wheels at City Hall.

And Lompoc City Council members are siding with the businesses over its city staff. No surprises there! But on this one, they might be onto something. Councilmember Jim Mosby is accusing City Utility Director Brad Wilkie of not exercising his discretion correctly, burdening small businesses with the expense of installing a grease trap. As if!

"Why would you want to mandate something that is not needed?" he asked.

Good point. Wilkie's response is simply that the city's ordinance conflicts with the city's sewer management plan.

"We have to get those in sync," Wilkie said. OK then! Can we make that happen, already? Or do we need more businesses to appeal a mandate to install an unnecessary grease trap, wasting city staff time and taxpayer dollars on something that City Council is just going to tell the business it doesn't have to do.

As the lone vote on the City Council that agrees with city staff opinions on grease, Mayor Jenelle Osborne also said that the ordinance needed to be corrected.

OK then! Make it happen, Osborne. You and Wilkie have the power to do more than just speak! Maybe we need take all of that non-existent grease out there and dump it on City Hall so the creaky wheels of policy-making get a move on.

All this talk about grease traps is making me hungry. I think I'm going to head over to Solvang and hang out in Ingeborg's Danish Chocolates with Solvang Conference & Visitors Bureau President Kim Jensen to talk shit about Solvang City Council. That sounds fun!

Only, it seems like Jensen's position is tenuous, what with City Council voiding a contract to fund the bureau and no new one on the horizon. So what's up with the prettiest little Danish town that basically caters to every tourist that ever lived tearing up its relationship with a tourism bureau it created?

Well, it has to do with expenditures, ya see? More than \$800,000 in expenses (and city dollars) that don't have a label. While Jensen waives them off as labor- and salary-related, I'm starting to think that I'm in the wrong business. That's a lot of money for a nonprofit with a small annual budget to spend on employees.

The City Council is accusing the bureau of not answering its questions about where Solvang's hard-earned taxpayer dollars are going. Fair point.

I think the bureau thought it had more power than it actually did. You see, this money fight was also with the Solvang Chamber of Commerce, which is again funded with some city dollars and moving forward with chamber-type things. ○

The canary is thinking about getting into the Solvang tourism business. Send comments to canary@santamariasun.com.

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MONUMENTAL PROPORTIONS

The Lompoc Museum hosts an unveiling reception for its restored World War I monument on Friday, Sept. 6, from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. The 1924 monument has undergone various repairs and now features two new additional sculptures: a life-size bronze sculpture and doughboy soldier. Admission to the event is free. Call (805) 736-3888 or visit facebook.com/lompocmuseum1 for more info.

—Caleb Wiseblood

PHOTO COURTESY OF THE LOMPOC MUSEUM

SPECIAL EVENTS

LOMPOC/VANDENBERG

UNVEILING OF COMPLETED WORLD WAR I MONUMENT The completely repaired and enhanced 1924 World War I Monument will be unveiled, revealing the addition of two final elements: a life-sized bronze eagle sculpture and a bronze bas relief sculpture of a doughboy soldier. **Sept. 6**, 1 a.m.-1 p.m. Free. 805-736-3888. facebook.com/lompocmuseum1/. Lompoc Museum, 200 S. H St., Lompoc.

SANTA MARIA VALLEY/LOS ALAMOS

A CONCERT FOR HOPE Benefiting Marian Medical's Mission Hope project, and featuring Drew Baldrige and guest artist Dylan Ortega. **Sept. 7**, 6 p.m. \$35-\$45. presquilewine.com. Presqu'ile Winery, 5391 Presqu'ile Dr., Santa Maria, 805-937-8110.

SANTA MARIA EXPOFEST 2019 Connect with local businesses during this free community event. Hosted by the SMV Chamber of Commerce. **Sept. 5**, 3-4 p.m. Free. santamaria.com. Santa Maria Fairpark, 937 S. Thornburg St., Santa Maria.

SOUTH COAST SLO COUNTY

CRAFT FAIR/PSYCHIC FAIR Features local crafters, guest artists, and intuitive, psychic, and clairvoyant mediums. **Sept. 7**, 2-6 p.m. and **Sept. 8**, 2-6 p.m. 805-674-4277. Halcyon Store Post Office, 936 S. Halcyon Rd., Arroyo Grande.

THIRD ANNUAL AVILA BEACH OKTOBERFEST In partnership with Beda's Biergarten and Hofbräuhaus, the Avila Beach Resort presents a traditional Oktoberfest, featuring live music by The Molly Ringwald Project, authentic German food, and more. **Sept. 14**, 11 a.m.-5 p.m. \$25. 805-595-4000. events.avilabeachresort.com. Avila Beach Golf Resort, 6464 Ana Bay Road, Avila Beach.

SAN LUIS OBISPO

CLIMATE CHANGE TALK Hear about climate change facts and impacts to our weather and waves from local meteorologist (and former climate change skeptic), John Lindsey. **Sept. 10**, 5:30-7 p.m. Free. 805-544-1777. ECOSLO.ORG. 7Sisters Brewing Company, 181 Tank Farm Rd. Suite 110, San Luis Obispo.

PARKINSON'S IN THE PARK Features exhibitors and demonstrations focused on getting better and staying better with Parkinson's Disease. Food and

drink will be available. **Sept. 7**, 10 a.m.-1 p.m. Free. 805-994-0425. Santa Rosa Park, Santa Rosa St., San Luis Obispo.

NORTH SLO COUNTY

13TH ANNUAL DOG SPLASH DAYS Special swim sessions for small, senior, or disabled dogs. Proceeds benefit Vineyard Dog Park. **Sept. 7**, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. and **Sept. 8**, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. \$25. 805-610-8291. parks4pups.org. Templeton Community Pool, 420 Crocker St., Templeton.

FIFTH ANNUAL WHEELS AND WINE Features vintage vehicles, live music, food, beer, wine, and more. **Sept. 5**, 5:30-8:30 p.m. \$10-\$40. my805tix.com. Courtney's House, 311 6th St., Templeton, 805-434-3895.

SIP AND TASTE PASO ROBLES Join Wine Boss at the Allegretto Vineyard Resort for local food, wine, beer, ciders, and spirits. Also features cooking demos with Food Network's Chef Eddie G. and live music by Shane Hall and Kaleo Wassman. **Sept. 7**, 12-4 p.m. \$65-\$100. 805-369-2677. siptastepasorobles.com/. Allegretto Vineyard Resort, 2700 Buena Vista Drive, Paso Robles.

TASTE OF DOWNTOWN AND ARTE DE TIZA Enjoy samples from more than 35 downtown restaurants and wine-tasting rooms. **Sept. 14**, 11 a.m.-4 p.m. \$25. 805-238-4103. pasoroblesdowntown.org. Downtown City Park, 11th and Spring St., Paso Robles.

NORTH COAST SLO COUNTY

WATERFRONT MARKET MORRO BAY This event is free to the public, family and pet friendly. Come and see what the Central Coast has to offer. **Sept. 7**, 10 a.m.-6 p.m. and **Sept. 8**, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Free. 805-402-9437. Giovanni's Fish Market, 1001 Front St., Morro Bay.

FUNDRAISERS

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

SOUTH COAST SLO COUNTY

CATCH OF THE CENTRAL COAST Please join us to celebrate 25 years of marine science education in San Luis Obispo County. Enjoy a gourmet multi-course win dinner with live music, silent and live auctions, and a special champagne bar created in honor of CCA's Silver Anniversary. **Sept. 14**, 5 p.m. Varies. 805-595-7280. centralcoastaquarium.com/programs/catch. Central Coast Aquarium, 50 San Juan St., Avila Beach.

SAN LUIS OBISPO

18TH ANNUAL ROTARY HOMES OF DISTINCTION TOUR Take an exclusive look into 5 homes. Proceeds fund local student scholarships and nonprofits. Hosted by Rotary Club of SLO **Sept. 16**, 11 a.m.-4:30 p.m. \$25. 805-546-8806. slorotary.org. Rotary Homes of Distinction Tour, San Luis Obispo.

NORTH SLO COUNTY

13TH ANNUAL DOG SPLASH DAYS Celebrate summer's end with a splash to support Vineyard Dog Park. Sessions available for dogs of all kinds. **Sept. 7**, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. and **Sept. 8**, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. \$25. 805-610-8291. parks4pups.org/splash-days-2019. Templeton Community Pool, 420 Crocker St., Templeton.

2019 AN AFTERNOON IN THE COUNTRY The nonprofit Paso Robles Area Historical Society invites the public to a fund-raising reception with wine, appetizers, and music. Proceeds will be used for local educational programs and historic preservation. Half of the ticket price is tax deductible. **Sept. 8**, 2-5 p.m. \$50. 805-238-4996. Tooth and Nail Winery, 3090 Anderson Rd., Paso Robles, rabblewine.com/tasting-room/.

PAJAMA MOVIE NIGHT Enjoy the 1937 original "Topper" on the big screen again starring Cary Grant. **Sept. 8**, 7-9:15 p.m. \$10. 805-238-4103. pasoroblesdowntown.org. Park Cinemas, 1100 Pine St., Paso Robles.

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ARTS

CLASSES & WORKSHOPS

SANTA MARIA VALLEY/LOS ALAMOS

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

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

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

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

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/

ARTS continued page 19

SUBMIT YOUR EVENTS

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5th Annual Wheels & Wine
SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 7
Fig at Courtney's House



Cheese & Charcuterie 101 Workshop
SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 8
Monterey St. Market

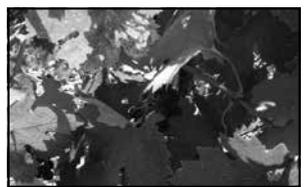


Catch of the Central Coast
SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 14
Central Coast Aquarium



Veronica's Position
SEPTEMBER 6-29
By the Sea Productions

Goodnight, Texas with The Deltaz
SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 7
Peter Strauss Ranch



Wines of the Old World: A Cambria Scarecrow Festival Fundraiser
THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 12
The Historical Squibb House



Wine & Dine Pre-Harvest
SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 14
Wild Coyote Estate Winery



Sunset Wines & Full Moon Vines
SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 14
Doce Robles Winery & Vineyard



Butterfly Ball: Wild and Scenic Film Festival Gala Event presented by CCSPA
SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 14
SLO Brew Rock Event Center



Starlight Dreamband
SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 14
Point San Luis Lighthouse

Piano Quartet including Violin, Viola, and Cello
SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 15
Community Presbyterian Church of Cambria



Cheese & Charcuterie 101
SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 15
Ancient Peaks Winery



Beer Yoga
SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 15
Naughty Oak Brewing Co.



