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Winning voters

Democratic presidential candidates, and their local supporters, compete for the Central Coast blue vote

BY PETER JOHNSON

NEWS Santa Barbara County's 3rd District race [7]

ARTS Interpreting the ocean in a variety of media [24]

EATS Farm conference focuses on the little guys [30]

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FEBRUARY 27 - MARCH 5, 2020 VOL. 20 NO. 52

The Central Coast's blue voters are energized for the March 3 primary, and most of that energy seems to be focused on the two most progressive campaigns for president: Sen. Elizabeth Warren (D-Massachusetts) and Sen. Bernie Sanders (D-Vermont). At least, those campaigns are the most visibly active, with volunteers holding rallies, events, and knocking on doors in Northern Santa Barbara County and across San Luis Obispo County. *New Times* Assistant Editor Peter Johnson ventures out into the world of California primary politics to find out what motivates these Democrats for this week's cover story [10].

Also this week, read about the three candidates who are at it again in the fight over the 3rd District Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors race [7], an unlikely spot for an ocean-inspired art show [24], murder at the Orcutt Community Theater [27], and the little farms that could [30].

Camillia Lanham
editor



ROUNDTABLE: Sen. Elizabeth Warren's (D-Massachusetts) presidential campaign came to Santa Maria on Feb. 20 for a Latinx engagement forum with local voters.

Cover photo by Jayson Mellom > Cover design by Alex Zuniga

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Political Watch

• **U.S. Rep. Salud Carbajal** (D-Santa Barbara) announced a bill he filed on Jan. 21 that would prevent the **Bureau of Land Management** from leasing out federal land for oil and gas development until the department releases a detailed environmental impact statement that assesses how these activities could affect climate change, air quality, water, and other measurements. Carbajal filed this proposed legislation, called the California's Land Preservation and Protection Act, in response to **President Donald Trump's** administration's decision to allow the Bureau of Land Management to lease land for oil and gas development on more than 1 million acres across San Luis Obispo, Santa Barbara, and Ventura counties. "We cannot stand by as the Trump administration pollutes our environment and auctions off our public lands, health, safety, and economy," Carbajal said in a statement. "My bill will stop the Bureau of Land Management from proceeding with any oil and gas activities that are detrimental to our environment, it promotes comprehensive research and it enhances environmental justice in our communities."

• **Gov. Gavin Newsom** delivered his State of the State address on Feb. 19, during which he touted California's strong economy and other achievements, before spending the majority of the speech talking about the state's homelessness crisis. "Let's call it what it is, a disgrace, that the richest state in the richest nation—succeeding across so many sectors—is failing to properly house, heal, and humanely treat so many of its own people," Newsom said during the address, according to a transcript his office released. The governor talked about steps the state has taken so far to address this issue, and he outlined other actions that need to be taken in the future, including a new fund in the budget proposal Newsom submitted that'll dedicate money to solutions, such as converting hotels into housing for homeless individuals. **Assemblymember Jordan Cunningham** (R-San Luis Obispo) responded to the governor's address in a Facebook post in which he said the state must solve the homelessness crisis "firmly, but with compassion," and added that the state also has to find ways to lower housing costs. "Making California and the Central Coast affordable will not be easy, but we can do it by working together to identify bipartisan solutions that put people first," Cunningham said in the post.

• On Feb. 19, **Assemblymember Monique Limón** (D-Santa Barbara) announced that she and **Assemblymember Lorena Gonzalez** (D-San Diego) authored a bill that would require insurance companies to create policies for homes in communities that meet the state's new standard for fire hardening. Assembly Bill 2367, titled Renew California, also requires insurance companies to offer homeowners financial incentives to make their homes more fire resilient, according to an announcement the California Department of Insurance released regarding this legislation. In response to the severe fires that have occurred throughout the state in recent years, some insurance companies have been writing fewer homeowner policies and increasing the number of non-renewals of homes in areas of wildfire risk, the department's announcement states. This bill is designed to correct this issue. "Since the Thomas Fire in 2017, homeowners in my district have been heavily affected by the unprecedented rates of insurance non-renewals even when the community has been working towards reducing the risk," Limón said in the statement. "I am proud to joint-author this bill that works towards creating a fair structure for insurance companies to follow while protecting homeowners and providing them peace of mind." ○

Solvang battles over the Board of Architectural Review

By trying to make the city's architectural review process more consistent, the Solvang City Council created a real headache for themselves, according to Mayor Pro Tem Robert Clarke.

"All we're trying to do is streamline things and make it easier for people to get things done in this town ... and we've stepped on the third rail from hell," Clarke said during the Feb. 24 City Council meeting. "And it's really pissing me off."

This includes comments he said the council received from what he referred to as "two very nice cliques of people," who have called council members profane names in response to changes the city is hoping to make to Solvang's Board of Architectural Review (BAR). Those changes are intended to make it so a wine shop doesn't have to wait two months to open because it needs to get their awning approved, he said.

"I'm done with BAR. I want this thing finished, and I want this thing done," Clarke said.

The BAR has been on hiatus since January while the city sorts out what to do about the issue. In a staff report for a Jan. 15 special meeting, the city said maintenance of the city's municipal code has been inconsistent, the city's design guidelines haven't been updated since 1988, and the BAR was last addressed in 1993 when the council accepted a resolution establishing the BAR. The committee is referenced in the city's general plan and municipal code, but it's a little all over the place and things are confusing, according to City Attorney Chip Wullbrandt.

"There are some things I do not fully understand," Wullbrandt said during the Feb. 24 meeting. "There are clearly some updates that need to occur. There are ... times when the design guidelines seem to be followed—to a fault—and sometimes where they aren't."

The January staff report stated that the BAR's review requirements haven't been consistently applied—allowing additions of up to 300 square feet to move forward without review while requiring BAR approval for paint color changes. During the Feb. 24 meeting, the council heard recommendations about a potential BAR replacement but decided the issue needed more public input, and it pushed any changes to the future.

Clarke wasn't the only City Council member who was upset about the way some residents in Solvang have responded to the city's efforts to make the application of Solvang's review requirements and design guidelines more consistent. Councilmember Karen Waite, who served on the ad-hoc committee with Mayor Ryan Toussaint, said the council has discovered so many processes that aren't done correctly, and it's time to start fixing things.

"I have never ever in my life been faced with such opposition when trying to do something that will benefit our community, and I'm not backing down on this," Waite said during the meeting. "It needs to be done."

Potential changes include



PHOTO BY JAYSON MELLOM

ARCHITECTURAL CITY: Solvang's Board of Architectural Review has decided the visual aesthetic of the city's iconic Danish-looking downtown buildings and businesses since 1988. The City Council thinks it's time for a change.

implementing requirements for those who can serve on the committee and renaming it as the Branding and Design Committee. Acting City Manager Xenia Bradford told the City Council that eventually, the committee would be established through an ordinance and become part of the city's municipal code. But, she also said, the city hasn't had sufficient time to receive public input on the potential changes.

Elsa Marie Petersen, who spoke during public comment on the issue, served on the BAR for six or seven years. She said that architecture is important to the city of Solvang, and one of the reasons the city has come as far as it has is because of the BAR. She admitted that the city's design guidelines do need to be updated, but she

added that it's not an easy task and shouldn't be done hastily.

As far as the changes that need to be made, Petersen said she's unsure of exactly what the City Council wants.

"It all seems very secretive and political. All we hear is that BAR don't know what they're doing. Do you know?" she asked on Feb. 24. "The City Council always talks about transparency and yet we've been given little of it. ... Most architectural towns have a BAR, and as such, I believe Solvang should too."

—Camillia Lanham

Two Sheriff's Office employees arrested for sex offenses

A lengthy investigation led by Santa Barbara County Sheriff's Office detectives has concluded with the arrest of two department employees who worked at the county jail.

On Feb. 21, the Sheriff's Office announced the arrest of Salvador Vargas, who worked at the jail as a social worker involved with inmate discharges, and Gabriel Castro, who worked as a custody deputy. According to the department, both employees have been on administrative leave since September 2018.

The county District Attorney's Office charged the men with two felonies each. The office is charging Vargas with forcible oral copulation and sexual activity with a person in custody, and Castro with forcible sexual penetration by a foreign object and sexual activity with a person in custody.

Investigations into the alleged crimes began in August 2018 after an inmate complained to a custody deputy about Vargas and Castro.

"The investigations were for criminal activities that occurred around the same time with intertwined witnesses," a statement from the Sheriff's Office said.

According to court documents, inmate Elizabeth Chandler said she witnessed female inmates lifting up their shirts to flash Castro, who in exchange would reward the inmates with red licorice or pass letters for them throughout the jail. Chandler claims to have witnessed Vargas participate in similar activities.

"Chandler said Vargas only helps female inmates who were 'willing to exchange sexual type favors for attention,'" the court document states.

Following Chandler's complaints to a custody deputy, detectives began investigating Castro and Vargas in October 2018 and turned over their reports to the DA's office in September 2019. The office filed charges on Feb. 20 this year.

In a court document a Sheriff's Office detective filed that requested the arrest of Castro, the detective details the claims of an unnamed victim who said Castro sexually harassed and assaulted her while she was in jail. According to the inmate, after she was moved to an isolation cell for an unrelated disciplinary issue, Castro reached through the food tray slot and proceeded to assault her on two separate occasions.

"[The victim] said she allowed Castro to touch her because she did not want to be in isolation anymore, and she feared reprisal from him if she did not comply," the court document states.

The victim also claims Castro inquired about her release date from jail and offered to pick her up and take her home. This led to her fear of Castro finding out where she lives, which caused her to not comply with her probation terms after being released from jail.

In the court document requesting the arrest of Vargas, a victim claims he forced her to have oral sex with him in a pharmacy parking

Weekend Weather

KSBY NEWS
Microclimate Weather Forecast
Dave Hovde
KSBY Chief Meteorologist

<p>Thursday</p> <p>COASTAL > High 80 Low 49 INLAND > High 79 Low 43</p>	<p>Friday</p> <p>COASTAL > High 77 Low 53 INLAND > High 78 Low 48</p>
<p>Saturday</p> <p>COASTAL > High 66 Low 49 INLAND > High 68 Low 44</p>	<p>Sunday</p> <p>COASTAL > High 62 Low 45 INLAND > High 62 Low 40</p>

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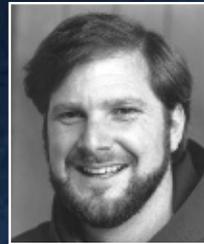
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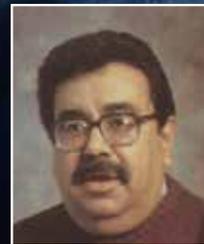
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lot while he was driving her to a residential treatment program.

According to the court document, Vargas suggested they wait in the car as the pharmacy was preparing a prescription for the victim. During this time, Vargas "begged and implored" the victim to perform oral sex on him, which she repeatedly declined to do until she felt like she had no other choice.

"[The victim] felt as though Vargas would not let her out of the car unless she complied, and that he would not leave until she relented," the court document states.

Vargas agreed to a voluntary interview with investigators, during which he strongly denied all allegations and claimed to have never had any sexual contact with inmates, according to court documents. Castro declined to give a voluntary statement. Both men are in custody at the county jail, with their bail set at \$100,000.

—Zac Ezzone

County purchases electric vehicles, charging stations

Santa Barbara County is beginning its transition of replacing its fleet of vehicles with electrical ones with the purchase of 56 cars and 71 charging stations.

Skip Grey, the county's assistant director of its General Services Department, presented plans to make these purchases at the Feb. 25 Board of Supervisors meeting.

During the meeting, Grey said the county plans to purchase 56 Chevrolet Bolts from a car dealership in Buellton, primarily through a fleet reserve replacement fund that various

departments contribute to. The total cost of these vehicles is a little more than \$1.6 million.

For the charging stations, Grey said the county is able to acquire the 71 units without contributing any funding by trading the low carbon fuel credits the stations generate to the company PowerFlex for five years. However, the county will allocate nearly \$700,000 from a contingency fund saved for unexpected expenses to the design and installation of the equipment. All of the stations will be installed in South County.

The board also approved a staff recommendation to move forward with a grant application to fund the purchase and installation of 16 electric vehicle charging stations at the county's Lompoc campus. This project would cost \$200,837. The county will pay \$52,808, and the grant would cover the rest.

These purchases are a follow-up to the Board of Supervisors' decision in March 2019 to replace sedans and pickup trucks in the county's fleet with electric vehicles—aside from those used in public safety. During his presentation, Grey said the county would need to replace 124 vehicles over the next five years, including the 56 discussed during the meeting.

Fourth District Supervisor Peter Adam was the only supervisor who didn't vote in favor of staff's recommendations. Instead, he abstained from the vote without a comment.

In the past Adam has been critical of how the county allocates funding. He often cites the more than \$400 million in deferred maintenance, such as road repairs, that the county has to address. ○

—Zac Ezzone

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Running again

The three candidates for 3rd District supervisor ran against each other for the same position in 2016

BY ZAC EZZONE

Voters in Santa Barbara County's largest district will face a familiar decision when voting for county supervisor in the March 3 primary election. The county's 3rd District covers a sprawling area stretching from Guadalupe to the Santa Ynez Valley to Isla Vista. Incumbent Joan Hartmann faces challenges from Bruce Porter and Karen Jones, both of whom ran against her in 2016. Jessica Alvarez Parfrey's name will also appear on the ballot; however, she dropped out of the race in February and has since endorsed Hartmann.

In the June 2016 primary, no candidate received a majority of the votes, and a runoff election was held in November, which Hartmann

PHOTO COURTESY OF JOAN HARTMANN



MORE TIME: Incumbent Joan Hartmann is running for a second term as county supervisor to continue the work she started four years ago.

won with about 53 percent of the votes.

Four years later, Hartmann wants to continue pushing for the priorities that have served as the focal point of her first term in office. Meanwhile, Porter and Jones both see the same failings at the Board of Supervisors that led them to join the race last time.

The incumbent

Influenced by the Santa Barbara oil spill in 1969, Hartmann has focused on environmental issues throughout her career. This includes time spent teaching environmental studies at colleges and working with the U.S. Department of the Interior, as well as the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

Hartmann continued her environmental work after moving back to Southern California from Philadelphia in the 1990s, before retiring and transitioning to the farm life in the Santa Ynez Valley.

When the city of Buellton attempted to expand its boundaries without a plan, Hartmann said she joined a group of neighbors to oppose the move and led a campaign to establish an urban growth boundary initiative in 2008.

Her role in this campaign led then 3rd District Supervisor Doreen Farr to appoint Hartmann to the county Planning Commission in 2012. Four years later, when Farr retired, Hartmann decided to step up. She credits her

mother—a nurse who took care of Hartmann's father until he passed away and then worked at a hospital caring for children with cancer—as the inspiration.

"I didn't understand that much, but over the years, I come back to the lesson of you keep taking on hard challenges, and that's how you grow and how you're able to give more back to the community," Hartmann said. "And that's the purpose of life."

Hartmann said she's proud of helping the county begin its transition from fossil fuels to renewable energy. In 2019—among other energy-related measures—the Board of Supervisors approved a strategic energy plan that identifies suitable locations for renewable energy projects and streamlines the permitting process for developers.

Her other top priority is to improve county parks. She pushed for the completion of a countywide recreation master plan, with the idea that this document will help the county and local cities apply for billions of dollars in state grant funding that's available. Hartmann has also pushed for the completion of trails around Guadalupe, including ones connecting the city to Santa Maria and the dunes.

In addition, Hartmann advocated for stronger cannabis regulations in response to some residents in the Santa Ynez Valley raising concerns about the industry. In July 2019, the Board of Supervisors passed ordinances that Hartmann pushed for capping the amount of cannabis cultivation that can take place in the county and prohibiting projects on smaller parcels of land within rural areas.

Hartmann hopes to be part of efforts to continue changing cannabis regulations while pushing for renewable energy and more parks.

"I think eight years would be enough time to follow through and really leave a legacy," Hartmann said.

The runner-up

Porter moved to the Santa Ynez Valley in 2001 after a 25-year career in the Army Corps of Engineers where he was involved in a variety of work, including construction jobs, environmental projects, and firefighting. He said while being involved in that line of work, a lot of people helped take care of his family, and now he wants to give back.

"So after we moved out here ... I wanted to make sure I became a part of the community where I could give back," Porter said.

He joined a number of organizations including the Santa Barbara County American Red Cross chapter and the Foodbank of Santa Barbara County. He also served on the Santa Ynez Valley Union High School District board for eight years. His time with some of these organizations led him to run for 3rd District Supervisor in 2016.

"I was able to look at my community through the eyes of a lot of different people, and it became really apparent to me that our county has a lot of imbalances and gaps between different groups of people," Porter said.

He's tried to approach his campaign as a series of mini-campaigns because each community in the district is so different. This means speaking

PHOTO COURTESY OF BRUCE PORTER



SECOND ATTEMPT: Bruce Porter lost the supervisor race in 2016 to Joan Hartmann in a runoff election.

with people in the Santa Ynez Valley about their concerns over highway safety and cannabis cultivation; residents in Guadalupe about the state of roads, parks, and county buildings in the area; and students in Isla Vista about their struggles with food insecurity.

When it comes to cannabis, Porter said he's not a prohibitionist, but would like to see the county stop accepting cannabis permit applications while re-evaluating the entire ordinance.

He said that the county also needs to re-evaluate how it sets its budget and allocates funding. The county has a more than \$400 million backlog of maintenance projects that continues to grow.

As for county's transition from fossil fuels to renewable energy, Porter said this is a process that needs to take place, but that the county should let technology lead the way. He said his position on an oil project would depend on the proposal itself.

"Ideologically, stopping oil production here would just mean that we buy more oil overseas, and that would be a really stupid thing to do," Porter said.

Despite losing to Hartmann in the 2016 election, Porter feels confident after making an effort to reach younger people in Isla Vista who didn't show him much support the last time around.

"We can do better with economic vitality, helping the homeless, and building infrastructure to build a much more dynamic and fair county," Porter said.

The underdog

Having been born in nearby Kern County, before moving to the Santa Ynez Valley in 1995, Jones said she has local insight that gives her an edge over her two opponents.

Jones describes herself as a "hardcore, free the slaves Republican," and not the "chamber of commerce, get off my lawn Republican." She said she's always been politically active and has organized protests and rallies, but her first foray into running for public office occurred when she ran for 3rd District Supervisor in 2016.

After an unsuccessful bid, Jones was elected to the Santa

Ynez Community Service District Board that same year. Her term ends in August, and whether she runs again depends on the outcome of this supervisor race. She also serves on the board of directors for the Santa Ynez Valley Airport Authority.

Jones' top priority isn't a specific issue, but rather a belief that would influence each decision she would make as a supervisor. She said she would view each issue that comes before the board through the filter of whether the topic at hand protects the rights of the individuals living in Santa Barbara County.

When it comes to dealing with the homelessness issue that's affecting the county, Jones said she's the only candidate with firsthand experience. When she was younger, she was homeless and lived in a Salvation Army housing unit before earning her GED diploma and working at a psychiatric ward in the 1970s and 1980s.

