

AT THE MOVIES

Joker: disturbing social commentary [27]

Sun



Seeking stability

Concerned residents turn to Santa Maria for mobile home rent solutions [10]

BY ZAC EZZONE

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Santa Maria's mobile home park residents have pushed the city for some form of rent control for almost a year now. After recent negotiations between the city, a residents' group, and some mobile home parks, the city released something called a model lease—and nobody's happy with it (except for possibly the city). While mobile home park owners contend that they've made compromises and can live with the model lease, some residents are contemplating pushing for a rent control ordinance. Staff Writer Zac Ezzone writes about the saga for this week's cover story [10].

Also this week, read about the discussion about development and Guadalupe's future [8], a local native who's combining yoga and journaling for a one-day class [24], the Orcutt Community Theater is bringing you a haunting for spooky season [26], and Firestone Walker combines beer and wine in a can [30].

Camillia Lanham,
editor



PUSHING FOR CHANGE: Gary Hall has been one of the leading voices pushing rent stabilization for mobile home residents over the last year.

Cover photo by Jayson Mellom > Cover design by Alex Zuniga

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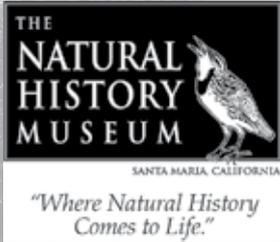
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Political Watch

• **Gov. Gavin Newsom** signed **Sen. Hannah-Beth Jackson's** (D-Santa Barbara) Senate Bill 160, her office announced on Oct. 2. The bill aims to combat the threat of wildfires by integrating “the diverse cultural, linguistic, and other differences of residents in their emergency preparations,” according to a press release from Jackson’s office. SB 160 requires that counties include translators in emergency communications and use culturally appropriate resources to help prepare community members for disasters. “I am very pleased that the governor of our very diverse state recognizes that emergency planning cannot be a ‘one size fits all’ approach,” Jackson said in the release. “To effectively plan and communicate during a disaster, communities must have a very thorough understanding of their residents, partner with them, and take into account linguistic, cultural, socio-economic, and other relevant differences so we can ensure the best communication and the safety of all Californians.” Panelists of a Joint Legislative Committee on Emergency Management raised the issue of inadequate emergency alert translations last year. “During the 2017 Thomas Fire, the reliance upon Google translate instead of knowledgeable translators led to the fire being translated as a ‘hairbrush fire’ in Spanish in county emergency alerts. In the fires in Mendocino county, members of the LGBTQ-plus community sometimes did not feel welcome in shelters for evacuees held in churches. These are examples of how California communities did not do the best job they could do reaching and communicating with diverse populations during an emergency, and this bill provides a more effective path forward,” Jackson said in the statement. The state senator has other emergency safety and planning legislation moving through the pipeline, including SB 182, which would establish standards and guidelines for buildings close to areas with high fire risk.

• **Assemblyman Jordan Cunningham** (R-San Luis Obispo) is hosting a data privacy and media balance forum on Oct. 15 with **Common Sense Media**, he announced in a post on his Facebook page. “Children are addicted to their technology. Parents, educators, and health professionals are increasingly concerned about technology’s overwhelming presence in children’s daily lives,” according to the Facebook page. At the forum, participants will learn about the risks to privacy, non-stop connectivity, and how to achieve a better balance. The event is from 6 to 7 p.m. at Laguna Middle School, 11050 Los Osos Valley Road, SLO.

• **Gov. Gavin Newsom** officially changed the state’s primary elections from June to March for 2020. On Oct. 2, he signed a proclamation designating the 2020 primary for March 3. The new date will include voting for president, U.S. representatives, state senators and Assembly members, and other state, county, and judicial officials.

• On Oct. 3, **Gov. Gavin Newsom** signed AB 1505 introduced by Assemblymember **Patrick O’Donnell** (D-Long Beach). The bill changes the Charter Schools Act of 1992 to address challenges for both public school districts and charter schools. The bill enables communities to consider the impact that a new charter school could have on existing schools in a neighborhood, including allowing charter authorizers to close charter schools due to fiscal concerns, consider a new charter school’s fiscal affect on other schools in the community, and deny a charter school if the district is in financial distress. “AB 1505 is a long overdue reform of charter school law,” O’Donnell said in a press release. “This bill ensures that we will have qualified teachers in all classrooms and gives local school boards more discretion over charter authorization.” In a statement, Newsom said that the bill is a framework for charter and traditional schools to collaborate “in service of their communities and neighborhoods.” ○



REMAINING OPEN: Next year, Surf Beach will remain open even if Vandenberg Air Force officials record more than 50 trespass violations.

Plover violation limits won't cause Surf Beach closure

For the first time in almost two decades, Surf Beach will remain open throughout the next Western snowy plover breeding season, regardless of the number of trespass violations recorded.

The city of Lompoc released a statement on Oct. 3 announcing that Vandenberg Air Force Base and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service have agreed to end a policy that was designed to protect the threatened Western snowy plover, but resulted in the beach fully closing in six of the previous seven years.

“Vandenberg Air Force Base and the California Coastal Commission are listening to the community, recognizing Surf Beach’s history and importance to Lompoc, and improving the beach and local access to it, all while protecting the Western snowy plover,” Lompoc Mayor Jenelle Osborne said in the statement.

Since 2000, Vandenberg Air Force Base officials have blocked off sections of Surf Beach to protect the Western snowy plover during its breeding season, which takes place from March through September. Every time a person enters these blocked-off sections, a violation is recorded. Until now, if 50 violations were recorded in one year, the entire beach would close until the end of the season.

These measures have helped the bird’s population recover since the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service listed it as threatened in 1993. However, the restrictions have also spurred the city of Lompoc and some of its residents to raise concerns about the lack of public access at the city’s nearest beach.

Earlier this year, Vandenberg submitted a beach management plan to the California Coastal Commission outlining the continuation of these beach restrictions through 2023. The commission was set to vote on the plan at a meeting in May, but it delayed the decision after Osborne arrived at the meeting with a letter from the city stating how the current plan negatively affects the city and its residents.

In the letter, the city stated that limited

beach access and full-beach closures cause local businesses to miss out on potential revenue from visitors traveling to the beach.

“That loss of revenue to private businesses also negatively [affects] the city’s already financially challenged general fund, due to the loss of sales and hotel tax revenue,” the letter states.

Commission staff and Vandenberg officials decided to postpone the vote until December to leave time to work with the city to find a plan that addresses their concerns. A stakeholder meeting—consisting of local, state, and federal officials—took place at the beach in July to discuss possible changes to improve public access.

Larry Simon, federal consistency coordinator with the Coastal Commission’s Energy, Ocean Resources, and Federal Consistency Division, said this new policy doesn’t change how Vandenberg will monitor the beach’s plover populations. Vandenberg officials will also continue recording the number of trespass violations that occur each year. As long as there is no significant spike in violations or human-related damages to plover nesting areas, this new policy should continue, Simon said.

“This assumes that beach visitors will continue to respect the closed areas and not view this decision as a green light to carry on with illegal activities,” Simon said. “[Vandenberg] still has the ability to close the beach if necessary.”

Simon said the commission still plans to review Vandenberg’s beach management plan in December, at which time staff will inform the commission of Vandenberg’s new policy.

—Zac Ezzone

DA’s Office settles with local auto dealer on alleged environmental violations

The Santa Barbara County District Attorney’s Office recently announced

a resolution with a Buellton auto dealer that didn’t include an admission of guilt, according to a news release.

DA Joyce E. Dudley brought a case against Jim Vreeland Ford to Santa Barbara County Superior Court on Sept 4, alleging that the dealership was in violation of environmental law. The case, the news release from her office said, was referred to the district attorney after three violations had been reported by the Santa Barbara County Certified Unified Program Agency (CUPA).

Dudley’s case contended that the dealership had violated hazardous waste control law by not properly labeling containers holding hazardous waste. Dudley’s case also alleged that the dealership hadn’t properly observed

NEWS continued page 7

Weekend Weather

KSBY NEWS

Microclimate Weather Forecast
Dave Hovde
KSBY Chief Meteorologist



Thursday



COASTAL > High 80 Low 46
INLAND > High 83 Low 41

Friday



COASTAL > High 85 Low 47
INLAND > High 89 Low 42

Saturday



COASTAL > High 84 Low 45
INLAND > High 90 Low 41

Sunday



COASTAL > High 74 Low 45
INLAND > High 84 Low 41

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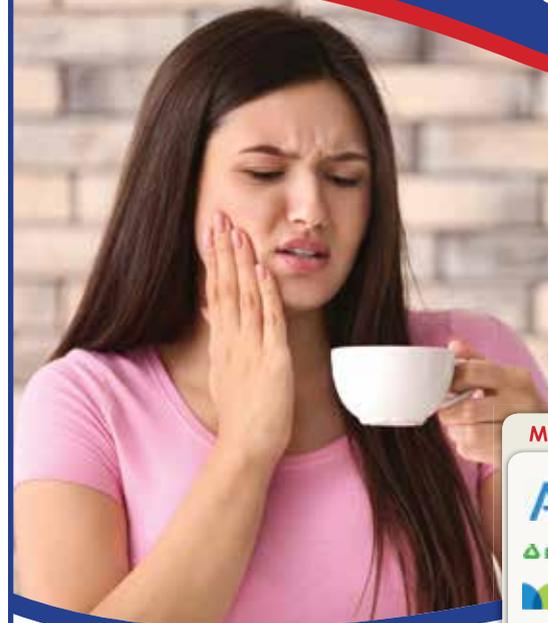


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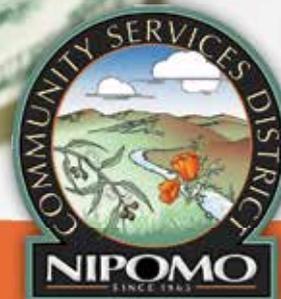
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NEWS from page 4

the “Above Ground Petroleum Storage Act.” The third and final issue, the complaint said, was the lack of a hazardous materials plan, which is supposed to list the hazardous materials on site should first responders ever need a complete list.

The defendant cooperated, the release said, and will pay \$94,600 in civil penalties plus \$5,400 to CUPA for the costs of its investigation.

“These statutes exist to protect the public, first responders, and the environment. We are grateful that Jim Vreeland Ford took this matter seriously and has come into compliance with the law,” Dudley said.

When reached for comment, Jim Vreeland read the *Sun* a prepared statement, but declined to comment further.

“Jim Vreeland Ford is in compliance with all California waste management laws. We are committed to operating our business responsibly. While we are disappointed the District Attorney’s Office chose to file the claims against us, we have worked with the District Attorney’s Office to reach a reasonable resolution of this matter,” Vreeland said.

—William D’Urso

County holds preliminary hemp regulation discussion

While the federal government is still crafting a regulatory framework for industrial hemp, Santa Barbara County is beginning to figure out how the crop will become part of the local agriculture industry.

Hemp is a variety of cannabis with a THC concentration of less than 0.3 percent. THC is the psychoactive compound in marijuana, which is also a strain of cannabis. Hemp has a number of uses, including fiber, paper, and oils, the latter of which is often marketed as having medical benefits.

During the Oct. 8 Board of Supervisors meeting, county Agriculture Commissioner Cathy Fisher updated the Board of Supervisors on current state and federal regulations for industrial hemp, following Congress’ approval of the 2018 farm bill, which removed hemp’s status as an illegal substance.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) is currently working on a regulatory plan for the crop, which it plans to release this fall. Following that, the California Department of Food and Agriculture will submit the state’s regulatory plan to the federal government.

After the USDA approves the state’s plan, the county can create its own local regulations for hemp. Currently, farmers in the county can only grow hemp through a partnership with a research institution, like Allan Hancock College. However, because hemp is an agriculture product, it limits the county’s ability to regulate the crop.

Supervisors discussed potential regulatory options available to them to avoid some issues that could arise from the crops’ similarities to the marijuana grown in the county. For example, supervisors questioned potential odor concerns that could arise from hemp. The crop, while not as pungent as cannabis, does have an odor, Fisher said.

County Counsel Michael Ghizzoni said the Board of Supervisors likely wouldn’t be able to prohibit hemp cultivation, but it could pass some form of land use restrictions.

Fifth District Supervisor Steve Lavagnino said he doesn’t want supervisors to impose unnecessary regulations on hemp solely because it looks similar to marijuana.

“I really don’t want to treat hemp any



PREPARING: After state and federal agencies complete their regulatory plans for hemp, the crop could make its way to Santa Barbara County next year.

differently than any other ag product, because that’s exactly what it is,” Lavagnino said. “It shouldn’t be blamed because it looks like its cousin.”

First District Supervisor Das Williams said although he’s not sure whether hemp will cause problems in the county, supervisors should approach the situation cautiously when it reaches the county next year.

“If we treat this as we do all other agriculture, then it will be an easy way for growers that have either been rejected by our planning process from growing marijuana or have been busted for not adhering to our rules, to simply circumvent our rules and pretty much create the same product,” Williams said.

—Zac Ezzone

Santa Maria passes water, sewer rate increases

Water users in Santa Maria will have to pay higher rates over the next four years after the City Council approved 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. City Council approved raising this rate 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.

At the Oct. 1 meeting, when City Council unanimously approved the increases, Utilities Department Director Shad Springer said the new rates are necessary for the city to keep pace with its water expenses. The rates will help cover the city’s costs to repair and replace aging infrastructure, as well as keep pace with higher regulatory compliance costs.

In addition to increasing rates, City Council approved reworking the city’s existing rate structure.

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

Residents had a chance to weigh in on these rate increases at the Oct. 1 meeting, as well as a public workshop the city held on Aug. 28. During the workshop, some

residents argued the new rate structure doesn’t reward users for consuming less water because there is little difference between the costs of the three different tiers.

Springer said that according to Proposition 218, which state voters approved in 1996, the city has to base its rates on how much the city pays to serve water to its customers. All rates cover infrastructure costs, such as water lines, which all residents pay for regardless of the amount of water they use.

“Because we’re required by state law to charge for the service as it costs, we cannot charge more for a certain class of customer, take that revenue, and subsidize a different class of customer,” Springer said at the Oct. 1 meeting.

—Zac Ezzone

County supes give themselves a raise

The Santa Barbara County supervisors voted 4-1, with 2nd District Supervisor Gregg Hart dissenting, to increase their pay and other benefits at their Oct. 8 meeting in Santa Maria.

The raise aims to track the Consumer Price Index for the Los Angeles-Long Beach-Anaheim area, which describes the cost of goods and what consumers pay for them. The ordinance passed included four parts. It called for a 3 percent pay increase to track the Consumer Price Index and continue tying annual salary increases with the index, maxing out at 3 percent. The second part included a 0.8 percent cost sharing for pensions of board members in legacy retirement plans. The measure also called for the county to contribute the same 2.5 percent increase to board members that other county employees on county health insurance plans will receive. The final notch up in benefits was a \$7 increase in the automobile allowance to match that of other government officials.

In 2018, supervisors made \$73,689.28 in “regular pay,” according to Transparent California. But once “other pay,” and benefits were included, no supervisor made less than \$113,000. Steve Lavagnino led the supervisors with more than \$133,000 in total pay and benefits.

Public comments featured one attendee who railed against the “corrupt” board.

The pay raise passed without further comment or discussion from the Board of Supervisors. ○

—William D’Urso

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PHOTO BY WILLIAM D'URSO

Plank by plank

The city of Guadalupe weighs its future and how to build it



FUTURE OF ENTERTAINMENT? Downtown Guadalupe's shuttered Royal Theater is just one of the boarded up buildings in the city's downtown.

WILLIAM D'URSO

At the edge of Guadalupe's downtown, plywood and two-by-fours stand nailed together—the skeletal structures of new homes, a glimpse of a future not yet realized.

They skirt a downtown with local markets, a coffee shop, a pizza parlor, and boarded-up buildings. The city's closed Royal Movie Theater still has sun-bleached and faded Coke cans displayed through the window.

But the Pasadera development these houses belong to has the potential to change the city's sleepy downtown. With 200 completed houses out of a planned total of 800, a decades-long plan is finally coming into focus.

"They've got a waiting list," said Larry Appel, the city's director of development. "The way it's been going is they've been selling really fast."

Those houses in the Pasadera development are listing for \$365,000 to \$405,000, according to Zillow. And even more affordable units are on the way. Peoples' Self-Help Housing is constructing 38 units of low-income housing, and the Escalante Housing Authority is building another 80 apartments.

It's the beginning of a shift that will ratchet up the city's population. The green road sign coming into town says "population 7,115," but city officials say that number is low. Some estimates are as high as 8,000.

Mayor Ariston Julian said the city wants to grow, but not too big, not any larger than 12,000 residents. He said there's been talk of building a shopping center, but that's still a long way off. What he wants is for the city's center to get a boost.

"Everybody says downtown is a jewel in

the making, and that's what we're trying to do," he said.

Right now, the city's businesses aren't united behind a chamber of commerce, but Julian wants to change that. He said they've been speaking with the Santa Maria Chamber of Commerce to explore how to get their own going.

Jose Martinez, a co-owner of the newly opened Guadalupe Café, said there have been a lot of businesses that just couldn't hang on.

'You want to build, but you don't want to take away from the people who have been here in the trenches.'

—Richard Segovia, Guadalupe native

"We're here for the long run," he said. "Not just one or two years."

The city has already secured a \$4.5 million grant to renovate LeRoy Park, and Mayor Julian has said improving Guadalupe's parks and recreation is a priority. The city also announced there would be a five-person commission to review and make decisions about how the grant money gets spent.

These grants and plans are all part of the city's financial recovery, coming back from the brink of bankruptcy in 2014, when the city had a budget gap of \$1.3 million. Julian said the city had been in the "doldrums," but is coming out of it with these housing projects.

But exactly how the new housing developments and its influx of residents will change the face of the city is unclear. During a regular Thursday morning meet-up in mid-September, a small group of Guadalupe's old guard discussed such changes to their city. Inside a little yellow house off

Guadalupe's lazy downtown sat the Donut Time crew. They're veterans and former city administrators, or just one of the guys. Many are long-time friends.