Backyard Burger Brawl
SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 15
Tooth & Nail Winery



Empty Bowls Community Luncheon
WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 18
St. Patrick's Church Hall



Pursuing the Monarchs: Wild and Scenic Film Festival presented by CCSPA
THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 19
Clark Center for Performing Arts

2019 'Dodge For a Cause' Dodgeball Tournament
FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 20
Avila Bay Athletic Club

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MdO Night: Wild and Scenic Film Festival presented by CCSPA
FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 20
South Bay Community Center



Kenny Lee Lewis and Friends Videotape Concert
FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 20
D'Arbino Tasting Room



1st Annual Branch Mill Music Festival
SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 21
Branch Mill Organic Farms

Stream to Seas: Wild and Scenic Film Festival presented by CCSPA
SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 21
Fremont Theater



A Breast Exposé The Breast Kept Secret
SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 21
Fair Oaks Theatre



Making Waves After Party: Wild and Scenic Film Festival presented by CCSPA
SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 21
SLO Brew Pub Downtown



SLO Jazz Federation: Arthur White Jazz Quartet
SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 21
Unity Concert Hall



Hoyt Family Vineyards 1st Annual Chili Cook-Off!
SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 21
Hoyt Family Vineyards



Planet Lucha Share the Love
SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 21
Radisson Hotel, Santa Maria

The Shawn Clark Family Band, Octagon Barn Center Grand Opening
SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 21
Octagon Barn Center



Wild Child: Wild and Scenic Film Festival presented by CCSPA
SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 22
Museum of Natural History, Morro Bay



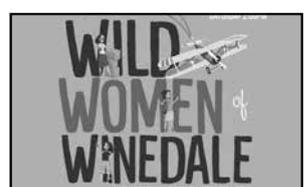
Caroline Aiken with Special Guests Jill Knight & Brynn Albanese
SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 22
Old Santa Rosa Chapel



Central Coast Pro Tennis Open
SEPTEMBER 23-29
Templeton Tennis Ranch



Sip 'n Saunter
FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 27
Downtown SLO Association



The Wild Women of Winedale
FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 27
Cambria Center for the Arts Theatre

2nd Annual Casino Night
SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 28
SLO Brew Rock Event Center



Catch the Spanish Imagination
SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 28
Grace Baptist Church



South County Oktoberfest
SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 28
Pouring Productions



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SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 28
El Camino Homeless Organization



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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.

SAN LUIS OBISPO

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

SLO NIGHTWRITERS MONTHLY MEETING: PUBLIC WELCOME The organization's goal is to provide a venue for SLO County writers to connect. Features a variety of guest speakers. Second Tuesday of every month, 6:30-8:30 p.m. \$5 for guests; free with membership. slonightwriters.org. United Church of Christ (Congregational) of San Luis Obispo, 11245 Los Osos Valley Rd., San Luis Obispo, 805-544-1373.

SPECIAL ART EVENTS

SANTA MARIA VALLEY/LOS ALAMOS

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

PHOTO COURTESY OF LA PURISIMA MISSION



CORN TO BE WILD

Harvest Mission Life Day takes place at the La Purisima Mission in Lompoc on Saturday, Sept. 14, from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Guests can enjoy stomping grapes, threshing wheat, and taking part in other special activities throughout the event. The mission is located at 2295 Purisima Road, Lompoc. Call (805) 733-3713 or visit explorelompoc.com for more info.

—C.W.

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

SAN LUIS OBISPO

ART AFTER DARK SLO Unites visual, literary, and performing artists with the community and participating venues. Visit site for full list of programs and events. First Friday of every month, 6-9 p.m. 805-544-9251. artsobispo.org. SLO County, Countywide, San Luis Obispo.

NORTH SLO COUNTY

ART AFTER DARK PASO Studios on the Park celebrates Art After Dark Paso, a fun tradition of art, wine, and live music-filled evenings at the start of every month. **Sept. 7**, 6-9 p.m. free; \$8 wine. 805-238-9800. studiosonthepark.org. Studios on the Park, 1130 Pine St., Paso Robles. Unites visual, literary, and performing artists with the community and participating venues. Visit site for full list of programs and events. First Saturday of every month, 6-9 p.m. 805-544-9251. artsobispo.org. Participating locations, Paso Robles, City-wide.

ARTS continued page 20

CHUMASH
CASINO RESORT

ALWAYS AMAZING. NEVER ROUTINE.



GLADYS KNIGHT

FRIDAY

SEP
6

8 PM

FRI & SAT

SEP
13 & 14

8 PM



LUIS FONSI

FRIDAY

SEP
20

8 PM

FRI & SAT

SEP
27 & 28

8 PM



BRETT YOUNG



RAMON AYALA



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

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

NATURE REGENERATED Photographers were encouraged to capture examples of nature's ability to regenerate and thrive. This exhibit showcases winning

IMAGE COURTESY OF THE ELVERHOJ MUSEUM OF HISTORY AND ART



WAKING LIFE

The Central Coast Film Society co-hosts a special family-friendly screening of Disney's *Sleeping Beauty* at the Elverhoj Museum of History and Art in Solvang on Friday, Sept. 6, at 7 p.m. The event also includes movie-themed activities, popcorn, and an appearance from Princess Aurora herself. Chairs and blankets are welcome, as the screening takes place outdoors in the museum's garden. Call (805) 686-1211 or visit elverhoj.org for more info.

—C.W.

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.

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

SANTA MARIA VALLEY/LOS ALAMOS

ART EXHIBIT: MARGIE BOWKER A display of painting and art tiles. ongoing Santa Maria Country Club, 505 W. Waller Lane, Santa Maria.

LOCAL ART AND ARTISTS: CONTINUING SERIES

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

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

SAN LUIS OBISPO

THE SACRED ART OF TIBET WITH MASTER ARTIST, KARMA THUPTEN

Karma Thupten is a Master of the Karma Gadri tradition of Tibetan Sacred Painting. This is an exclusive viewing of extraordinary art celebrating Tibetan culture and spirituality. **Sept. 7**, 10:30 a.m.-5 p.m. Free entry. 805-543-9291. Van Zandt Studio, 393 Pacific Street, San Luis Obispo.

SUE DUNKER: COASTAL COLORS

Art expresses emotional content with bright and intense colors. **Sept. 6-Nov. 28** 805-542-9000. Frame Works, 339 Marsh St, San Luis Obispo, sloart.com.

NORTH SLO COUNTY

JUSTICE IN JUSTICE

Features artistic expressions which illustrate a movement underway in the United States to shift the policies of mass-incarceration away from the transactional system of retribution and punishment toward the more humane objectives of restoration and healing. Opening reception takes place on Sept. 4, from 6 to 8 p.m. Through Sept. 29, 12-4 p.m. Free. 805-238-9800.



MONTHLY BREAD

Bob's Well Bread Bakery in Los Alamos hosts its next Meet The Winemaker event on Saturday, Sept. 7, from 1 to 3 p.m. This month's event features winemaker Tyler Thomas, and guests can expect to enjoy tasting wines from Dierberg and Star Lane Vineyards, paired with freshly baked treats. The bakery is located at 550 Bell St., Los Alamos. Call (805) 344-3000 or visit bobswellbread.com for more info.

—C.W.

studiosonthePark.org. Studios on the Park, 1130 Pine St., Paso Robles.

STAGE

SANTA YNEZ VALLEY

SOLVANG FESTIVAL THEATER: THE IMPORTANCE OF BEING EARNEST PCPA's production of Oscar Wilde's classic. Through Sept. 8 Solvang Festival Theater, 420 2nd St., Solvang, 805-928-7731.

NORTH COAST SLO COUNTY

VERONICA'S POSITION When a self-absorbed movie star agrees to co-star in a play with her ex-husband, both egos and calories get burned. Directed by Lisa Woske Sundays, 3 p.m. and Fridays, Saturdays, 7 p.m. through Sept. 29 \$15-\$20. 805-776-3287. By The Sea Productions, 545 Shasta Ave., Morro Bay, bytheseaproductions.org.

CULTURE & LIFESTYLE

LECTURES & LEARNING

LOMPOC/VANDENBERG

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

SANTA MARIA VALLEY/LOS ALAMOS

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

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.

SMKC MONTHLY MEMBERSHIP MEETING Members and guests welcome. Connect with fellow dog lovers and learn more about all the different things you and your dog can do together. All breeds and breed combinations welcome. Different months have different learning programs. Second Wednesday of every month, 7-9 p.m. through April 8 Free. santamariakennelclub.org/. Marian Extended Care Facility, 1530 Cypress Way, Santa Maria, (805) 739-3000.

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. Moxie Cafe, 1317 W. McCoy Ln., Santa Maria.

SOUTH COAST SLO COUNTY

POINT SLO LIGHTHOUSE TOURS Docents lead

CULTURE & LIFESTYLE continued page 21

AWARD-WINNING COMMUNITY JOURNALISM
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NewTimes

SAN LUIS OBISPO COUNTY'S NEWS & ENTERTAINMENT WEEKLY
NEWTIMESSLO.COM

Sun

NORTHERN SANTA BARBARA COUNTY'S NEWS & ENTERTAINMENT WEEKLY
SANTAMARIASUN.COM

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

CLUBS & MEETINGS

SANTA MARIA VALLEY/LOS ALAMOS

BOOK CLUB Meet once a month to discuss a book or books read and express share thoughts. This month's book: "The Underground Railroad" by Colson Whitehead. **Sept. 12**, 1:30-2:30 p.m. Free. 805-937-9750. oasisorcutt.org. Oasis Senior Center, 420 Soares Ave., Orcutt.

