Lompoc has a riverbed problem, again [8]

A chef contest with local celebs [34]

That one decade that changed film [29]

Art exhibits, plays, music, festivals, and more are waiting for you as the hills come alive with green [17]

BY CALEB WISEBLOOD
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Camilla Lanham
editor

Will March showers bring April flowers? I have no idea, and it’s been dry, dry, dry so far this year. My fingers are crossed! But spring is still coming and so are all the events and artsy-type things that come with it. Fun in the sun, inspired exhibits, music in parks, and entertainment on the stage. Arts Editor Caleb Wiseblood has got the lowdown on what’s coming your way in the Sun’s annual Spring Arts issue [17].

Also this week, read about what happened on Super Tuesday in Santa Barbara County [5], why Lompoc is looking at another potential Santa Ynez Riverbed cleanup [8], a local author who’s obsessed with a daring decade of film [29], a day trip to Los Angeles [30], and some local chefs competing to out cook one another [34].

Camilla Lanham
editor

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EMERGING ARTISTS: The Santa Maria Arts Council (SMAC) hosts the awards show and showcase for its Individual Grants in the Arts Competition at the Marian Theatre on Monday, May 4, at 5:30 p.m. Wine and hors d’oeuvres will be available to guests. Tickets to the showcase are $30 for adults, $20 for students, and $10 for children. Visit smartscouncil.org for more info.

NEWS BRIEFS
3/5– 3/12
What’s Your Take? We know you’ve got an opinion. Everybody’s got one!

What should Lompc do about its riverbed situation?
☐ It needs to focus on helping the city’s homeless population, and then worry about cleaning up the riverbed.
☐ Funding another cleanup would be a waste of time and resources.
☐ It needs dedicated police officers patrolling the riverbed every day.
☐ Nothing. It should be the county’s responsibility.

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3/5–3/12
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4 • Sun • March 5 - March 12, 2020 • www.santamariasun.com
Hartmann poised to secure second term as supervisor

The same winner emerged from a repeat race of four years ago for Santa Barbara County 3rd District supervisor.

Incumbent Joan Hartmann and challenger Bruce Porter faced off again after vying for the same position in 2016. That race led to a runoff in November—which Hartmann won—after both candidates failed to secure a majority of the votes in the June primary. But a second election doesn’t appear to be necessary this year based on unofficial results from the county.

As of March 4, Hartmann had secured about 52 percent of the vote compared to Porter’s roughly 36 percent, according to unofficial county results. The two other candidates in the race, Karen Jones and Jessica Alvarez Parfrey—who dropped out prior to the election—finished with 7 percent and 5 percent, respectively.

Porter gathered with friends and supporters at CHOMP Burgers, Fries, and Shakes in Solvang to watch the results slowly trickle in. When the county posted early voting results after 9 p.m., the contest was evenly split with only 39 votes separating Hartmann and Porter. At the time, Porter said he was content with the race extending into a runoff election in November. But as the results continued to roll in, the gap between the two candidates began to widen.

However, as of press time, Porter wasn’t conceding defeat just yet. His campaign released a statement on March 4 that said it’s too early to call the race because there are still mail-in and provisional ballots to be counted. “With over 30,000 ballots still to be tallied countywide, it’s too soon to draw any definitive conclusions from the current totals,” the statement reads. “The Porter for Supervisor campaign is looking forward to seeing the final results and is preparing for a lively general election in November.”

The morning after the election, Hartmann said she’s ready to move on from what she described as a difficult campaign, but acknowledged that she’ll feel better when the vote totals are officially certified.

If the results hold, she said she’s looking forward to a second term, during which she can continue pushing for priorities she advocated for throughout her first term, such as renewable energy and park improvements, as well as the needs of the various communities in her district.

“Our office is known for being highly responsive, so that’s something we take a lot of pride in,” Hartmann said.

Two other county supervisor races took place on March 3. First District Supervisor Das Williams secured another term after beating out Laura Capps, according to unofficial results.

Meanwhile, Bob Nelson ran unopposed for 4th District Supervisor. Nelson currently serves as 4th District Supervisor Peter Adam’s chief of staff, and he decided to run after Adam chose not to run for re-election.

—Zac Ezzoni

Cole, Bennett head to general election for 37th District Assembly seat

Preliminary election results show that Charles Cole and Steve Bennett will continue their race for the 37th District Assembly seat through to November after securing the top two places in the March primary.

The 37th District includes the cities of Buellton, Carpinteria, Goleta, Santa Barbara, and Solvang from Santa Barbara County and more than a quarter of Ventura County’s precincts in and votes left to be counted in both.

Cole states on his campaign’s Facebook page included seven candidates running for the Assembly seat that Monique Limón is leaving in 2021.

Cole, the youngest candidate and lone Republican in the field, came out on top with 26,102 total votes, or 32.66 percent of voters. In second was Bennett, with 18,676 votes and 23.37 percent. These numbers reflect the tallies as of the morning after the election, with 100 percent of Santa Barbara County’s precincts reporting and 86.67 percent of Ventura County’s precincts in and votes left to be counted in both.

Cole states on his campaign’s Facebook page
State school bond shrouded by confusion unlikely to pass

Chances are looking bleak for a California school bond that would allow the state to funnel $13 billion into public schools and college facilities improvement projects, and many Central Coast educators aren’t surprised. They’re blaming, at least partially, a confusing name—Proposition 13—for the lack of support.

“Nobody wants to be called Prop. 13,” said Maggie White, public information officer for the Santa Maria-Bonita School District. “Just like nobody wants to be named Adolf Hitler.”

On the morning of March 4, nearly 56 percent of Californians had voted against Proposition 13, according to the Secretary of State’s semi-official election results. Roughly 56 percent of Santa Barbara County voters, along with 65 percent of SLO County residents, voted against the school bond.

There were still a number of votes left to be counted, but as of March 4, Proposition 13 was in a deep hole. It’s one of the few statewide school bonds voted down by Californians. In the past 25 years, only one K-12 education bond has been defeated, according to the Los Angeles Times.

With the name “Proposition 13” is too tied up with the Proposition 13 of 1978, a property-tax-cutting measure that was overwhelmingly approved by voters decades ago and has since shaped California’s politics. With recent talk of reforming the 1978 Proposition 13 and an upcoming initiative on the November ballot that actually would impact the 78 Proposition 13, this election’s Proposition 13 was highly confusing for voters, said

Although the 2020 bond has nothing to do with the famous Proposition 13 of 1978, White said there were many falsities about this year’s bond spreading throughout social media. With recent talk of reforming the 1978 Proposition 13 and an upcoming initiative on the November ballot that actually would impact the 78 Proposition 13, this election’s Proposition 13 was highly confusing for voters, she said.

“I’m honored and humbled by the support. I’m going to continue to work hard there. I think I’ll be very close in November,” Laird said.

Laird’s platform includes water resources, climate change that’s affected the state’s fire seasons, and affordability.

In the No. 2 spot for the state Senate seat is independent candidate Nohrden, who’s so far earned a total of $72,123. While Nohrden’s platform includes education, affordability, reducing taxes, and homelessness, the latter she said is a top concern among voters she’s spoken to.

“Many of the folks in rural and disadvantaged communities really shows me like nobody wants to be named Adolf Hitler.”

“Everybody wants to be called Prop. 13.”