"I know about homelessness both from the standpoint of having been a homeless person and also from somebody who spent a significant amount of time treating mentally ill people," Jones said.

She thinks the county needs to allocate resources for more treatment beds where homeless individuals can receive care, rather than funding more affordable housing. The county should only focus on assisting local people who become homeless here, she said.

Jones said she also has firsthand knowledge and experience in the oil industry. She was born on an oil lease in Kern County and has multiple family members who have worked in the industry. She acknowledges the climate is changing, but thinks the alarmist approach to move away from fossil fuel production is overblown.

Although she's not opposed to renewable energy, Jones doesn't think it should be an area of focus for the county. Instead, she said, let the private market play out.

While Hartmann and Porter have collectively raised more than \$558,000 for their campaigns, Jones hasn't accepted any donations. She's funded her effort herself with a self-imposed \$2,000 limit. But Jones said if she's part of a race that heads to a run-off, she would regroup and think about hiring staff.

"If I get into the top two, that would be inspirational ... that would really send a message," Jones said. ○

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

PHOTO COURTESY OF KAREN JONES



SELF-FUNDED: Karen Jones, who won 5 percent of the vote for 3rd District supervisor in 2016, is running her campaign without any donations.

Counting on everyone

The U.S. Census Bureau needs local workers starting now

BY KAREN GARCIA

The federal census is around the corner. It's slated to begin on April 1.

The U.S. Census Bureau's mission is to ensure everyone is accounted for, everyone is counted once and in the right place.

To reach that goal, the bureau is recruiting to fill hundreds of thousands of temporary positions across the country, including in Northern Santa Barbara County.

Vanessa Moreno, media specialist for the Los Angeles Regional Census Center, said the bureau launched a national recruitment effort last October to hire about 500,000 temporary workers to help conduct the 2020 census, including those who are bilingual. Moreno said the census goes out in 59 different languages.

There are several positions to apply for: census takers, recruiting assistants, office staff, and supervisory staff, but the most important is a census taker. Those individuals are hired to work in their communities and go door to door to collect responses from those who do not (or can't) respond to the census by phone or mail.

Moreno said this is known as the nonresponse follow-up phase of the census and takes place later in the spring.

Office positions are available as well but are much more limited because they're located in area census offices. This role entails recruiting, selecting, hiring, training, managing, and

paying all office and field staff who work within the designated boundaries of the geographic territory assigned to the office.

Pay rates for the temporary positions range from \$13.50 to \$30 per hour, depending on location. Moreno said in the Santa Barbara County area, the pay rate is \$21 per hour.

"It's the perfect opportunity for students, retirees, part-time workers, and everyone looking to earn extra income," she said.

Applicants are encouraged to submit their applications now, Moreno said, as position selections will start this month and continue until they are filled. Most of the positions begin training and work soon after—March and April.

After the initial census responses come in, she said, the bureau plans to send staff to places in low-responding areas where people gather to answer questions and help people respond to the census on the spot. The new initiative, Mobile Questionnaire Assistance, will have locations staffed with existing Census Bureau staff who have already spent time working in their communities.

"We first plan to send staff to places in historically hard-to-count rural, urban, and suburban neighborhoods," Moreno said.

In the U.S., the census has been conducted every 10 years since 1970. The data that's collected is used to determine congressional

representation in the states and how federal funds are distributed to states and local communities every year for public services and infrastructure—health clinics, schools, roads, and emergency services.

If applicants have questions about the 2020 census job or technical issues with their application, they can call (855) 562-2020. For more information about the census and employment opportunities, visit 2020census.gov/en/jobs.html.

Highlights

- The 11th annual Green Business Luncheon takes place on March 5 from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. at Hotel Corque in Solvang. There, the Green Business Program of Santa Barbara County will be honoring a group of newly certified businesses. Guest speakers include California Green Business Network Executive Director Josephine Fleming, and Sarah Palladino and Kyle Boettcher of Toad&Co. Tickets are \$55. Visit greenbizsbc.org to RSVP.

- Victoria's Secret and Victoria's Secret PINK are now open at the Santa Maria Town

PHOTO COURTESY OF THE LOS ANGELES REGIONAL CENSUS CENTER



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ACCOUNTED FOR: The federal census will begin April 1, and the Los Angeles Regional Census Center is looking for temporary workers to aid the effort locally.

Center. They are located on the lower level of the mall near center court and Cotton On, Cotton On Kids, Justice, and Claire's. Visit santamariatowncenter.com to learn more or follow @SantaMariaTownCenter on Facebook. ○

New Times Staff Writer Karen Garcia wrote this week's Spotlight. Send tidbits to spotlight@santamariasun.com.

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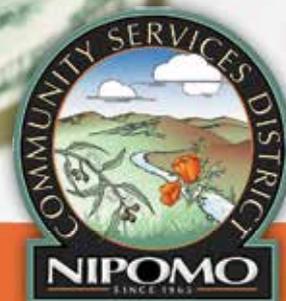
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VOTER ENGAGEMENT: Alexandria Wilcox (left) and Maria Martinez (second from left)—staffers for Sen. Elizabeth Warren’s (D-Massachusetts) presidential campaign—join Goleta Unified School Board Trustee Luz Reyes-Martin (middle) in hosting a Latinx voter engagement forum in Santa Maria on Feb. 20.

Feet on the ground

Sanders, Warren supporters mobilize local Democratic voters ahead of the March 3 primary election

BY PETER JOHNSON

Inside the small community room at Maramonte Park in Santa Maria, about 10 classroom-style chairs are arranged to make a semicircle.

As people and members of the press trickle in around 7 p.m. on Feb. 20, they’re greeted with smiles from women wearing Warren for President T-shirts, who sign them in at a folding table and ask them to find a seat. Blue and white campaign signs that read, “Win with Warren” and, in Spanish, “Juntos con Warren,” decorate the room’s white walls.

Just 12 days before the highly anticipated March 3 California primary election, where nearly 500 delegates are at stake for the Democratic Party’s presidential candidates, two staffers from Sen. Elizabeth Warren’s (D-Massachusetts) campaign have flown here from Boston. Their objective is to engage with Latinx voters in the smaller-sized, working-class, and often overlooked cities of California, like Santa Maria.

“[Campaigns] almost never come into the smaller cities,” explains Maria Martinez, the national Latinx community engagement director for Warren’s campaign. “We need to prioritize those cities—they’re important—and recognize that Latinos, Latinas, and Latinx play a huge role in the upcoming elections. We wanted to prioritize those cities and hear directly from all of you.”

Though this forum draws only about seven or so local voters, that doesn’t discourage the group from starting a wide-ranging discussion about the presidential race and its stakes for the Central Coast. Economic inequality, immigration reform, and education are all discussed as core concerns.

“My concern about the next president is they need to do something about better wages for the working class, better benefits—all those issues—and immigration, of course,” says a local named Jesse, who grew up as a farm laborer in Guadalupe. “There’s not a whole lot of jobs. Most of the folks I grew up with ended up either north or south for employment.”

While some attendees are already committed

Warren voters—a few are even regular volunteers for the Warren campaign—others are still deciding on their candidate. Victoria, a member of the military currently stationed at Vandenberg Air Force Base, tells the group that she’s just there to listen and learn.

“I just wanted to come out and be educated on my vote, and see what [Warren is] all about,” she says.

As Democratic voters across California make up their minds about who they will support in a crowded 2020 presidential primary field, the candidates and their most dedicated local supporters are mobilizing to win the Central Coast blue vote. They’re hosting forums like Warren’s in Santa Maria, canvassing neighborhoods, phone banking, and throwing debate parties—all in an effort to energize San Luis Obispo and Northern Santa Barbara county voters.

Much of the campaigning and get-out-the-vote efforts locally have been in support of Warren and Sen. Bernie Sanders (D-Vermont)—the two most progressive candidates of the six highest-polling contenders, which also include former Vice President Joe Biden, Sen. Amy Klobuchar (D-Minnesota), former South Bend, Indiana, Mayor Pete Buttigieg, and former New York Mayor Michael Bloomberg. While all six of these candidates are sure to get shares of the Central Coast vote, Sanders’ and Warren’s supporters are especially active and enthusiastic locally, coordinating closely with their national campaigns to help build momentum and boost turnout in the region.

With California playing an extra pivotal role in the primary this year due to its earlier election date (for the prior decade, the state primary was held in June, after many states already voted), the *Sun* caught up with local organizers to get the story

behind their activism amid a historic race.

“It certainly is consequential,” said Michael Latner, a political science professor at Cal Poly. “It’s the largest state, and it’s one of the most fluid. I haven’t seen this level of fluidity in a Democratic primary in quite some time. ... It really boils down to who’s mobilized and who’s down there hitting the pavement.”

Feel the Bern 2.0

Live music breathes life into the patio of Bliss Cafe on a sunny Sunday, Feb. 16, in downtown SLO as roughly 75 locals, young and old, find their way to the creekside restaurant and start mingling.

While they nibble on plant-based appetizers and sip on smoothies, SLO Mayor Heidi Harmon is maneuvering around the crowd, wearing both a determined expression on her face and a blue mechanic’s jumpsuit that has “Bernie Sanders oligarchy response team” inscribed on the back.

Harmon is the lead organizer of this “Bernie Barnstorm,” a festive orientation for locals who are interested in volunteering for the Sanders campaign. After listening to a few speakers, including one of Sanders’ California campaign staff members, the attendees will pair up and canvass neighborhoods for the 78-year-old senator



BOOST FOR BERNIE: About 75 local voters attended a “Bernie Barnstorm” in downtown San Luis Obispo to support Sen. Bernie Sanders (D-Vermont) for president on Feb. 16.

who nearly led the Democratic ticket in 2016.

That 2016 primary race against Hillary Clinton is still an excruciating subject for many of the Sanders supporters at Bliss Cafe, but especially for Harmon, who ran his campaign in SLO and served as one of his delegates at that year’s Democratic National Convention.

“I left that convention brokenhearted. Broken. Hearted,” Harmon tells the restaurant crowd over a microphone. “I felt so betrayed by my whole family of the Democratic Party. The DNC [Democratic National Committee], I felt, had really stolen that election.”

To his original supporters, Sanders’ resurgence in 2020 represents a historic opportunity at redemption—a chance to follow through on a nationwide progressive movement that he helped start five years ago.

“It’s great to have the band back together,” Harmon says, “to do what we did, I feel, in 2016, but now will be made real. And that’s to elect Bernie Sanders to be the next president of the United States of America.”

Harmon continues, touching on the positive momentum that’s taken place across progressive politics since 2016, referencing her own impromptu run for mayor and other recent outsider runs, like Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez (D-Queens) in New York.

“I was just one of many candidates that were inspired by Bernie’s run,” Harmon says. “This is why I’m so excited and supportive of Sen. Sanders as our next president. Because it is not about Bernie—it’s about me and you and all of us.”

Harmon’s excitement turns to apprehension when she alludes to the burgeoning candidacy of billionaire Michael Bloomberg, and his \$250-million-plus TV and radio advertising blitz.

“I’m so excited ... but aware that this is all very fragile,” she says. “There’s a lot of powerful forces out there and monied interests at stake. There’s a lot of people who think that their money is the pathway to essentially buying this election.”

Sanders’ appeal on the Central Coast reaches beyond the patios of events put on by local political leaders like Harmon. In 2016, Sanders earned almost half of the Democratic vote in SLO and Santa Barbara counties. While Clinton won California as a whole by a comfortable 13 percent voter margin, Sanders came within 2 percentage points of winning SLO County and just 1 percentage point of winning Santa Barbara County.

Locals attending the Bernie Barnstorm told the *Sun* that they support Sanders over the rest of the Democratic field in the upcoming primary because of his long record of progressivism, and his focus on Medicare-for-all health care, economic inequality, and climate action.

“I really appreciate his experience,” said SLO resident Dolores Howard. “He’s worked at it for his

whole life. I really admire and trust his integrity.”

Anne Pederson, a young mother and medical professional, said she was torn between Sanders and Warren before she decided that Sanders could be most trusted to make climate action a top priority.

“He takes the climate crisis more seriously than any other candidate,” Pederson said, while holding her 8-month-old child.

Betty Faas, 84, of Santa Maria, told the *Sun* that she feels he’s a once-in-a-lifetime kind of candidate. The retired teacher explained that Sanders understands how unfettered capitalism has allowed corporations to acquire too much wealth and power in the country. As a person, she said “we’ve allowed things to get way out of hand.”

“We wait a lifetime for people like Bernie, who are authentic and have spent their lives advocating for justice, people, and the country,” Faas said. “Bernie is the first person who’s spoken openly and spoken truth to power. ... He’s got everybody after him to destroy him, and it’s at a point where they’re going to have a hard time doing it.”

As the primary race moves quickly toward the March 3 Super Tuesday election, Sanders holds an early delegate advantage and also led California polls as of the *Sun*’s press time. Polls show Sanders’ support in the mid-20s percentage range, and he’s trailed by Biden, Warren, Bloomberg, and Buttigieg in a congested mix around the mid-10s.

One Sanders’ rival who’s also received considerable local buzz is hoping that a strong March 3 showing will revive her nomination odds. And her Central Coast supporters are trying to help make that a reality.

Progressive with a plan

About 20 Elizabeth Warren supporters huddle in the back room of Libertine Brewing Company’s SLO restaurant on the evening of Feb. 19. The big screen TV up at the front has the room’s undivided attention as it broadcasts the Democratic presidential primary debate from Las Vegas.

After posting disappointing results in Iowa and New Hampshire, Warren needs a game-changing debate performance tonight to keep her hopes alive. Those stakes are tangibly felt inside Libertine—conversations and banter are sparse as people’s eyes are anxiously glued to the screen.

“Hopefully she uses her invisibility to her advantage,” says Cambria resident Susan Mackey. Mackey is a retired teacher, and one of the first volunteers on the Central Coast to hit the pavement for the Warren campaign.

Right on cue, the 70-year-old Oklahoman, known for her many plans, comes out guns blazing, eviscerating first-time primary debater Bloomberg in the early moments over his non-disclosure agreements with women who’ve accused him of sexual harassment. Unflinching and assertive throughout, Warren is delivering the kind of performance that pundits afterward called campaign-saving.

The Libertine restaurant, once frozen with tension, is now buzzing with excitement. Warren supporters dance, cheer, and applaud when she lands her points and punches. What these locals say they love about Warren is her unique mix of strengths: whip-smart intelligence, dogged tenacity, and a compassionate, down-to-earth nature.

Mackey—who in her teaching career taught students with hearing impairments—explains that Warren was the only presidential candidate early on who outlined her positions on issues that impacted people with disabilities. That’s what initially drew her to Warren, and then almost everything else about the law professor-turned-senator impressed her.

“The compassion she has, she’s run a government agency, she’s been a senator, she’s smart, she has excellent policies,” Mackey says. “Everyone who’s working for the campaign are such good people, too.”

Mackey got the Warren bug, and since November 2019, she said she’s participated in more than 40 events for her campaign—from



MAYOR FOR SANDERS: San Luis Obispo Mayor Heidi Harmon is one of Sanders’ most outspoken supporters on the Central Coast.

debate parties, to afternoons of canvassing—recently even traveling to South Carolina to knock on doors for her.

Early on, the Warren campaign contacted Mackey, telling her she was “their only volunteer between Salinas and Ventura,” Mackey remembered with a laugh. In the weeks and months after that first contact, Mackey worked to recruit a still-growing coalition of locals who like Warren as their choice for president. Among those recruits is Kevin Foote, a Five Cities-area native and an eighth grade teacher at Tommie Kunst Junior High in Santa Maria.

Foote told the *Sun* that volunteering for the Warren campaign was “a no-brainer,” as he felt that “she was the only [candidate] providing the full package.” A Sanders voter in 2016, Foote, who’s in his early 30s, said that while Sanders’ candidacy stirred up a lot of excitement and inspiration for him, he thinks that Warren can deliver more substance and solutions at the end of the day.

“I knew in my head and my heart that this is everything I expect from a candidate—data, research, academics,” Foote said. “It was a no-brainer. I was like, ‘Yeah, how can I help?’”

Santa Maria-area voter Mary Ann, who spoke at Warren’s Latinx forum on Feb. 20, was also swayed by her “intelligence, passion, and integrity.”

“I just feel like she’s much more grounded in her plans,” she said during the event. “I just believe in her more.”

Overlapping movements

Warren supporter Emilio Uranga was leaving his SLO residence recently to knock on doors for the campaign when a pair of Sanders canvassers approached his house at the same time.

As soon as the two sides realized what was happening, they couldn’t help but share a laugh over their crossed paths.

“We were like, ‘Hey, keep up the good work!’” Uranga, a 25-year-old Cal Poly alumna,

recalls saying in passing.

It wouldn’t be the only time that Sanders and Warren volunteers would feel each other’s presence out on the campaign trail. When Team Sanders held its Feb. 16 barnstorm at Bliss Cafe, Team Warren gathered across town at Nautical Bean. When Team Warren recently met up at Scout Coffee in SLO, Team Sanders had been across the street at SLO Donut Company. Even at Cal Poly, when students work phone banks each week for their favorite Democratic candidate, the Sanders and Warren callers are side by side, even keeping score of their calls on the classroom’s blackboard.

It’s a rivalry that’s stayed mostly healthy and positive, according to local participants. The campaigns are amicable in part because the candidates share a number of key progressive platforms, like Medicare-for-all health care, policies to fight economic inequality, and Green New Deal climate legislation. They tend to see each other as two sides of the progressive coin.

“It’s not just about getting that one person elected,” SLO Mayor Harmon said, explaining her recent get-out-the-vote events, “but about creating a movement. And hopefully getting people excited.”

Still, with Sanders and Warren competing for the same voter base, the campaigns inevitably have their critiques of the other. While Sanders supporters deeply believe in him because of his authenticity and long progressive record, Warren voters are sometimes off-put by his idolatry and the zealotry of some of his most fervent followers.

“The ‘Bernie Bros’ kind of pushed me away. [The Warren campaign] is a less toxic community,” Uranga said.

And while Warren supporters rave about her smarts and detailed policy plans, Sanders voters feel that she’s compromised her positions somewhat in an effort to appeal to the center of the Democratic base.

That’s why Cal Poly student Rob Moore, a third-year political science major and chair of the ASU’s board of directors, switched his support from Warren to Sanders earlier in the race.

“What happened for me is Warren seemed to backstep on a few of her key issue areas,” he said. “I think Bernie is the only one calling for the change that’s truly needed. ... I think you really need to be authentic and speak your truth, and I think that’s what Bernie’s been doing for 40 years.”

Moore now has a poster on his office wall of a young Sanders getting arrested during the civil rights movement. It’s an image that motivates him to continue fighting for political change.



SHARING VALUES: Guadalupe-raised Jesse, who attended Elizabeth Warren’s Feb. 20 Latinx voter forum, said that alleviating economic stress on the working class and immigration reform are his top priorities for the next president.

On campus, Moore said there’s a palpable sense of urgency surrounding the March 3 election, with Democratic students’ support generally split between Sanders and Warren. Climate change, economic inequality, and social justice are the pressing issues of the day, he said.

