

# Sun



AT THE MOVIES

Skywalker's rise feels forced [39]



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UATS  
UNIVERSITY OF THE ANTICIPATED STUDENTS

# Get Festive

The Central Coast puts up holiday cheer every year [12]

BY JAYSON MELLOM

**NEWS** CalFresh changes could affect county residents [6]

**ARTS** Textured, stretched, and repurposed [37]

**EATS** Cookies for Christmas [41]

# CHRISTMAS TREE CURBSIDE COLLECTION

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DECEMBER 26, 2019 - JANUARY 2, 2020 VOL. 20 NO. 43

There's Christmas cheer all over the county and beyond. From Solvang to Santa Maria, Nipomo, and beyond. *Sun* photographer Jayson Mellom hit all the bright spots that celebrate the season this month. And we're showing off what he found for this year's Christmas cover story [12].

Also this week, read about how the Trump administration's changes to the federal food assistance program could affect the county [6], what Buellton is asking the county to change [8], an artist striving to make the intangible tangible [37], a Cambria author who wrote about contemporary reality, reflected in art [38], and the Christmas tradition of baking and giving [41].



**HOLIDAY SHOPPING:** Downtown Solvang's annual Julefest celebration makes the season of picking out gifts a bright experience, especially during the Christmas light shows, which will take place Dec. 26 to 28 from 6:30 to 8 p.m.

Camillia Lanham  
editor

Cover photo by Jayson Mellom > Cover design by Alex Zuniga

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**155**  
Organizations

**163**  
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## Political Watch

• After a weeks-long impeachment inquiry, House Democrats voted yes on impeachment, making **Donald Trump** the third president placed under such scrutiny. **U.S. Congressman Salud Carbajal (D-Santa Barbara)** voted with his colleagues to impeach the president, accusing him of abuse of power. The nearly party-line vote was 230-197, with two Democrats voting no and one voting “present.” No Republicans voted to impeach their leader. Independent **Justin Amash**, who was a Republican until July, voted in favor of the measure. The House voted in favor of a second charge, obstruction of Congress, which passed 229-198. Carbajal has supported the inquiry since August. “While none of us came to Congress to impeach a president, the evidence against Donald Trump has become abundantly clear,” Carbajal said in a statement. “The president used the power of his office to solicit foreign interference in our elections and threaten our national security, all for his own political benefit. Moreover, he directed his administration to defy congressional subpoenas to try to block our investigation into his wrongdoing. I voted to impeach because all of us who hold public office take an oath to defend the Constitution—the president has abused this responsibility, but I refuse to do the same.” Trump is the third president to ever be formally impeached by the U.S. House, joining Andrew Johnson in 1868 and Bill Clinton in 1998. Rep. Carbajal’s top Republican rival for the 2020 election, **Andy Caldwell**, took the opportunity to scold the local congressman. “Salud should be ashamed,” Caldwell said in a release. “This impeachment is nothing more than D.C. politics—all partisan, all the time. Meanwhile he does nothing to solve the issues we’re facing here on the Central Coast.”

• **Elsa Granados**, a candidate for the Assembly District 37 seat, announced two endorsements on Dec. 19. Those endorsements come from the **Santa Barbara Women’s Political Committee** and the **Democratic Women of Santa Barbara**. Granados, who serves as the executive director of **Standing Together to End Sexual Assault**, is part of a crowded field of Democrats running for the seat that **Monique Limón** currently holds. The field of candidates includes **Santa Barbara Mayor Cathy Murillo**, who was endorsed by **California State Controller Betty Yee**; **Jason Dominguez**, a former **United Nations** legal officer who prosecuted war crimes at the **Hague**; **Stephen Blum**, a professor of education law and community college trustee; **Steve Bennett**, a 20-year Veteran of the Ventura County Board of Supervisors; **Jonathan Abboud**, a Santa Barbara City College trustee; and lone **Republican Charles Cole**.

• The **San Luis Obispo Council of Governments** and **Assemblymember Jordan Cunningham (R-San Luis Obispo)** helped to secure \$10.3 million for improvements to Highway 46. “I am pleased to see that the California Transportation Commission (CTC) took the concerns of our community seriously. Pulling critical funding from the Highway 46 project would have caused serious issues for our community and resulted in more lives lost along Blood Alley,” Cunningham said in a statement. “This project is a priority for our region, and this serves as a valuable lesson that the Central Coast can achieve great things when we work together as a community.” Cunningham’s office made the announcement in a Dec. 17 news release.

• **U.S. Congressman Salud Carbajal (D-Santa Barbara)** announced his support for the next fiscal year’s appropriations package via Facebook. Carbajal, who voted yes on the bills, pointed to a handful of provisions he said will help constituents. He said the package will include funding for local universities, \$25 million for Centers for Disease Control research into gun violence, and \$425 million to support state and local elections security. He also said there would be \$1.6 million for Cachuma Project’s collection and storage of floodwater from the Santa Ynez River. ○



RE-EVALUATING COMMISSIONS: Lompoc City Council is weighing potential changes to the numerous commissions and committees that review city issues.

## Lompoc weighs commission, committee reductions

In its most recent response to its ongoing budget crisis, the Lompoc City Council is re-evaluating the role of the 11 commissions and committees that review city issues.

These commissions and committees cover a variety of city interests, such as public safety, and are made up of volunteers appointed by council members. But due to the costs associated with holding meetings for these groups, as well as a lack of public participation, the City Council discussed restructuring these groups at its Dec. 17 meeting.

“I think that the commissions all have a benefit to the city moving forward,” Councilmember Victor Vega said. “However, we are in a budgetary crisis. We do have staff reductions, and we do need to value our time a little bit more and staff time.”

According to a staff report for the meeting, it costs the city \$116,000 annually to hold meetings for all commissions and committees. The amount of time city staff spends working with the utility, parks and recreation, and public safety commissions makes up the majority of these costs.

Vega, who asked staff to add this item to the council’s agenda in May 2019, pointed to the Economic Development Committee as an example of a committee that the city should re-evaluate. At 22 positions, he said the committee has grown too large to function properly, with meetings often being canceled because not enough members show up.

Councilmember Gilda Cordova had a different take on why participation at the Economic Development Committee is low. She said when she served on the committee, it seemed like the City Council didn’t want to hear recommendations from the committee, which she described as disheartening.

She also said that she believes this lack of

public participation reflects the environment that the City Council has created through its policy decisions.

“Everything we ever talk about is cutting, cutting, cutting,” Cordova said. “So why would our public want to participate and be part of such an aggressive ... route to constantly cut our services?”

Vega said he’s not pushing to “chop and hack” the Economic Development Committee but rather downsize the group. Even though it has 22 members, only 14 positions are currently filled, according to the meeting staff report.

Mayor Jenelle Osborne suggested that the council create an ad hoc committee of two council members that will meet with members of each committee in January to discuss potential changes. The ad hoc committee, made up of Osborne and Councilmember Jim Mosby, will then bring back recommendations to the City Council.

In a unanimous vote, the City Council members also eliminated the city’s Senior Commission. All five of the commission seats are currently vacant, and it hasn’t held a meeting since 2017.

—Zac Ezzone

## Unemployment stays low in Santa Barbara County

Santa Barbara County’s final labor report for the year was released in December, showing flat year-over-year unemployment numbers to close out 2020.

Unemployment in California has fallen for years, tracking with national job trends. The California Employment Development Department reports a 3.9 percent unemployment rate statewide, slightly higher than the national average of 3.5

Unemployment data doesn’t include people who have given up looking for work.

Raymond McDonald, executive director of the Workforce Labor Board of Santa Barbara County, said he’s confident in the state data.

“Anybody who’s not being captured by the numbers are probably so minuscule that they won’t have an effect on the overall reporting that the state does,” McDonald said.

At 3.4 percent unemployment, Santa Barbara County is outperforming the state’s average. Lompoc and Santa Maria have the highest unemployment rates in the county at 4.4 and 4.8, respectively. Buellton had the lowest at 1.1 percent.

NEWS continued page 5

## Weekend Weather

**KSBY NEWS**  
Microclimate Weather Forecast  
**Dave Hovde**  
KSBY Chief Meteorologist

<p><b>Thursday</b></p> <p><b>COASTAL</b> &gt; High 59 Low 43 <b>INLAND</b> &gt; High 57 Low 37</p>	<p><b>Friday</b></p> <p><b>COASTAL</b> &gt; High 61 Low 39 <b>INLAND</b> &gt; High 61 Low 33</p>
<p><b>Saturday</b></p> <p><b>COASTAL</b> &gt; High 62 Low 39 <b>INLAND</b> &gt; High 62 Low 34</p>	<p><b>Sunday</b></p> <p><b>COASTAL</b> &gt; High 61 Low 41 <b>INLAND</b> &gt; High 61 Low 35</p>

A break in the wet pattern starts after Thursday but temps stay on the cool side into the weekend.

NEWS from page 4

Due to the low unemployment numbers, McDonald said, the labor board's focus isn't so much on employment as it is on what kinds of jobs people are getting, how much they earn, and what kind of potential there is for future wage growth.

Two industries with potential are health care and aerospace, careers that McDonald said often offer training and opportunities for regular promotions and income bumps.

Growth industries in Santa Barbara County include construction, buoyed by a strong economy and large state expenditures on infrastructure, McDonald said. Through California's Senate Bill 1—a 10-year, \$54-billion investment passed in 2017—the state has flooded transportation agencies and local governments with money. The state is spending billions each year on transit, roads, and bike and pedestrian infrastructure. The state reports on ca.gov that for every billion spent on infrastructure, an estimated 13,000 jobs are created. The state is also investing \$5 million a year on workforce programs.

McDonald said his agency is pooling its resources with Ventura and San Luis Obispo counties to inject the workforce with a skill set that can benefit from infrastructure dollars. Armed with more than \$1 million among the three counties, he said planning for a program aiming to train and place people in apprenticeships is set to kick off in the next few months.

While jobs like retail, service, and driving for Uber or Lyft are great for supplemental income, McDonald said it's important for young people in the workforce to learn skills that older, more experienced workers already have.

"There's a graying of the workforce," he said. "People are looking toward retirement so there needs to be new workers learning those skills."

—William D'Urso

## An all-Spanish magazine coming to SLO County, Santa Maria

One Templeton resident and her partner are putting together the only all-Spanish magazine in San Luis Obispo County, which will be available through the county and in Santa Maria starting in January 2020.

Latinos make up 23 percent of San Luis Obispo County's population, and 18 percent of the households speak a language other than English, according to the U.S. Census Bureau. The city of Santa Maria is 76 percent Latino with 64 percent of households speaking another language.

Veronica Macias moved to San Luis Obispo

County 17 years ago, and her first language is Spanish. Macias said when she first moved to the area, the number of Spanish speakers was small, and it was difficult to feel like she was part of a community dominated by English speakers.

"I became very involved in the community, at the time, by attending school board meetings and advocating for parents and students that were Spanish speakers," she said.

From that experience, Macias was advised to join Promotores Collaborative San Luis Obispo County—a community-based model of outreach that works to eliminate the disconnect between predominately non-minority-run organizations and the underserved minority populations.

During her time in the all-volunteer program, she said she still felt like there was a gap between the Latino population and the rest of the community. Macias said she always had a dream of creating a community magazine or what she refers to as a resource for Spanish speakers.

Next month, her dream will become a reality with the magazine *Somos! La Revista que Educa, Inspira, y te Conecta*. It means "We are: The Magazine that Educates, Inspires, and Connects You." The magazine will have articles based on interviews with local professionals and research on topics like healthy food habits, general health, mental health, business strategies, academic programs, local government issues, personal finance, technology, and family engagement. There will not be any opinion pieces.

Macias said she wants the magazine to be a resource for the community to feel more connected to their area and the individuals in it.

"It's made to inspire the people that pick it up to grow personally and for some to grow professionally," she said.

*Somos!* will be in business offices in San Miguel, Shandon, Paso Robles, Templeton, Cambria, Atascadero, Morro Bay, Los Osos, San Luis Obispo, Arroyo Grande, Nipomo, Santa Maria, and Guadalupe.

The magazine can also be accessed online through the publication's website—somosrev.com—or delivered directly to a reader's home.

—Karen Garcia

## Participation in county syringe exchange program increasing

The number of people that the Pacific Pride Foundation serves in a program designed to reduce the spread of HIV and other blood-borne diseases has nearly doubled over the last three years.

Through the organization's syringe exchange program, it collects used syringes from

injection drug users and provides them with sterile syringes to use instead. The Pacific Pride Foundation operates the program one day a week in Santa Maria, Santa Barbara, and Lompoc, said Matt Pennon, the organization's manager of North County programs and services.

During fiscal year 2017-18, the Pacific Pride Foundation served 839 different clients, which is nearly double the 420 clients it served in fiscal year 2015-16, according to a recently released report from the Santa Barbara County Public Health Department.

The county authorized the Pacific Pride Foundation to begin operating the program in 2000 but doesn't provide any funding. Joy Kane, a senior epidemiologist with the county health department, said state law requires the department to present a report on the program at a public hearing once every two years.

Along with doubling the number of clients, the Pacific Pride Foundation also distributed and collected more than double the number of syringes between fiscal years 2015-16 and 2017-18.

A portion of these increases can be attributed to the Pacific Pride Foundation starting operations in Lompoc in 2016. But this site only made up 20 percent of the total number of clients who used the program in fiscal year 2017-18. During that time, 44 percent of the clients were from Santa Maria and 36 percent were from Santa Barbara.

More than the addition of services in Lompoc, Pennon said he believes these increases can be attributed to a heightened local awareness of the program, as well as a shift in the nation's attitude toward drug users.

"For so long, we have taken IV drug users and people that are using and put them in the shadows ... and now we're looking at, 'Hey, yes we know you're doing something that's harming your body, but we want to actually respect you and treat you like a human being,'" Pennon said.

During the syringe exchange process, Pennon said the Pacific Pride Foundation offers HIV and Hepatitis C screening to its clients. According to the report, in fiscal year 2017-18, no clients tested for HIV and 17.6 percent of the 85 clients screened tested positive for Hepatitis C.

But the program is designed to do more than just provide drug users with clean syringes to prevent the spread of diseases. Pennon said it also allows the Pacific Pride Foundation to create relationships with people and hopefully connect them with additional services, such as drug treatment programs.

According to the report, the organization referred 58 percent of its clients to substance abuse counseling and 21 percent to mental health services in fiscal year 2017-18.

"It's not just that exchanging of syringes with the client, but it's looking at how do we help this

population decrease their usage or eventually get to stopping," Pennon said.

—Zac Ezzone

## Buellton Planning Commission considers mixed-use project

Buellton is reviewing a proposal for a mixed-use property that would add to the city's affordable housing offerings.

The city Planning Commission discussed the proposal at its Dec. 19 meeting. According to the staff report, the three-story, mixed-use property is subject to a "15 percent inclusionary housing requirement and would require the construction of an estimated 10 affordable housing units on-site."

The Creekside Village property, located at 480 Avenue of Flags, sits on 1.64 acres of land. The existing building already has 19 tenants, which owner Creekside Village LLC would be required by city ordinance to help relocate.

Positioned along Zaca Creek, the property would have more than 10,000 square feet of commercial space and more than 43,000 square feet of residential space divided among 64 units.

The plan has already undergone two reviews by the Planning Commission, one in May and one in September.

Commissioners have asked for more art deco detailing, more user-friendly pedestrian access, and a Town Plaza courtyard with "specimen oak tree and outdoor furniture."

Brandon Mann—co-founder of MB Development, which put the project forward—said that because he lives in Buellton, he's also invested in creating a great community space.

"We've made many changes to the project," he said. "We feel we've made it more of a community feel."

The project added past suggestions from the Planning Commission, including sidewalks and a trail along Zaca Creek.

"We want this to be an affordable option for people living in Buellton who commute to other areas," he said. "We're taking a very large risk. Construction costs are very high for us right now. I wish we could provide the moon, but we're gonna try the best we can."

Planning for the project will continue, and Mann said he'll keep up a dialogue with city staff.

The Planning Commission asked for a list of details in the next iteration of the plan, including a rendering of the color of the building, public works and engineering details like sidewalk improvements, and tweaks to the flood plan.

"If this project doesn't go through, I don't see another developer not from Buellton taking the risk," he said. ○

—William D'Urso

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# SNAP is changing

*A federal rule change to California's food assistance program could leave some county residents hungry*

BY WILLIAM D'URSO

The Trump administration recently announced new eligibility restrictions for the country's food assistance program, which food advocates say will limit access for the needy.

Planned to go into effect on April 1, the change would make it more difficult for states to waive work requirements to qualify for the Supplemental Nutritional Assistance Program (SNAP), known as CalFresh in California, in areas with high unemployment. It targets ABAWDs—"able-bodied adults without dependents"—requiring state programs to verify whether they have worked 80 hours in a given month and a minimum of 20 hours in a week.

The ABAWD work requirement was signed into law in 1996, with Congress noting at the time that it "reforms welfare to make it more consistent with fundamental American values—by rewarding work and selfreliance [sic], encouraging personal responsibility, and restoring a sense of hope in the future."

The rule change comes as California has labored to increase enrollment in CalFresh. Fewer than half of all Santa Barbara County residents eligible for CalFresh were enrolled in the program in 2014. The county's participation rate of 42 percent was one of the lowest rates in the state at the time. Since then the state has pulled itself upward, as advocacy groups like the Food Bank of Santa Barbara County have increased outreach and dispatched staff to sign more people up.

But Maria Gardner, a deputy director of the county's Department of Social Services in the Economic Assistance & Employment Services Branch, said not everyone who needs the service is signed up. Some people may not be working because of a disability but don't have the proper documentation to register a formal disability. That means no CalFresh dollars for them under the new rule. Aggravating the problem is that many may not have health care either.

"We find there are a lot of people who have undiagnosed health problems, but they still fall into that bucket because they don't have a doctor's



**A LITTLE HELP:** The food pantry at the Salvation Army, located at 200 E. Cook St. in Santa Maria, offers food daily for low-income residents left out of CalFresh.

note," Gardner said.

Roughly 38,000 people receive CalFresh assistance each month in Santa Barbara County, although the number can vary. The county estimates that about 1,700 people could be affected by the rule change. Recipients of the program get about \$150 a month on an Electronic Benefit Transfer (EBT) Card, similar to a debit card. That money can be used to buy meals, like rice and chicken, or healthy foods, like fruits and vegetables. The funds aren't for non-essentials like alcohol.

Gardner said that many people under the ABAWD designation work in the retail or service industry. They could be scheduled for 20 hours one day, then have a shift slashed at the last moment. And though she's preparing for the rule to come into effect, she noted the special steps the Trump administration had to take to circumvent Congress.

"Anything can happen, that's definitely true," she said. "This was not a popular change."

National estimates suggest that 688,000 SNAP recipients could be left out. The Office of the

Federal Register reports the savings to the program will be \$5.48 billion over the next five years.

The new rule will also add administrative requirements to state programs, forcing these operators to invest more money into staff and the verification process. The financial and personnel strain, according to the register, will be minimal.

Food security advocates disagree. Jared Call, a managing policy advocate with California Food Policy Advocates, says the change will hamper state agencies and nonprofits and hurt their chances of adding people in need, leaving many poor or homeless people hungry.

"It's a population we don't know a whole lot about because this is one of their only connections to government services, and when they get cut off, we don't really know what happens to them," he said.

A lack of data makes it hard to say how many people in California will be left out of the program. Call said that currently, just six counties in the state require people to verify whether they work or not. With the rule change, 40 of California's 58 counties would be forced to verify

whether ABAWD recipients are working or not.

Similar cuts were rebuffed in the 2018 Farm Bill, pushing the Trump administration to alter its tactics from legislative to administrative. When the new rule was announced, Agriculture Secretary Sonny Perdue said in a press release, "We need everyone who can work, to work."

But the rule still has to be implemented, and Call said that these kinds of changes could be strangled by lawsuits.

Julia Lara, director of programs for the Food Bank of Santa Barbara County, said the new rule will require state programs to ask for information that people in need of the program don't always have. That includes citizenship or legal, permanent residence; an ID; and proof of address.

But Lara is still trying to help people sign up. "We want to make sure people know none of these changes are effective immediately," Lara said. ○

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

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### Trellis Court Rooms

# Creating buffers

*Buellton City Council asks county to tighten cannabis ordinance*

BY ZAC EZZONE

Geographically located between northern and southern Santa Barbara County, the Santa Ynez Valley is also at the center of much of the area's debate over cannabis cultivation.

Some opponents of the plant point to what they see as a concentration of pending cannabis farms along Highway 246, just west of the city of Buellton, as a problem. Meanwhile, supporters of the budding industry say these concerns are overblown.

For its part, City Manager Scott Wolfe said Buellton has never asked the county to deny any cannabis cultivation permits. But the city does have serious concerns about the county's existing cultivation ordinance and would like to see some changes.

"We're past the point of fighting, it's more of working with the county," Wolfe said.

Buellton City Council officially made its position clear to the county through a resolution it passed during its Dec. 12 meeting. The city passed this resolution following numerous appeal hearings over cannabis farms near the city and in anticipation of the county Planning Commission considering potential changes to the county's cannabis ordinance early next year.

Dan Klemann, deputy director of the county's Long Range Planning Division, said county staff is still working on recommendations, but that the discussion should take place early next year, either in January or February. The possible amendments the county is weighing are based on what it's learned since drafting its original ordinance.

"It's really one of those things where as we were implementing the ordinance, the [Board of Supervisors] started to realize that there were some results that they didn't anticipate," Klemann said.

Buellton's resolution outlines the city's concerns about how cultivation near its boundaries could affect city residents' quality of life and the tourism-based economy. Wolfe said the city would like the county to add an amendment that creates buffers to prevent cannabis from being grown within 1 mile of cities, such as Buellton. The idea is to push cannabis farms farther away from jurisdictions to prevent cannabis odors from



**WANTING SPACE:** The city of Buellton wants the county to create buffers that push cannabis farms farther away from city boundaries.

drifting through the city.

The nearest cannabis farm to Buellton is a little less than half a mile away, on Santa Rosa Road. The next closest farm is a little more than a mile away, on Highway 246. Wolfe said although it's hard to determine, based on conversations he's had with county staff and cannabis farmers, it doesn't appear that either of these projects contribute to the odors Buellton residents smell. He also noted

suggests these concerns may be unfounded.

Nonetheless, Wolfe said the city is concerned that any slowdown in the wine industry would be detrimental to the city's economy. Buellton received \$2.7 million in sales tax revenue during its last fiscal year; \$1 million of it was tourism-related.

"If we were to lose the tourism industry, it would be a big deal financially for Buellton," Wolfe said.

the property Solvang was concerned about.

During the July meeting, 3rd District Supervisor Joan Hartmann also introduced the idea of creating 1,500-foot buffers from urban boundaries to address Buellton and other jurisdictions' concerns. The board directed staff to bring this item and other possible amendments to the Planning Commission for further consideration, which will take place early next year.

Hartmann said she's not sure what these buffers will look like—whether they will stretch from parcel line to parcel line or from parcel line to cannabis operations. She said she also isn't set on 1,500 feet being the right answer.