Here they eat, and they talk.

They advertise the group on one- or two-page newsletters. Underneath the group's title is their subhead and mission: "open lines of communication."

Among those talking about the city and the way forward on this September morning

is Richard Segovia, who was born and raised in Guadalupe and lives in Arroyo Grande, was drafted to the Vietnam War from his hometown.

"You want to build," said Segovia, 70, "but you don't want to take away from the people who have been here in the trenches."

He's talking about the local businesses like Masatani's Market, a family-owned business containing a butcher shop and the other necessities for the kitchen.

But Segovia said there's not much other retail. There isn't a movie theater or bowling alley, which are the kinds of things that can keep local money in local businesses.

"I don't know how you balance that. But there has to be a balance," Segovia said. "I personally would like to see Guadalupe with something to keep people here. Some kind of entertainment."

Joe Talaugon, the founder of the three-year-old group, and a former Guadalupe City Council member, said there's not consensus on a way forward.

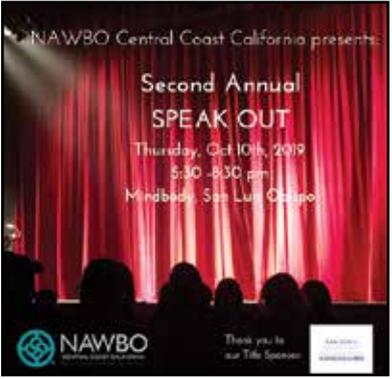
"What do we really want?" he said. "How do we want to grow? Through the tourism business? What?" ○

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

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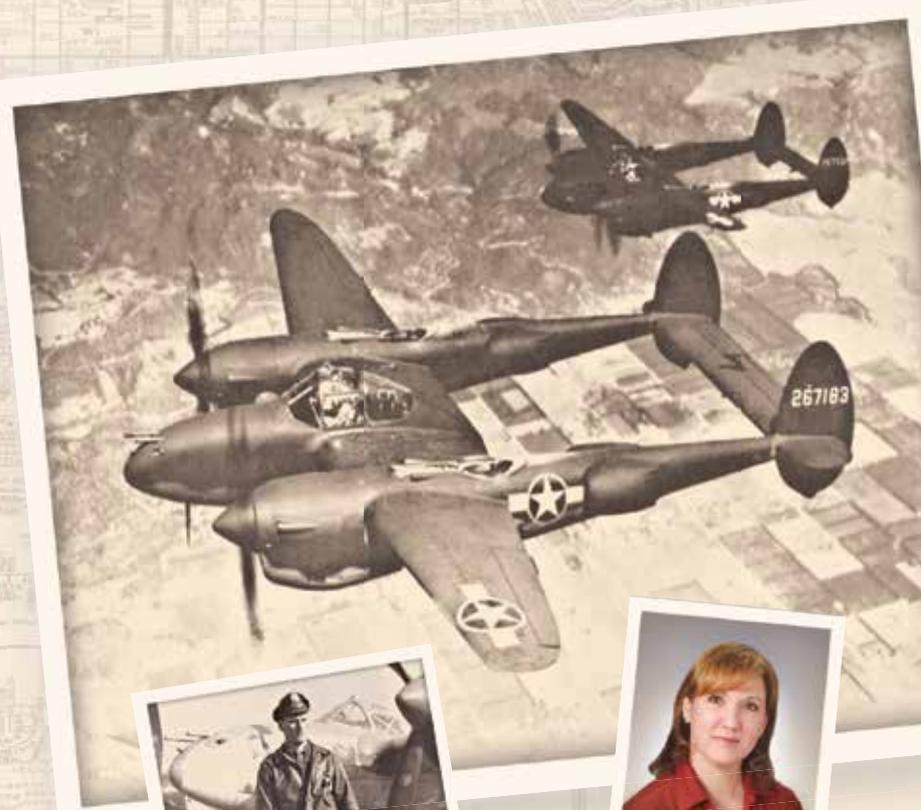
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Settling a stalemate

Residents, park owners split on key terms in city's mobile home model lease

BY ZAC EZZONE • PHOTOS BY JAYSON MELLOM

There are 14 mobile home parks within the city of Santa Maria with more than 1,500 housing units. Each park differs in how it's run and what amenities are included. Some of the newer parks in the city have nine-hole pitch-and-putt golf courses and pools, while older ones offer little more than a place to live.

But all parks share a few similarities. Chief among them: Park residents own their homes and rent the space on which they sit.

Almost half of the city's parks are reserved for residents age 55 and older, many of whom rely on Social Security to pay part or all of their bills. And the parks without age restrictions provide housing options for residents living on a lower income. Although the rent for lot spaces fluctuates between—and even within—parks, residents can often pay less than half of the average rent of an apartment in Santa Maria. According to RENTCafé, the average monthly rent for an apartment within the city in August 2019 was \$1,673.

Over the last year, a group of residents has advocated to maintain this affordability. In October 2018, the North Santa Barbara County Manufactured Homeowners Team (NSBMHT) approached Santa Maria to make its case for why the city needs a form of rent stabilization for its mobile home parks.

"The manufactured-home owners of Santa Maria need affordable space rent and deserve protection from the continuation of past rent increase practices," NSBMHT member Gary Hall said at a City Council meeting in November 2018.

Following Hall's comments, Mayor Alice Patino directed City Manager Jason Stilwell to prepare an item to add to the council's agenda. Since then, the city's hosted six stakeholder meetings where mobile home park owners and residents have discussed and negotiated the terms of what the city calls an enforceable model lease.

The effectiveness of these meetings depends on who you ask. Residents the *Sun* spoke with claim the process took too long and that the meetings favored the park owners. Stilwell routinely told council members that the city was making steady progress.

The last meeting took place on Sept. 25, which was followed by a closed-door meeting between city staff, Hall, and Lisa Toke, an attorney who represents the three largest mobile home parks in the city. A day after the meeting, City Attorney Thomas Watson sent Hall and Toke a copy of the final version of the enforceable model lease that Watson called "a fair compromise to all parties."

Toke said the final document the city created represents a lot of give and take. Some of the terms reflect changes residents asked for, while some measures maintain what park owners requested.

"Are my clients thrilled? No," Toke said. "But after all the time and effort we put into getting to this point, they would live with the terms."

Hall isn't thrilled by the lease either. Residents had bare minimum requests that weren't met in the document, he said. Unless the city makes changes that are more accommodating to residents, they're prepared to renew efforts to call for a rent control ordinance.

"We're prepared to make that battle," Hall said. "If there's legitimacy behind what we asked for then we can't just fold up the tent and go home because it got too hard."

How the situation will play out likely hinges on the discussion City Council will have about

the model lease when city staff presents it in November. Hall acknowledges that there could still be a long way to go.

Points of contention

This push is Hall's first foray into the inner workings of city bureaucracy. He got involved after moving into his home in Rancho Buena Vista Mobile Estates on the north side of Santa Maria more than five years ago. About six months into his long-term lease, he realized he wasn't happy with the terms and wanted to push for changes.

The primary concern is an annual rent increase.

In most leases, the rent increases annually by the same amount at which the Los Angeles-Long Beach-Anaheim consumer price index (CPI) increases. Most leases also have floors and ceilings, limits that implement minimum and maximum rent increases if the CPI falls below or exceeds certain amounts.

Santa Maria's model lease consists of a 2.5 percent floor and a 6 percent ceiling. If the CPI increases by 1 percent, rent would still increase 2.5 percent. Likewise, if the CPI rises 7 percent, rent would increase 6 percent.

Toke—who represents Rancho Buena Vista, Casa Grande, and Casa Del Rio in Santa Maria, as well as other parks outside of the city—said these measures are frequently included in leases to protect both park owners and residents. The floor ensures owners can continue paying the same level of park expenses when the CPI dips below a certain point, while the ceiling keeps rent increases in check for residents during times of high CPI increases.

But some residents claim this floor can be an issue. Hall said the floor in Rancho Buena Vista's existing lease, which expires this year, is 3 percent. According to the Social Security Administration, the last time a cost-of-living adjustment exceeded 3 percent was in 2011. However it came close to that mark in 2018, when it reached 2.8 percent.

Hall said he knows people who've sold their homes and moved elsewhere because they couldn't keep up with the rising rent increases. In La Maria



LOOKING FOR RELIEF: La Maria residents Sue Kappa, Madeline Gay Robertson, Eileen Armijo, and Esther Jensen are advocating for rent relief.



REACHING AN IMPASSE: After working with Santa Maria and park owners for almost a year on a model lease, Gary Hall and other residents aren't happy with the results.

Mobile Home Park, Esther Jensen, who's also a member of NSBMHT, said she has neighbors who often tell her that they're struggling to keep up with the rent increases. Jensen said she's not quite at that point, but she's much more cautious about how she spends her money.

"I'm not to that stage yet, but I watch my expenses each month and see how much is going out versus what's coming in," Jensen said. "So far, I have been able to hang in a safe border."

Toke said her clients are not at all dismissive of residents' concerns regarding their fixed-income increases, but it's a large, complex issue that exceeds the owners' purview.

"We don't ever mean to suggest that the hardships that residents are suffering—and frankly a lot of other members of our society are suffering—are not important, because they're very important," Toke said. "We just are trying to communicate the fact that those are not issues that are our fault."

Additionally, Toke said that although she can't speak for all park owners, her clients have always shown a willingness to work with residents experiencing down times and hardships.

Casa Del Rio owner Bob Hedley illustrated that point during the Sept. 17 City Council meeting.

"About four or five years ago, we had sent out our rent increase notices, [and] Social Security didn't go up," Hedley said. "So what we did was send everybody a notice and reduced their rent \$10 a month for that year."

Hall said the city has backed the owners' stated need for a floor since the beginning of the stakeholder meetings, which he finds to be disappointing.

"Nobody gave us a floor when it came to cost of living allowance; we get whatever the number shows," Hall said.

In addition to pushing for a

model lease without a floor, residents requested annual rent increases be limited to 75 percent of CPI, instead of 100 percent. This means if CPI were to increase by 4 percent, for example, rent would only go up 3 percent. The request wasn't included in the model lease.

Stilwell said that although the new model lease keeps rent adjustments at 100 percent of CPI, a different index is used to calculate a rent increase that's more representative of Santa Maria. In July 2019, the Los Angeles-Long Beach-Anaheim index increased 3 percent, while the West-Size Class B/C index, which is included in the model lease, increased 2.5 percent.

The park owners pushed back on this change. Toke said the Los Angeles index has historically been used in the parks she represents.

Hall acknowledges this change in CPI is a victory for residents, but doesn't consider it a step forward. He said it's more of a correction of a past error.

"If you want to start accommodating, let's talk about accommodations," Hall said. "Getting back to fair isn't accommodating, it's just getting back to fair."

As for including a floor in the lease, Stilwell said this measure was necessary to ensure that parks remain solvent because they're an important source of affordable housing within the city. If parks aren't solvent, a park owner could decide they want to do something else with that land, which doesn't benefit anybody, he said.

"It's in the city's best interest that the [lease] agreement is in the interest of both parties," Stilwell said.

Reaching an impasse

The debate over rent control for mobile home parks isn't isolated to Santa Maria. It's taking place throughout the state, said Dave Mullinax, the Central Coast's regional public affairs manager for the League of California Cities.

With the affordable housing issues plaguing California, a lot of cities and counties are being forced to consider whether rent control measures are needed within mobile home parks. Two months ago, the *Orange County Register* reported that residents in Westminster asked their City Council to implement an ordinance to offset rent

increases. According to the Mobile Home Park Home Owners Allegiance, there are 100 cities and counties across the state with some form of rent control or stabilization in place.

On the Central Coast, some cities and counties also have such an ordinance on the books. Although the details vary between jurisdictions, the cities of Lompoc and Santa Barbara, along with Santa Barbara County, have ordinances in place limiting rent increases to 75 percent of the Los Angeles-Long Beach-Anaheim CPI.

Lompoc Mayor Jenelle Osborne said the city's



ADVOCACY: Rancho Buena Vista resident Dan Swanson has attended numerous City Council meetings, pushing for rent stabilization over the last year.

ordinance has been in place since 1986. As far as she's aware, the city hasn't encountered any major issues or complaints from either the park owners or residents of the seven parks within the city.

Under the city's ordinance, if a mobile home park owner wants to increase rent above the 75 percent limit, it triggers a hearing where the owner presents a case for why he or she needs to increase rent above this limit. It's been almost 15 years since that has happened, Osborne said. "The last time we had a hearing was 2005. It doesn't happen that often," Osborne said.

Last year wasn't the first time residents in Santa Maria have asked City Council to consider some form of rent stabilization.

Two decades ago, a group of residents from Casa Del Rio approached City Council, claiming that their rent was being raised an excessive amount. After directing city staff to look into the issue, City Council again tasked staff with drafting a mobile home rent control



SPEAKING UP: La Maria resident Eileen Armijo speaks up about her concerns with rent increases at mobile home parks within the city.

ordinance for the council to vote on.

According to an Oct. 5, 1999, staff report, city staff brought back an ordinance modeled after Santa Barbara County's that would have limited annual rent increases to 75 percent of the Los Angeles-Long Beach-Anaheim CPI. City Council ultimately voted against the ordinance 3-2. Instead, the city rallied behind the concept of a long-term model lease program that most of the major park owners in the city agreed to offer their residents.

The city acts as a facilitator and brings all parties together when it's time to negotiate new leases at the city's parks, which at the three largest is every 10 years. However, this model lease program has "no formal structure or ordinance," according to a 2017 email from former City Attorney Gilbert Trujillo to NSBMHT member Ron Faas, which the *Sun* obtained through a public records request.

"The program is voluntary," Trujillo said in the email. "The city cannot require all owners to offer a model long-term lease to their residents."

Hall said the long-term lease program has been a failure because of this lack of enforceability. When residents first brought up this issue of rent stabilization in 2018, enforceability was a key term. And they were successful in securing enforceability in this new model lease.

Residents hoped they could find the relief they're seeking by updating the lease program and adding an

enforceability measure, but that no longer seems to be the case, Hall said. Park owners and the city are on board with the model lease being enforceable, but NSBMHT can't sign off on the terms of the agreement.

After reaching what Hall calls an impasse, he and other NSBMHT members are ready to push for a rent control or stabilization ordinance.

At the Sept. 3 City Council meeting, Hall spoke about a draft of a rent control ordinance that NSBMHT has been working on in the event the model lease doesn't produce the results the group is seeking. He plans to present it to the City Council at its Oct. 15 meeting.

"If we could get the perfect terms in our long-term lease, we've got the best of all words," Hall said. "We've got the certainty ... we've got the terms that help control our expenses—which is all we've really been after—without the handcuffed approach of rent control in its strictest sense because that really does tie the hands of the owner."

Prior to the city releasing its final version of the lease document and residents' subsequent decision to pursue an ordinance, Western Manufactured Housing Communities Association (WMA) spokesperson Jarryd Gonzalez spoke with the *Sun* about what the organization sees as the difference between rent control and an enforceable model lease. The WMA represents mobile home park owners and operators throughout the state.

Gonzalez said the WMA supports this model lease approach because it allows park owners and residents to negotiate leases, and in the event an agreement can't be reached, the model lease can serve as an alternative. Meanwhile, he said, a rent control ordinance can create unnecessary tension between park owners and residents while not solving the core issue of building more affordable housing.

"WMA is vehemently against rent control," Gonzalez said. "In rent control, it would be an ordinance from the city. In a model lease, you still have the preferred option where residents and park owners are discussing and working out their own terms."

Stilwell acknowledged that during conversations with residents, the city was told that some people prefer to have the option to work out their own leases with a park owner. Others said they



ANXIOUSLY WAITING: City Council will have the opportunity to publicly discuss the enforceable model lease during a meeting in November.

liked the idea of having a model lease to fall back on, in case an agreement can't be reached.

Hall said it could be true that some residents are happy with the current negotiation process with their landlords. However, he said, it could be equally true that residents don't realize there are alternatives.

Critical juncture

Residents began discussions over the enforceable model lease late last year with a sense of urgency, as leases at the city's three largest parks expire at the end of 2019. Those parks—Casa Grande, Casa Del Rio, and Rancho Buena Vista—hold more than half of the city's mobile homes.

It's been nearly a year, and Rancho Buena Vista resident Dan Swanson said this process is reaching a critical juncture. Swanson is a member of the lease committee at Rancho Buena Vista, and has advocated at City Council meetings for an enforceable model lease or rent stabilization.

Rancho Buena Vista residents have received their leases, but the timing of this and discussions over the model lease have left some residents conflicted over whether they should sign it. Swanson said he's equally conflicted on how to advise residents facing this dilemma.

"Of course people have talked to me about their concerns," Swanson said. "For me to tell them not to sign their lease, I think I'd be crossing the due diligence line."

Residents at Casa Del Rio have also received their leases. In Casa Grande, more than 90 percent of residents have already signed new long-term leases, Toke said.

Stilwell pointed to the mass expiration of leases as a motivator behind the city wrapping up the stakeholder meetings and releasing the model lease. This gives residents who haven't signed a lease yet the ability to weigh their options before signing, he said.

The timing bothers Hall and other residents affiliated with NSBMHT. Hall said park owners should have given residents more information about the model lease being discussed, or an option to retroactively sign the city's lease agreement if the enforceability contracts are approved by City Council.

Toke said residents are free to make their own choices when it comes to signing their lease, and that the park owners didn't influence residents' decisions.

"We haven't forced, tricked, or coerced people to do something they don't want to do," Toke said. "Our belief is the people who have signed their leases have chosen to do so after evaluating the options available for them."

She said her clients would never contemplate evicting a resident solely because he or she has an expired lease. It's actually common for residents in mobile home parks to live on month-to-month leases, she said.

State law provides protections for residents who choose not to sign a long-term lease. Residents have the option to sign a one-year lease based on the same terms being offered, which leaves additional time to work out an arrangement. Or residents have the ability to go on a month-to-month basis.

At this point, Hall said he's unsure whether he's going to sign his lease.

