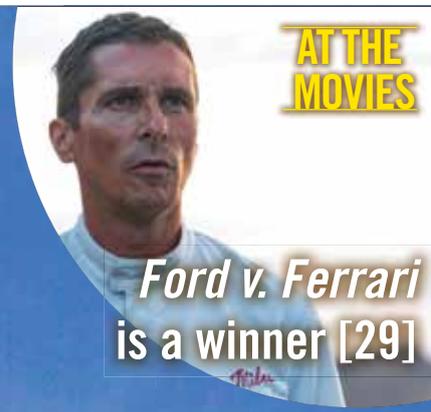


Sun



AT THE MOVIES

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Now recruiting

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BY ZAC EZZONE



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Nationwide, the number of people applying for full-time positions with law enforcement agencies has decreased by 27 to 36 percent over the last five years. The lack of interest in pursuing police work as a career is acutely felt in Lompoc—exacerbated by the difference in compensation that the city can offer compared to other local jurisdictions. Santa Maria, Santa Barbara County, Lompoc, and Guadalupe are simultaneously hiring more law enforcement staff, but Lompoc is having more trouble filling open positions than the others and has recently seen an uptick in violent crime. For this week's cover story, Staff Writer Zac Ezzone talks to local law enforcement agencies about the issue and what they're doing to try to address it [10].

Also this week, read about what Chevron is proposing to deal with a decades-old oil spill in the Guadalupe Oil Field [7], the new superintendent at Santa Maria Joint Union High School District [8], an Orcutt painter who focuses on animals [26], the author of *Love is a Rebellious Bird* [28], and The Garagiste Wine Festival [31].

Camillia Lanham
editor

Cover photo courtesy of Allan Hancock College > Cover design by Alex Zuniga



SELF-SELECTING: About a quarter of the trainees who begin the Law Enforcement Academy at Allan Hancock College drop out before it ends, leaving local police departments looking for more recruits.

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Political Watch

• During a **House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee** hearing on Nov. 14, **U.S. Rep. Salud Carbajal** (D-Santa Barbara) questioned the members of the **U.S. Coast Guard** and the **National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB)** on safety regulations and next steps regarding the *Conception* boat fire that killed 34 people near the Channel Islands in September. According to a press release about Carbajal's opening statement at the hearing, he said he was concerned that the Coast Guard hasn't implemented various procedure changes that the NTSB has advocated for in regard to safety inspections for boats. In his opening statement, Carbajal claims the *Conception* was operating under old safety requirements and not the most up-to-date rules. "What are some of the safety implications to continue to operate under this framework?" Carbajal asked. "And why, why do we need to wait until another tragedy to change our current safety rules?" According to the press release, the safety board is expected to release the results of its investigation into the deadly incident next year.

• On Nov. 12, during America Recycles Week, the **U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)** recognized the **Santa Ynez Band of Chumash Indians** for its recycling and food recovery efforts. According to the EPA's press release, last year the Santa Ynez Band of Chumash Indians, which owns and operates the Chumash Casino Resort, diverted almost 3 million pounds of waste from local landfills through its zero waste program. "The Chumash Casino Resort's Zero Waste initiatives are making a real difference for the environment," EPA Pacific Southwest Regional Administrator Mike Stoker said in the release. "By diverting more than 90 percent of their total waste stream from landfills and sharing their expertise with other tribes, they are true recycling champions." According to the press release, the Santa Ynez Band of Chumash Indians was able to accomplish this through its participation in several innovative programs.

• State **Attorney General Xavier Becerra** announced on Nov. 18 that he, along with Los Angeles County and the Los Angeles District Attorney, has filed a lawsuit against Juul alleging that the company's marketing practices target young people and fail to warn users about the potential harm of using its products. Juul is a San-Francisco-based company that makes electronic cigarettes. The lawsuit also alleges that Juul sent marketing materials to the email addresses of underage individuals who failed an age verification on the company's website. According to a press release from Becerra's office, as of Nov. 13 the **Centers for Disease Control and Prevention** has reported 42 deaths associated with electronic cigarettes or vaping products. "We've worked too hard, committed our hard-earned money for too long combatting harmful tobacco use to stand idly by as we now lose Californians to vaping and nicotine addiction," Becerra said. "Today we take legal action against the deceptive practices that Juul and the e-cigarette industry employ to lure kids into their vaping web."

• On Nov. 19, **U.S. Rep. Salud Carbajal** (D-Santa Barbara) introduced the **Safe Skies Act**, along with the **Air Line Pilots Association** and the **Coalition of Airline Pilots Association**. This bill would strengthen the flight, duty, and rest regulations that cargo pilots operate under—regulations that are currently weaker than commercial pilots operate under. According to a press release from Carbajal's office, these weaker regulations lead to increased pilot fatigue, which creates safety concerns for everybody flying throughout the U.S. "The Safe Skies Act would address the safety double standard by applying the same strong standards for cargo pilots that exist for airline pilots," the release states. ○



HEAD-ON COLLISION: Following a fatal car crash on Highway 154, the Santa Barbara County Association of Governments is considering establishing a committee to examine ways to make the roadway safer.

Local agencies consider safety committee following fatal Highway 154 crash

Weeks after a mother and her two children died in a car crash on Highway 154, the Santa Barbara County Association of Governments (SBCAG) is considering establishing a committee to examine ways to make the roadway safer.

On Oct. 25, John Dungan allegedly veered into an opposing lane of traffic just east of the Cold Springs Bridge and hit another car head-on that was carrying Rebecca Vanessa Goss Bley, 2-year-old Lucienne Gleason, and 4-month-old Desmond Gleason.

At a press conference on Nov. 7, California Highway Patrol Capt. Cindy Pontes said Dungan was booked into the county jail on Nov. 5 after spending some time in the hospital. He has been charged with three counts of murder for the crash, which the CHP believes Dungan intentionally caused.

Almost a month later, the SBCAG board of directors will vote on whether to establish a Highway 154 Safety Committee at its Nov. 21 meeting. SBCAG Government Affairs and Public Information Manager Lauren Bianchi Klemann said this committee would give stakeholders and the public the opportunity to look at what's being done to make the roadway safer and what else can be done.

According to a staff report for the Nov. 21 meeting, there was an average of 54 reported crashes on Highway 154 annually from 2006 to 2017. On average, four of those crashes per year were fatal.

"Recent traffic incidents on State Route Highway 154 have motivated county residents to seek to implement traffic safety measures to reduce traffic deaths and injuries," the staff report states.

While the most recent crash has left many residents looking for answers, Klemann said the initial idea for this safety committee came out of recommendations a different committee made in 2017. During a meeting that year, the Highway 154 Truck Safety Committee—which was created in 2010 to look at concerns regarding truck traffic on the roadway—recommended SBCAG create a broader safety committee to look at ways to reduce fatalities and injuries on the highway.

Klemann, who has been with SBCAG for six months, said with the number of significant issues local agencies have dealt with since 2017, such as the Thomas Fire and the debris flows in Montecito, the idea for this committee hadn't been brought back for a discussion until this Nov. 21 meeting.

—Zac Ezzone

State places moratorium on new high pressure steam-injection wells

Oil and gas operators going through the planning process in Santa Barbara County may have a new obstacle to overcome after the state announced a moratorium on new steam-injection wells.

The Department of Conservation's Division of Oil, Gas, and Geothermal Resources (DOGGR) issued a statement on Nov. 19 that says the state is halting its approval of new oil wells that "use high-pressure steam to break oil formations below the ground."

John Zorovich, deputy director of the county's Energy, Minerals, and Compliance Division, said it's unclear whether or not this will affect oil projects proposed in the county.

TerraCore—which purchased ERG and

took over its West Cat Canyon Revitalization Project in June—and Aera Energy are in different stages of the planning process with proposals to develop hundreds of new steam-injection wells in Cat Canyon. The final environmental impact review for Aera Energy's proposal to develop 189 wells in east Cat Canyon is supposed to reach the county Planning Commission for discussion early next year. TerraCore has begun reworking its project since purchasing ERG.

Zorovich said one of the issues is the state's

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Weekend Weather

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Dave Hovde
KSBY Chief Meteorologist

<p>Thursday</p>  <p>COASTAL > High 65 Low 46 INLAND > High 66 Low 35</p>	<p>Friday</p>  <p>COASTAL > High 66 Low 47 INLAND > High 68 Low 39</p>
<p>Saturday</p>  <p>COASTAL > High 70 Low 47 INLAND > High 74 Low 39</p>	<p>Sunday</p>  <p>COASTAL > High 70 Low 46 INLAND > High 74 Low 38</p>

Partly cloudy and mild with some warming into the weekend, windy conditions resume next week.

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use of the terms "high-pressure" and "lower pressures" in its news release announcing the moratorium. The moratorium is only in place for high-pressure wells, but the statement doesn't define what's considered high or low pressure.

Also unclear is the statement that the moratorium would affect projects that use steam to break up oil formations underground. Zorovich said oil projects proposed in Santa Barbara County would use steam to heat up underground formations to separate the oil prior to extraction.

"We have to get more clarity, and once we understand the intent, we'll be able to know how it affects oil and gas operators in Santa Barbara County," Zorovich said.

In addition to the moratorium, the state announced the California Department of Finance's Office of State Audits and Evaluations will review the state's permitting process for oil projects. Moving forward, experts from the Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory—a federal research facility based in California—will review and ensure that pending oil well permit applications meet state standards.

In the state's news release, Gov. Gavin Newsom said these changes are designed to advance the state's transition off of its reliance on oil as an energy source.

"These are necessary steps to strengthen oversight of oil and gas extraction as we phase out our dependence on fossil fuels and focus on clean energy sources," Newsom said. "This transition cannot happen overnight; it must advance in a deliberate way to protect people, our environment, and our economy."

—Zac Ezzone

State Parks held to more stringent dust mitigation efforts at Oceano Dunes

A public workshop was canceled in October after California State Parks failed to complete an adequate work plan for dust mitigation in the Oceano Dunes. Now the San Luis Obispo County Air Pollution Control District is cracking down, and about 48 acres of the park are expected to be closed to vehicles by 2020.

At a lengthy hearing on Nov. 18, the Air Pollution Control District (APCD) hearing board voted 4-1 to approve more stringent changes to the stipulated abatement order under which the dust mitigation process is currently operating.

The newly approved, modified order includes more specific projects State Parks will have to take on within the coming year to reduce potentially harmful dust emissions in the Ocean Dunes State Vehicular Recreation Area, according to Karl Tupper, an air quality monitoring specialist who spoke at the meeting. It also includes set deadlines and strategies for moving forward if those target dates aren't met.

"It's designed to hardwire the mitigations for this next year," Tupper said at the meeting, "and also to shore up and fix the process that broke down this last time."

The hearing board was called to convene after the canceled October workshop and State Parks' failure to complete a work plan for dust mitigation that the APCD and its scientific advisory group would approve. While State Parks did submit two drafts of an annual work plan for 2019—the first on the Aug. 1 deadline—both were rejected by the APCD, and at the hearing on Nov. 18, APCD Officer Gary Willey called the plans "grossly inadequate."

The recent changes to the abatement order were made in an attempt to prevent a similar situation from happening in the future.

Under the modified order, State Parks will be required to close vehicle riding in a 48-acre swath of land near the shoreline by January 1, 2020. The space is currently used for camping and riding, but will soon be home to a restored, vegetated foredune that scientists say will help prevent the spread of dust in the park and neighboring communities.

State Parks will also have to begin implementing 40 acres of temporary, seasonal dust controls and 4.2 additional acres of permanent dust mitigation efforts by March 15, 2020.

Although several community members who live in Oceano and on the Nipomo Mesa called for more intense action to reduce dust emissions at the Nov. 18 meeting, APCD board hearing members did not second member Robert Carr's motion to scrap the proposed modifications and declare the Oceano Dunes a public nuisance, which would give the APCD more direct regulatory power.

Acting Chair Yarrow Nelson said he'd rather stick with staff's recommendations.

"For me personally, I think that this stipulated process is working quite well," Nelson said. "We hit a hiccup here in the fall when the work plans were not up to the requirements of the scientific advisory group but I think in general the stipulated order process is working pretty well and, with the modifications made here, I think we're making good progress."

—Kasey Bubnash

Dunes Center wins historic designation for former Far Western Tavern

When the Dunes Center museum acquired the Guadalupe building that once housed the famed Far Western Tavern, it wasn't sure what to do with it.

But since receiving the 2015 donation from the Minetti family, the museum has sought to register the pink building off Guadalupe Street as a historic structure. On Nov. 7, the museum succeeded. California's State Historical Resources Commission placed the building on the California Register of Historic Resources, putting the Dunes Center one step closer to securing grant funding for a remodeling project.

The building's first life started in 1912 as a stop for Swiss-Italian immigrants known as the Palace Hotel. Run alone by Ercolina Forni, a mother of three, the hotel gave bed to travelers. Considered a historic figure, Forni gives the spot one criteria required for its new designation.

"The fact that you have a single mother immigrant raising three children and running the business, that's what the American dream is made out of," said Doug Jenzen, the executive director of the Dunes Center.

In 1958, it became the Far Western Tavern and operated as a restaurant for decades.

The space is 10 times larger than the Dunes Center's current location at 1065 Guadalupe St., but Jenzen said they're still not clear on exactly what they'll do with it. Construction crews have to look inside first. From there, they'll know if it's a three-year project or longer and how many millions it will cost. Whenever construction does get underway, it could offer the city's quiet downtown a focal point.

"By helping to add some curb appeal, we're not only helping the Dunes Center, we're helping to promote the local economy," Jenzen said.

The existing museum would likely move into the new building and would also help the center contain its burgeoning, 165-member volunteer staff. It has outgrown its existing building.

"We don't even have enough cabinet space at this point," he said.

The new location is expected to have a classroom and exhibits on the history of the

building, local indigenous people, and area farming families. And, of course, props from the famed locally filmed Cecil B. DeMille film *The Ten Commandments* (1923).

Jenzen said the center hasn't decided what will happen with the old location—maybe they'll sell it, rent it, or use it for another museum.

City officials have voiced their hopes for a revitalized downtown Guadalupe, and some observers of the city economy say a bolstered Dunes Center is a good thing.

"As far as improving it and saving it as a historical landmark, I support that," said Joe Talaugon, who was a City Council member from 2000 to 2004. "We need to support our history and culture here in Guadalupe."

Talaugon said the Dunes Center's move is part of the city's rejuvenation, and he hopes business follows.

"Being here most of my life, I grew up here, I've seen so many changes over the years," he said. "When you come down to it, Guadalupe is a unique town, and it draws tourists, and if you gave them more to look at, I think it would be a good idea."

—William D'Urso

Supervisors deny appeal, approve new Orcutt shopping center

A new shopping center in Orcutt is moving forward after the Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors unanimously denied an appeal filed against the county Planning Commission's approval of the project.

The 50,000-square-foot Orcutt Gateway Retail Commercial Center, located on Clark Avenue near Highway 101 includes a grocery store, gas station, drive-through restaurant, and other commercial retail space.

The county Planning Commission approved a permit for the project during its Aug. 14 meeting. About one week later, a group called the Residents for Orcutt Sensible Growth appealed this decision and raised numerous concerns over how the development would affect traffic, air quality, and safety in the area.

In addition to raising concerns about this project, the group said in its appeal that it's concerned about the cumulative effects this project and another development the county is reviewing will have on traffic patterns in the area.

This other project referenced is the proposed Orcutt Marketplace, which is also located on Clark Avenue just north of the Orcutt Gateway project. This potential development would include roughly 250,000 square feet of commercial space and a mixed-use residential development with 252 apartments. County planners are currently reviewing these plans.

In a staff report, county planners stated that an analysis was completed to measure how the build-out of all proposed developments on Clark Avenue would affect traffic in the area.

"The results of this study indicate that roadways are forecasted to carry volumes within their acceptable capacity ratings ... and would therefore not generate significant cumulative impacts to study-area roadway segments," the staff report states.

During the Nov. 19 meeting, attorney Finney Arnold, who represented the group, questioned the county's ability to approve this project on an environmental impact review completed for the Orcutt Community Plan in 1997.

County staff found that no additional environmental review was required. Fourth District Supervisor Peter Adam acknowledged that the environmental impact review is 22 years old, but that the intended purpose for this land hasn't changed since then.

"Everybody's known that this is going to be a commercial parcel from 22 years ago and they spent scads of time on the [Orcutt Community Plan]," Adam said. ○

—Zac Ezzone



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A new plan for restoration

Proposed restoration plan in the Guadalupe Oil Field could limit harmful emissions and save Chevron millions

BY KASEY BUBNASH

It's a picture perfect day in this slice of the Nipomo Dunes, where rolling hills of shrub-peppered sand run directly into the misty ocean, creating a coastline habitat perfect for a number of endangered and rare species.

This seems like the ideal spot to get outside and enjoy nature, but there aren't tourists or Central Coast residents out here hiking or sightseeing. Instead, monitoring and recovery wells dot the landscape, dust fences stand in rows, workers maneuver in hardhats and vests, and an intertwining system of narrow roads leads to scattered excavation sites, where graded sand and heavy machinery sit, waiting to be used.

Without those blatant markers of human activity, it'd be almost impossible to tell that this vast 2,800-acre slab of land was once home to the Guadalupe Oil Field and a spill that San Luis Obispo County is still pushing to clean up after more than two decades.

And that's exactly the point, according to Danielle Wold, one of many Chevron Environmental Management Company employees working to rid the field of contaminated soil and water and return the land to its natural state.