CAMERA CLUB Learn how the camera works. Share experiences and make new friends. Second Tuesday of every month, 1-3:30 p.m. Free. 805-937-9750. oasisorcutt.org. Oasis Senior Center, 420 Soares Ave., Orcutt.

COFFEE AND CONVERSATION Tuesdays, 1 p.m. 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. 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 PUBLIC LIBRARY GARDEN CLUB These meetings will offer gardening tips, a variety of presentations, succulent exchanges, and demos. First Saturday of every month, 10:30-11:30 a.m. through Nov. 30 805-925-0994. Santa Maria Public Library, 421 S. McClelland St., Santa Maria.

NORTH COAST SLO COUNTY

SOCRATES: WEEKLY DISCUSSION A weekly discussion group to discuss current and interesting topics. Politics and religion are not discussed. Wednesdays, 10 a.m.-noon Free. coalescebookstore.com. Coalesce Bookstore, 845 Main St., Morro Bay, 805-772-2880.

SUPPORT GROUPS

SANTA MARIA VALLEY/LOS ALAMOS

HELP4HD SUPPORT GROUPS Help4HD Support Groups is the Help 4 Huntington's disease support group. Second Monday of every month, 12:1-3:30 p.m. Free. 354-0708. help4hd-international.org. Bethel Lutheran Church, 624 E. Camino Colegio, Santa Maria.

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

SOUTH COAST SLO COUNTY

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

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

CREATE & LEARN

SANTA MARIA VALLEY/LOS ALAMOS

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

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

MIND & BODY

SANTA MARIA VALLEY/LOS ALAMOS

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.

MEDITATION GROUP Features a 20 minute meditation

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

NORTH COAST SLO COUNTY

KICKBOXING WITH A PURPOSE CLASSES This 6-week series will focus on developing and strengthening both the body and the mind. Tuesdays, 3:30-4:45 p.m. \$125. 805-704-9711. fromtherootsuphealing.com/offersings.html. Omni Studio, 698 Morro Bay Blvd, Morro Bay.

OUTDOORS

SANTA MARIA VALLEY/LOS ALAMOS

SANTA MARIA PUBLIC LIBRARY GARDEN CLUB These meetings will offer gardening tips, a variety of presentations, succulent exchanges, and demos. **Sept. 7**, 10:30-11:30 a.m. 805-925-0994. Santa Maria Public Library, 421 S. McClelland St., Santa Maria.

SPORTS

NORTH COAST SLO COUNTY

YOUTH SELF DEFENSE AND AWARENESS Learn the basics of mixed martial arts. For ages 6 through 9. Thursdays, 5:15-6 p.m. \$5. 805 701 7397. Morro Bay Martial Arts, 850 Shasta, Morro Bay.

KIDS & FAMILY

SANTA MARIA VALLEY/LOS ALAMOS

BODY SAFETY FOR PRESCHOOLERS The Rape Crisis Center of Santa Maria presents a special puppet show designed to teach young children about the sensitive issue of good, bad, and confusing touches. **Sept. 5**, 4-4:30 p.m. Free. 805-925-0994. Santa Maria Public Library, 421 S. McClelland St., Santa Maria.

BODY SAFETY FOR PRESCHOOLERS (SPANISH) The Rape Crisis Center of Santa Maria presents a special puppet show designed to teach young children about the sensitive issue of good, bad, and confusing touches. **Sept. 5**, 4:30-5 p.m. Free. 805-925-0994. Santa Maria Public Library, 421 S. McClelland St., Santa Maria.

HOMEWORK HELP Free after school homework help for grades K-6. No sign-ups required; first come, first served. Mondays-Thursday, 3:30-6:30 p.m. Free. 805-925-0994. Santa Maria Public Library, 421 S. McClelland St., Santa Maria.

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

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.

POPPIN PUMPKINS STORY TIME This story time features fun stories, songs, finger plays, and digital storytelling. For children aged 3 to 5 and their families. Wednesdays, 10:30-11 a.m. through Oct. 9 Free. 805-925-0994. Santa Maria Public Library, 421 S. McClelland St., Santa Maria.

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

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

SOUTH COAST SLO COUNTY

GRANDPARENTS DAY WITH TRAILWALKS During the Dana Adobe Cultural Center's monthly trail walk, trained volunteers lead a group along the woodland trails that extend along the Rancho. **Sept. 8**, 10 a.m.-1 p.m. Free. 805-929-5679. signnugenius.com/go/8050B4DA4AA2EA7FE3-blessing. DANA Adobe Cultural Center, 671 S. Oakglen Ave., Nipomo.

SAN LUIS OBISPO

POTTERY CLASSES AND PAINTING POTS Kids are welcome to come and learn various ways of working with clay, including sculpting, slab building, and throwing onto the pottery wheel. Tuesdays, Thursdays, 3:30-5 p.m. \$30. 805-896-6197. anamcre.com. Anam Cre Pottery Studio, 1243 Monterey St, San Luis Obispo.

NORTH COAST SLO COUNTY

FAMILY MOVIE WEDNESDAYS Come enjoy seeing a free, family movie once a month. All ages welcome.

Second Wednesday of every month, 2 p.m. Free. 805-995-3312. Cayucos Library, 310 B. St., Cayucos.

SPIRITUAL

SANTA MARIA VALLEY/LOS ALAMOS

FREE WOMEN'S EXERCISE CLASS Open to all women regardless of denomination. Class includes stretching, aerobics, and floor exercises while listening to uplifting, spiritual music. Free childcare offered on site. Mondays, Wednesdays, Fridays, 9-10 a.m. Free. 805-922-1919. cornerstonesm.org. Cornerstone Church, 1026 E Sierra Madre Ave., Santa Maria.

HOPE COMMUNITY CHURCH SERVICES Join Hope Community Church for Sunday morning and Wednesday night services. Children care provided for infants and children under 4. Sundays, 10:30 a.m. and Wednesdays, 6:30 p.m. Free. 805-922-2043. hopesm.com. Hope Community Church, 3010 Skyway Dr. Suite F, Santa Maria.

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

SOUTH COAST SLO COUNTY

LGBTIQ+ BUDDHIST MEDITATION GROUP Second Wednesday of every month, 7:30-8:30 p.m. Optional donation. whiteheronsangha.org. White Heron Sangha Meditation Center, 6615 Bay Laurel Place, Avila Beach.



PHOTO COURTESY OF EXPLORE LOMPOC

LOCALLY GROWN

Ocean View Flowers in Lompoc hosts this Field to Vase Dinner on Saturday, Sept. 7, from 5 to 8 p.m. Guests can enjoy a farm-to-table meal, floral cocktails, wine, and more. Flower farmer Frank Costa will host a tour of the venue after dinner. Ocean View Flowers is located at 1105 Union Sugar Ave., Lompoc. Call (800) 736-5608 or visit oceanviewflowers.com for more info.

—C.W.

VOLUNTEERS

SANTA MARIA VALLEY/LOS ALAMOS

TEEN VOLUNTEER ORIENTATION Teens will learn about library volunteering. You must attend an orientation in order to become a teen volunteer. **Sept. 9**, 5-6 p.m. Free. 805-925-0994. Santa Maria Public Library, 421 S. McClelland St., Santa Maria.

SAN LUIS OBISPO

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

FOOD & DRINK

FARMERS MARKETS

LOMPOC/VANDENBERG

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

SANTA MARIA VALLEY/LOS ALAMOS

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

Foster Rd., Santa Maria, t-mha.org.

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

SOUTH COAST SLO COUNTY

ARROYO GRANDE FARMERS MARKET Includes produce, artists and musicians. Saturdays, 12:2-2:25 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 TUESDAY FARMERS' MARKET Tuesdays, 2:30-5:30 p.m. Free. Farm Supply, 224 Tank Farm Rd., San Luis Obispo.

EVENTS

SANTA YNEZ VALLEY

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

STANDING SUN: TASTING ROOM HOURS

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

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

LOMPOC/VANDENBERG

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

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

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

SANTA MARIA VALLEY/LOS ALAMOS

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

Live Music

SANTA YNEZ VALLEY

DO NO HARM LIVE Food and drinks available for purchase. No outside food or drinks allowed. **Sept. 8**, 4:30 p.m. Cold Spring Tavern, 5995 Stagecoach Rd., Santa Barbara, 805-967-0066, coldspringtavern.com/entertainment.html.

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

FORT TAYLOR, CA LIVE Food and drinks available for purchase. No outside food or drinks allowed. **Sept. 14**, 1-4 p.m. Cold Spring Tavern, 5995 Stagecoach Rd., Santa Barbara, 805-967-0066, coldspringtavern.com/entertainment.html.

KING BEE LIVE Food and drinks available for purchase. No outside food or drinks allowed. **Sept. 15**, 4:30 p.m. Cold Spring Tavern, 5995 Stagecoach Rd., Santa Barbara, 805-967-0066, coldspringtavern.com/entertainment.html.

LEFT HAND LIONS LIVE Food and drinks available for purchase. No outside food or drinks allowed. **Sept. 13**, 6-9 p.m. Cold Spring Tavern, 5995 Stagecoach Rd., Santa Barbara, 805-967-0066, coldspringtavern.com/entertainment.html.

THE MAC TALLEY TRIP LIVE Food and drinks available for purchase. No outside food or drinks allowed. **Sept. 14**, 5-8 p.m. Cold Spring Tavern, 5995 Stagecoach Rd., Santa Barbara, 805-967-0066, coldspringtavern.com/entertainment.html.

ODDLY STRAIGHT LIVE Food and drinks available for purchase. No outside food or drinks allowed. **Sept. 7**, 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.

UNCLE UNCLE LIVE Food and drinks available for purchase. No outside food or drinks allowed. **Sept. 7**, 5-8 p.m. Cold Spring Tavern, 5995 Stagecoach Rd., Santa Barbara, 805-967-0066, coldspringtavern.com/entertainment.html.