“Students are a lot more tapped into this [election] than I think they have been in the past,” Moore said. “They see this as important. There is a definite energy around it.”

The rest?

While the Warren and Sanders campaigns have a strong presence on the Central Coast, the remaining four top-polling presidential candidates are far less visible.

Other than minimal buzz for Buttigieg—for whom a Paso Robles supporter hosted a debate party on Feb. 25—his, Biden’s, Klobuchar’s, and Bloomberg’s campaigns reported no other recent activity along the coast from Paso Robles to the Santa Maria Valley, according to their respective websites.

Despite the lack of on-the-ground movement, that doesn’t mean there aren’t Democrats on the Central Coast who are voting for one of the more moderate candidates. Whether it’s because their politics are more in the center, or because they don’t think a progressive has a great chance of beating President Trump in a general election, local Democrats who are less gung-ho about Sanders and Warren will be filling out ballots, too.

Dan Cook, president of the Atascadero Democratic Club, is one local voter in that boat. He said he’s leaning toward supporting Klobuchar in the primary.

“I think a middle-of-the-road person, who can bring Iowa and Michigan along, has a higher chance of winning than someone like Bernie or Elizabeth, who inspire a really fervent response in a certain sector of voters but not everyone,” Cook said.

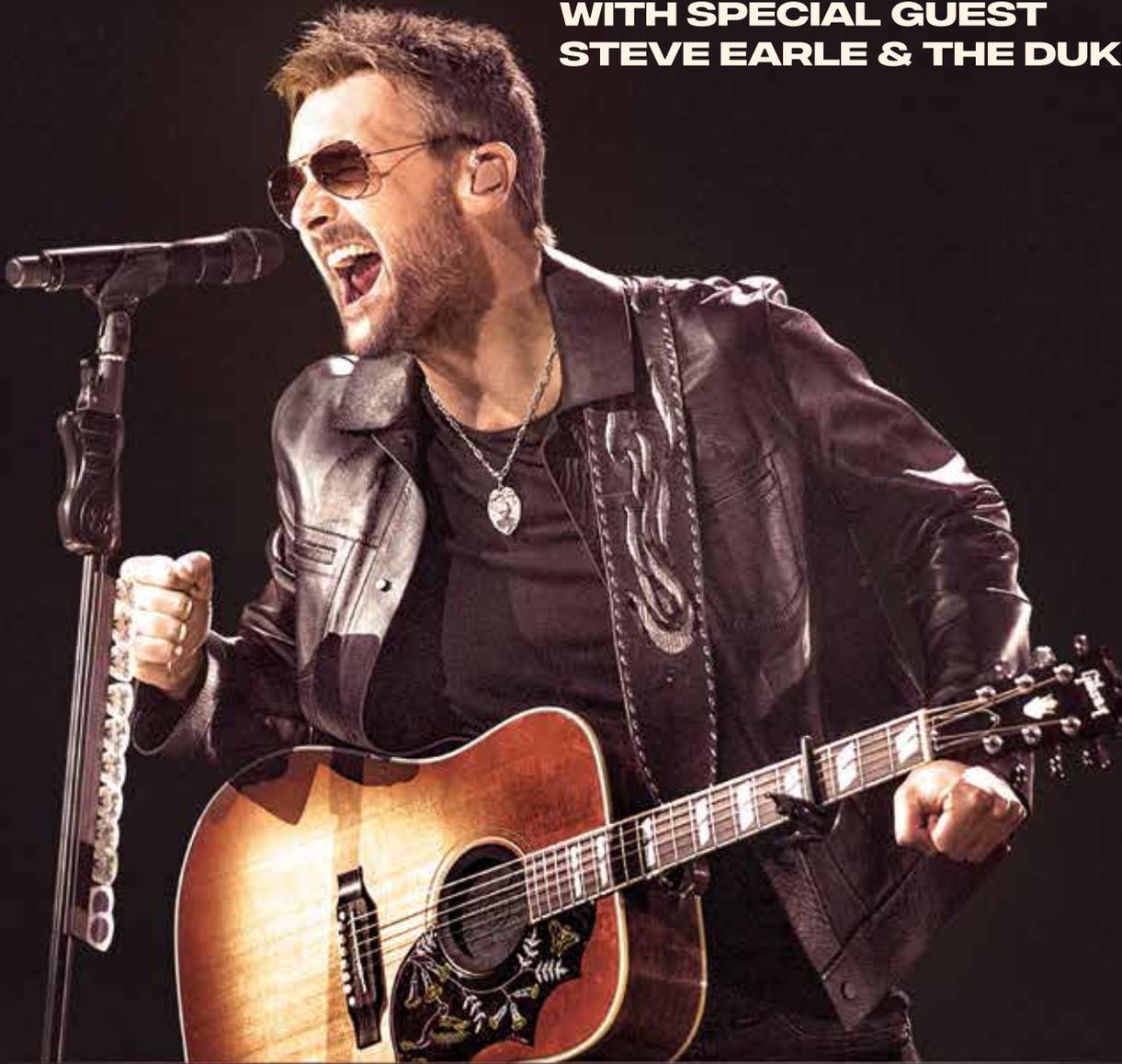
Regardless of which candidate local Democrats end up choosing on March 3, Central Coast voters of all political stripes achieved one common objective: a historic turnout. On Feb. 21, SLO County announced that a record number of voters both registered for the primary election (176,343) and asked for a vote-by-mail ballot (about 144,000).

“We’re having a more robust democratic process,” Harmon said of this year’s primary, “and I’m grateful for that.” ○

Contact New Times Assistant Editor Peter Johnson at pjohnson@newtimeslo.com.

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Strategic thinking

It's time for a change of strategy to address Lompoc's deteriorated public safety infrastructure

BY RON FINK

The City Council and the citizens of Lompoc have clearly stated that public safety is their No. 1 priority. Public safety infrastructure consists of several components: people, communications, facilities, and rolling stock of both police and fire departments.

Enough people adequately trained and compensated are needed to deliver police and fire services. Over the last decade, police staffing authorizations have been reduced from a high of 54 sworn officers to the current 44. These reductions occurred as the city grew, and as the population and crime increased.

While fire department staffing has increased, the loss of \$500,000 from their budget to maintain minimum staffing has created challenges. Cutting the fire marshal position hampers the ability of the fire department to prevent fires and assure that building plans are checked in a timely manner.

Acquiring qualified personnel is a challenge in any police or fire department, but when Lompoc pays substantially less than surrounding organizations in the county, it makes it a lot harder. It's been several years since the police department has been at full authorized strength and staffing from units such as the gang, narcotics, and traffic, which are key to crime prevention, have been transferred to patrol.

Communications: according to a report delivered to the council on Feb. 18 radios, "are not suitable and have outlived their usefulness. The [police department] radios currently in use have outlasted their lifespans (30-plus years). Lompoc has the oldest radios within the county of Santa Barbara."

In other words, the police department—

which also serves the fire department and the utilities services dispatch function after normal working hours—doesn't have the right tools to perform the communication function.

Facilities: The staff report explains police department facility concerns this way, "The main core of the police station was built in 1958 followed by renovation in 1986 and 1996. The age and condition of the (HVAC) system prevents consideration for repairs or upgrades." Employees and visitors note a black dust blowing out of the vents; it is inexcusable to ask employees to work in substandard conditions due to the system's inability to provide heating and proper ventilation.

The fire department also has facility concerns: "A structural assessment dated Jan. 3, 2020, recommended certain structural improvements for Fire Station 1 should be addressed immediately and a plan should be developed for total replacement within five years."

Station 1 lacks a proper ventilation system for diesel exhaust; this puts firefighters housed in this station at an increased risk for cancer. The upstairs shower cannot be used because it leaks into offices below. It is inexcusable to ask city employees to spend 24 hours in these conditions.

"Fire Station 2 was built as a temporary fire station in 1985. Station 2's quarters are tight for three personnel, and the apparatus room can barely house two engines. It also needs gender-segregated facilities and Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) compliance. The three past fire chiefs have made requests to rebuild/relocate Station 2."

Rolling stock: "The entire [police department] patrol fleet is in dire need of replacement. Current support vehicles are between 6 and 24

years old and require replacement. Some of the vehicles have experienced catastrophic failure and have been removed from service." The police department requires 18 vehicles 24/7 to serve the city. Four replacements have been in procurement but have not arrived.

Fire department vehicles are in similar condition. "The current ladder truck is 27 years old and, although it has been fairly reliable, the manufacturer is no longer in business and all replacement parts must be custom made. The National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) recommends any fire apparatus over 25 years old be replaced in order to maintain firefighter safety and to avoid fire ground compromises caused by equipment failure."

"The two current frontline engines are 12 and 18 years old, with a reserve engine that is 22 years old with over 100,000 miles. On average, a fire engine's useful life is approximately 20 years. The current frontline wildland engine is 6 years old, and the reserve wildland engine is 28 years old."

New fire equipment can take up to a year to build and deliver; in order to meet replacement equipment needs, those orders need to be placed this year.

The staff report suggests that it may take more than \$20 million to bring public safety facility/vehicle needs up to an acceptable standard; after that a sustained budget to amortize future replacements would need to be established.

This is called strategic thinking, and so far that is a quality that has been lacking in our city's government for several decades. It's time for a change of strategy in order to meet the public's expectation for an adequate public safety program in both police and fire departments.

The city manager said that he and the Management Services director are redesigning the amortization process to align more closely with the realities of financing public safety equipment; this is a positive step, and we'll have to wait and see how it works out. He didn't say what they were doing about the facilities.

After the staff confirmed that funds were accumulated to amortize some fire equipment at 10-year intervals and others at 20-year intervals, Councilman Jim Mosby implied that money the council had allocated for equipment was somehow being diverted for other uses. This claim went unanswered.

At the end of this discussion, Mayor Jenelle Osborne sadly pointed out that there was no funding available to address these serious issues. She suggested, however, that this report could be used as a basis to apply for grant funding to help pay for needed facilities and equipment. This may take years to accomplish; the need is now, not tomorrow.

The council then voted unanimously to "accept the report" and moved on to the next subject. ○

Ron Fink writes to the Sun from Lompoc. Send your thoughts, comments, and opinionated letters to letters@santamariasun.com.

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

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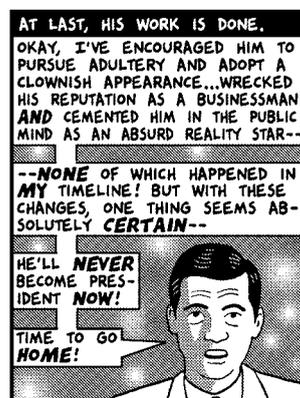
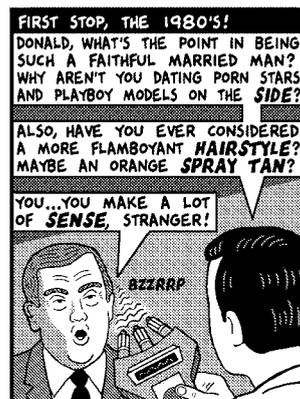
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THIS MODERN WORLD

by TOM TOMORROW



Tom Tomorrow © 2020

LETTERS

Two qualified candidates are running for the 3rd District

Did you know that not "everybody has the right to live in Santa Barbara County"? That's according to Karen Jones, candidate for the 3rd District county supervisor seat currently held by Joan Hartmann, contested by Jones and retired U.S. Army Col. Bruce Porter.

Jones described her two opponents as out-of-state federal retirees in a pejorative that shows her disdain for the educated and those

LETTERS continued page 14



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LETTERS from page 13

with substantial experience in governance. Apparently you have to be born where she was to be qualified for public office in California. Hartmann has a Ph.D. in environmental law and is a former attorney who worked for the EPA. Porter is a graduate of West Point and a Bronze Star recipient for his service during Operation Desert Storm.

Jones touts her experience with the Santa Ynez Valley Airport Authority (SYVAA). I have worked with Jones on the membership committee of the SYVAA and can say from personal experience that Jones is woefully unqualified for any position on a public board as she has shown an inability to perform any meaningful work, relies on the work of others and then claims the work to be hers, and regularly misunderstands what is going on.

Additionally, Jones has regularly violated provision of the Brown Act that allows the public to know the workings of public agencies. Jones has not published agendas or minutes from the public meetings of the membership committee as required, keeping the workings of that committee secret from the membership.

More egregiously, in September of 2019, she demanded that information discussed during a public meeting of the membership committee not be published in the SYVAA's own newsletter, keeping this important information from the membership in violation of the Brown Act.

Jones then again violated the Brown Act by holding a serial meeting by email with all the other members of the board seeking support for her position.

Ultimately, Jones supported the cancellation of the airport's newsletter, denying the SYVAA membership information on the activities of the board and her committee.

Jones' actions towards fellow board members have shown her duplicitous nature in her scheming to force another board member to resign from the board. Jones cannot be a trustworthy member of a board she seeks to undermine.

There are only two well-qualified candidates for the 3rd District supervisors seat: Joan Hartmann and Bruce Porter. Choose one.

Robert Perry
Former Buellton Planning Commissioner

Vote for someone who will get things done

Santa Barbara County's 3rd District needs bold new leadership. Take a look around at our public spaces, roads, and bridges. The disrespect and disrepair is evident. Lackluster leadership has left us with conditions that resemble third world nations.

Let's put a person in charge with an engineering background and a backbone, to stand up and reason with others. He won't let projects stall and won't let the public good get buried in bureaucracy. He has common sense.

Bruce Porter can cut through to the heart of the problem and find ways to move forward without alienating everyone in the process. I've personally seen Bruce's success in our Santa Ynez Valley High School. Our old infrastructure from 1936 was failing. Under his board leadership the school successfully passed a much-needed bond to make the school safe again.

We need a strong person representing our 3rd District. Someone who believes in education, the common good of our citizens, has a positive attitude, and a background of getting things done.

Please consider Bruce Porter, the man that gets along with people, to be our new Santa Barbara County 3rd District Supervisor. Don't forget to vote!

Christine Burtress
Santa Ynez

Small town tiff

You can tell that Solvang City Council members are obviously frustrated with their whole push to make the city a better, more tourist-filled, business-centric kind of town. Their disdain for the residents who are fighting against the change just falls out of their mouths.

"Why doesn't anyone understand us?" they whine from the dais.

Mayor Pro Tem Robert Clarke was shaking with anger during the Feb. 24 meeting. He said he was surprised about the level of "vitriol" aimed at council members over their desire to change up the Board of Architectural Review (BAR), complaining that the council had been called names like "chicken-s's." And Clarke had just got done calling the move to streamline the city's permitting and review processes the "third rail of hell."

"It's really pissing me off," he said. "I'm done with BAR. I want this thing finished, and I want this thing done."

Oh, really? Those words are inspiring! Not a hint of vitriol in them at all. A truly great way to bring the community together. The best.

Solvang residents show up at the beginning of every meeting to tell council members that what they've said in the past is wrong. Chris Nielsen from the Solvang Theaterfest, was there on Jan. 27 because Councilmember Chris Djernaes made a statement about how Theaterfest turned the city down for Julefest. In fact, Nielsen said, Theaterfest told the city that the venue was available for 25 of the days in December.

"Theaterfest would have been happy to be able to support Julefest, but we never heard back after that," Nielsen said.

Oops.

Community Resource Deputy Charlie

Uhrig was upset by what he characterized as "misinformation" contained in a staff report from Acting City Manager Xenia Bradford. The position costs about \$250,000 a year, according to the staff report, and council members referred to it as a position that doesn't deal with much other than traffic control. Totally useless, amirite?

"Mayor [Ryan] Toussaint said to take Charlie out of it and focus on the position only. That made me feel great," Uhrig said during public comment on Feb. 24.

Way to go mayor!

Uhrig said that he deals with traffic, but also code enforcement, homelessness issues, panhandlers, and parking—among other things. Plus, because of grants, the position has cost the city a total of \$27,000 for the last two fiscal years combined. Sounds like a lot less than \$500,000, amirite?

Is it just me or are Bradford and City Attorney Chip Wullbrandt in way over their heads? What the hell is going on over there? Wullbrandt told the council during the Feb. 24 meeting that a planning expert would best be able to answer their questions about how to move forward with changing up BAR and the city's design guidelines.

So why is the city trying to push forward without a planning director?

What idiot got elected and thought, "Making change will be easy!"

Umm, guys, it's government. Not a business. Things move slowly. People get pissed. Vitriol stains everything.

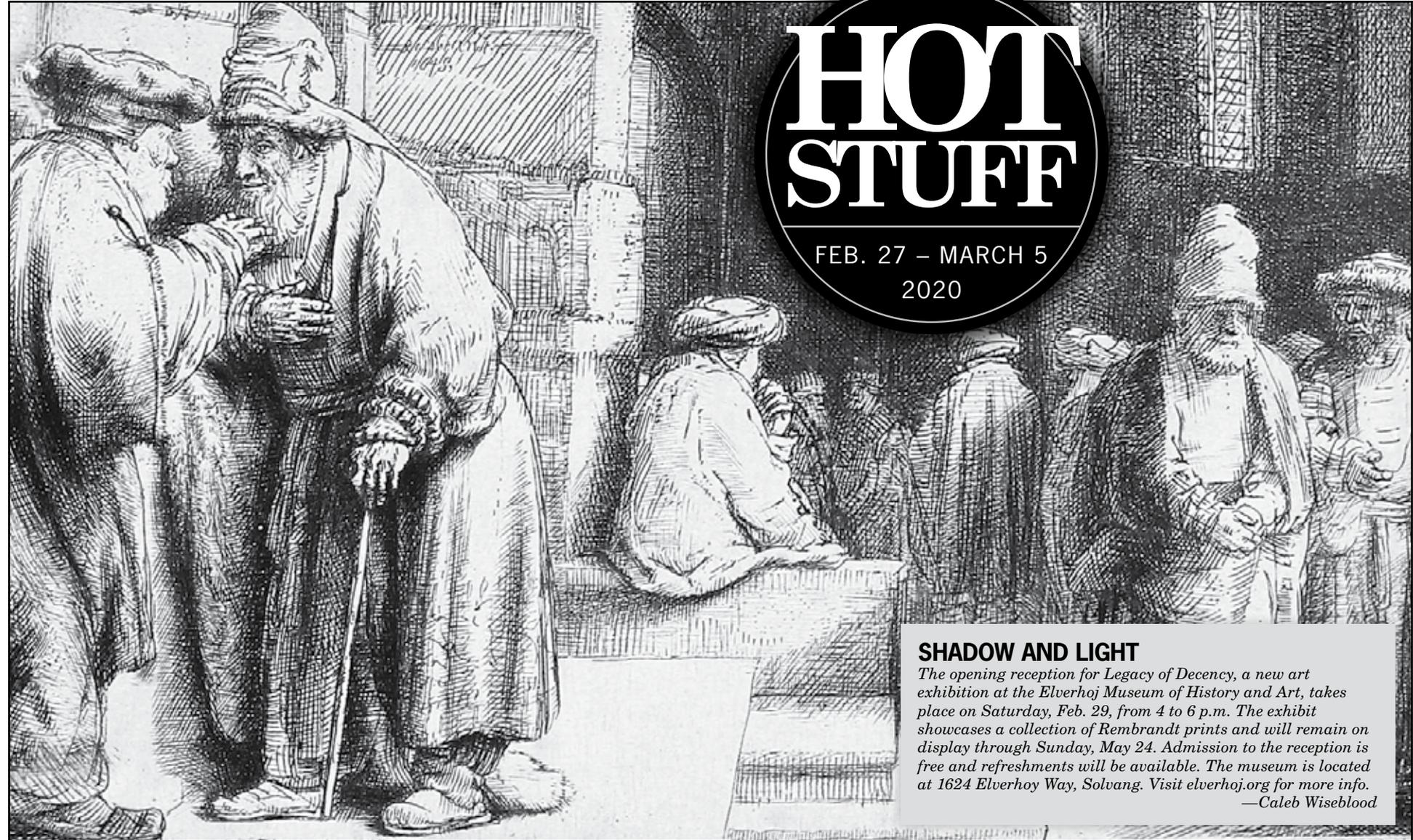
Better get used to it—and get your facts straight. ○

The canary is in charge of vitriol-spewing! Send comments through canary@santamariasun.com.