In the November general election, November’s general election to determine the seat being vacated by state Sen. Hannah-Brown, Limón, Michaels, and Michaels will move on to November’s general election to determine the seat being vacated by state Sen. Hannah-Brown, Limón, and Michaels will move on to November’s general election to determine the seat being vacated by state Sen. Hannah-Brown.
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Another cleanup

More than a year after cleaning up the Santa Ynez Riverbed, Lompoc weighs a second attempt

By Zac Ezone

More than a year after spending nearly $500,000 on cleaning up the Santa Ynez Riverbed, the city of Lompoc is weighing its options on how to address the problem again. Between September 2018 and January 2019, the city, along with a variety of nonprofits and some Santa Barbara County agencies, evicted people who were illegally living in the riverbed and collected millions of pounds of trash, biological programs or homeless shelters. The city also experienced a police officer shortage that's continuing to this day. The estimated cost of $128,820 to clean up the riverbed is also less than what the city spent during its previous effort. Along with this cost, Alarcon told the council that dedicating two police officers to maintaining and patrolling the riverbed would cost an estimated $300,200 annually.

Two to three times a week, the city of Lompoc, along with a variety of nonprofits and some Santa Barbara County agencies, evicted people who were illegally living in the riverbed and collected millions of pounds of trash, biological programs or homeless shelters. The city also experienced a police officer shortage that's continuing to this day. The estimated cost of $128,820 to clean up the riverbed is also less than what the city spent during its previous effort. Along with this cost, Alarcon told the council that dedicating two police officers to maintaining and patrolling the riverbed would cost an estimated $300,200 annually.

The council didn't vote to move forward with a specific plan at the meeting. Lompoc Mayor Jenelle Osborne, who requested that this item appear on the council's agenda, told the council that the purpose of the meeting was for council members to gain a better understanding of the current situation in the riverbed. Following Alarcon's presentation, council members proposed various recommendations that city staff will research and report back on during a future meeting.

Osborne said that the entity responsible for taking care of the primarily affected area of the riverbed within River Park is a point of contention between the city and county. Although it's county land, it's city-owned property and therefore the city feels as though the city is responsible for taking care of the area, Osborne said.

During the meeting, Councilmember Dirk Starbuck expressed his frustration over the city's inability to enforce laws. "When I know there's two women who are no longer being trafficked ... that's a success, period," Halterman said. "I'm still dealing with a client today who is on the verge of entering programs and housing. The fallout is still going and it's positive."

In order to create a sustainable situation where the city doesn't have to continuously spend money on large-scale cleanups, Halterman said the City Council must determine what it's trying to accomplish—whether that's cleaning up the river to avoid any potential environmental problems or finding solutions to homelessness.

If it's the latter, he said, the city should commit resources to a homeless liaison team to patrol the riverbed after it's cleaned, pursue opportunities for day shelters within the city, and designate a safe parking area where homeless individuals can sleep in their vehicles at night.

“If we’re trying to solve this, we need to hone in on and be specific about what we’re doing,” Halterman said.

Reach Staff Writer Zac Ezone at ezone@santamariasun.com.

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Healthy eating

Through its podcast series *Food as Medicine* the foodbank is teaching people about nutrition

BY ZAC EZZONE

After earning her Ph.D. in nutritional biology from UC Davis and completing a few years of research—including some time in West Africa—Lacey Baldivies knew she wanted to return to Santa Barbara County to share her expertise with the community.

Baldivies worked as the executive director of Fairview Gardens Center for Urban Agriculture in Goleta before joining the Foodbank of Santa Barbara County in January 2019 where she works as the director of community programs and education.

Shortly after starting her new gig, she began working on an event series called Food as Medicine as a way for experts in the county to talk about food nutrition.

“There’s a lot of nutrition expertise in our county,” Baldivies said. “It’s just a matter of making one decision at a time.”

As for the title of the event, Baldivies said it’s based on the idea that “we can heal ourselves through food and care for ourselves through nutrition.”

After holding the first in-person discussion, Baldivies said she wants to expand the series by reaching people looking to cut back on meat, as well as a discussion about healthy fats.

“These events are really about people bringing their knowledge to make better and healthier decisions every day for themselves and their families,” Baldivies said.

It’s not a matter of being healthy every time; it’s a matter of making one decision at a time,” Baldivies said. “It’s a lifestyle change.”

The first episode, titled “The Power of Cruciferous Veggies,” centers on sulforaphane, which is a compound found in vegetables such as broccoli and cabbages and is associated with various health benefits. The next two episodes cover the digestive process, and the fourth episode is all about fiber.

Baldivies said she’s planning future episodes about protein and alternative sources for people looking to cut back on meat, as well as a discussion about healthy fats.

Highlight:

- Tickets are now on sale for the 38th annual Santa Barbara Vintners Festival, which will take place on May 2 at Rancho Sisquoc Winery. The festival will feature food, wine, live music, local art, and a silent auction. Check out sbvintnersweekend.com for more information.

- Seven members from Ernest Righetti High School’s Future Business Leaders of America Chapter developed the skills necessary to be recognized at the Gold Coast Section Conference in South Pasadena. Three students qualified for the State Leadership Conference. Lance Barredo, Steven Villanueva, and Neo Vincchi placed in the top six students, so they’re heading to Ontario, California, on April 6.

- Aortic aneurysms. Kevin M. Casey, MD Board Certified Vascular Surgeon Hotel Corque | Harvest Ballroom BC 400 Alisal Road | Solvang, CA. 93464 Tuesday, March 17th | 5:30-7:00pm Light snacks will be provided.

Register for free at: 1-844-51-HEART or visit Cottagehealth.org/heartmttd
Let’s get that marine sanctuary kept

Keep the proposed protections moving through the Legislature

BY ANDREW CHRISTIE

For some time now, the Sierra Club, in concert with environmental groups in SLO and Santa Barbara counties, has been supporting the Chumash in advocating for the designation of a Chumash Heritage National Marine Sanctuary off the Central Coast. Per the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, “The primary objective of a sanctuary is to protect its natural and cultural features while allowing people to use and enjoy the ocean a sustainable way. Sanctuary waters provide a secure habitat for species close to extinction and protect historically significant shipwrecks and artifacts. Sanctuaries serve as natural classrooms and laboratories for schoolchildren and researchers alike to promote understanding and stewardship of our oceans. They often are cherished recreational spots for sport fishing and diving and support commercial industries such as tourism, fishing, and kelp harvesting.” (For details, go to sanctuaries.noaa.gov/about/faqs.)

Next October will mark the fifth anniversary of the date when NOAA placed the nomination into its inventory, declaring that it fully met the qualifications for designation as part of the national marine sanctuary system. The formal process for review and update of 5-year-old nominations was published in the Federal Register last November.

If you’re wondering why a nomination that meets all the criteria for designation has been sitting in inventory for five years, you’re not alone.

Last December, Sen. Dianne Feinstein wrote a letter to Secretary of Commerce Wilbur Ross to let him know she was “deeply concerned about the fate of the Chumash Heritage National Marine Sanctuary...” She concluded by asking the secretary to “provide a response detailing why [NOAA’s Office of National Marine Sanctuaries] is not actively evaluating this important proposal.”

I can hazard a guess. When the Chumash Heritage National Marine Sanctuary was first proposed five years ago, it was met with a dizzying array of objections and wild surmise, often tipping over into slapstick and eagerly embraced by county Supervisors John Peschong, Debbie Arnold, and Lynn Compton, who went along with notions like:

• Marine sanctuary designation would mean a “loss of local control” (something no coastal county or county has ever had over the state and federally regulated waters off its shores).

• It would regulate or ban fishing (confusing national sanctuaries with the marine reserves that are part of the state of California’s Marine Protected Areas).

• It would simply duplicate existing regulations (it wouldn’t).

• It would protect discharges of water from agricultural operations (it wouldn’t).

• It’s part of “Agenda 30” (which, one may assume, is even worse than long-time conspiracy favorite Agenda 21).

• And the half-racist, half-delirious claim that a sanctuary would mean the Chumash could block everyone from going fishing or swimming, and “we’ll have to pay the Chumash to do desal.”

Meanwhile, on the factual side of the ledger, there are multiple peer-reviewed socioeconomic studies on the impact of national marine sanctuaries on local economies.