LOMPOC/VANDENBERG

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

SANTA MARIA VALLEY/LOS ALAMOS

ALL FOR REAL WITH SARAH JACKSON First Saturday of every month, 7:30-11:30 p.m. Anthony's, 859 Guadalupe St, Guadalupe, 805-219-0977.

MUSIC LISTINGS continued page 23



PHOTO COURTESY OF HOLY CROW JAZZ BAND

ALL THAT JAZZ: Blues and jazz ensemble Holy Crow Jazz Band performs at the Solvang Festival Theater on Sunday, Sept. 8, at 3 p.m.

Learning to fly

LA-based Holy Crow Jazz Band brings vintage blues and jazz to Solvang Festival Theater

BY CALEB WISEBLOOD

The Solvang Festival Theater might not look like a Prohibition-era speakeasy, but it's sure gonna sound like one come **Sunday, Sept. 8**, when **Holy Crow Jazz Band** takes the stage at 3 p.m. (doors open at 2:30 p.m.).

This jazz and blues ensemble strives to transport listeners back to a time when music was used to combat the hardships plaguing the nation between the 1900s and 1930s. **Jessy Carolina** (vocals and percussion) and **Mario J. Maggio** (clarinet, sax, and guitar) lead this Los Angeles-based group, which features 16 members total (with duties divided between trumpet, trombone, banjo, tuba, piano, and other instruments).

The concert is part of the Solvang Festival Theater's Sunday Jazz and Beyond series, and the event is co-sponsored by Shoestring Winery. The theater is located at 420 2nd St., Solvang. Admission to the show is \$30. Call (805) 686-1789 or visit solvangfestivaltheater.org for tickets or more info.

House of the Rising Son

Reggae band **Rising Son** performs at the Naughty Oak Brewing Company in Orcutt on **Friday, Sept. 6**, from 7 to 10 p.m. This six-piece group's eclectic sound is driven by heavy drums and bass lines, combined with unique keyboard and percussion stylings. Entry to the concert is free, and Japanese and Korean cuisine from Feed My Seoul will be

available for purchase, starting a bit before the show at 5:30 p.m. and through 8:30 p.m.

The Naughty Oak Brewing Company is located at 165 S. Broadway St., suite 102, Orcutt. Call (805) 287-9663 or visit naughtyoak.com to find out more.

Going south

Carmen & The Renegade Vigilantes have evaded the long arm of the law thus far. But to quote a wise, ancient being only known to us mortals as Styx, the jig is up! The news is out! They finally found them. Bounty hunters and meter maids alike can ambush the rebellious rockers at the Maverick Saloon in Santa Ynez on **Saturday, Sept. 7**, from 8 to 11 p.m. The group is sandwiched between two additional concerts the saloon is offering this weekend: **Soundhouse** on **Friday, Sept. 6**, from 8 to 11 p.m., and **Nate Latta** on **Sunday, Sept. 8**, from 1 to 2 p.m. Admission to both shows is free.

Also in the Santa Ynez Valley, retro-country and neo-surf act **The Excellent Tradesman** present a mix of covers and originals on **Friday, Sept. 6**, from 6 to 9 p.m., at the Cold Spring Tavern. The venue also hosts Americana/classic rock group **Oddly Straight** (from 1 to 4 p.m.) and Santa Barbara-based folk rock band **Uncle Uncle** (from 5 to 8 p.m.) on **Saturday, Sept. 7**. Blues/rags artists **Tom Ball and Kenny Sultan**

LOCAL NOTES continued page 23

PHOTO COURTESY OF RISING SON'S FACEBOOK PAGE



ON THE RISE: Reggae group Rising Son performs at Naughty Oak Brewing Company on Friday, Sept. 6, from 7 to 10 p.m.

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PHOTO COURTESY OF COLD SPRING TAVERN



THAT'S ALL FOLK: Folk rock band Uncle Uncle performs at Cold Spring Tavern on **Saturday, Sept. 7**, from 5 to 8 p.m.

PHOTO COURTESY OF CYRUS CLARKE'S FACEBOOK PAGE



CLARKE ASCENDING: Local solo artist Cyrus Clarke performs at Vino et Amicis Wine Bar on **Friday, Sept. 6**, from 7 to 10 p.m.

FILE PHOTO COURTESY OF JOE DURAN



SUNDAY IN THE PARK: Santa Maria Summer Concerts in the Park presents R&B group Soul'd Out at Rotary Centennial Park on **Sunday, Sept. 8**, from 1 to 3 p.m.

LOCAL NOTES from page 22

play their regular weekly gig on **Sunday, Sept. 8**, from 1:15 to 4 p.m., followed by Motown, rock, and soul band **Do No Harm**, who close out the tavern's weekend lineup with a performance from 4:30 to 7:30 p.m. Entry to each performance is free.

More music

Old-school R&B group **Soul'd Out** will perform at Rotary Centennial Park in Santa Maria on **Sunday, Sept. 8**, from 1 to 3 p.m. The Santa Maria-based ensemble, featuring Lisa and Joe

Duran, James Conner, Jacob O'Dell, and Mike Mella, has been jamming together throughout the Central Coast and beyond since 2009. This concert marks the final event in Santa Maria's Summer Concert in the Park series, co-sponsored by the city's Recreation and Parks Department and People for Leisure and Youth Inc. Guests are welcome to pack picnics and bring lawn chairs and blankets. Admission to the show is free.

Local singer-songwriter **Cyrus Clarke** performs at Vino et Amicis Wine Bar in Orcutt on **Friday, Sept. 6**, from 7 to 10 p.m. This acoustic Americana artist is going solo for this performance, despite becoming known for collaborating with several acts, including The Expedition, The Cache Valley

Drifters, and The Acousticats (which he also founded). The bar will also host fellow soloist **Pricey Diggs** on **Saturday, Sept. 7**, from 7 to 10 p.m. Entry to both performances is complimentary.

Certain Sparks Music in Lompoc presents a special student showcase at the Lompoc Wine Factory on **Friday, Sept. 6**, from 6 to 8 p.m. (adult students), and **Saturday, Sept. 7**, from 5 to 9 p.m. (youth students). Tickets are \$5 and can only be purchased in advance. Proceeds will benefit the Certain Sparks Music Foundation, which provides music lessons and other opportunities to kids of all ages who may not be able to afford them otherwise. Visit csmusicfoundation.org to find out more. ○

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

MUSIC LISTINGS from page 22

B&V DUO LIVE Sept. 6, 7-10 p.m. Blast 825 Brewery, 241 S Broadway St., Ste. 101, Orcutt, 805-934-3777, rooneysirishpub.net.

DOC OLIVER LIVE Sept. 14, 7 p.m. Blast 825 Brewery, 241 S Broadway St., Ste. 101, Orcutt, 805-934-3777, rooneysirishpub.net.

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

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

JACOB COLE LIVE Sept. 15, 12-3 p.m. Blast 825 Brewery, 241 S Broadway St., Ste. 101, Orcutt, 805-934-3777, rooneysirishpub.net.

JOE DADDY AND THE SUMTHINGS LIVE Sept. 7, 10 p.m. Blast 825 Brewery, 241 S Broadway St., Ste. 101, Orcutt, 805-934-3777, rooneysirishpub.net.

JUKE JOINT JAMMERS DUO LIVE Sept. 13, 7 p.m. Blast 825 Brewery, 241 S Broadway St., Ste. 101, Orcutt, 805-934-3777, rooneysirishpub.net.

NATALY LOLA LIVE Sept. 8, 12-3 p.m. Blast 825 Brewery, 241 S Broadway St., Ste. 101, Orcutt, 805-934-3777, rooneysirishpub.net.

general, \$10 student/child. 805-439-0188. uuslo.org. Unitarian Universalist Fellowship Hall, 2201 Lawton Ave., San Luis Obispo.

LUNA LIVE WITH GHOST/ MONSTER Ghost/ Monster is an alternative acoustic rock group based out of the Central Coast. **Sept. 12**, 8-10 p.m. Luna Red, 1023 Chorro St., San Luis Obispo, 540-5243.

MC MAGIC MC Magic will be live. Lil Rob will open the show. **Sept. 13**, 6:30-11 p.m. \$37. 805-329-5725. fremontslo.com/mc-magic. The Fremont Theater, 1035 Monterey St., San Luis Obispo.

SAN LUIS OBISPO WIND ORCHESTRA: ALL THAT JAZZ Featuring George Stone on piano, and vocalist Inga Swearingen. **Sept. 15**, 3-5 p.m. \$15-\$45. 805-464-9434. slowinds.org. Cuesta College Cultural and Performing Arts Center, Highway 1, San Luis Obispo.

SONGWRITERS AT PLAY FEATURES MISS LEO Miss Leo is a folk singer-songwriter born and raised in the Bay Area, currently residing on the Central Coast. **Sept. 7**, 1-4 p.m. Free; tips accepted. 805-548-8515. songwritersatplay.com. Monterey St. Market, 1234 Monterey Street, #120, San Luis Obispo.

STEPHEN MARLEY California Roots Presents Stephen Marley on his Babylon By Bus Tour. **Sept. 7**, 7-11 p.m. \$33. 805-329-5725. fremontslo.com/stephen-marley. The Fremont Theater, 1035 Monterey St., San Luis Obispo.

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.

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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.

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

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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.

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. spotonevents.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. ○

PHOTO COURTESY OF THE CHUMASH CASINO RESORT



THE FONZ

The Chumash Casino Resort presents Luis Fonsi on Friday, Sept. 13, at 8 p.m. This award-winning Latin pop artist will perform some of his biggest hits, including "Despacito" and "Aqui Estoy Yo." Tickets to the show range from \$79 to \$119. The resort is located at 3400 E. Highway 246, Santa Ynez. Call (800) 248-6274 or visit chumashcasino.com for more info.