HOT STUFF

FEB. 27 – MARCH 5
2020



SHADOW AND LIGHT

The opening reception for *Legacy of Decency*, a new art exhibition at the Elverhoj Museum of History and Art, takes place on Saturday, Feb. 29, from 4 to 6 p.m. The exhibit showcases a collection of Rembrandt prints and will remain on display through Sunday, May 24. Admission to the reception is free and refreshments will be available. The museum is located at 1624 Elverhoy Way, Solvang. Visit elverhoj.org for more info.
—Caleb Wiseblood

IMAGE COURTESY OF THE ELVERHOJ MUSEUM OF HISTORY AND ART
SAN LUIS OBISPO

SPECIAL EVENTS

SANTA MARIA VALLEY/LOS ALAMOS

"I HAVE A DREAM" TREE Celebrate Black History Month with the library. Stop by Youth Services to write or draw your greatest hopes to be placed on our Dream Tree. Through Feb. 29 Free. 805-925-0994. cityofsantamaria.org. Santa Maria Public Library, 421 S. McClelland St., Santa Maria.

GREEN IS THE THING: ST. PATRICK'S DAY PARTY The Santa Maria Valley Sr. Club presents this dance party, featuring Riptide Big Band and vocalist, Bob Nations. Free admission, thanks to grant funding from Community Foundation of San Luis Obispo County. Dress ready to celebrate St. Patrick's Day. **March 8**, 1:30-4 p.m. Free. 775-813-5186. RiptideBB.com. Elwin Mussell Senior Center, 510 Park Ave., Santa Maria.

PUBLIC HEALTH AND SAFETY WORKSHOP The public is invited to provide input at a series of workshops around the state, including one in Santa Maria, as the Department of Conservation develops new health and safety regulations for the oil and gas industry. **March 4**, 6-8 p.m. Free. 916-322-7323. conservation.ca.gov. Santa Maria Veterans Memorial Center, 313 W. Tunnell St., Santa Maria.

SOUTH COAST SLO COUNTY

DINOSAUR WORLD LIVE Interactive show perfect for the whole family. Grab your compass and join our intrepid explorer across uncharted territories to discover a pre-historic world of astonishing dinosaurs. **March 5**, 7-8:30 p.m. \$29-\$40. 805-489-9444. clarkcenter.org. Clark Center for the Performing Arts, 487 Fair Oaks Ave., Arroyo Grande.

SAN LUIS OBISPO

BEDA'S BIERGARTEN'S LEAP BEER (YEAR) PARTY A party this good only comes around every 4 years. Beda's Leap Beer features 8 beers, 2 bands (The Topsy Gypsies and Short Attention String Band), dinner, dancing, and more. **Feb. 29**, 4-10 p.m. \$15 to \$70. 805-439-2729. Odd Fellows Hall, 520 Dana St., San Luis Obispo.

MICRO-HOME COMMUNITIES AND TINY HOUSES ON WHEELS Local affordable housing nonprofit SmartShare Housing Solutions invites you to come learn about tiny homes on wheels and other sustainable, smaller housing options in SLO. Special guest presentation from Cal Coastal Properties, developer of Grand Oaks Paseo, a new micro-home community in Atascadero. **Feb. 27**, 6-8 p.m. Free. 805-215-5474. smartsharehousing.com. SLO Guild Hall, 2880 Broad St., San Luis Obispo.

SLO COMEDY FESTIVAL Bringing you the best

performers from the entire festival, you know they'll be great because you choose them. Audience members from Saturday vote for their favorite comedians to be on this show. **March 1**, 6:30-11 p.m. \$30. 805-329-5725. fremontslo.com. The Fremont Theater, 1035 Monterey St., San Luis Obispo.

SPECIAL WOMEN'S RETREAT: VULNERABILITY AND CREATIVITY Hosted by Jessi Stout and Emily Hay. Unleash your artistry during this special retreat. Overnight lodging options available. **Feb. 29**, 10:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m. stonemountainretreat.life. Stone Mountain Retreat, Coastal Retreat Property, San Luis Obispo.

FUNDRAISERS

SANTA MARIA VALLEY/LOS ALAMOS

ETHNIC FOOD FAIRE AND SPRING OPEN HOUSE Features homemade foods from Russia, Greece, Romania, and Syria. Call for more details. **March 7**, 10 a.m.-2 p.m. No entry fee. 805-264-2128. odox.org. Orthodox Church of the Annunciation, 877 Francine Ln., Santa Maria.

SOUTH COAST SLO COUNTY

SIXTH ANNUAL HOPE FOR THE HOMELESS GOLF TOURNAMENT This benefit for the 5Cities Homeless Coalition features a nine-hole scramble, with cash and prizes for exceptional plays and first and second team winners. The price includes includes morning coffee and pastries, green fees, and a tri-tip lunch and dessert. **March 1**, 7 a.m. 805-574-1638. 5CHC.org. Pismo Beach Golf Course, 25 West Grand Avenue, Grover Beach.

SAN LUIS OBISPO

41ST ANNUAL SLOFOL BOOK SALE Over 30,000 books for all ages, DVDs, CDs and more. All proceeds benefit SLO Library. **March 5-7**, 12-5 p.m. Free. slofol.org. San Luis Obispo Vets' Hall, 801 Grand Ave., San Luis Obispo, 805-781-5930.

BUILDING THE GREEN FUTURE

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

Come learn about sustainable living at AmbioClub's first green building fair. Non-profits and green businesses will be on hand to talk to the public. **Feb. 29**, 1-5 p.m. Free. 805-235-0508. Ludwick Community Center, 864 Santa Rosa, San Luis Obispo.

NORTH SLO COUNTY

SIP FOR SCHOLARS A benefit for the Vineyard Team Educational Scholarship Fund. Enjoy a walk around tasting with light appetizers from the award-winning Niner restaurant. **Feb. 28**, 5:30-7:30 p.m. \$30. 805-466-2288. sipcertified.org/events/details/sip-for-scholars/. Niner Wine Estates, 2400 Hwy 46 West, Paso Robles.

ARTS

CLASSES & WORKSHOPS

SANTA YNEZ VALLEY

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

SANTA MARIA VALLEY/LOS ALAMOS

COMPUTER DROP-IN WORKSHOP This is a drop-in workshop. Patrons will be able to choose the computer topics they would like to cover. **March 4**, 5-6 p.m. 805-925-0994 ext. 8562. Santa Maria Public Library, 421 S. McClelland St., Santa Maria.

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.

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SUBMIT YOUR EVENTS

CA ENERGY CODE UPDATES The new Title 24 energy code is here. The series will highlight major code changes, offer cost-effective details on construction assemblies, and provide guidelines for sizing your project's PV system for residential and non-residential projects. **Feb. 27**, 3:30-5 p.m. \$10. 805-543-7330. SLO County Builders Exchange, 153 Cross St #130, San Luis Obispo, slocbe.com.

SEXUAL HARASSMENT AND BULLYING PREVENTION TRAINING STATE-MANDATED COURSES Employment law firm LightGabler is offering state-mandated sexual harassment and abusive conduct prevention seminars for supervisors and for non-supervisor employees. Topics include prevention of harassment, discrimination, retaliation and abusive conduct (bullying) in the workplace. **March 4**, 8:30 a.m. \$25-\$50. 805-248-7089. lightgablerlaw.com. Embassy Suites, 333 Madonna Rd., San Luis Obispo.

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.

LOCAL ARTIST IRINA MALKMUS: RECEPTION Art lovers can meet artist Irina Malkmus and find out more about her process and vision during a reception that's open to the public. **March 5**, 4-6 p.m. Free. 805-938-9724. Ameriprise Financial, 2605 S Miller St., suite 104, Santa Maria.

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.

OPENING RECEPTION FOR FAKE NEWS Join the San Luis Obispo Museum of Art to celebrate the opening of "Mark Bryan: Fake News." This exhibition features political satire and pop-surrealism paintings. **March 6**, 6-9 p.m. Free. 805-543-8562. slo.org/exhibition/mark-bryan-fake-news/. San Luis Obispo Museum of Art, 1010 Broad St., San Luis Obispo.

REEL ROCK 14 Screening will be held in downtown SLO at the Fremont Theater. The Reel Rock Film Tour, one of climbing's greatest celebrations, returns this fall with a new collection of world premiere films. **Feb. 28**, 6-11 p.m. \$9.

ARTS continued page 16

PRIVATE PARTIES:

List your **FOR SALE** items **FOR FREE** in our classifieds!

Private parties may run **FREE** classified ads in the **FOR SALE** and **AUTOS/BOATS** sections.

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fremontslo.com. The Fremont Theater, 1035 Monterey St., San Luis Obispo, 805-546-8600.

EXHIBITS

SANTA YNEZ VALLEY

NEIL ANDERSSON Andersson is the gallery's featured artist for the month of March. **March 1-31** Free admission. gallerylosolivos.com. Gallery Los Olivos, 2920 Grand Ave., Los Olivos, 805-688-7517.

NEW VISIONS Gallery Los Olivos welcomes new artist, Britt Friedman. She is exhibiting with Sheryl Knight the month of February in a show titled New Visions. Through Feb. 29, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. 805-688-7517. [Gallery Los Olivos](http://gallerylosolivos.com), 2920 Grand Ave., Los Olivos, gallerylosolivos.com.

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.

STARRY NIGHTS: VISIONS OF THE NIGHT SKY Celebrates the awe-inspiring beauty and mystery of the night across a range of media, including painting and photography, as well as poetry curated by Dan Gerber. Mondays, Wednesdays-Sundays, 11 a.m.-5 p.m. through June 15 Free-\$5. 805-688-1082. wildlingmuseum.org/news/starry-nights-visions-of-the-night-sky. Wildling Museum of Art and Nature, 1511-B Mission Dr., Solvang.

SANTA MARIA VALLEY/LOS ALAMOS

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

FEATURED ARTIST: ESTHER BARTLETT The Santa Maria Public Library will be exhibiting the art of Central Coast artist, Esther Bartlett. 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 March 5, Free. 805-925-0994. 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 Dworaczyk, to spotlight local art and artists. Each show includes an artist reception. ongoing Ameriprise Financial, 2605 S Miller St., suite 104, Santa Maria.

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

SOUTH COAST SLO COUNTY

CHRIS VAN WINKLE: A WATERCOLOR RETROSPECTIVE RECEPTION Come join DANA and the Van Winkle family for a reception and celebration of Chris' work. Refreshments will be served. **March 1**, 1-2 p.m. \$5; free for DANA members and children under 12 years of age. 805-929-5679. danaadobe.org. DANA Adobe Cultural Center, 671 S. Oakglen Ave., Nipomo.



CALLS FOR ARTISTS

SAN LUIS OBISPO

CALL FOR ARTISTS: CALIFORNIA SCULPTURE SLAM Through March 8, noon 8055438562. sloma.org/call_for_artists/california-sculpture-slam-2020/. San Luis Obispo Museum of Art, 1010 Broad St., San Luis Obispo.

CALL FOR ARTISTS: ROMANCING THE ADOBES This California-wide juried exhibition features artworks celebrating the historic California Adobes and the Californio lifestyle. Artists are welcome to explore whatever subject matter they wish in regards to the Adobes. All 2D media is eligible. Through May 3, noon 805-543-8562. artist.callforentury.org. San Luis Obispo Museum of Art, 1010 Broad St., San Luis Obispo.

STAGE

SANTA MARIA VALLEY/LOS ALAMOS

WEST SIDE STORY Drama students from Pioneer Valley, Righetti and Santa Maria High Schools combine their talents to perform this iteration of the classic musical. **Feb.**

ARTS continued page 18

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Tala

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Central Coast Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals

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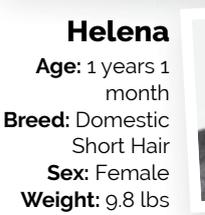
ADOPT!

Adoptable Pets of the Week



Ranger

Age: 5 years 9 months
Breed: Border Collie
Sex: Male
Weight: 98 lbs.



Helena

Age: 1 years 1 month
Breed: Domestic Short Hair
Sex: Female
Weight: 9.8 lbs

All animals are health checked, spayed/neutered, vaccinated and microchipped.



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Arctic Monkeys and Old Lace
SELECT DATES
THRU MARCH 1
Klein Dance
Arts Studio



Rick Estrin & The Nightcats:
SLO Blues
Society
SATURDAY,
FEBRUARY 29
SLO Veterans Hall



Hope for the Homeless Golf Tournament
SUNDAY, MARCH 1
Pismo Beach
Golf Course



Sisters of the Earth: A Heart Centered Mastermind Experience
THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 27
Center for Spiritual Living



Fleetwood Dreams - A Fleetwood Mac Tribute Show
FRI. & SAT., FEB 28 & 29
D'Anbino Tasting Room



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



Squid Dissection Saturdays
SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 29
Central Coast Aquarium



A Celebration of Joni Mitchell feat. Kimberly Ford
SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 29
San Luis Obispo Guild Hall



Jiu Jitsu Semindar with Professor Albert Gonzales
SATURDAY, MARCH 7
SleepingTiger Fitness



Highway 46 West Wine Safari
MARCH 7 & 8
Paso Robles
Highway 46 West Wineries



Dan Fogelberg Tribute
TUESDAY, MARCH 10
The Savory
Palette



12 Angry Jurors
MARCH 13-APRIL 5
By The Sea
Productions



Comedy Magic
FRIDAY, MARCH 13
D'Anbino
Tasting Room



The Red Velvet Cake War
MARCH 13-19
Santa Maria
Civic Theatre



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



Guttermouth Concert at the Castle
SATURDAY, MARCH 14
Tooth & Nail Winery



Zoo Trivia Night
SATURDAY, MARCH 14
Charles
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MY805TIX BOX OFFICE IS NOW OPEN

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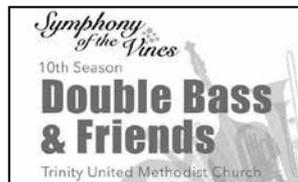
Barrel Room Concert: Damon Castillo Band
SUNDAY, MARCH 15
CASS Winery



Barflyz St. Patricks Day Sunday Celebration
SUNDAY, MARCH 15
D'Anbino Tasting Room



Sunset Social
FRIDAY, MARCH 20
CASS
Winery



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



Morro Bay WILD
SATURDAY, MARCH 21
Wildlife
Rehabilitation Center



Bingo Bonanza
SATURDAY, MARCH 21
SLO
Veterans Hall



The Write Your Deep AF Book Hoedown
SATURDAY, MARCH 21
The Dolphin Bay Resort



Beer Yoga
SATURDAY, MARCH 21
Naughty Oak
Brewing Co.



ZINfully Delicious
SATURDAY, MARCH 21
Tooth & Nail
Winery



Plants of the Pecho Coast Trail
SUNDAY, MARCH 22
Point San Luis Lighthouse



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



In Concert: Korby Lenker
TUESDAY, MARCH 24
The Savory
Palette



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



All Start Basketball Spectacular
SATURDAY, MARCH 28
Allan Hancock College



Incendio Summoning the Music
SUNDAY, MARCH 29
Cambria Concerts Unplugged



Eat Pray F* You Couples Intensive
SUNDAY, MARCH 29
The Dolphin Bay Resort



Backyard Chili Brawl
SUNDAY, MARCH 29
Tooth & Nail
Winery



The Wild West Hits the Pops
MONDAY, MARCH 30
First United
Methodist Church



In Concert: Sally & George
TUESDAY, MARCH 31
The Savory
Palette



Cambria the Musical
FRIDAY, APRIL 3
Cambria Center
for the Arts Theatre

HOTEL
SAN LUIS
OBISPO

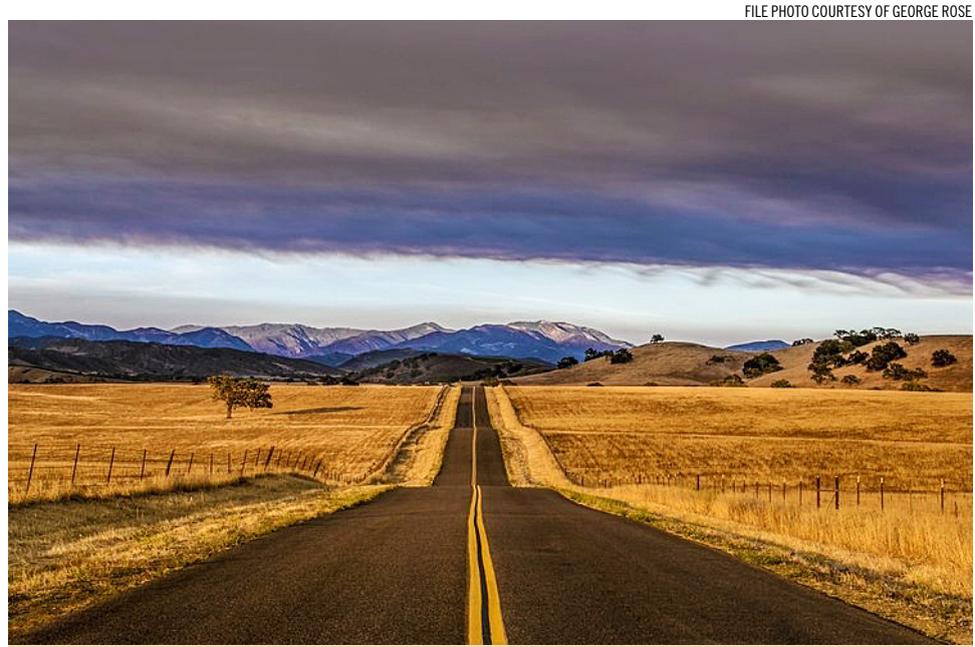
Presents

SLO
FILM
FEST

2020

MARCH 17-22

Don't miss the film, wine and fun!