The video record of a 2016 meeting with marine sanctuary superintendents at the Office of National Marine Sanctuaries (NOAA’s) national sanctuary superintendents at the Marine Sanctuary when our county supervisors fell down. Urge him to do everything he can to accelerate the designation of the proposed Chumash Heritage National Marine Sanctuary, and ask the same question as Sen. Feinstein:

“Why isn’t the Department of Commerce actively evaluating this important proposal?”

Andrew Christie is the director of the Santa Lucia Chapter of the Sierra Club. Send comments through clasham@santamariasun.com or write a letter to the editor and email it to letters@santamariasun.com.

MAYFIELD

Why I voted for Bernie Sanders


Health care is a human right, Medicare for all is our best response. As an educator, I agree with Bernie that public colleges and universities should be tuition free for those who earn admission. He is right to fight for a $15 minimum wage, a living wage. Having taught in prisons, I know Bernie is right to want to reform a racially unfair prison system. Living with good people who have immigrated to America, I know Bernie is right when he calls for immigration reform.

Bernie has pledged to find just solutions for all of our current challenges, not by himself, but with our help. He says, “Not me, us!” because he knows that it will take all of us, working together, to fix an unjust system.

Wealth inequality threatens our peace in America. Cesar Chavez said, “If you want peace, work for justice.”

That includes environmental justice. Bernie

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**LETTERS from page 10**

Fiscal groundhog
don’t know much about below-ground critters, I’m more of a winged creature expert, but it seems to me that Groundhog Day wasn’t Feb. 2. It was Feb. 18, during a Lompoc City Council meeting where elected officials had to grapple once again with homeless encampments in the Santa Ynez Riverbed. It wasn’t so long ago that the city spent half a million dollars to clear 60 to 80 people and millions of pounds of waste out of the riverbed. Gosh, Remember when? The city coughed up all of that money, and then it didn’t have any more dollars or personnel to patrol the riverbed and ensure that it stayed encampment free. And, now—no surprises here—about 20 homeless individuals are once again calling the riverbed home. And Lompoc, which essentially did nothing to ensure its $500,000 investment wasn’t wasted, is wondering why it would have to pay to play all over again!

Councilmember Dirk “The Renegade” Starbuck was pissed that Santa Barbara County isn’t helping. After all, it’s land owned by Lompoc; that has yet to be annexed to the city. So, obviously it’s a county issue! Wait a minute. I’m confused. If Lompoc owns it, but it’s technically within the county, who’s responsible? Starbuck seems convinced that it’s a county issue. In fact, he thinks a joyride along the river bottom is just the ticket! “Let’s just go down there and ride a motorcycle,” Starbuck said during the Feb. 18 meeting. “The Sheriff’s [Office] will respond if your kid is down there on a quad. They will send out four quads of their own and find your kid. Somehow they can’t look left or right when down there.”

So, Starbuck seems to be saying, send your kids down there on motorcycles and the Santa Barbara County Sheriff’s Office will go get them! Yeehaw!

Wait. How is this going to fix that whole encampment issue that bothers the city so much?

Meanwhile Councilmember Jim “Ride the Free Market” Mosby believes the city could just send a bunch of process servers into the riverbed to evict the homeless. Aren’t those the people who chase soon-to-be divorcees down and hand them papers? With no proper training or experience dealing with that population, I’m sure nothing bad could happen and the city certainly wouldn’t be liable for any associated safety-type issues because it’s county land!

Right? No! Oh. Shoot.

Pastor Brian Halterman, who manages the Bridge Homeless Shelter, seemed to be the voice of reason at the meeting. The city, he said, needs to figure out what it wants: to come up with solutions to the problem or clean up the riverbed for environmental reasons. It should definitely do both. The riverbed will have encampments as long as individuals feel like there’s nowhere else to go. It’s a humanitarian issue that affects the environment—and will continue to do so over and over again. Renegade Starbucks and Free Market Mosby need to get their priorities figured out—all this “fiscal responsibility” rhetoric they preach but fail to practice keeps showing up to bite them in the boot.

The canary is channeling an inner groundhog this week. Send comments to canary@santamariasun.com.

**Gale McNeeley**
Santa Maria

**Gals vs. environment is a false dichotomy**

We all want good jobs for ourselves and our neighbors, excellent schools, and a robust economy.

Ditto for a clean and healthy environment in which our children and grandchildren can live, play, and thrive long into the future. These are not mutually exclusive possibilities.

Nevertheless, those who stand to profit from fossil fuel production often present these as an either/or dichotomy. Such entities include Aera Energy, co-owned by Shell and ExxonMobil, and a co-sponsor of the recent 2020 Economic Forecast event hosted by the Santa Maria Chamber of Commerce.

In the 1800s, oil drilling was a major industry in California and supplied 39 percent of the nation’s oil. Today, California oil produces only 3.3 percent of U.S. oil. In Santa Barbara County, oil accounts for only 1 percent of total employment and 1 percent of county taxes.

Just think: Clean energy jobs in California now outnumber jobs in the fossil fuel industry five to one, driven by our expanding renewable energy and climate laws.

Solar installation has been a godsend for the construction industry, providing jobs for union laborers such as carpenters, plumbers, and electricians. There are now 10,000 solar businesses in the U.S., employing about a quarter of a million people. Four in 10 of those jobs are in California.

Meanwhile, Goldman Sachs reports that it’s time to sell ExxonMobil’s stock due to the unpredictable price of crude in the future. Is this where we want to put all our chips for economic security in our county? Let’s stay away from playing in false dichotomies and get on with what is clearly the future. We can have clean jobs, good schools, and a healthy environment.

Rachel Altman
Santa Barbara

**FORMER STATE Sen. Bernie Sanders was recently in Santa Barbara to talk about the future of the climate crisis. He said, “If you think the current fiscal groundhog is bad, wait until you see the climate groundhog. It’s a radical fiscal groundhog that will give us the same old same old.” Students at UCSB had an opportunity to see that fiscal groundhog in action at the June 18 conference, “States of Inequality” hosted by the Santa Barbara Institute for Critical Global Studies. One of the speakers was Jane O’Mahony, a member of the California Public Employees Retirement System (CalPERS) and a noted advocate for unions and retiree rights. O’Mahony, who has been a union lawyer for more than 30 years, argued that the current crisis in public pensions is due to years of public sector cuts and budget constraints, and that it is time to invest strategically in the future. She also emphasized the importance of worker representation in pension decision making. O’Mahony’s comments were part of a broader discussion about the role of public sector unions in addressing economic inequality and promoting social justice. The conference also featured speeches by Carl Sandburg, the University of Santa Barbara’s chief investment officer, and Tom Steyer, a prominent environmental activist and investor. The event was well attended and generated a lot of interest in the audience. Overall, it was a thought-provoking event that highlighted the importance of addressing economic inequality and promoting social justice.**

**Rachel Altman**
Santa Barbara
WHEN IN ROME
The Pacific Conservatory Theatre (PCPA) presents its production of William Shakespeare’s The Tragedy of Julius Caesar, which opens at the Summer Rep on Thursday, March 5. This iteration of the classic drama stars Yusef Seever (pictured) as Marc Antony and runs through Sunday, March 22. Tickets to the show range from $38 to $80. Call (805) 928-7731 or visit pcpa.org for more info.
— Caleb Wiseblood

SPECIAL EVENTS

SANTA YNEZ VALLEY

BUELLTON WINE AND CHILI FESTIVAL 2020
Taste beer and wine from over 30 wineries and craft breweries from all over the Central Coast and cuisine from 25 different chili and salsa cooks. Also features live music and games. March 5, 12-4:30 p.m. $15-$50. 805-448-7070, buelltonwineandchilifestival.com. Flying Flags RV Resort, Camarogrand, 180 Avenue Of The Flags, Buellton.