The Guadalupe Oil Field has been in the midst of a remediation and restoration process since the mid '90s, when diluent—a hydrocarbon similar to kerosene—leaked into the Pacific Ocean and emergency cleanup efforts at the site first started. Oil production began on the property in the 1940s, and Union Oil Company of California (Unocal) managed about 240 oil wells and more than 180 miles of pipeline in the field from 1953 until 1994, during which an estimated 12 million

gallons of diluent leaked onto the surrounding dunes, beach, and into the groundwater and ocean.

When Chevron purchased Unocal in 2005, it also took on burdens like those at the Guadalupe Oil Field.

"A lot of what happened out here was common practice at the time," says Wold, restoration project manager, as she walks through a portion of the field and points out the footprint of land that could be used for Chevron's next big move: a "treated soil management area," where contaminated soil would be essentially placed in a lined hole and buried on-site.

The proposed plan would reduce local greenhouse gas and air emissions, Wold says, because up until 2016, Chevron had been excavating impacted soil from the field and then trucking it 40 miles



REVEGETATING: At an on-site nursery, Chevron employees plant seeds that are collected directly from native plants in the Nipomo Dunes and care for the plants until they're ready to be transplanted to the dunes, where they're used for revegetation.

years, she says. But compared to the \$20 million to \$25 million the company spends on restoration efforts at the Guadalupe Oil Field each year, Wold says the savings are

hole secured by a geosynthetic clay liner overlain by another liner, and then capped and covered by at least 4 feet of clean material, according to the project description. Then the

being dumped. Beauchamp also noted that the contaminated soil still remaining in the oil field is considered non-hazardous—meaning contamination levels haven't reached the threshold required to designate the situation as being dangerous.

Much of the soil that Chevron still has to remove is contaminated with diluent, but a good portion is untainted gravel and red rock that was brought in to build roads and well pads, material that has to be removed simply because it's unnatural to the area.

A majority of the most dirty work is over, Beauchamp said. Although he's not happy that a pristine part of SLO County's coastline was completely polluted, he said the restoration work happening on-site is "pretty amazing," and this project could prevent further impacts on the environment.

Chevron's proposed plan will next go before the SLO County Planning Commission and Board of Supervisors for final approval. ○

Staff Writer Kasey Bubnash can be reached at kbubnash@newtimeslo.com.

The Guadalupe Oil Field has been in the midst of a remediation and restoration process since the mid '90s, when diluent—a hydrocarbon similar to kerosene—leaked into the Pacific Ocean . . .

round trip to the Santa Maria Landfill for disposal. The process resulted in 68,820 haul truck trips driving more than 2.6 million miles and dropping off 1.11 million cubic yards of contaminated soil. With about 1.85 million cubic yards of contaminated soil remaining in the Guadalupe Oil Field, Wold says burying it on-site would eliminate more than 69,000 additional haul truck trips, decreasing pollution, traffic congestion, road erosion, and safety issues on local roads.

It would also save Chevron roughly \$6 million a year for the next 10

only a small benefit compared to those foreseen for the environment.

The on-site disposal idea is one of those plans that just makes sense from every angle, Wold says, and many SLO County community members agree.

At a meeting on Oct. 28, the South County Advisory Council voted 8-1 to recommend approval for the project, despite some concerns that burying the contaminated soil could lead to other pollution issues.

The polluted soil would be excavated from various areas of the field and buried in an 18.2-acre

finished surface would be graded and landscaped to match surrounding dune scrub habitat.

Some fear the double-liner system won't be enough to keep the contaminated soil in place, according to Kevin Beauchamp, vice chair of the South County Advisory Council.

"But," Beauchamp told the *Sun*, "it's not any better in the Santa Maria Landfill, is it?"

Chevron's proposed liner meets higher safety standards than the liner used at the Santa Maria Landfill, Beauchamp said, where the Guadalupe Oil Field soil is currently

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Sun

The new guy

The Santa Maria Joint Union High School District will go into the new year with a fresh superintendent

BY WILLIAM D'URSO

Decades ago, Antonio Garcia was just a Los Angeles kid, picking up English as he went along. Now he's poised to become the top educator in the Santa Maria Joint Union High School District.

After a seven-month search, community surveys, and meetings, the school board announced Garcia as the new superintendent at the Nov. 19 board meeting. He will be leaving his current posting as the assistant superintendent of growth systems for Riverside Unified School District.

Garcia will be helming a district with more than 8,000 students, and board members are eager for him to shepherd more students into post-secondary opportunities. Garcia will earn an annual salary of \$260,000, plus \$15,000 in moving expenses and a \$650 monthly automobile stipend.

Dominick Palera, the school board president, said community participation was essential in the new search, and it wasn't easy to get feedback over the summer. That's why the search didn't take off until the fall.

"Most people, parents and everyone, don't get engaged until the school year starts," Palera said. "It was clear to all of us that Antonio Garcia was not just what we wanted but what the community wanted."

Garcia was selected from a broad pool of candidates—more than two dozen—including the interim Superintendent John Davis, who took on the duties in addition to his responsibilities as assistant superintendent of curriculum and instruction for the district. Davis will earn an extra 2 percent on his monthly salary retroactive to June when he took the reins and will continue in the role until Garcia begins Jan. 1.

Before that, Mark Richardson led the district as part of a 31-year career in education. He spent seven years as the superintendent of the school district before announcing his plans to retire last April.

Richardson was an advocate for Career Technical Education, and helped usher in the district's new career tech high school. The campus is part of the district's plans to help students move on to whatever is next, whether that's college or an immediate jump into the workforce. It'll be one of the legacies Garcia plans to continue establishing when he begins.

Palera praised Davis' work in the interim role and said the selection was tough, but the community and the board felt Garcia's experience in a large district would be the best fit. Palera said the district's schools do a great job at graduating students and that Garcia can help them position more students for college or other post-secondary opportunities.

The board said it was looking for someone who could mentor teachers and provide the kind of support needed to accomplish policy goals.

Garcia's upbringing as an educator began as a high school teacher for the Whittier Union High School District. From there he moved on to a 20-year career in Riverside. His roles have run the gamut, including assistant principal, principal, and a stint in the Riverside County Office of Education.

Diana Perez, a board member for the Santa Maria high school district, has been trying

to pursue a policy requiring high schoolers to fill out documents for financial aid. The attempt ultimately didn't pass.

"Part of the reason it didn't pass is it's very time consuming, and the staff needed additional support, and I agreed," Perez said.

The district has made concerted efforts to improve its college-prep chops and is continuing to bump up efforts to get students into college. Perez said accomplishing big, ambitious goals will require thorough leadership, the sort she thinks Garcia can provide.

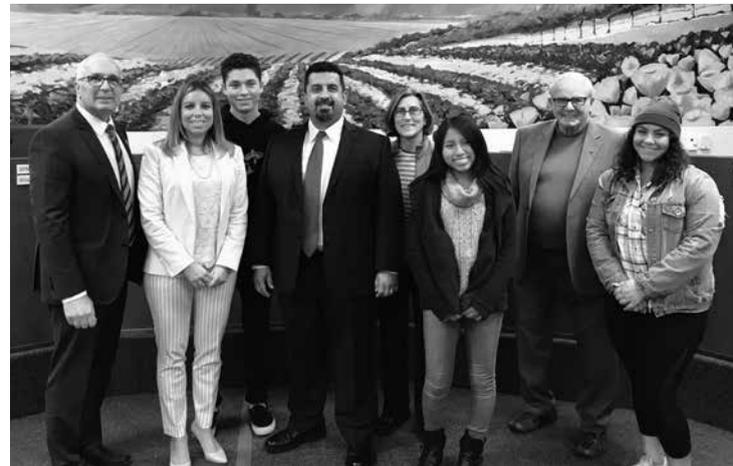
Perez also said Garcia will bring a fresh perspective as the district's first Latino superintendent. He grew up with English as a second language, she said, and will bring that experience to the district's large Latino population.

"The community survey indicated that this was one of their requests, that it would be someone who is culturally sensitive and understands the challenges of low-income students," Perez said.

After the Nov. 19 meeting, Garcia mingled, shaking hands and introducing himself.

Eva Didion was in the audience when the appointment was made and took a moment to congratulate Garcia.

PHOTO COURTESY OF SANTA MARIA JOINT UNION HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT



SUPER: Antonio Garcia has been selected to succeed former Santa Maria Joint Union High School District Superintendent Mark Richardson and interim Superintendent John Davis. His tenure begins on Jan. 1.

"He's Latino," she said. "He's a good fit for our community."

Anthony Loverde echoed Didion's sentiments: "I think it's always good when leadership reflects our community," he said.

Garcia brings a top-flight education, too—he first studied at Stanford University then earned a master's degree at Brown University in Rhode Island.

And when he begins the new job, he said it will be with an open mind.

"When I come to Santa Maria, I'm going to do a lot of listening and learning before I develop goals," he said. "The discussions we've had have been very preliminary." ○

Contact Staff Writer William D'Urso at wdurso@santamariasun.com.

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TRAINING CENTER: Almost all departments in Santa Barbara and San Luis Obispo counties rely on Allan Hancock College's Law Enforcement Academy for recruit training.

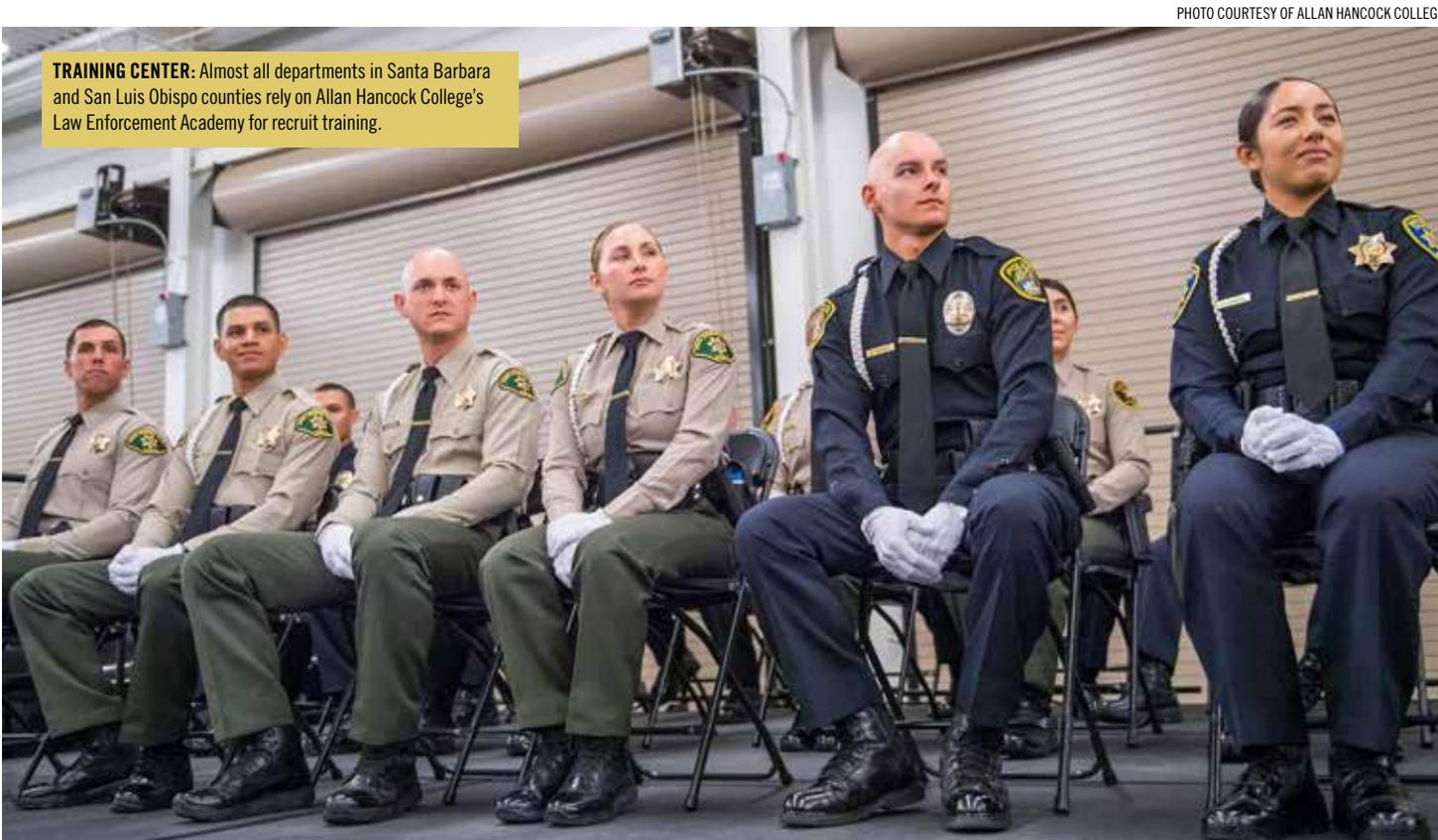


PHOTO COURTESY OF ALLAN HANCOCK COLLEGE

Staffing shortage

Local law enforcement departments compete for officers in shallow applicant pool

BY ZAC EZZONE

Still wearing his civilian clothes, Lompoc Police Chief Joseph Mariani explains that he hasn't yet had time to put on his uniform. His busy morning followed a late night, during which he oversaw a gang sweep throughout the city that resulted in the arrest of 11 people.

The city didn't carry out the operation solo. Lompoc police officers had help from local and state agencies, welcome assistance for an understaffed and overworked department that's been busy trying to get a handle on an uptick in violent crimes plaguing Lompoc. Seven homicides have taken place in the city of roughly 44,000 people this year.

Exasperated, Mariani says he's preparing for another late night. Half joking, he quips that he may be able to sleep after the department hires more officers. But so far, they've been hard to find.

Although his department may be feeling it more than other law enforcement agencies in Santa Barbara County, Mariani isn't the only police chief facing this challenge. Police departments across the country are struggling to fill police officer positions.

"We're no different than many other smaller agencies ... there's a lack of interest in the police profession nationwide," Mariani says.

This issue is the basis for a report the Police Executive Research Forum (PERF) released in September titled "The Workforce Crisis, and What Police Agencies Are Doing About It." According to this document, fewer people are applying to become police officers throughout the country and more people are leaving the profession earlier than in previous years.

"Approximately 63 percent of respondents to PERF's survey said that the number of applicants applying for full-time sworn positions at their agency has either 'decreased significantly' (36 percent) or 'decreased slightly' (27 percent) compared to five years ago," the report states.

According to PERF's report, there are various factors contributing to this decline. The U.S. economy is doing well and unemployment is low, which means there are not a lot of

people looking for jobs. The increasing number of videos circulating online depicting questionable police conduct have added to a negative perception of police work that could be deterring people from seeking careers in law enforcement.

In Lompoc, these nationwide issues are amplified by the department's local challenge of having to compete with other agencies in the county that pay more and offer better financial incentives, such as signing bonuses.

"It's got a dual impact on us," Lompoc Mayor Jenelle Osborne said. "We already know that nationally there is difficulty attracting individuals into law enforcement ... combined with a lack of funding to pay competitively, and it's causing dual consternation and frustration for the community."

This shortage is happening at a time when many local departments are attempting large-



JAIL STAFFING: Since February 2017, the Santa Barbara County Sheriff's Office has hired 58 custody deputies in preparation for the county's North Branch Jail opening.

scale hiring efforts. The Santa Maria Police Department is trying to fill positions generated through new sales tax revenue. The Santa Barbara County Sheriff's Office continues to look for custody deputies to staff a new jail opening. All departments need help, but some are finding those positions easier to fill than others.

Recruiting, retention challenges

Mariani has met his share of hiring challenges during his 35-year career in law enforcement. Prior to moving to Lompoc, he was the commanding officer for recruitment and employment with the Los Angeles Police Department. He helped orchestrate the agency's recruitment drive that resulted in it hiring more than 1,000 officers in the late 2000s.

Lompoc's situation is different, he said. The city's primary challenge is what it can pay compared to other agencies in the area, Mariani said. Aside from Guadalupe, the starting salary for police officers in every other department in the county is about 20 percent higher than in Lompoc.

The Lompoc City Council last gave its officers a raise in the 2017-19 budget in exchange for holding three police officer positions vacant. This moved the department closer to what others paid at the time, but since then, the gap has continued to widen, Mariani said.

"[Other local] agencies have continued to offer raises and incentives. ... Basically [the 2017] raises have been nullified by what's around them competitively," Mariani said.

When Mariani joined the Lompoc Police Department as a captain four years ago, it employed 51 officers. Four of those positions were lost when some grant funding ran out, taking the number down to 47. Excluding the three positions that are being held vacant in exchange for the 2017 raises, the department is funded for 44 positions, of which 37 are filled.

Mariani said of the 13 or 14 officers the department has hired since he arrived four years ago, only five remain with the department. Many have left for the Santa Maria Police Department or the county Sheriff's Office. The department lost five officers between April and June this year, shortly after Mariani took over as chief in late February. Two officers retired, and three left for Santa Maria.

While the Lompoc Police Department is in the midst of a recruiting crisis, the Guadalupe Police Department is slowly recovering from

one officer suffered last year.

Almost two months after arriving in Guadalupe in October 2018, Police Chief Michael Cash lost almost 50 percent of his department. The agency is funded for 15 positions—although two are contracted to work at the Santa Maria Public Airport—but at the time only nine were filled. That number dropped even lower after four officers left for different departments and two others left because of injuries or illnesses.