The Planning Commission could look at other potential solutions as well, such as requiring farmers to dry out cannabis plants indoors while harvesting. This is generally when the most odors are emitted, Hartmann said.

Whatever direction the county goes with these amendments, Wolfe said Buellton wants to be part of the conversation. He acknowledges that the ideal solution will satisfy residents' concerns while also allowing cultivators to do their job.

"My perspective is simply trying to balance the needs of the cultivators with the needs of the residents here to have a decent quality of life," Wolfe said. ○

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

**'We're past the point of fighting, it's more of working with the county.'**

—Scott Wolfe, Buellton city manager

that both are professional, well-run operations.

Although these neighbors may not pose odor issues, the city would like to see some degree of protection in place. Wolfe said that with the high number of farms proposed near the city, it's important that odor doesn't become even more of an issue in the future.

In addition to odor, the city is concerned about any potential disruptions in the valley's wine industry. Some vintners have voiced concerns that organic compounds called terpenes released from cannabis could taint grapes and change the taste of wine. However, a study funded by a cannabis farm applicant and presented at the county Planning Commission's Dec. 11 meeting

Buellton modeled its resolution after similar ones passed earlier this year in the cities of Solvang, Goleta, and Carpinteria. Solvang passed its resolution in July, prior to a county Board of Supervisors meeting where possible ordinance amendments were discussed.

In its resolution, Solvang also outlined concerns about cannabis cultivation taking place in close proximity to city boundaries. Specifically, Solvang cited one project on a small parcel of land adjacent to the city, in a mostly residential area. During its July meeting, the Board of Supervisors approved an amendment to ban cannabis cultivation on parcels of land 20 acres or less in the county's Agricultural-I zone, which includes



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PHOTO COURTESY MERSO LABS

# Testing, testing

*The first cannabis testing lab in Santa Barbara County is opening in Lompoc*

BY ZAC EZZONE

Despite the number of cannabis farms dotting hillsides throughout Santa Barbara County, there's currently no local laboratory for farmers to take their plants for state-required testing or other cannabis-related scientific needs.

But that's set to change. Merso Labs, located on Laurel Avenue in Lompoc, should begin accepting samples within the next month or two, Director of Laboratory Services Kelsey Gorter said. The lab is running tests on its different instruments to obtain final state approval.

"We have been working really hard to validate all of our methods on every instrument, and that's part of our process," Gorter said. "[The state] wants us to show it's analytical sound,

absolutely bulletproof."

The process of opening the lab began two years ago, Merso Labs CEO Kaleb Asfaha said. He was a graduate student at UC Berkeley at the time, and he had a job offer, but wanted to do what many people in Silicon Valley do—create a start-up.

After looking into the idea of opening a cannabis testing laboratory, Asfaha said he quickly realized how much of his experience in school and in the pharmaceutical industry easily translated to this new line of work.

Like Asfaha, this venture is Gorter's first foray into the cannabis industry. Prior to this, she spent time making wine in the county, as well as managing a winery laboratory in Paso Robles.

"When there's a new industry, there's no talent to pull from because it's brand new," Asfaha said. "So all you can do is pull from the neighboring industry. Cannabis is the right blend of pharma and ag."

When the lab does open, state-required testing will include analyzing samples of products prior to them hitting retail shelves to ensure there are no pesticides, heavy metals such as lead, bacteria, or other potentially harmful materials. Gorter said the lab will also measure the potency of the products and the different types of terpenes it contains, which are organic compounds that form the cannabis' flavor profile. And the lab won't just test the cannabis flower that's smoked; the facility will

also look at other forms of the product such as liquid THC and edibles.

In addition to the state-required testing, the lab will perform other functions for members of the cannabis industry.

"Not only can we test your cannabis flower and oil so that you can get into a dispensary, but we can help you monitor your soil for water and other nutritional values to ensure you have data on your crop," Asfaha said. "We really are a scientific resource."

Without a testing facility in the county, farmers often rely on labs in Los Angeles and Santa Cruz to complete state-mandated testing. Despite not opening yet, Gorter said the lab has already experienced a significant demand that it won't be able to serve on its own due to the amount of cultivation and manufacturing that takes place in the county.

"Even if there were five labs here in Lompoc," Gorter said, "I don't know that they could serve everybody."

Asfaha said if the lab does expand, he'd like to see it happen in Lompoc where city officials have been supportive and the permitting process was straightforward.

## Highlights

- The city of Lompoc is installing surveillance cameras throughout the city to improve public safety. As of Dec. 20, the city had installed 12 cameras



**TESTING SOON:** Merso Labs will be the first cannabis testing facility in Santa Barbara County when it begins accepting samples within the next month or two.

throughout, but plans to install between 80 to 100 over the next several months, according to a news release from the city.

- The Santa Ynez Band of Chumash Indians announced it donated \$25,000 to the Central Coast Marine Corps Reserves Toys for Tots campaign on Dec. 16. Through the funding it

receives, the campaign partners with other nonprofits, such as the Salvation Army, to serve families throughout Santa Barbara and San Luis Obispo counties. ○

*Staff Writer Zac Ezzone wrote this week's Spotlight. Send news tips to [spotlight@santamariasun.com](mailto:spotlight@santamariasun.com).*

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**Assemblymember Monique Limón has decided to vacate her seat representing the 37th District and run for state Senate.**

- 58%** I hope the Republican running wins the Assembly seat
- 17%** Great, she's a strong progressive, and the state needs all the progressives it can get.
- 17%** Good riddance. I hope she loses her Senate bid.
- 8%** So what. She'll move on from the Senate seat as soon as she can.

12 Votes

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### BUSINESS

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## 'OK Boomer'

BY JOHN DONEGAN

Every morning, over my depressingly austere geezer breakfast of coffee; dry, unbuttered whole-grain toast; and an unsweetened half of a grapefruit, I conduct an informal survey of popular culture while reading the news on my tablet. I have recently noticed the new millennial put-down directed against we "out of touch" baby boomers: "OK, Boomer."

Snide, dismissive, condescending, and passively aggressive—it is the perfect semantic equivalent of the classic adolescent eye roll long-directed by prior generations toward older people who "just don't get it." Perhaps in much older times, the elderly were venerated and their wisdom respected, but those days are long gone.

The smug certitude of youth is nothing new. There has long seemed to be the (usually) unspoken assumption among the young that people must grow more and more stupid as they age, since everything seems so clear to them. This inability to see the seemingly obvious must be attributable, they reason, to becoming addled and corrupted by the cares of earning a living, while the young are as of yet uncorrupted by such prosaic concerns and can focus on the "big picture."

Of course, what we really did eventually learn as we aged is that if the solution to a problem seems really simple and obvious, then we really didn't understand the problem in the first place. Reaching this epiphany involved an often painful and costly learning curve. And, of course, at some point, beliefs eventually leave the realm of mere gratuitous opinions proffered to pals around a keg or bong and evolve into important, high-stakes life decisions. Then, the formerly young typically find themselves in the truly terrifying position of "becoming their parents."

I suppose that there is a bit of generational karmic payback involved, seeing as how we boomers coined the phrase "never trust anyone over 30" and were never shy about lecturing our parents with our wisdom. More than a few

parents in the 1960s were treated to overwrought tirades on the moral bankruptcy of their bourgeoisie lifestyles from their college student children, shortly before the kid demanded a check for his college tuition so that he could continue to study under the charismatic Marxist professors who had "opened his eyes" to the emptiness and moral decadence of the middle-class lifestyle that funded junior's studies. Many of us were pretty insufferable.

And many of us engaged in some real brain farts. Some were smitten with a beatific vision of a new agrarian utopia, of an Aquarian Age, where they would live in harmony with nature in communes and would toil in shared purpose—"living off of the land." Little consideration was given to the how part of this undertaking and to their complete lack of experience in agriculture beyond sprouting avocado seeds in kindergarten. These English, art, and political science majors eventually found themselves staring forlornly at unyielding dirt. And, of course, the sharing part proved problematic, as some people were less interested in sharing in the labors than in sharing in the meals and parties.

The attractions of the siren-song of sex, drugs, and rock 'n' roll endured longer, at least until we saw the casualties among our friends mount up, and it morphed into the horrors of disco. My advice if your kids ever discover your hidden cache of platform shoes, bell-bottoms, leisure suits, and Bee Gees records: Either insist that they were planted by your detractors or bite your tongue and silently endure their "OK, Boomer" remarks.

The 1960s idolization of youth endures to this day. Consider the common Hollywood "out of the mouths of babes" narrative. In this dramatic device, a young child, possessed of youthful clarity and purity of spirit, saves the day by providing the wisdom that the adults need but are too blind to see. While the parents of a young child, whose primary interest is sticking a fork in a power outlet or stuffing dried beans in their nose, may be skeptical of the realism of this narrative, most audiences find it emotionally satisfying.

Predictably, there are those adults who are cynically willing to exploit this narrative for their own agendas. Witness the current example of

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Greta Thunberg, the 16-year-old Swedish girl who is currently touring the world as the poster child for climate change. Despite her lack of scientific expertise, we find her lecturing us nearly daily with hysterical accounts of the dystopian future awaiting as we fuss about trivial matters like cost, technology, economics, and jobs. She may not add anything substantive to the discussion, but gosh, does she ever feel strongly about it! And for many people, *that* is what matters.

At this advanced stage of our lives, when we romanticize a distant era in which displaying *any* sort of attitude toward a parent would earn an impudent young whippersnapper a quick clout to the head or a trip to the woodshed, we should realize that we are ourselves complicit in the current state. Our generation created this monster. So, instead of seeing "OK, Boomer" as a shot across the generational bow, we should just reply with a gentle and knowing "Far out, Milli." ○

*John Donegan is a retired attorney in Pismo Beach who, when pressed, will own up to having once owned a pair of Earth Shoes and some bell-bottoms. Send comments through the editor at [clanham@santamariasun.com](mailto:clanham@santamariasun.com).*

## LETTERS

### Dear Adam Schiff and all Democrats

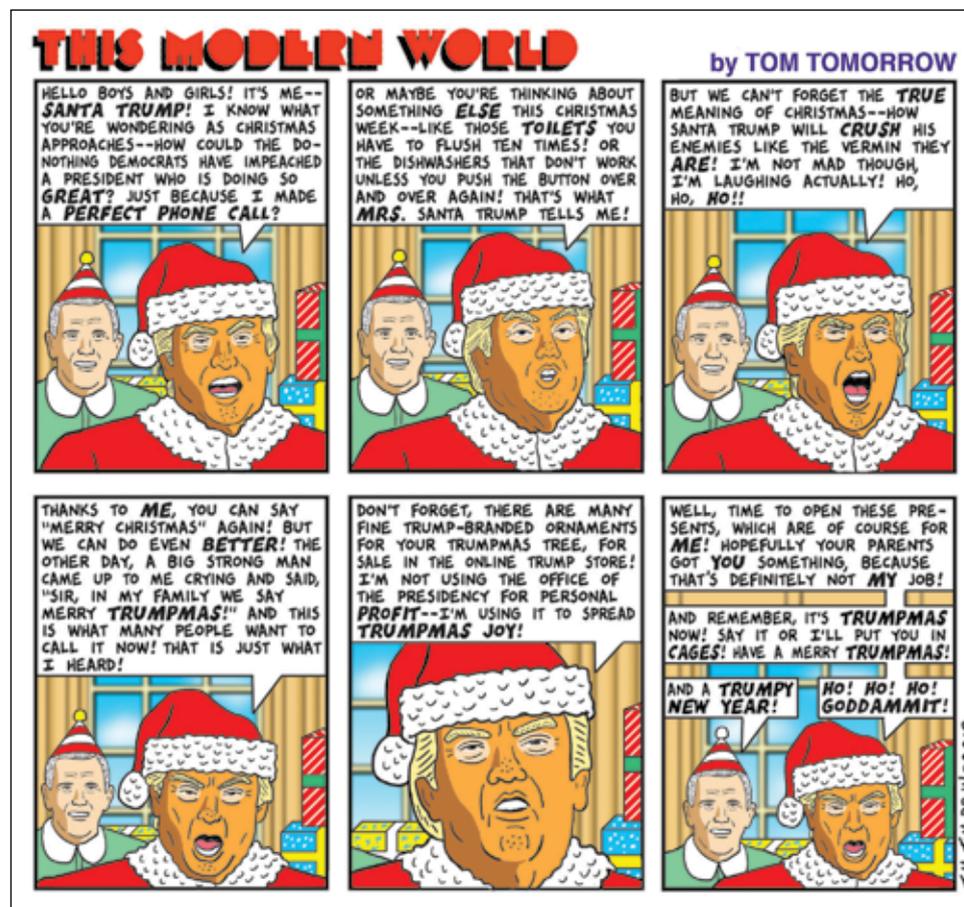
Sir, on more than one occasion you stated you had proof the president had colluded with the Russians to win the 2016 election. Either you have the proof or you lied. Which is it? Show us the proof. You shift with the wind looking for any case you might manufacture against him. What have you done for the last three years other than draw a fat salary for spreading lies and leaks to the press? Let's compare your record to what the president has done. Unemployment at record lows and a smoking economy. Stocks at record highs. A much better trade agreement with Mexico and Canada. Confronting China with its unbalanced and unfair trade tactics. Talking with North Korea about nukes. Demanding NATO members pay their share rather than rely on U.S. taxpayers to pick up the cost. Tax cuts.

Now let's list your accomplishments, Adam Schiff: "I have proof Trump colluded with the Russians." Then there was the "I have proof Trump colluded with the Russians." Then there was, wait, there's *nothing* to list, is there? Other than draw your bloated salary, you have done absolutely nothing for America have you, Mr. Schiff?

That question is for all Democrats. What have you done for the country? When the president says you are on a witch-hunt, he is right on point. The majority of citizens don't want him impeached and are tired of your childish rants. This entire circus is playing out because you know you can't beat him in an election with your "done nothing" record. So you try to sneak in the back door of the White House with an illegitimate impeachment. Your circus and its lead clown Adam Schiff are going to pay the price in 2020.

Ellis Romero  
Santa Maria

LETTERS continued page 11



## Weighing resolutions

The new year is all but here, and this curvy bird is in denial about the need to make a so-called resolution to lose some weight. Sure, I'm not as aerodynamic as I was a few ounces ago, but what I've lost in average air speed velocity I've gained in presence, amirite?

I'm starting to recognize, though, that I've been cutting out my fellow feathered friends who would lovingly tell me my physique is a bit, ahem, pigeonesque. Hindsight being what it is (we are entering 2020), I can see that I stopped attending my Feather Watchers group, I nixed my gal pals who only eat sprouted seeds, and I stopped reading my mom's tweets about #flockgoals met for 2019.

But what kind of bird would I be if I kept ignoring input? A closed-minded one on an unhealthy flight path toward isolation and likely destruction.

I've got to credit **Lompoc** for some of my newfound self-reflection. The city, long beleaguered by budget issues, has taken a hard look at itself and is voting to lose some excess weight. No, the City Council is not giving itself pay cuts. It's re-evaluating the role of the 11 volunteer-run commissions and committees that convene expressly to review city issues—such as public safety, parks and recreation, and senior citizens' interests. Apparently it's expensive to run such groups, costing upward of \$116,000 a year.

"I think that the commissions all have a benefit to the city moving forward," **Lompoc Councilmember Victor Vega** said. "However, we are in a budgetary crisis. We do have staff reductions, and we do need to value our time a little bit more and staff time."

I get it: #metime, #selfcare.

But Lompoc's plan is to lose a main vein of citizen input, save some money, and then what? Where will the newly saved portion of \$116,000

go? And who will the city listen to? As if the City Council was even listening to its constituents and staff in the first place, amirite?

Apparently these commissions have been poorly attended, so on paper they look like an easy way to cut calories, I mean dollars.

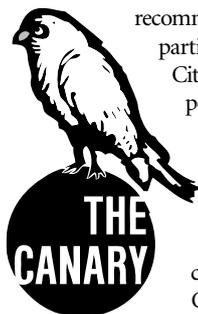
But **Lompoc Councilmember Gilda Cordova** shared the inside scoop on why participation on the Economic Development Committee was low—when she served on the committee, it was "disheartening" because it seemed like the City Council didn't want to hear the committee's recommendations. She also said that lack of participation is a symptom of the unhealthy City Council vibe that's come from its policy decisions.

"Everything we ever talk about is cutting, cutting, cutting," Cordova said. "So why would our public want to participate and be part of such an aggressive... route to constantly cut our services?"

Cordova, the newest on the City Council, has the experience to bring actual insight to the very body that made its commission volunteers feel disheartened. Now that she's on that very body, she's ideally situated to enact some positive change to benefit Lompoc "moving forward," but she's in the minority on the council that's done lots of cutting, cutting, cutting.

So, if I followed Lompoc's weight loss plan, I could take the few bucks I spend on attending Feather Watchers meetings—where I weigh in, get accountability, and have access to the tools I need to be aware of my daily intake and how that affects my well-being—and spend that money on what? Low-cal birdseed? ☹

*The only New Year's resolution the canary's ever kept was to never make another resolution. Send comments to canary@santamariasun.com.*



LETTERS from page 10

## Petty and fascist politics in Oceano

On Dec. 11, 2019, the Oceano Community Services District (OCSD) removed and barred one of its board directors, Cynthia Replogle, from all present and future voting and non-voting committees with an aggressive, hurried, and single motion. Directors Karen White and Shirley Gibson claim that Replogle spoke publicly against board policy and presented a divided board image to the community.

During the meeting, Gibson told Replogle: "If you disagree with the majority's decision, you can be mute in public."

Replogle denied the charges, called for freedom of speech, and said it is unhealthy for the community to present a unified front when there isn't one. She chooses to present the majority's position and hers so residents can make up their own minds. An annual reconsideration of assignments is lawful.

However, we question the legality of removing and barring Replogle in total from all present and future assignments. Reconsiderations should have been done by each assignment with discussions of Replogle's alleged misbehavior in each committee.

Freedom of speech and opposition were crushed, and the OCSD set a dangerous precedent. When the OCSD proceeded to reassign the 10 committees, Gibson grabbed five and White two. Neither one lives in Oceano proper, but in Halcyon. Director Allene Villa, the only Latina director among a 64 percent Latino Oceano population, was relegated to a non-paying, non-voting committee. Now, 70 percent of committee work and voting power doesn't belong to Oceano residents.

This is an obvious and unfair imbalance. This action has dire consequences for Oceano. We ask the OSCD to reconsider its committee assignments. Oceano Beach Community Association

## Thoughts on climate change

Have we seen global warming in Santa Maria? Yes, we have.

I remember yearly frosts on the lawn in the mornings after a below-freezing night. In previous years, I've lost plants to freezing weather.

But it hasn't happened in years. That could be a short-time anomaly, but likely it's the world warming, bit by bit.

If this can happen in a few years, imagine within your child's or grandchild's lifetime of 50, 60, or more years.

Higher temperatures send any rain water back into the atmosphere as water vapor. No groundwater means no agriculture, and that means no food for humans.

Hundreds of Guatemalans tried to enter the U.S. over the last two years because drought caused their crops to fail. They couldn't survive and in desperation tried to enter America.

These are early signs of global warming caused by excessive burning of fossil fuels, and it's happening faster than predicted.

In the decades ahead, unstoppable millions could come to our southern borders from Central and South America. By then, food may be scarce here, too.

Ask elected representatives—who are supposed to protect us at the local, state, and national level—exactly what are they doing to prevent certain chaos.

So far the answer is nothing. Emissions of CO2 in the U.S. are increasing, not decreasing.

William Gloege  
Santa Maria

# Cheers!

## Happy new year!



New Times Media Group wishes you the happiest of holiday seasons! Please be safe. If you're drinking, don't drive. Designate a driver.

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# Light show



*The Central Coast puts up holiday cheer every year*

PHOTOS BY JAYSON MELLOM

**THIS TREE IS LIT:** Nipomo celebrated the Olde Towne Nipomo Family Christmas on Dec. 8, sprinkling a 20-foot Christmas tree with 14,000 glowing bulbs of holiday cheer.

Glimpses of glimmering light and everything bright are an annual occurrence in towns and cities across the United States. And the Central Coast is no different. Although our region lacks the snow, California's coastal residents like to doll it up for the holiday season, putting on shows that bring in tourists and comfort locals every December. This year, we decided to take ourselves on a little tour of the magic that happens from Cambria to Solvang—and we're happy to share. The festivities aren't all over yet, though. You can still catch a little cheer in Solvang through Jan. 3 if you're feeling feisty. Check out [solvangjulefest.org](http://solvangjulefest.org) to learn more. ○

—Camillia Lanham



**CLASSIC CAMBRIA:** Mari Tess and Brett Provence take photos in the Cambria Christmas Market's iconic tunnel of lights.



**SECRET SANTA:** A portion of the money made from visits with the Cambria Christmas Market's Santa went to the Homeless Animal Rescue Team in Cambria.



**BAH HUMBUG:** Ebenezer Scrooge talks to the crowd gathered below as part of the annual Vine Street Victorian Christmas Showcase, which took place on Dec. 14 in Paso Robles.



**ORNAMENTAL:** Scott and Nicole Davis from Pismo get their photos taken in the ornament at the Cambria Christmas Market on Dec. 12.

**TOURIST TRAP:** Julefest (pronounced "yule-fest") makes Solvang one of the top 10 "Christmassy" towns in America, according to solvangjulefest.com. Lights will be shining bright downtown until Jan. 3, when you can head to the annual Christmas tree burn from 5 to 7 p.m. at Old Mission Santa Ines.



**PHOTO FRIENDLY:** Alyssa Alley, 9, and Ellie Horton, 10, pose for a photo at Olde Towne Nipomo Family Christmas on Dec. 8.

**NEWBIES:** Ryan and Beth Minkus' home won the best decorated rookie category for Santa Maria's 2019 Lights, Sights, and Holiday Nights contest.



**FIRST TIMER:** Six-week-old Madison Lammers hangs with Santa in the Olde Towne Nipomo Family Christmas Candyland Village.



**NOBODY'S LEAVING:** Jim Zubia's family won the 2019 Clark Griswold category for Santa Maria's Lights, Sights, and Holiday Nights contest.



**GAWKERS:** Climbing the barrier for a better view, kids watch the Holiday Parade in downtown SLO on Dec. 6.

# HOT STUFF

DEC. 26 2019 –  
JAN. 2 2020

## FLOWER POWER

The Lompoc Valley Art Association presents its *Let's Do the Holidays* exhibition at Cypress Gallery through Sunday, Dec. 29. This seasonal showcase features glass art from Joellen Chrones, Kathy Badrak, and Toni Zybelle. The gallery is located at 119 E. Cypress Ave., Lompoc. Call (805) 737-1129 or visit [lompocart.org](http://lompocart.org) to find out more.

—Caleb Wiseblood

FILE PHOTO COURTESY OF JOELLEN CHRONES

## SPECIAL EVENTS

### HOLIDAY EVENTS

#### SANTA YNEZ VALLEY

**2019 SOLVANG JULEFEST** Check website for full list of Julefest events taking place throughout the holiday season. Through Jan. 3, 2020. [SolvangJulefest.org](http://SolvangJulefest.org). Downtown Solvang, Mission Dr., Solvang.