City Council is adding to this sense of urgency by pressuring staff to bring forward the lease agreement for a public discussion. At the Sept. 3 City Council meeting—during which multiple residents spoke about the lease situation—Councilmember Michael Moats said he was getting anxious about the situation.

"What if you just brought the rent control from the county of Santa Barbara, see what they do, and make a uniform policy for the entire Santa Maria Valley?" Moats said. "Or just something, because I think peoples' patience is wearing thin on this issue."

Councilmember Gloria Soto told the *Sun* she's also eager to discuss this matter, which relates to one of her main priorities as a council member: affordable housing.

"I'm really looking forward to having these discussions with my colleagues up on the dais and coming up with a solution that will ultimately protect the best interests of our residents," Soto said.

It's unclear what this discussion will look like. City staff is prepared to bring forward a model lease that's been in the works for almost a year, but the residents who initiated this process are unhappy with the results.

Those residents are now prepared to push for a rent control ordinance, unless changes are made to the model lease. In the end, all Hall cares about is accomplishing NSBMHT's goals.

"I don't care what we call the mechanism that gets us to meeting our specified desires and objectives," Hall said. "If it's the model lease, great. If it requires an ordinance, fine. I told them in the [stakeholders'] meeting, we can call it 'turtle soup.' I don't care ... as long as we get what our objectives are." ○

Reach Staff Writer Zac Ezzzone at zezzzone@santamariasun.com.



COUNCIL ANXIETY: During a September City Council meeting, Councilmember Michael Moats said he's getting anxious about mobile home model lease situation and wants something brought forward to council.

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PHOTO BY ZAC EZZONE

Moving on

Longtime Santa Maria wig shop owner prepares for retirement

BY ZAC EZZONE

After 31 years of owning and operating A Touch of Elegance, a wig shop on South Broadway in Santa Maria, Vicki Stovall-McKinley is looking forward to retirement.

She purchased the shop, which first opened 56 years ago, shortly after finishing beauty school when she was 30 years old. Stovall-McKinley said she felt compelled to visit the shop while driving past it at a time when she was asking God for help finding a career path.

She walked in and met the previous owner, who was looking to sell the business because his wife had recently passed away. After a few meetings and phone calls, Stovall-McKinley bought the store. But with more than three decades at the shop, she's ready to retire and travel with her husband, who also retired earlier this year.

"[The previous owner] passed the baton to me, and now I'm looking to pass the baton to someone else," Stovall-McKinley said.

People visit the store for a variety of reasons, Stovall-McKinley said. Some customers come in looking for a wig to wear with a costume or to simply change up their appearance. Others visit the store looking to buy a wig because

they've lost their hair due to medical issues. She said that about 25 percent of her customers are women who've lost their hair while being treated for some form of cancer.

Stovall-McKinley said she becomes emotionally involved with these customers—the interactions are not about selling somebody a wig; they're about helping each person cope with an illness.

"I feel honored I've been able to be here and help our community like this," Stovall-McKinley said. "I believe it's a service."

Over the years, Stovall-McKinley said, the best part of the job has been experiencing the transformation that some customers go through. They arrive devastated from losing their hair and leave the store looking and feeling like themselves again after finding the right wig.

"I think the most rewarding part of this business is as they're leaving, or sitting in the chair, and they're going, 'I look like me. I still look like me.'" Stovall-McKinley said.

The store has had a partner for years in helping facilitate these kinds of transformations. The nonprofit Hats for Hope provides people who lose their hair during cancer treatment with vouchers for wigs that they can redeem at A Touch of Elegance and other shops. Stovall-McKinley said while the nonprofit passes out vouchers, she also contacts the group and requests vouchers for customers who come into the store.

"[Hats for Hope] is a gift," she said. "Not every community has that."

Now, as she prepares for retirement, Stovall-McKinley said she wants to find the right person who's interested in buying the shop and carrying on a legacy of not just selling wigs to



NEXT STEP: Vicki Stovall-McKinley is retiring after more than three decades of owning A Touch of Elegance wig shop in Santa Maria.

customers, but genuinely helping them.

"It's something where you really want someone with a heart; otherwise, it's just going to turn into something wrong," Stovall-McKinley said.

To contact A Touch of Elegance and Stovall-McKinley, call (805) 925-1550. The shop is located at 421 S. Broadway.

Highlights

- The eighth annual Veterans Stand Down

event takes place on Oct. 19 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Santa Maria Fairpark. The event assists homeless and at-risk veterans by serving hot food and providing access to services, clothing, and hygiene products.

• On Oct. 2, Allan Hancock College announced that Santa Maria resident Barbara Andrastek bequeathed \$380,000 to the college's nursing programs. ○

Staff Writer Zac Ezzone wrote this week's Spotlight. Send tips to spotlight@santamariasun.com.

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Should Santa Maria implement rent control for residents living in mobile home parks?

- Yes. Residents in mobile home parks need some sort of protection.
- No. The city shouldn't interfere with lease negotiations.
- All housing within the city should be under rent control.
- Rent control hasn't worked in other cities.

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Sun

Online Poll

What are your thoughts on state Sen. Hannah-Beth Jackson's proposed legislation that would restrict access to guns for repeat DUI offenders?

- 32% It's a terrible idea; there's no connection between DUIs and gun-involved crimes.
- 32% A probation period for gun ownership would be better.
- 18% Good plan—such restrictions are definitely needed.
- 18% No one should have guns.

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

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Now Lompoc can vote

Residents finally get a say on bringing more tax revenue to the city

BY RON FINK

For the past several months, more than 100 public speakers in Lompoc have been asking for the right to vote on a general sales tax measure that would add revenue to the general fund. After initially resisting, the council has decided unanimously to let the folks do just that in March 2020.

Back in 2008 when an earlier half-cent proposal was being considered, the public wasn't nearly as involved as they have been in the current discussion. There were a couple of sparsely attended workshops, and in the final workshop there was a consensus to support a "public safety tax." However, as the workshop ended, the council immediately began a public hearing to place the issue on the ballot.

What was originally a true public safety tax to improve fire and police services morphed into something different in a matter of a few minutes; the language adopted by the council was much different than that discussed in the workshop that had just concluded minutes earlier, and the measure failed.

In 2017 it was much different story; during the lengthy series of 2017-19 budget hearings and workshop presentations, the city manager told the council that "the biggest financial hurdle facing Lompoc, according to staff, is the city's obligation of about \$70 million to the California Public Employees' Retirement System, or CalPERS." Although tax measures were proposed, they weren't placed on the ballot.

Now, in 2019 the discussion has been inclusive and thus far transparent; council members who originally didn't even want to talk about tax increases realized that without them the future was bleak. What was a \$70 million CalPERS debt had now grown to \$93 million, primarily because of poor fund management by the CalPERS board of directors.

This time the public has become engaged in

the process; well more than 100 speakers have addressed the council and expressed their concern for the health of the City and specifically the need to improve public safety services.

During the final hearing to develop the ballot question that could produce a 1 percent sales tax, speaker after speaker stressed the importance of improving—not just maintaining—public safety, but some felt that the amount of money raised by the new tax wouldn't be enough to do all the things on the list.

So, as the final wording was being discussed, Councilman Victor Vega made a motion to change "maintain" to "maintain and improve." So the final version of the ballot question wording was, "To maintain and improve public services, including neighborhood police patrols, firefighter staffing, gang enforcement, crime and vandalism prevention, street improvements, community and recreational services, park upgrades, reduction of long-term liabilities (which includes a potential savings of \$21 million in interest payments), and other general city services, shall the measure establishing an additional maximum 1 percent sales tax, ending in 15 years, and estimated to generate \$4,800,000 annually, be adopted?"

Councilman Jim Mosby then made a commitment to support funding three police officer positions currently being held vacant as part of negotiated pay raises if the tax increase passed; this is a positive step and would bring the police department to its full 47-officer strength and enable reinstatement of vital services.

Mosby then said, "There are things around the corner to enhance this [tax increase]," but what are they? In the coming months perhaps, we will find out what those "things" might be.

One major problem that needs to be resolved is the ever-escalating burden of CalPERS; it seems that every year there is a surprise multi-million-dollar increase in what the "new" CalPERS debt is; between 2017 and 2019 the debt increased an average of more than \$10 million each year. A plan is needed to create a consistent and predictable

payment and interest rate on this debt.

And improving the city infrastructure—including parks, streets, fire/police stations, rolling stock, and even the City Hall complex—will take tens of millions of tax dollars to bring these facilities and the equipment up to a higher standard. Unfortunately, decades of penny-pinching neglect by the great thinkers of the past have left us in a bad situation.

In the coming months, the City Council and staff will make several presentations to educate the public concerning the technical aspects of this tax measure. Because the council can only "educate" the public, citizen groups are forming to gather public support for the proposal and provide more information.

Based on what we have witnessed with public comments on the matter, it appears that groups are forming on both sides of the issue—one supporting and one opposing. So far, the opponents do not have an alternate proposal to address the fiscal crisis the city finds itself in; instead they are choosing to simply say "it won't work" without providing any detail.

In March, it will be up to the citizens of this city to determine whether they want to take the first of several steps to improve the city or wait and hope for a miracle that is unlikely to happen. In the coming weeks perhaps we will learn more, but for now I am willing to support this tax.

Let's work together and encourage each other to vote for the tax so we can make our community safer and better! If this measure fails, it will surely mean that our unfunded long-term liabilities will continue to drain the general fund, and cuts in services will grow larger. ○

Ron Fink is a resident of Lompoc. Send your thoughts to letters@santamariasun.com.

LETTERS

Bring transportation into in the 21st century

After an event such as the Climate Strike, we inevitably see critical letters asking, "How many people drove cars to this event?" or, "How many rode their bikes?"

Good questions. Let's look at this in a larger context.

Oil corporations have spent vast amounts of money to convince us that we cannot live without their products. As a result, there are hundreds of gas stations, but few electric charging stations in our towns and our state—despite the fact that alternatives are becoming more efficient, while their cost becomes more affordable than oil.

Second, our local bike infrastructure pales compared to cities such as Minneapolis, Portland, San Francisco, and Boston, considered the most bike-friendly cities in the U.S., despite their weather.

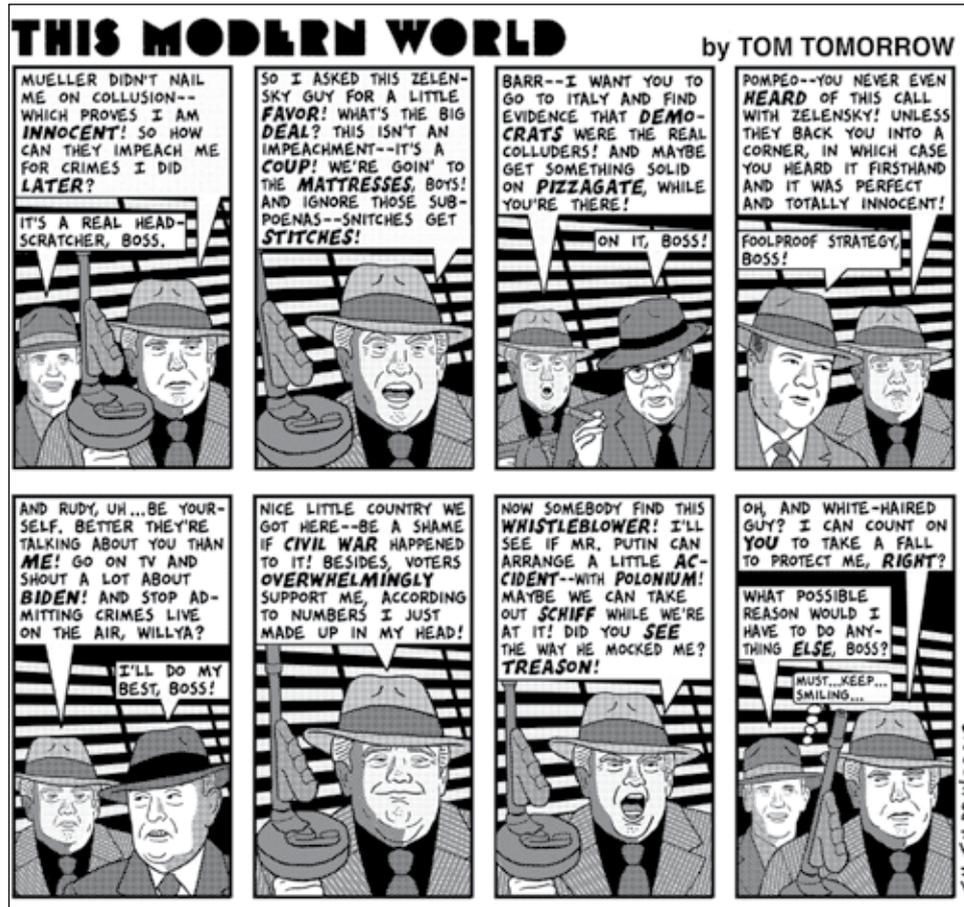
With more than 40 miles of bikeways, Santa Barbara is highly ranked as a bicycle-friendly town; however, we are also ranked third highest in bicycle collisions, due to the lack of sufficient, safe commuter bike lanes and the lack of automobile driver awareness.

We have made great strides. Our bus system plans to go emissions-free by 2030—10 years earlier than anticipated. Our Board of Supervisors has likewise voted that our county fleet must go fully electric by 2030, both of which will require greater EV infrastructure.

These are achievable goals and important steps, but more is needed and is inevitable. Please join me in calling upon our city councils and supervisors to build a 21st century infrastructure that includes more electric vehicle charging stations and a greater network of bicycle lanes. Or we can stay stuck in the past, with the dinosaurs.

And by they way, they are extinct.

Rachel Altman
Santa Barbara





Dave Becker All Star Sextet
SATURDAY, OCTOBER 12
Unity Concert Hall



NAWBO Presents: 2nd Annual SPEAK OUT
THURSDAY, OCTOBER 10
Mindbody



The Rocky Horror Picture Show
FRIDAY, OCTOBER 11
Dana Adobe Cultural Center



The Haunting of Hill House
OCTOBER 11-13 & 18-20
Klein Dance Arts Studio



Fall Succulent Pumpkin Workshop
FRIDAY, OCTOBER 11
Talley Vineyards



Beer Feast Festival
SATURDAY, OCTOBER 12
Heritage Square Park



Swinging Through the Sixties
SATURDAY, OCTOBER 12
Fundraiser for SLO Master Chorale



Sunset Wines & Full Moon Vines
SATURDAY, OCTOBER 12
Doce Robles Winery & Vineyard



Morro Bay WILD
SATURDAY, OCTOBER 12
Wildlife Rehabilitation Center



The Young Dubliners
SATURDAY, OCTOBER 12
Sea Pines Golf Resort



A Benefit Concert for 17 Strong
Mark Mckay & Charlie McNeal
SATURDAY, OCTOBER 12
Blast 825 Brewery, Orcutt



Backyard Taco Brawl
SUNDAY, OCTOBER 13
Tooth & Nail Winery



Beer Yoga
SUNDAY, OCTOBER 13
Naughty Oak Brewing Co.



Castle Dinner Series
THURSDAY, OCTOBER 17
Tooth & Nail Winery



Cheese + Charcuterie 101
THURSDAY, OCTOBER 17
Cass Winery



Blendfest 101
FRIDAY, OCTOBER 18
Hoyt Family Vineyards



War of the Worlds
OCTOBER 18-20
By the Sea Productions

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Pig Roast Winemaker Dinner
FRIDAY, OCTOBER 18
Cass Winery



Oktoberfest SLO
SATURDAY, OCTOBER 19
Pouring Productions



Evening in Greece
SATURDAY, OCTOBER 19
SLO Veterans Hall



Romantic Cello with Hilary Clark and Dmitriy Cogan
SATURDAY, OCTOBER 19
Trinity United Methodist Church



Restless Heart
SATURDAY, OCTOBER 19
Rava Wines + Events



Cambria Octoberfest: Beer, Brat and Mug Package
SATURDAY, OCTOBER 19
Cambria Scarecrow Festival Fundraiser



Harvest Festival-Carnaval!
SATURDAY, OCTOBER 19
Robert Hall Winery



2019 Grape Stomp & Tacos
SATURDAY, OCTOBER 19
Cass Winery



A Breast Exposé The Breast Kept Secret
SATURDAY, OCTOBER 19
Fair Oaks Theater



Kenny Lee Lewis "The Big One" 65th Birthday Bash Barflyz Bash in Concert
SATURDAY, OCTOBER 19
D'Anbino Tasting Room



Bingo Blast
SUNDAY, OCTOBER 20
Elwin Mussel Senior Center



Lucky Stiff Musical
SUNDAY, OCTOBER 20
Santa Maria Civic Theatre



Between Worlds: Autumn Serenade
SUNDAY, OCTOBER 20
United Methodist Church



Cooking + Crafting with Beer
SUNDAY, OCTOBER 20
Monterey St. Market



Winemaker Brunch in New Barrel Room
SUNDAY, OCTOBER 20
CASS Winery



Jazz Jubilee by the Sea
OCTOBER 24-27
Pismo Beach Memorial Veterans Hall



We 3 + 1
THURSDAY, OCTOBER 24
Pismo Beach Memorial Veterans Hall



Glow BARRE
THURSDAY, OCTOBER 24
Tooth & Nail Winery



Halloween Party at the Castle
FRIDAY, OCTOBER 25
Tooth & Nail Winery



Parisian Soiree: Annual Gala of Santa Maria Philharmonic Society
SATURDAY, OCTOBER 26
Radisson Hotel, Santa Maria

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Control that rent

When I hear the words “rent control,” I think about housing units. Apartments, studios, houses, mobile homes. What I don’t think about is the ground beneath them, but I guess I should.

Because in Santa Maria, members of the **North Santa Barbara County Manufactured Homeowners Team** (well, that’s a mouthful!) are dealing with a problem that’s pretty unique. Members own their mobile homes, but not the ground beneath them, and they want that rent controlled!