With only Cash and three officers remaining, the department operated on two, two-person shifts: one during the day and one at night. More than a year later, the department is almost fully staffed, but Cash said retention is always a potential problem for the department.

As the lowest paid police department in Santa Barbara County, losing officers to other agencies isn't uncommon, Cash said. Of the four officers who left last year, one went to Lompoc, one went to Arroyo Grande, and two went to Grover Beach.

Cash said he doesn't view surrounding agencies as competition. But the PERF report discusses this issue of departments within a region competing for officers.

"As the applicant pool shrinks, police agencies compete with one another for well-qualified recruits," the report states. "This is particularly true in areas where multiple agencies recruit from a single, regional police academy."

This is the situation in Santa Barbara County where almost all recruits are trained at Allan Hancock College's Law Enforcement Academy in Lompoc.

As the number of people applying to become police officers has decreased in recent years, the number of people enrolling in the academy has also declined. Law Enforcement Academy Coordinator Ken George said that about six or seven years ago, most classes—of which there are two a year—would start with about 40 recruits. The current class that ends in December began with 25 people.

David Whitham, director of public safety training at Allan Hancock College, attributes this decrease in recruits to the strong U.S. economy. Historically, he said, whenever the country's economy is doing well and the unemployment rate is low, fewer people look for jobs in law enforcement. But once the economy starts to dip and the unemployment rate increases, more people will look to police work as a career path.

However, Whitham is less optimistic about how changes at the state level could affect recruiting in the future. Specifically he points to a law passed this summer, Assembly Bill 392, that will change the definition of when police officers can justify using deadly force.

Interested in police work?

The Allan Hancock College Law Enforcement Academy runs two 21-week classes a year, with one starting in January and the other in July. Find out more at hancockcollege.edu or check with local police departments.

Under existing state law, this level of force is justifiable when it's considered to be "reasonable." When the new state law takes effect in January, this standard will change to "necessary."

Whitham said law changes that place greater scrutiny

on police officers could deter some people from seeking a career in law enforcement in the future.

"Now all of a sudden, where in an instance you made the best choice based on the circumstances, and I'm on trial now for a murder or assault," Whitham said. "That's where people are probably going to step back and say, 'I'm going to take a second look at this career, and this may not be for me.'"

Effects on the community

In the wake of an alleged gang-related shooting that killed 15-year-old Erik Villa Vargas in mid-October, more than 50 Lompoc residents spent their Friday night on Oct. 25 at the Dick DeWees Community and Senior Center discussing ways to address the city's uptick in youth violence.

A common refrain repeated that night: The city needs more police officers.



GRADUATION: In June, 13 custody deputies with the Santa Barbara County Sheriff's Office graduated from Allan Hancock College's custody deputy academy.

As the meeting came to a close, Mariani, who sat attentively in the front row during the two-hour meeting, approached the front of the room and addressed the crowd. Yes, he said, the department needs more funding to hire additional police officers. But first, it needs to fill the positions that are already vacant.

That night, as during previous Lompoc City Council meetings and while talking with the *Sun*, Mariani has remained realistic about what the department can and can't do with its existing staff level. The department has been forced to eliminate all of its specialty units and shift every officer to patrol and detective work.

"We don't have a gang unit; we don't have a traffic unit; we don't have a narcotics unit," Mariani said. "As a result, our patrol officers are generalists so they have to handle a myriad of issues."

Mariani said it's hard to pin down how much this officer shortage affects the city's crime rate. But any time a department is forced to operate without specialized units, it's harder to prevent certain types of crime, he said.

"The reality is you need to have selective enforcement to deal with emerging crime issues," Mariani said. "It's no mystery that we don't have a gang or narcotic unit, so things are going to manifest themselves when you don't have that kind of attention."

Mariani acknowledges that hiring additional police officers isn't a panacea for the city's crime woes—additional programs and economic opportunities for younger residents are also needed—but, he said, his department needs to be a part of the solution.

"It pains me because I think [Lompoc residents] deserve more," Mariani said. "And I want to deliver more for them, and so do the men and women that work [at the department]."

The department's turnover rate also makes it difficult to establish connections within the

community. This is a major concern for Mayor Osborne.

She said that although the department has a large cohort of experienced officers who have been there for years, it also somewhat serves as a training ground where younger officers—usually from out of the area—work for a short time before leaving for other agencies that pay more.

This reputation as a training ground is one Osborne wants to shed. The turnover hurts the department's ability to maintain relationships with certain parts of the community where more crime takes place, she said.

"If officers are just here for two to five years and then leave on a regular basis, we're losing out on ... those relationships and understanding the culture of our community," Osborne said.

In addition to losing out on those community relationships, this turnover means that everybody has to work more while understaffed. During the peak of the Guadalupe Police Department's staffing crisis last year, Cash said he was concerned the department would have to cut back on its level of patrolling. To prevent the department from reaching that point, everybody had to work extra shifts until additional officers were hired.

Now the Lompoc Police Department is in the same situation, where its officers have to work more hours than its chief would like. Mariani said he's concerned about the possibility of officers getting burnt out and leaving.

"You can only ask so much," Mariani said. "I'm concerned folks are working above and beyond ... but overtime is not really an option in many cases."

Now hiring

Not all departments in the county feel like there's a crisis. The Santa Maria Police

PHOTO COURTESY OF ALLAN HANCOCK COLLEGE



SMALLER CLASS SIZES: Six or seven years ago, about 40 students would attend academy classes at Hancock. This past year, the academy started with 25 people.



STILL HIRING: As one of the largest departments in the county, the Sheriff's Office hasn't been affected by staffing shortage as much as other departments.

Department has experienced lulls in hiring over the years, but it generally doesn't have trouble filling positions, the department's training and recruiting manager, Christina Alvarez, said.

This is good news for the department as it begins recruiting officers to fill positions available through Measure U, a sales tax increase voters approved last November that generates additional revenue for the city.

The department of about 130 officers has 10 positions open right now that Measure U is funding. Santa Maria has eight trainees in Allan Hancock College's current Law Enforcement Academy class that will fill some of these positions after they graduate.

James Roach is one of these trainees. At 36 years old, he decided to make a career change and become a police officer after missing the structure the military provided him 10 years ago. As for why he chose to work for Santa Maria, he said, "because it's home."

Sometimes it's that simple. Officers often choose to work for the department where they live, academy coordinator George said. But there are other factors that can entice recruits. Financial incentives can sway people, but the size of a department, the type of police work, and the career opportunities also matter.

In Santa Maria, given the size of the department, people who start off working patrol can move into a variety of specialized units in a short time.

"We want people to be here for 30 years," Alvarez said. "If we can offer somebody a community services spot after being on patrol a couple of years, that's an attraction our agency has that a lot don't."

Despite its recent success, Santa Maria is in the process of bolstering the use of social media in its recruitment process to reach younger applicants. This will be a first for the department, which traditionally has relied on newspaper advertisements and billboards in its recruitment drives, Alvarez said. She also said the department plans to use social media to increase transparency with the public.

During this recruitment drive, the Santa Maria Police Department is competing with the Santa Barbara County Sheriff's Office, which is hiring custody deputies to work at the North County Branch Jail. Construction of this facility, which is located west of Santa Maria, is supposed to wrap up by the end of this year. Since beginning the hiring process in February 2017, the department has hired 58 custody deputies, public information officer Raquel Zick said in an email.

These custody deputy positions have been easier to fill than sheriff's deputy positions, primarily because the statewide hiring standards are different, Zick said. But given the size of the department with almost 400 sworn-in officers of

various ranks, and the flexibility that comes with that, the agency generally doesn't have a hard time filling positions.

"An advantage that an agency of our size has is that we can recruit for applicants to join our team and adjust where they will begin their career during the hiring process," Zick said in an email.

Because smaller agencies, such as Guadalupe and Lompoc, can't offer the same pay or opportunities larger agencies can, they have to find other ways to attract recruits.

Guadalupe Police Chief Cash said most of the officers in his department live in other cities.

PHOTO COURTESY OF ALLAN HANCOCK COLLEGE



BOUNCING BACK: Law enforcement academy officials believe the number of people interested in becoming police officers will increase once the economy starts to dip.

He believes if the city could create some sort of housing assistance program, it could help attract or retain officers. Lompoc City Council has kicked around a similar idea during past meetings.

Mayor Osborne is also looking into other solutions that wouldn't require any investment from the city. She wants to expand the city's mentorship or shadowing opportunities where interested people could learn more about jobs in law enforcement.

According to the PERF report, one of the most troubling aspects of this workforce crisis is that it could grow worse in the future. The document states that many departments have more personnel eligible for retirement now than five years ago.

Alvarez said this is the situation in Santa Maria and that the department has already started working with city management to plan for this exodus.

Lompoc is facing this same obstacle in not only law enforcement, but all city departments, Osborne said. But when that time comes, the police jobs will be the hardest to fill.

"The city as a whole is beginning to see the workers that have been part of our community for 25 to 30 years retiring and no one is choosing that career path, much less public safety," Osborne said. ○

Reach Staff Writer Zac Ezzone at zezzone@santamariasun.com.

PHOTO COURTESY OF COASTHILLS CREDIT UNION

Change of scenery

CoastHills Credit Union moves in to its new, centrally located headquarters

BY WILLIAM D'URSO

When Paul Cook arrived at CoastHills Credit Union as its CEO in 2018, the board was talking about building a new headquarters. What it would look like was still up for debate, but Cook had an idea: add an extra floor.

Now the credit union is moving in to its new centrally located building in Santa Maria, and with that added space, they'll have a tenant to chip in revenue.

"I had just joined the leadership team here at CoastHills," he said. "I think I had a critical role in suggesting we should add an extra floor."

He'd worked in county leadership in Utah and learned during construction of a jail that, relative to the total cost of the building, an extra floor was relatively cheap. Cook used the same idea and pushed for an extra floor the credit union could lease.

CoastHills enters a new chapter of its existence by moving from Lompoc to a more central part of its territory, located just off Highway 101 on Betteravia, in the Enos Ranch Business Center.

The credit union has about \$1.2 million in assets, but Cook said it's been keeping its eye on the global economy and current trade war, adding liquidity to more than 9 percent of its portfolio.

The new \$30 million CoastHills three-story corporate building is 92,000 square feet, more than double the size of its former headquarters in Vandenberg Village.

"It's a great boon to the city of Santa Maria," Cook said.

Employees have already begun moving in and will use the first and third floors, while CoastHills is leasing out the second to Missouri-based medical school A.T. Still University. Once construction is complete, the school plans to have its physician's assistant program up and running by the summer.

The bottom floor of the new building houses a banking

branch—which is scheduled to open in January—and the rest of the headquarters includes office space for more than 150 employees and room to grow. The credit union currently employs 250 people at the headquarters and its 11 locations on the Central Coast, and it's projecting to add up to 150 new jobs within the next decade, according to CoastHills.

The move to Santa Maria allows the headquarters to be roughly in the middle of its five county territory, serving residents of Santa Barbara, San Luis Obispo, Monterey, Ventura, and Santa Cruz counties.

Chris Thornberg, founder of San Luis Obispo-based Beacon Economics, said it's about time a city of Santa Maria's size attracted this kind of business.

"They're kind of the stepchild of the coastal economy," he said. "I think it's indicative of a community that's been overlooked for far too long getting a due amount of attention."

He said it's a good time for credit unions, coming out of the recession better than most.

"Credit unions stuck to basic underwriting standards; they didn't get caught up in all the subprime nonsense," he said.

Now with continued stability and recent technological advancements, including online and mobile banking, CoastHills and other credit unions are in a position to continue taking members away from traditional banks, Thornberg said.

CoastHills also has agreements with other credit unions, allowing its 68,000 members to use ATMs of other credit unions.

Highlight

Get those twinkle lights ready—the Santa Maria Recreation and Parks Department is holding its 23rd annual Lights, Sights, and Holiday Nights decorations contest for homes and business. Awards are given in five categories—including "Clark Griswold" for spectacular use of lights and "Norman Rockwell" for nostalgic, classic elegance. Plus, there's a Neighborhood Spirit Award for the best decorated neighborhood. The nomination window is from Nov. 16 through Dec. 10 with final judging scheduled for Dec. 12. For more information on contest rules and how to nominate a home or business, call (805) 925-0951, Ext. 2260, or visit cityofsantamaria.org/recreation. ○



OPENING SOON: CoastHills Credit Union's new corporate headquarters building on Betteravia Road, off of Highway 101, is more than twice the size of its former Vandenberg Village location. The branch on the first floor is scheduled to open early in the new year.

Staff Writer William D'Urso wrote this week's Spotlight. Send tips to spotlight@santamariasun.com.

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Politics and fuzzy truths

The real story about that long-ago 9 percent raise for Lompoc police officers

BY RON FINK

Facts are a strange thing. Often they can come back to bite a politician when he or she least expects it. One Lompoc City Council member is an expert at misrepresenting facts, and he usually gets away with it. Recently though, he picked the wrong subject and the wrong city employee to pick on publicly.

Public safety support, and specifically police department staffing, has been a hot topic for the last couple of years. Councilmember Jim Mosby regularly flaps stacks of papers to prove he knows everything about public finance, but the public record says something else.

A month ago, the Canary pointed out that during a council meeting Mosby "was also quick to blame the police department for its own budget woes, saying that police officers got a 9 percent raise just a few short years ago, and it came at the expense of holding three positions vacant," ("The blame game," Oct. 24).

Mosby consistently repeats this diatribe like a broken soundtrack. He is quick to forget the fact that the council majority had remained firmly opposed, from 2016 until a few months ago, to a sales tax hike to boost public safety funding as other cities have done.

He also called out Sgt. Augustin Arias, a seasoned police officer who is the Lompoc Police Officer Association (LPOA) president. The LPOA represents police officers during labor negotiations. This is typical of Mosby, who is noted for badgering and bullying city staff from his perch on the council dais or on his meanderings through City Hall.

At the time, Arias, who is assigned to the detective division, was "on duty" and deeply involved in trying to solve one of the seven murders that have occurred this year. During

the public comment period at the Nov. 5 council meeting, Arias, who was now "off duty," said he was "here to defend myself" and set the record straight about the "9 percent raise."

He started by saying that Councilmember Mosby was "misleading the public" concerning a raise that occurred nearly three years ago. He also said that this multi-year deal has barely kept up with the cost-of-living increases during that period. He agreed that the LPOA offered three positions to offset the cost of the raise, but he then said that during this period, the council froze hiring at the police department to balance the budget.

"Misleading the public" isn't a taboo for politicians. We see it at all levels of government and from both political parties. The rule seems to be "if you repeat something often enough, then it becomes fact." And this rule seems to be practiced regularly by Mosby and his two loyal henchmen.

One of those is Councilmember Victor Vega, who leases commercial office space from Mosby and has been a solid supporter for several years. Vega was somehow allowed to vote to appoint his landlord to an empty council seat a few years ago, even though many viewed it as a conflict of interest.

During public comment, Arias continued, "instead of trying to work together, you have cast a shadow that we are the bad guys." He then said Mosby had been in office for a few years and really hasn't done anything to support public safety.

"You froze hiring, and other than marijuana, you haven't brought in any new businesses to town," Arias said.

Lastly, he said he was "willing to help fix the situation and do anything it takes to get more revenue coming in."

The negotiation for the earlier raise took months. Currently, the LPOA is "in conference with labor negotiators" according to the latest

closed session agenda. Why it takes so long to simply grant a cost-of-living increase escapes me, but I guess that's how labor negotiations go. And most economists will tell you that simply keeping up with the cost of living isn't really netting the worker much since the value of their money is less as a result of the cost-of-living increase.

I spoke with Arias after the meeting, and he said, "Since that last raise, we've lost approximately six more police officers, two due to retirement from on-the-job situations and to higher-paying agencies. We have trouble hiring because other communities around our area are bringing in new businesses, building houses, and passing sales tax measures."

He went on to say, "At the end of last budget cycle, the police department returned to the city more than \$750,000 from our budget. However, that money did not get returned to the PD. And [the city] is experiencing budget savings by us not being able to hire police officers."

It is a well-known fact that, despite what Mosby says, Lompoc public safety employees are paid far less than surrounding agencies, which makes recruiting difficult. It's also a fact that large tracts filled with rental apartments are owned/operated by nonprofits who pay no taxes to support public safety.

Mosby should be more selective with his targets. Trying to bully someone who has had years of experience interviewing liars and thieves and was part of the now nonexistent and very successful gang/narcotics suppression unit probably wasn't very smart.

In a time when we should all be supportive of our public safety personnel, Mosby seems to believe antagonism is the order of the day. This is not only shameful but will further discourage potential police and fire recruits from wanting to work in Lompoc.

To fix the situation will require some strategic thinking, and so far, I haven't seen any indication that Mosby or the other two councilmen have this skill. ○

Ron Fink writes about Lompoc politics from Lompoc. Send comments through the editor at danham@santamariasun.com or write a response for publication and email it to letters@santamariasun.com.

LETTER

Dear Gov. Gavin Newsom

What is your response to out of control fire caused by global warming?

It is to allow closure of our largest carbon-free generator, Diablo Canyon Power Plant.

We see your support of more burning of more fossil fuel—natural gas. We see no protection of the people, even in this climate emergency.

Diablo Canyon has a desalination plant that can be expanded to send fresh water to communities.

In fact, a project to do just that was underway when this public utility announced Diablo's closure.

