Housing the Homeless

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

BY CAMILLIA LANHAM
An estimated 70 percent of heavy metals in landfills comes from discarded electronic items, also known as e-waste. These items also contain toxic materials. Below is an abbreviated list:

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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 include 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 combating 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.

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**BRIEFS**

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

**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.

**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.

**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

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**Microclimate Weather Forecast**

By KSBY Chief Meteorologist Dave Hovde

**Thursday**

- **COASTAL** → High 77 Low 57
- **INLAND** → High 95 Low 57

**Friday**

- **COASTAL** → High 76 Low 56
- **INLAND** → High 91 Low 56

**Saturday**

- **COASTAL** → High 74 Low 55
- **INLAND** → High 88 Low 55

**Sunday**

- **COASTAL** → High 75 Low 55
- **INLAND** → High 86 Low 54

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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 a press 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 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 in the city jail. Although the report states that there haven't been any drug overdose deaths recorded since an inmate died of a heroin overdose in 2016, 209 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 intended, by and large, to observe that in the last few years the contraband problem actually worsened."

—Zac Ezzone

Santa Maria proposing water, sewer rate increases

Water users in Santa Maria may have to pay higher rates depending on water usage 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 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 restructuring 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 21B, which state voters approved in 1996, the city must pay 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 will remain 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 Ezzone

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
Housing the vulnerable

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

BY CAMILLIA LANHAM

he 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 is 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 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.”
‘Unless you can fund it, you can’t build it. The money is a big part of it.’
— John Polanskey, 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 systemic 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 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 care for. It’s really just caring for our community.”

Reach Editor Camilla Lanham at clanham@santamariasun.com.

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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—who whose owner 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 to a 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 “fatbergs” 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 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.

“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 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 don’t cook any ingredients in their kitchens.

“You would 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 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.

“There are in conflict, and until there 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 zezzone@santamariasun.com.

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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.

Enjoy great FREE Sunday concerts at 1pm with hot dogs, beer, wine, and ice cream.

Monte Mills & The Lucky Horseshoe Band
Iconic Country & Old Time Rock & Roll

Arroyo Grande Village+
SUMMER CONCERT SERIES

September 8th

Welcome Heroes

Monte Mills & The Lucky Horseshoe Band
Iconic Country & Old Time Rock & Roll
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 2014 and 2015 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 city 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 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, theory that 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 contract. The hang-up for the SCVB, which would ultimately kill that and any future offers, was an at-will clause allowing the city to end the contract at any time.

Jensen said that clause was a non-starter, and the city’s insistence on maintaining ownership over all SCVB property was also unacceptable. But the two sides managed to come to a short-term deal to keep the lights on at the SCVB. That contract, for $25,893, ended on the last day of August.

The SCVB’s lawyer, Jack L. Collison, sent a final rejection to Wullbrandt on Aug. 23 in an email obtained by the Sun. But Collison offered to continue the short-term relationship.

“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 adamantly 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.”

—Kim Jensen, Solvang Conference and Visitors Bureau president

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دنال الانتهاك بين مدينة سولبانغ وبين منظمة السياحة غير الربحية، أدى النزاع إلى إغلاق منظمة السياحة. وسيذكر الطرفين أن المحادثات لا تزال قائمة.

"لا نريد أن نذهب إلى الليل. نحن نذهب إلى الخصوصية.

—كيم جينسون، رئيس المنظمة السياحية في سولبانغ"
Please join us for our 8th annual Chalk Festival!

In Old Town Orcutt 9/28/19
10 am – 3:30 pm

This FREE family-friendly event features chalk artists, food trucks, artisan vendors, kids crafting and entertainment throughout the day. Chalk squares and Sponsorships are still available. Please visit us at www.orcuttarts.com to be a part of this very special day in Old Town Orcutt “Feasting On The Arts.”

Thanks to our wonderful sponsors.

OCAF extends our sincere appreciation to our sponsors without whom the Chalk Festival would not be possible. We invite you to support these community-minded businesses and organizations.