For more than a year now, the “team” has been talking to city officials and mobile home park owners to try and come to a workable solution. What they got was not what they asked for. A long-term model lease (a proposal for mobile home parks in the area to model their long-term leases after) with no rent control, no reduction in the minimum percentage that rent can be raised annually. Annually? For a mobile home owner who’s stuck with the spot they purchased their house on? Sounds like a racket.

They are prepared to fight, team member **Gary Hall** said, and I hear the battle cry! “Rent control! Rent control!” they shout. “We want an ordinance, not a model lease!”

Hey, the mobile home park owners aren’t happy either.

“Are my clients thrilled? No,” attorney **Lisa Toke** said of the three parks she represents. But, we can live with it, she said.

Her clients can only raise rent at exactly what the **Consumer Price Index** goes up by every year with a cap at 6 percent. Yeah, 6 percent! Can you believe that?

Seems high to me, and easy to live with for mobile home park owners. Seems a lot harder for someone who lives off Social Security and retirement—half of the city’s mobile home parks are designated for folks who are 55 and older.

Even **Lompoc** has a rent control ordinance in place for mobile home parks—and if you really think about that, it sounds a little crazy. Such a liberal policy for such a conservative city. Come on Santa Maria! Are you going to let them do that? Lompoc’s ordinance has been in place for more than 30 years and the best Santa Maria can come up with after a year of negotiating is a model lease that looks strikingly similar to leases residents are currently on.

And that old model lease exists only because 20 years ago, Santa Maria mobile home residents approached the City Council looking for a rent control ordinance (hmm, that sounds familiar). And the city decided a model lease was the way to go. A “solution” that really isn’t a solution.

How’d that work out for mobile home park residents? Oh, they’re still complaining about rent being raised by excessive amounts? Isn’t it funny how history repeats itself?

Although this recent model lease doesn’t give residents what they asked for, it will be enforceable—unlike the model lease program the city started in 1999. Park owners have been onboard with adding enforcement to the lease since this discussion began last year. And why wouldn’t they be when most of the terms are in their favor?

Hall thinks a rent control ordinance might be in order.

I hear the battle cry, and I’m all for it. ○

The canary tweets like a liberal freedom-taker. Send comments to canary@santamariasun.com.



HOT STUFF

OCT. 10 – OCT. 17
2019

CREATURE FEATURE

The Neal Taylor Nature Center at Cachuma Lake hosts Creepy Creatures on the Lawn on Saturday, Oct. 19, from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. This event offers close-up encounters with owls, scorpions, bats, spiders, snakes, and other animals. Guests can also enjoy arts and crafts and other activities. Parking is \$10 per vehicle. Visit clnaturecenter.org for more info.

—Caleb Wiseblood

PHOTO COURTESY OF THE NEAL TAYLOR NATURE CENTER

SPECIAL EVENTS

SANTA YNEZ VALLEY

LOS OLIVOS DAY IN THE COUNTRY This special day is an opportunity for families to enjoy country living the way it used to be in simpler times. **Oct. 19**, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Free. 805-688-9049. losolivosca.com/day-in-the-country/. Downton Los Olivos, Grand Ave., Los Olivos.

SANTA MARIA VALLEY/LOS ALAMOS

ANNUAL COIN AND COLLECTIBLE SHOW This event features appraisals on coins, sports cards, beanies, casino chips, and more. All ages are welcome. Hosted by the Santa Maria Coin Club. **Oct. 12**, 9 a.m.-4 p.m. Free admission. Elwin Mussell Senior Center, 510 Park Ave., Santa Maria.

DIMENSIONS IN DANCE 2019 A varied dance concert of guests artists and student works ranging from ballet to jazz, modern, hip hop, tap, and folklórico dance. **Oct. 10**, 7-9 p.m., Thursdays-Saturdays, 7-9 p.m., **Oct. 11**, 7-9 p.m., **Oct. 12**, 2-4 & 7-9 p.m. and **Oct. 13**, 2-4 p.m. through Oct. 10 \$17. hancockcollege.edu/dance/performances.php. Allan Hancock College, 800 S. College Drive, Santa Maria.

GUADALUPE NATIVE GARDEN DAY Join volunteer, Judith Evans, who will be at Guadalupe Native Garden on the third Saturday of each month for this event. Third Saturday of every month, 9 a.m.-noon through Dec. 19. Free. 805-343-2455. dunescenter.org/event/guadalupe-native-garden-beautification-days/. Guadalupe Native Garden, Corner of Campondonico and 7th Ave., Guadalupe.

SOUTH COAST SLO COUNTY

HOMEOWNER SCAMS AND HOW TO AVOID THEM Join us for candid conversations with local experts on common homeowner scams. **Oct. 10**, 10-11:30 a.m. Free. 805-710-2415. seacoastseniors.org/. Hilton Garden Inn, 601 James Way, Pismo Beach.

SAN LUIS OBISPO

AUDUBON BIRD WALK An engaging walk through the SLO Botanical Garden and the surrounding environment. RSVP preferred. **Oct. 19**, 9-11 a.m. \$5-\$10. 805-541-1400. slobg.org/calendar-of-events/bird-walk. San Luis Obispo Botanical Garden, 3450 Dairy Creek Rd., San Luis Obispo.

CENTRAL COAST QUEER ARCHIVE PROJECT: NATIONAL COMING OUT DAY Join members of the CCQAP and special guests Lisa Dean and Barb Stauss for an evening of food, drink, and celebration. The event

features oral history interviews, including one with Dean, former co-owner of Breezes, the last queer bar operating in SLO before its closure in 1998. **Oct. 11**, 7-9 p.m. sloqueerarchive.org. Sushiya Restaurant, 11560 Los Osos Valley Road, San Luis Obispo.

SLO COMIX FAIR The 501st Legion will "patrol" in costume. Meet local artists Irene Flores and Dan Parsons and experience virtual reality, "Freeze Your Things" with SLO MakerSpace at 11, and the new KodanshaComics Manga Exhibit. **Oct. 12**, 10 a.m.-1 p.m. Free. 805-781-5991. slolibrary.evanced.info/signup/Calendar. San Luis Obispo Library, 995 Palm St., San Luis Obispo.

SLO COUNTY CITIZEN PLANNING ACADEMY Hosted by the American Planning Association, this 8-week academy will cover a range of planning topics to help citizens understand local planning and the land use and resource issues that face our communities today. Thursdays, 6-9 p.m. through Nov. 21 \$40. 805-235-7876. centralcoastapa.org/2019-slo-county-citizen-planning-academy. RRM Design Group, 3765 S Higuera St, Suite 102, San Luis Obispo.

THIRD ANNUAL CITY FARM SLO FALL HARVEST FESTIVAL Celebrate the season with family and friends. Tour the farm, meet the farmers, harvest and grill your own ear of corn. Enjoy live music by Miss Leo and her Bluegrass Boys. **Oct. 20**, 1-5 p.m. Free. 805-769-8344. cityfarmslo.org/. City Farm SLO, 1221 Calle Joaquin, San Luis Obispo.

TINY FOOTPRINT: CENTRAL COAST TINY HOUSE AND NET ZERO EXPO Presented by SmartShare Housing Solutions. Sustainable by design, tiny houses are bright, clever and surprisingly spacious. **Oct. 11**, 3-7 p.m., **Oct. 12**, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. and **Oct. 13**, 10 a.m.-3 p.m. \$8. 805-215-5474. tinyfootprintexpo.com. Madonna Meadows, 100 Madonna Road, San Luis Obispo.

WOMEN'S VOTE CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION Learn about the dynamic history of the women's right to vote by League of Women Voters representatives

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

Juliane McAdam and Glenn Silloway. **Oct. 14**, 6-7:30 p.m. \$10 donation. 805-234-0986. The Monday Club, 1815 Monterey St, San Luis Obispo.

NORTH COAST SLO COUNTY

CAMBRIA SCARECROW FESTIVAL A community-wide event with hundreds of scarecrows bowling, bathing, painting, pedaling, fishing, and flying through Cambria, San Simeon, and Harmony. Through Oct. 31 Free; special events may vary. 805-395-2399. cambriascarecrows.com. Cambria Scarecrow Fest, Citywide, Cambria.

HARVEST FESTIVAL CARNIVAL Celebrating this harvest season with Brazilian style barbecue, live Samba music, dancers in full costume, and award-winning wines. **Oct. 19**, 5:30-8:30 p.m. \$100/Members; \$120/Non-Members; Table pricing available. 805-239-1616 ext 13. roberthallwinery.com/product/Harvest-Carnival. Robert Hall Winery, 3443 Mill Road, Paso Robles.

FUNDRAISERS

SANTA MARIA VALLEY/LOS ALAMOS

DONATIONS FOR VETERANS' STAND DOWN Accepting all new items including towels, blankets, clothes, diapers, trash bags, and more. Located at Gate 5 off of W. Stowell. Wednesdays, 12-2 p.m. through Oct. 16 Free. 805-364-8402. Santa Maria Fairpark, 937 S. Thornburg St., Santa Maria.

SOUTH COAST SLO COUNTY

AG LIBRARY BOOK SALE Bimonthly book sale to raise money for library programs and projects. Subjects from A to Z. Friends of the Library gain early entrance at 9:30 a.m. **Oct. 12**, 10 a.m.-3 p.m. Arroyo Grande Library, 800 W. Branch, Arroyo Grande, 473-7164. slolibrary.org.

AUTUMN TREASURES QUILT SALE AND BOUTIQUE Features a quilt sale, silent auction, bake sale, and more. **Oct. 12**, 9 a.m.-3:30 p.m.

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centralcoastquilters.org. Women's Club of Arroyo Grande, 211 Vernon St., Arroyo Grande, 805-270-5523.

SAN LUIS OBISPO

27TH ANNUAL WIGGLE WAGGLE WALK FOR WOODS Includes a pet fair with dog related booths, a Doggie Fun Zone K9 agility course, the Tails Pet Boutique K9 Costume Contests, a Blessing of the Animals, raffle, and the Mardi Paws parade through downtown. **Oct. 12**, 9 a.m.-1 p.m. \$25. 805-543-9316. woodshumane.org/walk2019. Mitchell Park, 1445 Santa Rosa St., San Luis Obispo.

FALL PLANT SALE FUNDRAISER AT SLO BOTANICAL GARDEN Semi-annual plant sale. Find the perfect plant for your yard. **Oct. 19**, 10 a.m.-1 p.m. 805-541-1400. slobg.org. San Luis Obispo Botanical Garden, 3450 Dairy Creek Rd., San Luis Obispo.

OUT OF THE DARKNESS WALK FO FIGHT SUICIDE SLO Join the effort with hundreds of thousands of people to raise awareness and funds that allow the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention (AFSP) to invest in new research, create educational programs, advocate for public policy, and support survivors of suicide loss. **Oct. 12**, 8:30 a.m.-noon Free. 805-602-0493. Mission Plaza, 989 Chorro St, San Luis Obispo.

SIP, SAMPLE, WOMEN, AND WINE Connect with Central Coast women winemakers, chefs and proprietors as you enjoy award-winning wines and artisan food at this walk around tasting. All proceeds benefit The Monday Clubhouse Conservancy. **Oct. 19**, 5-8 p.m. \$125. 805-234-0986. themondayclubsblo.org/. The Monday Club, 1815 Monterey St, San Luis Obispo.

NORTH SLO COUNTY

CAMBRIA OCTOBERFEST A free day of family fun sponsored by Lions Club of Cambria and the Cambria Scarecrow Festival. Enjoy scarecrow fun, live music, games, an arts and crafts fair, beer and wine tents, and more. **Oct. 19**, 11:30 a.m.-5 p.m. Free; meals vary. 805-203-5157. Cambria Veterans Memorial Hall, 1000 Main Street, Cambria.

HOLIDAY EVENTS

SANTA MARIA VALLEY/LOS ALAMOS

HALLOWEEN ARTS AND CRAFTS FAIR Local vendors include CovenTree Kitchen Creations, Amy-Zing Hand Crafts, and Lunae Lumen. Feel free to wear costumes. Features trick-or-treating and other activities. **Oct. 19**, 11 a.m.-6 p.m. and **Oct. 20**, 11 a.m.-6 p.m. CovenTree: Books and Gifts, 722 E Main St., Santa Maria.

SPECIAL EVENTS continued page 18

SUBMIT YOUR EVENTS

Learn about the History of Guadalupe



Guadalupe Cultural Arts & Education Center

Providing educational cultural awareness of diverse community groups, ethnic arts, presentations & classes.

Open to the public

Tues- Sat
10am-4pm

We invite schools, clubs and social groups to tour our facility. Artist and presenters are welcome to schedule exhibits.

For more information: Karen Evangelista at 805-478-8502

1055 Guadalupe St., Guadalupe CA
www.GuadalupeCulturalCenter.com



SPECIAL EVENTS from page 17

ZOMBIE GLOW RUN Proceeds benefit injured or sick shelter animals. Features walk/run options, live music, food, and more. **Oct. 12**, 5-8 p.m. \$25. 805-260-2386. sbcanimalcare.org/zombie-glow-run. Santa Maria Animal Center, 548 W. Foster Road, Santa Maria.

ARTS

CLASSES & WORKSHOPS

SANTA MARIA VALLEY/LOS ALAMOS

BALLROOM, LATIN, AND SWING LESSONS

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

COUNTRY TWO STEP DANCE

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

HAND BUILT POTTERY Learn how to work with pottery with others. **Oct. 11**, 6:30 p.m. Festive Nesting, 4854 S Bradley Rd., Orcutt.

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

KIDDYKEYS PRESCHOOL PIANO CLASS Weekly improvisation on the keyboard, music theory, and composition are combined with the traditional elements of music and movement. Fridays, 4-4:30 & 4:30-5 p.m. and Saturdays, 10-10:30 & 10:30-11 a.m. through Nov. 22 \$90 per 6 week session. 805-619-8776. christinefoghmusic.com/register.html. Christine Fogh Music, 685 Raymond Ave, Santa Maria.

RELEASE AND RESTORE: GENTLE YOGA WITH MEDITATION AND GUIDED JOURNALING

Settle into the changing of the season with this Full Moon Autumn workshop. Use yoga and journaling to release and let go of things. **Oct. 13**, 3-4:30 p.m. \$30 in advance, \$35 at the door. 805-680-6542. natzimmerman.com/immersive-writing-workshops. Yoga for Mankind, 130 N Broadway, Suite B, Orcutt.

SPECIAL ART EVENTS

SANTA YNEZ VALLEY

GARY ROBINSON: BOOK SIGNING Gary Robinson returns to The Book Loft to sign his newest release. **Oct. 12**, 2-3 p.m. 805-688-6010. The Book Loft, 1680 Mission Dr., Solvang.

JOHN CODY: ARTIST DEMO A stone carving demonstration with featured artist John Cody. **Oct. 12** elverhoj.org/. Elverhoj Museum of History and Art, 1624 Elverhoj Way, Solvang, 805-686-1211.

SIDEWAYS FEST Hosted by the Sta. Rita Hills Wine Alliance celebrating the 15th anniversary of the movie *Sideways*. Includes a wine festival, film screening, and other events. **Oct. 18** and **Oct. 19** surfbierfest.com. Participating Wine Tasting Rooms, Santa Ynez Valley, Santa Ynez, Buellton, Los Olivos, Solvang, 800-563-3183.

SOLVANG GRAPE STOMP A harvest street festival hosted by the Solvang Conference and Visitors Bureau. **Oct. 19**, 2-5 p.m. solvangusa.com. Downtown Solvang, Mission Dr., Solvang.

TASTE OF THE SANTA YNEZ VALLEY

Features tastings, dinner pairings, and other events throughout the valley. **Oct. 17-20** sbcountywines.com. Participating Wine Tasting Rooms, Santa Ynez Valley, Santa Ynez, Buellton, Los Olivos, Solvang, 800-563-3183.

LOMPOC/VANDENBERG

2019 LOMPOC CHALKS FESTIVAL Presented by the Lompoc Theatre Project. Features chalking, entertainment, food trucks, artisan vendors, hayrides, mural tours, theater tours, a beer and wine garden, and more. **Oct. 11-13** explorelompop.com. Old Town Lompoc, 100 South H St, Lompoc.

ARCHEOLOGY DAY Find hidden clues to the past at the Mission's dig site, carve your own soapstone bead, and see flint knapping demonstrations. **Oct. 19**, 11 a.m.-2 p.m. La Purisima Mission, 2295 Purisima Mission, Lompoc.

OKTOBER FEST Features an open house and chamber mixer. **Oct. 10**, 5:30 p.m. lompopvmc.com. Lompoc Valley Medical Center - Honda Room, 1515 E. Ocean, Lompoc, 805-781-5766.

ARTS continued page 20

RIDE HIGH

CAL POLY FOOTBALL

BLACKOUT



NORTH DAKOTA

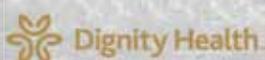
SATURDAY, OCTOBER 19 | 5 PM
SPANOS STADIUM

WEAR BLACK!

THE FIRST 5,000 FANS WILL GET A BLACK CAL POLY RALLY TOWEL!



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THE STRENGTH OF A VISION

Community 

It started with the vision of our ancestors more than **13,000** years ago. Today, we are proud to carry on their tradition of generosity.

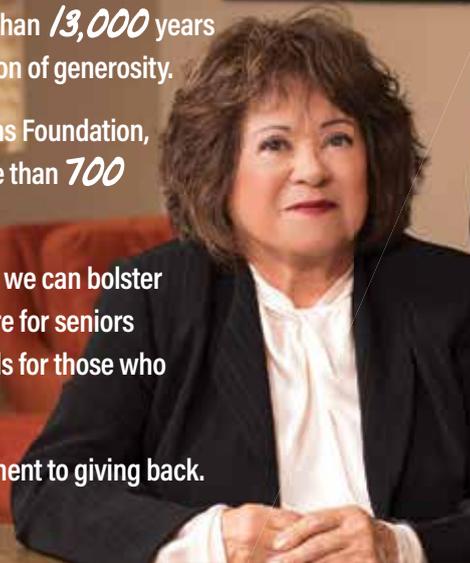
Through the Santa Ynez Band of Chumash Indians Foundation, we have contributed **25** million dollars to more than **700** nonprofit organizations in the community.