NASHVILLE-THEMED OPENING NIGHT | TUESDAY, MARCH 17
MOVIE NIGHT AT THE OCTAGON BARN | THURSDAY, MARCH 19
SURF NITE IN SLO | FRIDAY, MARCH 20
AWARDS NIGHT GALA | SATURDAY, MARCH 21FESTIVAL PASSES AVAILABLE NOW
WWW.SLOFILMFEST.ORG

LIFE IS A HIGHWAY

The Wildling Museum of Art and Nature presents Santa Barbara County and Beyond through Monday, March 16. This photography exhibition showcases landscapes from Santa Ynez-based photographer George Rose. Many of the featured photos appear in his latest book, *Wine Country: Santa Barbara County*. The museum is located at 1511 Mission Drive, unit B, Solvang. Call (805) 688-1082 or visit wildlingmuseum.org for more info.

—C.W.

ARTS from page 16

27, 7-9 p.m., **Feb. 28**, 7-9 p.m. and **Feb. 29**, 2-4 & 7-9 p.m. Adults: \$15 Students/Sr. Citizens: \$8. 805-922-1305. pvhsphanthers.org. Pioneer Valley High School, 675 Panther Dr., Santa Maria.

ARSENIC AND OLD LACE A hilarious murder farce presented by Orcutt Community Theater. Through March 1 \$8-\$15. my805tix.com. Orcutt Community Theater (Klein Dance Arts), 3546 Skyway Dr, Bldg. 1, Suite A, Orcutt, 805-937-3738. Presented by Orcutt Community Theater. Through March 1 KDA Studios, 3546 Skyway Dr., Orcutt, 805-268-2993, orcuttcommunitytheater.org.

BRIGHTON BEACH MEMOIRS The heart-warming and witty memoir from Neil Simon is the first of his autobiographical trilogy of plays. Presented by PCPA. Through March 1 Marian Theatre, 800 S. College Dr., Santa Maria, 805-928-7731, pcpa.org.

JULIUS CAESAR Friendship, loyalty, and betrayal amidst political upheaval are the timeless concepts probed in William Shakespeare's tragedy. Presented by PCPA. **March 5-22** Severson Theatre, 800 S. College Dr., Santa Maria, 805-928-7731, pcpa.org.



SOUTH COAST SLO COUNTY

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

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

BUSINESS BRANDING WORKSHOP Learn how to develop deeper connections with your customers and how to attract new ones, from marketing professionals who have worked with Fortune 500 companies like Apple and Disney. A recording of the session will be available online for registrants. **March 4**, 5:30-7:30 p.m. Free. 888-979-1324. wlc7.com/brand. Hotel San Luis Obispo, 877 Palm Street, San Luis Obispo.

CARNEGIE LECTURE: PUBLIC HISTORY Professor Zachary McKiernan discusses the universality of public history with very local "case studies," memorializing a concentration camp in Chile, recovering the memory of the once segregated Woolworth's lunch counter in Hampton, VA, and the Central Coast Queer Archives Project **March 6**, 5:30-7 p.m. Free. 805-543-0638. historycenterslo.org/events.html. History Center of San Luis Obispo County, 696 Monterey St., San Luis Obispo.

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

DEATH CAFE: LET'S TALK IT OVER An open discussion on staying fully engaged in life while exploring death and dying. With Dr. Denise LaRosa and co-facilitated by Paul Johnson. Hosted by Wilshire Hospice's Center for Grief Education and Healing. First Monday of every month, 3:30-5 p.m. deathcafe.com/deathcafe/8253/. Nautical Bean Coffee House, 2010 Parker St, San Luis Obispo, 805-439-4683.

CLUBS & MEETINGS

SANTA MARIA VALLEY/LOS ALAMOS

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

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

RECREATION AND PARKS DEPARTMENT: MAH JONGG Wednesdays, 11:30 a.m.-4 p.m. 805-922-2993.

CULTURE & LIFESTYLE continued page 20

SAN LUIS OBISPO

OUR TOWN This reimagining of Thornton Wilder's classic story is a remarkably universal yet personal portrait of our collective humanity; an American tale about family, friendship, love, death, and a life worth living. **Feb. 27**, 8-10 p.m., **Feb. 28**, 8-10 p.m., **Feb. 29**, 8-10 p.m., **March 1**, 2-4 p.m., **March 5**, 8-10 p.m., **March 6**, 8-10 p.m. and **March 7**, 8-10 p.m. \$12-\$20. 805-756-4849. tickets. calpoly.edu. Spanos Theatre, Cal Poly, San Luis Obispo.

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.

Let Your Imagination
Soar at the Santa Maria
Valley Discovery Museum705 S. McClelland St., Santa Maria, CA 93454 805 928-8414
smvdiscoverymuseum.org Tues-Sat 10-5, Sun 12-4

DINOSAUR WORLD LIVE!

Thurs - Mar 5 at 7:00pm

Meet a host of impressive and life-like creatures, including the giant Tyrannosaurus Rex, a triceratops, a stegosaurus and more!



GLENN MILLER ORCHESTRA
Saturday, March 14 at 3:00pm

WHOSE LIVE
ANYWAY?
THE HILARIOUS SONGS AND IMPROV COMEDY YOU LOVE... LIVE!

Sat, Mar 14 at 8pm



TICKETS
ON SALE NOW!

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ALWAYS AMAZING. NEVER ROUTINE.



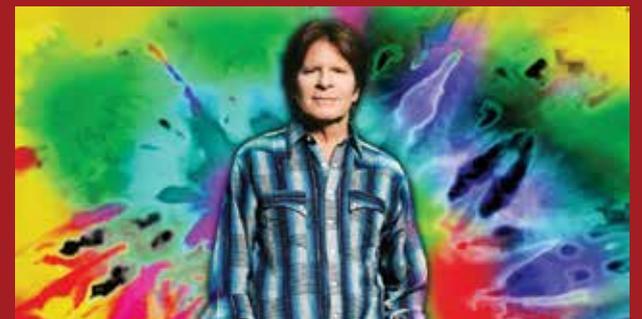
TIERRA CALI AND
LOS CANARIOS DE MICHOACAN
FEBRUARY 28 | FRIDAY | 8 PM



WHICH ONE'S PINK?
FEBRUARY 29 | SATURDAY | 8 PM



THE BEACH BOYS
MARCH 6 | FRIDAY | 8 PM



JOHN FOGERTY
MARCH 13 | FRIDAY | 8 PM

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

CHUMASH
CASINO RESORT

Welcome to Freedom

What's Your Take?

We know you've got an opinion.
Everybody's got one!

This week's online poll 2/27-3/5

What's the top issue you'd like to see the candidates in the 3rd District Supervisor race address?

- What they're going to do about cannabis in the Santa Ynez Valley.
- The lack of parks in northern Santa Barbara County.
- Their plans for fossil fuel and renewable energy production.
- How they'll improve road safety on the district's major highways.

Enter your choice online
at: SantaMariaSun.com



Test Your Inner Strength



Mon-Thurs 4am-11pm
Friday 4am-10pm
Saturday 7am-8pm
Sunday 7am-6pm



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Email: wwhealthclub23@gmail.com



Elwin Mussell Senior Center, 510 Park Ave., Santa Maria.

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

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

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

YACK AND SNACK Thursdays, 1 p.m. oasisorcutt.org. Oasis Senior Center, 420 Soares Ave., Orcutt, 805-937-9750.

SUPPORT GROUPS

SANTA MARIA VALLEY/LOS ALAMOS

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

SOUTH COAST SLO COUNTY

AWAKENED PARENTING SITTING GROUP

The intention of this group is to provide space for meditation and discussion in a supportive community. Appropriate for parents of children of all ages and anyone interested in exploring awakened parenting. First Monday of every month, 6:30-7:30 p.m. whiteheronsangha.org. White Heron Sangha Meditation Center, 6615 Bay Laurel Place, Avila 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. 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. Hospice SLO County, 1304 Pacific St., San Luis Obispo.

CREATE & LEARN

SANTA MARIA VALLEY/LOS ALAMOS

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

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

WINTER MAKERSPACE It's time to create, build, explore, and use your imagination at the Library Maker

Events. Join us on Saturday in the Learning Center for seed paper, bird seed creations, and spring rock painting. **Feb. 29**, 10 a.m.-3 p.m. 805-925-0994. Santa Maria Public Library, 421 S. McClelland St., Santa Maria.

MIND & BODY

SANTA MARIA VALLEY/LOS ALAMOS

CHI GONG Wednesdays, 10-10:30 a.m. Unity Chapel of Light Church, 1165 Stubblefield Rd., Orcutt, 805-937-3025, unitiesantamaria.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.

SOUTH COAST SLO COUNTY

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

OUTDOORS

SOUTH COAST SLO COUNTY

HISTORY OF THE OCEANO DUNES: GEOLOGY, HISTORY, AND PEOPLE Easy 2.5 mile round trip walk from the parking lot at the northwest end of Oso Flaco Lake Road to learn about dune formation, the Chumash, Spanish explorers, early settlers, and the Dunites. **Feb. 29**, 9 a.m.-noon Free. 805-772-2694. Oso Flaco Lake Natural Area, Oso Flaco Lake Rd., Nipomo.

WALK FROM GROVE TO BOARDWALK TO BEACH Easy one mile walk from the benches in the grove to discover area history and learn about the monarchs, Pismo clams, sand dollars, shorebirds, plants and animals. Bring binoculars. **March 7**, 9:30-11:30 a.m. Free. 805-772-2694. Monarch Butterfly Grove, 400 S Dolliver St., Pismo Beach.

SPORTS

SAN LUIS OBISPO

CAL POLY BASKETBALL VS UC IRVINE Don't miss the final home game of the season as the Mustangs take on UC Irvine. **Feb. 27**, 7 p.m. gopoly.com/. Mott Athletics Center, 1 Grand Ave., San Luis Obispo, 805-756-7297.

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL VS. CSUN Join us for Senior Day and support our Mustangs who will be playing in their final game in Mott Athletics Center. **Feb. 29**, 2-4 p.m. Mott Athletics Center, 1 Grand Ave., San Luis Obispo, 805-756-7297.

KIDS & FAMILY

SANTA MARIA VALLEY/LOS ALAMOS

KTS ALL STAR GYMNASTICS: NINJA WARRIOR CLASSES Bring out your inner warrior with kids parkour PHOTO COURTESY OF THE GREAT AMERICAN MELODRAMA AND VAUDEVILLE



PAUSE AND REFLECT

The Dana Adobe Cultural Center hosts *A Watercolor Retrospective*, an afternoon viewing of watercolor works by artist Chris Van Winkle, on Sunday, March 1, from 1 to 2 p.m. Complimentary refreshments will be available to guests. General admission is \$5, but Dana members and visitors under age 12 get in for free. The venue is located at 671 S. Oakglen Ave., Nipomo. Visit danaadobe.org to find out more.

—C.W.

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.

LEGO CLUB Master builders are welcome to create whatever you imagine with Legos supplied by the library. Compete in a building challenge for prizes or just build for fun. **Feb. 27**, 4-5 p.m. Free. 805-925-0994. cityofsantamaria.org. Santa Maria Public Library, 421 S. McClelland St., Santa Maria.

NEON NIGHTS AT ROCKIN' JUMP Fridays, Saturdays, 8-10 p.m. 805-266-7080. Santa Maria Town Center, 142 Town Center East, 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. **Feb. 28**, 4-5:30 p.m. Free. 805-925-0994. cityofsantamaria.org. Santa Maria Public Library, 421 S. McClelland St., Santa Maria.

SOUTH COAST SLO COUNTY

BILINGUAL STORYTIME Enjoy storytelling and songs in both English and Spanish. First Tuesday of every month, 10:30-11 a.m. Free. 805-473-7161. slolibrary.org. Arroyo Grande Library, 800 W. Branch, Arroyo Grande.

CHARLES PADDOCK ZOO ANIMALS Join us as we welcome live animals from the Atascadero Zoo and learn all about them. All ages. **March 7**, 2-3 p.m. Free. 805-473-7161. Arroyo Grande Library, 800 W. Branch, Arroyo Grande, slolibrary.org.

SQUID DISSECTION SATURDAYS Available to all ages, this activity will allow you to discover the internal and external anatomy of a squid. Last Saturday of every month, 1-2 p.m. through Feb. 29 \$12. 805-595-7280. my805tix.com. Central Coast Aquarium, 50 San Juan St., Avila Beach.

SPIRITUAL

SANTA MARIA VALLEY/LOS ALAMOS

A COURSE IN MIRACLES Wednesdays, 10:30 a.m.-noon Unity Chapel of Light Church, 1165 Stubblefield Rd., Orcutt, 805-937-3025, unitiesantamaria.net/.

SUNDAY SERVICES Non-denominational. All are welcome. Sundays, 11 a.m.-noon Unity Chapel of Light Church, 1165 Stubblefield Rd., Orcutt, 805-937-3025, unitiesantamaria.net/.

SOUTH COAST SLO COUNTY

CONNECTING WITH YOUR INNER DIVINE First Wednesday of every month, 6:30-8 p.m. \$15. 805-674-4277. Halcyon Store Post Office, 936 S. Halcyon Rd., Arroyo Grande.

HOUSE OF GOD CHURCH SERVICES Join Pastor Joseph and Amanda Anderson every Sunday for prayer, healing, and more. Sundays, 9:30-11 a.m. 805-888-7714. House of God Church, 946 Rockaway Ave., Grover Beach.

RECOVERY DHARMA SLO COUNTY A peer-led movement using Buddhist practices and principles to overcome addiction through meditation, personal inquiry, and community. Wednesdays, 7-8 p.m. Free; donations welcomed. NA. The Haven Facilities, 391 Front St., Grover Beach, thehaven.com.

SUNDAY FOR SPIRIT PSYCHIC READINGS Features an assortment of psychic readers. Sundays, 1-5 p.m. Vaires. 805-489-2432. Halcyon Store Post Office, 936

S. Halcyon Rd., Arroyo Grande.

YOUTH SERVICES The City Church Central Coast holds youth services for junior high school students. Mondays, 6:30 p.m. Free. 805-929-8990. thecitycc.org. Faith Life Community Church, 726 W Tefft St., Nipomo.

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

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.

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/VANDEMBERG

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

FARMERS MARKET Farmers Market in SLO is the

FOOD & DRINK continued page 21



BREAKING NEWS

The Great American Melodrama and Vaudeville presents *Too Much TV* through Sunday, March 8. This sketch show follows each performance of *Pump Boys and Dinettes* and spoofs various television shows and modern streaming services. Tickets range from \$24 to \$32. The theater is located at 1863 Front St., Oceano. Call (805) 489-2499 or visit americanmelodrama.com to find out more.

—C.W.

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.

SOUTH COAST SLO COUNTY

LENTEN FISH FRY Choose from 1-, 2-, 3-, or 4-piece fish dinners that also include fries and homemade coleslaw. Beer, wine, soda, bottled water and desserts also available for an additional charge. Dine in or take out available. **Feb. 28**, 4-7 p.m. and **March 6**, 4-7 p.m. \$8-\$20. 805-489-2680. St. Patrick's Church, 501 Fair Oaks Ave., Arroyo Grande, stpatsag.org.

SAN LUIS OBISPO

\$2 TACO TUESDAY Mix and match your favorite street tacos for \$2 each all day long on Tuesdays. Tuesdays, 3-10 p.m. through April 7 Luna Red, 1023 Chorro St., San Luis Obispo, 805-540-5243.

1/2 OFF WINE TUESDAYS Enjoy 50% off all bottles of wine \$199 and under all day long on Tuesdays. Dine in only, with the purchase of food. Tuesdays, 11 a.m.-9 p.m. through April 7 Novo Restaurant & Lounge, 726 Higuera Street, San Luis Obispo, (805) 543-3986, novorestaurant.com.

ALL DAY HAPPY HOUR AT LUNA RED Enjoy \$6 bites, sangria, draft beer, house wine, and spirits. Thursdays, 11:30 a.m.-10 p.m. 805-640-5243. lunaredslo.com/menus/. Luna Red, 1023 Chorro St., San Luis Obispo.

THE BLACK GLASS CHALLENGE AT CROMA VERA Test your blind tasting skills. Winners get their names listed on the front board and posted to social media. Fridays, 11 a.m.-6 p.m. \$12. 805-946-1685. cromavera.com/events/. Croma Vera Wines, 3592 Broad St., suite 106, San Luis Obispo.

FRIDAY NIGHT PINT NIGHT Buy logo glass for \$8 and bring it in every Friday for \$2 off refills. Wine offered at happy hour pricing. Fridays, 4-10 p.m. Free. 805-868-7133. 7sistersbrewing.com/events-page. Oak and Otter Brewing, 181 Tank Farm Road, suite 110, San Luis Obispo.

GEEKS WHO DRINK PUB QUIZ 8 rounds of audio, visual, and live hosted trivia with prizes. Thursdays, 6:30-8:30 p.m. Free. 805-868-7133. 7SistersBrewing.com. Oak and Otter Brewing, 181 Tank Farm Road, suite 110, San Luis Obispo.

LUNA RED ALL DAY HAPPY HOUR THURSDAYS Join Luna Red for their award winning happy hour. Thursdays, 3-11 p.m. 805-540-5243. lunaredslo.com/



FULL HOUSE

The Pacific Conservatory Theatre (PCPA) presents a special talkback performance of Neil Simon's Brighton Beach Memoirs at the Marian Theatre on Friday, Feb. 28, at 7 p.m. Members of the cast, crew, and artistic team will take part in a Q-and-A discussion after the show. The play runs through Sunday, March 1. The theater is located at 800 S. College Drive, Santa Maria. Visit pepa.org to find out more.

—C.W.

menus/. Luna Red, 1023 Chorro St., San Luis Obispo.

MARGARITA MONDAYS Kick off the work week at Luna Red with \$6 margaritas, or enjoy seasonal speciality margarita pitchers with friends. Mondays, 3-10 p.m. through April 6 Luna Red, 1023 Chorro St., San Luis Obispo, 805-540-5243.

SLO PRODUCE EXCHANGE Gathering twice a month for neighbors to exchange excess fruit, veggies, baked goods, plants, crafts, etc. First Saturday of every month, 10-10:30 a.m. Free. 818-489-7085. Natural Food Co-op, 2494 Victoria Ave., San Luis Obispo.

TASTE OF SLO: WALKING FOOD TOUR Visit five different destinations in downtown SLO per tour. All food and drinks are included. Mondays, Saturdays, 1-4 p.m. through Sept. 5 \$85. 320-420-9853. tasteofslowalkingfoodtour.com. Downtown SLO, Higuera Street, San Luis Obispo.

WINE TASTING AT CROMA VERA Wines also available by the glass and bottle. Club members enjoy special pricing and exclusive benefits. Mondays, Fridays-Sundays, 11 a.m.-6 p.m. \$14. 805-946-1685. cromavera.com/tastingroom/. Croma Vera Wines, 3592 Broad St., suite 106, San Luis Obispo. ○

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up.*

*For everything
food & drink,
read ...*

EATS

every week in the

Sun



SantaMariaSun.com/eats/

PHOTO COURTESY OF CHUMASH CASINO RESORT

Live Music

SANTA YNEZ VALLEY

CROWN CITY BOMBERS LIVE Feb. 28, 9 p.m. Maverick Saloon, 3687 Sagunto St., Santa Ynez, 805-686-4785, mavericksaloon.org.