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Orcutt Lions Club
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 butcher scene, and he’s done it by being unique.

But that wasn’t its first name.

“Hanger” is an Italian word meaning things that hang. 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. “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.”

“Little by little, the business grows,” he said as he looked around to his staff. All three nodded agreement, mumbling in muffled tones from bulging cheeks.

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

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

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 plan in a folder and left it there for 15 years. Then, 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.

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

...continued from last week...
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 all of that non-existent grease out there and dump it on City Hall 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.
SOUTH COAST SLO COUNTY

CRAFT FAIR/PSYCHIC FAIR Features local crafters, guest artists Dylan Ortega. Sept. 6, 4-9 p.m. Free, 805-736-0647.

FIFTH ANNUAL WHEELS AND WINE Features vintage vehicles, live music, food, beer, wine, and more. Sept. 5, 5:30-8:30 p.m. $10-$45, my805sta.com. Courtyard’s House, 311 6th St., Templeton, 805-434-3895.

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, Gowen’s Fish Market, 1001 Front St., Morro Bay.

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

SOUTH COAST 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, park4pups.org, Templeton Community Pool, 420 Crocker St., Templeton.

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, park4pups.org/splash-days-2019, Templeton Community Pool, 420 Crocker St., Templeton.

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

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SPECIAL EVENTS

SANTA MARIA VALLEY/LOS ALAMOS


SEPTEMBER 7 – SEPTEMBER 14

SEPT. 5 – SEPT. 12

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.

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

FUNDRAISERS

SUBMIT YOUR EVENTS

INDEX

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, 11 a.m.-1 p.m. Free, 805-736-3888, facebook.com/lompocmuseum1/. Lompoc Museum, 200 S. H St., Lompoc.

SANTA MARIA VALLEY/LOS ALAMOS

PHOTO COURTESY OF THE LOMPOC MUSEUM

SAN LUIS OBISPO


SOUTH COAST SLO COUNTY

CRAFT FAIR/PSYCHIC FAIR Features local crafters, guest artists Dylan Ortega. Sept. 7, 6 p.m. $35-$45, presiosiwine.com, Presqu’ile Winery, 5391 Presqu’ile Rd., Santa Maria, 805-937-8110.

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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, park4pups.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-$45, my805sta.com. Courtyard’s House, 311 6th St., Templeton, 805-434-3895.

SIP AND TASTE PASO ROBLES Join Wine Boss and the Allegretto Vineyard Resort for local food, wine, beer, cider, 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. $55-$100, 805-369-2677, sipstapasorobles.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

EVERYDAY 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 BALLETT 2 Wednesdays, 6 p.m. everybodycandance.webs.com. Everybody Can Dance, 628 S. McClelland St., Santa Maria, 805-937-6753.

ARTS

SANTA MARIA VALLEY/LOS ALAMOS

BALLROOM, LATIN, AND SWING LESSONS Maria 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. $4 for week session, 805-928-7799. Oasis Senior Center, 420 Soares Ave., Orcutt.

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

CREATE ART TUESDAYS Meet other artists and support and critique others’ works. Tuesdays, 1-4 p.m. $5. 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 BALLETT 1 Tuesdays, 5 p.m. everybodycandance.webs.com. Everybody Can Dance, 628 S. McClelland St., Santa Maria, 805-937-6753.

INTRODUCTORY BALLETT 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/
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**5th Annual Wheels & Wine**
**SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 21**
**Fig at Courtney’s House**

**Veronica’s Position**
**SEPTEMBER 6-29**
**By the Sea Productions**

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**Goodnight, Texas with The Delitz**
**SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 15**
**Peter Strauss Ranch**

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

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

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**Cheese & Charcuterie 101**
**SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 15**
**Ancient Peaks Winery**

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

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

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

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**Veronica’s Position**
**SEPTEMBER 6-29**
**By the Sea Productions**

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

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**Planet Lucha Share the Love**
**SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 23**
**Avila Beach**

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

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

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

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

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**Catch the Spanish Imagination**
**SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 28**
**Baptist Church**

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**South County Oktoberfest**
**SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 28**
**Productions**

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**ECHO’s Long Walk Home 2019**
**SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 28**
**El Camino Homeless Organization**

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**28th Annual Golf Tournament**
**SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 28**
**Avila Beach Golf Resort**

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CORN TO BE WILD
Harvest Mission Life Day takes place at 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.