We honor these philanthropic endeavors so that we can bolster public safety, support technology in schools, care for seniors and children, and build homes and provide meals for those who need them most.

It's the continuation of a long-standing commitment to giving back.



www.santaynezchumash.org



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41st Annual
Oktoberfest
14th Annual Car Show by the Bay
Sunday, October 27th
9 am - 5:30 pm
2nd St., Los Osos/Baywood Park

 **BEER GARDEN** featuring LOCAL BREWERIES & WINERIES

Visit Oktoberfest Facebook for Breweries, Vendors, Activities and Music Schedule.

- Pancake Breakfast (8 to 10 am)
- 4-Mile Run (7:30 am Registration/Race starts @ 9 am)
- Car Show (8 am to 2 pm)
- Live Music - in the Beer Garden
 - 10:30 am to 12 pm Back Bay Betty
 - 12:30 pm to 2:30 pm Mama Tumba
 - 3:15 pm "Best of the Fest" Beer Judging
 - 3:30 pm to 5:30 pm Mothercornshuckers
- Costume Contest - Pets & People @ 2:45
- Vendors
 - Food, Beer & Wine
 - Informational
 - Art & Crafts/Commercial
- Kids Zone
 - Euro Bungee
 - Kid Activities

Bay Osos Brokers Bay Osos Property Management Bear Valley Realty
Blue Heron Antiques & Art Century 21 Hometown Realty
St. Benedict's Episcopal Church Los Osos Fitness



ON TRACK

The Los Olivos Day in the Country 5K Run and Kids' Mile takes place at Lavinia Campbell Park on Saturday, Oct. 19. The 5K run for youth and adults begins at 8 a.m., and registration ranges from \$25 to \$40. The Kids' Mile starts at 9 a.m. and includes an entry fee of \$1. This NatureTrack-sponsored event also features a 5K dog run at 8:30 a.m. Call (805) 886-2047 or visit active.com to find out more.

—C.W.

ARTS from page 18

SANTA MARIA VALLEY/LOS ALAMOS

MOVIE NIGHT: MAMA MIA! HERE WE GO AGAIN

Sophie prepares for the grand reopening of her hotel as she learns more about her mother's past. **Oct. 14**, 3-5 p.m. 805-925-0994-8562. Santa Maria Public Library, 421 S. McClelland St., Santa Maria.

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

EXHIBITS

SANTA YNEZ VALLEY

CELEBRATING THE NATIONAL LANDS OF CALIFORNIA

A showcase of fine art inspired by national parks, monuments, preserves, and recreation areas located within the state of California. Mondays, Wednesdays-Sundays, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. through Jan. 20 \$5. 805-686-8315. wildlingmuseum.org/news/celebrating-the-national-lands-of-california-art-exhibit. Wildling Museum of Art and Nature, 1511-B Mission Dr., Solvang.

COMMUNITY DAY AT THE WILDLING Wildling offers free admission during Community Day. Enjoy drop-in art activities, current exhibits, and more. Third Wednesday of every month Free. 805-688-1082. wildlingmuseum.org. Wildling Museum of Art and Nature, 1511-B Mission Dr., Solvang.

CROSSING PATHS Featured artists: Eyvind Earle and John Cody. Through Nov. 3 Elverhoj Museum of History and Art, 1624 Elverhoj Way, Solvang, 805-686-1211, elverhoj.org.

NATURE IMAGINED This exhibit celebrates nature through art by Cheryl Medow, Ellen Jewett, and Hilary Brace. These artists used diverse materials and methods to create their works. Mondays, Wednesdays-Sundays, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. \$5. 805-686-8315. wildlingmuseum.org. Wildling Museum of Art and Nature, 1511-B Mission Dr., Solvang.

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

PAVLOV GALLERY: FEATURED ARTISTS

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

THE SANTA YNEZ VALLEY ARTS ASSOCIATION:

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

TERRI TABER AND CAROL TALLEY Taber and Talley are the gallery's featured artists for the month of October. Through Nov. 1 Free admission.

gallerylosolivos.com. Gallery Los Olivos, 2920 Grand Ave., Los Olivos, 805-688-7517.

SANTA MARIA VALLEY/LOS ALAMOS

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

ART EXHIBITION: MUSIC SERIES BY LORI MOLE

The Santa Maria Public Library will be exhibiting the art of Central Coast artist, Lori Mole. Patrons and art enthusiasts alike are encouraged to stop by the library's Shepard Hall Gallery, view the art and learn more about the artist. Through Dec. 5 Free. engagedpatrons.org. Shepard Hall Art Gallery - Santa Maria Public Library, 421 South McClelland Street, Santa Maria, 805-925-0994.

LOCAL ART AND ARTISTS: CONTINUING SERIES

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

METAL FUSION An exhibit showcasing fine art sculptures, created from repurposed objects, by artist Shamrock Acosta. Presented by Valley Art Gallery. Through Nov. 3 Free admission. valleygallery.org. Santa Maria Airport, 3249 Terminal Dr., Santa Maria.

PILGRIMAGE This exhibit features figurative paintings and ink sketches by retired Cal Poly professor and artist Joanne Ruggles. Through Oct. 25 Free admission. hancockcollege.edu/gallery. Ann Foxworthy Gallery, 800 S. College Dr., Santa Maria, 805-922-6966, Ext. 3252.

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

STAGE

SANTA MARIA VALLEY/LOS ALAMOS

THE HAUNTING OF HILL HOUSE Shirley Jackson's gothic horror novel has been frightening audiences since 1959. Fridays-Sundays, 7-9 p.m. through Oct. 20 \$15. 805-268-2993. ocuttcommunitytheater.com. KDA Studios, 3546 Skyway Drive, Orcutt.

LUCKY STIFF Presented by SMCT. **Oct. 11-27** Santa Maria Civic Theatre, 1660 N. McClelland St., Santa Maria.

NORTH SLO COUNTY

NICK OFFERMAN: ALL RISE Award-winning actor, writer, woodworker, and comedian Nick Offerman will be hitting the road for the first time since 2017, with his brand-new live show, All Rise. **Oct. 12**, 8-10 p.m. \$41.75-\$61.75. 805-286-3680. vinaroblesamphitheatre.com/concerts/2019/nick-offerman. Vina Robles Amphitheatre, 3800 Mill Rd., Paso Robles.

NORTH COAST SLO COUNTY

WAR OF THE WORLDS A radio dramatization of the HG Wells story about a Martian invasion. **Oct. 18**, 7 p.m., **Oct. 19**, 7 p.m. and **Oct. 20**, 3 p.m. \$10. 805-776-3287. By The Sea Productions, 545 Shasta Ave., Morro

CULTURE & LIFESTYLE

LECTURES & LEARNING

SANTA YNEZ VALLEY

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

LOMPOC/VANDENBERG

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

SANTA MARIA VALLEY/LOS ALAMOS

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

HEART OF THE VALLEY The City of Santa Maria Public Library is pleased to offer a local history series. The series is to educate and delight the public with interesting facts from the past that shaped Santa Maria. Third Saturday of every month, 10:15-11:15 a.m. through Dec. 23 805-925-0994. Santa Maria Public Library, 421 S. McClelland St., Santa Maria.

HEART OF THE VALLEY: FREEDOM MOVEMENT Presentation: "History of the Freedom Movement". Guest Speakers: Bob Hatch and Dave Cross. Seating is limited and first come first serve basis. **Oct. 19**, 10:15-11:15 a.m. 805-925-0994 -8562. Santa Maria Public Library, 421 S. McClelland St., Santa Maria.

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

STEM CELL AND REGENERATIVE MEDICINE CLASS Join us to learn about stem cell allograft services as an option for knee, hip and shoulder pain. Every other Thursday, 5:30-6:45 p.m. Free. 805-614-7820. RestorativeSpineandJoint.com. Moxie Cafe, 1317 W. McCoy Ln., Santa Maria.

CLUBS & MEETINGS

SANTA MARIA VALLEY/LOS ALAMOS

ANIME CLUB FOR TEENS For teens who are into anime or manga. Hang out with other fans, eat Japanese snacks, and do fun activities. Open to Jr. high and high school students. **Oct. 11**, 4:30-5:30 p.m. Free. 805-925-0994. Santa Maria Public Library, 421 S. McClelland St., Santa Maria.

BOARD OF LIBRARY TEENS (BOLT) Teens will have the opportunity to plan upcoming teen events, make changes to the teen zone, and make the Library the best place it can be for teens. **Oct. 12**, 10-11 a.m. Free. 805-925-0994. Santa Maria Public Library, 421 S. McClelland St., Santa Maria.

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

DEMOCRATIC CLUB OF SM VALLEY: MONTHLY MEETING Social at 6 p.m. Guest speaker at 7 p.m. Business meeting for members follows. Third Thursday of every month, 6 p.m. Free. 805-349-2708. santamariademocrats.info. IHOP, 202 Nicholson Ave, Santa Maria.

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

HI-WAY DRIVE-IN SWAP MEET Come to the Hi-Way Drive-In for the Sunday Swap Meet. Sellers: \$20; Produce sellers: \$25; Buyers: \$2 car load. Sundays, 4:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. 805-934-1582. Hi-Way Drive-In, 3170 Santa Maria Way, Santa Maria.

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

SANTA MARIA CAMERA CLUB COMPETITION MEETING Meet monthly for a friendly competition where guests get feedback on images and recognition for hard work. Third Wednesday of every month, 7-9:30 p.m. through Nov. 21 805-801-2879. santamariacameraclub.org. Merrill Gardens, 1220 N. Suey Rd, Santa Maria.

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

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

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

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

SUPPORT GROUPS

SANTA MARIA VALLEY/LOS ALAMOS

HELP4HD SUPPORT GROUPS Help4HD Support Groups is the Help 4 Huntington's disease support group. Second Monday of every month, 12-1:30 p.m. Free. 354-

CULTURE & LIFESTYLE continued page 21

FILE PHOTO BY ZAC EZZONE



MUSEUM MANIA

The Natural History Museum hosts its Open House on Sunday, Oct. 20, from noon to 3 p.m. Guests can enjoy refreshments while viewing the museum's various exhibits. The event also includes a Corvids of Santa Ynez Valley talk at 1 p.m. Admission is free, but donations will be accepted. The museum is located at 412 S. McClelland St., Santa Maria. Call (805) 614-0806 for more info.

—C.W.

0708. help4hd-international.org. Bethel Lutheran Church, 624 E. Camino Colegio, Santa Maria.

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

CREATE & LEARN

SANTA MARIA VALLEY/LOS ALAMOS

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

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

MIND & BODY

SANTA MARIA VALLEY/LOS ALAMOS

CANDLELIGHT RESTORATIVE YOGA Release and open your body with breath, props, and meditation. Mondays, 7-8 p.m. yogaformankind.com. Yoga for Mankind, 130 N Broadway, Suite B, Orcutt.

FIT CLUB A club to energize both body and soul. Pre and post workout drinks will be available. Mondays-

PHOTO COURTESY OF DAN SCHULTZ



COMEDY CORNER

The Great American Melodrama presents its Classic Comedy Vaudeville Revue, which follows each performance of Drac in the Saddle Again, through Nov. 17. Performances take place Wednesday through Friday at 7 p.m., Saturdays at 3 and 7 p.m., and Sundays at 6 p.m. Tickets range from \$23 to \$30. The theater is located at 1863 Front St., Ocean. Call (805) 489-2499 or visit americanmelodrama.com for more info.

—C.W.

Fridays, 9 a.m. Balance Nutrition, 1975 S. Broadway, Ste. E, Santa Maria.

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

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

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

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

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

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

SPORTS

SAN LUIS OBISPO

CAL POLY MEN'S SOCCER VS. CAL STATE FULLERTON Cheer on the Mustangs against Cal State Fullerton in a Big West Conference showdown. **Oct. 16,** 7 p.m. gopoly.com/. Alex G. Spanos Stadium, 1 Grand Ave., San Luis Obispo, 805-756-7297.

CAL POLY VOLLEYBALL VS HAWAII It's a whiteout match, so wear white and match the Mustangs. The first 500 fans will get a special white Cal Poly shirt. **Oct. 11,** 7 p.m. gopoly.com/. Mott Athletics Center, 1 Grand Ave, San Luis Obispo, 805-756-7297.

KIDS & FAMILY

SANTA MARIA VALLEY/LOS ALAMOS

BOUNCING BABY STORY TIME: FALL SESSION Story time for babies up to 12 months old and their caregivers. Fridays, 11:30 a.m.-noon through Oct. 11 Free. 805-925-0994. Santa Maria Public Library, 421 S. McClelland St., Santa Maria.

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

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

LET'S BLOW OFF SOME STEAM A special story time filled with exploration and discovery, designed just for your preschooler aged 3-5. Thursdays, 4-5 p.m. through Oct. 25 Free. 805-925-0994. Santa Maria Public Library, 421 S. McClelland St., Santa Maria.

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

MOUSE TALES: PRESCHOOL STORY TIME For preschoolers ages 3-5. Featuring stories, puppets, fingerplays, and songs. Tuesdays, 10:30-11 a.m. through Oct. 22 Free. 805-937-6483. Orcutt Library, 175 S. Broadway, Orcutt.

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

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

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

SPIRITUAL

SANTA MARIA VALLEY/LOS ALAMOS

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

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

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

VOLUNTEERS

SAN LUIS OBISPO

AGING WELL: SENIOR PEER COUNSELING WORKSHOP Interested in becoming a Senior Peer Counselor? Participants will learn to more completely understand their own aging experience and how to skillfully assist Older Adults in various settings. **Oct. 10,** 9 a.m.-4 p.m. and **Oct. 11,** 9 a.m.-4 p.m. Free. 805-547-7025. Wilshire Community Services, 285 South St. Suite 7J, San Luis Obispo, wilshirecommunityservices.org.

Central Coast Hospice is seeking volunteers to provide 2-4 hours a week to hospice patients and their families. Fridays. through Oct. 18 Free. 805-540-6020. Central Coast Home Health and Hospice, 253 Granada, San Luis Obispo.

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

FELINE NETWORK OF THE CENTRAL COAST Seeking volunteers to provide foster homes for foster kittens or cats with special needs. The Feline Network pays for food, litter, and any medications needed. Volunteers also needed to help with humanely trapping and transporting feral cats for spay/neuter. ongoing 805-549-9228. felinenetwork.org. San Luis Obispo, Citywide, SLO.

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

LOAN CLOSET ASSOCIATE The Riso Family Loan Closet offers short-term use of durable medical equipment to people who are in the healing and recovery process. Volunteer Position: Associate



IMAGE COURTESY OF TERRI TABER



AUTUMN BREEZE

Luminous Landscapes, a duo show at Gallery Los Olivos, runs through Thursday, Oct. 31. This pastel and oil exhibition features landscapes from local painters Terri Taber and Carol Talley, who have been friends and collaborators over the last 20 years. The gallery is located at 2920 Grand Ave., Los Olivos. Call (805) 688-7517 or visit gallerylosolivos.com to find out more.

—C.W.

accepts donations, sanitizes and checks-out equipment, and answers phone. Mondays, Wednesdays, Fridays, 10 a.m.-2 p.m. 805-547-7025. Wilshire Community Services, 285 South St. Suite J, San Luis Obispo, wilshirecommunityservices.org.

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

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

FOOD & DRINK

FARMERS MARKETS

LOMPOC/VANDENBERG

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

SANTA MARIA VALLEY/LOS ALAMOS

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

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

SOUTH COAST SLO COUNTY

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

SAN LUIS OBISPO

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

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

SLO TUESDAY FARMERS' MARKET Tuesdays, 2:30-5:30 p.m. Free. Farm Supply, 224 Tank Farm Rd., San Luis Obispo.

EVENTS

SANTA YNEZ VALLEY

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

STANDING SUN: TASTING ROOM HOURS Visit site for Cellar Club details and more info.

Mondays-Thursdays, 11 a.m.-5 p.m. 805-691-9413. standingsunwines.com. Standing Sun Wines, 92 2nd St., Unit D, Buellton, 805-691-9413.

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

LOMPOC/VANDENBERG

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

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

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

SANTA MARIA VALLEY/LOS ALAMOS

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

PHOTO COURTESY OF CHUMASH CASINO RESORT

Live Music

SANTA YNEZ VALLEY

THE BRAMBLES LIVE Food and drinks available for purchase. No outside food or drinks allowed. **Oct. 19**, 1 p.m. Cold Spring Tavern, 5995 Stagecoach Rd., Santa Barbara, 805-967-0066, coldspringtavern.com/entertainment.html.

COCOBILLI LIVE Food and drinks available for purchase. No outside food or drinks allowed. **Oct. 13**, 4:30 p.m. Cold Spring Tavern, 5995 Stagecoach Rd., Santa Barbara, 805-967-0066, coldspringtavern.com/entertainment.html.

THE DYLAN ORTEGA BAND As part of KRAZY Country Honky-Tonk Thursday. Thursdays, 7 p.m. Maverick Saloon, 3687 Sagunto St., Santa Ynez, 805-686-4785, mavericksaloon.org.

FRANKIE VALLI AND THE FOUR SEASONS LIVE The resort is a 21-and-up venue. **Oct. 11** chumashcasino.com. Chumash Casino Resort, 3400 E. Highway 246, Santa Ynez, 800-248-6274.

GRASS MOUNTAIN LIVE Food and drinks available for purchase. No outside food or drinks allowed. **Oct. 11**, 6 p.m. Cold Spring Tavern, 5995 Stagecoach Rd., Santa Barbara, 805-967-0066, coldspringtavern.com/entertainment.html.

JOHNNY MATHIS LIVE The resort is a 21-and-up venue. **Oct. 18** Chumash Casino Resort, 3400 E. Highway 246, Santa Ynez, 800-248-6274, chumashcasino.com/entertainment.