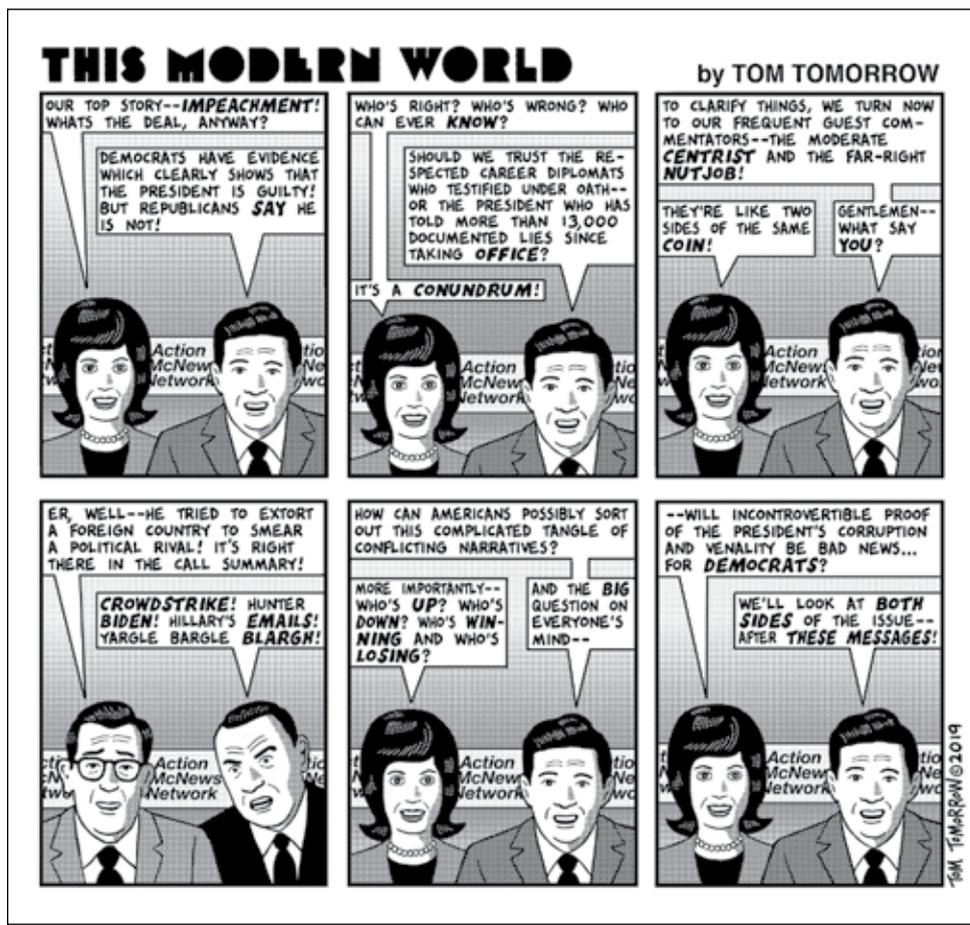
You pose as a green leader. But green talk does not help us.

The people of California demand action. Keep Diablo Canyon open and build many more atom fission plants to give the people clean desalinated water and clean electricity at the same time.

Stop fossil fuel fracking and stop giving us wind and solar that costs billions yet produces so little electricity and needs natural gas backup, since it works so little of the day.

Be honest on climate and on the energy type that can save the planet.

William Gloege
Santa Maria



Online Poll

Should school districts invest more into vocational and career technical programs?

- 80% Yes. Students need to get on a career path as soon as possible.
- 10% Yes, but only if these programs also count for college credit.
- 10% No. District should save money by partnering with businesses to offer more internships.
- 0% No. It's more important for students to learn study skills than specific disciplines.

20 Votes

Vote online at www.santamariasun.com.



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

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Waiting and waiting

Three cheers for vague, semi-specific press releases sent out by the state government! One particular choice piece of "news" released by the California Department of Conservation on Nov. 19 explains that Gov. Gavin Newsom's administration is placing a moratorium on "high pressure extraction practice" for oil wells.

Whatever that means.

Sidenote: The aptly named Division of Oil, Gas, and Geothermal Resources (DOGGR) that has done a pretty crappy job of regulating oil-type stuff, according to the state's high pressure Newsom-haranguing environmental community, is also being renamed. Thanks to a stellar piece of legislation from Assemblymember Monique Limón (D-Santa Barbara), we will now refer to the department regulating mineral resource extraction as CalGEM (Geologic Energy Management Division), which is pretty damn cute, if you ask me.

Gems!! Get it? God, I love acronyms.

"This moratorium prohibits new extraction wells that use a high-pressure cyclic steaming process to break apart a geological formation to extract oil," the statement said.

I'm guessing then, that the moratorium doesn't apply to projects in Santa Barbara County, which use cyclic steam injection to heat the oil. So, is that kind of oil extraction considered "low pressure?"

The county Energy, Minerals, and Compliance Division Deputy Director John Zorovich, said he's waiting on some clarification from the state before saying one way or the other.

In fact, everyone the Sun called that day was waiting on some clarity. And, my dearest of dear readers, this is why we can't depend on press releases to get the word out to the public. Direct messages like that only contain the information that the messenger, in this case Newsom's administration, wants you to know.

Meanwhile, the SLO County Air Pollution Control hearing board (APCD) is finally done dealing with State Park's attempts to pretend like they're playing by the rules at the Oceano Dunes State Vehicular Recreation Area. The short story is that a public workshop was canceled because State Parks missed yet another deadline. Well, for clarity, State Parks did submit the dust mitigation work plan it was supposed to, twice (one missed the deadline), but APCD Officer Gary Willey called them "grossly inadequate."

Whoa, Gary, don't get crazy or anything.

Also, no surprises there. The U.S. Department of Fish and Wildlife has been waiting on a habitat conservation plan for years and years because it's required by the Endangered Species Act (save the snowy plovers, people!), and, yep. It's still waiting. The California Coastal Commission has been haranguing State Parks to fix all of its weird little (OK, giant) permit compliance issues for years, and, yep. It's still waiting.

Now the APCD is ordering State Parks to close off 48 more acres to off-roading. APCD hearing board member Robert Carr wanted to declare the Oceano Dunes a public nuisance (I'd consider it more of a pain in the ass than a nuisance, but tomato, to-mah-to).

But Acting Chair Yarrow Nelson seemed to be on a different planet than the rest of us.

"This stipulated process is working quite well," Nelson said.

Yep. You'll be waiting forever. ○

The canary is an impatient little bird. Send comments to canary@santamariasun.com.



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<p>ASN Speakeasy THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 21 The Penny</p>	<p>Roy Zimmerman Rize Up the Central Coast Comedy Theater San Luis Obispo Guild Hall Thursday, November 21 7 pm</p>	<p>RiZe Up: A Comedy Night THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 21 San Luis Obispo Guild Hall</p>	<p>Beer Yoga SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 23 Naughty Oak Brewing Co.</p>
<p>HARVEY WEEKENDS THRU NOVEMBER 24 Cambria Center for the Arts Theatre</p>	<p>Brighton Beach Memoirs SELECT DATES THRU DECEMBER 1 Park Street Ballroom</p>	<p>Friendsgiving THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 21 CASS Winery</p>	<p>Business Plan Workshop with NAWBO THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 21 Monterey St. Market</p>
<p>Steve Key CD Release FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 22 Morro Bay Wine Seller</p>	<p>3rd Annual Bags to Benefit SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 23 Embassy Suites by Hilton, SLO</p>	<p>Victoria Vox SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 23 Morro Bay Wine Seller</p>	<p>David Minkin: Magic & Wine SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 23 Tooth & Nail Winery</p>
<p>Annie NOVEMBER 29-DECEMBER 22 Klein Dance Arts Studio</p>	<p>Squid Dissection Saturdays NOV. 30, DEC. 28, JAN. 25, FEB. 29 Central Coast Aquarium</p>	<p>SIP & SHOP Holiday Brunch November 30th, 2019 1 PM - 6 PM Tickets: \$50</p>	<p>Santa's Doggie Parade SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 30 Avila Beach Promenade</p>
<p>Candlelight Christmas Concert Series SUNDAY, DECEMBER 1-2 Old Santa Rosa Chapel</p>	<p>Fin's "Giving Tuesday" Dinner for a Cause TUESDAY, DECEMBER 3 Fin's Restaurant</p>	<p>Macrame Wine Tote Workshop WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 4 Rava Wines + Events</p>	<p>A Star in the Night DECEMBER 4, 7 & 8 Venues in Nipomo and San Luis Obispo</p>
<p>Dinner & Tour with Edward Walton Wilcox THURSDAY, DECEMBER 5 Tooth & Nail Winery</p>	<p>NAWBO Holiday Party THURSDAY, DECEMBER 5 Edna Valley Ranch</p>	<p>Natalie Cressman-Ian Faquini Jazz Duo THURSDAY, DECEMBER 5 Unity Concert Hall</p>	<p>Sounds of Jubilant Holiday FRIDAY, DECEMBER 6 Santa Maria First United Methodist Church</p>
<p>IRENE CATHAWAY Rhythm & Blues Band 12/7 Sat SLO GUILD HALL</p>	<p>Pre-Concert Dinner SATURDAY, DECEMBER 7 Mission San Luis Obispo de Tolosa</p>	<p>Daou Holiday Dinner SATURDAY, DECEMBER 7 Thomas Hill Organics</p>	<p>Cookie Pairing + Decorating SATURDAY, DECEMBER 7 CASS Winery</p>
<p>Dinner with Friends SUNDAY, DECEMBER 8 Santa Maria Civic Theatre</p>	<p>Victorian Christmas Open House SUNDAY, DECEMBER 8 Price Historical Park</p>	<p>Alleluia SUNDAY, DECEMBER 8 Cambria Community Presbyterian Church</p>	<p>MY805TIX BOX OFFICE IS NOW OPEN Get your tickets online or at Boo Boo Records, the official Box Office for My805Tix events! Boo Boo's is located at 978 Monterey Street in SLO. Call them at 805-541-0657.</p>

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ART FOR A CAUSE

Trilogy at Monarch Dunes in Nipomo hosts its Art Extravaganza and Fundraiser on Sunday, Nov. 24, from noon to 4 p.m. Guests can enjoy strolling among the booths of paintings, photography, ceramics, jewelry, fiber art, and more. Twenty percent of the event's proceeds will support art scholarships for local students. Admission to the show is free. Call (805) 343-7510 to find out more.

—Caleb Wiseblood

IMAGE COURTESY OF ALEXIS GARNER

SPECIAL EVENTS

SANTA YNEZ VALLEY

THE BOOK LOFT: HOLIDAY OPEN HOUSE

Features book signings, treats, giveaways, music, sales, and more. Featured readers include Lida Sideris, Frances Schultz, Elayne Klasson, and Jeff Gourson. **Nov. 23**, 9 a.m.-8 p.m. 805-688-6010. bookloftsolvang.com. The Book Loft, 1680 Mission Dr., Solvang.

SAN LUIS OBISPO

HOEDOWNERS SQUARE AND ROUND DANCE

The Hoedowners invite you to the Square and Round dance with Jay Henderson and David Cleek. **Nov. 24**, 1:30-4:30 p.m. \$8. 805-541-2386. squaredancecentralcoast.com. SLO Guild Hall, 2880 Broad St., San Luis Obispo.

A STORY OF MORAL COURAGE: MARTY

BROUNSTEIN Come to hear the author of *Two Among the Righteous Few: A Story of Courage in the Holocaust*, a riveting and important story centered around the true account of rescue of dozens of people during the Holocaust. **Nov. 21**, 7 p.m. Free. Congregation Beth David, 10180 Los Osos Valley Road, San Luis Obispo, 805-544-0760, cbdslo.org.

NORTH SLO COUNTY

CARRISA PLAINS CRAFT SHOW Features a variety of specialty gifts including ornamental iron, cigar-box guitars, western gifts, upscale decor, table arrangements, and more. **Nov. 24**, 9 a.m.-4 p.m. Free. 805-459-9838. Carrisa Plains Elementary School, 9640 Arrivals Highway, Santa Margarita.

SHOP SMALL SATURDAY: DOWNTOWN PASO ROBLES

Support your locally owned merchants, restaurants, and tasting rooms. **Nov. 30**, 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Admission is free. 805-238-4103. pasoroblesdowntown.org. Downtown Paso Robles Shopping Core, 12th and Park Streets, Paso Robles.

NORTH COAST SLO COUNTY

HAPPY HIPPIE ART FARM POP-UP SALE

Features forged, sculpted, crocheted, sewn, and otherwise hand-crafted jewelry, blankets, soaps, and other items. **Nov. 23**, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Free. 8059274805. Dianne Brooke, 345 Warwick, Cambria.

FUNDRAISERS

SOUTH COAST SLO COUNTY

SANTA'S DOGGIE PARADE All dogs must

be registered and check-in to receive a contest identification number for the costume contest. **Nov. 30**, 11 a.m.-noon \$5. 805-627-1997. avilabeachcc.com. Avila Beach Promenade, 404 Front St., Avila Beach.

TRIOLOGY ART EXTRAVAGANZA AND FUNDRAISER

Stroll among the booths of art, photography, ceramics, jewelry, fiber art, and more. 20 percent of the proceeds go to fund art scholarships for further education. **Nov. 24**, 12-4 p.m. Free. 805-343-7510. Trilogy at Monarch Dunes, 1645 Trilogy Parkway, Nipomo.

SAN LUIS OBISPO

THIRD ANNUAL BAGS TO BENEFIT A fun-filled afternoon of silent auctions and raffles. Proceeds benefit local women and girls by funding programs that lead to social and economic empowerment. **Nov. 23**, 11 a.m.-2 p.m. \$50. 805-556-8070. soroptimistslo.com/bags-to-benefit. Embassy Suites, 333 Madonna Rd., San Luis Obispo.

NORTH SLO COUNTY

THANKSGIVING HORNICOPIA: SLO COUNTY

TRUMPET ALLIANCE A Trumpet Ensemble Scholarship Concert to provide music lesson grants to local school trumpet players. **Nov. 24**, 3-5 p.m. Free with Good Will donations. 805-550-1192. slocta.com. Atascadero Bible Church, Atascadero Mall, Atascadero.

HOLIDAY EVENTS

SANTA YNEZ VALLEY

NINTH ANNUAL HOLIDAY MARKETPLACE Kick off the holiday season with a one-of-a-kind shopping featuring talented local artisans and unique gifts that celebrate wildlife, nature, and the outdoors. Sip cider, enjoy holiday treats, and more. **Dec. 1**, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Free. 805-686-8315. wildlingmuseum.org/news/holiday-marketplace-2019. Wildling Museum of Art and Nature, 1511-B Mission Dr., Solvang.

Submit Your Events
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.

LOMPOC/VANDENBERG

LOMPOC TURKEY TROT Prizes awarded to top male and female in kids and adults categories. Runs include 3 mile run for adults and 1 mile run for kids. Hosted by the Lompoc Recreation Division. **Nov. 24**, 8 a.m. \$20; \$10 for kids. 805-875-8100. cityoflompoc.com/recreation. River Bend Park, McLaughlin Rd. and A St., Lompoc.

SANTA MARIA VALLEY/LOS ALAMOS

23RD ANNUAL TURKEY TROT FUN RUN Hosted by the Santa Maria Recreation and Parks Department. Runners of all ages are welcome to join. **Nov. 23**, 9 a.m.-2 p.m. santamaria.com. Jim May Park, 809 Stanford Dr., Santa Maria.

SAN LUIS OBISPO

HOLIDAY TREASURES BOUTIQUE The Monday Club members have gathered and created amazing vintage finds, home decor, jewelry, handcrafted art, and delicious baked goods. Open to everyone. **Dec. 1**, 11 a.m.-4 p.m. The Monday Club, 1815 Monterey St., San Luis Obispo, 805-541-0594.

THANKSGIVING AT LUNA RED Enjoy delicious dishes like cornbread focaccia, Portuguese braised short rib, butternut squash soup, rosemary cinder brined turkey, and chocolate pecan tarte. **Nov. 28**, 1-8 p.m. \$39 for two course dinner. 805-540-5243. lunaredslo.com. Luna Red, 1023 Chorro St., San Luis Obispo.

NORTH SLO COUNTY

ANNUAL DOWNTOWN PASO ROBLES LIGHTING CEREMONY Join Mrs. Claus, the Elves and the Grinch along with City officials in candlelight caroling and lighting up the downtown and City Park for the holidays. **Nov. 29**, 5:30-8:30 p.m. Free. 805-238-4103. pasoroblesdowntown.org. Downtown City Park, 11th and Spring St., Paso Robles.

FRIENDSGIVING Join Steve Cass, Ted Plemons, and

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Sterling, our winemaker, around the table before all the holiday mayhem begins. Go online for more details and menu items. **Nov. 21**, 5:30-8:30 p.m. \$80. my805tix.com. Cass Winery And Vineyard, 7350 Linne Rd., Paso Robles, 805-239-1730.

HANDS IN NEPAL ARTISAN MARKET AND SILENT AUCTION This event highlights local artists and crafters and will feature 16 vendor booths, baked goods, and a silent auction. Vendors will offer jewelry, pottery, tile and ceramics, handmade soap, and more. **Nov. 23**, 10 a.m.-3 p.m. Free. 805-440-5987. HANDS in Nepal Santa Margarita HQ, 22595 I St., Santa Margarita, handsinnepal.org.

HOLIDAY CRAFT BAZAAR Find that unique holiday gift at the Holiday Craft Bazaar featuring vendors with entirely handmade items. **Nov. 29**, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Free admission. 805-238-4103. pasoroblesdowntown.org. Downtown City Park, 11th and Spring St., Paso Robles.