LOMPOC/DANDBERG

LOMPOC LITTLE LEAGUE: OPENING DAY DACEO
Increase was honored for their longstanding sponsorship of the Majors Age A Team and the District 65 12 YO All Star Team. March 7, 9 a.m. lompololittleleague.com/Ry Park, 800 W. Oceans Ave., Lompoc.

TRADITIONAL MISSION LIFE DAY
Join the costumed docents and staff for an opportunity to observe and participate in the craft activities that supplied the needs of the mission residents. Demonstrated crafts may include: tortilla making, candle making, soap making, carpentry, pottery, and blacksmithing. March 14, 11 a.m.-2 p.m. explorelompoc.com. La Purisima Mission, 2295 S. Bradley Rd., Orcutt.

SANTA MARIA VALLEY/LOS ALAMOS

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 14, 1:30-4 p.m. Free. 775-813-5890. La Purisima, 510 Park Ave., Santa Maria.

WOMEN’S HISTORY MONTH: 100 YEARS OF OBSTETRICS In recognition of Women’s History Month and the 100th anniversary of the adoption of the 19th amendment, the Library and the American Association of University Women, present an historical perspective of the past 100 years of Obstetrics. Guest speaker: Dr. William H. Clewell. March 14, 1:30-4 p.m. 805-925-0994. Santa Maria Public Library, 421 S. McClelland St., Santa Maria.

Food & Drink

SOUTH COAST SLO COUNTY

SPRING FLING: PLANTS AND POTTERY SALE Steve Super Gardens, GROW Nursery, and CalCoast Succulents will be selling healthy, unusual plants for your containers or landscape. Rowe Clayworks has unique, handcrafted pots. Features great prices plus expert advice on selection, placement, and care of your new plants. March 7, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. and March 8, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Free. 805-602-7817. Steve Super Gardens, 2036 9th St., Los Osos.

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ARMS continued page 13
**SANTA MARIA SEWING SUPERSTORE CLASSES**
Visit site for full list of classes and more details. Mondays-Thursdays, 10 a.m.-6 p.m. santamariasewing.com. Santa Maria Sewing Superstore, 127 E. Main St., Santa Maria, 805-925-0994. Santa Maria Public Library, 421 S. McClelland St., Santa Maria.

**ARTS from page 12**

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

**PRE-SCHOOL CRAFT TIME EXPRESS** Come to the library for a craft time designed for preschoolers aged 3-5. With a little help from a caregiver, create a craft to help develop fine motor skills. March 12, 4-5 p.m. Free. 805-925-0994. Santa Maria Public Library, 421 S. McClelland St., Santa Maria.

**SOAP AND CANDLE MAKING CLASSES** Second Tuesday of every month The Parable Candle Company, 125 Union Ave., Orcutt, 805-314-2662.

**SWING, BALLROOM, AND LATIN DANCE CLASSES** Hosted by the Kings of Swing. All skill levels welcome (adults). Couples and singles welcome. Pre-registration recommended. Thursdays, 7 p.m. 545. 805-928-7799. Adkins Dance Center, 1110 E. Clark Ave., Santa Maria.

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

**THE BEACH BOYS**
**MARCH 6 | FRIDAY | 8 PM**

**PRINCE ROYCE**
**MARCH 13 | FRIDAY | 8 PM**

**BONNIE RAITT**
**MARCH 20 | FRIDAY | 8 PM**

**ALWAYS AMAZING. NEVER ROUTINE.**

**THE BEACH BOYS**
**MARCH 6 | FRIDAY | 8 PM**

**PRINCE ROYCE**
**MARCH 13 | FRIDAY | 8 PM**

**BONNIE RAITT**
**MARCH 20 | FRIDAY | 8 PM**
SMOKE GETS IN YOUR EYES
The Santa Maria Public Library will showcase the photography of local firefighter and photographer Andrew Klein, starting on Tuesday, March 10. Guests are welcome to view the exhibit inside the library's Shepard Hall Gallery. The show will run through Thursday, April 30. The library is located at 421 S. McClelland St., Santa Maria. Call (805) 925-0994 for more info. —C.W.

ARTS page 13 and skill levels. Optional showcases for major Hollywood talent agents & casting directors. 10:30 a.m.-8:30 p.m. (Sundays only). Varies per class. 310-910-1228, actorsedge.com. Mission Cinemas, 1025 Monterey St., SLO. DEBORAH KALAS: AUTHOR PRESENTATION
CA ENERGY CODE UPDATES
Learn to fly with grace in this Dance, spin and develop strength and skill levels. Optional showcases for major Hollywood from page 13
familiar with climbing, straddle-ups, foot locks, and hip keys on aerial silks. Thursdays, 7-8:15 p.m. Varies. SANTA MARIA VALLEY/LOS ALAMOS
ART EXHIBIT: MARGIE BOWKER
A display of painting and art tiles. ongoing Santa Maria Country Club, 505 W. Walker Lane, Santa Maria.
ART EXHIBIT: PAUL ANDERSON presents two artistic visions of the world around us in the featured show at Gallery Los Olivos the month of March. Mondays-Saturdays, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. through March 31 805-688-7517. Gallery Los Olivos, 2920 Grand Ave., Los Olivos, galeriolyssos.com.

OUTLOOK TOUR presents The Circuit. March 6, 4-5 p.m. Free. 805-925-0994, Santa Maria Public Library, 421 S. McClelland St., Santa Maria.

SOUTH COAST SLO COUNTY
PUMP BOYS AND DINETTES
The 2020 theatre season starts off with a bang, laced with a bit of country twang. Oceanos' Great American Melodrama is presenting the Tony-nominated hit musical. Thursdays-Sundays, 7-9:30 p.m. through March 22 524-532. 805-489-2499. americamelodrama.com. Great American Melodrama, 1863 Front St., Oceano.

SHERLOCK HOLMES AND THE SIGN OF THE FOUR
Holmes and Watson return to the Melodrama for an adventure filled with mystery, hixities, and hilarity. Can our intrepid adventurers crack the case? What is the mysterious “Sign of the Four” found at the scene of multiple murders? Wednesdays-Saturdays, 7:30 p.m.; Sundays, 2:30 p.m. through April 26 524-532. 805-489-2499 americamelodrama.com. Ticket info. Great American Melodrama, 1863 Front St., Oceano.

WHOSE LIVE ANYWAY?
90 minutes of hilarious improvised comedy and song all based on audience suggestions. March 4, 8-9:30 p.m. $47 577. 805-489-9444 claercker.org/event/whose-live-anyway.Clark Center for the Performing Arts, 487 Fair Oaks Ave., Arroyo Grande.

SANTA MARIA VALLEY/LOS ALAMOS
THE RED VELVET CAKE WAR
Friendship, loyalty, and betrayal amidst political upheaval are the timeless concepts probed in William Shakespeare’s tragedy. Presented by POPA. March 5 22 Severson Theatre, 800 S. College Dr., Santa Maria, 805-928-7731, pcopa.org.

LEGACY OF DECEPCY
NEIL ANDERSSON

PENNY GALLERY: FEATURED ARTISTS
Showcasing new works on a weekly basis. Featured artists include Chris Pavix, Iris Pavix, Robert Hildebrand, Doug Piccote, and more. ongoing, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. free. 805-688-1080. pavlyssos.com. Penny Art Gallery, 1608 Copenhagen Dr., Ste C, Solvang.

SANTA BARBARA COUNTY AND BEYOND: RECENT PHOTOGRAPHIC LANDSCAPES BY GEORGE ROSE

THE SANTA YNEZ VALLEY ARTS ASSOCIATION: SECOND SATURDAY ARTSANS
Applications to be a featured artist will be accepted throughout the series. Second Saturday of every month, 12-5 p.m. 805-688-7398. santaynezarts.org. Santa Ynez Valley Grange Hall, 2374 Alamo Pintado, Los Olivos.