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

LIVINGSTON LIVE Food and drinks available for purchase. No outside food or drinks allowed. **Oct. 19**, 5 p.m. Cold Spring Tavern, 5995 Stagecoach Rd., Santa Barbara, 805-967-0066, coldspringtavern.com/entertainment.html.

PARADISE ROAD LIVE Food and drinks available for purchase. No outside food or drinks allowed. **Oct. 12**, 5-8 p.m. Cold Spring Tavern, 5995 Stagecoach Rd., Santa Barbara, 805-967-0066, coldspringtavern.com/entertainment.html.

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

SYCAMORE STRINGS LIVE Food and drinks available for purchase. No outside food or drinks allowed. **Oct. 18**, 6-9 p.m. Cold Spring Tavern, 5995 Stagecoach Rd., Santa Barbara, 805-967-0066, coldspringtavern.com/entertainment.html.

THE TAILGATERS LIVE Food and drinks available for purchase. No outside food or drinks allowed. **Oct. 20**, 4:30 p.m. Cold Spring Tavern, 5995 Stagecoach Rd., Santa Barbara, 805-967-0066, coldspringtavern.com/entertainment.html.

TOM BALL AND KENNY SULTAN LIVE Enjoy a blend of guitar and harmonica blues, and rags, and good time music. Food and drinks available for

Jersey boys

Chumash Casino Resort presents Frankie Valli and The Four Seasons

BY CALEB WISEBLOOD

A stage name can be a powerful thing. If I was ever compelled to take one on—or make up an alias for a Dear So-and-so column—I'd probably take the easy way out and just use one of those name generator apps. Or do what I did during my last *Dungeons and Dragons* campaign—name myself after a local restaurant. (I was a chaotic neutral gnome known to peasants and royalty alike as Little Jocko, in case you were wondering.)

I'm sure Francesco Stephen Castelluccio enjoys a good tabletop game as much as the rest of us, but I doubt *D-and-D* played a significant role in crafting his not-so-secret identity, **Frankie Valli**. The pop icon and his legendary band, **The Four Seasons**, will perform at the Chumash Casino Resort on **Friday, Oct. 11**, at 8 p.m.

The band was formed in 1961, with Valli on lead vocals, and went on to become one of the biggest musical sensations of the decade. Their first major commercial success was "Sherry" in 1962, which landed at No. 1 on the Billboard pop and R&B charts. "Big Girls Don't Cry," "Walk Like a Man," "Candy Girl," "Rag Doll," "Working My Way Back to You," and more than a dozen other chart-topping hits followed.

Tickets to the show range from \$69 to \$99. The Chumash Casino Resort is located at 3400 E. Highway 246, Santa Ynez. The venue is open to ages 21 and over only. Call (800) 248-6274 or visit chumashcasino.com for tickets or more info.

Brews to benefit

Cheers for a Good Cause, a benefit concert featuring Nashville-based singer-songwriter **Mark Mackay**, at Blast 825 Brewery on **Saturday, Oct. 12**, from 8 to 11 p.m. The country and rock artist recently earned a spot on *Music Connection* magazine's list of Top 100 National Live Acts. Fellow country artist **Charlie McNeal** will open for Mackay. Tickets to the show are \$15, and 10 percent of all sales will benefit 17 Strong, a nonprofit organization that supports young adults battling life-threatening illnesses.

The event is a collaboration between Blast 825 and co-sponsor Figueroa Mountain Brewery. A special meet-and-greet reception precedes



LET HIM BE FRANK: Frankie Valli and the Four Seasons perform at the Chumash Casino Resort on Friday, Oct. 11, at 8 p.m.

the concert in the brewery's beer garden, from 4 to 6 p.m. Blast 825 is located at 241 S. Broadway, Orcutt. Call (805) 934-3777 or visit blast825brewery.com to find out more.

Going south

The grass will definitely be greener on the Cold Spring Tavern side come **Friday, Oct. 11**, when **Grass Mountain** takes the venue's stage, from 6 to 9 p.m. This group mainly performs bluegrass and folk, but occasionally dabbles in funk and other styles as well. The tavern also hosts local solo artist **Jim Rankin** (from 1 to 4 p.m.) and country and rock group **Paradise Road** (from 5 to 8 p.m.) on **Saturday, Oct. 12**. Two blues acts perform back-to-back on **Sunday, Oct. 13**: blues and rags duo **Tom Ball and Kenny Sultan** (from 1:15 to 4 p.m.) and blues and rock trio **Teresa Russell and Cocobilli** (from 4:30 to 7:30 p.m.). Entry to each show is complimentary.

Also in the Santa Ynez Valley, dance band **The PODs** (Politics of Dancing) perform at the

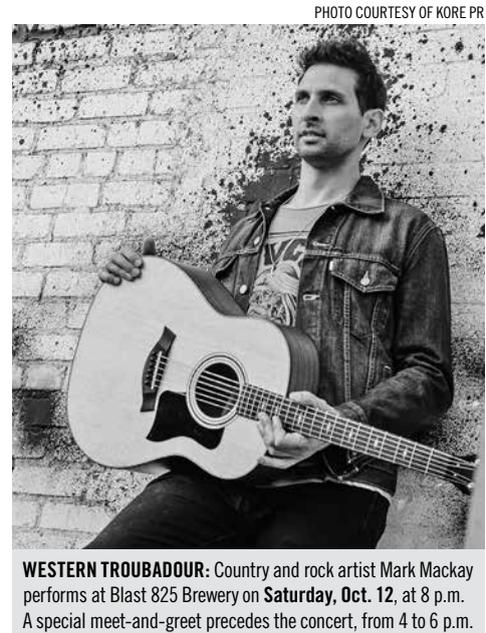


PHOTO COURTESY OF KORE PR

WESTERN TROUBADOUR: Country and rock artist Mark Mackay performs at Blast 825 Brewery on Saturday, Oct. 12, at 8 p.m. A special meet-and-greet precedes the concert, from 4 to 6 p.m.

MUSIC LISTINGS continued page 23

LOCAL NOTES continued page 23

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LOCAL NOTES from page 22

Maverick Saloon on **Friday, Oct. 11**, from 8:30 to 11:30 p.m. Country and rock group **Pull the Trigger** plays the following evening, **Saturday, Oct. 12**, from 8:30 to 11:30 p.m. Guests of the saloon can look forward to live music from two acts, **Nate Lata** and **The Johnny Clashers**, on the patio on **Sunday, Oct. 13**, between 1 and 5 p.m.

More music

The Santa Maria Valley Senior Club presents *Swinging into Fall*, a free dance concert featuring the **Riptide Big Band**, at the Elwin Mussell Senior Center on **Sunday, Oct. 13**, from 1:30 to 4 p.m. Special guest vocalists **Liz Douglas** and **Bob Nations** will join the local swing group for this autumn-themed performance. Admission to the show is complimentary thanks to funding from the Community Foundation of SLO County. Visit riptidebb.com to find out more.

Local singer-songwriter **Conner Cherland** performs at Naughty Oak Brewing Company in Orcutt on **Friday, Oct. 11**, from 6 to 9 p.m. This eclectic artist's influences include Ed Sheeran, Shakey Graves, and Hozier. Cherland's style blends



ALWAYS GREENER: Bluegrass and folk group Grass Mountain performs at Cold Spring Tavern on **Friday, Oct. 11**, from 6 to 9 p.m.

a variety of genres, including Americana, folk, indie, and soul. The artist is best known locally for his guitar looping techniques, which create a "one-man-band" feel. Admission to Cherland's show is free, but food from AR Catering will be available for purchase (from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m.).

Also in Orcutt the same evening, solo artist

PHOTO COURTESY OF THE SANTA MARIA VALLEY SENIOR CLUB



DOWN TO THE RIPTIDE: *Swinging into Fall*, a free dance concert featuring the Riptide Big Band, takes place at the Elwin Mussell Senior Center on **Sunday, Oct. 13**, at 1:30 p.m.

Champion McConnell will perform at Vino et Amicis Wine Bar on **Friday, Oct. 11**, from 7 to 9 p.m. Entry to the concert is complimentary. ○

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

FILE PHOTO BY JOE PAYN



WE ARE THE CHAMPIONS: Local singer-songwriter **Champion McConnell** will perform at Vino et Amicis Wine Bar on **Friday, Oct. 11**, at 7 p.m.

MUSIC LISTINGS from page 22

purchase. No outside food or drinks allowed. Sundays, 1:15-4 p.m. Free. Cold Spring Tavern, 5995 Stagecoach Rd., Santa Barbara, 805-967-0066, coldspringtavern.com/entertainment.html.

LOMPOC/VANDENBERG

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

SANTA MARIA VALLEY/LOS ALAMOS

CHAMPION MCCONNELL LIVE **Oct. 11**, 7-9 p.m. Vino et Amicis, 156 S. Broadway, Orcutt, 805-631-0496, vinoetamicis.com.

CIMARRÓN: JOROPO MUSIC AND DANCE FROM THE PLAINS OF THE ORINOCO RIVER Cimarrón's powerful Joropo music achieves a unique blend of Andalusian, Indigenous American, and African roots. The ensemble includes a four-stringed cuatro, harp, maracas, Peruvian-flamenco cajón, Brazilian surdo, and Afro-Colombian tambura. **Oct. 12**, 7-8 p.m. Free. 805-343-2455. facebook.com/VivaelArteSB/. Guadalupe City Hall, 918 Obispo St., Guadalupe.

CIMARRON FREE COMMUNITY CONCERT The Guadalupe-Nipomo Dunes Center and UCSB Arts & Lectures present, Cimarron, a free community concert for the whole family. Cimarrón performs joropo music from the Plains of the Orinoco River with a global and contemporary sound. **Oct. 12**, 7-8 p.m. Free. 805-343-2455. dunescenter.org. Guadalupe City Hall, 918 Obispo St., Guadalupe.

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

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

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

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

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

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

LIVE MUSIC AT O'SULLIVAN'S Featuring live entertainment from local and touring alternative, indie,

rock, punk, reggae, ska, alt-country, and other left-of-center musicians several times throughout each month. ongoing Free. O'Sullivan's Pub, 633 E. Main St., Santa Maria, 805-925-0658, osullivanspub.net.

LIVE MUSIC AT PRESQU'ILE Different acts every third Friday evening. Third Friday of every month, 4-6 p.m. Free. Presqu'ile Winery, 5391 Presqu'ile Dr., Santa Maria, 805-937-8110, presquilewine.com.

MARK MACKAY LIVE: CHEERS FOR A GOOD CAUSE Fellow country artist Charlie McNeal will open for Mackay. Ten percent of all sales will benefit 17 Strong, a non-profit organization that supports young adults battling life-threatening illnesses. **Oct. 12**, 8 p.m. \$15. Blast 825 Brewery, 241 S Broadway St., Ste. 101, Orcutt, 805-934-3777, rooneysirishpub.net.

SWINGING INTO FALL The Santa Maria Valley Sr. Club presents this dance concert with Riptide Big Band and vocalists Liz Douglas and Bob Nations. Grant funding provided from Community Foundation of SLO County. **Oct. 13**, 1:30-4 p.m. Free. 775-813-5186. RiptideBB.com. Elwin Mussell Senior Center, 510 Park Ave., Santa Maria.

SOUTH COAST SLO COUNTY

ACOUSTIC SUNDAYS Sundays, 3-6 p.m. Seaventure Restaurant, 100 Oceanview Ave, Pismo Beach, 805-779-1779, seaventure.com.

ARROYO GRANDE BEER FEAST Enjoy craft beers from 33 Breweries and food samples from 15 Restaurants. Also features various live music acts. **Oct. 12**, 2-6 p.m. \$65 advance/\$75 door; \$25 designated driver (food only). 805-473-2250. commingly.com/agvillageevents/events/detail/beer-feast-festival-1/929083. Heritage Square Park, 201 Nelson St., Arroyo Grande.

BLUES MASTERS JAM Wednesdays, 6:30-9:30 p.m. Figueroa Mountain Brewing Co, AG, 1462 E. Grand Ave., Arroyo Grande, 805-474-8525, figmtnbrew.com/.

BRUNCH ON WHEELS FEATURING FIVE PARTS DEVIL The last edition of 2019 Brunch on Wheels will feature live music by Five Parts Devil. **Oct. 13**, 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Free. 805-595-4000. events.avilabeachresort.com. Avila Beach Golf Resort, 6464 Ana Bay Road, Avila Beach.

FRIDAY NIGHT LIVE MUSIC Enjoy live music and food on the patio. Fridays, 5:30-8:30 p.m. Free. 805-489-9099. branchstreetdeli.com. Branch Street Deli, 203 E. Branch St., Arroyo Grande.

GRYFFIN: GRAVITY II TOUR **Oct. 18**, 5-10 p.m. 805-595-4000. events.avilabeachresort.com. Avila Beach Golf Resort, 6464 Ana Bay Road, Avila Beach.

LIDO LIVE Live music at Lido at Dolphin Bay. Tuesdays, Thursdays, Fridays, 5-8 p.m. Free. 805-773-8900. thedolphinbay.com/lido. Lido Restaurant at Dolphin Bay, 2727 Shell Beach Rd., Pismo Beach.

LIVE MUSIC AT PUFFERS Tuesdays, 6:30-9:30 p.m. Free. 805-773-6563. puffersofpismo.com. Puffers of Pismo, 781 Price St., Pismo Beach.

LIVE MUSIC AT SCOTT'S Enjoy live music from local artists, cocktails, and food. Fridays, 6-9 p.m. Scotty's Bar and Grill, 750 Price Street, Pismo Beach, 805-773-1922, scottysbarpismo.com.

MUSIC ON THE MESA BOOGIE W/ THE CLIFFNOTES Free Music on the Mesa Series at Cypress

Ridge Pavilion will be a Mesa Boogie with The Cliffnotes.

Oct. 20, 1:30-4 p.m. Free. 805-474-7979. cypressridge.com. Cypress Ridge Pavilion, 1050 Cypress Ridge Pkwy, Arroyo Grande.

MUSIC ON THE MESA: CYPRESS RIDGE PAVILION Bring lawn chairs or blankets. Food and drink will be available for purchase (including beer, wine, and mixed drinks). Sundays, 1:30-4 p.m. through Oct. 27 Free. 805-474-7979. cypressridge.com/music. Cypress Ridge Pavilion, 1050 Cypress Ridge Pkwy, Arroyo Grande.

SAN LUIS OBISPO

12TH ANNUAL ACOUSTIC GUITAR CONCERT Join popular local guitarists Tim Pacheco, Martin Paris, Samuel Shalhoub, and Jennifer Martin for an evening of acoustic music. **Oct. 12**, 7:30-9:30 p.m. \$15 General Admission; \$10 Students/Seniors. 805-546-3198. Cuesta College Cultural and Performing Arts Center, Highway 1, San Luis Obispo, cuesta.edu.

DJ/DANCE

SANTA YNEZ VALLEY

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

LOMPOC/VANDENBERG

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

SANTA MARIA VALLEY/LOS ALAMOS

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

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

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

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

NIGHTLIFE AT RANCHO BOWL Enjoy DJ's 6 nights

PHOTO COURTESY OF SOUL EXPLOZIO



SOUL SEARCHING

The Naughty Oak Brewing Company presents Soul Explozion on Friday, Oct. 18, from 7 to 10 p.m. This eclectic band performs a variety of genres including disco, funk, and dance. Admission is free, but food from Lido's will be available for purchase, from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. The brewery is located at 165 S. Broadway, suite 102, Orcutt. Visit naughtyoak.com to find out more.

—Caleb Wiseblood

a week in the Rancho Bar and Lounge. For ages 21-and-over. Tuesdays-Sundays, 9 p.m. Free. 805-925-2405. ranchobowl.com/nightlife. Rancho Bowl, 128 E Donovan Rd., Santa Maria.

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

KARAOKE/OPEN MIC

SANTA YNEZ VALLEY

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

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

SANTA MARIA VALLEY/LOS ALAMOS

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

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

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

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

Arts Briefs

Wine festival marks *Sideways*' 15th anniversary

To celebrate the 15th anniversary of *Sideways*—the Oscar-winning 2004 comedy-drama filmed primarily on location in the Santa Ynez Valley—the Sta. Rita Hills Wine Alliance hosts Sideways Fest, Oct. 18 through 20.

The weekend will feature three main events kicking off with the *Sideways* Movie Experience at the Solvang Festival Theater on Friday, Oct. 18, from 6 to 10 p.m. The event includes wine tasting, a screening of the film, and a panel discussion with surprise guests.

Sideways Fest continues with the Sideways Shuttle Tour in Buellton on Saturday, Oct. 19. The tour departs at 11 a.m. from Sideways Inn and is expected to return by 5 p.m. Stops along the tour include Peake Ranch, Hitching Post II, Ostrich Land, the Solvang Restaurant, and other locations featured in the film.

The final event of the weekend is the Sideways Wine Festival on Sunday, Oct. 20, from noon to 4 p.m. The festival takes place at River View Park in Buellton and will feature samples from more than 40 Sta. Rita Hills and Santa Barbara County wineries.

For more info on any three of the events, call (805) 448-7070 or visit sidewaysfest.com.

Gavin's Books holds poetry night

Gavin's Books in Santa Maria hosts a poetry night event on Saturday, Oct. 12, at 7:30 p.m. Featured poets Judith Chumlea-Cohan and Molly Fisk will read, which will be followed by an open reading. The event is free and the public is welcome. The store is located at 230 E. Betteravia Road, suite K, Santa Maria. Call (805) 922-4282 or visit gavinsbooks.com for more info.

Santa Maria Arts Council celebrates Arts and Humanities Month

The Santa Maria Arts Council (SMAC) hosts a meeting to celebrate October as Arts and Humanities Month at Santa Maria City Hall on Tuesday, Oct. 15, at 5:30 p.m. Artists, art supporters, and other community members are welcome to come show their support for the arts and help celebrate this special month. The meeting will take place in the Santa Maria City Council Chamber. City Hall is located at 110 E. Cook St., Santa Maria. Visit smartsuncouncil.org to find out more about the meeting and other upcoming SMAC events.