—Caleb Wiseblood

Arts Briefs

Keith Batcheller hosts painting demo in Solvang

PHOTO COURTESY OF SOLVANG ANTIQUES FINE ART GALLERY



Oil painter and illustrator Keith Batcheller will host an art demonstration at Solvang Antiques Fine Art Gallery on Wednesday, Sept. 18, from 2 to 6 p.m. The event also includes a champagne reception. Batcheller's art will also be on display through Sunday, Oct. 13, as the final featured artist in the gallery's Summer Art Series.

A native of Southern California, Batcheller's career began after graduating with honors from the Art Center College of Design and moving to New York to pursue a career in professional illustration. Over the next 30 years, Batcheller designed and illustrated advertising material for various companies—including the NFL, Mattel Toys, Coca-Cola, and Knott's.

Batcheller has also designed more than 50 movie posters for Walt Disney Studios. Some of Batcheller's other works were commissioned by the United States Air Force Art Collection and have been showcased in prominent displays at both the Pentagon and the Smithsonian Air and Space Museum.

The Solvang Antiques Fine Art Gallery is located at 1693 Copenhagen Drive, Solvang. For more info on the upcoming demonstration and other events at the gallery, call (805) 686-2322 or visit solvangantiques.com. To find out more about Batcheller and his artwork, visit keithbatcheller.com.

Grossman Gallery and Village Library seek new artists

The city of Lompoc Public Library is seeking new art exhibitors for both the Village Library and the Lompoc Library's Grossman Gallery. Artists are encouraged to apply for consideration during a call for artists event on Thursday, Sept. 5, from 3:15 to 3:45 p.m., at Grossman Gallery, located at 501 E. North Ave., Lompoc. Applicants are required to bring six exhibit-ready pieces representative of their body of work. A review will be performed by the Library's Art Advisory Committee. Call (805) 757-1485 for more info.

Valley Art Gallery showcases art at Santa Maria Airport

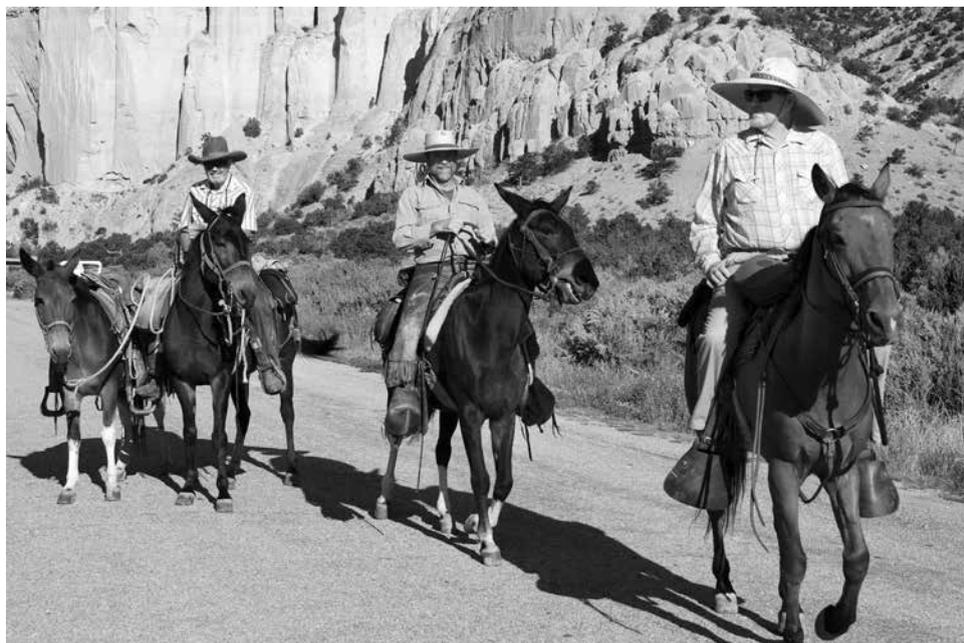
PHOTO COURTESY OF VALLEY ART GALLERY



Metal Fusion, a new exhibition of metallic art by Shamrock Acosta, opened at the Santa Maria Airport on Thursday, Sept. 4 and will run through Sunday Nov. 3. The exhibit is presented by Valley Art Gallery in Orcutt and showcases a variety of Acosta's metallic sculptures. The airport is located at 3217 Terminal

Drive, Santa Maria. To find out more about Metal Fusion, visit valleyartgallery.org. ○

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



COME TRAIL AWAY: *The Old Spanish Trail*, a documentary following three horseback riders on a 1,200 mile journey from Los Angeles to Santa Fe, New Mexico, screens in Santa Ynez on Sunday, Sept. 8, at 4 p.m.

Trailblazers

Filmmaker Benedicte Schoyen discusses new documentary, *The Old Spanish Trail*, screening in Santa Ynez

BY CALEB WISEBLOOD

Hollywood aspiration wasn't what brought filmmaker Benedicte Schoyen, born and raised in Oslo, Norway, to relocate to Los Angeles in her early 20s. The big move was to study ballet and eventually open her own dance studio, a dream she accomplished far before developing an interest in filmmaking.

While working as a choreographer on the Eurovision Song Contest, she began utilizing video cameras to record each dance from different angles.

"I played a lot with filming and editing my own little videos," she told the *Sun*. "I became very passionate about it. Editing was kind of choreography in a different way and I loved it."

With that perspective in mind, Schoyen feels that "dance and film go hand in hand," she added, citing that both media require intricate timing and a certain "musicality." From that point on, the professional dancer continued dabbling in filmmaking, nurturing her growing passion before finally committing to a large project.

After being invited on a four-week trip to Niger, Schoyen decided to invest in a new camera and document the experience. The invitation came from Leslie Clark, founder of The Nomad Foundation, a nonprofit dedicated to supplying resources to otherwise unassisted nomadic tribes. Leslie is also the aunt of Ned Clark, Schoyen's husband, hence their connection.

The footage Schoyen shot, centered on Leslie's efforts in Niger, culminated in the completion of her first feature film, *Roadtrip Niger*. The film was still in post-production by the time Schoyen was set on directing her next documentary at the end of 2014. Like her debut, the film is a family affair—this time following her father-in-law, horseback rider Jim Clark; and two of his colleagues, Richard

Waller and Otis Calef.

Where to? Down the 1,200-mile stretch from Los Angeles to Santa Fe, New Mexico, known as the Old Spanish Trail (which became the title of the film). Their trip marked the first

time anyone had attempted to ride the trail's full length on horseback and mule since 1849.

"I basically followed them on the journey and documented what happened," Schoyen said. "I never tried to orchestrate any drama to make it a better film, but I sprinkled some history lessons and stayed true to what

experience the guys had."

Nearly five years after shooting began, Schoyen's second feature film, *The Old Spanish Trail*, is making its way up and down the festival circuit, picking up an award along the way (Best



MEET THE FILMMAKER: Director Benedicte Schoyen will take part in a Q&A following the Santa Ynez Valley Historical Museum's screening of her new documentary.

Environmental and Mountain Culture Film at the 2019 Mountain Film Festival).

On Sunday, Sept. 8, the Santa Ynez Valley Historical Museum will be screening the documentary. Schoyen and both Clarks, Jim and Ned (who also scored and narrated the film), will take part in a Q&A after the film.

"The film features horsemen who are very much like our [Santa Ynez] Valley residents," the museum's executive director, Brian Stenfors, told the *Sun*. "Local riders, like the men in the film, are interested in retracing the footsteps of those before us. They seek solace from everyday modern life by exploring the oak and chaparral environment of the valley backcountry."

Stenfors believes the film will resonate deeply with Santa Ynez's riding community and will serve as a great reminder of how fortunate local riders are to live in a region that embraces trail riding, ranching, and land stewardship, he explained.

"There is high interest in our community to preserve this recreational pursuit by protecting the area from overdevelopment for the benefit of current and future generations," Stenfors said. "The message in *The Old Spanish Trail* reinforces our desire to respect our past as we plan for the future." ○

Arts Editor Caleb Wiseblood's horseback experience is limited to pony rides at Waller Park. Contact him at cwiseblood@santamariasun.com.



FAMILY DYNAMIC: Jim Clark, Schoyen's father-in-law, is one of the three horseback riders documented in *The Old Spanish Trail*.

THE IMPORTANCE OF BEING EARNEST

By Oscar Wilde



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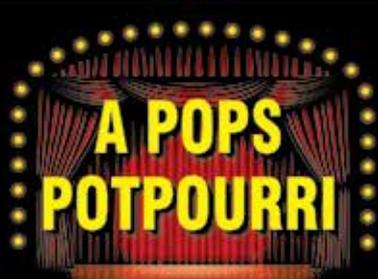
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PHOTOS BY CALEB WISEBLOOD



THIS IS THE FREUD I'M LOOKING FOR: *Freud*, a sculpture of legendary neurologist Sigmund Freud, is just one of the 19 outdoor sculptures scattered throughout the city of Guadalupe.



FIDDLE ME THIS: *Fiddler on the Roof* is located just outside Guadalupe City Hall (918 Obispo St.).

Map to the stars

Your go-to guide to new outdoor sculptures scattered throughout Guadalupe

BY CALEB WISEBLOOD

It's 11 a.m. on Thursday, Aug. 29, and my eyes are fixated on a giant pair of scissors. It's not exactly the artwork I came here for, but it's aesthetically fascinating nonetheless, inviting active participation from the viewer ("Are these scissors really big? Or am I just really small?").

I'm standing outside Guadalupe City Hall with a medium-sized crowd and, if the Goliath-sized scissors haven't already given it away, we're about to witness a ribbon cutting ceremony.

Treasure hunt

Installation of 19 outdoor sculptures, all on loan from the Squire Foundation, was completed in segments over the course of two months. The first set of sculptures arrived on June 27, and the last set premiered on Aug. 29. The sculptures will remain in place for a minimum of five years. Visit thesquirefoundation.org for more info.

The gathering is to celebrate the installation of 19 outdoor sculptures scattered throughout the city, all on loan from the Squire Foundation, a Santa Barbara-based nonprofit dedicated to supporting public art. The first two sculptures in sight, from

where we're standing, are *Blue Couple* and *Fiddler on the Roof* (both are located outside City Hall, 918 Obispo St.).