CURLY AND COMPANY LIVE Food and drinks available for purchase. No outside food or drinks allowed. **Feb. 28**, 6-9 p.m. Cold Spring Tavern, 5995 Stagecoach Rd., Santa Barbara, 805-967-0066, coldspringtavern.com/entertainment.html.

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

FALCON HEAVY LIVE March 1, 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.

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

HOODLUM FRIENDS LIVE Food and drinks available for purchase. No outside food or drinks allowed. **March 1**, 4:30 p.m. Cold Spring Tavern, 5995 Stagecoach Rd., Santa Barbara, 805-967-0066, coldspringtavern.com/entertainment.html.

JAN SMITH LIVE Food and drinks available for purchase. No outside food or drinks allowed. **March 7**, 1-4 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.

THE RESERVE LIVE Feb. 29, 8-11 p.m. Maverick Saloon, 3687 Sagunto St., Santa Ynez, 805-686-4785, mavericksaloon.org.

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

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

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

TERESA RUSSELL AND COCOBILLI LIVE Food and drinks available for purchase. No outside food or drinks allowed. **March 8**, 4:30-7:30 p.m. Cold Spring Tavern, 5995 Stagecoach Rd., Santa Barbara, 805-967-0066, coldspringtavern.com/entertainment.html.

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

UNCLE UNCLE LIVE Food and drinks available for purchase. No outside food or drinks allowed. **Feb. 29**, 5-8 p.m. Cold Spring Tavern, 5995 Stagecoach Rd., Santa Barbara, 805-967-0066, coldspringtavern.com/entertainment.html.

WHICH ONE'S PINK? Pink Floyd tribute band. **Feb. 29**, 8 p.m. Chumash Casino Resort, 3400 E. Highway 246, Santa Ynez, 800-248-6274, chumashcasino.com/entertainment.

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

Great gig in the sky

Which One's Pink? pays tribute to Pink Floyd at the Chumash Casino Resort

BY CALEB WISEBLOOD

Named after the iconic lyric from “Have a Cigar,” Pink Floyd cover band **Which One's Pink?** will perform at the Chumash Casino Resort in Santa Ynez on **Saturday, Feb. 29**, at 8 p.m. Since its formation in 1997, this Los Angeles-based tribute has been praised by many Floyd fans and critics alike for their remarkably accurate covers of the band's catalog, including their performances of albums *The Dark Side of the Moon* and *The Wall* in their entirety.

The group features Larry Isenberg on lead vocals and keyboards, Nick Feduska and Paul Samrin on guitar, Scott Richards on bass, Natalie Azerad and Sharon Fatoorechi on vocals, and Marty Brummer on drums. Admission to the tribute concert, which will be held in the resort's Samala Showroom, is \$25. For tickets and more information, call (800) 248-6274 or visit chumashcasino.com. The casino is located at 3400 Highway 246, Santa Ynez.

Staying south

The Cold Spring Tavern's weekend lineup kicks off with psychedelic blues-rock band **Curly and Company** on **Friday, Feb. 28**, with a show from 6 to 9 p.m. The venue also hosts

PHOTO COURTESY OF THE SANTA MARIA PHILHARMONIC SOCIETY



SPIRITED AWAY: The Santa Maria Philharmonic Society presents its Spirited Symphonies concert, featuring soloist Mary Beth Woodruff, at Grace Baptist Church on **Saturday, Feb. 29**, from 7:30 to 9:30 p.m.

reggae-rock duo **Green Flag Summer**, composed of Santa Barbara-based singer-songwriters Matt Kustura and Andrew Fedders, on **Saturday, Feb. 29**, from 1 to 4 p.m. **The Plastic Harpoons** follow that same evening, with special guest **Uncle Uncle**, from 5 to 8 p.m.

Resident artists **Tom Ball and Kenny Sultan** present their regularly scheduled set of blues, rags, and good time tunes on **Sunday, March 1**, from 1:15 to 4 p.m. Folk-rock and surf band **Hoodlum Friends** follow from 4:30 to 7:30 p.m. Admission to every show at Cold Spring is complimentary. The tavern is located at 5995 Stagecoach Road, Santa Barbara. Call (805) 967-

0066 or visit coldspringtavern.com for more info.

Also in the Santa Ynez Valley, the Maverick Saloon presents **Crown City Bombers** in concert on **Friday, Feb. 28**, from 9 p.m. to past midnight. The saloon also hosts Santa Barbara-based ensemble **The Reserve** on **Saturday, Feb. 29**, from 8 to 11 p.m., and **Falcon Heavy** on **Sunday, March 1**, from 1 to 5 p.m. Entry to all three performances is complimentary. The Maverick is located at 3687 Sagunto St., suite D, Santa Ynez. To find out more about upcoming artists at the saloon, call (805) 686-4785 or visit themavsaloon.com.

More music

The Santa Maria Philharmonic Society presents its Spirited Symphonies concert at Grace Baptist Church on **Saturday, Feb. 29**, from 7:30 to 9:30 p.m. Under the direction of maestro Michael Nowak, the orchestra will perform works by Beethoven, Bartok, and Mozart. Soloists **Mary Beth Woodruff** and **Andrew Duckles** will earn the spotlight during a performance of Mozart's “Sinfonia Concertant.”

Other pieces on the show's setlist include Beethoven's Symphony No. 8 and Bartok's Romanian Folk Dances. Tickets to the concert range from \$15 to \$45 and are available in advance at my805tix.com. To find out more about Spirited Symphonies, call (805) 925-0412 or visit smphilharmonic.org. Grace Baptist Church is located at 605 E. McCoy Lane, Santa Maria.

The Naughty Oak Brewing Company in Orcutt presents indie-pop musician **Lauren Hall** on **Friday, Feb. 28**, from 7 to 10 p.m. Influences of this Chicago-based solo artist include Alicia Keys, Adele, and Sam Smith. Entry to the show is free, and gourmet sandwiches and tacos will be available for purchase, courtesy of AR Catering (starting at 5:30 p.m.). Call (805) 314-2368 or visit naughtyoak.com for more details. The brewery is located at 165 S. Broadway St., suite 102, Orcutt.

Also in Orcutt the following evening, folk-rock artist **Jacob Cole** plays a solo show at Blast 825 Brewery on **Saturday, Feb. 29**, from 6 to 9 p.m. Previously the frontman of Saint Anne's Place and King Cole, this Lompoc-based singer-songwriter hopes to evoke “hungry, visceral energy” through his music, often focusing on themes of heartbreak and loneliness. Cole's eclectic style has been described as reminiscent of Kurt Vile, Cass McCombs, and similar



WISH YOU WERE HERE: Which One's Pink?, a Pink Floyd tribute band, performs at the Chumash Casino Resort on **Saturday, Feb. 29**, at 8 p.m.

PHOTO COURTESY OF LAUREN HALL



POPPIN': The Naughty Oak Brewing Company in Orcutt presents indie-pop artist Lauren Hall on **Friday, Feb. 28**, from 7 to 10 p.m.

PHOTO COURTESY OF BLAST 825 BREWERY



JACOB'S LADDER: Folk-rock artist Jacob Cole performs at Blast 825 Brewery on **Saturday, Feb. 29**, at 6 p.m.

contemporaries. Admission to the concert is free. To find out more about the show, call the brewery at (805) 934-3777 or visit blast825brewery.com. Blast 825 is located at 241 S. Broadway, Orcutt. ○

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

MUSIC LISTINGS from page 22

wine every 3 months. ongoing \$40. Lompoc Wine Factory, 321 N. D St., Lompoc, 805-243-8398, lompocwinefactory.com.

SANTA MARIA VALLEY/LOS ALAMOS

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

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

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 COLE LIVE Lompoc-based folk-rock artist. **Feb. 29**, 6-9 p.m. Blast 825 Brewery, 241 S Broadway St., Ste. 101, Orcutt, 805-934-3777, rooneysirishpub.net.

JINEANNE CODERRE LIVE Artist in residence. **Feb. 28**, 4:30-7 p.m. Presqu'ile Winery, 5391 Presqu'ile Dr., Santa Maria, 805-937-8110, presquilewine.com.

LAUREN HALL LIVE Indie-pop singer-songwriter. **Feb. 28**, 7-10 p.m. Naughty Oak Brewing Co., 165 S Broadway St. suite 102, Orcutt, 805-287-9663, 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.

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

LIVE MUSIC AT O'SULLIVAN'S Featuring live entertainment from local and touring alternative, indie, rock, punk, reggae, ska, alt-country, and other left-of-center musicians several times throughout each month. ongoing Free. O'Sullivan's Pub, 633 E. Main St., Santa Maria, 805-925-0658, osullivanpub.net.

SPIRITED SYMPHONIES Presented by the Santa Maria Philharmonic Society. Features Romanian folk melodies and other selections. **Feb. 29**, 7:30 p.m. \$15-\$45. smphilharmonic.org. Grace Baptist Church, 605 E. McCoy Ln., Santa Maria.

SOUTH COAST SLO COUNTY

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

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

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

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

LIVE FROM LAUREL CANYON Covering the groundbreaking music and stories of bands like The Mamas and The Papas, the Byrds, Buffalo Springfield, The Doors, Crosby, Stills, Nash and Young, James Taylor, Carole King, Joni Mitchell, Jackson Browne, Linda Ronstadt, America, and the Eagles. **March 7**, 7:30-9:30 p.m. \$40-\$50. 805-489-9444. clarkcenter.org. Clark Center for the Performing Arts, 487 Fair Oaks Ave., Arroyo Grande.

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

LIVE MUSIC AT 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.

SONGWriters AT PLAY HOSTS SONG CONTEST Once a month, 10 contestants play 2 original songs each, and three judges award three prizes. **March 3**, 6:30-9 p.m. Free. 805-204-6821. Puffers of Pismo, 781 Price St., Pismo Beach, puffersofpismo.com/.

SONGWriters AT PLAY HOSTS SONG CONTEST Songwriters At Play's song contest continues for our third season. Once a month, 10 contestants play 2 original songs each, and 3 judges award 3 prizes. First Tuesday of every month, 6:30-9 p.m. through June 2 Free. 805-204-6821. Puffers of Pismo, 781 Price St., Pismo Beach, puffersofpismo.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.

SAN LUIS OBISPO

33RPM UNPLUGGED A very rare, one off acoustic performance. Join us for a fun night of original tunes with a few covers thrown in. **Feb. 29**, 6-8:30 p.m. Free. 805-439-2529. Oak and Otter Brewing, 181 Tank Farm Road, suite 110, San Luis Obispo.

ANDRE NICKATINA LIVE Andre Nickatina will be live in downtown SLO at the Fremont Theater. **March 6**, 9-11 p.m. \$27. 805-329-5725. The Fremont Theater, 1035 Monterey St., San Luis Obispo, fremontslo.com.

ARGENTINE TANGO LIVE Experience an evening of dynamic and expressive music from Argentina with Mariano Barriero Tango Trio band playing for El Abrazo a Tango social dance. **Feb. 28**, 7-10:45 p.m. \$20-\$25.

FINLANDIA AND THE MOLDAU Winners of Cal Poly Symphony's solo competition will be featured. The symphony will also play works by two composers who celebrate their native land in music: Czech composer Bed ich Smetana and Finnish national icon Jean Sibelius. **March 1**, 3 p.m. \$12 and \$14 general, \$9 and \$12 students. 805-756-4849. music.calpoly.edu/calendar/. Performing Arts Center, 1 Grand Ave., San Luis Obispo.

CAL POLY VOCAL STUDENT RECITAL A free recital presented by Cal Poly Music Department student vocalists. **March 5**, 7:30 p.m. Free. 805-756-2406. music.calpoly.edu/calendar/. Cal Poly Davidson Music Center, Room 218, Cal Poly, San Luis Obispo.

CAL POLY WIND BANDS' WINTER CONCERT: WINDS OF CHANGE From the adventurous storytelling of Michael Colgrass to the electroacoustic soundscapes of Alex Shapiro, the listener is invited to consider the development of our musical language in the context of a search for cultural direction. **March 8**, 3 p.m. \$12 and \$14 general, \$9 and \$12 students. 805-756-4849. music.calpoly.edu/calendar/. Performing Arts Center, 1 Grand Ave., San Luis Obispo.

CAL POLY WINTER JAZZ CONCERT The jazz ensembles at Cal Poly are moving forward in 2019-20 under new leadership, as the Music Department welcomes Arthur White as its new director of jazz studies. **Feb. 29**, 7:30 p.m. \$14 general, \$9 students

FILE PHOTO COURTESY OF KEVIN GRAYBILL



TOUCH OF GRAY

Indie folk artist Kevin Graybill performs at Vino et Amicis Wine Bar in Old Town Orcutt on Friday, March 6, from 7 to 9 p.m. Often sporting an acoustic guitar, harmonica, or both, Graybill's eclectic influences include Bobby McFerrin and Cyndi Lauper. Admission to the show is free. The bar is located at 165 S. Broadway St., suite 101, Orcutt. Call (805) 631-0496 or visit vinoetamicis.com for more details.

—Caleb Wiseblood

805-762-4688. facebook.com/Milongas.805/. SLO Guild Hall, 2880 Broad St., San Luis Obispo.

BERNER: SOMETHING ABOUT THE WEST COAST TOUR Berner: Something About The West Coast Tour will be live in downtown SLO at the Fremont Theater. Tickets On-Sale NOW! **Feb. 29**, 8-11:59 p.m. \$27. 805-329-5725. fremontslo.com. The Fremont Theater, 1035 Monterey St., San Luis Obispo.

BROWN BAG CONCERT First Friday of every month, 12-1 p.m. Free. 805-543-5451. 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. Cuesta College, Highway 1, San Luis Obispo.

CAL POLY INSTRUMENTAL STUDENT RECITAL A free recital presented by Cal Poly Music Department student instrumentalists. **Feb. 27**, 11 a.m. Free. 805-756-2406. music.calpoly.edu/calendar/. Cal Poly Davidson Music Center, Room 218, Cal Poly, San Luis Obispo.

CAL POLY SYMPHONY SOLOIST SHOWCASE:

and Jazz Federation members. 805-756-4849. music.calpoly.edu/calendar/. Performing Arts Center, 1 Grand Ave., San Luis Obispo.

A CELEBRATION OF JONI MITCHELL FEATURING KIMBERLY FORD Ford will sing Mitchell's "Blue" Album during this heartfelt tribute. **Feb. 29**, 7-10 p.m. \$25-\$40. SLO Guild Hall, 2880 Broad St., San Luis Obispo, 805-543-0639, sloguildhall.com.

DJ/DANCE

SANTA YNEZ VALLEY

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

LOMPOC/VANDENBERG

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

SANTA MARIA VALLEY/LOS ALAMOS

805 NIGHTS For ages 21-and-over only. Come enjoy dancing to your favorite music videos. Fridays,

Saturdays, 9 p.m.-2 a.m. Free. 805-219-0977. Anthony's, 859 Guadalupe St., Guadalupe.

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

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

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

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

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

KARAOKE/OPEN MIC

SANTA YNEZ VALLEY

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

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

SANTA MARIA VALLEY/LOS ALAMOS

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

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

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

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

SOUTH COAST SLO COUNTY

FRONT ROW KARAOKE Thursdays, 9 p.m. 773-1010. Harry's Night Club And Beach Bar, 690 Cypress St., Pismo Beach, harryspismoeach.com.

JAWZ KARAOKE Thursdays, 9 p.m. Harry's Night Club And Beach Bar, 690 Cypress St., Pismo Beach, 805-773-1010, harryspismoeach.com.

KARAOKE WITH DJ SAM Sundays Mongo's Saloon, 359 W. Grand Ave., Grover Beach, 805-489-3639.

SAN LUIS OBISPO

KARAOKE NIGHT SUNDAYS AT BUFFALO PUB AND GRILL Sundays, 8 p.m. Free. 805-544-5155. Buffalo Pub And Grill, 717 Higuera St., San Luis Obispo.

OPEN MIC NIGHT For musicians, poets, and comedians. Family-friendly. Performers get a free beer. Sundays, 5-7 p.m. Free. 805-868-7133. 7sistersbrewing.com/calendar. Oak and Otter Brewing, 181 Tank Farm Road, suite 110, San Luis Obispo.

NORTH COAST SLO COUNTY

FAMILY FRIENDLY OPEN MIC An open mic for all ages hosted by Professor Matt Saxking Tuttle. Fridays, Saturdays, 5-7 p.m. Free. San Simeon Lodge Restaurant, 9520 Castillo Dr., San Simeon.

OPEN MIC WITH MATT SAXKING TUTTLE All ages and skill levels welcome. Saturdays, 5-8 p.m. through April 16 Free. 916-694-9466. San Simeon Lodge Lounge, 9520 Castillo Dr., San Simeon.

UNCORK THE MIC Producer of Uncork the Mic, Michelle Morrow presents a featured singer/songwriter each Monday evening. The event is an unconventional open mic session with a unique format. Email uncorkthemic@gmail.com to sign up. Tuesdays, Wednesdays, 6-8 p.m. Free. 805-772-5055. staxwinebar.com/events2/. Stax Wine Bar & Bistro, 1099 Embarcadero, Morro Bay.

UNCORK THE MIC: AN UNCONVENTIONAL OPEN MIC SESSION Hosted by Michelle Morrow. This session features a singer/songwriter/musician each week. To be featured on Uncork the Mic, email uncorkthemic@gmail.com. Mondays-Sundays, 6-8 p.m. Free. 805-772-5055. Staxwine.com. Stax Wine Bar & Bistro, 1099 Embarcadero, Morro Bay. ☺

Arts Briefs

Wildling Museum hosts wild horse photographer Deborah Kalas

The Wildling Museum of Art and Nature in Solvang hosts a presentation with author and photographer Deborah Kalas on Sunday, March 15, from 3 to 4:30 p.m. Kalas will share her experiences working with wild horses, along with highlights from her latest book, *The Wild Herd: A Vanishing American Treasure* (pictured).

The author's new work provides a unique glimpse into herds of wild horses, with a special focus on the herds of Theodore Roosevelt National Park in North Dakota. As a photographer, Kalas captures rare moments of untamed horses roaming the wild.

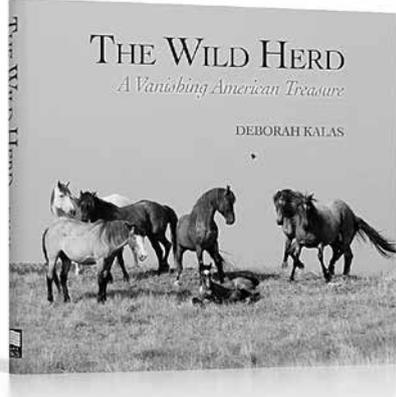
"Photographing in the wild requires great patience and readiness, but it's often the unexpected actions I find intensely rewarding," Kalas said in press materials. "I feel at peace in the wilderness among all these wild things. Open spaces, no fences, together amongst the wild horses I feel like an explorer, like photographer William Henry Jackson first witnessing the American West through the lens of his view camera."

The new book also focuses on the dangers faced by its featured horses, due to government policies and a lack of public understanding for their historical and cultural importance.