THANKSGIVING GRAND BUFFET Enjoy savory sides, juicy roasts, desserts, traditional dishes, and other buffet items. **Nov. 28**, 11 a.m.-7 p.m. \$50. 805-461-5100. The Nautical Cowboy, 6005 El Camino Real, Atascadero.

ARTS

CLASSES & WORKSHOPS

SANTA YNEZ VALLEY

FREE WEST COAST SWING CLASS No partner or experience required. Mondays, 7 & 8 p.m. Free. (805) 937-1574. Maverick Saloon, 3687 Sagunto St., Santa Ynez, mavericksaloon.org.

SANTA MARIA VALLEY/LOS ALAMOS

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

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

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

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.

ARTS continued page 20

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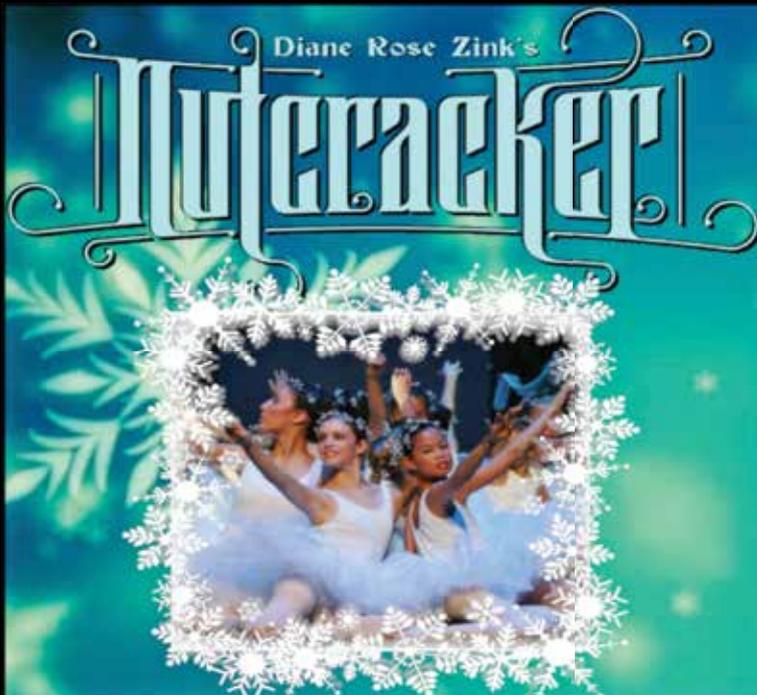
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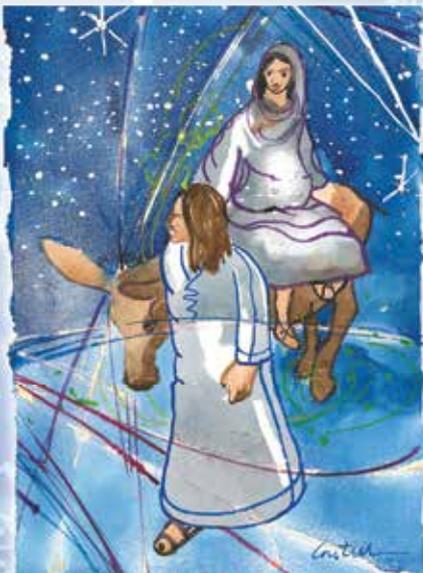
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CREATIVE ART TUESDAYS Meet other artists and support and critique others' works. Tuesdays, 1-4 p.m. \$1. Oasis Senior Center, 420 Soares Ave., Orcutt, 805-937-9750.

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

FREE SALSA CLASSES No partner or experience required. Tuesdays, 6:30 & 7:30 p.m. Free. (805) 937-1574. Cubanissimo Cuban Coffee House, 4869 S. Bradley Rd., Orcutt.

FREE WEST COAST SWING CLASS No partner or experience required. Wednesdays, 6:30 & 7:30 p.m. 805-937-1574. Cubanissimo Cuban Coffee House, 4869 S. Bradley Rd., Orcutt.

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

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

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

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

look at a vanishing American treasure: the herds of wild horses that have roamed our continent for hundreds of years. **Nov. 30**, 2-4 p.m. 805-688-6010. facebook.com/events/2359672290952480/. The Book Loft, 1680 Mission Dr., Solvang.

LOMPOC/VANDENBERG

SHOP LOMPOC SHOP SMALL An estimated 40 local businesses will be participating with special promotions and sales. **Nov. 29** and **Nov. 30** explorelompop.com. Old Town Lompoc, 100 South H St, Lompoc.

SIP LOMPOC Features the chance to go wine tasting at ten locations around Lompoc, from the "Wine Ghetto" to Midtown to the Sta. Rita Hills Wine Center. **Nov. 29**, 12-3 p.m. explorelompop.com. Old Town Lompoc, 100 South H St, Lompoc.

THE SPIRIT OF CHRISTMAS Presented by the Lompoc Pops Orchestra. **Dec. 1**, 7 p.m. First United Methodist Church, 925 North F St., Lompoc.

SOUTH COAST SLO COUNTY

AFTERNOON OF ART AND WINE Trilogy artists will show two and three dimensional works. Net proceeds to benefit Art Scholarships for South County Students. **Nov. 24**, noon Monarch Club, 1645 Trilogy Pkway., Nipomo, 805-343-9459.

ART IN THE PARK AT DINOSAUR CAVES Features original art and handmade crafts created by local artists, food, live music, and more. First Sunday of every month, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. through Dec. 1

Free. 805-704-7083. artintheparkshellbeach.com. Dinosaur Caves Park, 2701 Price St, Pismo Beach.

WOMEN'S EVENING

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

SAN LUIS OBISPO

AUTHOR TALK: HENDRIKA DE VRIES Join Hendrika de Vries as she recounts her childhood in Nazi-occupied Amsterdam, as told in her memoir, "When a Toy Dog Became a Wolf...". **Nov. 23**, 2-3:30 p.m. Free. 805-781-5989. slolibrary.org. San Luis Obispo Library, 995 Palm St., San Luis Obispo.

JULIA MORGAN HISTORIC BUILDING TOUR

Member docents will guide guests through the historic, newly renovated, and preserved Monday Club clubhouse and grounds. Tours may also be arranged by appointment. Mondays, 2-5 p.m. through Oct. 8 Free; donations appreciated. 805-541-0594. themondayclubslo.org. The Monday Club, 1815 Monterey St., San Luis Obispo.

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. 805-688-8315. wildlingmuseum.org/news/celebrating-the-national-lands-of-california-art-exhibit. Wildling Museum of Art and Nature, 1511-B Mission Dr., Solvang.

GALLERY LOS OLIVOS: WINTER SALON The gallery's featured show for the month of December. **Dec. 1-Jan. 1** Free admission. gallerylosolivos.com. Gallery Los Olivos, 2920 Grand Ave., Los Olivos, 805-688-7517.

HOME AND AWAY: KRIS BUCK AND KAREN MCLEAN MCGAW Features pastels and watercolors. The artists have been painting together locally and abroad. The paintings offer a broad range of subject matter including landscape, figurative, and florals. Mondays-Sundays, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. through Nov. 30 805-688-7517. GalleryLosOlivos.com. Gallery Los Olivos, 2920 Grand Ave., Los Olivos.

KRIS BUCK AND KAREN MCLEAN MCGAW Buck

and McGaw are the gallery's featured artists for the month of November. Through Dec. 1 Free admission. gallerylosolivos.com. Gallery Los Olivos, 2920 Grand Ave., Los Olivos, 805-688-7517.

PAVLOV GALLERY: FEATURED ARTISTS

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

SANTA BARBARA PRINTMAKERS: WILD PLACES IN PRINT

The Wildling Museum is pleased to announce Santa Barbara Printmakers: Wild Places in Print, a new Barbara Goodall Education Center exhibition featuring nature and wildlife-inspired works. Through Jan. 1, 2020 Free. 805-686-8315. wildlingmuseum.org. Wildling Museum of Art and Nature, 1511-B Mission Dr., Solvang.

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 St., 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.

SANTA BARBARA PRINTMAKERS JURIED EXHIBITION

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

SOUTH COAST SLO COUNTY

FROM ARTISTS, FOR ARTISTS, BY ARTISTS

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

STAGE

SANTA MARIA VALLEY/LOS ALAMOS

ANNIE Presented by Orcutt Community Theater. **Dec. 1-22** KDA Studios, 3546 Skyway Drive, Orcutt, 8052682993, orcuttcommunitytheater.org.

THE LITTLE MERMAID Based on the Hans Christian Andersen story of the Disney film. Presented by PCPA. Music by Alan Menken and lyrics by Howard Ashman and Glenn Slater. Book by Doug Wright. Through Dec. 22 Marian Theatre, 800 S. College Dr., Santa Maria, 805-928-7731, pcpa.org.

SAN LUIS OBISPO

MUSICAL IMPROV SHOW WITH LAURA HALL (WHOSE LINE IS IT ANYWAY) Features improvised songs, musical games, food, and more. **Nov. 23**, 7-9 p.m. Free. centralcoastcomedytheater.com. Monterey St. Market, 1234 Monterey Street, #120, San Luis Obispo, 805-548-8515.

INTRO TO IMPROV COMEDY CLASSES All intro courses taught by CCCT owner, Sabrina Pratt. Wednesdays, 6-8 p.m. \$225 for all 6 weeks. 805-242-3109. centralcoastcomedytheater.com. Tigerlily Salon Studio, 659 Higuera St., San Luis Obispo.

JIM BREUER LIVE California Roots Presents Jim Breuer live at the Fremont Theater. **Nov. 30**, 8-11 p.m. \$30. 805-329-5725. The Fremont Theater, 1035 Monterey St., San Luis Obispo, fremontslo.com.

KILLER KOMEDY III 7 Sisters Brewing and SLO Comedy present another evening of big laughs. Headliner Jeff Applebaum hails from San Jose. Also features Curtis Cook (Comedy Central). **Nov. 23**, 8-10 p.m. \$10. 805-868-7133. 7Sisters Brewing Company, 181 Tank Farm Rd., suite 110, San Luis Obispo, 7SistersBrewing.com.

CULTURE & LIFESTYLE

LECTURES & LEARNING

SANTA YNEZ VALLEY

ALMA ROSA PRESENTS WINE TALK WEDNESDAYS An informational series that host speakers that discuss different aspects of the local wine industry. Fourth Wednesday of every month, 6:30-8:30

p.m. Free. 805-688-9090. almarosawinery.com. Alma Rosa Tasting Room, 181 C Industrial Way, Buellton.

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, 10:50 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. Fourth Thursday of every month, 6-7 p.m. Free. Santa Maria Public Library, 421 S. McClelland St., Santa Maria, 805-925-0994.

CLASES DE COMPUTADORAS A computer class for Spanish speakers. **Nov. 21**, 1-2 p.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.

IMAGE COURTESY OF JOE MANCUSO



FILE PHOTO COURTESY OF CHAD DAWSON

GOBBLE HEADS

The city of Lompoc Recreation Division hosts the annual Lompoc Turkey Trot at the River Park Fitness Trail on Sunday, Nov. 24. Check-in for the trot begins at 8 a.m. Prizes will be awarded to first, second, and third place in adults and children categories. Registration ranges from \$15 to \$25. Call (805) 875-8100 or visit cityoflompop.com/recreation for more info.

—C.W.

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. through Nov. 22 \$90 per 6 week session. 805-619-8776. christinefoghmusic.com/register.html. Christine Fogh Music, 685 Raymond Ave., Santa Maria.

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

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

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

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

SPECIAL ART EVENTS

SANTA YNEZ VALLEY

BOOK SIGNING WITH DEBORAH KALAS A unique

HOLIDAY ROAD

Solvang Antiques Fine Art Gallery presents its annual Holiday Art Show, which opens on Friday, Nov. 29, and will run through Tuesday, Dec. 31. The exhibition includes a collection of landscapes from several artists. A special opening reception takes place on Saturday, Nov. 30, from noon to 4 p.m. The gallery is located at 1693 Copenhagen Drive, Solvang. Visit solvangantiques.com for more info.

—C.W.

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

SOUTH COAST SLO COUNTY

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

SOUTH COUNTY POETRY An open mic follows each month's featured poet. Fourth Sunday of every month, 5:30-7:30 p.m. Free. 805-473-2416. South County Poetry, The Red Dirt Coffee House, 1452 E. Grand Ave., Arroyo Grande.

TOURS FOR PADDLERS A special tour for visitors who come by ocean. Paddlers will need to clean sand from their feet and dry themselves before the tour so not to damage the antique flooring. Saturdays, 10:10-45 a.m. \$6.49. 805-540-5771. Point San Luis Lighthouse, 1

CULTURE & LIFESTYLE continued page 22

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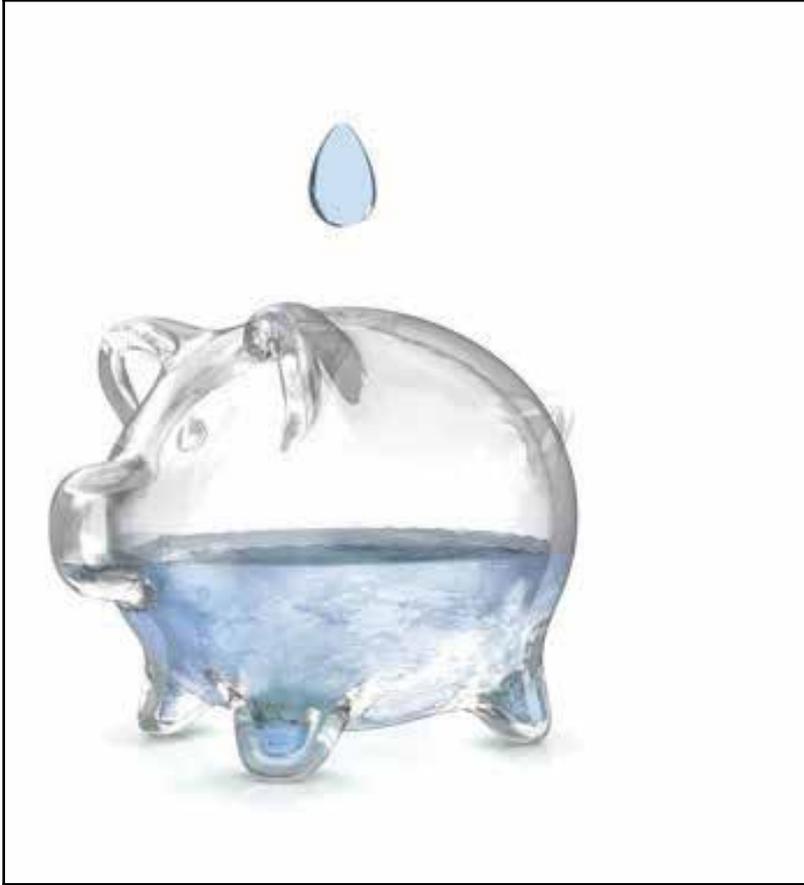
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Nipomo Community Services District

THE WILD HERD

A Vanishing American Treasure

DEBORAH KALAS



RIDING WILDFIRE

The Book Loft hosts a book signing with author Deborah Kalas on Saturday, Nov. 30, from 2 to 4 p.m. Kalas will be signing copies of her new book, *The Wild Herd: A Vanishing American Treasure*. The book will be available for purchase, but admission to the signing is free. The store is located at 1680 Mission Drive, Solvang. Call (805) 688-6010 or visit bookloftsolvang.com for more info.

—C.W.

CULTURE & LIFESTYLE from page 20

Lighthouse Rd., Avila Beach.

SAN LUIS OBISPO

CITIZENSHIP CLASS To prepare for the citizenship exam. No registration required. Tuesdays, 5-6 p.m. Free. 805-781-5783. slolibrary.org. San Luis Obispo Library, 995 Palm St., San Luis Obispo.

MOZART'S REQUIEM: MYTHS, MOTIVES, AND MOVIES Mozart struggled as he worked on his final composition, a Requiem Mass, which he began to fear was for his own funeral. Dr. David Levy of Wake Forest University will present the fascinating though not always accurate portrait of Mozart in movies and media. **Nov. 22**, 6-7:30 p.m. Free. 805-538-3311. slomasterchorale.org. Cal Poly Davidson Music Center, Room 218, Cal Poly, 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.

WHY MOZART DIED SO YOUNG: A PHYSICIAN'S PERSPECTIVE Mozart struggled as he worked on his final composition, a Requiem Mass, which he began to fear was for his own funeral. Philip Mackowiak, MD, of University of Maryland School of Medicine, will discuss this fascinating topic at the free lecture. **Nov. 23**, 7-8:30 p.m. Free. 805-538-3311. slomasterchorale.org. San Luis Obispo Library Community Room, 995 Palm Street, San Luis Obispo.

CLUBS & MEETINGS

SANTA MARIA VALLEY/LOS ALAMOS

BOARD OF LIBRARY TEENS (BOLT) Teens 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. **Nov. 23**, 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.

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

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

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

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

SUPPORT GROUPS

SANTA MARIA VALLEY/LOS ALAMOS

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

SOUTH COAST SLO COUNTY

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

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

CREATE & LEARN

SANTA MARIA VALLEY/LOS ALAMOS

FALL MAKERSPACE It's time to create, build, explore, and use your imagination at the Library Maker Events. Saturdays, 10 a.m.-3 p.m. through Nov. 30 Free. 805-925-0994. Santa Maria Public Library, 421 S. McClelland St., Santa Maria.

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.