As soon as the ceremony ends, attendees are offered printed maps of the city, with each sculpture location marked. Let the games begin! For most human beings,

almost all of the sculptures are within walking (or at least biking) distance from one another. I think I *almost* fit into that category, but part of me is leaning toward just jumping back into my car and hopping from place to place. Probably more like half of me. And speaking of half, the first sculpture I trek to is *Eddie Cantor: Two Face*, followed by *Easter Flower* (both are located along the walking path at 4550 10th St.).

I'm proud to say I walked to both from City Hall, leaving my lazy-minded, short-cut-scheming Chevy Aveo in the parking lot where it belongs! I'm not taking the easy way out just yet. Looking over the map, I assure myself that my next intended stop, *Blue Bird* (located outside the Dunes Center, at 1065 Guadalupe St.) is within my reach, if continuing on foot.

If you're trying to see the most sculptures in a short amount of time, I would recommend strolling up or down (depending where you're coming from) this road in particular, Guadalupe Street (technically Highway 1). Eight sculptures are located along this route.

After leaving *Blue Bird*, I locate a gem titled *Seed Pod* just a few blocks down the road (884 Guadalupe St.). *Joy Flower* (726 Guadalupe St.) is next, but quite a bit farther. I'm starting to wish I'd brought my scooter or roller skates at this point. But the best is yet to come. My favorite part of the journey turned out to be no more than three blocks after that, where not one, not two, but five different sculptures awaited my arrival (directly across the street from the Guadalupe Hardware Store, 393 Guadalupe St.).

White Dress on Red Woman is the first from my direction, followed by three musician figures simply named after their respective instruments, *Tambourine*, *Violin*, and *Flute*, and last but certainly not least, *Freud*. That's right, Sigmund Freud. Definitely my favorite sculpture of the day. My biggest regret was not whipping out my *Pokemon Go* for a quick photo op. I would have loved to capture a screenshot of Cubone, Pidgey, or Weedle chillin' on Freud's shoulder. ☐

Arts Editor Caleb Wiseblood is fluent in Freudian slips. Contact him at cwiseblood@santamariasun.com.



GENTLEMEN, IT HAS BEEN A PRIVILEGE: Three musician figures named after their respective instruments, *Tambourine*, *Violin*, and *Flute*, are located directly across the street from the Guadalupe Hardware Store (393 Guadalupe St.).

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What's it worth? **Stream it**
Where's it showing? **Movies Lompoc, Parks Plaza**
In case you need a refresher, this is the third offering of the *Fallen* franchise that started in 2013 with *Olympus Has Fallen* and was followed in 2016 with *London Has Fallen*. Each stars noble Secret Service Agent Mike Banning (Gerard Butler). In this newest iteration directed by Ric Roman Waugh (*Felon, Snitch, Shot Caller*), after being framed for attempting to assassinate the president, Banning must evade the FBI and his own agency as he works to clear his name and find the true culprit, who aims to take out President Thumbull (Morgan Freeman).

Well, thank God for Nick Nolte, whose mid-film appearance as Mike Banning's estranged father, Clay Banning, managed to stop me from napping through this predictable, by-the-numbers actioner. Clay is a grizzled old Vietnam vet who long before abandoned his wife and child for a life living off the grid and away from a culture and government he rejects as corrupt. Nolte, the former heartthrob of films such as *The Deep* (1977) and *48 Hrs.* (1982), has really embraced his scruffy carbuncular old age in films like *Tropic Thunder* (2008) and *Warrior* (2011). In *Angel Has Fallen*, he actually manages to give this otherwise hollow, wooden affair a beating heart.

After the opening set piece, an idea stolen from an old James Bond film, we get the set-up. Banning has a friendship with a former fellow soldier, Wade Jennings (Danny Huston), who now runs a struggling private sector military company (think *Blackwater*). When Huston turns up as a supposed good guy in anything, regular cinemagoers know to be wary because Huston is a helluva bad guy! His character, Jennings, needs a president willing to employ firms like his on the global battlefield, which Thumbull isn't, and since Banning is up for director of the Secret Service, maybe he could put in a good word for his old comrade in arms. Trust me: What's coming is telegraphed from a mile away.

What follows will appeal to fans of the franchise, which once again delivers explosions, gunfights, vehicle chases, and hand-to-hand combat. Unfortunately, it's a familiar path from beginning to end, right down to Banning's wife, Leah (Piper Perabo), and toddler daughter being imperiled. There are exactly zero surprises awaiting viewers, which is maybe why the audience score on Rotten Tomatoes is 95 percent while the critic score is 40 percent. If you want to see something familiar, by all means go. If you were hoping to be in any way surprised by the story, you'll leave as dissatisfied as I was. (120 min.)

—Glen Starkey

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

Are you my mother?

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

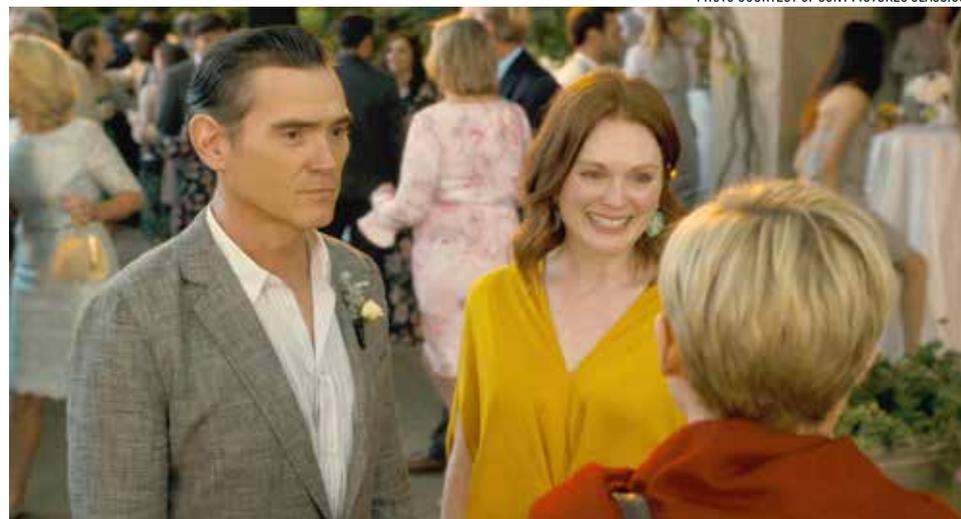
The past and present collide when Isabel (Michelle Williams), an orphanage owner in Kolkata, India, travels to New York for a meeting with a mysterious potential benefactor (Julianne Moore). Director Bart Freundlich (Wolves) helms this American remake of the 2006 Danish drama of the same name. (112 min.)

Karen: In Kolkata, India, Isabel manages an orphanage, leading meditation or taking long rides through town to bring meals to the children. While Isabel cares for all the children, she has a deep bond with Jai (Vir Pachisia), who she's taken care of since he was found on the side of the road as a toddler. In her calm, humanitarian life, the one thing that troubles her is a lack of funding. In order to secure a donation from a donor in New York, Isabel must make the plane ride. Something doesn't add up, though, because the donation seems to come with hidden conditions. Upon meeting the donor, Theresa, it turns out is married to Isabel's old boyfriend, Oscar (Billy Crudup), who has kept a secret from her that will change the family dynamic forever. But Oscar isn't the only one keeping secrets. While I enjoyed the overall family drama, the acting, and the story, this film isn't unique. It's a remake of the 2006 film of the same name, written and directed by Susanne Bier (*Bird Box*). I'm not quite sure I understand why there was a remake at all, but I'm not mad about it.

Caleb: I'm definitely not mad about it either, although I did go into *After The Wedding* with caution, having loved the original Oscar-nominated Danish film. The divisive reviews—with scores ranging from 44 percent (critics) to 78 percent (audience) on Rotten Tomatoes—made me even more trepidatious. I wasn't expecting this remake to surpass its source material, which it doesn't. But I also wasn't expecting to be so impressed with Williams' moving performance as Isabel, a gender-swapped version of Jacob (Mads Mikkelsen) from the original. If the film brings anything new to the table at all, it's just

AFTER THE WEDDING

What's it rated? **PG-13**
What's it worth, Karen? **Matinee**
What's it worth, Caleb? **Matinee**
Where's it showing? **Parks Plaza, The Palm in SLO**



AWKWARD: Oscar (Billy Crudup) attempts his best poker face upon realizing his wife (Julianne Moore) has invited his ex-girlfriend (Michelle Williams) to their daughter's wedding.

that—the role reversals. Still, if I had to choose between the two performances, Mikkelsen wins by just a hair. There's just so much raw intensity in Bier's film that gets lost in translation, unfortunately. But still, Williams isn't just phoning it in, and neither is Moore, who is effective as Theresa. Like her male counterpart in the original, Jorgen (Rolf Lassgard), the character is multilayered, bipolar, unhinged, and ultimately tragic. I thought Crudup's casting as Oscar—filling Helene's (Sidsel Babet Knudsen) shoes—was a safe bet. I was also childishly amused that it's the second time this year we've seen him married to someone strung out on prescription meds half, if not all, of the time (*Where'd You Go, Bernadette*).

Karen: We were definitely cracking up when Oscar appeared on screen; it seems that he's getting typecast these days, but hey, you gotta do what you gotta do. I haven't seen the original, although seeing this remake definitely leaves me wondering about the original, so I'll be searching the web for the rental. That being said, I did like the storyline of this Caucasian woman who seemingly doesn't have a bad bone in her body and devotes her life to these less fortunate children. I don't want to give away anything, but Isabel has definitely made some life-altering decisions that would lead to pulling apart a family. I did appreciate how different the characters were and the strong personalities all the actors brought to the table. Let me tell you, there is a lot of crying, yelling, and awkward moments that I felt put the audience right

alongside Isabel as she tries to understand what she's really doing in New York. I appreciated the cast because I felt everyone committed to their character and that was apparent on screen. While I'm not entirely in love with the film, I would definitely recommend you take the time to get lost in the story in the comfort of your nearby movie theater.