"Through these pages, I hope to honor wild horses everywhere and underscore their right to remain wild and free, just as they have for centuries," Kalas said.

Hardcover copies of *The Wild Herd: A Vanishing American Treasure* will be available at Kalas' presentation for \$65 each. For more details on the event, call the Wildling Museum at (805) 688-1082 or visit wildlingmuseum.org. The museum is located at 1511 Mission Drive, unit B, Solvang.

PHOTO COURTESY OF THE WILDLING MUSEUM OF ART AND NATURE



PCPA presents *The Tragedy of Julius Caesar*

The Pacific Conservatory Theatre's (PCPA) production of William Shakespeare's *The Tragedy of Julius Caesar* opens at the Severson Theatre on Thursday, March 5, at 7 p.m. Director Mark Booher helms this iteration of the classic drama, which stars Michael Tremblay as Julius Caesar, Peter S. Hadres as Marcus Brutus, Andrew Philpot as Caius Cassius, Emily Trask as Portia, and Yusef SeEVERS as Mark Antony.

The show will run through Sunday, March 22, and is recommended for ages 12 and older due to mature content. Tickets range from \$38 to \$50, with discounts available for seniors, students, and children. Special talkback performances will take place on Friday, March 13, and Friday, March 20, at 7 p.m. both evenings, where members of the cast, crew, and artistic team will take part in a Q-and-A discussion after the show.

To find out more about the show or purchase tickets, call the PCPA box office at (805) 928-7731 or visit pcpa.org. The Severson Theatre is located at Allan Hancock College, 800 S. College Drive, Santa Maria. ○

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

Ocean eyes

Multimedia artist Irina Malkmus presents new, nautical exhibition in Santa Maria

BY CALEB WISEBLOOD

Whether you're in need of financial advice or not, a quick trip to the Ameriprise Financial branch in Santa Maria is an absolute must for local art lovers. As part of an ongoing exhibition series hosted by the company, several Central Coast-based artists have used the venue to display their works—including Solvang resident Irina Malkmus, whose assortment of multimedia works currently adorn the office walls.

While the artworks range between various media—from oil, acrylic, or watercolor paintings to collage and pebble art—they vary in style as well, from lifelike to surreal. But one theme that unites each piece, Malkmus said, is the ocean.

"I never get bored looking at the waves, or



ART IMITATES LIFE: "I hadn't seen an ocean until I was 26 years old," Irina Malkmus said, discussing her fascination with the sea. "It amazed me, and scared me at first. The more I spent time with it, the more I respected this power, which can both give life or destroy it."

listening to the sounds of the ocean," said the local artist, discussing her love for the beach and marine life.

Malkmus was born and raised in Ukraine, and relocated to the U.S. with her husband at the time while in her 20s, after graduating from college. The artist never saw a shoreline until moving to California, she said, where her fascination with the sea began, as well as her fear of it.

"I hadn't seen an ocean until I was 26 years old," Malkmus told the *Sun*. "It amazed me, and scared me at first. The more I spent time with it, the more I respected this power, which can both give life or destroy it."

Sea for yourself

Santa Maria Ameriprise Financial holds a reception for featured artist Irina Malkmus on Thursday, March 5, from 4 to 6 p.m. The event is free and open to the public. The office is located at 2605 S. Miller St., Santa Maria. Call (805) 938-9724 or visit irinamalkmus.com to find out more.



MOTION OF THE OCEAN: Solvang-based artist Irina Malkmus presents an assortment of her ocean-themed multimedia works at Santa Maria Ameriprise Financial.

Eventually settling down in the Santa Ynez Valley, Malkmus and her family (husband and three children) have remained in close proximity to California's coastline. One of the artist's favorite things to do at the beach is look for "treasure"—driftwood, sea glass, shells, pebbles, and other objects she can use to create her oceanic art. Malkmus often paints whales, flounder, jellyfish, oysters, and other marine life on the driftwood she collects, and she creates pebble art using rocks and shells she finds along the shore.

The Solvang artist uses sea glass from her treasure hunts to make handcrafted jewelry as well. But even Malkmus' traditional canvas paintings illustrate her passion for all things nautical—myths, legends, and folklore included. Some of her pieces depict mermaids, while her realistic seascapes capture ordinary slice-of-life scenes—children playing at the beach, a school of fish swimming just below the ocean surface, or waves crashing against the shore just before sunset.

"My work can be termed 'visual journalism,' I observe people and nature," Malkmus said. "I hope the people who look at my art are able to feel the ocean breeze for a moment, or have a nice flashback of their last trip to the beach."

Malkmus hopes her new exhibition will provide a relaxing, temporary escape, or mini-vacation, for workers and clients at the Ameriprise office, she said. Financial advisor Terry Dworaczyk, curator of the ongoing local art series, invites the public to a free, opening reception for the exhibit on Thursday, March 5. Malkmus will be present to discuss her body of work, as well as her inspirations, background, and artistic process.

Among older works, the new exhibit also showcases a new series of abstract prints by Malkmus, titled *Ocean A.M.*, *Ocean Noon*, and *Ocean P.M.* These experimental pieces are combinations of paint, ink, and digital editing.

"I describe art as a personal freedom, a similar feeling of freedom I feel toward the ocean," said Malkmus, who considers the various art forms she uses as tools to enhance her message, rather than restrict her sensibility



WHALE OF A TIME: Irina Malkmus often paints whales, flounder, jellyfish, oysters, and other marine life on the driftwood she collects from the beach.



READY TO ROCK: One of Irina Malkmus' favorite things to do at the beach is look for "treasure"—sea glass, shells, pebbles, and other objects she can use to create her oceanic multimedia art.

to a strict style or tone.

"I enjoy experimenting by combining various elements, styles, and mediums," she said. "I feel joy when I'm able to unify diverse pieces into a harmonious whole." ○

Arts Editor Caleb Wiseblood loves when art makes waves. Reach him at cwiseblood@santamariasun.com.



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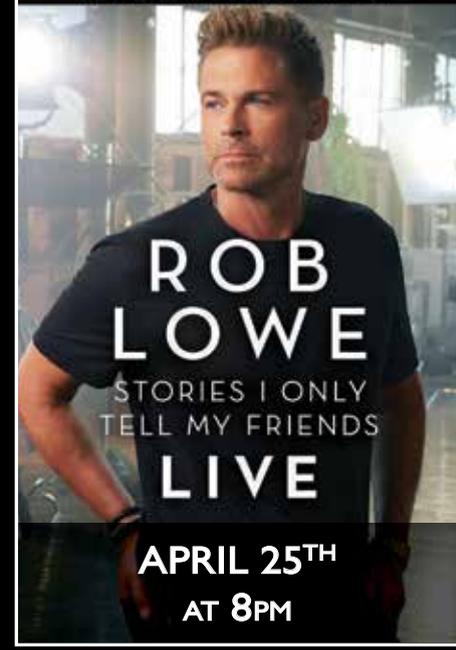
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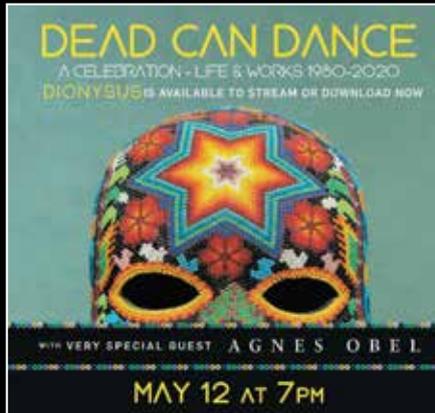
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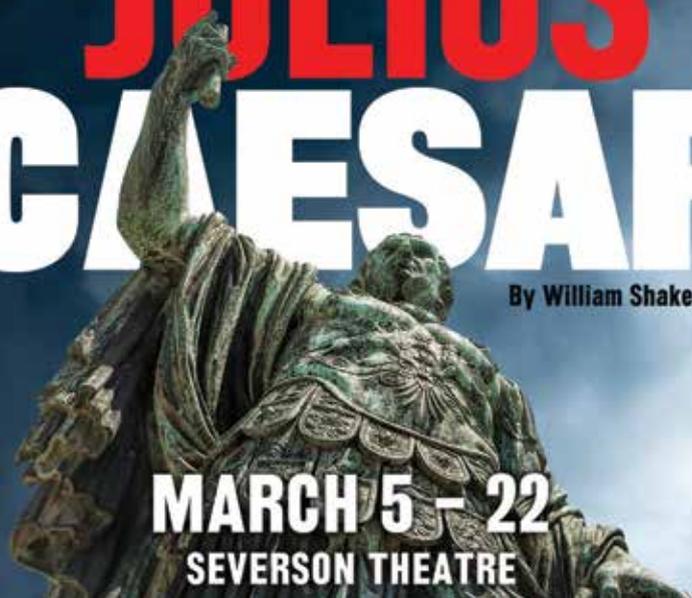
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PHOTO COURTESY OF ORCUTT COMMUNITY THEATER



DEADLY DUO: Meet sisters Abby and Martha Brewster (Dixie Arthur, left, and Valerie Pallai, right)—a murderous pair responsible for poisoning at least 12 different men.

They had it comin'

Orcutt Community Theater puts the laughter in slaughter with *Arsenic and Old Lace*

BY CALEB WISEBLOOD

"You know, some guys just can't hold their arsenic." This isn't a review of *Chicago*, but the "Cell Block Tango" lyric comes to mind in the case of sisters Abby and Martha Brewster (Dixie Arthur and Valerie Pallai, respectfully)—a murderous duo responsible for at least 12 deaths in *Arsenic and Old Lace*.

Orcutt Community Theater's (OCT) production of the classic Joseph Kesselring dark comedy runs through March 1 at Klein Dance Arts Studio and also features Paul Chavez as Mortimer Brewster, nephew to the aforementioned pair. Set in 1940s Brooklyn, the play follows Mortimer's sudden realization of his two aunts' special hobby, after finding a dead body in a chest in their living room.

He confronts them immediately, but Abby and Martha respond nonchalantly, without shame or any sign of remorse. They even fill him in on the details: They use elderberry wine laced with arsenic, strychnine, and "just a pinch" of cyanide to poison lonely old men, all without any family or friends to notice their disappearances.

And to make matters even more macabre, the sisters enlist help from Mortimer's mentally ill brother, Teddy Brewster (Jeffrey Staso), who buries the victims. But Teddy is an innocent pawn, under the delusion that he himself is President Theodore Roosevelt (a claim supported by his mustache, sword, and cavalry attire) and is digging locks for the Panama Canal. He's also under the impression that each victim died of yellow fever.

For Mortimer, the revelation of his aunts' atrocities couldn't have come at a more inconvenient time, as he's recently become engaged to his girlfriend, Elaine Harper (Amaris Taylor), and is about to receive an unannounced visit from Jonathan Brewster (Craig Scott), his detestable older brother. More appalling in a "traditional sense" than his two aunts, Jonathan is a common gangland

murderer, and has recently escaped from prison by the time we meet him.

In order to evade the law and conceal his identity, Jonathan gets haphazard plastic surgery from his accomplice, "Dr. Einstein" (Matthew Babcock), which leaves his face completely unrecognizable. Upon arrival at the Brewster home, each family member Jonathan reacquaints himself with ends up comparing his new look to Frankenstein's monster (a self-referential joke in the show's original Broadway debut, as the role was first played by Boris Karloff).

Rounding out the mayhem are several other quirky members of the cast, including Clare

Terrill as an adorably clueless police lieutenant (she steals the show on more than one occasion), Alan Sutterfield as the superintendent of a loony bin, and Heather Babcock as O'Hara, a police officer who dreams of becoming a playwright someday. She pitches a play she's writing to Mortimer at one point, who I forgot to mention works for a newspaper as a theater critic (relatable).

Mortimer is described as having gained a harsh reputation for his cynical, often scathing reviews, but I doubt even he could come up with much to complain about in the

case of his own story at the heart of this OCT production—it's simply to die for. ○

Arts Editor Caleb Wiseblood was actually quite convinced that Teddy really was Theodore Roosevelt. Reach him at cwiseblood@santamariasun.com.

PHOTO COURTESY OF ORCUTT COMMUNITY THEATER



FEMME FATALE: Amaris Taylor portrays Elaine Harper, a family friend of the Brewster sisters who recently became engaged to their nephew, Mortimer, in OCT's production of *Arsenic and Old Lace*.

Murder by numbers

Orcutt Community Theater (OCT) presents its production of *Arsenic and Old Lace* at Klein Dance Arts Studio through Sunday, March 1. Performances are held Friday and Saturday at 7 p.m. and Sunday at 1:30 p.m. Tickets range from \$8 to \$15 and are available in advance at my805tix.com. The studio is located at 3564 Skyway Drive, Santa Maria. Visit orcuttcommunitytheater.org for more info.



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Film Reviews

All theater listings are as of Friday, Feb. 28

BIRDS OF PREY (AND THE FANTABULOUS EMANCIPATION OF ONE HARLEY QUINN)

What's it rated? **R**
 What's it worth? **Matinee**
 Where's it showing? **Parks Plaza**
PICK Cathy Yan (*Dead Pigs*) directs this comic book action-packed crime adventure featuring Harley Quinn (Margot Robbie), who joins forces with Huntress (Mary Elizabeth Winstead), Black Canary (Jurnee Smollett-Bell), and Renee Montoya (Rosie Perez) to save Cass (Ella Jay Basco) from Gotham's arch villain, Roman Sionis (Ewan McGregor), and his henchman, Zsasz (Chris Messina). (109 min.)
 —Glen Starkey

THE CALL OF THE WILD

What's it rated? **PG**
 What's it worth? **Matinee**
 Where's it showing? **Hi-Way Drive-In, Parks Plaza, Movies Lompoc**
PICK See Sun Screen.

THE INVISIBLE MAN

What's it rated? **R**
 Where's it showing? **Movies Lompoc, Parks Plaza, Stadium 14**
NEW Writer-director Leigh Whannell (*Insidious 3, Upgrade*) helms this new iteration of the H.G. Wells 1897 horror novel about a brilliant but disturbed scientist who develops a technique to render himself invisible. In Whannell's version, the brilliant scientist is Adrian Griffin (Oliver Jackson-Cohen), abusive partner to Cecilia Kass (Elizabeth Moss). Cecilia—with the help of her sister, Alice (Harriet Dyer); their childhood friend, James Lanier (Aldis Hodge); and his teenage daughter, Sydney (Storm Reid)—escapes Adrian in the dead of night. Later, Adrian purportedly commits suicide and leaves Cecilia much of his fortune, but she begins to suspect his death was a hoax as strange events happen and lethal accidents befall those she loves most. Is she going insane, or is she being tormented by an invisible entity? (124 min.)
 —Glen

JOJO RABBIT

What's it rated? **PG-13**
 What's it worth? **Full price**
 Where's it showing? **Parks Plaza**
PICK Writer-director Taika Waititi (*Hunt for the Wilderpeople, What We Do in the Shadows*) helms this adaptation of Christine Leunens' satirical novel about a young boy (Roman Griffin Davis) in Hitler's (Waititi) army who discovers his mother (Scarlett Johansson) is hiding a

FILM REVIEWS continued page 29

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

Heed the call

Chris Sanders (*Lilo & Stitch, How to Train Your Dragon, The Croods*) directs screenwriter Michael Green's adaptation of Jack London's classic novel about Buck, a St. Bernard and Scotch shepherd mix that's stolen and sent north to Canada's Klondike during the gold rush, where he's forced to become a sled dog. After many adventures and terrible masters, Buck eventually teams up with John Thornton (Harrison Ford), to whom he develops a fierce loyalty. (100 min.)

Glen: I loved this book as a kid. Buck's adventure is grand and teaches important lessons of fairness and bravery but also about the cold reality of the natural world, dog pack (and human) pecking order, and the ethical treatment of animals. It's all here in this new attempt to bring London's 1903 dog's-eye-view novel to life in film, first attempted in the 1923 silent film of the same name, and attempted again in 1935, 1972, 1976, 1996, and 2009. If you can get past the jarring CGI of this new version, with its oddly anthropomorphized dog facial expressions and less-than-realistic looking animals, the core of what makes the story compelling is still there. This is a story and film squarely aimed at the 8- to 12-year-old crowd, who I'm guessing won't be bothered by the CGI or anthropomorphization in the least. They'll love Buck's humanlike personality writ across his lovable face, not to mention his clumsy shenanigans. He's a dog with a mind of his own. If you're not familiar with the story, some—but not all—of the book's elements are here: his dognapping, harsh treatment, series of masters, and eventual relationship with Thornton, who in the film version is a man hiding in the Klondike from the tragic memory of his son's death and resulting failed marriage. The character of Hal (Dan Stevens), a greenhorn prospector who badly mistreats Buck and his other sled dogs, gets expanded into a revenge side plot. The book is still superior to any of the film versions I've seen, including this one, but it's a very engrossing family film with an effective performance from Ford. **Anna:** The CGI is definitely distracting, but after a few minutes I got used to it enough to enjoy the film. *The Call of the Wild* is certainly a beloved book from my childhood, so I went into the theater with cautious excitement. All the poor reviews I had read were focused on the CGI, so I

THE CALL OF THE WILD

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

figured if I could get over that, there might be enough in Buck's wild adventure to redeem the problematic graphics. While the age demographic for this film falls far outside of my years on earth, I was able to still enjoy Buck's journey. I laughed at his antics and felt sentimental through his struggles. Narration comes from Thornton, as we watch Buck go from a Southern judge's pet who dines on thieved turkey legs, to dognapping victim, to postal service sled dog alongside Frenchman Perrault (Omar Sy), to sled dog of the evil Hal, and then his journey to Thornton. With Perrault, Buck not only learns to be a teammate but a leader and a friend. Alpha dog Spitz is untrusting and jealous of the new member, and when it finally comes to blows between the two dogs, Buck's life and position, and the lives of the sled team, are all suddenly at stake. Even knowing what happens, I was still glued to the screen as the two battled it out to be top dog. It's thrilling but not scary. I think even fairly young kids would be OK in this one. Buck is just one of those dogs that's impossible not to love, even when he's getting himself into

trouble. **Glen:** Witnessing how Buck's various owners treat him is the story's most important lesson. Judge Miller (Bradley Whitford) is disappointed by Buck's unruly behavior but never resorts to punishment worse than making Buck sleep outside. When he's taken north to be sold into servitude, he's taught to obey with the end of a club. Thankfully, Perrault buys him and decides to give Buck a chance at learning to pull a sled, despite his partner Françoise's (Cara Gee) lack of faith in the lumbering dog. When Buck gets distracted by a rabbit and pulls the team off the trail and down a slope, Perrault exhibits patience and trust. Buck turns out to be worth the trouble and soon earns Françoise's trust and respect as well. How Hal ends up with the team doesn't quite line up with the book version, but Thornton's intervention on Buck's behalf leads Buck to become his dog. Unlike Buck's previous "masters," Thornton isn't interested in having the dog do his bidding. Buck can come and go; Thornton just tells him to be home by dark. The book's title comes from Buck's increasing interaction with a local timber wolf pack, and how he's called back to his ancestral behaviors, but not



BUCK! Jack London's story of an unruly St. Bernard and Scotch shepherd mix, who's dognapped from his owner and goes on a grand adventure during the Klondike gold rush, has some off-putting CGI but is still a compelling family film.

before proving himself a faithful companion to Thornton. As I noted, the film strays a bit from the book's storyline and compresses a lot of the book's action to fit the 100-minute runtime, but this is still a wonderful family film and absolutely worth a trip to the theater, especially if you're a dog lover—even when they're constructed solely of ones and zeroes.