**ANNUAL TREE BURN AND FIRE DEMO** Light up the New Year in true Solvang style, at this grand Julefest conclusion. Coordinated by Solvang Parks and Recreation, the Tree Burn will include free, live entertainment and refreshments for purchase. **Jan. 3**, 5-7 p.m. [SolvangJulefest.org](http://SolvangJulefest.org). Old Mission Santa Ines, 1760 Mission Drive, Solvang.

**THE BOOGIE KNIGHTS: NEW YEAR** Ring in the new year with the sounds of the Boogie Knights, with special guest The Spazmatics. **Dec. 31**, 9 p.m. \$25. Chumash Casino Resort, 3400 E. Highway 246, Santa Ynez, 800-248-6274, [chumashcasino.com/entertainment](http://chumashcasino.com/entertainment).

**COUNTDOWN TO DANISH NEW YEAR** A family-friendly, daytime New Year's Eve celebration. Join the party as the crowds count down to the Danish New Year (3 p.m.), while enjoying a simulcast of the New Year's Eve events taking place in Copenhagen's Tivoli Gardens. **Dec. 31**, 10 a.m.-3 p.m. [SolvangJulefest.org](http://SolvangJulefest.org). Solvang Park, Mission Dr. and First St., Solvang.

**SOLVANG CANDLELIGHT WALKING TOURS** A costumed tour guide will provide guests with a complimentary, souvenir battery-powered LED candle and will then share Solvang's history and fun facts while strolling and caroling along village sidewalks. Saturdays, 5 p.m. through Dec. 28. [SolvangJulefest.org](http://SolvangJulefest.org). Solvang Park, Mission Dr. and First St., Solvang.

#### SANTA MARIA VALLEY/LOS ALAMOS

**1920S NEW YEAR'S EVE BLOCK PARTY** Naughty Oak is teaming up with VINO et Amicis for this holiday event. Features live music, drinks, food, and more. **Dec. 31**, 8 p.m. Naughty Oak Brewing Co., 165 S Broadway St. suite 102, Orcutt, 805-287-9663, [naughtyoak.com](http://naughtyoak.com).

**HOLIDAY HIKE TO POINT SAL OVERLOOK** Dunes Center Community Hike Leader Ray Segovia leads a hike to the ridge overlooking Point Sal. Beautiful wildlife, flora, and stunning views of the northern Santa Barbara coastline await those that attend. This will be a dog-friendly hike. **Dec. 28**, 9 a.m.-1 p.m. \$5. 805-343-2455. Point Sal State Beach, Brown Rd, Guadalupe.

**NOON YEAR'S EVE DANCE PARTY** Dress up in your New Year's best and take pictures at our photo booth. Features a countdown and ball drop at noon. General admission applies to nonmembers. **Dec. 31**, 10 a.m.-1 p.m. \$7. 805-928-8414. [smvdiscoverymuseum.org/](http://smvdiscoverymuseum.org/). Santa Maria Valley Discovery Museum, 705 S. McClelland St., Santa Maria.

**NOON YEARS** The Santa Maria Valley Sr. Club presents Noon Years, featuring Riptide Big Band and vocalists Liz Douglas and Bob Nations. Free thanks to grant funding from Community Foundation of San Luis Obispo County. **Dec. 31**, 11 a.m.-1 p.m. Free. 775-813-5186. [RiptideBB.com](http://RiptideBB.com). Elwin Mussell Senior Center, 510 Park Ave., Santa Maria.

**NOON-YEARS EVE PARTY** Come count down the New Year with the library without having to stay up late. Make sparkly crafts, hear popping stories, and enjoy delicious refreshments. Festive attire is welcome. **Dec. 31**, 11 a.m.-noon Free. 805-925-0994. [cityofsantamaria.org](http://cityofsantamaria.org). Santa Maria Public Library, 421 S. McClelland St., Santa Maria.

**WINTER MAKERSPACE** It's time to create, build, explore, and use your imagination at the Library Maker Events. Join us in the Learning Center. **Dec. 28**, 10 a.m.-3 p.m. 805-925-0994. Santa Maria Public Library, 421 S. McClelland St., Santa Maria.

#### SOUTH COAST SLO COUNTY

**AVILA BEACH POLAR BEAR PLUNGE** A celebration of fitness, nature, a New Year, and an after-plunge dessert. Dessert can be a cup of coffee or something to eat at one of the local Avila Beach establishments after the plunge. **Jan. 1**, 11:30 a.m. [visitavilabeach.com](http://visitavilabeach.com). Avila Beach Promenade, 404 Front St., Avila Beach.

**CAMPFIRE CANDY SALE** Features the camp's famous Mints or P-Nuttles (and more), which make a great holiday gifts for teachers, neighbors, friends, and others. Through Jan. 31, 2020, noon \$5. 805-773-5126. [campfirecentralcoast.org](http://campfirecentralcoast.org). City of Grover Beach, 154 S 8th St., Grover Beach.



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

#### DANCE IN THE NEW YEAR WITH THE JUMP JAX

Celebrate New Year's Eve at Puffers of Pismo with The Jump Jax. Reservations required for dinner, or just drop in for a glass of champagne to celebrate. **Dec. 31**, 8-11 p.m. Call for Dinner Reservations. 805-773-6563. [puffersofpismo.com](http://puffersofpismo.com). Puffers of Pismo, 781 Price St., Pismo Beach.

#### SAN LUIS OBISPO

#### '60S ROCK AND SOUL NEW YEAR'S EVE BASH

Dance music by Unfinished Business with special guest Roy Henry. Features buffet dinner with an exciting new menu, no-host bar service, door prizes, free parking, and special overnight hotel rates. **Dec. 31**, 6 p.m. \$95 and up. 805-431-3067. [unfinished-business.org](http://unfinished-business.org). Embassy Suites, 333 Madonna Rd., San Luis Obispo.

#### HANUKKAH DOWNTOWN: MENORAH LIGHTING

Candlelighting ceremony outside the steps of the Mission in San Luis Obispo each night of Hanukkah. Through Dec. 29, 5 p.m. Free. [jccslo.com](http://jccslo.com). Mission Plaza, 989 Chorro St, San Luis Obispo.

**NEW YEAR'S EVE BASH** Enjoy the 60's Rock and Soul New Year's Eve Bash featuring Unfinished Business, with special guest Roy Henry, a great new menu, and 50 percent more dance floor space than usual. **Dec. 31**, 6 p.m. [my805tix.com](http://my805tix.com). Embassy Suites, 333 Madonna Rd., San Luis Obispo, 805-549-0800.

**NEW YEAR'S EVE DISCO** Enjoy live music from Studio 54 and Elijah Blue Molina, drinks, food, a photo booth, and more. For ages 21 and over only. **Dec. 31**, 8:30 p.m. \$35. SLO Brew Rock, 855 Aerovista Pl., San Luis Obispo, 209-417-7748.

**WINTER GYMNASTICS CAMP** Winter Gymnastics Camp is for boys and girls ages 3 to 12. Kids will engage in a variety of fun activities including gymnastics, crafts, and free play. No prior gymnastics experience is necessary. **Jan. 2-3**, 9:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m. 805-547-1496. [performanceathleticslo.com](http://performanceathleticslo.com). Performance Athletics Gymnastics, 4484 Broad St., San Luis Obispo.

#### NORTH SLO COUNTY

**DV8D NYE 80'S DANCE PARTY** Bringing popular 80's dance music to The Pour House for an unforgettable night of music, excellent craft beers, and New Year's festivities. **Dec. 31**, 8:30 p.m.-12:30 a.m. Free. The Pour House, 525 Pine St., Paso Robles, 805-239-1000.

**NEW YEARS EVE "COMEDY BASH"** Ring in the New Year with laughter. Features 2 shows and 6 comedians, including Saul Trujillo. Presented by Misfit Live Comedy. **Dec. 31**, 8-9:30 & 10:30 p.m.-midnight \$15 in advance; \$20 at the door. 805-635-5919. [misfitlivecomedy.com](http://misfitlivecomedy.com). Manny's Pizza and Grill, 2748 Spring St., Paso Robles.

**NYE COUNTRY DANCE PARTY** Dance the night away with Monty Mills and The Lucky Horseshoe Band featuring Julie Beaver. Also features a late night snacks menu until the ball drops. **Dec. 31**, 4 p.m.-midnight 805-461-5100. [NauticalCowboy.com](http://NauticalCowboy.com). The Nautical Cowboy, 6005 El Camino Real, Atascadero.

**THE ROARING '20S: NEW YEARS EVE PARTY** Enjoy tastings from more than 25 wineries in the Downtown Wine District, small bites, and a live band. Capture the night with the photo booth onsite and test your luck in the wine raffle. Dapper '20s attire encouraged. **Dec. 31**, 9 p.m. Paso Robles Downtown Wineries, 612 12th St., Suite 101, Paso Robles, 805-729-2000.

#### NORTH COAST SLO COUNTY

**ANNUAL CAYUCOS POLAR BEAR DIP** Start the new year off with a refreshing dip into the ocean. **Jan. 1**, 9:30 a.m. [slocal.com](http://slocal.com). Cayucos Pier, Ocean Front Ave., Cayucos.

**CAMBRIA CENTER FOR THE ARTS: ART GIFTS FOR THE HOLIDAYS** Cambria Center for the Arts will have a Holiday Show filled with lovely arts and crafts made especially for gift giving to self or others (small paintings, jewelry, and other sweet crafts). Thursdays-Sundays, 1-4 p.m. through Jan. 5 Free. 805-927-8190. Cambria Center for the Arts, 1350 Main St., Cambria.

## 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](http://mavericksaloon.org).

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**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 oasiorcutt.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.

**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.

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

**SOUTH COAST SLO COUNTY**

**AFTER-SCHOOL ART WORKSHOP (AGES 5-6)** Each session will cover different mediums and subjects. Registration is required prior to attendance. Mondays, 3:15-4:45 p.m. \$100. 805-668-2125. lila.community. LiLA Creative Community, 1147 East Grand Ave. suite 101, Arroyo Grande.

**AFTER-SCHOOL ART WORKSHOPS (AGES 7-12)** 2-5 week sessions available. Register online, call, or email to reserve. Tuesdays, 3:15-4:45 p.m. \$50-\$120 per session. 805-668-2125. lila.community/lilacreativecommunityworkshops/schedules/new-after-school-workshops. LiLA Creative Community, 1147 East Grand Ave. suite 101, Arroyo Grande.

**LI LI CLEVER JEWELRY** Learn from someone with 25 years of experience designing intricate, highly professional, and exceptionally individualized artisan jewelry. All ages welcome. ongoing \$50 per person. 805-545-9689. Li Li Clever Jewelry, Location varies, Shell Beach.

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

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

**TEEN'S OPEN STUDIO: TEEN COMIC CREATION GROUP** Teens will collaborate on developing characters, comic strips, backdrops, or 3D models. Thursdays, 3:15-4:45 p.m. \$20. 805-668-2125. lila.

**SAN LUIS OBISPO**

**ACTING CLASSES** Film & TV Acting Classes for all ages and skill levels. Optional showcases for major Hollywood talent agents & casting directors. 10:30 am -8:45 pm (Sundays only). Varies per class. 310-910-1228. actorsedge.com. Mission Cinemas, 1025 Monterey St., SLO.

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

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

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

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

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

**BELLYDANCE CLASSES** Come learn traditional middle eastern dance to modern fusion styles. The fundamental movements are taught, along with the drum rhythms, veil work, zills, and other props. The classes are taught by Jenna Mitchell. Tuesdays, 6-7 p.m. and Tuesdays, Thursdays, 5:30-6:30 p.m. \$12 drop-in; \$45 monthly. 805-550-8192. worldrhythmandmotion.com. World Rhythm and Motion Studio, 3422 Miguelito Ct., Studio #3, San Luis Obispo.

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

**DATE NIGHT POTTERY** Throw on the potters wheel and make a mug, candlestick, or plate. Fridays, 6-8 p.m. through April 24 \$125. 805-896-6197. anamcre.com. Anam Cre Pottery Studio, 1243 Monterey St., San Luis Obispo.

**LEARN FRENCH WHILE SPEAKING ENGLISH** For beginners or intermediate. Watch assigned YouTube videos at home. Do written homework from textbook. Every other Sunday, 2:45-4 p.m. Free. 805-225-1270. meetup.com/Welcoming-all-levels-of-French-speakers/. Coastal Peaks Coffee, 3566 S. Higuera St. #100, San Luis Obispo.

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

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

**SATURDAY ART WORKSHOP FOR KIDS: "BELIEVE IN YOUR DREAMS"** Each student will create their own unique canvas to take home. Saturdays \$55. 805-610-1821. keshetlavoux.com. Keshet Lavoux, 165 Grand Ave., San Luis Obispo.

**WEDNESDAY DROP-IN LIFE DRAWING** All levels of drawing skill are welcome. Sessions incorporate multiple poses for 3 hours. First Wednesday of every month, 9 a.m.-noon & 6:30-9 p.m. \$15 members; \$20 non-members at the door. 805-543-8562. sloma.org/education/adult-education-programs/. San Luis Obispo Museum of Art, 1010 Broad St., San Luis Obispo.

**NORTH COAST SLO COUNTY**

**AFRICAN DANCE** Enjoy instruction to the beat of live drumming. Wednesdays, 6:30-8 p.m. \$10 drop in. 805-459-6317. afrodance.net/. Omni Studio, 698 Morro Bay Blvd., Morro Bay.

**BEGINNING SOCIAL BALLROOM DANCE** Learn beginning east coast swing, foxtrot and cha cha too. Tuesdays, 7:15-8 p.m. \$100; \$185 per couple. 805-225-1728. debonairedancers.com. FitnessWorks, 500 Quintana Rd., Morro Bay.

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**CREATIVITY** Held every Wednesday unless other events/classes conflict. Informal and open to the public. Bring your art work, in any medium, and join others working in various mediums. Bring your own lunch. Wednesdays, 10:30 a.m.-3 p.m. Free. 805-772-2504. artcentermorrobay.org. Art Center Morro Bay, 835 Main St., Morro Bay.

**CREATIVITY GROUP** Enjoy a creative experience each Wednesday, unless other events/classes conflict. Bring your art work, in any medium, and join others. Wednesdays, 10:30 a.m.-3 p.m. Free. 805-772-2504. artcentermorrobay.org. Art Center Morro Bay, 835 Main St., Morro Bay.

**PAINT PARTY** No artistic experience necessary. All materials and supplies provided. Outside food and drinks welcome. Saturdays, 7-9:30 p.m. \$40. 805-772-9095. foreverstoked.com/paintparty.html. Forever Stoked, 1164 Quintana Rd., Morro Bay.

**ZEN DOODLE ADULT COLORING BOOK GROUP** Relax and unwind with adult coloring books. No experience necessary. Fridays, 10-11:30 a.m. Free. 805-772-2504. artcentermorrobay.org. Art Center Morro Bay, 835 Main St., Morro Bay.

## SPECIAL ART EVENTS

### SANTA MARIA VALLEY/LOS ALAMOS

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

### SAN LUIS OBISPO

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

**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. themondayclubslslo.org. The Monday Club, 1815 Monterey St., San Luis Obispo.

**TENTH ANNUAL JEWISH FILM FESTIVAL** Celebrating its tenth anniversary. For a decade, the festival has played host to a variety of narrative, documentary, and shorts films from around the world celebrating Jewish culture. **Jan. 2, Jan. 4 and Jan. 5** Varies. 805-426-5465. jccslo.com/slojff.html. Palm Theatre, 817 Palm St, San Luis Obispo.

### NORTH SLO COUNTY

**ART AFTER DARK PASO** Unites visual, literary, and performing artists with the community and participating venues. Visit site for full list of programs and events. First Saturday of every month, 6-9 p.m. 805-544-9251. artsobispo.org. Participating locations, Paso Robles, City-wide.

### NORTH COAST SLO COUNTY

**POETRY/SPOKEN WORD HOSTED BY MARY ANNE ANDERSON** Special Guest interview with host Mary Anne Anderson and features reading, followed by open mic. First Thursday of every month, 7-9 p.m. Free. 831-277-4028. Unitarian Universalist Church, 786 Arlington, Cambria.

## EXHIBITS

### SANTA YNEZ VALLEY

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

**GALLERY LOS OLIVOS: WINTER SALON** The gallery's featured show for the month of December. Through Jan. 1, 2020 Free admission. gallerylosolivos.com. Gallery Los Olivos, 2920 Grand Ave., Los Olivos, 805-688-7517.

**GLO ARTIST SHOW** The gallery's featured show for the month of January. **Jan. 1-Feb. 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 COUNTY AND BEYOND: RECENT PHOTOGRAPHIC LANDSCAPES BY GEORGE ROSE** Located in the Wildling Museum's Valley Oak Gallery. Mondays, Wednesdays-Sundays, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. through March 16 \$5. 805-688-1082.

wildlingmuseum.org. Wildling Museum of Art and Nature, 1511-B Mission Dr., 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.

**THE SPIRIT OF SOLVANG: FROM DANISH ROOTS TO CALIFORNIA COLONY** This exhibit tells the story of Solvang from its founding as a Danish American colony through its transformation to a tourist destination. The history of Danish immigration to America is detailed with displays that originated at the National Museum of Immigration in Ellis Island, NY. Wednesdays-Sundays, 11 a.m.-4 p.m. through Feb. 16 805-686-1211. elverhoj.org. Elverhoj Museum of History and Art, 1624 Elverhoj Way, Solvang.

**WINTER SALON** Gallery Los Olivos will exhibit more than 50 gallery artists' fine art hung salon style. The town of Los Olivos will be hosting its annual "Olde Fashioned Christmas" the same day. Through Jan. 31, 2020, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Free. 805-688-7517. Gallery Los Olivos, 2920 Grand Ave., Los Olivos, gallerylosolivos.com.

### SANTA MARIA VALLEY/LOS ALAMOS

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

**FEATURED ARTIST: PATRICIA LIPSCOMB** The Santa Maria Public Library will be exhibiting the art of Central Coast artist, Patricia Lipscomb. 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 Jan. 30, 2020 Free. 805-925-0994. cityofsantamaria.org. Shepard Hall Art Gallery - Santa Maria Public Library, 421 South McClelland St., Santa Maria.

**LOCAL ART AND ARTISTS: CONTINUING SERIES** An ongoing series of shows, facilitated by advisor Terry Dworaczyn, 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/.

### SAN LUIS OBISPO

**ART AFTER DARK: MENAGERIE** Artwork by local artist A-ME. "Menagerie" is a socially awkward but artistically powerful exhibit - raw and dynamic, primitive yet sophisticated. The art, like the artist, is a study of contrasts. **Jan. 3**, 6-8 p.m. Free. 805-747-4200. artcentralartsupply.com/Gallery.php. Art Central, 1329 Monterey St., San Luis Obispo.

**EYE CANDY AND MIXED NUTS** Marks 50 years of collecting original photographs, drawings, letters, books, ephemera, audio recordings and more. Exhibit themes include California architecture; botany; graphic arts, including contemporary book arts; and San Luis Obispo County history. Through March 20, 2020, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Free. 805-756-2305. lib.calpoly.edu/events/eyecandy50. Cal Poly Special Collections and Archives, Robert E. Kennedy Library, 1 Grand Ave., Building 35, Room 409, San Luis Obispo.

**SIGN OF THE TIMES POLITICAL POSTER EXHIBIT** View political posters as art with our latest exhibit on the second floor exhibit space. In partnership with Exhibits USA and Mid-America Arts Alliance. Through Jan. 19, 2020, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Free. slolibrary.org. San Luis Obispo Library, 995 Palm St., San Luis Obispo.

### NORTH SLO COUNTY

**ARTISTS' FAVORITES FOR SALE** After dozens of art shows, digital artists Dean Crawford Jr. and Deb Hofstetter have gathered some of their favorite images



## SCROOGED

*The Great American Melodrama and Vaudeville presents The Holiday Extravaganza through Tuesday, Dec. 31. The triple bill includes a one-act production of Charles Dickens' A Christmas Carol, starring Billy Breed (right) as Ebenezer Scrooge. Tickets to the show range from \$28 to \$33. The theater is located at 1863 Front St., Oceano. Visit americanmelodrama.com for more info.*

—C.W.

for their upcoming photography show. These pieces will be priced to sell for the holidays. Through Jan. 31, 2020, 12-4 p.m. Free to attend; images available for purchase during the holidays. 805-238-9800. studiosonthepark.org. Studios on the Park, 1130 Pine St., Paso Robles.

**CAROL TIMSON BALL** Ball's art will be on display at the gallery. **Jan. 2-31** Park Street Gallery, 1320 Park Street, Paso Robles, 805-286-4430, parkstreetgallery.com.

**DRAWN TO THE CENTRAL COAST ART EXHIBIT** The Atascadero Library is exhibiting the work of local artists Tracy Paz and Drew Mayerson. Mondays-Saturdays, midnight-5 p.m. through Feb. 29 Free. 805-461-6161. slolibrary.org. Atascadero Library, 6555 Capistrano, Atascadero.

**HOT FOR THE HOLIDAYS** Features encaustic carved creations, perfect for gifting this holiday season; small and midsize encaustic artworks designed with beauty in mind and attention to detail. Through Dec. 31, 12-4 p.m. Free admission. 805-238-9800. studiosonthepark.org. Studios on the Park, 1130 Pine St., Paso Robles.

**KEEPING THE FAITH: AN ARTISTIC CELEBRATION OF JUDAISM** Celebrates Jewish heritage, rituals, traditions, and beliefs. **Jan. 2-26**, 12-4 p.m. Free admission. 805-238-9800. studiosonthepark.org. Studios on the Park, 1130 Pine St., Paso Robles.

**SEVEN UP: NEW WORK BY 7 ARTISTS** New work by 7 artists: Michael Messina, Jane Russell, Kabe Russell, Cynthia Kevorkian, Dennis Jackson, Denise Schryver, and Marie Ramey. ongoing Varies. 805-466-3684. art/, 5806 Traffic Way, Atascadero.

### NORTH COAST SLO COUNTY

**2019 ANNUAL WINTER FAIRE AND JURIED CRAFT SHOW** The Morro Bay Art Association proudly presents its annual Winter Faire and Juried Craft Show, which offers a collective of works spanning a variety of artistic styles from traditional to contemporary. Through Jan. 6, 2020, 12-4 p.m. Free. 805-772-2504. artcentermorrobay.org. Art Center Morro Bay, 835 Main St., Morro Bay.

**DAVID KREITZER: FINE ART OPEN STUDIOS** Featuring water, landscape, figure, fantasy and floral works. Collectors of Kreitzer's works include Howard and Roberta Ahmanson, Michael Douglas, Ray Bradbury, Robert Takken, and Jane Hind. Sundays, 12-6 p.m. Varies. 805-234-2048. kreitzerArt.com. Kreitzer Fine Art and Voice Studios, 1442 12th St., Los Osos.