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

FIT CLUB A club to energize both body and soul. Pre

post-workout drinks to be available. Mondays-Fridays, 9 a.m. Balance Nutrition, 1975 S. Broadway, suite E, Santa Maria.

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/.

SOUTH COAST SLO COUNTY

MINDFUL MOVEMENT AND MEDITATION A practice of breath and body awareness as you move through areas of tension, increase range of motion and strengthen our relationship with the present moment. Saturdays, 9-10:15 a.m. \$10 suggested donation. whiteheronsangha.org. White Heron Sangha Meditation Center, 6615 Bay Laurel Place, Avila Beach.

KIDS & FAMILY

SANTA MARIA VALLEY/LOS ALAMOS

MOVIE MATINEE: SHREK 2 A special free screening of the animated sequel. **Nov. 26**, 2-4 p.m. Free. 805-925-0994. Santa Maria Public Library, 421 S. McClelland St., Santa Maria.

MOVIE MATINEE: SHREK FOREVER AFTER The library will be showing a special screening of the movie *Shrek Forever After*. **Nov. 27**, 2-4 p.m. and **Nov. 30**, 2-4 p.m. Free. 805-925-0994. Santa Maria Public Library, 421 S. McClelland St., Santa Maria.

MOVIE MATINEE: SHREK A special screening of the hit animated comedy. **Nov. 25**, 2-4 p.m. Free. 805-925-0994. Santa Maria Public Library, 421 S. McClelland St., Santa Maria.

BILINGUAL STORY TIME/HORA DE CUENTOS

Features exciting stories, songs, and rhymes in both Spanish and English. Wednesdays, 5:30-6 p.m. through Dec. 11 805-925-0994. Santa Maria Public Library, 421 S. McClelland St., Santa Maria.

KTS ALL STAR GYMNASTICS: NINJA

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

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

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

SPIRITUAL

SANTA MARIA VALLEY/LOS ALAMOS

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

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

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

FOOD & DRINK

FARMERS MARKETS

LOMPOC/VANDENBERG

LOMPOC FARMERS MARKET Features fresh fruit

and vegetables, entertainment, and activities for the whole family. Fridays, 2-6 p.m. Lompoc Farmers Market, Ocean Avenue and I Street, Lompoc.

SANTA MARIA VALLEY/LOS ALAMOS

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

SOUTH COAST SLO COUNTY

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

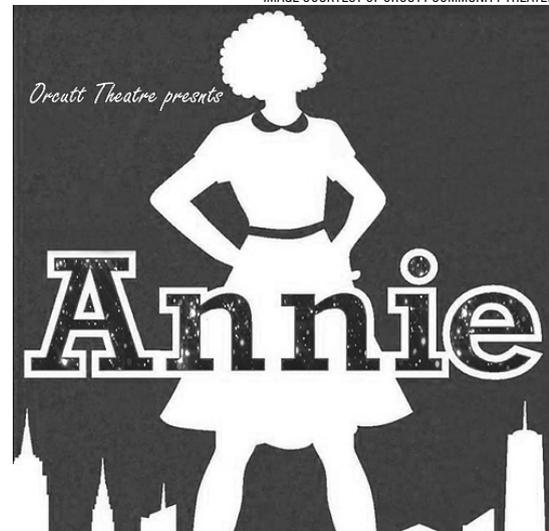
SAN LUIS OBISPO

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

SLO FARMERS MARKET Hosts over 60 vendors. Saturdays, 8-10:45 a.m. World Market Parking Lot, 325 Madonna Rd., San Luis Obispo.

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

IMAGE COURTESY OF ORCUTT COMMUNITY THEATER



HARD-KNOCK LIFE

Orcutt Community Theater's production of the musical *Annie* opens at Klein Dance Arts Studio on Friday, Nov. 29, at 7 p.m. The show will run through Sunday, Dec. 22, with performances every Friday and Saturday at 7 p.m. and every Sunday at 1:30 p.m. Tickets range from \$8 to \$15 and are available in advance at my805tix.com. Klein Dance Arts Studio is located at 3546 Skyway Drive, Santa Maria. Visit orcuttcommunitytheater.org for more info.

—C.W.

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 Rd., Santa Ynez.

LOMPOC/VANDENBERG

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

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

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

Live Music

SANTA YNEZ VALLEY

38 SPECIAL LIVE The resort is a 21-and-up venue. **Nov. 22** Chumash Casino Resort, 3400 E. Highway 246, Santa Ynez, 800-248-6274, chumashcasino.com/entertainment.

CHANCE MAKERS LIVE Food and drinks available for purchase. No outside food or drinks allowed. **Nov. 29**, 6-9 p.m. Cold Spring Tavern, 5995 Stagecoach Rd., Santa Barbara, 805-967-0066, coldspringtavern.com/entertainment.html.

DR. WU LIVE Steely Dan tribute band. **Nov. 23**, 8-11 p.m. Free. Maverick Saloon, 3687 Sagunto St., Santa Ynez, 805-686-4785, mavericksaloon.org.

DUSTIN JANSON DUO LIVE Food and drinks available for purchase. No outside food or drinks allowed. **Nov. 30**, 1-4 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.

GREEN FLAG SUMMER LIVE Food and drinks available for purchase. No outside food or drinks allowed. **Nov. 23**, 1-4 p.m. Cold Spring Tavern, 5995 Stagecoach Rd., Santa Barbara, 805-967-0066, coldspringtavern.com/entertainment.html.

JIM RANKIN LIVE Food and drinks available for purchase. No outside food or drinks allowed. **Nov. 29**, 1-4 p.m. Cold Spring Tavern, 5995 Stagecoach Rd., Santa Barbara, 805-967-0066, coldspringtavern.com/entertainment.html.

LITTLE JONNY AND THE GIANTS LIVE Food and drinks available for purchase. No outside food or drinks allowed. **Dec. 1**, 4:30-7:30 p.m. Cold Spring Tavern, 5995 Stagecoach Rd., Santa Barbara, 805-967-0066, coldspringtavern.com/entertainment.html.

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

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

SPOONFUL LIVE Food and drinks available for purchase. No outside food or drinks allowed. **Nov. 23**, 5-8 p.m. Cold Spring Tavern, 5995 Stagecoach Rd., Santa Barbara, 805-967-0066, coldspringtavern.com/entertainment.html.

STRAY HERD LIVE Food and drinks available for purchase. No outside food or drinks allowed. **Nov. 22**, 6 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,

MUSIC LISTINGS continued page 24

PHOTO COURTESY OF THE CHUMASH CASINO RESORT



CAUGHT UP: The Chumash Casino Resort presents Southern rock group 38 Special in the Samala Showroom on Friday, Nov. 22, at 8 p.m.

Casino royale

Southern rock band 38 Special set to perform at the Chumash Casino Resort

BY CALEB WISEBLOOD

Founded by childhood friends Don Barnes and Donnie Van Zandt in 1974, the Southern rock gods known to us mortals as 38 Special are taking their nationwide tour to Santa Ynez for a Chumash Casino Resort performance on Friday, Nov. 22, at 8 p.m. The group is best known for hits such as "Hold On Loosely," "Rockin' into the Night," "If I'd Been the One," "Second Chance," and "Caught

PHOTO BY JAYSON MELLOM



BEST OF THE BEST: Danté Marsh, winner of New Times Music Awards' R&B/Blues genre, also won Best Live Performance on Nov. 8, in the SLO Brew Rock Event Center.

The NTMA results are in!

Thanks to all who came out to the SLO Brew Rock Event Center on Friday, Nov. 8, for the 2019 New Times Music Awards! The final results are listed below for posterity. Congratulations to all the winners, and thanks to all who entered!

BEST ALBUM

- 1) Phil Lee: *Phil Lee & The Horse He Rode In On*
- 2) Derek Senn: *How Could A Man*
- 3) The Creston Line: *Fool's Gold*

BEST SONGWRITER

- 1) Derek Senn: "Song Mine"
- 2) Chris O'Connell: "I Know That"
- 3) The Creston Line: "Waiting Ain't My Style"

ROCK/ALTERNATIVE

- 1) Domestic Tiger: "Salt"
- 2) Golfdads: "Breaking Bad"
- 3) Chad Land: "The Snake"

COUNTRY/FOLK/AMERICANA

- 1) The Creston Line: "The Ballad of David and Caroline"
- 2) Ynana Rose: "Mendocino Sunrise"
- 3) Jasper & Jade: "Boneman"

R&B/BLUES

- 1) Danté Marsh: "Jungle Boy"
- 2) Ezra Henderson: "Paradise"
- 3) Earls Of Tuesday: "The Way You Talk"

HIP-HOP/RAP

- 1) Kody Balboa Ft. James Kay: "Witnesses"
- 2) Famous Deuce Ft. Beezy: "Day Dreamin'"
- 3) BobbyBeenFresh: "Homesick"

OPEN

- 1) The Bogeys: "Dive Jam"
- 2) Jill Knight and The Daylights: "Match Your Vibration"
- 3) Echo Canyon: "Interstellar"

YOUTH

- 1) Harmony Chabot: "Gold Oceans"
- 2) The Journals: "Memory Fading"
- 3) Sacha Carlson: "Bluejay"

Readers' Choice: Domestic Tiger
Local Legend: Neal Losey of KCBX
Best Live Performance: Danté Marsh



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FILE PHOTO COURTESY OF CLIFF STEPP



IN COLD BLOOD: Funk, R&B, and soul ensemble Lydia Pense and Cold Blood performs at Rancho Nipomo Barbecue and Deli on **Sunday, Nov. 24**, at 6:30 p.m.

LOCAL NOTES from page 23

for touring with Boz Skaggs, Jefferson Starship, and other acts. Formed in 1969, the band is currently touring in celebration of its 50th anniversary. Admission to the concert is \$20 and tickets are available in advance at

my805tix.com. The restaurant is located at 108 Cuyama Lane, Nipomo. Call (805) 925-3500 for more details.

Going south

Country-rock band **Stray Herd** performs at the Cold Spring Tavern

off of Highway 154 on **Friday, Nov. 22**, from 6 to 9 p.m. This local group plays a mix of roots and outlaw and modern country tunes. The tavern hosts **Green Flag Summer** the following afternoon, from 1 to 4 p.m. on **Saturday, Nov. 23**. This rock and reggae duo, made up of Matt Kustura and Andrew Fedders, is based in Santa Barbara and performs both covers and originals. Blues, jazz, and rock band **Spoonful** is next on the docket, performing that same evening from 5 to 8 p.m.

The tavern's weekend lineup concludes with blues and rags duo **Tom Ball and Kenny Sultan** (from 1:15 to 4 p.m.) and folk rock group **Uncle Uncle** (from 4:30 to 7:30 p.m.) on **Sunday, Nov. 24**. Entry to all of the venue's shows is free. Also in the Santa Ynez Valley, **Carmen and the Renegades** perform at the Maverick Saloon on **Friday, Nov. 22**, from 8 to 11 p.m. The saloon also hosts **Dr. Wu**, a Steely Dan tribute band, on **Saturday, Nov. 23**,

from 8 to 11 p.m. Admission to both performances is complimentary.

More music

Guests of the Naughty Oak Brewing Company in Orcutt on **Friday, Nov. 22**, can look forward to traveling back in time to the 1990s with '90s grunge and rock tribute band **Joe Daddy and the Sumthings**. The concert starts at 6 p.m. and the group is scheduled to play through 9 p.m. Admission to the show is free, but gourmet sandwiches and tacos will be available for purchase from AR Catering (starting at 5:30 p.m.).

Singer-songwriter **Keith Cox** performs at Blast 825 Brewery in Orcutt on **Friday, Nov. 22**, from 7 to 10 p.m. The brewery also hosts **Smokin' Gunz** on **Saturday, Nov. 23**, from 10 p.m. to past midnight, and **About Time** on **Sunday, Nov. 24**, from noon to 3 p.m. Entry to all three shows is free. Also in Orcutt, local solo artist

PHOTO COURTESY OF COLD SPRING TAVERN



THAT'S ALL FOLK: Folk rock band Uncle Uncle performs at Cold Spring Tavern on **Sunday, Nov. 24**, from 4:30 to 7:30 p.m.

Cyrus Clarke performs at Vino et Amicis Wine Bar on **Friday, Nov. 22**, from 7 to 10 p.m. Admission to the performance is complimentary. ○

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

MUSIC LISTINGS from page 23

3687 Sagunto St., Santa Ynez, 805-686-4785, mavericksaloon.org.

TOM BALL AND KENNY SULTAN LIVE Enjoy a blend of guitar and harmonica blues, and rags, and good time music. Food and drinks available for purchase. No outside food or drinks allowed. Sundays, 1:15-4 p.m. Free. Cold Spring Tavern, 5995 Stagecoach Rd., Santa Barbara, 805-967-0066, coldspringtavern.com/entertainment.html.

UNCLE UNCLE LIVE Food and drinks available for purchase. No outside food or drinks allowed. **Nov. 24**, 4:30-7:30 p.m. Cold Spring Tavern, 5995 Stagecoach Rd., Santa Barbara, 805-967-0066, coldspringtavern.com/entertainment.html.

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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

ABOUT TIME LIVE Nov. 24, 7-10 p.m. Free. Blast 825 Brewery, 241 S Broadway St., Ste. 101, Orcutt, 805-934-3777, rooneysirishpub.net.

JOE DADDY AND THE SUMTHINGS LIVE Nov. 22, 6 p.m. Free. Naughty Oak Brewing Co., 165 S Broadway St. suite 102, Orcutt, 805-287-9663, naughtyoak.com.

KEITH T. COX LIVE Nov. 22, 7-10 p.m. Free. Blast 825 Brewery, 241 S Broadway St., Ste. 101, Orcutt, 805-934-3777, rooneysirishpub.net.

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. suite 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.

SMOKIN' GUNZ LIVE Nov. 23, 7-10 p.m. Free. Blast 825 Brewery, 241 S Broadway St., Ste. 101, Orcutt, 805-934-3777, rooneysirishpub.net.

DJ/DANCE

SANTA YNEZ VALLEY

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

LOMPOC/VANDENBERG

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

SANTA MARIA VALLEY/LOS ALAMOS

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

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

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

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

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



FILE PHOTO COURTESY OF ABOUT TIME

TIMELY TUNES

Blast 825 Brewery in Orcutt presents About Time on Sunday, Nov. 24, from noon to 4 p.m. This local acoustic duo features Aaron Salazar and Caitlyn Vassaur. Admission to the show is free. The brewery is located at 241 S. Broadway, Orcutt. Call (805) 934-3777 or visit blast825brewery.com to find out more.

—Caleb Wiseblood

Anthony's, 859 Guadalupe St., Guadalupe, 805-219-0977.

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

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

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

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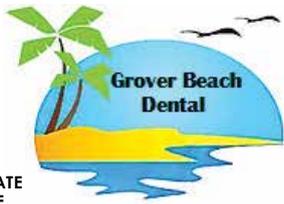
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Arts Briefs

Central Coast Film Society hosts classic cartoons showcase

The Central Coast Film Society (CCFS) holds its Classic Saturday Morning Cartoons screening at Parks Plaza Theatre in Buellton on Saturday, Nov. 30, at 9 a.m. A collection of vintage cartoons—with characters including Bugs Bunny, Popeye, Betty Boop, Gumby, and others—will be screened.

This family-friendly event also includes a raffle for guests to enter. Admission is \$5, and tickets are available at the door or in advance at centralcoastfilmsociety.org. Parks Plaza Theatre is located at 515 McMurray Road, Buellton.

CCFS is dedicated to offering film screenings, seminars, and lectures to the public at locations throughout the Central Coast. Call (805) 692-3000 to find out more about the nonprofit.

Los Olivos holds Artisan Holiday Market and Gingerbread Wonderland

Los Olivos' annual Victorian-themed holiday celebration, Olde Fashioned Christmas, takes place on Saturday, Dec. 7. The daylong festivities will begin at noon with the opening of the event's Artisan Holiday Market, an open-air shopping opportunity that showcases giftable items from more than 20 different artists and vendors. Various downtown Los Olivos businesses will be hosting open houses and live entertainment throughout the event, which is expected to run through 7 p.m. or later.

"Los Olivos' Victorian architecture gets dolled up for the holidays, and our pedestrian-friendly country roads make for an atmospheric Christmas scene," Sandee Sanger, president of the Los Olivos Chamber of Commerce, said in press materials. "It's a snapshot of what life—and holiday festivities—might have been like around the time of the town's founding. Simpler times." Other events include the official Christmas tree lighting at 6 p.m. at the center of town, near the flagpole. And St. Mark's-in-the-Valley Episcopal Church will transform into Gingerbread Wonderland, an annual tradition at the church, between 4 and 8 p.m. The church will be full of edible architecture; a variety of gingerbread houses decorated by both local artisans and students.

To find out more about Olde Fashioned Christmas, visit losolivosca.com.

FILE PHOTO COURTESY OF LIZ DODDER



Great American Melodrama presents *The Holiday Extravaganza*

The Holiday Extravaganza opens at the Great American Melodrama and Vaudeville on Thursday, Nov. 21, at 7 p.m. The show will run through Tuesday, Dec. 31, with evening and matinee performances offered throughout the week (check americanmelodrama.com for showtimes).

This annual production opens with a one-act version of Charles Dickens' *A Christmas Carol*, which is followed by a comedic, operatic retelling of "The Three Little Pigs," and the company's traditional vaudeville revue. Tickets to the show range from \$28 to \$33, with discounts available for seniors, students, active military, and children.