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; $5 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

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

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
**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. 805-686-8315, wildingmuseum.org. Wilding Museum of Art and Nature, 1511-B Mission Dr., Solvang.

**NATURE IMAGINED** This exhibit celebrates nature through art by Cheryl Marlow, 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. 805-686-8315, wildingmuseum.org. Wilding Museum of Art and Nature, 1511-B Mission Dr., Solvang.

**TIBET WITH MASTER ARTIST, KARMA THUPDEN** 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, 333 Pacific Street, Santa Maria.

**SAN LUIS OBISPO**

**THE SACRED ART OF TIBET** Artexpresses emotional content with bright and intense colors. Sept. 6 Nov. 28 805-542-9000. Frame Works, 339 Marsh St, San Luis Obispo.

**SOUTH COAST 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. 805-236-9800.

**CULTURE & LIFESTYLE**

**LECTURES & LEARNING**

**LOMPOC/VANDENBERG**

**COMMUNITY FOOD CENTER** The center is a food pantry offering nutritional classes. Wednesdays, 3-5 p.m. 805-967-5741, Ext. 107. El Camino Community College Center, W. Laurel Avenue and N. 1 Street. Lompoc.

**SOUTH COAST SLO COUNTY**

**point sLO LIGHTHOUSE TOURS** Docents lead tours of the lighthouses on Thursdays and Saturdays. 805-772-6100, ext. 205. Point Loma Lighthouse, 1200 Lighthouse Ave., Pismo Beach.

**CULTURE & LIFESTYLE continued page 21**

CAMERA CLUB Learn how the camera works. Share experiences and make new friends. Second Tuesday of every month, 1-3 p.m. Free. 905-937-9750. oakisucc.org, Oasis Senior Center, 420 Soares Ave., Orcutt.

COFFEE AND CONVERSATION Tuesdays, 1 p.m. Free. 905-937-9750. Oasis Senior Center, 420 Soares Ave., Orcutt.

HAM RADIO HAM Radio operators can show guests how to build their own radio and share information about operating them. Sundays, 8-10:30 a.m. Free. 905-937-9750. oakisucc.org. Oasis Senior Center, 420 Soares Ave., Orcutt.

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

SOUTH COAST SLO COUNTY

AIDS A club to energize both body and soul. Pre event registration is required. Saturdays, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Free. 805-925-0994. Santa Maria Public Library, 421 S. McClelland St., Santa Maria.

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 are welcome. Tuesdays, 10:11 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Free. 805-544-2266, hospiscoslo.org. New Life Pismo, 990 James Way, Pismo Beach.


Followed by a brief discussion. Meetings take place in the sanctuary. All are welcome. Thursdays, 7 a.m. to 8 a.m. Free. 905-937-3025. Unity Chapel of Light Church, 1165 Stubblefield Rd., Orcutt, unitiesantamaria.net.

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. First Tuesday of every month. Through Nov. 30. 905-825-0994. Santa Maria Public Library, 421 S. McClelland St., Santa Maria.

SPORTS

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. 905-925-0994. Santa Maria Public Library, 421 S. McClelland St., Santa Maria.

BODYSafety 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, 4-5:30 p.m. Free. 905-925-0994. Santa Maria Public Library, 421 S. McClelland St., Santa Maria.

KIDS & FAMILY

SANTA MARIA VALLEY/LOS ALAMOS

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, 4-4:30 p.m. Free. 905-925-0994. Santa Maria Public Library, 421 S. McClelland St., Santa Maria.