**GALLERY AT MARINA SQUARE PRESENTS AN AVIAN ART GROUP SHOW** Featured artists are George Asdel, Carlo Christian, Jari de Ham, Sarah DeLong, Terry Garvin, Debbie Gedayloo, Virginia Mack, Jack McNeal, Gregory Siragusa, and Ardella Swanberg. **Jan. 2-29**, 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Free. 8057721068. galleryatmarinasquare.com. Gallery at Marina Square, 601 Embarcadero suite 10, Morro Bay.

**HOLIDAY SMALL GIFT SHOW** Affordable original artworks by local artists: including painting, photography, crafts, jewelry, glass, wood, cards, sculpture, and wearable art. Mondays, Wednesdays-Sundays, 1-4 p.m. through Jan. 29 Free. 805-995-2049. cayucosart.org. Cayucos Community Art Gallery, 10

Cayucos Dr., Cayucos.

**TIMELESS OCEAN: A FEATURED ARTISTS GROUP SHOW** Features art that depicts the beauty of the Central Coast. Through Dec. 29, 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Free. 805-772-1068. galleryatmarinasquare.com. Gallery at Marina Square, 601 Embarcadero suite 10, Morro Bay.

**VIBRANT LANDSCAPES OF BRUCE LLOYD MUNDT** Bruce Lloyd Mundt's vibrant landscapes will be up at Cambria Library. Tuesdays-Saturdays, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. through Dec. 28 Free. 805-927-4336. Cambria Library, 1043 Main St., Cambria.

## STAGE

### SOUTH COAST SLO COUNTY

**THE HOLIDAY EXTRAVAGANZA** 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. Through Dec. 31 americanmelodrama.com. Great American Melodrama, 1863 Front St., Oceano.

# CULTURE & LIFESTYLE

## LECTURES & LEARNING

### LOMPOC/VANDENBERG

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

### SANTA MARIA VALLEY/LOS ALAMOS

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

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

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

### SOUTH COAST SLO COUNTY

**OCEANO'S BEAVERS: LOCAL HISTORY AND ADAPTATION** A talk at Guiton Hall to learn their biology, role in westward expansion, and why they were hunted, followed by an easy half mile walk to look for

**CULTURE & LIFESTYLE** continued page 18

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evidence of their activity. **Dec. 28**, 10 a.m.-noon Free. 805-474-2667. Oceano Dunes Visitor Center, 555 Pier Ave., Oceano.

**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](http://pointsanluislighthouse.org). Point San Luis Lighthouse, 1 Lighthouse Rd., Avila Beach.

**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 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](http://slolibrary.org). San Luis Obispo Library, 995 Palm St., San Luis Obispo.

**FREE ADOPTION INFORMATION SESSION**

Free sessions on adoption information at our San Luis Obispo office located at 1540 Marsh Street, Ste 130. The FCCA has placed over 5,100 waiting children into forever families since 1983. First Thursday of every month, 6-8 p.m. Free. 805-542-9084. [fcadoptions.org](http://fcadoptions.org). Family Connections Christian Adoptions, 1540 Marsh St. #130, San Luis Obispo.

**WELCOMING ALL LEVELS OF FRENCH SPEAKERS**

Getting together to speak French. Sundays, 1-2:30 p.m. 805-332-3961. Coastal Peaks Coffee, 3566 S. Higuera St. #100, San Luis Obispo.

**CLUBS & MEETINGS**

**SANTA MARIA VALLEY/LOS ALAMOS**

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

**HAM RADIO** HAM Radio operators can show guests

to build their own radio and share information about operating them. Mondays, 8:30-10:30 a.m. Free. 805-937-9750. [oasisorcutt.org](http://oasisorcutt.org). Oasis Senior Center, 420 Soares Ave., Orcutt.

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

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

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

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

**TRIVIA NIGHT** Wednesdays, 7 p.m. Free. [naughtyoak.com](http://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](http://calm4kids.org). Church For Life, 3130 Skyway Dr., suite 501, Santa Maria.

**SOUTH COAST SLO COUNTY**

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

**HOW TO GET YOUR LOVED ONE SOBER** A family-friendly seminar presented by The Haven's clinical staff.

Open to the public. Tuesdays, 6-7:30 p.m. Free. [thehaven.com](http://thehaven.com). The Haven Facilities, 391 Front St., Grover Beach, NA.

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

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

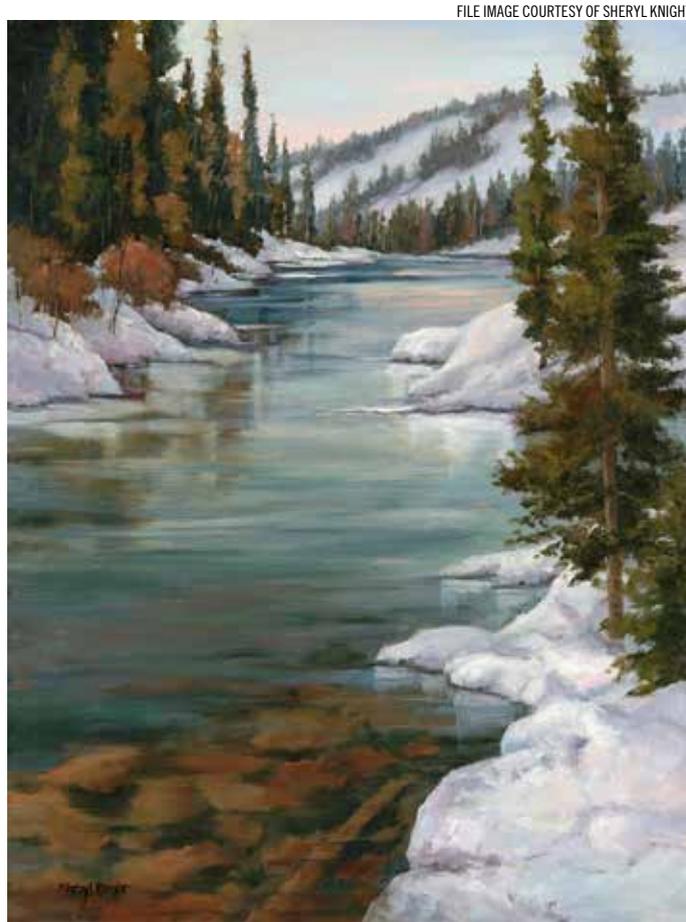
**SAN LUIS OBISPO**

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

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

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

**CULTURE & LIFESTYLE**  
continued page 31

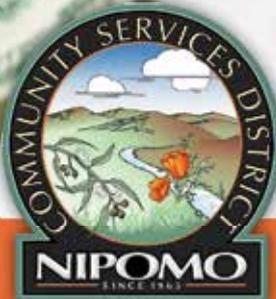


**WINTER WONDERLAND**

*Solvang Antiques Fine Art Gallery holds its annual Holiday Art Show through Tuesday, Dec. 31. Featured artists of this group exhibition include Sheryl Knight, Mary Kay West, Joe Mancuso, Dirk Foslien, and others. The gallery is located at 1693 Copenhagen Drive, Solvang. Call (805) 686-2322 or visit [solvangantiques.com](http://solvangantiques.com) for more info.*

—C.W.

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**Enrique, Age 10**

# Connections



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# A Message from our CEO, Jeremy Deming

On behalf of our Board of Directors, staff members, and families served throughout the Central Coast, thank you for supporting our mission-focused work at Boys & Girls Clubs of Mid Central Coast. As esteemed supporters of our mission, you create opportunities for local youth by removing financial barriers to accessing high quality out-of-school programs and services. Now operating twelve clubsites in five cities, in two counties, we are the largest and most capable youth development organization in our beloved region and the best is yet to come.

We are proud to announce the recent expansion of our operations into the Shandon community with the help of the Shandon Joint Unified School District and must! charities, but there is so much more to be done. The lack of adequate facilities in Paso Robles is the primary barrier to expanding our programs and services in that community. The late Tom Maas and his widow Kathleen made a significant contribution earlier this year to ensure we are able to break down this expansion barrier by purchasing property on Oak Street in Paso Robles. Their instrumental gift and dedication to our mission

will soon enable us to construct a new clubsite adjacent to Georgia Brown Elementary School. That clubsite will be appropriately named the Tom Maas Boys & Girls Club in memory of Tom and his vision for our organization's future. Reach out to me if you are interested in joining us in this impactful effort to expand our reach in Paso Robles.

Our flagship clubsite on Railroad Avenue in Santa Maria is undergoing construction as well. Upon the completion of that project, funded by a City of Santa Maria CDBG grant, we will be able to provide hundreds of teens in the Santa Maria community a positive, structured and safe environment to learn, build character and develop crucial life skills. The newly refurbished and expanded Teen Center is slated to open in January of 2020. If you are interested in this project, please reach out to me for more information on how you can help us build great futures for the most vulnerable group of young people in Santa Maria. Together, we can create lasting impact.

The power of philanthropy is alive and well in our generous region. Your investments in



the futures of the children and teens we serve produce real and systematic change. Thank you for your generosity, encouragement and support of our mission.

Respectfully,  
Jeremy L. Deming, CEO

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Jeremy L. Deming".

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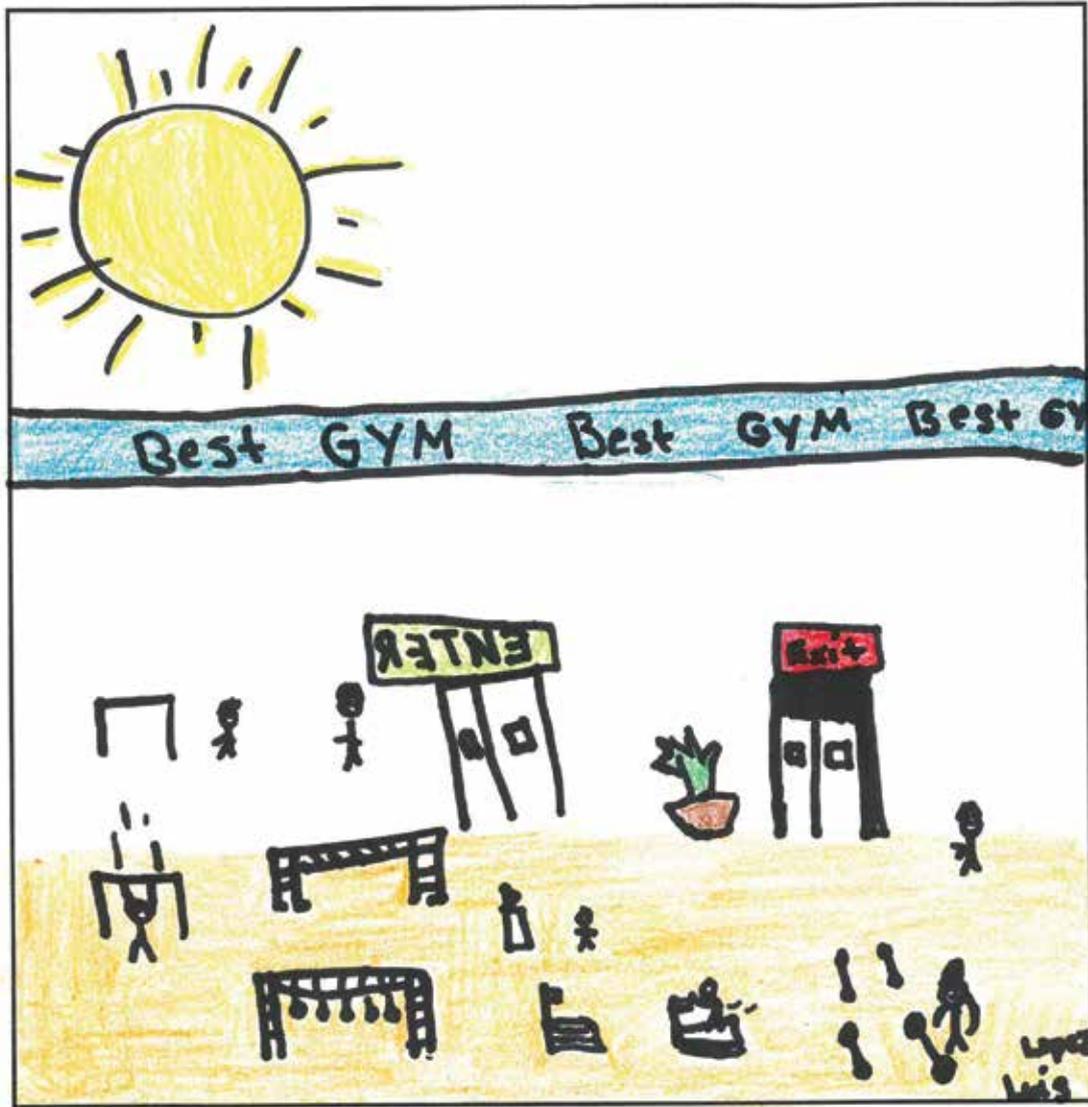
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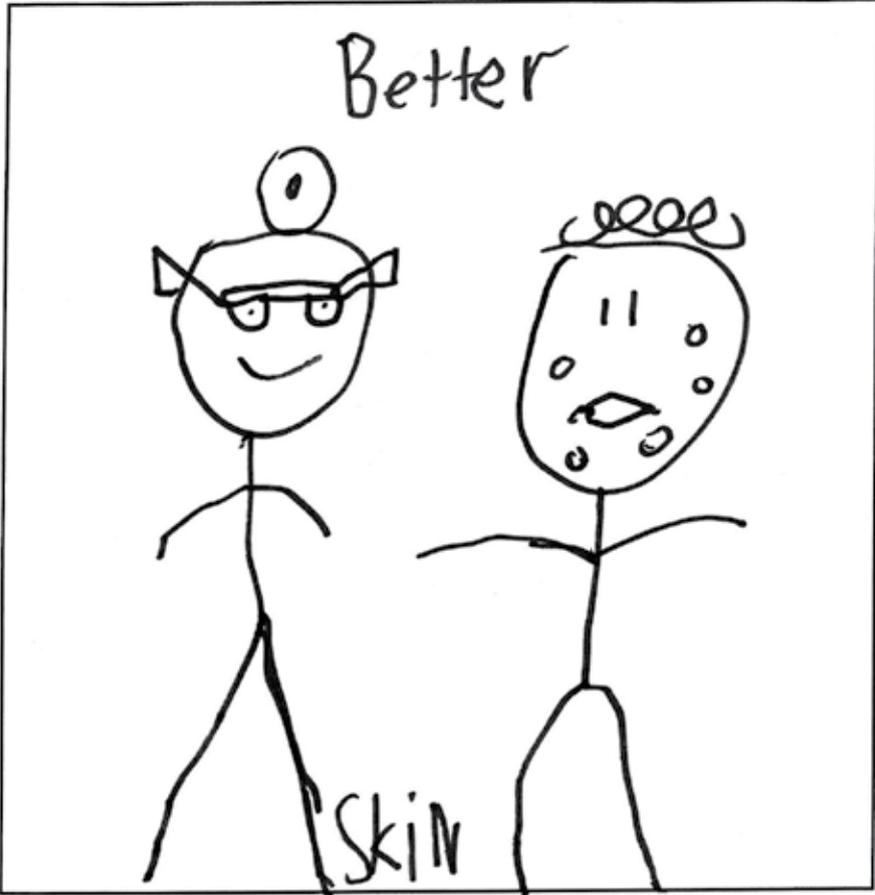
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 ages 6 - 18  
 in Santa Maria, Guadalupe, Paso Robles,  
 Atascadero and Shandon. An additional  
 4,000  
 children benefit from Club sponsored sports  
 and arts programming each year.



**2019 BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

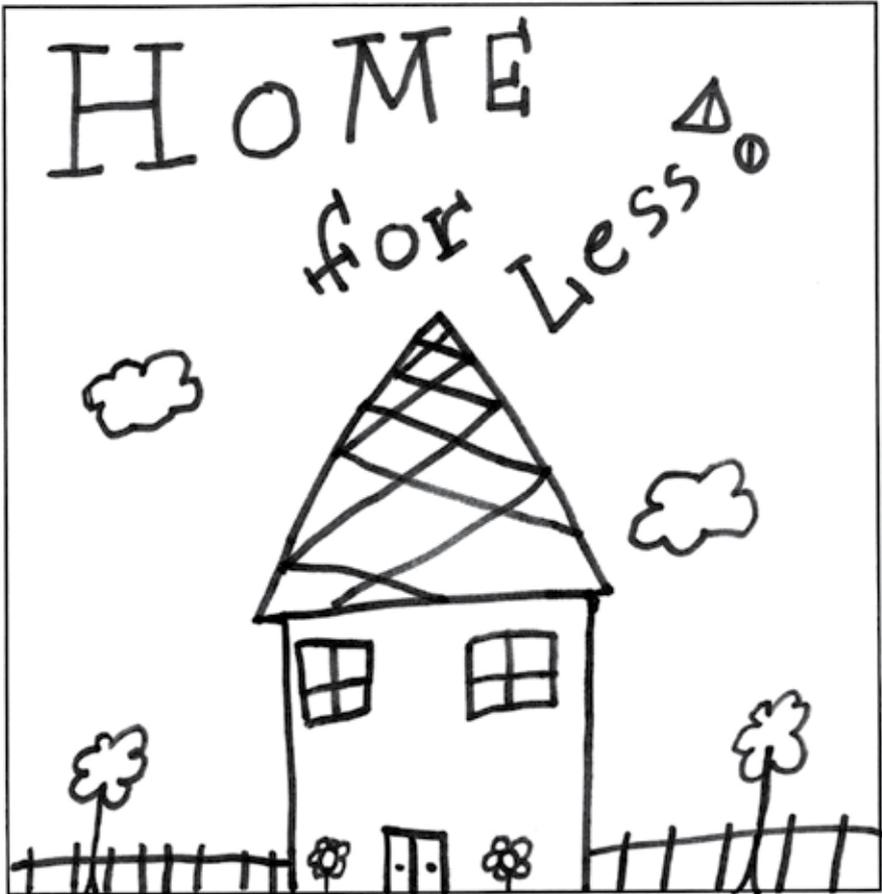
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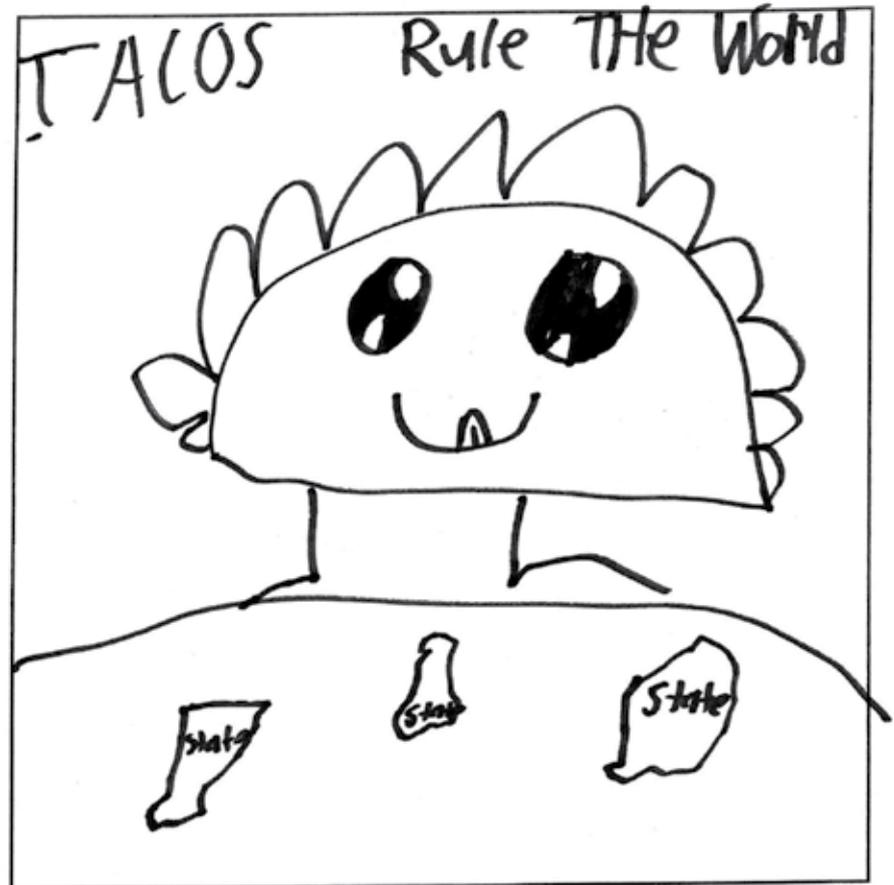
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Your gift to Boys & Girls Clubs of Mid Central Coast's mission helps keep local kids and teens on the route to a GREAT FUTURE!  
 To learn more about giving opportunities, visit this website:  
<https://givingtools.com/give/94/1272>



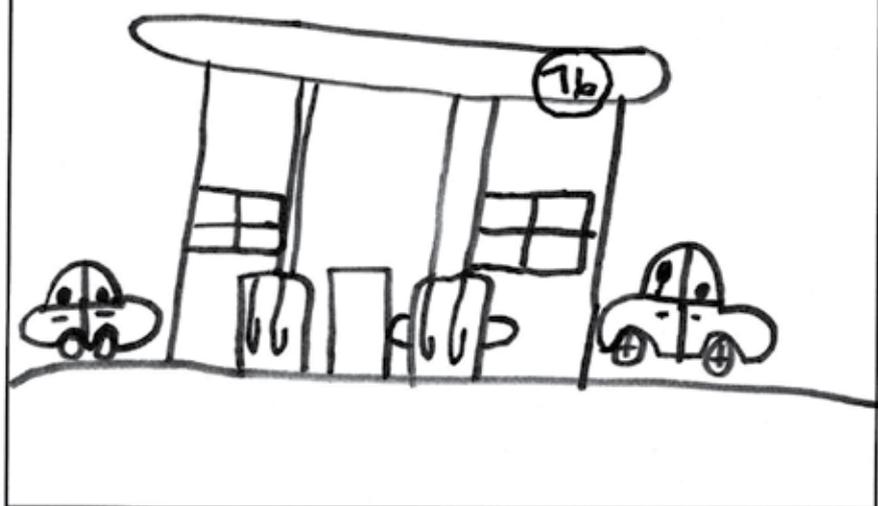
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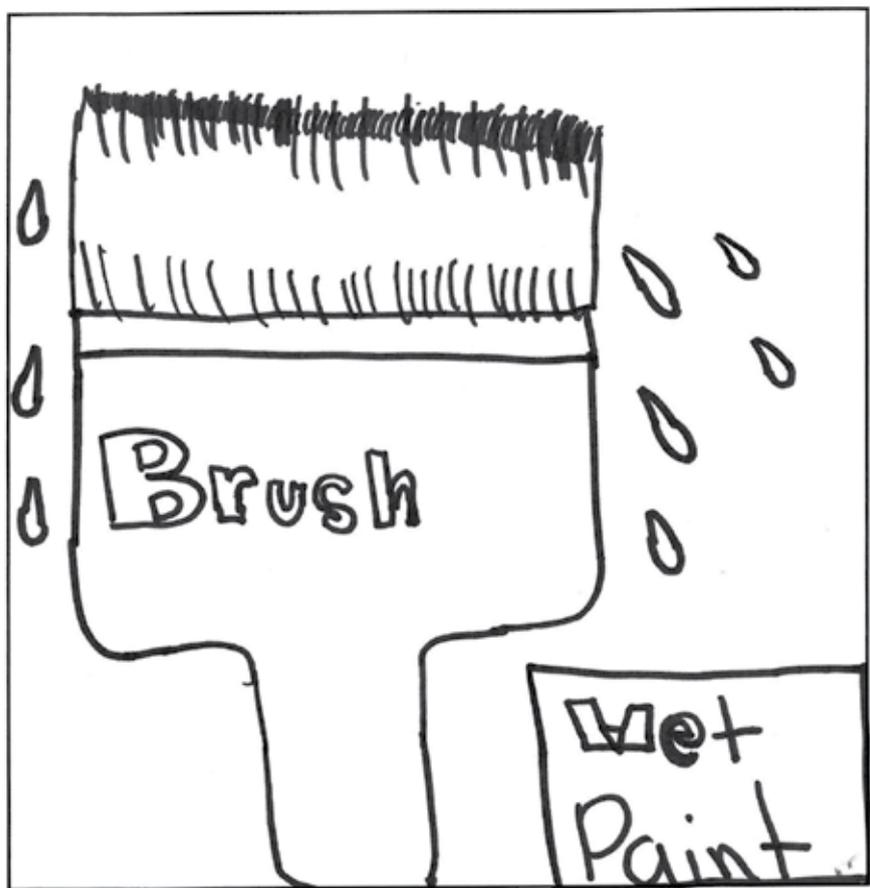
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# 12

Club Sites

# 88

Adult Staff



## 200+ Volunteers

### 6,700 Youth Served = 2,700 Registered Members + 4,000

Youth served through Community Outreach programs in art and sports.