Call the Melodrama's box office at (805) 489-2499 for more details. The theater is located at 1863 Front St., Oceano. ○

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



ROO TO YOU: Local artist Laura-Susan Thomas used her dog, Roo, as the subject of one of her animal paintings, currently on display at Valley Art Gallery in Orcutt.

Zoo to you

Laura-Susan Thomas captures humanity through animal paintings at Valley Art Gallery

BY CALEB WISEBLOOD

Santa Maria was never part of a long-term plan for artist Laura-Susan Thomas and her husband, who moved up from Los Angeles about two decades ago.

"We both had constantly moved growing up, so figured we might be here three years or so," Thomas told the *Sun*. "Now 20 some years later, two grown kids, a house, and a community of lifelong friends, we have put down roots for the first time."

Formerly a designer for Walt Disney Imagineering, Thomas worked as a freelance illustrator for several years after relocating to the Central Coast before taking on her current job at Allan Hancock College, where she teaches digital art classes. Thomas is also the director of the school's exhibition center, the Ann Foxworthy Gallery.

"When Marti Fast, the previous director of many years and a friend, retired, she asked me to take the position," Thomas said. "I mentored with her for a semester, learning the ins and outs of gallery work."

From artist to curator, one of the aspects Thomas appreciates most about working as the gallery's director is getting to interact with other artists from the community and beyond.

"It has been such a wonderful opportunity. I get to meet all sorts of artists, visit studios, and live, work, and be inspired by art all of the time," Thomas said. "There is a burgeoning art community on the Central Coast, with many artists working and living here, from Santa Ynez to Cambria up the coast."

Thomas described her goal as the gallery's director to "bring in a variety of art, artists, and ideas we in Santa Maria don't always have the opportunity to see." Embracing unique subject

No matter how small

Laura-Susan Thomas' *Creatures Big and Small* exhibition runs at the Valley Art Gallery in Orcutt through Saturday, Nov. 30. The show is open to the public during the gallery's regular hours: Tuesday through Friday from noon to 6 p.m. and every Saturday from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. The gallery is located at 125 W. Clark Ave., Orcutt. Call (805) 937-2278 or visit valleyartgallery.org for more info.

matter to raise awareness for specific issues is a goal that carries over into Thomas' own artwork as well. Fresh from the studio in the backyard of her Orcutt home, Thomas hopes her latest creations will inspire proactivity in wildlife conservation.

"I love painting animals and making a connection between the human and the animal world," Thomas said. "Most of my animal paintings I approach more as portraits, trying to find ways to connect their human viewers with the subject of my work."

Thomas' paintings are currently being showcased in *Creatures Big and Small*, an exhibition at Valley Art

Gallery in Orcutt. Most of the featured pieces were created with oils, although some pieces incorporate collage work as well. Thomas' artistic style is heavily inspired by the works of Howard Post and Wayne Thiebaud, she said.

"Their bold strokes are simply delicious," explained Thomas, whose other influences include the ballpoint drawings of Andrea Joseph and the digital paintings of Craig Mullins and Bobbie Chu.

Creatures Big and Small runs through Saturday, Nov. 30, at the Orcutt gallery. Birds, sheep, giraffes, dogs, and coyotes are just a few of the non-human subjects included in Thomas' works.

"Coyotes are one of my favorites to paint. They just do what nature tells them to do, and many times it is



NECK OF THE WOODS: *Creatures Big and Small* at Valley Art Gallery features animal-themed paintings Laura-Susan Thomas completed in her studio, located in the backyard of her Orcutt home.

humans encroaching on their world that causes the problems," said Thomas, who strives to shine a light on animals that are either endangered or popularly depicted as "the bad guys."

"I hope we can connect people emotionally to these animals so we can be more proactive in how we interact with them and look to conserving the habitats and wild places in our world," she said.

Earnest intentions aside, many of Thomas' works currently on display share a whimsical tone. Thomas even used her own dog, Roo—adorably attired in a ballerina tutu—as the subject of one of her paintings. But even this and some of Thomas' other lighthearted works maintain the artist's goal to inspire sympathy toward animals, by incorporating human activities and mechanisms into the animal world.

"Perhaps you know someone like Sheila, my sheep in red heels, or a friend with the goofy personality of my own dog, Roo, in her tutu," Thomas said. "My hope is the human personalities I try to convey make a connection on a familiar or emotional level." ○

Arts Editor Caleb Wiseblood needs a tutu for his doggo before *Nutcracker* season ends. Send tutu funds to cwiseblood@santamariasun.com.



ART AFTER BARK: Dogs, birds, sheep, and giraffes are just a few of the non-human subjects depicted in Laura-Susan Thomas' paintings.



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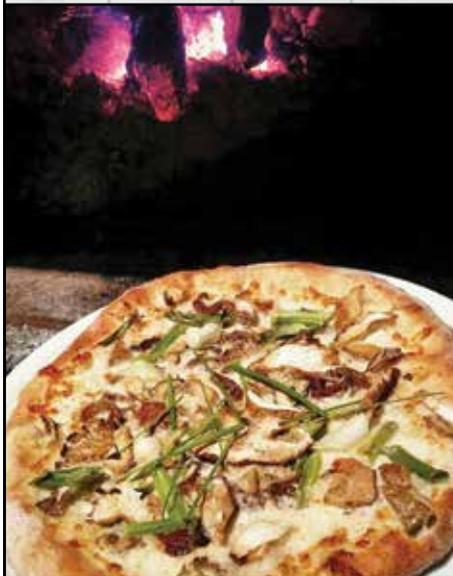
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ARTS

ART SCENE

PHOTOS COURTESY OF ELAYNE KLASSON



He never seemed to have an awkward phase. And he was also extremely smart and well spoken. Even the adults were taken with him. Seeing him at the reunion, he was still handsome—years had been good to him. And he was successful. I wondered about him and all the girls, and maybe a few boys, who had been in love with him. What if he and one girl, maybe less beautiful and brilliant, had remained friends their whole lives? What if she remained in love with him, but he never thought of her that way? And so *Love is a Rebellious Bird* was born to investigate why we love the people we do. And what happens when we don't give up on that love?

Sun: Your background in psychology has also informed your philosophy on romantic relationships. Has your career as a psychology professor influenced your fiction writing?

Klasson: I've been a college professor for most of my professional life—teaching at San Jose State University. I recently moved to the

LOCAL NOVELIST: Central Coast resident Elayne Klasson will be signing copies of her debut novel, *Love is a Rebellious Bird*, at the Book Loft on Nov. 23.

Bird is the word

Local author Elayne Klasson discusses debut novel, *Love is a Rebellious Bird*

BY CALEB WISEBLOOD

A retired psychology professor, Elayne Klasson spent her career teaching others about human behavior and relationships. One of Klasson's greatest fascinations in life has always been the concept of love and why we choose to love the people we do. At age 72, Klasson is tackling the topic, but not in an academic format. It's an idea she explores in her debut fiction novel, *Love is a Rebellious Bird*, which was released through She Writes Press on Nov. 12.

Klasson, who is scheduled to appear at Solvang's The Book Loft for a book signing on Nov. 23, took some time to chat with the *Sun* about the novel and its inspirations.

Sun: One underlying thread of your novel deals with pre-adolescent relationships and how those formative years can make permanent imprints on who we become as adults. What is it about being a teenager that allows these kinds of results?

Klasson: There is something about teen-aged years when it seems our identities are strongly imprinted by our peer group. I think we begin to rank ourselves and internalize what others say about us. This is not to say we can't break out of this. But when I attended my 50th high school reunion, I thought about this a lot.

Sun: In what way? I read in one of your previous interviews that the reunion also partly inspired the synopsis of *Love is a Rebellious Bird*. How so?

Klasson: There was one boy—he had been the "it" boy of my childhood. He was very beautiful.

Central Coast from the San Francisco Bay Area. I have a Ph.D. in psychology and have always been fascinated by relationships—what works and what doesn't. My passion, however, has always been fiction and in my middle years decided to take the plunge and try to write a novel.

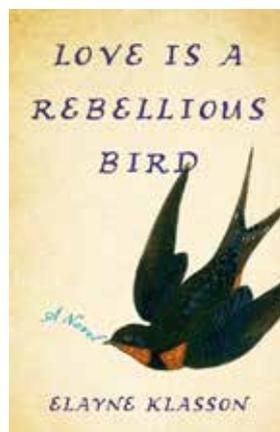
Sun: What are some of your favorite aspects of writing fiction? I also read in press materials that one of the elements you enjoy the most is world building?

Klasson: I particularly like taking characters and families through many years. A novel gives me a chance to take my time and watch my characters grow and develop and age. These are also my favorite kinds of novels [to read]. I like fiction that really allows us to watch how a person or family changes over time. And we all do—despite acquiring much of our identity in those high school years.

Sun: I also read that you currently write a lifestyle column for the *Santa Ynez Valley News*. How would you compare your experience writing columns so far to writing a novel?

Klasson: I love writing a column. A novel takes me four to five years to write. It is so gratifying to finish a column and see it in print the next week! ○

Arts Editor Caleb Wiseblood can relate. Reach him at cwiseblood@santamariasun.com.



DEBUT NOVEL: Elayne Klasson's first published novel, *Love is a Rebellious Bird*, was released through She Writes Press on Nov. 12.

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The Santa Maria Joint Union High School District recently hired Antonio Garcia to be its new superintendent. What should his first priority be?

- The district needs to focus on improving graduation rates.
- College degrees are everything—the district should ensure the maximum number of students are qualified for college.
- Career Technical Education is most important. High school grads need to be prepared to enter the workforce.
- Cutting the budget. He can start with his salary.

Enter your choice online at: SantaMariaSun.com

Sun

Film Reviews

All theater listings are as of Friday, Nov. 22

A BEAUTIFUL DAY IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD

What's it rated? **PG**
Where's it showing? **Parks Plaza**
NEW Marielle Heller (*The Diary of a Teenage Girl, Can You Ever Forgive Me?*) directs this biopic drama that's based on the real-life friendship between beloved children's television host Fred Rogers (Tom Hanks) and journalist Tom Junod (Matthew Rhys). (108 min.)

—Glen Starkey

CHARLIE'S ANGELS

What's it rated? **PG-13**
What's it worth? **Matinee**
Where's it showing? **Movies Lompoc**
PICK Writer-director Elizabeth Banks (*Pitch Perfect 2*) takes on the classic TV series (1976-1981) about a trio of crime-fighting women—Sabina Wilson (Kristen Stewart), Elena Houghlin (Naomi Scott), and Jane Kano (Ella Balinska)—who this time around must save humankind from a dangerous new technology.

Banks is up to the task and delivers an earnest and upbeat new installation with three winning leads who are giving it their all. The film clearly has respect for its source material but stops short of retrograde homage, instead injecting some freshness into the characters, who are a lot of fun, especially Stewart's Sabina. It also adds some feminist elements that help it transcend its "jiggle TV" origins, and as a simple action film, it does the job. (118 min.)

—Glen

FORD V FERRARI

What's it rated? **PG-13**
What's it worth? **Full price**
Where's it showing? **Movies Lompoc, Parks Plaza**
See Sun Screen.

FROZEN II

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

NEW Co-directors Chris Buck and Jennifer Lee (*Frozen, 2013*) return to helm this animated sequel about Anna (Kristen Bell), Elsa (Idena Menzel), Kristoff (Jonathan Groff), and Olaf (Josh Gad) as they leave Arendelle and travel to an enchanted forest, where they hope to discover the origins of Elsa's power. (103 min.)

—Glen

FILM REVIEWS continued page 30

SCORING

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

Winner!

James Mangold (*Logan, 3:10 to Yuma, Walk the Line*) directs this biopic about car designer Carroll Shelby (Matt Damon) and race car driver Ken Miles (Christian Bale), who in 1966 team up to try to beat a car designed by Enzo Ferrari (Remo Girone) in the famed 24 Hours of Le Mans race. Tracy Letts stars as Henry Ford II and Jon Bernthal stars as Lee Iacocca. (152 min.)

Glen: What an amazing story! Even if you're not a motorhead, you'll find this tale of determination wholly engaging, mainly due to the larger-than-life characters and their complicated relationships. Shelby and Miles definitely have a love/hate relationship, perhaps because they were competitors. In fact, the film opens with a reminder that Shelby—up to that point—was the only American to ever win at Le Mans in 1959, which is why after a failed attempt by Ford to buy the cash-strapped Ferrari company, Henry II orders Lee Iacocca to encourage Shelby to take on the challenge of designing a car for the famed 24-hour race—money is no object! Iacocca likes Shelby, but he's caught between loyalty to his boss, the bombastic and insecure Henry II, and wanting to give Shelby the freedom he needs to win. Ford, Iacocca, and another Ford executive, Leo Beebe (the film's real villain played perfectly by Josh Lucas) are empty suits that know nothing about winning, and none of them are fans of Miles, who's something of a loose canon, but Shelby knows they'll need a driver like Miles to win. The interpersonal dynamics make for great drama. The film's heart and soul are Miles' relationships with his wife, Mollie (Caitriona Balfe), and his young son, Peter (Noah Jupe). The casting is spot on, and the performances are all amazing. Maybe you saw the scene from the trailer with Ford II and Shelby test driving the Le Mans car? Let's be simply fantastic as Ford, a man desperate to get out of his famous father's shadows. All this and the inherently dramatic story of trying to beat the unbeatable cars designed by Ferrari! It's quite a ride!

Anna: This film is so much fun while also being an endearing tale of relationships and those inside of them. Miles is a hothead, determined and exacting and wholly not interested in putting up with other people's crap. When his car fails to meet cargo space requirements, he

quickly starts a fight with the inspector then takes a hammer to his trunk to "fix" the problem. Always watching is Peter, whose hero worship of his father couldn't be more evident. He tags along to every race and is Miles' greatest supporter even when Miles himself feels like giving up on his dream. Like you said—they got the relationship dynamics spot on in this film. Both Bale and Damon are powerhouse actors in their own

right, but the combo is nothing short of awesome. They fight like brothers but clearly hold a ton of respect and reverence for each other. Shelby can't race anymore—his heart won't take it, and Miles can't pay bills with trophies. They both hate that they need each other, but they do. I knew nothing about

this story going into the film, and it's safe to say I was missing out on an amazing piece of history! This is triumphant and heartbreaking, sentimental without treacle, and just a great slice of American pie.

Glen: American pride is certainly part of what's driving Shelby and Ford—they're both tired of Ferrari dominating racing. Miles is a British transplant to the U.S., so he's in it for personal glory and the thrill of the race. I don't know enough about the history to know where it was embellished for dramatic purposes, and I'm not sure I want to know. This is such pure filmmaking, just good old-fashioned Hollywood studio system storytelling, where it's plot and character driven; the truth be damned. The race sequences are exciting as hell. You really get a feel for what a grueling feat it is to race for 24-hours, even as part of a team. As much as it's a story of Shelby, I think it's mostly Miles' story. He's the one we get to see interacting with his family, and he's the one taking all the risk, putting his life on the line to win. This film clearly shows how racing



CHALLENGE ACCEPTED: Car designer Carroll Shelby (Matt Damon) accepts Henry Ford II's challenge to design a race car that's better than a Ferrari.

is a sport—these drivers need to be fit, have endurance, and be incredibly focused. They're operating a machine that can break, overheat, or fall apart, so the drivers have to know when to push it, when to lay back, when to gamble and risk it all. As an examination of the sport, this depicts that balancing act. I don't think watching it made me into a race fan, but *Ford v Ferrari* reminded me of why I'm a movie fan. **Anna:** Those race sequences are amazing! My palms were sweaty, and my heart was thumping—it was just truly a film you don't want to take your eyes off of. Hit the bathroom before you go into the theater—it's 2 1/2 hours long, and you won't want to miss any of it! Beyond the characters of Shelby and Miles, the supporting cast was also fantastic. I wanted to punch Leo Beebe so many times; he's truly a great villain here. Miles isn't "brand friendly" to Ford, who makes cars for the good old American Joe, not wild card British mechanics with a temper. Ford II is powerful and impatient, always chasing the grandiosity of his namesake. Mollie and Peter are supportive but cautious—Miles' chosen work skates on the brink of life and death, and unseen variables may determine his fate despite his skill. This movie is intense while funny, sweet yet also sad. Like you said, this is what filmmaking is supposed to be, and *Ford v Ferrari* hit it out of the park for me. Make sure you see this one on the big screen; it's beautifully shot and directed. ○

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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FILM

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WON'T YOU BE MINE? Tom Hanks stars as beloved children's television host Mr. Rogers, who teaches a journalist Tom Junod the meaning of compassion, in *A Beautiful Day in the Neighborhood*.

FILM REVIEWS from page 29

THE GOOD LIAR

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

PICK Bill Condon (*Kinsey*, *Dreamgirls*, *Beauty and the Beast*) directs this drama about conman Roy Courtney (Ian McKellen), who meets rich widow Betty McLeish (Helen Mirren) online. What should be a straightforward swindle becomes complicated as Roy begins to have real feelings for Betty.

The film is more a near-miss than a hit, but with McKellen and Mirren in the game, it's hard not to enjoy this story even when it devolves into deeper implausibility. With elements of David Mamet and Agatha Christie, there's plenty of sly caper action, though the ending might not quite satisfy. (109 min.)

—Glen

MALEFICENT: MISTRESS OF EVIL

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

PICK Disney's reimagined black-horned villainess, potentially gone soft, graces the big screen once again. With director Joachim Rønning at the helm (*Pirates of the Caribbean: Dead Men Tell No Tales*), *Maleficent: Mistress of Evil* tells the story of how pending



WINTER MAGIC: Anna (Kristen Bell) and Olaf (Josh Gad) go on another adventure, this time to find the source of Anna's sister's power, in *Frozen II*.