Bodysafety 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, 4-5:30 p.m. Free. 905-925-0994. Santa Maria Public Library, 421 S. McClelland St., Santa Maria.

LGBTQ+ 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.

LOCALY 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 1185 Union Sugar Ave., Lompoc. Call (805) 736-5608 or visit oceanviewflowers.com for more info.

VOLUNTEERS

TEEN VOLUNTEER ORIENTATION Teens will learn about library volunteer. You must attend an orientation in order to become a teen volunteer. Sept. 9, 5-6 p.m. Free. 905-925-0994. Santa Maria Public Library, 421 S. McClelland St., Santa Maria.

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, 886 Morro St., San Luis Obispo, 805-786-2440.

FOOD & DRINK

SANTA MARIA VALLEY/LOS ALAMOS

GROWING GROUNDS FARM STAND Produce, flowers, and other plants from the nursery are available for purchase. Second and fourth Saturday of every month, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. 905-934-2182. Growing Gourds Stand, 820 W. Foster Rd., Santa Maria, 93458.


SOUTH COAST SLO COUNTY

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

SLO TUESDAY FARMER'S MARKET Tuesdays, 3-5:30 p.m. Free. Farm Supply, 224 Tank Farm Rd., San Luis Obispo.

SAN LUIS OBISPO

ROBAR WINE TASTINGS Potting Shed and Barrel Room available to members. ongoing, 11 a.m.-5 p.m. 805-686-2603. robarwinery.com. Robar Winery, 3100 Robar Ave., Santa Ynez.

STANDING SUN: TASTING ROOM HOURS

GROWING GROUNDS FARM STAND Produce, flowers, and other plants from the nursery are available for purchase. Second and fourth Saturday of every month, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. 905-934-2182. Growing Gourds Stand, 820 W. Foster Rd., Santa Maria, 93458.


SAN LUIS OBISPO

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

SOUTH COAST SLO COUNTY

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

SLO TUESDAY FARMER'S MARKET Tuesdays, 3-5:30 p.m. Free. Farm Supply, 224 Tank Farm Rd., San Luis Obispo.
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Your marketing will allow readers to discover the arts you have offer.
**MUSIC**

**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.

**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 Conver, 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 Services and the Department of Parks and Recreation. 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 Amici 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 Acoustics (which he also founded). The bar will also host fellow soloist Pricy Digg 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 csmusicsfoundation.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, rooneyrsirishpub.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. foxenwinery.com. Foxen Winey & Vineyard, 7600 Foxen Canyon Rd., Santa Maria.

HAVANA NIGHTS Enjoy live music, acts, including Victor Valencia and others. Fridays, 7-9 p.m. Cuanisimo 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, rooneyrsirishpub.net.


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

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

**SOUTH COAST SLO COUNTY**


MONTE MILLS AND THE LUCKY HORSESHOE BAND This free concert is sponsored by Mason Bar and Kitchen, and will benefit “Welcome Home Military Heroes”. Sept. 8, 1-3 p.m. Free. 805-473-2250. avilagoconnext.net. Heritage Square Park, 201 Nielson St., Arroyo Grande.

SONGWRITERS AT PLAY FEATURES STOLL VAUGHAN L.A. based Americana folk-singer-songwriter. All ages are welcome. Sept. 11, 6-8:30 p.m. Free; tips accepted. 805-489-9099. songwritersatplay.com. Branch Street Deli, 203 E. Branch St., Arroyo Grande.

**SANTA MARIA**

ALBA FRANCO CANCEL IN CONCERT SLO Opera Artist in Residence Alba Franco Cancel performs classical, opera, and Spanish pieces with piano and guitar accompaniment. Sept. 15, 2-4 p.m. D20 general, $10 student/child. 805-439-0188. uuso.org. Unitarian Universalist Fellowship Hall, 2201 Lowton Ave., Santa Maria.

LUNA LIVE WITH GHOST/MONSTER GHOST/Monster is an alternative acoustic rock band based out of the Central Coast. Sept. 12, 8:15 p.m. Luna red, 1023 Chorro St., Santa Maria. $5-20.