### Member Demographics

**17%**  
Teens

**33%**  
Live in Single-Parent Households

**74%**  
Minority Races or Ethnicities

**83%**  
Ages 12 and younger

**87%**  
Qualify for Free or Reduced-Price School Lunch

## 57%

 of adult alumni say, **"The club saved my life."**

## Academic Success

**The Need:** 15% of young people on the Central Coast fail to graduate from high school on time.

**What We Do:** Project Learn, Money Matters, Power Hour, Diplomas to Degrees, Graduate for Más, Summer Brain Gain, Career Launch, and BE GREAT: Graduate.

**Our Impact:** Among our teen members, **95%** are on track to graduate from high school on time, and **73%** expect to complete a post-secondary education.

## Good Character and Citizenship

**The Need:** 18% of teens in the Central Coast region were involved in a physical fight in the past year.

**What We Do:** Million Members - Million Hours of Service, Torch & Keystone Clubs, and Youth of the Year

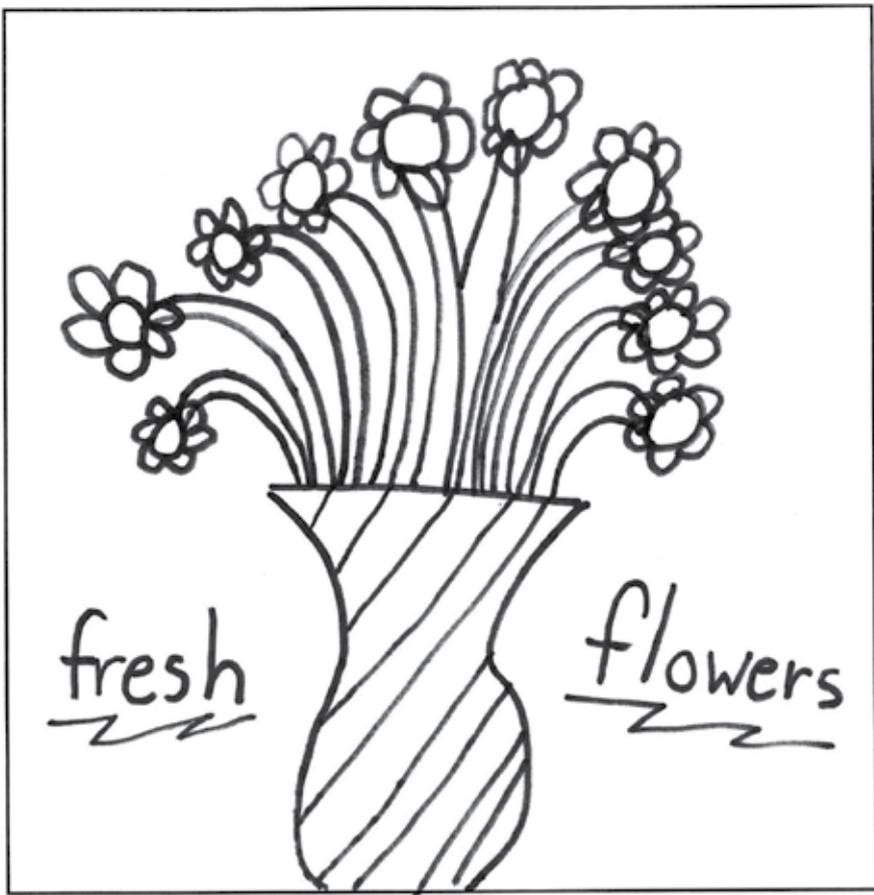
**Our Impact:** **88%** of Club teen members volunteer in their community at least once per year, while **44%** volunteer in their community at least once per month.

## Healthy Lifestyles

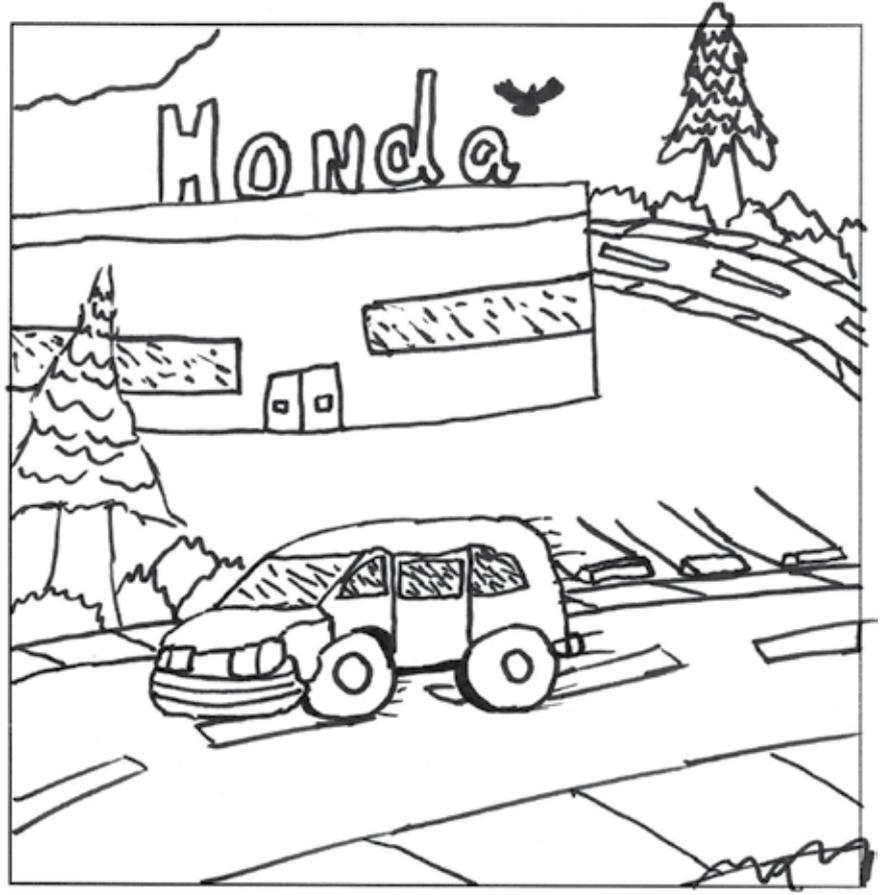
**The Need:** 37% of young people ages 14-18 in the Central Coast region are overweight or obese.

**What We Do:** Passport to Manhood, SMART Girls, Date SMART, SMART Moves, and Healthy Habits.

**Our Impact:** **60%** of Club Members report getting at least one hour of physical activity on five or more days per week.



**(805) 938-1965**  
4850 S Bradley Road D1  
Santa Maria



**(805) 922-4600**  
2175 S Bradley Road, Santa Maria  
[www.hondaofsantamaria.com](http://www.hondaofsantamaria.com)

# Our Accomplishments

## 2014

\$100k gym renovation;  
Bill Libbon retires;

Jeremy Deming named  
CEO;

**Budget \$1.36 m.**

## 2015

Aera Energy provides  
\$50,000 gift;

Annual campaign breaks  
all-time record;  
All fundraising events  
sell out;

Commercial kitchen is fully  
renovated at the Railroad  
clubsite;

An operating reserve fund is  
established for sustainability;  
Roberto Rodriguez is  
promoted to Chief Operating  
Officer;

A \$320k grant is secured  
from Santa Barbara County;

**Budget \$1.64 m.**

## 2016

BGCSMV celebrates 50th  
Anniversary featuring Boys &  
Girls Clubs of America's CEO  
Jim Clark;

Now serving 1,400 registered  
youth members;

Annual campaign breaks  
record for the 2nd year  
in a row;

BGCSMV receives Gateway  
to Impact Award by Boys &  
Girls Clubs of America for  
being the top performing  
organization in the  
Pacific region;

Three of BGCSMV's Board  
members, Donna France,  
Brooks Wise, and Sheila  
Kearns are awarded the  
National Medallion Award by  
Boys & Girls Clubs of  
America at  
the national conference;

**Budget \$1.84 m.**



2019  
ANNUAL  
BUDGET

# \$2.63 M

## 2017

Administrative Offices  
remodeled at the  
Railroad clubsite;

Jeremy Deming, CEO,  
is awarded a  
scholarship to attend  
Harvard Business  
School;

Now serving 2,000  
registered youth  
annually at 9 clubsites  
in 2 Cities;

Exterior beautification  
project completed;

**Budget \$1.9 m.**



## 2018

BGCSMV begins working  
with Boys & Girls Clubs of  
North SLO County  
(BGCNSLO) under a formal  
management agreement;  
Auction & Gala event  
exceeds \$200k in net  
revenue;

Jeremy Deming receives  
Chairman's Award at the  
Annual Santa Maria Valley  
Chamber of Commerce  
Awards Gala;

Chief Philanthropy Officer,  
Alanna Andruszkiewicz,  
hired to lead the  
BGCSMV's development  
department;

Conrad Stephens is named  
Chair of the Board;

**Budget \$2.1 m.**

## 2019

BGCSMV & BGCNSLO merge  
into Boys & Girls Clubs of Mid  
Central Coast (BGMCC).  
Organization now operating 12  
clubsites in the communities of  
Paso Robles, Santa Maria,  
Atascadero, Shandon and  
Guadalupe;

Youth served jumps to 2,700  
annually;

Erick Pinedo-Tovar (Railroad club  
member) wins the Coastal Area  
Council Youth of the Year event  
representing Kern, Santa Barbara,  
Ventura, and San Luis Obispo  
Counties;

BGMCC receives the largest  
donation in history (\$500k) to  
establish a future clubsite in Paso  
Robles in memory of the late Tom  
Maas; \$250k Teen Center  
Expansion project launches;

BGMCC named Nonprofit  
Organization of the Year by the  
Santa Maria Valley Chamber of  
Commerce;

## Recent Accomplishments

BGMCC receives Gateway to Impact Award by Boys & Girls Clubs of America for the 2nd time; Nadine Sullivan, Vice Chair of the Board, receives the National Medallion Award by BGCA;

**Budget \$2.63 m.**



Store Hours:  
Tuesday-Friday 7:30am-7pm  
Sat: 7:30am-6pm · Sun: 11am-5pm  
Closed Monday  
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**(805) 922-7866**



**(805) 922-9195**  
3388 Orcutt Road  
Orcutt



Enrique, and the 2,699 other BGCSMCC Club members just like him, needs your help this holiday season. Please make a gift today to support the life-changing services the Club provides. When you do, you'll know that you aren't just making a donation. You're changing a child's life.

Founded in 1966, the Boys & Girls Clubs of Mid Central Coast is looking for a minimum of 66 members to commit a monthly gift of \$66, helping us raise over \$52,000 annually to help the 2,700 + children and teens that attend one of our twelve Clubs daily. It's the easiest and best way to offer dependable programs to local youth.

**WHY BE A MEMBER?**

**For a monthly gift of \$66 you will be providing:**

- Educational activities and mentoring for children who would otherwise be left alone and unsupervised during non-school hours.
- Mentors for children who need a supportive and caring adult who will listen, encourage, and celebrate their successes.
- Daily meals for children throughout Santa Maria Valley.

**WHAT DO MEMBERSHIPS INCLUDE?**

The knowledge that for about the same daily amount as a cup of coffee, you are providing a safe place for local children to grow and thrive. Help local children and teens by joining Club 66.

To register for Club 66, go to [BGCCentralCoast.org](http://BGCCentralCoast.org)



**Save the Dates!**

**BGCMCC Annual Meeting  
January 30, 2020**

An informative luncheon honoring the people and businesses that made 2019 a success. Includes an overview of our strategic plan for 2020.

**40th Annual Auction & Gala  
April 17, 2020**

The event of the year, join us for cocktails, dinner, silent, and live auction all benefitting BGCMCC.

**21st Annual Ag for Youth Golf Tournament  
July 27, 2020**

Spend the day golfing to support our BGCMCC Summer Programs.

**20th Annual Champions of Youth  
Sept 12, 2020**

Join us as we honor the people who have championed BGCMCC for the past 20 years. Dinner with Live & Silent auction.

**Celebrity Waiters Night  
TBD Fall 2020**

Enjoy a fun night with dinner, live and silent auctions. Themed table and dress contest.

**For sponsorship or event information, please contact  
Kathryn Scott at  
805-354-7421.**



**(805) 937-2019**  
1950 CA-1  
Santa Maria

Curbside Christmas tree collection, Monday, January 6, 2020, through Friday, January 10, 2020, for City residents on their service day.



**QUESTIONS? CALL (805) 925-0951 ext. 7270**



# Partnership Highlight:

**In partnership with must! charities and the Shandon Joint Unified School District we have opened a new clubsite on the campus of Shandon Elementary School. Since the start of the 2019-20 school year, it has become the place to be after school for 75 children, and more are expected to enroll after the new year.**

Since 2012, **must! charities** has been a devoted supporter of Boys & Girls Clubs. Their staff and Board have been trailblazers in partnership with BGCMCC and they have been historically supportive of new programmatic initiatives. The partnership between **must!** and BGCMCC is a powerhouse and a true catalyst in creating lasting change in the communities we serve.

**The commitment between must!,** BGCMCC, and the Shandon Joint Unified School District will ensure that youth have a positive and safe place to go after school and during school break periods. The Shandon Joint Unified School District agreed to match **must!**'s three-year funding commitment to provide year round support of their students. This collaboration is a true mission-focused example of communities coming together to serve youth who need us most.



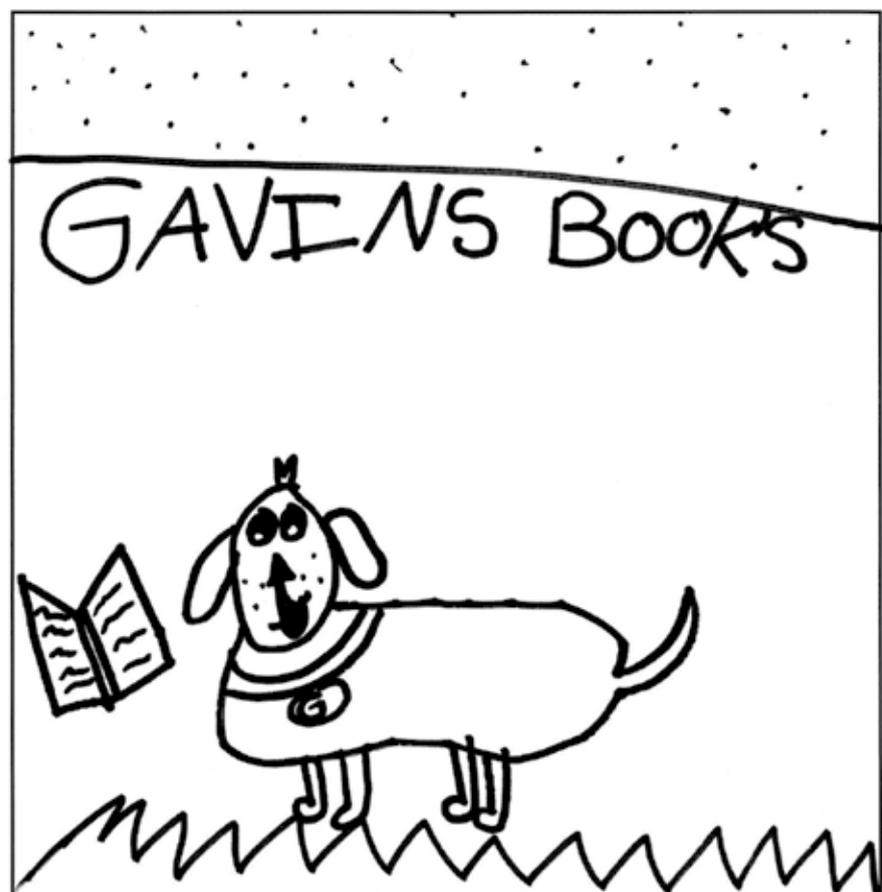
**BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS**  
OF MID CENTRAL COAST

Atascadero | Guadalupe | Paso Robles  
Santa Maria | Shandon



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## Boys & Girls Clubs

of Mid Central Coast's mission is to enable all young people, especially those who need us most, to realize their full potential as productive, responsible, & caring citizens.



805-714-6933

HWY 101 & Stowell Road  
Santa Maria

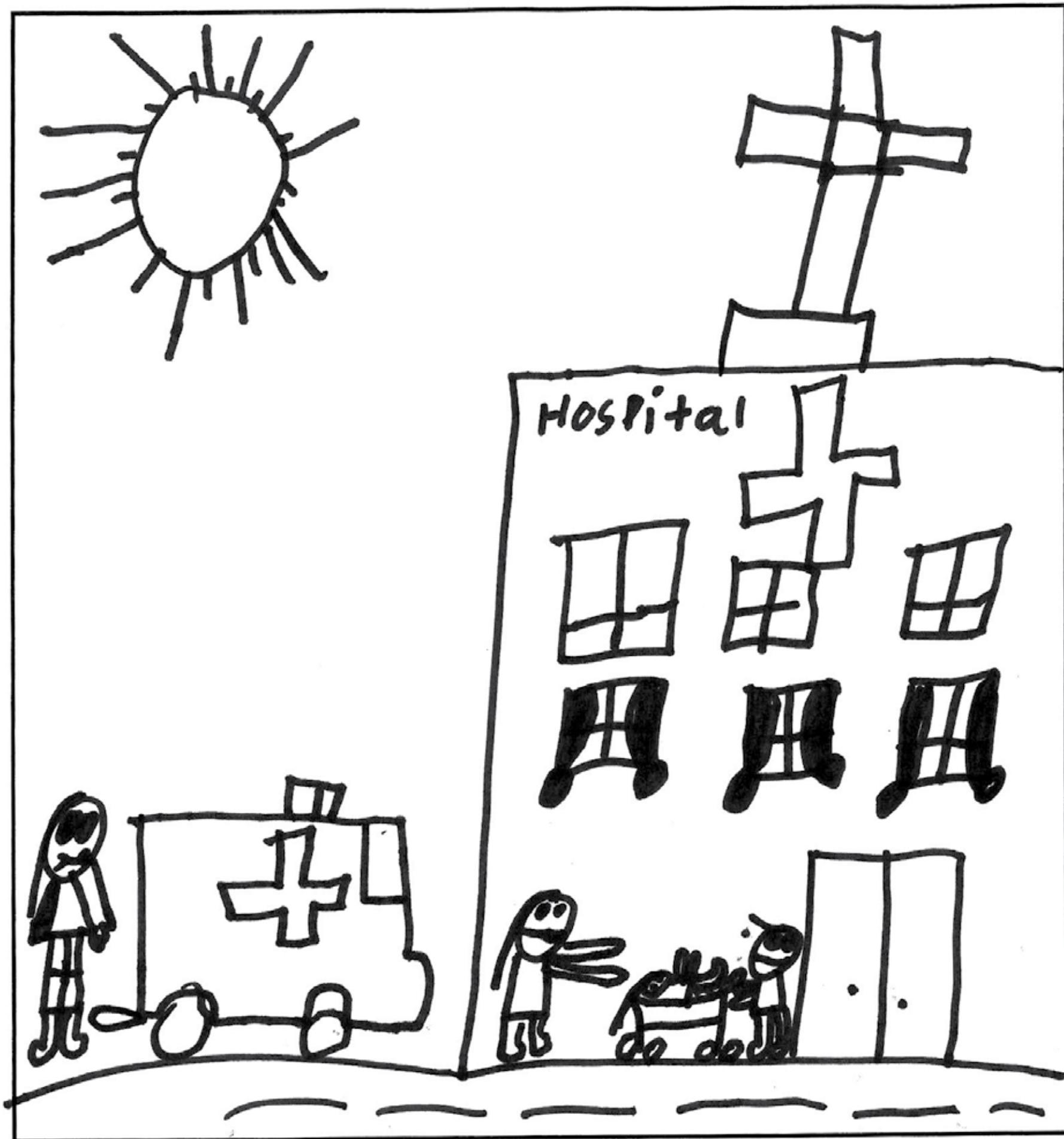
Find us on Facebook! 



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Saturdays 9am–3pm  
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**NAR-ANON: LET IT BEGIN WITH ME** Nar-Anon is a support group for those who are affected by someone else's addiction. Tuesdays 805-458-7655. [naranoncentralca.org/meetings/meeting-list/](http://naranoncentralca.org/meetings/meeting-list/). San Luis Obispo, Citywide, SLO.

## CREATE & LEARN

### SANTA MARIA VALLEY/LOS ALAMOS

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

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

## MIND & BODY

### SANTA MARIA VALLEY/LOS ALAMOS

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

### 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](http://whiteheronsangha.org). White Heron Sangha Meditation Center, 6615 Bay Laurel Place, Avila Beach.

**SILVER SNEAKERS ZUMBA** Appropriate for all ages and fitness levels. An easy-to-follow dance fitness class. Mondays, Wednesdays, Fridays, 9-10 a.m. Free for members; \$6 to drop-in. 805-441-7932. Oceano Community Center, 1425 19th St., Oceano, [adulted.luciamarschools.org](http://adulted.luciamarschools.org).

**WATER EXERCISE FOR ALL AGES** These classes help relieve joint pain, enhance your breathing, and increase your range of motion. Mondays, Wednesdays, Thursdays, 6:30-7:30 p.m. 805-481-6399. 5 Cities Swim School, 425 Traffic Way, Arroyo Grande, [5citysswimschool.com](http://5citysswimschool.com).