STARRY NIGHTS: VISIONS OF THE NIGHT SKY
Celebrate 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 805-688-1082. wildlingmuseum.org/news/starry-nights-visions-of-the-night-sky. Wilding Museum of Art and Nature, 1511 B Mission Dr., Solvang.

THEFT AND CONSPIRACY: SANTA BARBARA
A new art exhibition showcasing works from the collection of the Painted Turtle Gallery. Tuesdays, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. through April 28. $10. 805-968-8232. paintedturtle.com. Painted Turtle Gallery, 1608 Copenhagen Dr., Ste C, Solvang.

LA CULTURE & LIFESTYLE
LECTURES & LEARNING
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 and enhance Spanish-speaking skills. Second Thursday of every month, 6-7 p.m. Free. Santa Maria Public Library, 421 S. McClelland St., Santa Maria.

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

FRIENDSHIP, LOYALTY, AND BETRAYAL AMIDST POLITICAL UPHEAVAL ARE THE TIMELESS CONCEPTS PROBED IN WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE’S TRAGEDY. PRESENTED BY POPA.

SUDDENLY, SOMETHING HAPPENED.
But what did it happen? Members and guests welcome. Connect with fellow dog lovers and learn more about all the different things you and your dog can do together. All breeds and breed combinations welcome. Different months have different learning programs. Second Wednesday of every month, 7-9 p.m. through April 8. 805-925-0994 santamariakennelclub.org. Santa Maria Kennel Club, 110 Soares Ave., Orcutt.

MEMBERSHIP MEETING
Members and guests welcome. Connect with fellow dog lovers and learn more about all the different things you and your dog can do together. All breeds and breed combinations welcome. Different months have different learning programs. Second Wednesday of every month, 7-9 p.m. through April 8. 805-925-0994 santamariakennelclub.org. Santa Maria Kennel Club, 110 Soares Ave., Orcutt.

Stay up to date on the latest health recommendations by checking the county’s website at santamariathegazette.com. Forpetslo.com’s pet safety tips, visit petslo.com. For detailed information about the city of Santa Maria’s shelter, visit santamariacity.org/shelter. To report animal cruelty, call the Santa Barbara County Sheriff’s Office at 805-568-3900.

RECENT PHOTOGRAPHIC LANDSCAPES BY GEORGE ROSE

SHERLOCK HOLMES AND THE SIGN OF THE FOUR
Holmes and Watson return to the Melodrama for an adventure filled with mystery, hilarity, and hilarity. Can our intrepid adventurers crack the case? What is the mysterious “Sign of the Four” found at the scene of multiple murders? Wednesdays-Saturdays, 7:30 p.m.; Sundays, 2:30 p.m. through April 26 524-532. 805-489-2499. americamelodrama.com. Ticket info. Great American Melodrama, 1863 Front St., Oceano.

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

THE RED VELVET CAKE WAR
In this notoriously funny Southern-fried comedy, the three Verdeen cousins—Gaynelle, Peaches, and Jimmie Wyatt—could not have picked a worse time to throw their family reunion. March 12-29 siliconvalleytheater.org. Santa Maria Civic Theatre, 1660 N. McClelland St., Santa Maria.
The Buellton Library presents ReadAloud, Shell Beach, every third Wednesday of the month, 1-3:30 p.m. Free. 805-937-9750.

PRODUCE SELLERS: $25; BUYERS: $2 car load. Sundays, 10 a.m.-2 p.m. in the parking lot of the Way Drive-In for the Sunday Swap Meet. Sellers: $20; buyers: $2.50. Oasis Center, 420 Soares Ave., Orcutt, 805-937-9750.

SHELL BEACH. plants. Part of the 2020 Cuesta Book of the Year

MONSTER MASH Allan Hancock College holds its annual Fine Arts Student Art Show in the Ann Fowxally Gallery through Friday, March 13. The exhibit features works from more than 50 fine arts students and is open Monday through Thursday, from 9 a.m. to 7:45 p.m. and every Friday, from 9 a.m. to 2:45 p.m. The gallery is located at 800 College Dr., Santa Maria. For more info, visit hancockcollege.edu/gallery. —C.W.

SOUTH COAST SLO COUNTY

BEE-FRIENDLY GARDENING Join us as Elizabeth Johnson from the SLO Seed Swap shares tips with us to practice this gardening trend with bee-friendly plants. Part of the 2020 Cuesta Book of the Program. March 11, 4:5 p.m. Free. 805-773-2263. slolibrary.org. Shell Beach Library, 230 Leeward Ave., Shell Beach.

POINT SLO LIGHTHOUSE TOURS Docents lead guides on a tour of the lighthouse, beginning this tour with a guided tour of the site's restoration. Wednesdays and Saturdays, 9:30 a.m. Free. 805-408-6453. pointslighthouse.org. Point San Luis Lighthouse, 1 Lighthouse Rd., Avila Beach.

TOURS FOR PADDOCKS A special tour for visitors who wish to cycle around the paddocks. Sundays, 9 a.m.-2 p.m. Free. 805-549-5971. Point San Luis Lighthouse, 1 Lighthouse Rd., Avila Beach.

SANTA MARIA VALLEY/LOS ALAMOS

AMUSEMENT PARKS, ROLLER COASTERS, MINI-GOLFS, and family entertainment. For more information, visit montereyjams.com.

SOUTH COAST SLO COUNTY

CULTURE & LIFESTYLE from page 1

HOMEWORK HELP Free after school homework help for kids 6-12; no sign-ups required; first come, first served. Mondays-Thursdays, 3-5:30 p.m. 805-434-9531, ext. 216. Santa Maria Transit Center, 5517 Mission Dr., Santa Maria. 805-434-9531 or ext. 216.

CLUBS & MEETINGS

THE SANTA MARIA VALLEY/LOS ALAMOS AMINE CLUB FOR TEENS Hang out with other anime and manga fans, eat Japanese snacks, and do fun activities. New members are always welcome. March 13, 4:30-5:30 p.m. Free. 805-925-0994. Santa Maria Public Library, 421 S. McClelland St., Santa Maria.


HAM RADIO FM Ham radio operators can show you how to build your own radio and share information about how to operate them. Mondays, 8:30-10:30 a.m. Free. 805-354-0708, help4hd.org, international, Bethel Lutheran Church, 624 E. Camino Colorado, Santa Maria.

TRAUAM INFORMED PARENTING GROUP A foster parent class presented by the Kids & Family team. Tuesdays, 9:30 a.m. 805-929-7500. camids4kids.org, Center For Life, 3130 Skyway Dr., Suite 501, Santa Maria.

SOUTH COAST SLO COUNTY

SANTA MARIA VALLEY/LOS ALAMOS

GENERAL GRIEF SUPPORT GROUP (SOUTH COUNTY) Hospice SLO County is offering this group for those grieving the loss of a loved one. Hygge in the Church Care Center. Drop-ins welcome. Tuesdays, 12-1:30 p.m. Free. 805-354-2266, hospiceslo.org. Life Pismo, 990 James Way, Pismo Beach.

SOUTH COAST SLO COUNTY

How to get your loved one sober A family-friendly seminar presented by The Haven’s clinical staff. Open to the public. Tuesdays, 6-7:30 p.m. Free. thehaven.com. The Haven Facilities, 4024 E. Valley Rd., Grover Beach, CA.

SPouse and Partner LOSS Support Group (SOUTH COUNTY) A Hospice SLO support group for those grieving the loss of a partner or spouse. Mondays, 5-6:30 p.m. Free. 805-924-2266, hospiceslo.org. Life Pismo, 990 James Way, Pismo Beach.