Santa Maria Civic Theatre presents *Lucky Stiff*

Santa Maria Civic Theatre's (SMCT) production of *Lucky Stiff* opens on Friday, Oct. 11, at 7 p.m. Performances will continue every Friday and Saturday at 7 p.m. and every Sunday at 1:30 p.m., through Sunday, Oct. 27. The play follows Harry Witherspoon, a shoe salesman who stands to inherit \$6 million after his wealthy uncle is murdered by his lover.

Tickets to the show range from \$10 to \$20 and are available in advance at my805tix.com. The theater is located at 1660 N. McClelland St., Santa Maria. Call (805) 922-4442 or visit smct.org for more info. ○

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

PHOTOS COURTESY OF NATALIE ZIMMERMAN



ORCUTT NATIVE: Writer and yoga instructor Natalie Zimmerman is bringing her yoga/journaling workshop to her hometown for one day only, at Yoga4Mankind in Old Town Orcutt.

Best of both worlds

LA-based screenwriter and yoga instructor hosts experimental journaling workshop in Orcutt

BY CALEB WISEBLOOD

Fond memories of the Elks Rodeo, Strawberry Festival, and other definitive Santa Maria Valley gatherings race through yoga instructor Natalie Zimmerman's mind as she returns to her hometown. The Orcutt native currently resides in Los Angeles, but she's bringing her latest workshop—a combination of yoga, meditation, and journaling—to the Central Coast for one day only.

"There's a joy that comes from doing what you love and then sharing it with others," Zimmerman told the *Sun*. "That alone excites me. I also love a reason to be back in my hometown. I'm a very nostalgic person, so it always brings up memories."

Zimmerman will host her Release and Restore workshop at Yoga4Mankind in Old Town Orcutt on Sunday, Oct. 13. The thought of returning home to teach a yoga session induced a particularly memorable flashback for the instructor, who attended her first class at age 15. Zimmerman recalls feeling reluctant to be there.

"The funny thing is, I was in the back with my friend laughing. I couldn't take it seriously," Zimmerman said. "And now I'm a certified instructor and go almost every day. It's pretty ironic."

Yoga became one of Zimmerman's passions during college, while studying English at UCSB. The yoga course was one of the few outliers she enrolled in, among a plethora of writing classes. Courses in film and media studies joined the docket when Zimmerman decided to pursue screenwriting specifically. During high school,

Hooked on a healing

Natalie Zimmerman will instruct her Release and Restore workshop at Yoga4Mankind on Sunday, Oct. 13, from 3 to 4:30 p.m. Tickets are \$30 in advance and \$35 at the door. The studio is located at 130 N. Broadway, suite B, Orcutt. Visit natzimmerman.com to find out more.

she had aspirations to work in the film industry someday but felt unclear as to what capacity.

"I always knew I was a writer, but being from a small town and growing up before the internet, I didn't know screenwriting was a career path. You only ever heard about the director," Zimmerman said. "I think that has changed, especially in this new 'Golden Age of Television.'"

"But I was definitely interested in film growing up and saw a lot of movies as a kid," she added,

"some that even my peers only watched as an adult or have never seen."

After graduating from UCSB, Zimmerman moved to Los Angeles where she enrolled in UCLA's Professional Program for Screenwriting. She wrote her first two screenplays during the course. After the program, she pursued an MFA in screenwriting at the American Film Institute; she graduated in 2018.

But all throughout her college career, Zimmerman continued to take yoga classes on and off, and she eventually joined a studio to take them regularly. She became a certified teacher through the YogaWorks program. Soon after, Zimmerman realized how she could intertwine her two passions during a discussion with a peer.

"My friend and I, who is also a yoga instructor and very creative, were discussing how yoga and art are interlinked," Zimmerman said. "We wanted to create a class that we could enjoy that would utilize yoga and journaling to open up your creative potential."

"I was encouraged to dive deeper into this work and create classes that were not only geared toward creative pursuits, but to all types of healing," she added.

During her workshops, Zimmerman encourages participants to write about a specific prompt in order to "release and let go" of stressors, "making space for the magic in your life to happen." The theme of Zimmerman's upcoming Orcutt workshop is autumn, as attendees will write journal entries based on the season, she said.

"Fall is naturally a reflective time because we are preparing for the shorter, darker, quiet days of winter," Zimmerman said. "In nature, it's a time of hibernation, and energetically we feel it too."

Although this particular class is one day only, it isn't too far fetched to assume Zimmerman will host more at Yoga4Mankind in the future, as the Orcutt native frequently returns home to visit friends and loved ones, she said.

"I come back very often. My family lives in the Santa Ynez Valley, and I have extended family in Santa Barbara and Paso Robles areas," she said. "I'm really close to my friends from high school and I consider them family, and most of them are still in Orcutt or nearby." ○

Orcutt is also Arts Editor Caleb Wiseblood's hometown. Contact him at cwiseblood@santamariasun.com.



RELEASE AND RESTORE: During college, Zimmerman took yoga classes on-and-off, but eventually joined a studio to take them regularly. Later she became a certified teacher through the YogaWorks program.

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PHOTOS BY CALEB WISEBLOOD



PARANORMAL ACTIVITY: Horrifying voices, laughter, and other noises plague the residents of Hill House during the late hours of the night, in Orcutt Community Theater's production of *The Haunting of Hill House*.

House arrest

OCT's *The Haunting of Hill House* offers chills and thrills just in time for Halloween

BY CALEB WISEBLOOD

Last October, I totally missed the boat on Netflix's *The Haunting of Hill House*, the popular 2018 adaptation of Shirley Jackson's novel of the same name—the same novel Orcutt Community Theater's (OCT) latest production is based on. With Halloween just around the corner, it's about time I finally jump on the *Hill House* bandwagon.

Seasonal inspiration aside, I feel more inclined to start watching the show based on my reaction to the play. Similar to *The Shining*, this ghost story is a slow burn but one that still delivers the right dose of stomach-churning scares when it needs to.

The play begins with introductions—as we meet the show's four main characters for the first time, so they meet one another. It's revealed that Dr. Montague (Bob Larsen), an investigator determined to discover concrete evidence of the supernatural, had invited several people to stay with him at Hill House, a large estate he's rented out for the summer. Rumor has it that the mansion is haunted and the tenacious doctor curated his guest list to include only individuals with some sort of history linked to the paranormal.

The only two strangers to accept his invitation are Eleanor (Angela Herrick, OCT's *Vintage Hitchcock*), a recluse with a mysterious past, and Theodora (Jordan Mills, Santa Maria Civic Theatre's *Little Shop of Horrors*), a Bohemian artist. The three are joined by Luke Sanderson, (David Bathe, OCT's *Miracle in Bedford Falls*), the young heir to the Hill House estate. Throughout the group's stay at the mansion, meals are prepared according to a strict schedule by the estate's caretaker, Mrs. Dudley (Nakia Jones, OCT's *Mama Won't Fly*).

Mrs. Dudley is often a subject of ridicule among the other housemates, who frequently mock her stern, seemingly arbitrary routines. In one scene, Eleanor takes her coffee into the living room after breakfast. A bit later, Dudley enters, agitated, and demands whoever still has dirty dishes out return them to the kitchen immediately. Every dish has to be cleaned a put away precisely by such-and-such time, she angrily explains. Some of the housemates

are quick to assume the rules are put in place in order for Dudley to appease an evil entity, which would otherwise harm Dudley or themselves.

Meanwhile, Dr. Montague's wife, Mrs. Montague (Dixie Arthur), has more concrete plans with the estate's presumed spirits. With the help of her companion, Arthur Parker (Wiley Charles, Jr.), the headmaster of a local boys' school, Mrs. Montague uses spirit writing to attempt communication with the ghosts that inhabit the mansion.

Powerful acting and production design aside, I have to hand it to the show's sound effects team—Eli Hastings and Isa Hastings—for helping maintain an unsettling atmosphere throughout the show. This ghost story grabbed me, and there's no way I'm letting myself miss out on the Netflix

iteration before this Halloween passes by.

"When choosing the script for my first attempt at directing, I thought about a few things," director Brian Kasicki said in the show's program. "What is going to challenge me? What is going to challenge the actors? What is going to be fun to do and entertaining to see? This script is the one that met all my criteria." ○

Arts Editor Caleb Wiseblood ain't afraid of no ghosts. Accuse him of libel at cwiseblood@santamariasun.com.



WEIRD SCIENCE: Eleanor (Angela Herrick, left) and Theodora (Jordan Mills, center) question the intentions of Dr. Montague (Bob Larsen, right), who aims to observe the paranormal incidents that Hill House supposedly induces.

Film Reviews

All theater listings are as of Friday, Oct. 11.

ABOMINABLE

What's it rated? PG

What's it worth? Matinee

Where's it showing? Movies Lompoc

Jill Culton and Todd Wilderman have had their hands in recent animated/fantasy films such as *Monsters Inc.* and *Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone*, in the writers' room or the visual department.

The two have now come together for the first time as a director duo to create DreamWorks' *Abominable*, in which Chloe Bennet is the voice of Yi, a young girl who goes on an epic adventure across China to take a yeti back to its home on Mount Everest.

I've heard that DreamWorks has been called Pixar's redheaded stepchild because its films just don't quite reach the magnitude of *Toy Story*, *Coco*, *Cars*, or *Up*—you get the idea. I will admit they have had some fan favorites such as *Shrek*, the Wallace and Gromit franchise, *Madagascar*, and *The Road to El Dorado*, but similar to many of the animation movies that come out of DreamWorks, *Abominable* just falls a little flat.

The film opens up with a playful and very furry yeti breaking out of a laboratory and into a busy city in China. These first few scenes are done from a first-person perspective, so it feels like the audience is breaking out of confinement and running into oncoming traffic—the first and last time the filmmakers use this visual storytelling effect.

The creature takes refuge on an apartment rooftop where we can see a brightly lit billboard with a Mount Everest photo. The rooftop is also a refuge for Yi, a teenager who avoids her family and works odd jobs to save up for a trip across China that her late father had planned for them.

The yeti and Yi meet, and after an initial startle, Yi decides she's going to help the creature escape from a doctor and a villainous animal collector—and return him to his home. Yi's childhood friends Peng (Albert Tsai) and Jin (Tenzing Norgay Trainor) join the escapees on their journey.

Of course the adventure has its ups and downs, separations, and glimmers of magic. It turns out the yeti, who they decided to name Everest, can magically communicate with nature. He causes a dandelion to grow 10 times its normal size, which gets the group out of the villain's grasp.

What this animated film has going for it is the scenery that the creative team designed—from the spectacular fields of blooming flowers to the snowy mountaintops of Everest.

But this story has been done more times than I can count. You know, greedy adults who want to exploit natural habitats for their own benefit and innocent young children who want to preserve it. Not to mention its coming-of-age plot after losing a parent. There are plenty of animated films that have used these plot lines successfully; *Abominable* didn't really do it justice.

The script wasn't groundbreaking either, as a lot of the jokes were one-liners that didn't even make the kids in my audience erupt in laughter. (97 min.)

—Karen Garcia

FILM REVIEWS continued page 28

SCORING

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

The joke's on us

Co-writer Todd Phillips (*Old School*, *The Hangover*, *War Dogs*) directs this character study and origin story of Arthur Fleck (Joaquin Phoenix), who after being rejected by society becomes Joker, Batman's future archnemesis. (121 min.)

Glen: Like a mirror on contemporary society, *Joker* reflects our problems back to us—the widening gap between the haves and have-nots, paternalistic politician-“saviors” who believe they know best for the “misguided” underclass, and the dismantling of the social safety net by a government that abandons its marginalized. It's a dark and depressing film, and it reminds me of the old saying, “Society gets the criminal it deserves.” In *Joker*, I'll also add that society gets the politicians it deserves. Gotham is in the middle of a garbage strike (think NYC in 1968, though the cars in the film make the setting closer to the late-'70s). The city's on edge, and Arthur Fleck and his mother Penny Fleck are barely hanging on in their rundown apartment. Arthur makes a living as a party clown, and early on we see he's the object of ridicule—a man

who can't get respect in a society that's abandoned civility. In the beginning, the violence that occurs is perpetrated against Fleck, not by him. He's clearly had a difficult life, and he's surviving thanks to social services providing him with the medication he needs to stay sane ... until his services are cut. You can see where this is going. The film sympathizes with Fleck, a character with a vibe similar to Travis Bickle in *Taxi Driver* (1976) who like Howard Beale in *Network* (1976) has a meltdown. Remember? He's mad as hell and he's not going to take this anymore! It's a creepy, disturbing, and bleak ride that's probably not for everyone.

Anna: This movie is a dark descent into Fleck's madness, the scale of which cloaks over Gotham like a dark, wet sheet as both he and the city spiral down. As you mentioned, it's ripe with parallels to society today—painting a dismal portrait of the state of things. Phoenix is by all accounts a chameleon, his transformation into characters is jaw-droppingly good, and Joker may be his best yet. In Arthur he creates a character that you pity and in Joker one that you hate, and yet the two are one in the same. Early on, we see Arthur in a weekly meeting with his social worker, answering the same questions he does every week, pleading for more medication. When

the social worker protests that surely the seven meds he's on already must be doing something, Arthur exhaustedly rubs his face and says he just doesn't want to feel bad any longer. It's heartbreaking; the man is clearly so very broken in the beginning, and then Arthur learns even more about his own

past—enough to send him along the path to his destiny as Joker. He dreams of being a stand-up comedian, having a girlfriend, and taking care of his mother, but his reality and delusions are murky and cruel; he can't trust his own mind, let alone anyone around him. I was so impressed with this film. Phoenix's performance here is going to stick with me for a long time.

Glen: Phoenix is amazing here. I understand he lost 52 pounds for the role, and it shows in his emaciated frame. We often see him contorting himself into a painfully twisted wraith. It almost seems like he's developing a hunchback, though that may be part of his body acting—I wasn't sure. Fleck suffers from an affliction that causes him to laugh uncontrollably in the wrong situations, and Phoenix's laughter is more like a convulsion wracking his body. It's a fully immersed and wholly committed performance. Fleck's fantasy is to appear on *Live with Murray Franklin*, an evening talk show hosted by Murray Franklin (Robert De Niro), in a side plot that cinephiles will recognize as lifted from *The King of Comedy* (1982)—which starred De Niro as unsuccessful stand-up comic Rupert Pupkin, who kidnaps his comedy idol, Jerry Langford (Jerry Lewis). This is clearly a film made by a film lover, and the touchstones to other films are abundant. Some might argue that these references makes *Joker* derivative, but I see it as homage. Future Batman's father, Thomas Wayne (Brett Cullen), is a stand-in for all the paternalistic politicians who see the poor and downtrodden as losers who need to be helped through tough love, and anyone who knows Bruce Wayne's backstory won't be surprised at what befalls his parents. Though



DESCENT INTO MADNESS: After being rejected by society, Arthur Fleck (Joaquin Phoenix) becomes Joker, Batman's future archnemesis, in this dark and disturbing origin story.

not tied to any of the other Batman films, *Joker* works as the set-up to Christopher Nolan's Dark Knight Trilogy: *Batman Begins* (2005), *The Dark Knight* (2008), and *The Dark Knight Rises* (2012). So many of *Joker's* memorable moments keep popping into my head as I think about the film—deep, dark, disturbing moments. I loved it.

Anna: The movie definitely tips its hat to a bunch of films, which I find a lot of fun. The Bickle/*Taxi Driver* vibe is especially strong in Arthur, and having De Niro share the screen is a cool way to honor the characters' similarities. Thomas Wayne soon becomes the object of Arthur's fascination and then scorn after he discovers what he thinks is a connection between them. He also dotes on his mother, somewhat begrudgingly, and to say the two have an odd mother-son dynamic is understated. Take a bath on your own, mom! We soon learn that Penny herself has been hiding some dark secrets, ones that may explain a lot of Arthur's psychological issues. It's darkness all around. How did the madman become the menace? Why, he was systematically broken down by a society that doesn't care for the poor or mentally ill, uncared for, and unnoticed. Menace seems to be his only chance at getting noticed, and Arthur's transformation into Joker gets the attention of Gotham. In fact, it changes the scene altogether, and his crooked smile becomes the battle symbol of the have-nots. I can't say it enough—I thought this was great. It may not be everyone's cup of tea, but I loved this deep dive into the origin of Joker. Maybe don't take the kids, but definitely see it in the theater if you have any interest in it at all. O

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

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CREEPY AND KOOKY: Morticia (voiced by Charlize Theron) and her husband, Gomez (voiced by Oscar Isaac), find their lives unraveling when they move their peculiar family to New Jersey, in the new animated *The Addams Family*.

atmosphere, and you have the makings of an effective, albeit highly commercialized, horror flick. (100 min.)
—Caleb Wiseblod

GEMINI MAN

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

NEW Ang Lee (*Eat Drink Man Woman, Brokeback Mountain, Life of Pi*) directs this sci-fi actioner about an aging assassin (Will Smith) who's being hunted by a younger clone of himself. (117 min.)
—Glen

JEXI

What's it rated? **R**
Where's it showing? **Parks Plaza**
NEW What if Spike Jonze's 2013 sci-fi rom-drom *Her*, about a lonely man (Joaquin Phoenix) who falls in love with his A.I. operating system (voiced by

Scarlett Johansson), was a comedy? We're about to find out with co-writers/directors Jon Lucas and Scott Moore's *Jexi*, about Phil (Adam Devine), a lonely pop culture writer whose new phone has an operating system (voiced by Rose Byrne) that's part life coach and part cheerleader. As *Jexi* helps Phil gain more confidence, she also begins to undermine his real life relationships out of some weird A.I. jealousy. (84 min.)
—Glen

JOKER

What's it rated? **R**
What's it worth? **Full price**
Where's it showing? **Hi-Way Drive-in, Movies Lompoc, Parks Plaza**
PICK See Sun Screen.

JUDY

What's it rated? **PG-13**
What's it worth? **Matinee**
Where's it showing? **Parks Plaza**
PICK Rupert Gold's (*True Story*) developing résumé includes a lot of directing films and television series based on true events and people. In the biopic *Judy*, he's at it again, directing Renée Zellweger as America's sweetheart and tragic figure, Judy Garland.