## OUTDOORS

### SAN LUIS OBISPO

**OCEANO'S DUNES: THE MYSTICAL AND ARTISTIC DUNITES** Two mile moderate walk in the dunes in soft sand from the RV Park parking lot to learn what made the Dunite era so special; hear some of their stories. **Dec. 28**, 9 a.m.-noon Free. 805-474-2667. Pacific Dunes Ranch, 1205 Silver Spur Pl., Oceano.

## SPORTS

### SAN LUIS OBISPO



## YOU SAY YOU WANT A RESOLUTION?

The Sunburst Community hosts its New Year's Kriya Yoga Meditation Retreat, which runs Thursday, Jan. 2, through Sunday, Jan. 5. The retreat includes meditation instruction, restorative yoga sessions, a New Year's fire and seed ceremony, and more. Pre-registration is required at [sunburst.org](http://sunburst.org). The venue is located at 7200 S. Highway 1, Lompoc. Call (805) 736-6528 for more info.

—C.W.

**CAL POLY BASKETBALL VS VANGUARD** Start the New Year with Cal Poly Men's Basketball as the Mustangs take on Vanguard in the final non-conference game of the season. **Jan. 3**, 7 p.m. [gopoly.com/](http://gopoly.com/). Mott Athletics Center, 1 Grand Ave., San Luis Obispo, 805-756-7297.

**CAL POLY WOMEN'S BASKETBALL VS HOLY NAMES** Start the New Year with Cal Poly Women's Basketball as they take on Holy Names. **Jan. 2**, 5 p.m. [gopoly.com/](http://gopoly.com/). Mott Athletics Center, 1 Grand Ave., San Luis Obispo, 805-756-7297.

## KIDS & FAMILY

### SANTA MARIA VALLEY/LOS ALAMOS

**MOVIE MATINEE: TOY STORY 2** Come to the library to watch a special screening of the classic Pixar sequel. **Dec. 26**, 2-4 p.m. Free. 805-925-0994. Santa Maria Public Library, 421 S. McClelland St., Santa Maria.

**MOVIE MATINEE: TOY STORY 3** Come to the library to watch a special screening of the popular Pixar sequel.

CULTURE & LIFESTYLE continued page 33

# Hound Around Town



## Love Hugs??

So does Twister! This senior guy just needs someone to love and hold him in his senior years. He may be mostly blind, but he'll easily sense love through your gentle hugs and soft speaking. This week, he's hanging "Around Town" with Debra Kaylor of Valley Hills Realty.



**ADOPT!**  
Adoptable Pets of the Week

**Adoption Center Hours**  
Wed - Sun, 11 am - 6 pm

All animals have been spayed/neutered, vaccinated, microchipped, and fully vetted.

### STEWIE

AGE: 3 years  
8 months  
BREED: Domestic  
Short Hair  
SEX: Male  
WEIGHT: 11.4 lbs



### HENRIK

AGE: 2 years  
5 Months  
BREED: German  
Shepherd  
SEX: Male  
WEIGHT: 63 lbs



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100 E. Clark Ave., Orcutt  
**WWW.ORCUTT76.COM**



**Squid Dissection Saturdays**  
 SATURDAY, DECEMBER 28  
 Central Coast Aquarium



**60's Rock & Soul NYE Bash**  
 DECEMBER 31  
 Embassy Suites by Hilton, SLO



**New Year's Eve Party**  
 TUESDAY, DECEMBER 31  
 Downtown Paso Robles Wine District



**SLO Jewish Film Festival**  
 JANUARY 2-5  
 The Palm Theatre



**Tommy Castro & The Painkillers**  
 SATURDAY, JANUARY 11  
 SLO Veterans Hall



**Baroque Masters Symphony**  
 SATURDAY, JANUARY 11  
 Trinity United Methodist Church



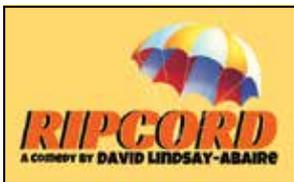
**Vaxxed II**  
 SATURDAY, JANUARY 11  
 Bay Theater



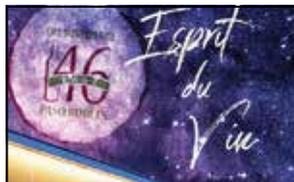
**Barrel Room Concert Series: Jill Knight + Band**  
 SUNDAY, JANUARY 12  
 CASS Winery



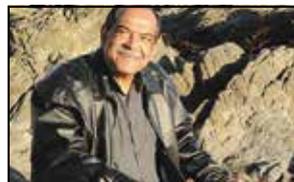
**Steve Earle Tribute**  
 TUESDAY, JANUARY 14  
 The Savory Palette



**Ripcord - A comedy by David Lindsay-Abaire**  
 JANUARY 17-FEBRUARY 2  
 Santa Maria Civic Theatre



**Wineries of 46 East Present: Esprit du Vin**  
 SATURDAY, JANUARY 18  
 Riboli Family Winemaking & Event Center



**Ernie Watts Quartet**  
 SATURDAY, JANUARY 18  
 Unity Concert Hall



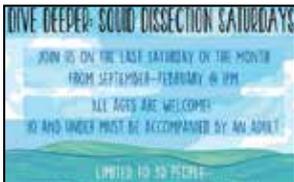
**Hitched + Knotted**  
 SATURDAY, JANUARY 18  
 CASS Winery



**CASS Wine Seminar: Syrah**  
 SUNDAY, JANUARY 19  
 CASS Winery



**The Odd Couple**  
 JANUARY 24-FEBRUARY 16  
 By The Sea Productions



**Squid Dissection Saturdays**  
 SATURDAY, JANUARY 25  
 Central Coast Aquarium



**Bach Cello Suites**  
 SATURDAY, JANUARY 25  
 Grace Bible Church

**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.



**Sipping For Singers**  
 SATURDAY, JANUARY 25  
 Varian Ranch Clubhouse



**Avila Beach Spaghetti Dinner Bingo Night**  
 FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 7  
 Avila Beach Community Center



**Michael Nowak & Orchestra Novo with Robert Thies**  
 SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 9  
 CPAC at Cuesta College



**Clarinet Quintet**  
 WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 12  
 Monarch Club at Trilogy



**Valentines Chocolate + Wine Workshop**  
 THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 13  
 CASS Winery



**SLO Craft Beer Festival**  
 SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 22  
 Alex Madonna Expo Center



**Spirited Symphonies: Es Muss Sein**  
 SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 29  
 Grace Baptist Church



**Squid Dissection Saturdays**  
 SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 29  
 Central Coast Aquarium



**Concert for Peace with Yuval Ron**  
 SATURDAY, MARCH 14  
 Congregation Beth David



**The Red Velvet Cake War**  
 SUNDAY, MARCH 15  
 Santa Maria Civic Theatre



**Double Bass and Friends**  
 SATURDAY, MARCH 21  
 Trinity United Methodist Church



**Double Bass and Friends**  
 SUNDAY, MARCH 22  
 Community Church of Atascadero



**Music of the 1970's**  
 THURSDAY, MARCH 26  
 Monarch Club at Trilogy



**Incendio Summoning the Music**  
 SUNDAY, MARCH 29  
 Cambria Concerts Unplugged



**Central Coast Guitar Show**  
 SATURDAY, APRIL 4  
 SLO Veteran's Hall



**Soaring Masterpieces: Fate and Destiny**  
 SATURDAY, APRIL 18  
 Grace Baptist Church



**Courtney's House Charity Golf Tournament**  
 SATURDAY, MAY 16  
 Paso Robles Golf Club



**Murder on the Orient Express**  
 MAY 15-JULY 19  
 By The Sea Productions



**Classical Giants**  
 SUNDAY, MAY 17  
 Mission San Miguel



**SLO Blues Baseball: Opening Day Vs. Santa Maria Packers**  
 FRIDAY, MAY 22  
 Sinsheimer Stadium

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FOLLOW US ON FACEBOOK!

**Dec. 27,** 2-4 p.m. Free. 805-925-0994. Santa Maria Public Library, 421 S. McClelland St., Santa Maria.

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

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

**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.

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

**READING IS SWEET: WINTER READING PROGRAM** Visit Youth Services to get a reading tracker. Receive a small prize after reading or listening to five books. Through Jan. 17, 2020 Free. 805-925-0994. Santa Maria Public Library, 421 S. McClelland St., Santa Maria.

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

**TEEN AFTER HOURS MOVIE** A permission form is required to attend, and must be turned in at the Youth Services desk. **Jan. 3,** 5:30-8 p.m. Free. 805-925-0994. Santa Maria Public Library, 421 S. McClelland St., Santa Maria.

**TEEN GAMING FRIDAYS** Join the library on select Fridays for an afternoon of gaming. Play against your friends, or just sit back and watch the action on our large screen. Light snacks will be provided. **Dec. 27,** 4-5:30 p.m. Free. 805-925-0994. cityofsantamaria.org. Santa Maria Public Library, 421 S. McClelland St., Santa Maria.

## SPIRITUAL

### LOMPOC/VANDENBERG

**REUNITE WITH YOUR EX: BRING BACK YOUR LOVER** Love spells to return any lost lover. These spells will "bind you together for eternity." **Dec. 27** Free. 483-710-2435. waluspells.myfreesites.net/. First United Methodist Church, 925 North F St., Lompoc.

### 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. CoventTree: Books and Gifts, 722 E Main St., Santa Maria.

## VOLUNTEERS

### SANTA MARIA VALLEY/LOS ALAMOS

**MEALS ON WHEELS: VOLUNTEER DRIVERS NEEDED** Santa Maria Valley is in need of volunteer drivers for Meals on Wheels. Volunteers can help deliver every other week and deliveries take two hours. Call or visit site to join. ongoing 805-938-1200. mealsonwheelssmv.org. Santa Maria, Citywide, Santa Maria.

### SAN LUIS OBISPO

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

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

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

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

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

## FOOD & DRINK

### FARMERS MARKETS

#### LOMPOC/VANDENBERG

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

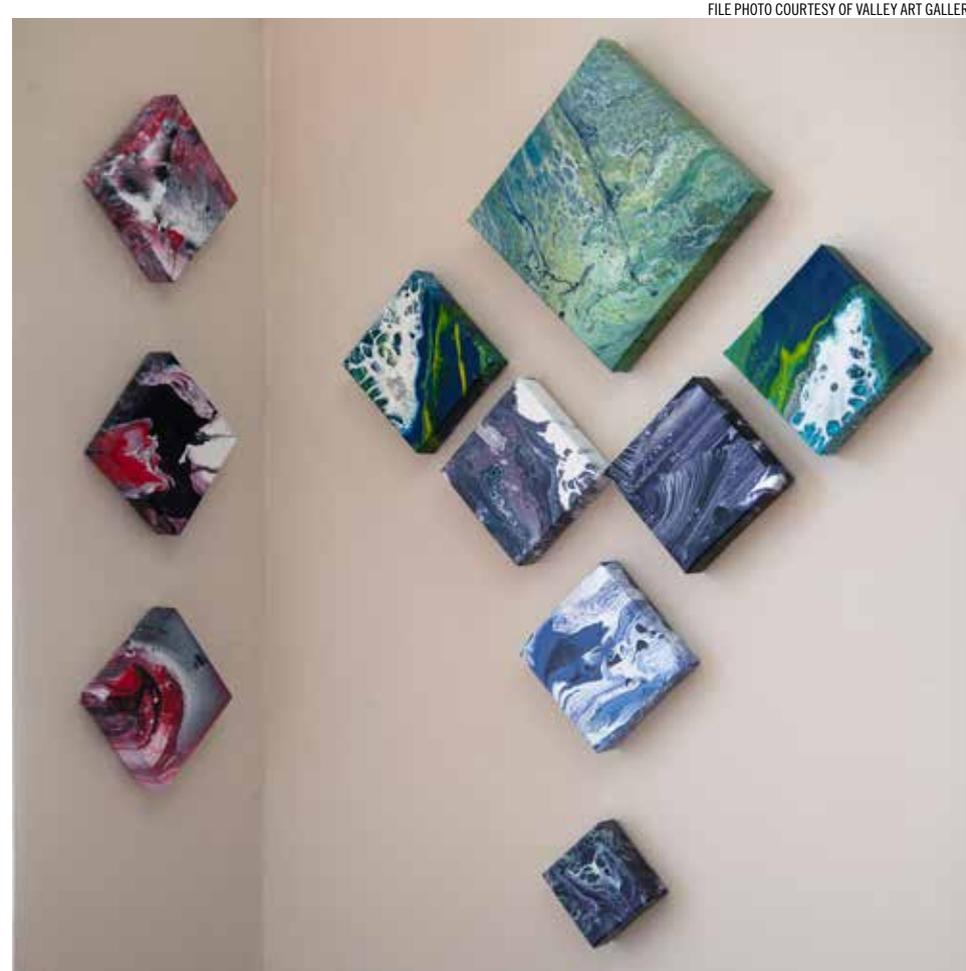
#### SANTA MARIA VALLEY/LOS ALAMOS

**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



## POUR OUT YOUR HEART

*The last chance to see Art Squared at Valley Art Gallery is through Saturday, Dec. 28. This solo exhibition features acrylic pour paintings by local artist Beverly Johnson. Admission to view the show is free. The gallery is located at 125 W. Clark Ave., Orcutt. Call (805) 937-2278 or visit valleyartgallery.org for more info.*

—C.W.

**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.

## 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. lompcowinefactory.com. Lompoc Wine Factory, 321 N. D St., Lompoc.

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

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

### SANTA MARIA VALLEY/LOS ALAMOS

**FOOD TRUCK FRIDAYS** Features a food truck every Friday. Fridays, 5 p.m. Wine Stone Inn, 255 W. Clark Ave, Orcutt, 805-332-3532. ○

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PHOTO COURTESY OF JUDY LINDQUIST

## Live Music

### SANTA YNEZ VALLEY

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

**THE CAVERNS LIVE** **Dec. 27**, 8-11 p.m. Maverick Saloon, 3687 Sagunto St., Santa Ynez, 805-686-4785, mavericksaloon.org.

**DO NO HARM LIVE** A Santa Barbara-based blues, rock, Motown, and soul band. **Dec. 28**, 1-4 p.m. Free admission. Cold Spring Tavern, 5995 Stagecoach Rd., Santa Barbara, 805-967-0066, coldspringtavern.com/entertainment.html.

**DUSTY JUGZ LIVE** **Dec. 28**, 8-11 p.m. Maverick Saloon, 3687 Sagunto St., Santa Ynez, 805-686-4785, mavericksaloon.org.

**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.

**FALCON HEAVY LIVE** **Dec. 29**, 1-5 p.m. Maverick Saloon, 3687 Sagunto St., Santa Ynez, 805-686-4785, mavericksaloon.org.

**FIRST FRIDAY '80S NIGHT** Featuring the Molly Ringwald Project. First Friday of every month, 8:30-11:30 p.m. \$10 after 8 p.m. Maverick Saloon, 3687 Sagunto St., Santa Ynez, 805-686-4785, mavericksaloon.org.

**HOT ROUX LIVE** Food and drinks available for purchase. No outside food or drinks allowed. **Jan. 5**, 4:30 p.m. Cold Spring Tavern, 5995 Stagecoach Rd., Santa Barbara, 805-967-0066, coldspringtavern.com/entertainment.html.

**THE JUST DAVE BAND LIVE** **Jan. 4**, 8 p.m. Maverick Saloon, 3687 Sagunto St., Santa Ynez, 805-686-4785, mavericksaloon.org.

**LET GO FLO LIVE** Food and drinks available for purchase. No outside food or drinks allowed. **Jan. 3**, 6-9 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.

**LIVEWIRE LIVE** **Jan. 3**, 9 p.m. Maverick Saloon, 3687 Sagunto St., Santa Ynez, 805-686-4785, mavericksaloon.org.

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

**ODDLY STRAIGHT LIVE** This band performs an eclectic blend of classic rock and Americana. **Dec. 28**, 1-4 p.m. Free admission. Cold Spring Tavern, 5995 Stagecoach Rd., Santa Barbara, 805-967-0066, coldspringtavern.com/entertainment.html.

MUSIC LISTINGS continued page 35



**BAND ON THE RUN:** The Riptide Big Band performs at the Elwin Mussell Senior Center, as part of Noon Year's Eve, on **Tuesday, Dec. 31**, starting at 11 a.m.

## Ring in the new decade

*Riptide Big Band kicks off 2020 with Noon Year's Eve Dance in Santa Maria*

### BY CALEB WISEBLOOD

The new year is arriving a bit earlier than usual; 12 hours earlier, to be exact, at least for attendees of the Noon Year's Eve Dance in Santa Maria. Hosted by the Santa Maria Valley Senior Citizens Club, this annual celebration takes place at the Elwin Mussell Senior Center on **Tuesday, Dec. 31**, from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. The event features live music from the **Riptide Big Band** (with special guest vocalists **Bob Nations** and **Liz Douglas**). This popular, local 15-piece ensemble performs a variety of dance, jazz, and swing tunes, ranging from the 1920s to the '70s.

Admission to the concert is free, thanks to funding from the Community Foundation of San Luis

Obispo County. Refreshments at the event are also complimentary. The Elwin Mussell Senior Center is located at 510 Park Ave., Santa Maria. To find out more about Noon Year's Eve, call (775) 813-5186 or visit [riptidebb.com](http://riptidebb.com).

### 20/20 vision

Additional New Year's festivities in the local music scene include the Lompoc Wine Factory's Year End Barrel Bash Concert, which takes place on **Saturday, Dec. 28**, from 7 to 10 p.m. Attendees can expect to enjoy sets from a variety of acts, including Lompoc-based trio **The Only Ocean**, comprised of childhood friends Wesley Hill, Shae Kakos, and Alex Burdess. This three-piece performs its own unique blend of psych-pop, post-

punk, and acid rock. It's either a list of subgenres or rock candy flavors—who's to say? Indie-folk artist **Jacob Cole** is also set to perform during the concert, as is local psychedelic rock band **Pancho and the Wizards**. Tickets to the group show are \$10 in advance at [lompcfactory.com](http://lompcfactory.com) or \$20 at the door.

The Naughty Oak Brewing Company and Vino et Amicis Wine Bar are teaming up to host a 1920s-themed block party in Historic Old Town Orcutt on **Tuesday, Dec. 31**, scheduled from 8 p.m. to past midnight. The event

LOCAL NOTES continued page 35

FILE PHOTO COURTESY OF PERFECT WORLD ENTERTAINMENT



**LET'S BOOGIE:** '70s tribute band The Boogie Knights perform at the Chumash Casino Resort on **Tuesday, Dec. 31**, at 9 p.m.

# eat up.



For everything food & drink, read our weekly EATS column

# Sun

LOCAL NOTES from page 34

will include live performances from Santa Barbara-based soul artist and former *The Voice* contestant **Will Breman** and local rock duo **Bender and Jack**. Naughty Oak also hosts a solo show with **Jacob Marquez**, lead singer from After the Smoke, on **Friday, Dec. 27**, from 7 to 10 p.m. Vino et Amicis hosts a performance from the **NYC Duo** the same evening, also from 7 to 10 p.m. It's good to see competing neighbors join forces come New Year's Eve though. Admission to all three events is free.

The Chumash Casino Resort in Santa Ynez is joining in on the celebratory occasion as well with its New Year's Eve Dance Party, which takes place in the resort's Samala Showroom on **Tuesday, Dec. 31**, at 9 p.m. The concert features not one, but two nostalgic cover bands, in the form of '70s homage **Boogie Knights** and '80s tribute **The Spazmatics**. Tickets to the show are \$25 and are available online in advance at [chumashcasino.com](http://chumashcasino.com).

More music

*Paradise Lost?* If only there was some kind of road map (or GPS app nowadays) to help Adam and Eve find their way back into the Garden of Eden. On an entirely unrelated note, **Paradise Road** is performing at the Cold Spring Tavern off of Highway 154 on **Saturday, Dec. 27**, from 6 to 9 p.m. The tavern's weekend lineup continues with **Oddly Straight** on **Sunday, Dec. 28**, from 1 to 4 p.m. Santa Barbara-based blues, Motown, rock, and soul band **Do No Harm** are next on the docket, with a performance the same evening, from 5 to 8 p.m.



FILE PHOTO COURTESY OF JACOB COLE

**CACTUS COOL:** Lompoc-based folk rock artist Jacob Cole is set to perform during Lompoc Wine Factory's Year End Barrel Bash Concert, on **Saturday, Dec. 28**, starting at 7 p.m.

Blues and rags duo **Tom Ball and Kenny Sultan** play their weekly gig at the tavern on **Sunday, Dec. 29**, from 1 to 4 p.m. The lineup concludes with a perfect bookend of sorts: a performance from blues, rock, and swing band **Paradise Kings** (not to be confused with the aforementioned Paradise Road) on **Sunday, Dec. 29**, from 4:30 to 7:30 p.m. Admission to all of the venue's concerts is complimentary.

Also in the Santa Ynez Valley, **The Caverns** perform at the Maverick Saloon on **Friday, Dec. 27**, from 8 to 11 p.m. The saloon



FILE PHOTO COURTESY OF ANTHONY MICHAEL

**PARTNERS IN CRIME:** Local duo Bender and Jack are set to perform at the New Year's Eve Block Party in Old Orcutt on **Tuesday, Dec. 31**, starting at 8 p.m.

also hosts country-rock band **Pull the Trigger** on **Saturday, Dec. 28**, from 8 to 11 p.m., and **Falcon Heavy** on **Sunday, Dec. 29**, from 1 to 5 p.m. Entry to all three performances is free. ○

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

MUSIC LISTINGS from page 34

**PARADISE KINGS LIVE** This group performs a mix of rock, blues, and swing. **Dec. 29**, 4:30 p.m. Free admission. Cold Spring Tavern, 5995 Stagecoach Rd., Santa Barbara, 805-967-0066, [coldspringtavern.com/entertainment.html](http://coldspringtavern.com/entertainment.html).

**PARADISE ROAD LIVE** Food and drinks available for purchase. No outside food or drinks allowed. **Dec. 27**, 6-9 p.m. Cold Spring Tavern, 5995 Stagecoach Rd., Santa Barbara, 805-967-0066, [coldspringtavern.com/entertainment.html](http://coldspringtavern.com/entertainment.html).

**PULL THE TRIGGER LIVE Dec. 28**, 8-11 p.m. Maverick Saloon, 3687 Sagunto St., Santa Ynez, 805-686-4785, [mavericksaloon.org](http://mavericksaloon.org).

**SAM MITCHELL LIVE Jan. 5**, 12-4 p.m. Maverick Saloon, 3687 Sagunto St., Santa Ynez, 805-686-4785, [mavericksaloon.org](http://mavericksaloon.org).

**SUNDAY ROUND-UP** Enjoy live music on the patio and special menu offerings every Sunday morning. Sundays, 11 a.m. Free. Maverick Saloon, 3687 Sagunto St., Santa Ynez, 805-686-4785, [mavericksaloon.org](http://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](http://coldspringtavern.com/entertainment.html).