KIDS & FAMILY

MOMMY AND ME CLASSES Brief gymnastics classes for babies 1 to 3 as soon as they can start walking on their own. Mondays, Wednesdays, 9-10 a.m.; Tuesdays, 10-11:30 a.m.; Saturdays, 9:30-10:45 a.m. $35-$55. KT's All Star Gymnastics, 237 Town Center East, Santa Maria, 805-349-7475.

READALoud The Buellton Library presents ReadAloud, adults, teens, and children 9 and up. Fridays, 4-5 p.m. Free. 805-688-3115, Buellton Library, 140 W. High Street, Buellton.

SANTA MARIA VALLEY RAILWAY HISTORICAL MUSEUM The Santa Maria Valley Railway Historical Museum features a locomotive, boxcar, caboose, railroad artifacts, and diorama. Second and fourth Saturday of every month. 2-3 p.m. 805-714-4927. Santa Maria Transit Center, Miller and Boone Streets, Santa Maria.

SOUTH COAST SLO COUNTY

CHILdREN'S WOOD WORKSHOP Enjoy a hands-on woodworking project with our friends at the Craft Center. Every Tuesday, 4-5 p.m. Free. 805-238-3070. Craft Center, 142 Town Center East, Santa Maria.

MISSION ACCOMPLISHED The La Purisima Mission hosts its traditional Mission Day on Saturday, March 14, from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Craft activities include weaving, pottery, carpentry, tortilla making, beeswax candle making (pictured), and more. The Mission is located at 2285 Purisima Road, Lompoc. Call (805) 729-4713 or visit tapurisimamission.org to find out more. —C.W.
CULTURE & LIFESTYLE  First page 15
an appointment or for consultation. ongoing $60 per
1/2 hour or sliding fee can be utilized: 937/271-5646.
Coventree: Books and Gifts, 722 E Main St., Santa
Maria.
SUNDAY SERVICES Non-denominational. All are
welcome. Sundays, 11 a.m.-noon Unity Chapel of Light
Church, 1165 Shublefield Rd., Orcutt, 805-937-3025,
unitysantamaria.net/.

VOLUNTEERS

SANTA MARIA VALLEY/LOS ALAMOS

BOARD OF LIBRARY TEENS (BOLT) Teens, if
you love your library, come to a BOLT meeting.
This is your opportunity to plan upcoming
events, make changes in your teen zone,
and make the Library the best
place it can be for teens. March 9 5:6
P.M. Free, 805-925-0994. Santa Maria
Public Library, 421 S. McClelland St.,
Santa Maria.

MEALS ON WHEELS: VOLUNTEER
DRIVERS NEEDED Santa Maria Valley
is in need of volunteers 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. mealsnowheels.com.
Santa Maria, Cityside, Santa Maria.

TEEN VOLUNTEER ORIENTATION Attend a Teen
Volunteer Orientation to learn about library volunteering.
You must attend an orientation to become a volunteer.
March 9 5:6 P.M. Free. 805-925-0994. Santa Maria
Public Library, 421 S. McClelland St., Santa Maria.

FOOD & DRINK

FARMERS MARKETS

LOMPOC/WANDBERG

LOMPOC FARMERS MARKET features fresh fruit
and vegetables, flowers, entertainment, and activities
for the whole family. Fridays, 2-6 P.M. Lompo Farmers
Market, Ocean Avenue and 1 Street, Lompoc.

SANTA MARIA VALLEY/LOS ALAMOS

GROWING GROUNDS FARMS STAND produce, flowers, and other
plants from the nursery are available for
purchase. Second Saturday of every
month, 10 a.m.-3 P.M. 805-
934-2182. Growing Grounds Farm,
820 W. Foster Rd., Santa Maria,
t-maria.org.

ORCUTT FARMERS MARKET Presents local farmers and small
businesses. Tuesdays, 10 A.M.-1 P.M.
Orcutt Farmers Market, Bradley Road, Orcutt.

ARROYO GRANDE FARMERS MARKET Includes produce, artists and
musicians. Saturdays, 12-2:25 P.M.
Arroyo Grande Farmers Market, Ollivan
Alley, Arroyo Grande.

SAN LUIS OBISPO

FARMERS MARKET Farmers Market in SLO is the largest Farmers
Market in California. Thursdays,
6-9 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, 2-5 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;
on-going, 11 A.M.-5 P.M. 805-686-2603,
robolarwinery.com. Roblar Winery, 3010 Roblar Ave.,
Santa Ynez.

STANDING SUN: TASTING ROOM HOURS Visit site for Cellar
Club details and more info. Monday-
Thursdays, 11 A.M.-5 P.M. 805-
691-9413. standingsunwines.com.
Standing Sun Wines, 937 534D St., Unit
D, Buellton, 805-691-9413.

LOMPOC/WANDBERG

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

TASTING AT MONTEMAR WINES Offering
crafted wines, charcuterie, and cheeses.
Fridays-Sundays, 12-5 P.M. 805-735-
5000. facebookevents.com/montermarwines.
Montemar Winery, 1501 E. Chestnut
Ave., Lompoc.

WINE TASTING AT FLYING GOAT
CELLARS This wine specialty in
Pinot Noir and sparkling wine. Mondays,
Thursdays-Saturdays, 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, 5 P.M. Wine Stone Inn, 255 W. Clark Ave.,
Orcutt, 805-332-3532.

PANCAKE BREAKFAST Enjoy pancakes, eggs,
sausage, coffee, and juice while you meet other new and old
friends. Proceeds support OASIS Community Center.
Second Saturday of every month, 7-45-9:45 A.M. 805-
937-9750. Ocean Center, 420 Soares Ave., Orcutt.

SOUTH COAST SLO COUNTY

LENTEN FISH FRYS Choose from 1, 2, 3, 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
d to go available. March 6, 4-7 P.M. $8-20. 805-489-
2680. St. Patrick’s Church, 501 Fair Oaks Ave., Arroyo
Grande, stpatsg.org.

PHOTO COURTESY OF THE WILDLING MUSEUM OF ART AND NATURE
Your six-month, pull-out guide to all things artsy in Northern Santa Barbara County!

Special Event Calendar

**BUELLTON WINE AND CHILI FESTIVAL 2020** Tart beer and wine over 30 wineries and craft breweries from all over the Central Coast and cuisine from 25 different chefs and taco cooks. Also features live music and games. March 15. 12-4 p.m. Prices: $15-$30. 805-448-7070. buelltonwineandchilifestival.com. Flying Flags RV Resort and Campground, 180 Avenue Of The Flags, Buellton.


**OLIVOS JAZZ AND OLIVE FESTIVAL** Spend a Saturday afternoon in the beautiful Santa Ynez Valley, tasting wine from 30 local wineries, listening to world-class, professional jazz musicians, and sampling 30 different olive-themed dishes prepared by local chefs. June 6. 1-4 p.m. 805-325-9280. jazzelivolivefestival.org. Lavina Campbell Park, 2398 Alamo Pintado Ave., Los Olivos.

**NATURETRACK FILM FESTIVAL** The 36th Annual NatureTrack Film Festival (NITF) returns to Los Olivos. Entries are thoughtfully curated and selected to ignite passion for nature through film. March 20. 5:40 p.m., March 21. 9 a.m.-10 p.m., and March 22. 9 a.m.-6 p.m. $10 per ticket. 805-886-2047. naturetrackfilmfestival.com. Lavina Campbell Park, 2398 Alamo Pintado Ave., Los Olivos.

**THE SANTA YNEZ VALLEY ARTS ASSOCIATION:** SECOND SATURDAY ARTISANS Applications to be a featured artist will be accepted throughout the series. Second Saturday of every month, 10-5 p.m. Free. 805-688-7338. santaynezvalleyarts.org. Santa Ynez Valley Grange Hall, 2374 Alamo Pintado Ave., Los Olivos.