The film takes a look at Frances Ethel Gumm's—aka Judy Garland's—last months of her life, while showing glimpses of her past encounters with Louis B. Mayer on the Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer (MGM) studio sets as a young actress. These flashbacks are sparse, and I would have loved to see more of the moments that led to her demise via insomnia and drug and alcohol abuse.

When the audience first steps into Garland's life, there's no indication that she's in trouble. Her head is held high, her presence is commanding, and she's dressed to impress in a colorful pantsuit.

She's in the company of her two youngest children, Lorna (Bella Ramsey) and Joey (Lewin Lloyd), who at this time have become part of her stage act of singing and dancing. As they're getting called to the stage, Garland is given an envelope with a couple hundred dollars and an apology that it might not be what she's used to receiving. No matter darling, the

show must go on.

After the performance, she and her sleepy children get in a taxi to their hotel only to learn that there's an issue with her bank accounts; the room was released. With nowhere to go, Garland and the children head over to her ex-husband Sidney Luft's (Rufus Sewell) home so the children have a place to sleep.

It's the beginning of the end for Garland who becomes homeless, practically penniless, and basically blacklisted from performing in Los Angeles for being unreliable. She wants to make enough to give her children a stable home, so Garland decides to leave for London to perform at the Talk of the Town, a cabaret-restaurant and really the only place that wants to pay for her voice.

The film centers on these last few weeks of loneliness and the angst she feels toward potentially losing her talent. Her talent is her voice, and she remembers it's the only thing that made her relevant in the industry—that is, according to Louis B. Mayer.

Zellweger did a fine job portraying Garland's fragility, movements on stage, and frantic yet elegant mannerisms. She also belted out all of Garland's greatest hits throughout the film beautifully, but hers lacked the fantasy that Garland's voice possessed.

Judy shows the usual highs and lows of a powerful entertainer broken down by a system dominated by men who controlled women. Like most biopics that don't have the rights to the entirety of a person's life, I feel there was a lot missing from this story. I wanted to know more about how Frances



PHONER: Adam Devine is Phil, a lonely tech writer whose new A.I. operating system, *Jexi* (voiced by Rose Byrne), gives him the confidence he needs to make friends ... until "she" gets jealous, in *Jexi*.

became Judy, what her life was like before becoming an actress, and what she struggled with to ultimately die at age 47 from an accidental overdose. The cause of her death is not mentioned at the end of the film. (118 min.) ○
—Karen

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

FILM REVIEWS from page 27

THE ADDAMS FAMILY

What's it rated? **PG**
Where's it showing? **Movies Lompoc, Parks Plaza**

NEW Co-directors Greg Tiernan and Conrad Vernon helm this animated comedy about a peculiar and macabre family. (105 min.)
—Glen Starkey

ANNABELLE COMES HOME

What's it rated? **R**
What's it worth? **Matinee**
Where's it showing? **Hi-Way Drive-In**

PICK To keep a possessed doll from wreaking havoc, demonologists Ed and Lorraine Warren (Patrick Wilson and Vera Farmiga, respectively) lock Annabelle in their artifacts room at home. But unspeakable horror awaits the family when Annabelle awakens the evil spirits in the room, who all set their sights on Judy, the Warrens' 10-year-old daughter, and her friends.

You'd think that this far along in the *Conjuring* franchise the idea fountain would run dry, but for horror fans, there are still some surprises here, though perhaps not as scary and effective as in those that came before. Add in some great performances, some deeper messages about guilt, and an unnerving

PHOTO COURTESY OF JERRY BRUCKHEIMER FILMS



BATTLE OF WILLS: Will Smith stars as an assassin battling with a younger clone of himself, in *Gemini Man*.

THE PEOPLE V. O.J. SIMPSON: AMERICAN CRIME STORY

When? **2016**
What's it rated? **TV-MA**
Where's it available? **Netflix**

"This is the worst day of my life," Los Angeles County District Attorney Gil Garcetti (Bruce Greenwood) says gravely, as he watches, from his office TV, fugitive O.J. Simpson's Ford Bronco barrel down Highway 405, with the entire LAPD following and the entire world watching.

Greenwood's well-delivered declaration makes a fitting summation of not just that historic car chase and police PR disaster, but of what's to come in the 2016 true crime series, *The People v. O.J. Simpson*. The 10-episode series, which first aired on FX and later won

nine Emmy Awards, chronicles the former football star's notorious double-murder trial, from the Brentwood crime scene to the stunning "not guilty" verdict.

Competent, nuanced performances from the series' cast and good writing makes *The People v. O.J.* feel like a tale we haven't seen or heard before. It does a great job of establishing the historical context, beginning with the 1992 Rodney King riots that set the tone for the racial strife present in Simpson's prosecution, defense, and media coverage. Particularly impressive in their roles are Sarah Paulson as Deputy District Attorney Marcia Clark, who passionately and determinedly prosecuted the case, and Courtney B. Vance as Johnnie Cochran, the civil rights lawyer who joined Simpson's "Dream Team" of attorneys that ultimately prevailed. Both actors expertly draw out their characters' motivations and convincingly portray them in the context of the time.

PHOTO COURTESY OF FX



JUICE ON TRIAL: The Emmy Award-winning FX true crime series, *The People v. O.J. Simpson: American Crime Story*, is available to stream on Netflix.

Overall, this show does an effective job at re-creating what the Simpson case was in real life: one of the most dramatic and high-profile criminal cases in U.S. history. This trial distilled so many fraught

BINGEABLE

elements of American culture and society, intertwining them in ways that couldn't help but generate nationwide intrigue. It exposed the blurred lines between justice, power, and celebrity. It brought racism and sexism to the fore. It represented enough salient stuff to trigger countless articles, books, documentaries, and TV series about it, like this one.

The People v. O.J. is a captivating ride. I learned quite a bit about the saga that I didn't know before (I was only 3 years old when the events took place). It's not a perfect show by any means. I wasn't a big fan of Cuba Gooding Jr.'s shrieky portrayal of Simpson, which according to other show reviews, wasn't really what Simpson acted and sounded like. John Travolta's stiff performance as Dream Team lawyer Robert Shapiro left something to be desired. At points along the way, there's a generic *Law and Order* vibe that I wish it avoided. But all in all, the pieces here fit quite well together (like a glove, you could say ... sorry), and the story, like it did in reality, unfolds in a thrilling way. Almost everything that's lacking is made up for with smart writing, direction, and a variety of strong performances. (10 episodes, 40 to 60 min. each.) ○
—Peter Johnson

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BEER AND WINE

PHOTO COURTESY OF FIRESTONE WALKER

PHOTO BY BETH GIUFFRE



ROOTED IN WINE: It makes sense that Firestone Walker Brewery got back to its roots in wine. Their very first beers were fermented in wine barrels. Pictured (from left to right) are Head Brewer Dustin Kral, Quality Control Manager Amy Crook, and Production Director Ali Razi.

BREAKING THE BEER MOLD: Rosalie is co-fermented with chardonnay and other aromatic local wine grape varieties from Castoro Cellars in Paso Robles. The brewmasters incorporate a dash of hibiscus flower to achieve that pretty rosé color.

Pretty in pink

Firestone Walker blends the best of both worlds in one can

BY BETH GIUFFRE

lobster corndogs. Ramen burgers. Ice-cream-cannoli. Foodies far and wide are being treated to boundary-pushing hybrids on their plates, and now two Central Coast beverage makers are bringing a fanciful blend in the form of a six-pack.

Firestone Walker brewmasters teamed up with Niels Udsen, owner of Castoro Cellars, to create Rosalie. She comes in slim pink cans, with her name in pretty pink cursive above a beautiful, long-haired woman holding up grapes, with the bricks of the historic Paso Robles Inn surrounding her.

She's at once a beer and a wine. And she solves

the age-old restaurant dilemma: Shall I order an IPA or a glass of rosé?

Dear, you can have both, in a stemless wineglass no less. Swirl and sniff the aromatics in the glass before you sip, and keep an open mind.

For my first try of the Rosalie, Firestone Walker Quality Control Manager Amy Crook had me lick some hibiscus flowers in a little cup to see if I could recognize them in the body of the beer-wine. The enigma drink proved lovely, like a light pilsner dating a rosé.

As someone who likes light, fragrant wines like rosés and vigner and also adores beer, I realized I'm among the prime target market. I wondered what my friends and family might think, so I took some six-packs home to run a little experiment.

The rosé lover's beer

Look for Firestone Walker Brewing Company's six-pack slim can Rosalie—a hybrid half-beer, half-wine with an acid profile similar to a rosé—in the beer and wine section of local grocery stores.

Firestone Walker Brewing Company brewery tours and tastings are held at the Visitor's Center: 1400 Ramada Drive, Paso Robles. Call (805) 225-5911.

Firestone's Taproom and Barrelworks is located at 620 McMurray Road, Buellton. Call (805) 697-4777.

It was a smashing success: Everyone seemed to be pleasantly surprised at how bright and fresh Rosalie tasted. Some were astounded that a beer could be so elegant, and others were amazed that a sophisticated wine could get along with a tough ol' beer.

"It's a backyard beer all day," said Head Brewer Dustin Kral, who has been at Firestone for 17 years. "It's just unique. It's different. The acidity is bright, and the color is beautiful."

According to Udsen, rosé is really in right now. And in the beer world, there's the hazy thing going

on, and IPA's popularity has skyrocketed. Udsen is hopeful this beer-wine hybrid trend sticks.

Kral recently introduced the Rosalie at the Mammoth Bluesapalooza.

"It was overlooked by a lot of our clientele," he said, describing how sometimes Firestone staff would have to twist people's arms to try something new. "Our customers wanted their IPAs and their standard beer, but once I started telling people exactly what it is—because what this beer needs is the story—not only were they drinking it the rest of the day, they were going back and getting their buddies to come over and taste it and drink it."

Rosalie is only 5 percent alcohol and is made with no extracts, fruit-flavoring, or shortcuts. Plus, it's low in calories.

"I think Firestone, in general, always veered away from making products that we don't want to drink ourselves, just because we think there's a mass appeal to them," said Firestone Walker's Production Director Ari Razi, who has worked 16 years for the brewery. "I think that with this rosé style, there are so many overly sweet products out there that are artificial, where this beer was designed for a more sophisticated palate."

EATS continued page 32

the HUTCHING POST

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EATS from page 30

Rosalie is part of Firestone's circle of life—their first beers were fermented in wine barrels, and ever since, they've used oak barrels in their brewing operations. Firestone brewery started small, on the Firestone family vineyard in Los Olivos, and moved to the old SLO Brewing Company building in Paso Robles in 2001. Now it's the fourth largest craft brewery in California and employs hundreds of SLO County residents.

Firestone has a brewery in Venice, California, called The Propagator that serves as an extension of its two other brewing operations in Paso and Buellton. It's a state-of-the-art beer research and development think tank, where Rosalie was conceptualized. Firestone is also the founder of the Terroir Project, a collaborative experiment into beer-wine hybrids.

Once Rosalie was made, Firestone had to purchase new equipment and tackle the challenges of integrating sugary grapes into the pipes and tanks, making the new brew shelf-stable, and preserving the qualities of a well-made beverage. Several test batches were made.

Udsen and Firestone Brewmaster Matt Brynildson tasted the samples along the way, and Udsen said they both learned quite a bit over the experimental span of a year. The wine grape juice was pressed and delivered for cold storage at their brewery in Paso, and the process of brewing a base beer began.

"It was definitely a new challenge," said Crook, who tastes Rosalie every week to monitor the tank. "It opened up a whole new realm of raw ingredient microbiology to watch ... but we learned how to control it, and we haven't had any issues."

In September 2018, Firestone's friends and neighbors at Castoro harvested 100 tons of chardonnay grapes specifically reserved for Rosalie, later followed by another 100 tons of



PHOTO COURTESY OF FIRESTONE WALKER

INDY WINE: Firestone Walker Brewmaster Matt Brynildson's idea was to use subtle souring techniques to create an acid profile similar to rosé wine.

viognier, sauvignon blanc, riesling, and muscat. Brynildson wanted the "crowd-pleasing textures and flavors" of the chardonnay but also wanted the lift of the other aromatic grape varieties.

Udsen said he met Brynildson through Castoro's yearly Whale Rock Music & Arts Festival. Brynildson is a big fan of music, and it was at the festival when Brynildson told Udsen he wanted to make a beer with him.

"I thought he was just BS'n' me," Udsen recalled.

But Brynildson persisted. Udsen said he could supply enough grape juice for the project, and Brynildson was happy his supplier would be local.

"It was fun for both of us," said Udsen, who personally loves the Rosalie. "It's real light and fresh. You gotta quaffer for sure!" ○

Flavor writer Beth Giuffre is pleased to have met Rosalie. Send more flavorful introductions to bgiuffre@newtimeslo.com.



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Nibbles and bites

• Four days, six towns, and a whirlwind of activities are coming up for the **Taste of the Santa Ynez Valley** from Oct. 17 through 20, when the Santa Ynez Valley throws its inaugural food, wine, and experiential event to show off its edible and imbibable bounty. Multi-day passes and tickets are available at nightout.com. Learn more at visitsyv.com. Restaurant dinners, wine tastings, cooking classes, and more are waiting for you with nine main events and dozens of other small get-togethers happening in Los Alamos, Santa Ynez, Solvang, Ballard, and Buellton:

• On Thursday, Oct. 17, start with a **tasting tour** of the region in Ferrini Park from 3:30 to 5:30 p.m. (\$25) and sample a selection of wines from Los Alamos and the Santa Maria Valley and appetizers from local restaurants. If you're still feeling peckish, you can follow that with an al fresco dinner and wine tasting at **Bell Street** (\$150) in Los Alamos from 5:30 to 9 p.m. Featured chefs and wines are from around town and the ticket includes the Ferrini Park tasting.

• Friday, Oct. 18, brings a **cooking class** at the **Baker's Table** with chef Robin Goldstein from 2 to 4 p.m. (\$50) in Santa Ynez; an **Exploration of Wine and Cheese** with Matt Kettman of *Wine Enthusiast* and *The Independent* at the **Lucky Hen Larder** in Santa Ynez from 2 to 4 p.m. (\$75); a celebration of the finicky and super cool **cabernet franc** grape at **Gainey Vineyards**—yes, there will be lots of wine—from 4 to 6 p.m. (\$40); the **Sideways movie experience and tasting** at the Solvang Festival Theater in Solvang from 6 to 10 p.m. (\$75); and dinner at **Grimm's Bluff Vineyards and Winery** from 6:30 to 10 p.m. (\$150).

• Kick off and end your Saturday, Oct. 20, with the **Ballard Inn's** chef Budi Kazali. Kazali will open his kitchen for a 25-person **cooking class** from 11 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. (\$100) and will craft a multi-course menu paired with his local wine faves from 6:30 to 10 p.m. (\$150). Or you could pull into the quaint country wine town of Los Olivos for a day of free festivities from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. that the family can enjoy. A **Wine Roundup VIP tent** from Taste of the Santa Ynez Valley will absolutely be there (\$40). Looking for a little bit of fun without children? **The Solvang Grape Stomp and Santa Ynez Valley Wine Tasting**—yes, there will be food—is happening from 2 to 5 p.m. at 1st Street and Solvang Park (\$75). You can also have a dinner that night at **First & Oak** in Solvang courtesy of chef JJ Guerrero and Sommelier Jonathan Rosenson from 6:30 to 10 p.m. (\$125).

• Cut, case, and cure some meat on Sunday, Oct. 20, with Jeff and Janet Olsson of **Industrial Eats** and Jake Francis of **Valley Piggery** from 10:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Industrial Eats in Buellton (\$125). Wine, snacks, and lunch are also on the menu! That Sunday Funday, the **Sideways Wine Festival Grand Tasting** will take over Buellton's River View Park with 40 wineries from the Santa Rita Hills and Santa Barbara County from noon to 4 p.m. (\$55) and Santa Rita Hills pinot noir and chardonnay is taking on those from the Santa Maria Valley from 10:30 a.m. to noon at **The Sideways Inn** in Buellton (\$75). **Figueroa Mountain Brewing Company** is hosting a craft beer dinner that night from 6 to 9 p.m. (\$80). ○

Editor Camillia Lanham is ready for a weekend of fun. Send your tips, tricks, and tidbits to clanham@santamariasun.com.

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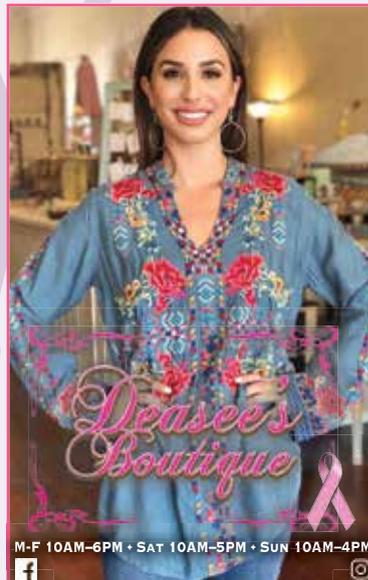


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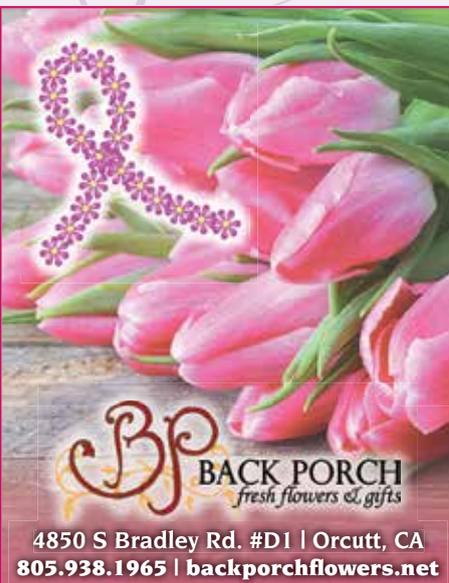
Catherine
Kitcho
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