LOMPOC/VANDEMBERG

**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](http://lompocwinefactory.com).

SANTA MARIA VALLEY/LOS ALAMOS

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

**CONNER CHERLAND LIVE Jan. 3**, 7-10 p.m. Naughty Oak Brewing Co., 165 S Broadway St. suite 102, Orcutt, 805-287-9663, [naughtyoak.com](http://naughtyoak.com).

**CYRUS CLARKE LIVE Jan. 3**, 7-10 p.m. Free admission. Vino et Amicis, 156 S. Broadway, Orcutt, 805-631-0496, [vinoetamicis.com](http://vinoetamicis.com).

**GOSPEL BRUNCH WITH BROTHA FRANK** First Sunday of every month, 2-5 p.m. Anthony's, 859 Guadalupe St., Guadalupe, 805-219-0977.

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

**JACOB MARQUEZ LIVE** Lead singer of After the Smoke plays a solo set. Featuring catering from El Sabor Latino. **Dec. 27**, 7-10 p.m. Free admission. Naughty Oak Brewing Co., 165 S Broadway St. suite 102, Orcutt, 805-287-9663, [naughtyoak.com](http://naughtyoak.com).

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

**NYC DUO LIVE Dec. 27**, 7-10 p.m. Free admission. Vino et Amicis, 156 S. Broadway, Orcutt, 805-631-0496, [vinoetamicis.com](http://vinoetamicis.com).

SOUTH COAST SLO COUNTY

**ACOUSTIC SUNDAYS** Sundays, 3-6 p.m. Seaventure Restaurant, 100 Oceanview Ave., Pismo Beach, 805-779-1779, [seaventure.com](http://seaventure.com).

**BLUES MASTERS JAM** Wednesdays, 6:30-9:30 p.m. Figueroa Mountain Brewing Co, AG, 1462 E. Grand Ave., Arroyo Grande, 805-474-8525, [figmntnbrew.com/](http://figmntnbrew.com/).

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

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

**LIVE MUSIC AT PUFFERS** Tuesdays, 6:30-9:30 p.m. Free. 805-773-6563. [puffersofpismo.com](http://puffersofpismo.com). Puffers of Pismo, 781 Price St., Pismo Beach.

SAN LUIS OBISPO

**LIVE MUSIC AT SCOTTY'S** Enjoy live music from local artists, cocktails, and food. Fridays, 6-9 p.m. Scotty's Bar and Grill, 750 Price St., Pismo Beach, 805-773-1922, [scottysbarpismo.com](http://scottysbarpismo.com).

**WEDNESDAYS: LIVE MUSIC** Enjoy live music in the fireplace room. Wednesdays, 6-9 p.m. Seaventure Restaurant, 100 Oceanview Ave., Pismo Beach, 805-779-1779, [seaventure.com](http://seaventure.com).

**ANNIVERSARY PERFORMANCE** Enjoy the works of Kubis, T.S. Monk, Adderley, Davis, Hargrove and Kern. 7 Sisters, under new ownership, will be serving up new brews and food. **Jan. 3**, 6-8 p.m. Free. 805-904-8149. [thejazzalleyreview.com](http://thejazzalleyreview.com). 7Sisters Brewing Company, 181 Tank Farm Rd., suite 110, San Luis Obispo.

**BROWN BAG CONCERT** First Friday of every month, 12-1 p.m. Free. 805-543-5451. [fpcsl.org](http://fpcsl.org). First Presbyterian Church of San Luis Obispo, 981 Marsh St., San Luis Obispo.

**CABARET SINGING AND PERFORMANCE CLASS** Come improve your vocal skills so that you have more fun singing cabaret, Broadway, and karaoke. Wednesdays, 6:30-9:30 p.m. \$145 for 8 weeks; \$20 to drop-in. 805-400-5335. [Cabaret805.com](http://Cabaret805.com). Cuesta College, Highway 1, San Luis Obispo.

**GYPSY JAZZ NIGHT** With the Gypsy All Stars: Laurel Mitchel (vocals), Daniel Cimo (violin), James Gallardo, Ben Arthur, and Toan Chau. Every other Thursday, 9:30-11:30 p.m. Barrelhouse Brewing Co. Speakeasy, 1033 Chorro St., San Luis Obispo, 805-296-1128, [barrelhousebrewing.com](http://barrelhousebrewing.com).

MUSIC LISTINGS continued page 36

**Radisson**

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**THIS WEEK'S SPECIALS:**

<p><b>Billy Burger &amp; Deep Fried Burrito</b> small order of fries &amp; small soft drink of choice</p> <p><b>\$5.98 + tax</b></p> <p>Exp. 1/2/20</p>	<p><b>Regular Burger, small order of fries &amp; small soft drink of choice</b></p> <p><b>\$5.06 + tax</b></p> <p>Exp. 1/2/20</p>
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 **Bill's Take Out**  
Santa Maria's Original Fast Food Place!  
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**MUSIC LISTINGS** from page 35

**THE JUMP JAX LIVE AT CHARLIE'S PLACE** Keep the Holiday spirit jumpin' with the Saxophone-driven music of the Jump Jax. **Dec. 27**, 7-10 p.m. Free. 805-543-9810. Charlie's Place, 981 Foothill Blvd., San Luis Obispo.

**LIVE MUSIC AND FROG AND PEACH** Enjoy live music and craft beer seven nights a week. ongoing Complimentary admission. Frog and Peach Pub, 728 Higuera St., San Luis Obispo, 805-595-4764, frogandpeachpub.com.

**LIVE MUSIC AT MOTHER'S TAVERN** Fridays, 7:30-10:30 p.m. Free. 805-541-8733. motherstavern.com. Mother's Tavern, 725 Higuera St, San Luis Obispo.

**LUNA LIVE WITH THE VOICE'S WILL BREMAN** Don't Miss Will Breman in the Luna Lounge. **Dec. 26**, 9-11 p.m. 805-540-5243. Luna Red, 1023 Chorro St., San Luis Obispo.

**NOCHE CALIENTE** Fridays, 10 p.m.-2 a.m. 805-541-096. slograd.com. The Graduate, 990 Industrial Way, San Luis Obispo.

**SUNDAY SERENADE** Features a different acoustic act each week. Sundays, 4:30-6:30 p.m. Bang The Drum Brewery, 950 Orcutt Rd., San Luis Obispo, 805-242-8372, bangthedrumbrewery.com/.

**Y & T LIVE** Y & T will be live at SLO Brew Rock. **Dec. 28**, 7 p.m. \$25-\$125. 805-546-8600. fremontslo.com. SLO Brew Rock, 855 Aerovista Pl., San Luis Obispo.

**DJ/DANCE**

**SANTA YNEZ VALLEY**

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

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**SOUTH COAST SLO COUNTY**

**DJ CAMOTE** Thursdays, 5 p.m. Harry's Night Club And Beach Bar, 690 Cypress St., Pismo Beach, 805-773-1010, harryspismo.com.

**DJ DRUMZ AT MONGO'S** Fridays Free. 805-489-3639. mongosaloon.com. Mongo's Saloon, 359 W. Grand Ave., Grover Beach.

**KARAOKE/OPEN MIC**

**SANTA YNEZ VALLEY**

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

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

**SANTA MARIA VALLEY/LOS ALAMOS**

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



**DYNAMIC DUO**

The Cold Spring Tavern presents *Let Go Flo* on Friday, Jan. 3, from 6 to 9 p.m. This Santa Barbara-based duo performs an acoustic set of indie-rock originals. Admission to the concert is free. The venue is located at 5995 Stagecoach Road, Santa Barbara. Call (805) 967-0066 or visit coldspringtavern.com to find out more.

—Caleb Wiseblood

**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.

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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## Arts Briefs

### PCPA seeks young performers for *The Sound of Music*

The Pacific Conservatory Theatre (PCPA) is currently seeking young performers to play members of the von Trapp family in the company's upcoming production of *The Sound of Music*, which is scheduled to open in April at the Marian Theatre in Santa Maria. Auditions will be held on Saturday, Jan. 18, from 9 a.m. to noon, at PCPA's rehearsal studios, located in the Columbia Business Center.

Participants should prepare approximately 60 seconds of a song from a musical of their choosing. The song must be memorized. Auditioners are asked to bring sheet music for their song in the correct key. An accompanist will be provided.

The theater is seeking to cast young soprano singers to play Louisa, Kurt, Brigitta, Marta, and Gretl von Trapp—characters who range from 6 to 13 years in age.

Performers who are cast must be available for both runs of *The Sound of Music*—April 23 through May 10 at the Marian Theatre and June 11 through July 5 at the Solvang Festival Theater. PCPA advises that those cast will be required to attend almost all rehearsals and will be asked to miss some school time during the week during matinee performances. Rehearsals begin March 17 for the Santa Maria run and June 2 for the Solvang run.

PCPA's rehearsal studios are located at 900 E. Stowell Road, Santa Maria. To find out more about the auditions for *The Sound of Music*, call (805) 928-7731, Ext. 4119, or visit [pcpa.org](http://pcpa.org).

### NatureTrack Film Festival announces 2020 selection

PHOTO COURTESY OF MATTHIAS MAYR



More than 65 films from 21 countries have been selected to be screened and judged in the third annual NatureTrack Film Festival, which is scheduled to run March 20 through 22 at multiple venues in Los Olivos. Festival highlights include *Street Surfers* (South Africa), *Last Kings of Bioko* (Germany), *Threats in the Northern Seas* (France), and *83 Degrees: Ski the North* (Austria).

Tickets and special VIP packages for the three-day event are now available for purchase at [naturetrackfilmfestival.org](http://naturetrackfilmfestival.org), where additional info can also be found. All proceeds of the festival go to support the NatureTrack Foundation, a nonprofit that provides cost-free field trips and other outdoor opportunities to school students.

### Santa Maria Library screens *Toy Story* marathon

The Santa Maria Public Library is screening all four of Pixar's *Toy Story* films, which commenced on Monday, Dec. 23, with the original *Toy Story*. The series continues with screenings of *Toy Story 2* on Thursday, Dec. 26; *Toy Story 3* on Friday, Dec. 27; and *Toy Story 4* on Saturday, Dec. 28. Each film begins at 2 p.m.

Admission to all screenings is free. Call (805) 925-0994 for more info. The library is located at 421 S. McClelland St., Santa Maria. ○

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



**FIBER ARTIST:** The Santa Maria Public Library is displaying fiber artwork by Patricia Lipscomb (pictured) inside the Shepard Hall Gallery through Thursday, Jan. 30.

## Accidental with purpose

Shepard Hall Gallery showcases fiber artwork made from repurposed materials

BY CALEB WISEBLOOD

Influenced by Piet Mondrian, Dale Chihuly, and other abstract artists, Patricia Lipscomb strives to create art that captures life without representing any particular living subject, whether it's a plant or an animal.

"I especially admire [Chihuly's] ability to evoke life forms without depicting them," Lipscomb told the *Sun*. "My pieces generally elevate matters of form, texture, and color above all else—though at times, there are recognizable themes."

For her latest exhibition, which is currently on display at Shepard Hall Gallery in Santa Maria, Lipscomb is showcasing a collection of her fiber art—constructed from cotton, acrylic, silk, polyester, and metallic thread. The textured surfaces are mounted onto stretched canvases, she explained. And many of the materials she used were repurposed leftovers.

"All my pieces include some 'junk' materials—something literally found by accident or something that would ordinarily have been discarded," Lipscomb said, "such as leftover bits of fabric, paper or foil wrappers, dryer lint, etc."

Lipscomb emphasized the deliberate nature of her choice to employ reused materials, describing her intent to explore themes of creation in the exhibition, which runs through Thursday, Jan. 30, at the gallery, located inside the Santa Maria Public Library.

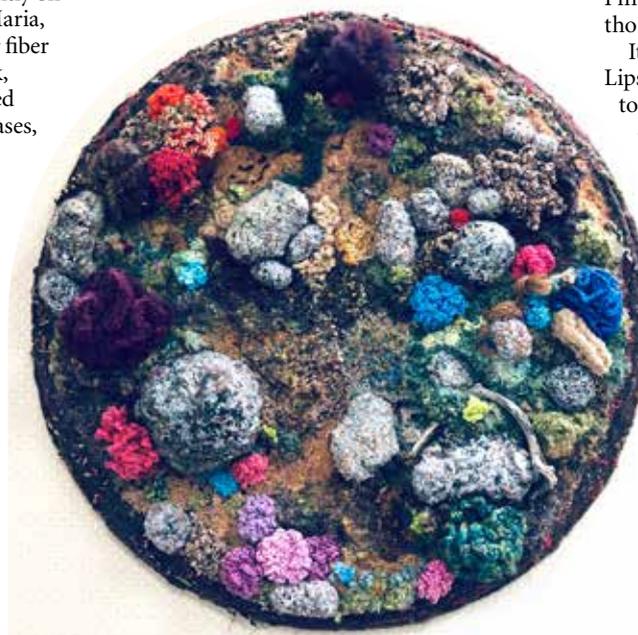
"I want every finished piece to be not merely the result of a creative process but to actually embody creation in a tangible way," Lipscomb said. "When what would otherwise

have been thrown away becomes part of an artwork, then nothing has become something, and that is the essence of creation."

Although this marks Lipscomb's first exhibit at Shepard Hall Gallery, the artist's works have

### Source of fiber

Shepard Hall Gallery is showcasing fiber artwork by Patricia Lipscomb through Thursday, Jan. 30. The gallery is located inside the Santa Maria Public Library, 421 S. McClelland St., Santa Maria. Call (805) 925-0994 or visit [cityofsantamaria.org/library](http://cityofsantamaria.org/library) to find out more.



**CIRCLE OF LIFE:** "When what would otherwise have been thrown away becomes part of an artwork, then nothing has become something, and that is the essence of creation," Patricia Lipscomb said while discussing the repurposed materials she used to create her fiber art.



**THREAD LIGHTLY:** The textured surfaces of Patricia Lipscomb's fiber art are mounted onto stretched canvases, which are currently on display at Shepard Hall Gallery.

been previously featured at the San Luis Obispo Museum of Art, Cambria Center for the Arts, and other Central Coast galleries. Outside of California, Lipscomb's art has also been showcased at the Many Hands Fiber Art Festival in Telluride, Colorado.

Early in childhood, Lipscomb dreamed of becoming an artist someday, she said. But even at a young age, it wasn't too long before she decided to put her ambition on the back burner, at least temporarily.

"I drew and I painted constantly. I imagined growing up to be an artist," Lipscomb said. "However, before I was even out of elementary school, I realized that might not be practical. So I ended up studying mathematics."

Before she knew it, Lipscomb was on her way to a Ph.D. But after teaching university-level math courses for a few years, a feeling of unfulfillment arose, just not in the arts arena quite yet. On a brand new track, Lipscomb decided to enroll in medical school. What followed was a long, satisfying career in psychiatry while also raising her four children, she said.

"With all that, I had little time for artistic pursuits. But I never lost the desire to make art," Lipscomb said. "When I retired a few years ago, I finally had the time and freedom to pursue those interests."

It's easy to see how the artistic freedom Lipscomb was granted might have inspired her to explore themes of creation. The subject—or should I say, thread—also ties in to her position that everyone has the ability to express themselves artistically, even if they're unaware of it, or within everyday regularities they might not realize.

"I am troubled when I hear people say that they have no artistic ability whatsoever. I think that what they really mean is they can't draw or paint, but then they generalize and discount all the other ways that they may be expressing themselves creatively," she said. "By clever turns of phrase when they converse, or by improving recipes when they cook for their families, or by developing a way of putting clothing and accessories together that is unique." ○

Arts Editor Caleb Wiseblood always appreciates a clever turn of phrase. Reach him at [cwiseblood@santamariasun.com](mailto:cwiseblood@santamariasun.com).

# 'For a distracted world'

Central Coast resident's new book delves into an emerging type of realism painting and how this trend reflects our contemporary world

BY MALEA MARTIN

From a weekly blogger to a published author, Central Coast resident John Seed has followed his writing on quite the unexpected journey.

During a long career as an art instructor at Mount San Jacinto College in Southern California, Seed began writing weekly art criticism blogs for the *Huffington Post* after a friend convinced him to give it a try back in 2010. Seed ended up diligently writing a blog post every week for seven years, ultimately amounting to more than 300 articles. As he reached out to artists across the nation for his blog pieces, Seed started to notice a pattern. "I began to see that in many different locations there was a new kind of realism emerging that was a hybrid," Seed told the *Sun*. "People were taking very individual approaches that were emotional, perceptual, or subjective."

After writing one of his blog posts about this "new kind of realism," the next thing the Cambria resident knew he was being contacted by an art dealer in Philadelphia, who told him, "That would make a good show."

Seed was invited out to Philadelphia in 2018 to curate a show of contemporary realist painters who were disrupting the traditions of realism in

## On shelves

John Seed's *Disrupted Realism: Paintings for a Distracted World* can be purchased at Barnes and Noble in San Luis Obispo and on Amazon. For more information, visit [johnseed.com](http://johnseed.com).



**REALISM, DISRUPTED:** Meredith Marsone's painting, *Lost Generation*, is included in John Seed's new book and is a prime example of the "disrupted realism" that the Central Coast author seeks to define.

some way. While at the show, Seed was met with yet another fateful turn for his writing trajectory.

"A publisher's representative came into the show and said, 'This would make a great book,'" Seed said.

Today, over a year since the show, the insights that once existed only in Seed's blog posts now lie upon glossy pages, bound between the hardback covers of a stunning book called *Disrupted Realism: Paintings for a Distracted World*. Within just two months of its release, the successful book has just gone into reprint.

Seed explained that the evolution of realism can be understood by considering what statements and questions painters have proposed over time. "Realist painters made a statement: 'This is what I see,'" Seed said of early realism painters.

Painters centuries ago, for example, were commissioned to do hyper-realistic portraits of people.

Then, Seed said, the invention of photography marked a key shift where that form of objective realism was no longer as necessary. It was at this point that "painters begin to

images in our lives and the rapidness at which these images are created, Seed explained. Technology like smartphones and computers allow for a whole new type of subject material that traditional realism would never have dared to touch upon.

"I think that more of those kinds

is the smartphone that the painting's subject is holding inches from her face. Images like these are one facet of this "disrupted realism" that Seed's book exhibits and unravels.

With 38 artists represented in the book, Marsone's work is just one take on this new category of art that the book works to define. As a self-described "art geek," Seed said he is thrilled to see how his book has lifted up a diverse array of artists at different stages in their careers.

"There are going to be names that people who follow painting recognize, artists that have shown substantially, that have reputations," Seed said. "And there are artists that are just beginning their careers. The cool part is that the book is very egalitarian. Everybody has the same number of pages."

Seed additionally hopes that his book will encourage readers to be as excited about this fresh style of art as he is.

"I hope that my interest and my passion for these painters and what they're doing will rub off on anyone who picks up the book," he said. ○

Arts Writer Malea Martin is reading John Seed's new book. Send arts story tips to [mmartin@newtimeslo.com](mailto:mmartin@newtimeslo.com).

## 'There's another question: "Can you see what I feel?" Realism has become personal and perceptual.'

—John Seed

experiment." Their approach shifted from a statement (this is what I see) to a question (is this what I see?).

"That introduces that subjectivity, the experience of the painter," Seed explained.

Paintings that distort traditional realism are at the core of Seed's book. With "disrupted realism," as he calls it, "there's another question: 'Can you see what I feel?' Realism has become personal and perceptual," Seed said.

One reason that these contemporary realism paintings are distinguished is because of the presence of new

of images are coming through our minds and our bodies every day, and that they're reflected in the reality that painters brings to a canvas," Seed said.

One painting in particular that Seed features in his book captures the essence of this phenomenon. Titled *Lost Generation*, the piece by Meredith Marsone depicts a realistic painting of a young woman lying on her side. Her face looks real enough to be a photograph, while all around her is an abstracted background that comes into sharp contrast with the subject of the work. But perhaps most eye catching

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## Film Reviews

All theater listings are as of Friday, Dec. 27

### A BEAUTIFUL DAY IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD

What's it rated? **PG**  
 What's it worth? **Full price**  
 Where's it showing? **Hi-Way Drive-In**  
**PICK** 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, renamed Lloyd Vogel (Matthew Rhys) in the film. Fred Rogers may not think of himself as a hero, but the majority of the millions of children who grew up watching him still hold him to hero status today. He was the adult who understood the difficulties of being a child, who comforted you when you were sad—even wrote a song for you to sing about those feelings—and took you on all sorts of adventures when you visited his neighborhood.

Lloyd is a man in need of a little Mr. Rogers magic. He has a bitter relationship with his father who he refuses to see, a new baby he can't quite figure out how to connect with, and a job he both jumps into and hides behind. His reputation precedes him. No one wants to be interviewed by the guy who turns around and writes scathing portrayals of his subjects. Yet, when tasked with writing a short piece on heroes, Lloyd is assigned Fred Rogers, who happily agrees to meet with him. The storyline here is really Lloyd's—his journey to forgiveness with his father and closeness with his new son. Mr. Rogers is the guiding light that gets him there. This film has magic sprinkled all over it, and Tom Hanks captures the calm realness of Fred Roger's to a T. (108 min.)

—Anna Starkey

### BOMBSHELL

What's it rated? **R**  
 What's it worth? **Matinee**  
 Where's it showing? **Parks Plaza**  
**PICK** Co-producer and director Jay Roach (*Austin Powers: International Man of Mystery, Meet the Parents*) helms this drama based on the true story of several women at Fox News who set out to expose CEO Roger Ailes (played by John Lithgow) for sexual harassment. The cast includes Charlize Theron, Nicole Kidman, Margot Robbie, Kate McKinnon, and Allison Janney. (108 min.)

—Caleb Wiseblood

### CATS

What's it rated? **PG**  
 What's it worth? **Rental (for first-timers); Matinee (for Webber buffs, aka Webheads)**  
 Where's it showing? **Parks Plaza**  
 Tom Hooper (*The King's Speech, Les Misérables, The Danish Girl*) directs this adaptation of the classic Andrew

FILM REVIEWS continued page 40

### 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

# Rise to the occasion

**J.** J. Abrams (*Star Wars: The Force Awakens, Star Trek Into Darkness, Super 8*) haphazardly directs the last chapter in the third and final trilogy in the *Star Wars* saga, in which Rey (Daisy Ridley) must channel her inner strength as a Jedi to lead the Resistance in the fight against the Sith. (142 min.)

**Editor's note:** Arts Editor Caleb Wiseblood and New Times Staff Writer Karen Garcia, two Rebel Alliance veterans, took over Sun Screen this week so the Starkeys could enjoy their holiday vacation.