**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. to 2 p.m. No entry fee. 805-264-2128. odox.org. Orthodox Church of the Annunciation, 877 Francine Ln., Santa Maria.

**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. valleyartgallery.org. Valley Art Gallery, 125 W. Clark Ave., Orcutt.

**GREEN IS THE THEME—ST. PATRICK’S DAY PARTY** The Santa Maria Valley Sr. Club presents this dance party, featuring Riptide Big Band and vocalist Bob Nabes. 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. 805-984-8186. riptidebigband.com.

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

**LOCAL ARTIST IRINA MALKUMUS:** 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. ArtsPlace, 2500 S. Miller St., suite 104, Santa Maria.

**INDIVIDUAL GRANTS IN THE ARTS** COMPETITION: SHOWCASE AND AWARDS The Santa Maria Arts Council (SMAC) hosts the awards show and showcase for its Individual Grants in the Arts Competition. Wine and hors d’oeuvres will be available to guests. May 4. 5:30-7:30 p.m. $20-$30. smartcouncil.org, Marian Theatre, 805 S. College Dr., Santa Maria, 805-928-7331.

**OASIS GALA AT SANTA MARIA FAIRGROUND** Presented by the Oasis Center. Check website for more details. March 29. 5:30 p.m. oasiscouncil.org. Santa Maria Fairpark, 937 S. Thombs St., Santa Maria.


**WOMEN’S HISTORY MONTH: 100 YEARS OF OBSTETRICS** In recognition of Women’s History Month find the 100th anniversary of the adoption of the 19th amendment, the Library and the American Association of University Women present an historical perspective of the past 100 years of Obstetrics. Guest speaker: Dr. William H. Swett. March 14. 1:30-4 p.m. 805-925-0994. Santa Maria Public Library, 421 S. McClelland St., Santa Maria.

**SOUTH COAST SLO COUNTY**

**CALIFORNIA DREAMIN’** Enjoy a sunny spring afternoon in the garden of the charming Chapman Estate, and experience a delicious lunch, wine and beer, a live auction, and musical entertainment from The Bald Spots plus several other Vocal Arts members and alumni April 25. 12:3 p.m. 805-445-8608. riptidebigband.com.

**DANA’S CASINO NIGHT** Admission includes dinner and funny Money entry. April 24. 5:30-10 p.m. 805-758-9295. DANA Adobe Cultural Center, 671 S. Oakglen Ave., Nipomo, danaadobe.org.

**DINOSAUR WORLD LIVE** Interactive show perfect for the whole family. Grab your compass and join our intrepid explorer across uncharted territories to discover a prehistoric world of astonishing dinosaurs. March 5. 7:80 p.m. 805-529-40. 805-489-9444.clarkcenter.org. Clark Center for the Performing Arts, 487 Fair Daks Ave., Arroyo Grande.

**EAT PRAY F** You COUPLES INTENSIVE Whether you’re already on love-cloud-nine or ready to throw a wrench at your loved one’s head, this couples intensive will be a sure-fire way to elevate your relationship and give it an igniting breath of life. March 29. 11 a.m.-5 p.m. $529. Dolphin Bay Resort, 2727 Shell Beach Road, Pismo Beach.

**THE HILLS ARE ALIVE** The NatureTrack Film Festival presents a screening of Carrizo Plain: A Tale of Two Histories, Marks in the Valley Episcopal Church, Los Olivos on Sunday, March 22, at noon. This documentary was produced by the Wildling Museum of Art and Nature and will also be featured in the SLO International Film Festival as part of its Central Coast Filmmakers Showcase. Visit goodyeelfilms.com for more info.

**MALIBU ARTWALK** Third Thursday of each month. 5-8 p.m. Free. 805-388-5000. malibuartwalk.com. As体量 malibuartwalk.com.

**SANTA BARBRA COUNTY AND BEYOND:** RECENT PHOTOGRAPHIC LANDSCAPES BY GEORGE ROSE Located in the Wildling Museum’s Valley Gallery, Mondays-Wednesdays-Saturdays, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. through March 15 $5. 805-688-1082. wildlingmuseum.org. Wildling Museum of Art and Nature, 1511 Mission Dr., Solvang.

**STARRY NIGHTS: VISIONS OF THE NIGHT SKY** Celebrates the awe-inspiring beauty and mystery of the night sky across a range of media, including painting and photography, as well as poetry curated by Dan Gerber. Mondays, Wednesdays-Saturdays, 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 Mission Dr., Solvang.

**SUMMER BLOOM** Showcasing works from Deborah Breeden and Kris Buck. June 1. 10 a.m.-3 p.m. Wildling Museum of Art and Nature, 1511 Mission Dr., Solvang.


**ARTS EDUCATION:** STEVIE NIRVANA: THE GUITAR GOD (FILM) Presented by the Santa Barbara Independent in collaboration with the School of the Arts at the University of California Santa Barbara. April 14-15. Exhibition and screening at the Wildling Museum of Art and Nature Thursday-Sunday, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Free. wildlingmuseum.org.
SPRING ARTS from page 17

SANTA MARIA VALLEY/LOS ALAMOS

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.

FEATURED ARTIST: PHOTOGRAPHER ANDREW KLEIN The Santa Maria Public Library will be exhibiting the photography of Central Coast photographer, Andrew Klein. Patrons and art enthusiasts alike are encouraged to stop by the library’s Shepard Hall Art Gallery, view the art and learn more about the artist. March 10-April 30 Free, 805-925-0994. Shepard Hall Art Gallery - Santa Maria Public Library, 421 South McClelland St., Santa Maria.

FEATURED ARTIST: PHOTOGRAPHER MAYRA CAMPOS The Santa Maria Public Library will be exhibiting the photography of Central Coast photographer, Mayra Campos. Patrons and art enthusiasts alike are encouraged to stop by the library’s Shepard Hall Art Gallery, view the art and learn more about the artist. May 4-June 30 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 MARIA VALLEY RAILWAY HISTORICAL MUSEUM The Santa Maria Valley Railway Historical Museum features a locomotive, boxcar, caboose, railroad artifacts, and diorama. Second and fourth Saturday of every month, 12-4 p.m.ongoing 805-714-4927. Santa Maria Transit Center, Miller and Boone Streets, Santa Maria.

SOUTH COAST SLO COUNTY

PUMP BOYS AND DINETTES The 2020 theatre season starts off with a bang, laced with a bit of country twang. Ocean’s Great American Melodrama is presenting the Tony-nominated hit musical. Thursdays-Sundays, 7:90 p.m. through March 22 5-7-52 805-489-2499, americam melodrama.com, Great American Melodrama, 1863 Front St., Ocean.

THE OFFICE! A MUSICAL PARODY It’s a typical morning at Scranton’s third largest paper company. Don’t miss the hilariously unauthorized parody of the hit TV show April 10, 7:30-9:30 p.m. $35 - $47, 805-489-9444, clarkcenter.org, Clark Center for the Performing Arts, 487 Fair Oaks Ave., Arroyo Grande.

NORTH COAST SLO COUNTY

CAMBRIA: THE MUSICAL An original musical by Ed and Linda Hughes, based on a true story about the history of Cambria and the George Lull House on Main Street April 3-19 $25, Cambria Center for the Arts Theatre, 1350 Main St., Cambria, 805-927-6190, cambriacentrearts.org/theatre/.

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PHOTO COURTESY OF OPERA SANTA BARBARA

The Wildling Museum of Art and Nature will honor Wilderness Spirit Award winner Richard Gott as its 2020 theatre season opener with a staged reading of an original play by Dixie Arthur. As their intellectual friends try to make sense of their changing lives in this timeless tragedy. Fridays, 7-8:30 p.m. $17-$25. 805-786-2440. slorep.org. San Luis Obispo Repertory Theatre, 1660 N. McClelland St., San Luis Obispo.