MC MAGIC MC Magic will be live. Lil Rob will open the show. Sept. 13, 6:30-11 p.m. P37. 805-329-5725. fremontslo.com/mc-magic. The Fremont Theater, 1035 Monterey St., Santa Maria.

SAN LOUIS OBISPO WIND ORCHESTRA: ALL THAT JAZZ Featuring George Stone on piano, and vocalist Inga Swearingen. Sept. 15, 3-5 p.m. 515-545. 805-464-9434. slowinds.org. Cuesta College Cultural and Performing Arts Center, Highway 1, Santa Maria.

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, Santa Luis Obispo.


**DJ/DANCE**

**KARAOKE/OPEN MIC**

**SANTA MARIA VALLEY**

KRAZY COUNTRY HONKY-TONK THURSDAY Thursdays, 6 p.m. Maverick Saloon, 6877 Sageson St., Santa Ynez, 805-686-4785, mavericksaloon.org.

LOMPOC/VANDENBERG

THIRSTY THURSDAYS WITH DJ VEGA Playing today's and yesterday's hits. No cover charge. Bring your dancing shoes. Thursdays, 9 p.m.-2:30 a.m. Free. 805-478-9980. DJ’s Salon, 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.

**LOS ALAMOS**

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


KARAOKE WITH YSABEL Wednesday, 9 p.m. Anthony’s, 859 Guadalupe St, Guadalupe, 805-219-0977.

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 Esta 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
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 first feature film, 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 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 riding experience is limited to pony rides at Waller Park. Contact him at 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.

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 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 riding experience is limited to pony rides at Waller Park. Contact him at 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. 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 1893 Copenhagen Dr., 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 S. 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

Metal Fusion, a new exhibition of metallic art by Shannock 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.
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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.

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.

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.
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 performer 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 she's 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 (Babett 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 2013 Danish 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 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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**It's what we saw in Superbad.**

There's one thing I've learned from the mainstream film: kids who spend their first few days of the sixth grade trying to prepare for school partying for the first time.

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 anyone's experience as tweens. I still feel that way as an adult most of the time.

**IT'S CHAPTER 2.**

Where it's showing? MiWay Drive-In, Movies Lompc, Parks Plaza

**THE PEANUT BUTTER FALCON.**

What's it rated? PG-13

When? Where's it showing? Parks Plaza

**THE PEANUT BUTTER FALCON.**

What's it rated? PG-13

When? Where's it showing?

**GOOD BOYS**

It's what we saw in Superbad (2007), when two longtime best friends, who are, you guessed it, outcasts, spend their first few days of the sixth grade trying to prepare for school partying for the first time. And it's what we see again in Good Boys, when three (that's right! three!) longtime best friends, who are, you guessed it, outcasts, spend their last few days of middle school attempting to buy alcohol for a girl's party. It's what we saw in Booksmart (2019), when two inseparable and academically focused buds spend one of their last days of high school partying for the first time.

**What's it rated? R.**

**What's it showing? MiWay Drive-In, Movies Lompc, Parks Plaza**

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

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 it still can’t help but pity those poor, unfortunate souls who recite on Christian Bale’s first scene as Batman:

**Batum Begins? 2005**

**What’s it rated? PG-13.**

When? Where’s it showing?

**THE PEANUT BUTTER FALCON.**

What’s it rated? PG-13

When? Where’s it showing?

**Batum Begins? 2005**

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**Batum Begins? 2005**

**What’s it rated? PG-13.**

When? Where’s it showing?

**THE PEANUT BUTTER FALCON.**

What’s it rated? PG-13

When? Where’s it showing?
The wonder of self-pour taps might be common knowledge in some circles, but they’re all brand spanking 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 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 SELF-TAPPER BREWS: Through its cunning application of space-age technology, Blast 825 Brewery takes something good (beer) and makes it better. A fancy card programmed with your personal running tab lets you buy by the ounce and sample as many styles as you’d like.
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What do you think of tourism in the Santa Ynez Valley, and events like Solvang Julefest?