**Karen:** Without giving away (too many) spoilers, I think *The Rise of Skywalker* definitely feels like the end of an era for this saga (although give it a few years, and I'm sure we'll get spin-offs similar to *Solo* and *Rogue One*). It only makes sense, it being the finale and all, that director J.J. Abrams feels the need to throw every card he has into this film—a

little too much nostalgia and new characters all at once for me. This isn't his first go at the franchise; he directed the first film of the trilogy *Star Wars: The Force Awakens*, in which he reintroduced old heroes like Han Solo (Harrison Ford), Princess Leia (Carrie Fisher), and Lando (Billy Dee Williams). This time around, at the start of the film, we find our young resistance leaders Rey, Finn (John Boyega), and Poe (Oscar Issac) on separate missions in the galaxy. Simultaneously, Kylo Ren (Adam Driver) continues on his war path to eliminate anyone who threatens his power, which ultimately leads him to an underground Sith leader.

**Caleb:** Of course, we're not going to name this character—although he's been teased enough in the film's trailers, which I think was a big mistake. I wish I had gone in without knowing said Sith-sayer would probably appear, but I guess they gotta sell tickets somehow. Oh wait, it's *Star Wars*. The trailer literally could have been someone writing the title on a chalkboard, and boom, take my money! What I've unfortunately come to realize during these past few days after seeing the film is: The more I think about it, the less I like it. For me, the best entry in this "final" trilogy (yeahhhhh right) was Abrams' first outing, *The Force Awakens*. That film promised so much more in my opinion than what



**BATTLING THE DARK SIDE:** As the Resistance weakens, Rey (Daisy Ridley) battles the forces behind the Sith, including the troubled Kylo Ren (Adam Driver).

its predecessors were capable of living up to. I only recommend seeing *Rise of Skywalker* in theaters because it's a sin to watch a visual spectacle of its stature on your phone for the first time. Go for the action and humor, there's a lot to enjoy in the moment, not going to try to deny it. But the actual story is frankly forgettable (minus one pretty substantial twist). Everything feels so rushed, as if the writers only cared about wrapping the plot up as quickly as possible, even within a runtime of more than two hours.

**Karen:** I couldn't agree more. What bothered me the most were the strange seemingly deleted scenes of the late Carrie Fisher that were pieced together in the film to continue the story of her character. It just felt so weird to me—who gave someone permission to do that? My other issue with the film was the one-word dialogue that came from Kylo Ren throughout the entire movie. I felt that his character could have been much stronger—not saying he wasn't strong because he did use his powers to force choke one of his followers—if he had a better script to work with. Overall the film had the right fixings of a *Star Wars* movie: narrow escapes from the bad guys, lightsaber battles, and witty banter. But Abrams' delivery was just all wrong. I almost wish I could have jumped into the Millennium Falcon and traveled through hyperspace in certain parts of the film; it lacked the dialogue and storyline that makes this franchise stand out.

**Caleb:** It's never not fun to revisit these characters, but this entry felt more like a roller coaster at times than a feature-length film (again weird, because it's more than two hours). Can you imagine if *Star Tours* at Disneyland was that long? It would be as if the lengths of the line and the actual ride traded places. But unlike said wait time, there

most definitely won't be a moment when you're looking at your watch or phone (unless it's to look something up real quick after a mysterious cameo or big reveal) out of boredom. *The Rise of Skywalker* flies by, leaving barely any breathing room for its characters. But it's a thrilling, visceral experience nonetheless. I just wish I cared more about what actually happened. The most satisfying arc the film delivers a proper conclusion to is Rey and Kylo's struggle. They're basically the only two characters I was completely invested in. Everything else feels a bit shoehorned in (including a final say on who Rey's actual parents are). Finn and Poe each get their own small share of great character moments, but nothing worthy of a supposed "finale" to the *Star Wars* saga. But maybe that's the point, as they'll most likely get their own string of adventures down the line in future spin-offs. ○

*New Times Staff Writer Karen Garcia and Arts Editor Caleb Wiseblood wrote this week's Sun Screen. Send comments to cwiseblood@santamariasun.com*



**RETURN OF THE JEDI:** Rey (Daisy Ridley) leads the Resistance into their final battle with the First Order, in director J.J. Abrams' *Star Wars: The Rise of Skywalker*.

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**ENDURING SISTERHOOD:** *Little Women* follows the lives of four sisters—Jo (Saoirse Ronan), Beth (Eliza Scanlen), Meg (Emma Watson), and Amy (Florence Pugh) (from top to bottom)—as they come of age in 1860s New England.

**FILM REVIEWS** from page 39

Lloyd Webber musical, based on the poetry collection, *Old Possum's Book of Practical Cats*, by T.S. Elliot. Over the course of a single night, a tribe of cats called the Jellicles make what is known as “the Jellicle choice” and decide which cat will ascend to the Heavside Layer and gain a new life.

I can't predict what my reaction to *Cats* would have been had I not been a longtime fan of the original musical. The current consensus on the adaptation seems to be that critics absolutely despise it (at least according to its score of 19 percent on Rotten Tomatoes), while audiences' reactions are lukewarm at best (with an audience score of 62 percent). I was actually hoping to fit in with the former crowd, but alas, I'm obliged to take a contrarian stance as there was hardly a moment where I was not smiling during my screening. I'm not kidding—or should I say, kitty-ing. Admittedly, there were a fair amount of instances where I was laughing at *Cats*, rather than with it. Still, that's genuine joy nonetheless.

Again, full disclosure: I went in to *Cats* already loving the songs. I wouldn't recommend the film as an introduction to the musical; I think first-timers are prone to become distracted by most of the laughably unsettling CGI. But if you are a *Cats* fan, or a musical lover in general, I can't stop myself from

PHOTO COURTESY OF BLUE SKY STUDIOS



**PIGEON POWER:** Super spy Lance Sterling (voiced by Will Smith) is transformed into a pigeon in order to complete an elaborate mission, in the animated action-comedy, *Spies in Disguise*.

recommending seeing this on the big screen. Even if you end up hating the gaudy production design, the most positive thing you'll be able to claim leaving the theater is you've never seen a film quite like *Cats*. It's a flamboyant mess at times, but the moving performances (especially from Judi Dench, Jennifer Hudson, and Ian McKellan) and bizarrely beautiful dance sequences made this cinematic adaptation worthwhile for me. Even its most criticized absurdities work in its favor. Don't buy in to the hate. *Cats* is far from purr-fect, but it ain't kitty litter either. (120 min.)

—Caleb

**JUMANJI: THE NEXT LEVEL**

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

What's it worth? **Matinee**

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

**PICK** Jake Kasdan (*Orange County, Walk Hard: The Dewey Cox Story, Jumanji: Welcome to the Jungle*) directs this next installment in the *Jumanji* franchise, with returning stars Karen Gillan as Ruby Roundhouse, Dwayne Johnson as Dr. Smolder Bravestone, Jack Black as Professor Sheldon “Shelly” Oberon, and Kevin Hart as Franklin “Mouse” Finbar. This time the gang returns to the world of *Jumanji* to rescue one of their own and must brave an arid desert and snowy mountain as they attempt to survive the deadly video game.

*Jumanji: The Next Level* basically carries over the same charm of its predecessor—most of which comes from its cast. Jungle antics aside, who wouldn't want to watch Black, Hart, Gillan, and The Rock hangout together regardless of the setting? Their chemistry shines through once again and gets a boost from newcomer Awkwafina as a mysterious new avatar—Ming Fleetfoot, a lock picking burglar with a strong weakness to pollen (harkening back to Finbar's absurd, explosive aversion to cake in the previous installment).

But also inherent to its predecessor, a lot of this sequel's humor comes from watching the lead actors—the cast of video game avatars—perform as their respective players in the real world. This brings to us to two more additions to the cast: Danny DeVito and Danny Glover, who both steal the show more than once as a duo of elderly frenemies who accidentally get sucked into the game with its returning players, all of whom are college students—Spencer (Alex Wolff), Martha (Morgan Turner), Bethany (Madison Iseman), and Anthony (Ser'Darius Blain).

The film opens with Spencer returning home from school for the holidays to stay with his mother (Marin Hinkle) and cranky but well-meaning grandfather, Eddie (DeVito). It isn't long before Spencer is tempted to wander into the garage and brush off a particular video game system of intrigue. Upstairs, Milo (Glover), an estranged friend of Eddie's, is knocking at the door for an impromptu visit. What ensues next is simply a case of being at the wrong place at the wrong time (or possibly the right place at the right time). Little do old-timers Eddie and Milo know, they're about to become trapped inside of a video game with a group of young adults. It's not the contrast in age that makes the team's following adventures a joy to watch. The draw-in for me is simply the notion that we're watching The Rock attempt to do a Danny DeVito impression. Try to imagine all of DeVito's best dialogue and eccentric mannerisms from *It's Always Sunny in Philadelphia* as channeled through The Rock.

On a weird, semi-serious note though, *Jumanji: The Next Level* touches upon themes of mortality and eternal youth. Both Eddie and Milo revel in their new bodies and frequently question whether or not they should return to the real world at all. But their revelry lends itself to the humor as well, obviously. Eddie particularly seems to enjoy obliterating wave after wave of enemy characters as they approach, yelling phrases like “you want a piece of me” and “come on ya bastards” (keeping it PG-13, but DeVito-heavy nonetheless). (123 min.)

—Caleb

**LITTLE WOMEN**

What's it rated? **PG**

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

**NEW** Greta Gerwig (*Ladybird*) helms this adaptation of the classic Louisa May Alcott novel, which follows the lives of four sisters—Amy (Florence Pugh), Jo (Saoirse Ronan), Beth (Eliza Scanlen), and Meg (Emma Watson)—as they come of age in 1860s New England, amid the aftermath of the Civil War. (135 min.)

—Caleb

**SPIES IN DISGUISE**

What's it rated? **PG**

Where's it showing? **Movies Lompoc**

**NEW** This animated family action-comedy, adapted from *Pigeon: Impossible* by Lucas Martell, follows suave super spy Lance Sterling (voiced by Will Smith) and socially awkward gadgets inventor Walter Beckett (voiced by Tom Holland) who team up to save the world from peril. (102 min.)

—Caleb



**HEY JUDI:** Judi Dench stars as Old Deuteronomy, in director Tom Hooper's adaptation of the classic Andrew Lloyd Webber musical, *Cats*.

**STAR WARS: THE RISE OF SKYWALKER**

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

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

See Sun Screen. ○

Sun movie reviews were compiled by Arts Editor Caleb Wiseblood this week. Contact him at [cwiseblood@santamariasun.com](mailto:cwiseblood@santamariasun.com).

**MAGIC FOR HUMANS**

When? **2018-19**

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

Where? **Netflix**

**F**ake or real, staged or authentic, *Magic for Humans* is an entertaining combination of an on-the-street magic series and sketch-comedy show.

Magician and comedian Justin Willman hosts the show, which just aired its second season on Netflix in December. Each season has six episodes of less than 30 minutes each, making it extremely easy to breeze through without overstaying its welcome and becoming redundant.

Produced by Abso Lutely Productions—the company behind *Nathan for You*—the show centers each episode on different human-based themes, like love, guilt, and wonder. The show comes across as heartfelt, IMAGE COURTESY NETFLIX



**COMEDY MEETS MAGIC:** Justin Willman hosts the Netflix show *Magic for Humans*, which released its second season in early December.

but thankfully it never gets too serious or too full of itself.

Willman, who is incredibly charming and charismatic throughout, performs illusions for random people on the street or in the park that often involve cards or making objects appear in sealed containers. These fast-paced shorter segments are shown in between larger, more elaborate illusions that somehow relate to that episode's theme.

For example, in the fourth episode of the first season, titled “Seeing is Believing,” Willman uses a crowd of people to convince two people that he's turned them invisible. It's incredibly entertaining to watch one of the participants absolutely lose it while Willman steps away for a phone call in the middle of the stunt, leaving the dude to continue thinking he's invisible.

Because this is a TV show and not an in-person performance, there's always the lingering suspicion that

**BINGEABLE**

stunts, such as making people believe they're invisible, are only possible through actors and fancy camera tricks. Willman states this isn't true during the episodes, but that hasn't stopped a lot of people from discrediting the work. Browsing through the reviews on IMDb returns a plethora of one-star reviews slamming the show for relying on green screens and camera editing.

Willman has continued to deny this is the case and has even responded to people on Reddit backing up his assertion. During an illusion in the second episode of the second season, he doubles down on the claim that the show is totally authentic while brilliantly trolling his critics.

As a reporter, I come equipped with a healthy dose of skepticism, so I understand where these critics are coming from. In one episode, Willman throws a glass bottle tied to a string into the ocean, and then throws somebody's cell phone in the water shortly after. When he pulls on the rope and retrieves the bottle, the phone is somehow inside it. I genuinely don't understand how that's possible.

But regardless, I've chosen to believe Willman is telling the truth, if only because it makes the show much more entertaining. Besides, with all of the serious shit we have to deal with on a daily basis, it's nice to just sit back and allow ourselves to be amazed every once in a while. ○

—Zac Ezzone



**Sun**

**Our office will be closed  
Dec. 24, 25 & 26, 2019 & Jan. 1, 2020**

*Wishing you Happy Holidays  
from the Sun!*



**SUGAR AND SPIRIT:** Salted butterscotch thumbprints are rolled in turbinado sugar and refrigerated before being imprinted with a divot and baked. The whiskey butterscotch sauce is added after they cool.

## Baking gifts

*A Christmas tradition that starts in the kitchen*

BY CAMILLIA LANHAM

“Seriously?” I exclaim under my breath. Exasperated, I realize now—after what feels like my millionth trip to the grocery store this weekend—that I don’t have any baking soda. It’s an essential for making Nestle’s chocolate chip cookies. And so was the granulated sugar that I had just brought back from the grocery store five minutes ago.

Lesson learned, I guess. Never assume you have a baking staple.

I refuse to go back to the grocery store. Instead, I Google whether baking powder can be used as a substitute for baking soda. Turns out: It’s not an exact replacement, but it can work.

“Sweet,” I whisper. I’m done running errands, and sugar plum fairies are starting to dance in my head. I turn on Tchaikovsky’s *The Nutcracker Suite*, plug in the Christmas lights, and survey my countertop.

Brown sugar. Check. Flour. Check. Granulated sugar and butter. Check and check. Baking powder, chocolate chips, walnuts, salt, eggs. All check.

I’m on my fourth and almost final batch of treats for the weekend. Before the chocolate chip cookies came chocolate bourbon fudge, lemon-lime basil shortbread, and whiskey butterscotch thumbprints. Next up: Peanut butter caramel brownies. It’s a lot of sugar, and I’ve unwrapped more than two packs’ worth of butter so far this weekend.

Each treat will get coupled with others, bagged, tagged, and dropped on the desks and front stoops of my coworkers and friends. It’s my Christmas thing. Baking gifts to fill bellies with cheer.

There are so many holiday treat recipes and baking websites online, it can be a little overwhelming to search. And how do you know which blogging baker is trustworthy? The answer is that none of them are trustworthy. However, I do trust *Bon Appétit* and *Food Network* (and the back of a bag of Nestle chocolate chips—it is *the best chocolate chip cookie recipe*, seriously), even

if the recipes are somewhat complicated. They’re usually delicious and, as an added bonus, they also look festive.

*Bon Appétit*’s lemon-lime basil shortbread cookies are simple, cute with flecks of green, and pack a tart citrusy sweet bite.

And I always end up with a jar of bourbon vanilla sugar to keep for myself after I make a batch of *Bon Appétit*’s bourbon vanilla fudge. You definitely need to plan for this one. It’s an endeavor, which involves splitting a vanilla bean and scraping it into Demerara sugar with a couple of tablespoons of bourbon before spreading it out on a baking sheet to dry out overnight in a 150-degree oven.

This year, I tried two new recipes—which can be risky, plus I have a teensy-weensy tendency to overestimate what I’m capable of (as is the case with the rest of my life, too).

High five to the *LA Times* and its 12 days of Christmas cookie recipes. Salted whiskey caramel thumbprints are tasty, with a little bit of salt to balance out the pile of sugar, and I’ve got a whole tub of whiskey caramel leftover to boot. It’s pretty tasty in coffee, by the way.

The *Food Network*’s Bobby Flay, though, is full of it. His peanut-butter caramel is bomb, but the bake time on his brownies isn’t long enough. Don’t be scared, he said, let those brownies be soft and fudgy; don’t bake them all the way through.

Well, I went over his 25-minute bake time by almost 20 minutes, and my brownies are still soft and fudgy in the middle. So there.

### Cookie search

To find recipes, visit [bonappetit.com](http://bonappetit.com), [foodnetwork.com](http://foodnetwork.com), and [latimes.com](http://latimes.com).

Those brownies were the last thing on my weekend gift list, and now they’re lined out on the table with everything else, waiting to be dropped in with the others.

All weekend, I spilled flour on the floor and countertop, washed dishes, wiped the kitchen down, pushed and pulled trays in and out of the oven, rolled my eyes when I realized I didn’t have something I needed, and exhaled before I made another list and ran to the store yet again!

It’s definitely amateur hour, but I secretly love it. My Grandma always had a tin full of goodies at the end of December. She would walk through the front door, and it would land on the kitchen table. Bright blue and full of surprises. Fudge, sugar cookies, brownies, and other little treats of sugar, chocolate, and love. I would struggle with the lid, full of anticipation for what was inside.

EATS continued page 43



**BOOZY CONFECTION:** This chocolate fudge has bourbon in it and drizzled on top of it.



**OFF-RECIPE:** Peanut butter caramel is swirled into the brownie batter before it goes in the oven, but don’t let the recipe fool you. It needs a little more bake time than Food Network celebrity chef Bobby Flay says it does.

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PHOTOS BY CAMILLIA LANHAM



**EASY PEASY:** Lemon and lime zest, lemon juice, chopped basil, powdered sugar, and flour are pulsed in a food processor until the dough starts to clump. Then they're rolled into balls and pressed flat before going in the oven.

EATS from page 41

The confections weren't always homemade, and I'm honestly probably not recollecting things 100 percent accurately, but that's not the point. The point is what *I do* remember: A certain joy in opening something to see what it held. And being able to nosh and nibble throughout the next couple of days, picking and choosing the delectable edible to chew in a given moment. Indulging in a smidge of rich gluttony.

Now, I make the treats, trying out new recipes every year and stockpiling the ones I like enough to make again. And I gift out the results. It's a combination of two things that make me happy: baking and making other people happy. Merry freaking Christmas! ○

*Editor Camillia Lanham is obsessed with baking once a year. Send your favorite recipes to [clanham@santamariasun.com](mailto:clanham@santamariasun.com).*



## Nibbles & Bites

- Looking for a way to ring in the new year, one chocolate-covered bite at a time? Well, **Riverbench Winery and Vineyard** in Santa Maria's got just the event for you. The winery is partnering with **Jessica Fosters Confections** to pair its sparkling wine flight with four chocolate truffles. Riverbench invites revelers to pre-purchase the handmade truffles and come by the tasting room any day from Saturday, Dec. 28, through Tuesday, Dec. 31 (the winery will close early at 2 p.m. on New Year's Eve and will be closed on New Year's Day). Foster describes her chocolate-making endeavors as an "expressive epicurean art," which encompasses Belgian chocolates blended with teas, herbs, and spices. Though the wine and chocolate pairing is designed for the sparkling wines, tasters can choose any tasting flight, including the pinot noir lineup. Tickets cost \$10 and include the box of chocolates (the wine tasting flight is sold separately). Visit [eventbrite.com](http://eventbrite.com) for tickets, and [riverbench.com](http://riverbench.com) for more info.

- The **Far Western Tavern** in Orcutt invites locals and travelers alike to its New Year's Eve dinner from 5 to 9 p.m. on Dec. 31. The meal features an entree—a choice of oak-grilled sirloin surf and turf, the tavern's bullseye steak, oven-roasted prime rib, oak-grilled wild salmon,

or oak-grilled portobello mushroom—will also include the restaurant's classic relish tray, shrimp cocktail, green salad or soup, baked potato, garlic bread, pinto beans and salsa, plus a glass of Champagne so you can say cheers to 2020. Reservations are recommended; visit [farwesternrestaurant.com](http://farwesternrestaurant.com) for more information.

- If you're itching to go back in time to celebrate the new year, you'll want to check out **Vino et Amicis'** and **Naughty Oak's** roaring party—with drinks, live music, and food. Break out those fringy short dresses, long strings of pearls, cigarette holders, and fedoras because costumes from the 1920s are strongly encouraged! Bender and Jack will play music from 8 to 11 p.m. at Vino et Amicis, and Will Breman will play at Naughty Oak at the same time. The brewery's party wristband includes any two beers on its menu for \$10; the wine bar's wristband is \$10 for a glass of wine and a glass of sparkling wine; or you can buy a \$15 wristband good for both venues, which will come together for a toast to ring in year 2020! For more information, find the venues on Facebook or visit [vinoetamicis.com](http://vinoetamicis.com) or [naughtyoak.com](http://naughtyoak.com). ○

*Associate Editor Andrea Rooks is ready to raise a glass to the new year! Send resolutions and food news to [arooks@newtimeslo.com](mailto:arooks@newtimeslo.com).*



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- It's not an issue, so the county shouldn't do anything.
- The county should create a buffer so that cannabis can't be grown within a mile of city boundaries.
- Buffers aren't needed, but the county could look at other odor-control measures.
- The county should just ban it completely. Problem solved.

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**\$2100 5386 Orcutt Rd** – 3+2, Orcutt 1stry hm just remodeled w/open flrpln, new ss appls/fridge, 2car grg, w/d hkups, lg yd/covered patio, grdnr, 1sm pet considered w/addtl \$500 dep

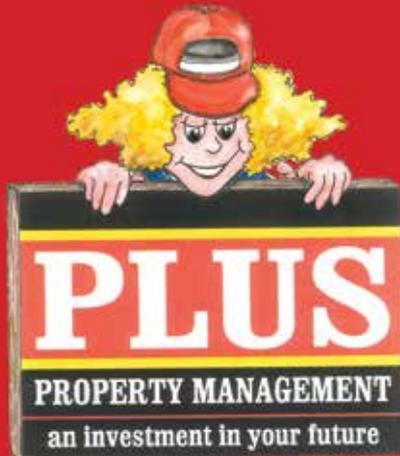
**\$1995 4604 Cherry Ave** – 3+2, Orcutt corner 1stry hm w/ huge bns rm, L/R, D/R, kitchen w/newer dbl oven, w/d, RV pkg, 2car grg, covr'd porch, tenants maintain the yd, 1sm dog considered w/addtl dep

**\$1750 1260 Jackie Ln** – 2+2, Hancock Vlg 1stry updated townhome, L/R, F/P, D/R, eat-in kit, w/d, mstr ste, lg patio, 2car grg, pool/tennis privs inc, no pets

**\$1695 329 E. Rice Ranch Rd** – 2+2, Orcutt Bluffs 2stry condo w/mstr ste u/s, balcony, L/R, F/P, priv patio, 1car det grg, w/d hkups, pool/tennis privs, no pets

**\$1295 615 E. Orange St #B** – 2+1, Single stry hm behind main house w/carport pkg, new L/R carpet, eat-in kitchen w/ldry stack hkups, tenants pay all utils, no pets

**\$1050 208A E. Hermosa St** – 0+1 (Studio), Centrally located behind main house w/it's own yd, fridge, w/d hkups, alley access, grdnr, wtr/trash,gas paid, no pets, 2ppl max



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

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

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

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

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

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