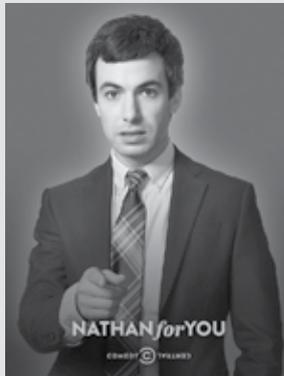
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NATHAN FOR YOU

When? **2013-2017**
What's it rated? **TV-14**
Where? **Amazon Prime, Comedy Central, Hulu**

Halfway through the first episode of *Nathan For You*, my girlfriend stood up and walked away, pissed off at what we were watching. The show is clearly not for everybody, and there were times I felt guilty about how much enjoyment I found in a show that could easily be perceived as manipulative and mean-spirited. But among the hilarity and the guilt, the show captured genuine

PHOTO COURTESY COMEDY CENTRAL



BAD ADVICE: Comedian Nathan Fielder plays a fictionalized version of himself in *Nathan For You*, traveling to small businesses to offer terrible and borderline illegal advice.

heartfelt moments about the nature of human companionship that you rarely see on TV, let alone on Comedy Central.

In *Nathan For You*, comedian Nathan Fielder plays a fictionalized version of himself, who travels to small businesses in Southern California and offers truly terrible and borderline illegal advice on how to boost their profits. Armed with a degree from one of the top business schools in Canada—which Nathan likes to remind viewers of in a voiceover at the beginning of each episode—he designs ridiculous schemes and somehow convinces business owners to follow along.

The series' first episode starts off with a relatively tame idea. Nathan convinces the owner of a frozen yogurt shop to sell a poop-flavored yogurt as a public relations stunt, which is gross and weird, but not the most controversial idea. In the same episode, Nathan visits a pizza shop with an idea for a promotion where customers receive one free pizza if their order isn't delivered within eight minutes. The only catch: The free pizza is small, like 1 inch small.

When the poor kid delivering the pizzas shows customers their bite-size prize, they aren't amused. One customer basically threatens to physically harm the kid delivering the pizza—it was at this time that my girlfriend stormed away. It's one thing for the pizza shop owner to look foolish agreeing to this plan, but another thing to subject this kid, who probably is making minimum wage, to deal with its effects.

BINGEABLE

It's these sorts of moments that made me uncomfortable watching the show, especially because it's unclear how much the people involved know about what's going on. Nathan approaches owners under the guise of a professional business consultant and not the host of a show, although they must know something's awry when Nathan starts laying out his absurd ideas.

While his marketing proposals are ridiculous and silly, that's not what generates the show's humor. The best parts of the show focus on Nathan's intense social awkwardness while trying to find human companionship and his complete lack of self-awareness when he fails. One of the many long-running arcs in the show is Nathan asking if business owners want to hang out sometime and the inevitable rejection he receives almost every time.

But there are instances where he does find the connection he's constantly seeking, and it can be incredibly moving. One scheme involving a rebate for cheap gas ends with Nathan hiking to the top of a mountain where he camps out for a night with three total strangers.

Jarringly, the episode ends with the gas station owner awkwardly talking to Nathan about the benefits of drinking urine, as if reminding the viewers, this is Comedy Central after all. (Four seasons, 30 min. episodes) ○

—Zac Ezzone

nuptials could tear not only Maleficent (Angelina Jolie) and her goddaughter Aurora's (Elle Fanning) lives apart, but the human and magical worlds as well.

While the film as a whole was entertaining, it just lacked a flow in the story. Not to mention the fact that it's predictable. There were too many side-stories that of course somehow come together in the end. But I don't blame Jolie for a second; her portrayal of the character, down to the deep villainous voice she uses, is amazing. She was ruling the screen, and the other characters were peasants in comparison. (118 min.)

—Karen Garcia

MIDWAY

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

PICK Roland Emmerich (*Stargate*, *Independence Day*, *The Patriot*, *White House Down*) directs this historical action-drama about World War II's Battle of Midway, told by those who fought it: Lt. Richard "Dick" Best (Ed Skrein), Edwin Layton (Patrick Wilson), Lt. Cmdr. Wade McClusky (Luke Evans), Adm. Chester Nimitz (Woody Harrelson), and Vice Adm. William "Bull" Halsey (Dennis Quaid). This pivotal June 4 to 7, 1942, battle between the American fleet and the Imperial Japanese Navy was the Pacific Theater's turning point.

Audiences are loving this film that presents the epic battle with modern special effects and a more balanced viewpoint than the 1976 film, but critics have labeled it loud and unemotional. (138 min.) ○

—Glen

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



OBSCURE VARIETIES: Deno Wines owner Dennis Sharpe talks about his Templeton 2016 Alto Pomar Vineyard grenache for a wine lover from Pleasanton.



ADDING COLOR: For variety, tasters could enjoy a little white or red California Aperitiva Spritz from Jardeca in Sonoma, owned by Marshall Dawson and Roger Morrison.

No snobs allowed

The Garagiste Wine Festival gives sippers the chance to take in fine, small-batch wines without the pomp

BY BETH GIUFFRE

Yves Simoneau attended The Garagiste Wine Festival in Paso Robles with a planned itinerary, but he took a “delinquent” turn down a row of intriguing mystery vines and fresh new labels. He was pleasantly surprised by the wines of Hayseed and Housdon, from winemaker Enrique Torres, who also makes Enrique Torres Wines and the hand-crafted Diablo Paso Spanish varieties.

“I have delectable regrets,” Simoneau said of the diversion.

But, it was worth it.

Raised in Guerrero, Mexico, Torres met his future wife, Nora, from Brooklyn, when she came to Guerrero

to study Spanish. After relocating to Paso decades ago, Torres began at the former Martin and Weyrich Winery as a cellar rat, moving up the ranks to cellar master, and then assistant winemaker, benefiting from the mentorship of winemaker Alan Kinne.

These are the types of stories behind the winemakers at Garagiste. These are small, under-the-radar, smooth operators, who spend the majority of their time in the winery and vineyard rather than marketing, schmoozing, and hiring wine reps and distributors to get their bottles in supermarkets.

About 14 or so of the wineries that introduced their first vintages at the now annual festival currently have tasting rooms in Tin City. The majority of the winemakers are based on the Central Coast and span from Mendocino to Malibu. Each

is a small-production, artisan winemaker that produces less than 1,500 cases a year.

The nomad winemakers of the Garagiste Festival are among the brightest up-and-coming talents. These garagistes (translation from French: small-scale

entrepreneurial winemakers) are the sons and daughters of winemaking families. They are engineers, rocket scientists, teachers, physicians, and pomegranate farmers who started making wine in their garages or basements. And the winemakers personally filled each glass at the Nov. 9 Garagiste Festival in the Paso Robles Event Center.

About 70 small-batch wineries were curated for the event, which apparently is a new record. The vibe at the fest was laid-back and casual because “no snobs allowed” is the Garagiste Festival ethos. It’s one big, loving shindig. Nobody’s acting snooty. Everyone just loves the flavor and nuance of wine, be it red, white, or sparkling.

“One of the things that’s unique about the Garagiste Festival is that most other events are varietally focused—like the World of Pinot Noir or Rhone Rangers or the Cab Collective—or they’re geographically focused,” said Doug Minnick, who co-founded the Garagiste Festival with Stewart McLennan. “Because of our focus on the small wineries, what we end up with, as a result, is this incredibly wide range of varieties and styles.”

The idea of gathering some of their favorite micro-wineries under one roof came about in 2010. No big shots. Garagiste also takes wine education quite seriously, and it became a nonprofit festival

EATS continued page 32

Garagiste is turning 10

The Garagiste Wine Festival is a nonprofit dedicated to furthering the education of future winemakers and those training for employment within the wine industry. Approaching almost a decade, the small winery festival has become a launching pad for wineries and winemakers. The festival donates proceeds from all the festivals and silent auctions to the Cal Poly Wine and Viticulture Program. To learn more about the next Garagiste Festival—April 17 and 18 in Solvang—visit garagistefestival.com. Visit them on Facebook and Twitter.

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WINE GURU OPENS US UP: Melanie Webber educated some of Paso Robles' recent Garagiste Festival attendees with a seminar titled, "How to Taste Like a Pro." Solvang holds its own annual Garagiste Festival, and the next one is coming up in early 2020.

EATS from page 31

with an aim to support the education of small and emerging winemakers through the Garagiste Festival scholarship program benefiting the Cal Poly Wine and Viticulture Program.

There have been 25 Garagiste Festivals since then, with four per year in the state. Minnick, who put in many years in the music biz, is the one of the three guys behind Hoi Polloi Winery, with wines made from Paso and Santa Barbara fruit. McLennan and a partner make the local Lefondusac wines we can now taste in Tin City in Templeton (with his boutique projects: Golden Triangle and JPIII Wines available as well).

Northern Santa Barbara County hosts its own Garagiste, nicknamed Southern Exposure, in Solvang each year. Past local participants include Lerner Winery, Tercero Wines, Refugio Ranch, Nagy Wine, Casa Dumetz, and Solminer Wine.

Lisa Dinsmore and Melanie Webber carry out the behind-the-scenes tasks and publicity. Webber, who owns a PR firm in Los Angeles, is very passionate about teaching others (not just the privileged). She holds a French Society French Wine Scholar certification in addition to a WSET (Wine and Spirit Education Trust) diploma in wine and spirits, and teaches four levels of WSET classes through the Paso Wine House WSET Satellite program. This year

Paso Garagiste-goers were able to attend an hour-and-a-half long seminar designed for beginners and wine geeks created by Webber.

Webber said that nobody's tasting notes are better than another's. Everyone has a good palate, she said, and their opinions about wine are based on personal experience. We all just need to train our palate to learn the core wine principles in the glass, to be able to assess wine quality apart from our personal likes and dislikes, and to be able to clearly recognize and put into context the important components of any wine.

"And the more you know about wine, then the more there is to know about wine," she said with a laugh.

Sonoma's Garagiste Festival is coming up next on Feb. 15, and Solvang's will be held April 17 and 18.

Stay tuned, and arrange a driver—even if you don't like wine tasting, you'd like going to a Garagiste. People with good taste are drinking like Vikings, and the winemakers' stories are a mixture of beautiful sonnets and punk rock ballads: layered, complex, and seriously cool. ○

Contributing writer Beth Giuffre knows something seriously cool when she sees it. Send your thoughts to bgiuffre@newtimeslo.com.

PHOTO COURTESY OF MELANIE WEBBER



VARIETY IS IN: Garagiste wine educator Melanie Webber sees trends in wine moving more toward experimentation with grape varieties. She has been with the Garagiste Festival from the beginning and wants people to drink what they enjoy. "Whatever floats your boat," she says.

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edible bits from the land's Cuyama Chumash Native American roots, Mexican-American influence, local cowboy culture, traditional Santa Maria red oak barbecue, and modern California cuisine, according to the Buckhorn. The establishment's seasonal menu and new chefs follow the June 2019 upgrade and addition of The Buck Stop Coffee Shop. The property partnered with Santa Cruz-based Verve Coffee Roasters for the restaurant's new coffee counter, which features house-made pastries and baked goods. Learn more at cuyamabuckhorn.com. ○

Associate Editor Andrea Rooks is looking for seasonal eats. Send menus and tips to arooks@newtimeslo.com

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355 VISTA DR, 4BD, 2.5BA, \$949,000, Sat 12-3pm, Invision Real Estate, (805) 904-3159, Juli Oulrey, 01387499

520 TORREY PINE PLACE, 4BD, 3BA, \$1,150,000, Sun 12-3, Allan Real Estate Investments, 805-473-7500, Dennis Allan, CA DRE# 00961923

205 CORBETT CANYON DR, 3BD, 2BA, \$660,000, 11-1, Stacie Kenny, 805-316-0375, Kellye Grayson, 01494837

205 CORBETT CANYON DR, 3BD, 2BA, \$660,000, Sun 1-3, Kellye Grayson, 805-316-0375, Kellye Grayson, #02014877

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1696 BADEN AVENUE, 3BD, 2.5BA, \$599,000, Sat 12-2, Keller Williams, 805-540-4866, Kathy Fissori, DRE#01403817

121 GRANDVIEW, 5BD, 5BA, \$799,000, Fri 11-1, Auer Real Estate, 805-801-6694, Brenda Auer, #01310530

942 CHARLES ST, 3BD, 3BA, \$739,000, Fri 11-1, Auer Real Estate, 805-801-6694, Brenda Auer, #01310530

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747 ONSTOTT RD, 4BD, 3.5Ba, \$599,999, Sat 1-3, Berkshire Hathaway Homeservices, 805-291-7902, Todd Mcchesney, Lic#: 00864365

LOS ALAMOS

140 AUGUSTA ST, 3BD, 2BA, \$799,000, Sat 1-3 Sun 1-4, Berkshire Hathaway Homeservices, 805-252-2749, Steve Heller, Lic#: 00929496

370 PRICE RANCH RD, 3BD, 2BA, \$735,000, Sun 1-3, Berkshire Hathaway Homeservices, 805-448-7500, Laura Drammer, Lic#: 01209580

LOS OLIVOS

2830 SAN MARCOS AVE, 2BD, 1BA, \$875,000, Sun 1-4, Los Olivos Real Estate Company, (805) 688-0500, William Etling, #00623807

LOS OSOS

265 BOWIE DRIVE, 5BD, 3.5BA, \$1,595,000, Sat 1-5, Premier Realty Associates, 805-305-2496, Richard Miller, 00638350

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1567 EUCALYPTUS 1031 RD, 2BD, 2BA, \$864,999, Sat 11-2, Shea Homes Marketing, (760) 989-0916, Melissa Chatterton, 1465922

OCEANO

1510 16TH ST, 2BD, 1BA, \$399,000, Sat & Sun 9-5, Auer Real Estate, 805-801-6694, Brenda Auer, #01310530

PISMO BEACH

351 WILMAR AVE, 3BD, 1.5BA, \$1,650,000, Sat 11-1, Zachary Johnson, 805-459-9472, Kathleen Schroeder, DRE# 01838269

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393 MESA WAY, 3BD, 2.5BA, \$701,085, Sat 11-4 Sun 11-4, Richardson Properties, 805-458-7914, Amanda Dunton, 1874074

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465 MESA WAY, 3BD, 2.5BD, \$664,900, Sat 11-4 Sun 11-4, Richardson Properties, 805-458-7914, Amanda Dunton, 1874074

249 BRIDGE STREET, 3BD, 2.5BA, \$925,000, Sat 12-3 Sun 12-3, Richardson Properties, 805-709-3480, Andrea Soderin, 1774160

261 BRIDGE STREET, 3BD, 2.5BA, \$914,000, Sat 12-3 Sun 12-3, Richardson Properties, 805-709-3480, Andrea Soderin, 1774160

263 BRIDGE STREET, 3BD, 2.5BA, \$899,000, Sat 12-3 Sun 12-3, Richardson Properties, 805-709-3480, Andrea Soderin, 1774160

2478 VICTORIA AVENUE #101, 3BD, 3BA, \$724,090, Sat 11-5 Sun 11-5, Richardson Properties, 805-305-2425, Amber Morgan Wong, 01915584

2478 VICTORIA AVENUE #104, 2BD, 2.5BA, \$588,490, Sat 11-5 Sun 11-5, Richardson Properties, 805-305-2425, Amber Morgan Wong, 01915584

2460 VICTORIA AVENUE #104, 2BD, 3BA, \$687,850, Sat 11-5 Sun 11-5, Richardson Properties, 805-305-2425, Amber Morgan Wong, 01915584

3087 LIVORNO CIR., 3BD, 3BA, \$850,000, SAT 11-3 SUN 11-3, Midland Pacific Homes, 831-238-4053 or 805-712-3266, Debi or Amy, #01856543

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329 E MARIPOSA WAY, 3BD, 2BA, \$479,000, Sun 1-3pm, Bardi & Associates Real Estate, (805) 698-9454, Jolyn & Blake Bardi, 1727758

1306 MIRA FLORES DR, 4BD, 2BA, \$455,000, Sun 11-3pm, Keller Williams Realty Coastal Valley, 805-315-7160, Shiloh Flagg, 01996245

2762 OCOTILLO AVE, 5BD, 3BA, \$559,900, Sat 12-3p, Century 21 Hometown Realty, 805-705-1043, Leigha Peralta, 01947763

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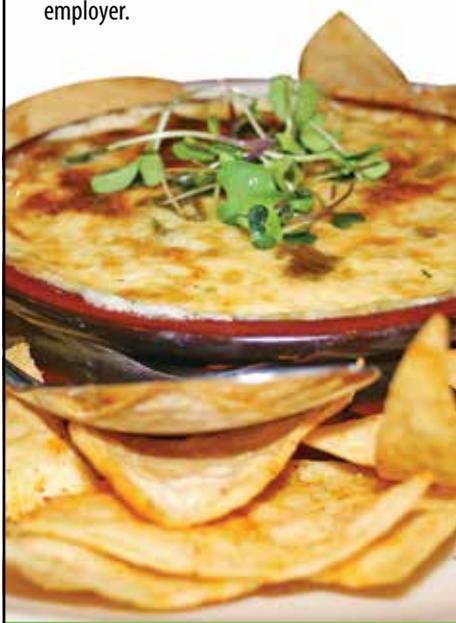
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