• They’re fun. Cities should invest in more events.
• The crowds are too much.
• Cities should focus on drawing more sustainable, long-term business.
• I invest more. Small businesses need tourism to thrive.

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 APA 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 savoury
chicken porridge. Stop by 448 Atterdag Road for a truly unique breakfast.

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

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Come Try One of Our Daily Specials!

Eats from page 31

EXTREME-HEAT PIZZA OVENS: That’s why I ordered the 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. 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

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 dossier of an article, and I went home to watch Hulu with the
people I love. Not a bad evening.

Contributing writer Nick Powell is cooking up ideas for fresh food recommendations. Send your
suggestions 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 dinner with vegetarian
  options. Tickets cost $50 for the general public and
  $25 for wine club members.

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

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$2460 4888 Tiffany Park Circle 3+2, Orcutt 1styr hm completely updated w/ all new kitchen/bath, qrtz cntrs thru-out, wetbar, lg mstr bdm, lg yd perennial, breezeway, 2car det grg, w/d hkups, no pets, tenants to maintain soft wtr tank & rnter's insur.

$1950 422 Empire Br 3+2, Regency Ests 1styr hm in gated comm w/open flrpln, office/den, 2car grg, w/d hkups, cstm tile flrs, pool/club prcs inc, low maint yd, grder for front, no pets.

$1825 1156 Via Mars 2+2, Creekedge Villa 1styr 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/bank of america, private patio, new carpet, fully painted, with new carpets and new plumbing /f_i xtures, refrigerator in kitchen is new, painted, with new carpets and new plumbing /f_i xtures, refrigerator in kitchen is new.

$1540 545 Pinal Ave #B, u/s, 2car det grg, no pets, tenants pay all util.

$1450 112 S. "M" Street #B, 2+1, South side apartments, spacious 1styr hm w/open kitchen, w/d, fenced back patio, 1 detch grg and lndry on site, apartments are freshly painted, with new carpets and new plumbing /f_i xtures, refrigerator in kitchen is new.

$1250 729 E. Central Ave #A 2+1, Beautifully remodeled centrally located 1styr hm w/open kitchen, nook, w/d and frige inc, sm shared yd, 1car det grg, no pets.

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$2900 3042 Courtney Drive – 3+2, Beautiful Miras Oaks home situated on picturesque, oak shaded half acre, elegant formal wrokroom being room and a formal dining room both finished with crown molding, well laid out country kitchen open to cozy family room that has gas log fireplace with remote, large picture window, kit has butcher block, upgraded appliance, lg mstr bdm w/walk-in closet and patio slider to bayd, hd parking, 2car attch grg. Lawncare inc, on pet consideration.

$2200 233 Huntington Place – 4+2, Southside spacious tri-level, Cretive finished home is ideal for commuters exiting Hwy 1 & Hwy 245, features lg first flr w/launder room, LP furnishd by antique wd mantel, kit is open to lg dining area w/French doors leading to back yard, all stainless steel appl, kit of corian & open to family rm, 2car attchgrg, yd care inc, pets req.

$2000 1311 Crown Circle – 4+2, Beautiful newer 2015 2stry hm in gated com, home is backing up to park area, some rms facing south hills, 2car finished grg, lgry rm w/2s, located 10 mins to nearest VWFB gate or to beach, pet friendly w/dep, yd care included, no section 8.

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

$1450 207 Village Circle – 2+2, Comfortable townhouse on second floor but one level, 1car grg, living room has floor but one level, 1car grg, living room has /f_i replace, vaulted ceilings, slider to balcony, kitchen has garden window with all appliances with gardn window with all appliances, includes washer/dryer, dining rm w/ldbry and garden view.

$1300 312 S. "M" Street #B – 2+1, Southside apartments, spacious 1styr hm w/open kitchen, w/d and frige inc, sm shared yd, 1car det grg, no pets.

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