Anna: The director said he not only decided on full CGI for the dogs so that they could have very expressive facial features, but also so that real dogs would not be hurt or scared by the harrowing action scenes. For that, I applaud him. Nothing is quite as heartbreaking as hearing a beloved film featuring animals was actually terrible and abusive to their stars (I'm looking at you, *The Adventures of Milo and Otis*). Harrison Ford is always good, and he isn't just phoning it in here—his John is wounded and vulnerable. Bringing Buck into his life gives him motivation to keep going, keep learning, and keep appreciating the beauty around him. Buck also doesn't appreciate John's drinking and happily hides his whiskey whenever he gets the chance. Their back and forth is pretty darn adorable. Bad guy Hal makes for a great villain; his steely blue eyes and dastardly mustache, along with some pretty great costuming, turn him into a wholly unlikeable jerk. I was praying for his comeuppance from the very first time I saw him. He's unlikeable but not outright scary—again probably safe for most children. I wish I had an 11-year-old niece or nephew who I could take to this flick and just watch the joy in their eyes as Buck becomes his true self. I'll tell you one thing—I will be heading to Phoenix books to pick up a copy of this book to pass onto the little ones in my life when they get to the right age. Distracting CGI aside, this was a sweet retelling of the classic tale, one I encourage you to see, especially if you have kids the right age. ○

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

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NOT CRAZY: When her abusive partner commits suicide and leaves her his fortune, Cecilia Kass (Elizabeth Moss) suspects his death was a hoax and that he's now tormenting her and her family and friends, in *The Invisible Man*.

PHOTO COURTESY OF BONES



RISE HEROES: In the animated sequel *My Hero Academia: Heroes Rising*, a group of kids aspires to become superheroes.

FILM REVIEWS from page 28

Jewish girl (Thomasin McKenzie) in their home. Waititi won Best Adapted Screenplay at this year's Oscars.

I was really looking forward to this one and, sure enough, it's hilarious and heartbreaking. Waititi seems to have copied a page out of the Wes Anderson's (*The Royal Tenenbaums*, *Moonrise Kingdom*) director's handbook, creating a colorful, comical, absurdist world and a look at one young fanatic's coming of age story.

Jojo wants desperately to fit in, and we meet him on the day he's going to begin his Hitler Youth training. His father is away "fighting the war," so he lives alone with his loving mother, Rosie. His only real friend is pudgy Yorkki (Archie Yates), who's also beginning his training.

To work things out in his head, lonely Jojo has created an imaginary friend, Adolf Hitler, who appears whenever Jojo needs him to help psyche him up and meet the challenges of his life. The film's interested in how someone can become a Nazi, and in Jojo's case it was easy—he's been indoctrinated by anti-Semitic rhetoric his whole life, buying into the dehumanization and scapegoating of "the other."

If you're wondering if Waititi is drawing parallels to the present with this look at the past, it seems certain. The Nazis are depicted as supercilious buffoons for the most part—cruel, petty, and mean. Jojo wants to be a good Nazi, but he's cursed with a conscience. He gets his nickname Jojo Rabbit when he can't bring himself to wring a rabbit's neck as part of his training.

When he eventually discovers Elsa, the Jewish girl his mother is hiding, his black and white Nazi world is suddenly

complicated with shades of gray. What follows is his slow—painfully slow!—awakening. It's a very tender and sweet film that will have you howling with laughter and wiping away tears. I loved it!

Sam Rockwell's character, Captain Klenzendorf, is a real standout. He's a very complicated Nazi, one who dreams of glory on the front lines but who through his own lazy ineptitude keeps finding himself demoted to more and more embarrassing positions. He's a closeted gay, uncommitted to anti-Semitism, but a loyal and brave Nazi all the same. Klenzendorf is the kind of morally compromised but generally good-hearted character Rockwell is great at playing.

I also thought Archie Yates as Yorkki was wonderful. His character, like Jojo, is earnest and loyal but also too sweet to be an effective Nazi. Rebel Wilson as Fraulein Rahm also delivered a lot of comic gold. It's both funny and horrifying to see how Waititi depicts Hitler's Army during its death knell, willing to clothe children in paper uniforms, arm them, and expect them to fight to the death as the allied invasion tightened its noose around Germany.

Jojo Rabbit and its irreverent examination of Nazi Germany has a lot to say about our world today, but Waititi is such a hopeful filmmaker, and the film's ultimate message is that good will triumph over evil. Let's hope so! (108 min.)

—Glen

MY HERO ACADEMIA: HEROES RISING

What's it rated? **Not rated**
Where's it showing? **Stadium 14**

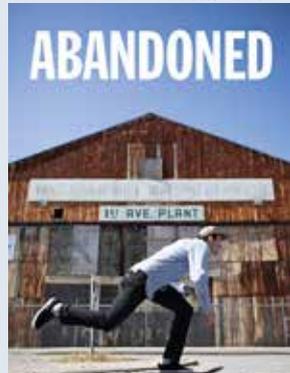
ABANDONED

When? **2016**
What's it rated? **TV-14**
Where? **Hulu, Amazon Prime**

On prom night my senior year of high school, a few of my friends and I bailed on a low-key gathering we were at to explore the remnants of an amusement park that had closed three years prior.

Much of the infrastructure remained in place, but everything else was different. The roller coaster's tracks still stood tall, but they were missing the sound of roaring carts. The water

PHOTO COURTESY VICELAND



EXPLORING EMPTY SPACES: In this Viceland series, professional skateboarder and videographer Rick McCrank explores abandoned locations throughout North America.

slides still twisted and turned, but now they led to empty pools. It was oddly surreal taking all this in, while walking through a previously bustling park that I visited countless times throughout my formative years.

There's something alluring about visiting spaces that people once occupied. I imagine this feeling is what drove professional skateboarder and videographer Rick McCrank to host the documentary series *Abandoned*, which aired on Viceland in 2016 and is now on Hulu.

Throughout the series, McCrank explores abandoned malls in northeast Ohio, empty schools in St. Louis, and desolate fishing villages along Canada's east coast, among other locations. All of these spaces are beautifully shot. I seriously can't overstate how much I enjoyed just looking at this show; it's visually stunning.

But more important than the scenery are the people you meet in each episode. McCrank visits with locals who still cherish and occupy these empty spaces that most people have long moved past. They talk about the location's glory days, what caused it to fall into such a state of disrepair, and whether or not there's any hope in saving it.

It's these conversations with the people who still care about these spaces that really make the show for me. It becomes more than a show depicting abandoned buildings, and more of a series about hope and resiliency. This is emphasized in the

BINGEABLE

closing sequence of each episode, which features a clip of each person McCrank meets staring defiantly into the camera. After hearing these people's stories—which were almost always tragic—it's an incredibly powerful moment.

Despite the often-heavy subject matter, McCrank usually keeps things light with his awkward sense of humor. The episodes are also broken up with sequences of McCrank skating through these abandoned spaces. Given that I didn't know who he was prior to watching the show, it was somewhat jarring the first time McCrank started cruising through an empty Ohio mall, but a quick Google search connected the dots.

Skating ends up becoming an important part of the show. In multiple episodes, McCrank meets up with people who've turned abandoned spaces into makeshift skate parks, such as a group of kids McCrank meets up with in New Orleans who've built ramps and other features in an area left abandoned after Hurricane Katrina.

But overall, this isn't a show about skating or abandoned buildings. More than anything, *Abandoned* is a show about people.

—Zac Ezzone

NEW A group of kids aspires to become superheroes in this animated adventure sequel directed by Kenji Nagasaki. (104 min.)

—Glen

SONIC THE HEDGEHOG

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

PICK Jeff Fowler directs this action-adventure based on the Sega video game franchise about a super-fast blue hedgehog from outer space. Settling into his life on Earth, our titular character (voiced by Ben Schwartz) must evade an evil genius, Dr. Ivo "Eggman" Robotnik (Jim Carrey), a government-hired baddie who wants to experiment on Sonic and steal his powers.

Growing up with Nintendo consoles, my brief encounters with Sega's tent-pole creation were always either over at a friend's or neighbor's house or in the lobby of my dentist's office—nothing like a little platforming before plaque reforming, am I right? Still, I felt a bit nostalgic watching *Sonic the Hedgehog*, not so much toward the games, but 1990s video gaming in general. What the film has in common with its source material is a sense of carefree fun. The cartoonish plot might feel like an extended *Tom and Jerry* episode, but it knows what it is and doesn't pretend not to be anything deeper than that. It's a game of cat-and-mouse, with Robotnik hunting down Sonic across the country—did I mention it's technically a road trip comedy too?

The adventure begins in Green Hills, Montana, where Sonic has been living in seclusion for the last 10 years (trained on his home planet to hide his powers). But he just can't help himself, and a Big Foot-esque myth spreads among the locals who catch tiny glimpses of him speeding around town: The Blue Blur, they call him. One evening, Sonic's super speed reaches an unprecedented level and causes an electromagnetic pulse that blacks out the entire Pacific Northwest. This of course attracts the government's attention, and Robotnik is brought in as a bounty hunter of sorts.

Using drones and other gadgets, the mad scientist is able to track down the source of the blackout (or should I say "blue-out"?). Usually, in situations like this, Sonic would be able to use his "rings," which can open portals to other planets, to escape. Unfortunately his bag of McGuffins—I mean, rings—becomes misplaced after the local sheriff, Tom Wachowski (James Marsden), mistakes Sonic for the notorious raccoon raiding his garbage and shoots him with a bear tranquilizer—courtesy of his veterinarian wife, Maddie (Tika Sumpter).

Thus begins Sonic's journey, joined by Tom, who he's convinced to help him to recover the rings, all the while evading Robotnik, who he nicknames "Eggman" based on his egg-shaped drones. And speaking of which, Carrey is absolutely egg-cellent in the role, and is sure to please fans of his more manic characters earlier in his career, like Ace Ventura and The Mask. Just hit me with another dose of '90s nostalgia why don't ya? (99 min.)

—Caleb Wisblood

UNDERWATER

What's it rated? **PG-13**
What's it worth? **Rent it**
Where's it showing? **Hi-Way Drive-In**

William Eubank (*Love, The Signal*) directs this sci-fi horror drama about a aquatic research crew—including Norah Price (Kristen Stewart), Captain (Vincent Cassel), Paul (T.J. Miller), and others—trying to escape the ramifications of an earthquake on their subterranean laboratory.

Stylish direction and good acting helps, but this claustrophobic story is so derivative that you'll feel like you've seen it all before. Of course, if you don't mind the familiarity, you might think this lean bit of sci-fi horror is worth a matinee. (95 min.) ○

—Glen

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

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Growing resiliency

Statewide ag conference highlights value of diversity in the field as the best way to face challenges ahead

BY ANDREA ROOKS AND BETH GIUFFRE

In her bakery, Melissa Sorongon bakes naturally leavened loaves in a wood-fired oven, bread she's crafted from American heritage grains that she mills fresh.

She's the only one doing the work she does at Piedrasassi Wine and Bread. The Lompoc tasting room is open by appointment only, and Sorongon sells her bread online and on Saturday mornings at the Santa Barbara Farmers' Market. Over the years, she's developed a wealth of knowledge about how to raise a successful ag business from something as small as a mustard seed.

Sorongon is among a handful of Central Coast family farmers and organic growers sharing their expertise during the California Small Farm Conference. From Feb. 27 to 29, the 32nd annual conference, put on by the Community Alliance with Family Farmers, will bring growers and advocates from all over the state to Paso Robles.

This year's conference focuses on the theme of diversity—among crops and among the farmers themselves. Sorongon is one of three women presenting their perspectives during the Women Farmers: The Key to Success is Diversity panel discussion.

"It's my first time at the Small Farm Conference—so many of us who own and operate small farms find it hard to find the time to attend conferences, but this one is a good one for people who want to begin to farm or expand/improve their small operation," Sorongon told the Sun via email, noting that she heard about the conference through Carla Rosin, a farmers' market manager and promoter of local agriculture.

Sorongon shared that she's learned a lot over the past eight years, leading her to find the best ways to use everything the small winery and bakery have on hand.

"One thing I think I have learned since 2012 when we first started growing grain is the value of being flexible and creative. When we first started, we were mostly selling just bread at the market," she said. "Since I am the only baker, and I alone mill the flour, fuel the wood-fired oven, and mix, shape, and bake the bread, bread production is limited by the amount that I can make by myself."

Now, to help expand the business, she also sells prepared mustard, red wine vinegar, white wine vinegar, and a variety of wines at Piedrasassi's farmers' market stand.

"The mustard seed was harvested as an accidental crop in our herbicide-free grain, and I make the vinegar from expired wine samples from the winery tasting room," Sorongon said. "This kind of product development has been essential for us to grow the business while keeping the time-consuming bread production at a manageable level."

Sorongon said she has found a solid local community through her fellow members of the Santa Barbara Certified Farmers' Market Association (SBCFMA). She also said there's a



GROWING EXPERIENCE: Melissa Sorongon, the baker for Piedrasassi Wine and Bread, will share her expertise during the upcoming California Small Farm Conference in Paso Robles. Piedrasassi's tasting room is located in Lompoc, and Sorongon also sells her bread at the Santa Barbara Farmers' Market on Saturdays.

chapter of the California Women in Agriculture in Santa Maria, which provides educational and outreach opportunities in ag.

"I sit on the board of the SBCFMA, and it is very encouraging to see many new younger farmers from diverse backgrounds who are interested in developing new products to bring to market," she said. "I'm very proud to belong to such a robust and varied farm community here in Santa Barbara County."

The local ag landscape is indeed varied.

According to the 2017 USDA Census of Agriculture, of Santa Barbara County's 1,467 farms, 85 percent are family farms. The census also shows that 14 percent of the county's farmers sell directly to consumers, largely through the 10 weekly farmers' markets between Santa Maria and Carpinteria. While the average size of a farm in the county is 487 acres, there are more than 475 farms

that are quite small—33 percent of the total county farms work 1 to 9 acres, according to the ag census.

Of the county's farms, there are 147 registered organic farms on 16,428 acres of organically farmed land, according to the ag commissioner's 2018 annual crop report.

At the Small Farm Conference, established farmers from around the state and the up-and-coming generation will rub elbows and learn from each other.

"This year we landed on the theme of strength through diversity, because really, I think it's at the heart of resilience," said Evan Wiig, who has been coordinating the farm conference. Wiig is the founder of the Farmers Guild and director of membership and communications at the Community Alliance with Family Farmers.

"There are so many different elements of diversity; agriculture—and especially agriculture at a larger scale—is really veering toward consolidation and veering toward being homogeneous, a lot of mono-crops," Wiig said, "and some of the challenges we see in our food system, and what really puts our food system at risk is the lack of diversity."

Wiig also noted that incorporating diversity can help farmers of the future face some of the largest mounting problems.

EATS continued page 31

PHOTO COURTESY OF EVAN WIIG



SMALL FARMS TALK SHOP: Farmers Guild Founder Evan Wiig (left) has been coordinating the CAFF California Small Farm Conference this weekend, Feb. 27 through 29 at the Cuesta Campus in Paso Robles. The year's theme of Strength Through Diversity honors the resilience of diversity in our agricultural systems.

Support your farmers

Piedrasassi Wine and Bread's tasting room is located in Lompoc, and tastings can be arranged by appointment only Thursday through Monday. Visit piedrasassi.com for more information.

The 32nd annual California Small Farm Conference takes place Feb. 27 to 29 at Cuesta College North County Campus, 2800 Buena Vista Drive, Paso Robles. Get your tickets at casmallfarmconference.org.

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Sun

EATS from page 30

“There are certainly issues related to climate change ... the big issue of our generation,” Wiig said, “and folks just getting out of college—that’s really what they’re having to look at.”

Bill Spencer, aka Farmer Bill, is one Central Coast farmer giving serious thought to the future of his farm. Spencer said he is ready to retire soon from his small family farm (certified organic since 1999), which is currently transitioning to biodynamic.

Spencer will be at the Small Farm Conference—in fact, he and his wife, Barbara, will be receiving one of the 2020 Family Farm Awards: the Legacy Farmer of the Year. His Windrose Farm, east of Paso Robles, grows 12 acres of veggies, apples, and stone fruit. He also has 5 acres of sheep pastures. The rest of his 50-acre land is a habitat full of animal, bird, and insect life.

Spencer is a treasure trove of farming expertise. He said many of his interns move out of state to places like Maine where land isn’t as expensive and the farming community is ultra supportive.

“The problem is most of the young farmers that are doing the best they can are on leased ground, which is short-term,” Spencer said. “They make money, they send their kids to college, and they do a good job, but they never own the land, and therefore ... the kind of permanent infrastructure in the form of habitat for beneficial bees and other insects, you don’t plant because it’s a perennial and it becomes the landowner’s property once it’s anchored in the ground.”

As they look to the future, our local farmers can use the Small Farm Conference forum to support their efforts to keep the soil healthy to grow our food for years to come. Because as

much as the natural elements have an effect on our farming, it always comes down to people and support to actually thrive. ○

Associate Editor Andrea Rooks is shopping at her local farmers’ market. Contributing writer Beth Giuffre loves organic knowledge. Send favorite foods through the editor at clanham@santamariasun.com.

Nibbles & Bites

• In case you haven’t noticed, Los Alamos is awaiting the reopening of its classy, cozy dining spot, **Pico at the Los Alamos General Store**. The wine bar and retail space will reopen in early March after a brief hiatus, with a new executive chef, a new menu concept of “upscale comfort food,” and an enhanced dining room experience. Culinary crafter chef **John Wayne Formica**, known as the Traveling Cowboy Chef, will join Pico co-owners, **Will Henry and Kali Kopley**, in the reimagined hospitality venture, which will also feature a new tasting lounge for Henry’s **Lumen Wines**. Formica attended the Cooking and Hospitality Institute of Chicago in 2006 and was sous chef at chef Marcus Samuelsson’s now-shuttered Chicago restaurant, C-House. Most recently, Formica worked as an executive chef with hospitality groups in Los Angeles. In Los Alamos, Pico will keep its popular Sunday Burger Night, which will also feature a full dinner menu, and later in spring, Pico will launch Saturday and Sunday brunch. Menu highlights include vegan and vegetarian options and seafood entrees. Pico at the Los Alamos General Store is located at 458 Bell St. Learn more at losalamosgeneralstore.com. ○

Associate Editor Andrea Rooks loves a good brunch. Send mimosas to arooks@newtimeslo.com.

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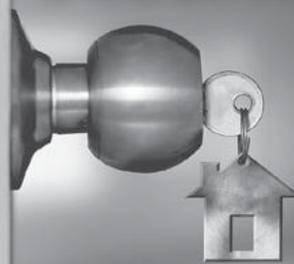
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