Caleb: For me it was like seeing a new production of a great play, albeit a far more conventional production than Bier's. The original takes its time a bit more, leaving more room for subtlety, and less so for objective resolutions. I need to watch it again, because I'm curious about one character in particular—the counterpart of Frank (Will Chase), the groom in the titular wedding, and future son-in-law to Oscar and Theresa. This guy seems slimy from the get-go and proves to be so pretty early on. He's obviously not a good dude and I'm fine with that, but I would have appreciated a less black-and-white characterization. Then again, I can't recall how much of a jerk his former incarnation is, so I might be eating these words later. Overall, this remake still gets enough things right for me to recommend it as worthwhile, whether you've seen the original or not. Maybe it was just Mychael Danna's (*Life of Pi, Little Miss Sunshine, Hearts in Atlantis*) beautifully bittersweet score manipulating my emotions. But I'm not complaining. Go ahead, Mychael, tell me how I should be feeling right now. ○

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

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FILM REVIEWS from page 28

GOOD BOYS

What's it rated? **R**
 What's it worth? **Matinee**
 Where's it showing? **Movies Lompoc, 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 spin 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.

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 ahold 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 buddy 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

IT: CHAPTER 2

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

BATMAN BEGINS

When? **2005**
 What's it rated? **PG-13**
 Where? **Netflix, Amazon Prime, iTunes**

The only complaint I have when it comes to *The Dark Knight*, a nearly flawless film, is how much it tends to overshadow its predecessor, *Batman Begins*. In fact, many people didn't even realize *The Dark Knight* was a sequel, at least at the time of its release. It's a testament to how well the film stands on its own, but I still can't help but pity those poor, unfortunate souls who missed out on Christian Bale's first outing as the Caped Crusader.

It had been eight years since the ultra campy

PHOTO COURTESY OF WARNER BROS. PICTURES



RESET BUTTON: Christian Bale redefined the Caped Crusader in director Christopher Nolan's reboot, *Batman Begins* (2005).

Batman & Robin (1997)—universally hated, except by ME of all people (but that's a discussion for another time)—graced theaters only to be met with boos and walk-outs. Enter director Christopher Nolan, a man with a vision. A vision so pure, so godlike, it nearly blinded my unworthy mortal 12-year-old eyes as I sat in awe, staring up at a screen inhabited by a sword-wielding ninja version of Liam Neeson (this was three years before *Taken*, mind you, so he wasn't exactly the rich man's Chuck Norris yet).

I'm of course recalling a specific sequence in the film in which Henri Ducard (Neeson) and Bruce Wayne (Bale) are duking it out on a glacier. The constant cracking of the ice combined with Hans Zimmer and James Newton Howard's taut



score is haunting. Sorry if this sounds like I'm geeking out on an unhealthy level, but I'm already too many words in to go back and take a more objective stance.

And while I'm at it, I think enough years have passed to discuss the twist with Neeson's character. Although he is Wayne's mentor, providing him with the necessary martial arts training to later become Batman, Ducard's true identity is Ra's al Ghul—the film's big baddie. What made the reveal interesting was the fact that Batman didn't have to square off against a costumed villain for once, although we still get one in the form of Dr. Jonathan Crane, aka Scarecrow (Cillian Murphy).

Murphy is chilling in the role, although the character is ultimately just one of Ra's al Ghul's pawns. The same can be said of mob boss Carmine Falcone (Tom Wilkinson). The film is full of bad guys, which is ironic because its biggest strength is prioritizing focus on Bruce Wayne/Batman (obviously not one of my strengths so far). Prior Batman films were consistently criticized for their "villain of the week" attitude, but *Batman Begins* was inarguably the first to break that curse.

I haven't even touched on Bale's performance, which is a massive shame on my part, because he's brilliant. I get why people love to make fun of his growly Batman voice, but I feel like he gets it just right in this one. It's the other two where things go overboard ("WHERE'S THE TRIGGER?!"). (140 min.)

—Caleb Wiseblood

NEW From director Andres Muschietti (*Mama, It*) comes the anticipated sequel to the 2017 Stephen King adaptation. Twenty-seven years after his last appearance, the demonic clown, Pennywise (Bill Skarsgard), has returned to torment the residents of Derry. The Losers' Club, who have long since drifted apart from one another, must reunite to stop him. (170 min.)

—Caleb Wiseblood

THE PEANUT BUTTER FALCON

What's it rated? **PG-13**
 What's it worth? **Full price**
 Where's it showing? **Parks Plaza**

Writers-directors Tyler Nilson and Michael Schwartz helm this adventure dramedy about Zak (Zack Gottsagen), a young man with Down syndrome, who runs away from a nursing home to pursue his dream of becoming a professional wrestler. With the help of small-time outlaw Tyler (Shia LeBeouf) and kind nursing home employee Eleanor (Dakota Johnson), the trio embarks on a Mark Twain-like odyssey.

This sweet crowd pleaser hits all the right notes and is enriched by a stellar cast. It opens with 22-year-old Zak, a ward of the state, stuck in a nursing home because the state "has nowhere else to put him." The nursing home residents love him because he's a sweet young man, but he doesn't belong there. His roommate is Carl (an excellent Bruce Dern), who's exceedingly tired of watching Zak's old wrestling tapes of his favorite pro wrestler, The Salt Water Redneck, aka Clint (an equally excellent Thomas Haden Church), who runs a small wrestling school. Long story short, Zak eventually slips out of the home and is on the road.

Meanwhile, we meet Tyler, who's stealing crabs out of crab pots. Through flashbacks, we learn he had a brother, Mark (Jon Bernthal), with whom he fished but who has since passed away.



FLOAT ON: Bill Skarsgard reprises his role as the devilish clown, Pennywise, in the horror sequel, *It: Chapter 2*.

Tyler's just trying to get by, but the crab pot owners—Duncan (John Hawkes) and Ratboy (Yelawolf)—are now out to get him, forcing him to run. Tyler at first reluctantly but later joyfully promises to get Zak to the Salt Water Redneck's wrestling school, and off they go, Huck Finn style.

The humor throughout is pitch perfect, and there's something special about watching differently-abled actor Gottsagen embody Zak, who has a lot to teach audiences about what it means to have Down syndrome. There's a scene when Zak and Tyler are talking about good guys and bad guys in pro wrestling, and it sets up the heart of the film.

Johnson as Eleanor is perfectly cast, and she and LeBeouf have great chemistry as their two characters spark a romance. The film is ultimately about finding your own family, the power of acceptance, but also about redemption, especially for Tyler, whose existence hovers between good guy/bad guy status.

This is a small film with a big heart. I loved it. (93 min.)

—Glen

Sun movie reviews were compiled by Arts Editor Caleb Wiseblood this week. Contact him at cwiseblood@santamariasun.com.

PHOTO COURTESY OF ARMORY FILMS



SENSE OF ADVENTURE: Zak (Zack Gottsagen, right), a young man with Down syndrome, embarks on a Mark Twain-like odyssey, joined by small-time outlaw Tyler (Shia LeBeouf, left) and kind nursing home employee Eleanor (Dakota Johnson, center), in *The Peanut Butter Falcon*.

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COWBOY, BABY: Forget barbecue chicken pizza. I know it's a classic for a reason, but it's time to mix things up a bit—with some tri-tip. This Orcutt Cowboy pizza was blasted at 825 degrees Fahrenheit and served crispy and chewy and cheesy all at the same time.

The future of beer is here

Orcutt's Blast 825 Brewery ushers in new era with self-pour wall of taps

BY NICK POWELL

The wonder of self-pour taps might be common knowledge in some circles, but they're all brand spanning new to me. On a recent Friday, I explored these space-age contraptions at the vaguely corporate but also thoroughly enjoyable Blast 825 Brewery in Old Orcutt. This new way to serve beer works like this:

Patrons prove their age and give their money to

a bartender, who programs a seemingly magical card with enough credits to cover 32 ounces of beer. Then the happy patron can take that wonderful card and stroll over to a wall of taps with 40 plus options and digital explanations of each brew. Placing the card in a special slot at each tap activates the faucet and lets the beer flow. People can sip samples at their leisure or pour full pints of their favorites. Glasses are at the ready in

A Blast and a half

For a good time, head to Blast 825 Brewery, where fun is king. The service is fast and friendly; the drinks are plentiful; and the food is a step above your basic bar grub. Check the restaurant's calendar on Facebook for a list of special events, like a comedy show Sept. 5, regular concerts, DJ nights, and Sunday brunches with bottomless drink options throughout football season. Located at 241 S. Broadway St., unit 101, in Old Orcutt.

a nearby refrigerator.

It's a beautiful system and a truly remarkable feat of modern science. Someday we'll struggle to describe to our grandchildren the paralyzing anxiety of selecting one beer when there's 37 options and a roomful of people vying for the attention of the rushed bartenders. All you could do was order the first IPA you saw and hope for the best.

I was there to have a little drink and chat with William D'Urso, a new colleague here at the *Sun* who just moved to the area from Long Beach. He owed me a beer, and I had heard that Blast 825 Brewery had a new menu.

D'Urso has been around a bit—raised in Vermont, studied in Germany, then wrote for years in Los Angeles. He'd seen this self-pour situation before and showed me the ropes. It was everything I'd ever wanted from a beer sampling experience. I always feel like I'm putting the

bartender through hell asking to sample this and that, even if it's slow at the bar. I choose quickly, but I would love to take my time and taste different styles. Flights are fun, but they're kind of cumbersome and don't let you go all in if you really like a particular draught. Self-pour solves all of those issues.

With so many options, I wanted to try something outside my comfort zone and went for a pear hard cider and a sour beer with cucumber. Both were interesting but not really my bag. I tried a hazy double IPA from Offshoot Beer Co. that D'Urso recommended and remembered why I keep coming back to those dependably delicious IPAs. This one had strong hops with a juicy sweetness in the background, which apparently comes from the specific yeast strains that produce the signature cloudy haze. I later tried to search Offshoot Beer Co.'s website to find the specific name of their brew, but these people seem to dedicate their entire production toward pumping out new hazy IPAs every week. So I don't know if I had the Two if by Sea or the Stretch or the Pawz. I also suspect that, given the great example I sampled and their constant focus and experimentation on only hazy IPAs, most of their beers are probably very good.

Blast 825 Brewery gets its name from their

EATS continued page 32



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PHOTOS BY NICK POWELL



WHO'S A GOOD CHIP? Nacho enthusiasts often get so consumed in constructing the perfect pile of toppings that they end up with only a few perfect bites before it all kind of melts into that sad swamp of limp chips. But these babies stayed crisp, even when drenched in delicious beer cheese.

for patrons to spread out but set up so that tables retained some privacy. The bar was lively with a musician onstage and folks moving back and forth to sample beers. The service was attentive and friendly. The entire time I was there, I don't think I ever had to wait for anything.

I had beers to sample in the brief time our food was cooking and good conversation back at our seats. If ever it lulled, we could pop up for another little sample of something.

D'Urso noted that the place seemed like it was designed precisely to appeal to millennials, which both of us are. It made sense. I'd never felt so understood, so truly seen by anyone, let alone a restaurant. They knew what I wanted before I did. I'm not sure how to feel about it.

Run by Milano Restaurants International, a franchiser specializing in American/Italian casual dining, Blast 825 Brewery is our generation's Applebee's or Chili's. I could tell that the vibe was methodically



PEAKING AT PRETZELS: It was love at first sight. The only problem? I didn't order that pretzel. It belonged to an exceedingly nice and patient couple across the bar who graciously let some weirdo take pictures of their food.

EATS from page 31

extreme-heat pizza ovens that can cook a medium-sized pie to crispy perfection in just three minutes at 825 degrees Fahrenheit, so I had to try a pizza and chose one with a local twist, the Orcutt Cowboy, which was basically a classic barbecue pizza but with tri-tip subbed in for chicken.

Otherwise, the menu offered mostly standard but inviting franchise fair—burgers, apps, salads, and steaks. D'Urso ordered nachos, and both plates came out almost immediately. The food was good, not anything amazing, but solid. I enjoyed it, and it went great with the beers. It just wasn't the star of the show.

The vibe made the experience. Every section of the building seemed perfectly designed to maximize fun. The patio area was kid friendly with cornhole and games. The dining room was spacious enough

fabricated, but that was easy to overlook because it's exactly what I want in a bar experience. They're even hosting a comedy show Sept. 5, and they sometimes set up Sunday bounce houses so kids and parents can enjoy their weekends at the same spot.

My only lingering unease comes from the clearly pressured, overly eager service. It's a weird complaint when the service is too good, but I've had to pretend to be that eager. I just get uncomfortable whenever I witness it.

When our 32 ounces were divided and consumed and we ran out of politics to talk, D'Urso went off to work on what sounds like a doozy of an article, and I went home to watch Hulu with the people I love. Not a bad evening. ○

Contributor Nick Powell is looking for interesting people to show off their favorite food spots. Please send itineraries to npowell@santamariasun.com.

Powell's Picks

• I tried the new bao buns that were recently added to the menu at **Al Pho in Santa Maria** this weekend, and they were killer little snacks. This Asian street food is similar to tacos in that some meat and veggies are folded into a flat bread, but the combination of cilantro, pickled onion, carrots, pork belly, and Sriracha sauce on those fluffy rice buns is off the charts. Get your hands on some at 1201 E Main St.

• **Flying Goat Cellars in Lompoc** is celebrating its 20th harvest with an intimate winemaker dinner at the 1251 West Laurel Ave. location on Sept. 14. Attendees will get a sneak peak if the harvest process, advanced samples of upcoming wines, and a delicious lunch with vegetarian

options. Tickets cost \$50 for the general public and \$25 for wine club members.

• There's a new noodle in the house, specifically chef Golzar Barrera's **APF Ramen at Haven Provisions** in Solvang. This long-term pop-up noodle house opens Sept. 5 and will serve high quality ramen from Thursday to Sunday with lunch and dinner services. On Sunday, they switch gears and serve a Persian-inspired brunch, featuring a beef shank stew and a sweet and savory chicken porridge. Stop by 448 Atterdag Road for a truly unique breakfast. ○

Contributing writer Nick Powell is cooking up ideas for fresh food recommendations. Send your suggestions to npowell@santamariasun.com.

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205 CORBETT CANYON DR, 3BD, 2BA, \$695,000, Sat 12-3, Kellye Grayson, 805-316-0375, Kellye Grayson, RE#02014877

839 CHUKAR ST., 3BD, 2.5BA, \$819,000, Sat 1-3, Palo Mesa Realty, 805-801-0147, Pat Okura, DRE 01336946

292 JAMES WAY, 4BD, 2.5BA, \$847,000, Fri 9:45 - 12:30, Century 21 Hometown Realty, 805-235-0331, Jennifer Leininger, #1187424

CAMBRIA

2050 SHERWOOD DR, 3BD, 4BA, \$949,000, Fri 1-4, The Real Estate Company of Cambria

441 HUNTINGTON RD, 2BD, 2BA, \$738,000, Fri 11-1, RE/MAX Parkside

530 CROYDEN LN, 2BD, 3BA, \$875,000, Tue 12-3, RE/MAX Pines by the Sea

GROVER BEACH

121 GRANDVIEW DR, 5BD, 4.5BA, \$845,000, Sat 11-2, Auer Real Estate, 805-801-6694, Brenda Auer, #1310530

LOMPOC

747 ONSTOTT RD, 4BD, 3.5BA, \$615,000, Fri 1-4, Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices, 805-687-2666, Todd Mcchesney, #864365

LOS OSOS

2361 CLARANITA, 3BD, 2BA, \$759,000, Fri 9:45-11:45, RE/MAX DEL ORO, 805-459-1627, Michael Puhek, PI19196882

1373 13TH ST, 3BD, 2BA, \$559,500, Tue 12-3, Century 21 Hometown Realty

MORRO BAY

2886 FIR AVENUE, 2BD, 1BA, \$589,000, Fri 1-4, West Coast Properties, 805-235-1997, STEVE MARVIN, DRE#00993904

PASO ROBLES

936 SALIDA DEL SOL DRIVE, 4BD, 3BA, \$780,000, Sun 11-2, Dart Realty, 805-709-2972, Judy Barsamian-Armstrong, 02083415

428 PEACHTREE, 4BD, 4BA, \$835,000, Fri 1-4, RE/MAX PARKSIDE REAL ESTATE, 805-296-7725, CYNTHIA CANET, REALTOR, 01747077

297 MONTEBELLO OAKS, 4BD, 3.5BA, \$744,900, Sat 1-4, BHHS HALLMARK REALTY, 805-237-4700 x11, Vickie Mullins, RE#00479529

128 CAMELIA, 3BD, 2.5BA, \$525,000, Sun 1-4, BHHS HALLMARK REALTY, 805-237-4700 x11, Vickie Mullins, RE#00479529

PISMO BEACH

1037 CANYON LANE, 3BD, 2BD, \$881,000, Sun 11-3, Re-Con West Inc., 805-556-5608, Greta Jensen DRE#01152405, DRE#01251874

SAN LUIS OBISPO

3072 CALLE MALVA, 3BD, 2.5BA, \$725,000-\$850,000, Sat 11-4 Sun 11-4, Midland Pacific Homes Toscana, 831-238-4053 or 805-712-3266, Debi or Amy, 01856543

3292 VIA ENSENADA, 2BD, 2.5BA, \$587,500, Sun 1-3:30, MGR Private Capital&Real Estate Group, 805-801-9640, Victoria Relva, DRE 01954241

1252 OCEANAIRE DR, 4BD, 2BA, \$729,000, Fri 1-4, For sale by owner

SANTA MARIA

1341 DOLCECCO LANE, 3BD, 2BA, \$359,900, Fri 11-1, Mint Properties, 805-310-3161, Sandra Cervantes, BRE # 01948795

354 WILSON DR, 4BD, 2BA, \$475,000, Sun 11-3, Champion Real Estate, 805-878-2288, Cheryl Proett, #1300680

1229 BARNETTE RD, 3BD, 2BA, \$439,900, Tues 10-1, Compass, 805-215-3700, Barry Brown, #1398849

SANTA YNEZ

1343 N REFUGIO RD, 4BD, 3.5BA, \$2,150,000, Fri 1-4, Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices, 805-448-7500, Laura Drammer, #1209580

5510 BASELINE AVE, 3BD, 2.5BA, \$1,835,000, Fri 1-4, Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices, 805-682-3242, Kerry Mormann, #598625

SOLVANG

930 LADAN DR, 4BD, 3.5BA, \$1,495,000, Fri 1-4, Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices, 805-448-7500, Laura Drammer, #1209580

653 HILLSIDE DR, 3BD, 3BA, \$710,000, Tue 12-3, Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices, 805-901-1156, Brenda Cloud, #1772551

327 5TH ST, 2BD, 1.5BA, \$645,000, Fri 1-4, Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices, 805-448-7500, Laura Drammer, #1209580

TEMPLETON

305 DANTE LANE, 3BD, 2.5BA, \$700,000, Sun 11-3, Re-Con West, LLC., 805-556-5608, Greta Jensen DRE#01152405, DRE#01251874

465 ABRAMSON, 3BD, 2BA, \$400,000, Sun 6-9, For sale by owner

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\$2400 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.

\$1950 422 Empire Dr 3+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

\$1825 1156 Via Mavis 2+2, Creekridge Villa 1stry Orcutt condo in gated comm w/2car grg, ldry hkups, lg mstr ste, patio, no pets

\$1650 419 Tiffany Drive 2+1.5, Large 2stry condo near 101 frwy/hospital w/open kitchen, w/d hkups, priv patio, bdrms u/s, 2car det grg, no pets, tenants pay all utils

\$1450 545 Pinal Ave #B 2+1, Old Orcutt apt in 4-plex w/ldry hkups, sm patio, tile/wood lam thru-out, wtr paid, 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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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