Drama

SANTA MARIA VALLEY/LOS ALAMOS

THE CIRCUIT Pacific Conservatory Theater’s (PCPA) Outreach Tour presents The Circuit. A new musical that is filled with mystery, hijinks, and hilarity. Can our band of outlaws outsmart the mysterious “Sign of the Four” found at the Oak and Otter Brewing, 181 Tank Farm Road, San Luis Obispo. 805-868-7133. Oak and Otter Brewing, 181 Tank Farm Road, San Luis Obispo.

AUDITIONS: LOT’S WIFE For Orcutt Community Theatre’s staged reading of an original play by Dixie Arthur. Needed: 3 women, 4 men. Performance dates: April 17, 18, 19, March 16, 17-9 p.m. and March 17-7 p.m. 805-937-3738. Orcutt Community Theater (Klein Dance Arts), 3546 Skyway Dr, Bldg 1, Suite A, Orcutt, orcuttcommunitytheater.com.

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.

SAN LUIS OBISPO

MACBETH SLO REP’s Academy of Creative Theatre presents a young performers’ adaptation of Shakespeare’s timeless tragedy. Fridays, 7-8:30 p.m. 517-525, 805-786-2440. slorep.org/shows/macbeth/. San Luis Obispo Repertory Theatre, 888 Morris St., San Luis Obispo.

SOUTH COAST SLO COUNTY

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San Luis Obispo

LITTLE SHOP OF HORRORS Mushnik’s flower shop on Skid Row is about to go under until meek assistant Seymour happens upon a new breed of plant with an unusual appetite for blood. June 25-July 3 Marian Theatre, 800 S. College
Dynamic Duet

Opera Santa Barbara presents one of its Noontime Opera concerts at the Santa Maria Public Library on Monday, March 30, from noon to 1 p.m. Programming of the concert will include a variety of opera arias and duets. To find out more, visit operasb.org. The library is located at 421 S. McClelland St., Santa Maria.

Buffalo sees how much they enjoy watching male strippers. May 8 3-5, 10:50-12:50, Santa Maria Civic Theatre, 1660 N. McClelland St., Santa Maria.

The Red Velvet Cake War in this riotously funny Southern-fried comedy, the three Verdeen cousins—Gaynelle, Peaches, and Cookie—gone totally slackjawed—cannot believe what they are seeing and hearing. March 13, 7:9 p.m. and March 14, 2–4 & 7:9 p.m. $15. 805-786-2440. San Luis Obispo Repertory Theatre, 888 Morro St., San Luis Obispo.

The Laramie Project SLO Rep presents the true story of an average American town in the wake of a brutal murder. Hosted as one of the most captivating and encompassing pieces of contemporary theatre. May 1, 7:9 p.m. 805-786-2440. slorep.org. San Luis Obispo Repertory Theatre, 888 Morro St., San Luis Obispo.

Stage Reading: The Designated Mourner SLO Rep’s Lilly’s Other Shoe Stage Reading series presents a staged reading of this play by Wallace Shawn. As the rapidly changing country slips into totalitarianism, three artist-intellectuals try to make sense of their changing lives in this searing and present drama. March 13, 7:9 p.m. and March 14, 2–4 & 7:9 p.m. $15. 805-786-2440. slorep.org. San Luis Obispo Repertory Theatre, 888 Morro St., San Luis Obispo.

The Full Monty! While slipping on their wires at a “Girls Night Out,” a group of unemployed steelworkers from South Coast SLO County present a hilariously raunchy comedy about friendship, love, death, and a life worth living. March 28, 7–9 p.m. $12-$20. 805-756-4849. tickets.calpoly.edu. Spanos Performing Arts, 487 Fair Oaks Ave., Arroyo Grande.

A one-person show that isn’t a one-person show at all. A play about depression and loss, and transport audiences to a world of unmitigated wildness, vivid color, and elemental alchemy. April 4, 7:9 p.m. through April 11. $20. 805-489-2499. greatamericam melodrama.com/ticket-info.html. The Fremont Theater, 1035 Monterey St., San Luis Obispo.

March Comedy Madness SLO County’s longest running comedy showcase brings another stellar lineup to tickle your funny bone. May 8-10 p.m. $25. 805-439-2529. Fremontslo.com.

The Molly Ringwald Project

MUSICAL IMPROV SHOW Featuring the very talented Molly Ringwald.

THE OFFICE! A MUSICAL PARODY

April 4-5, 4-5 p.m. The Avila Beach Theatre's staged reading of an original play by Dixie Arthur.

PHOTO COURTESY OF OPERA SANTA BARBARA

Ringwald

Dynamic Duet

Dynamic Duet

Dynamic Duet

Dynamic Duet

PHOTO COURTESY OF OPERA SANTA BARBARA
The Reading series presents a staged reading of this play by 2440. San Luis Obispo Repertory Theatre, 888 Morro St., Maria. Theater. Pick-up/drop-off at Santa Maria Public Library. to attend a performance of The Postman Tank Farm Road, suite 110, San Luis Obispo. donation $5. 805-768-7133. Oak and Otter Brewing, 181 Tank Farm Road, suite 110, San Luis Obispo. presented by the San Luis Obispo Welcomes all women who are INTERNATIONAL TRICITY SOUND CHORUS OF SWEET ADELINES Baptist Church, 605 E. McCoy Ln., Santa Maria. Philharmonic. Enjoy music by Verdi, Beethoven, and Copland. Features The Postman. This free program will feature members of the Opera This free program will feature members of the Opera....
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Free concerts take place most weekend days and holidays throughout the Summer. To find out who’ll be taking the stage this weekend, concert times, and other details, visit our Facebook page or look for our concert series ads each week. The concert schedule is based on artist availability and may change without notice.
Lighthouse, 1 Lighthouse Rd., Avila Beach.

SOUTH COAST SLO COUNTY

B AND THE HIVE LIVE Led by the stunning vocals of Brianna Lee, B and The Hive create music from the heart. July 25, 3:30-6:30 p.m. S20-535, Point San Luis Lighthouse, Avila Beach.

CARBON CITY LIGHTS LIVE Kicking off the 2020 Summer Concert Series. June 13 S20-535, Point San Luis Lighthouse, Avila Beach.

THE MOTHER CORN SHUCKERS LIVE A 9-piece acoustic Bluegrass/Americana band based out of the Central Coast. July 11, 3:30-6:30 p.m. S20-535, Point San Luis Lighthouse, Avila Beach.

MOZAIK SERIES: MARIACHI DIVAS Founded in 1999 by trumpeter Cindy Shea, the Mariachi Divas are one of the most significant and successful all-female mariachi ensembles in the business. July 26 festivalmozik.com, ADA Adobe Cultural Center, 671 S. Oakglen Ave., Nipomo, 805-929-5679.

GUTTERMOUTH LIVE Featuring the McNaughtys and Downtown Brown (openers). March 14, 6-9 p.m. 525 Tooth and Nail Winery, 3090 Anderson Rd., Paso Robles, 805-369-6100, rabblewine.com/tasting-room.

SANTA MARIA VALLEY/LOS ALAMOS

GROUND OPERATIONS: SCREENING AND Q-AND-A This film follows an ensemble of young veterans and their transition from the military, to life in sustainable farming. After the screening, patrons will be to talk to the director, Dunnie Ellis. Children 12 and under must be accompanied by an adult to attend films. March 19, 2-4 p.m. 805-925-0994, Santa Maria Public Library, 421 S. McClelland St., Santa Maria.

SOUTH MARINA

FILMS OF INFLUENCE Films of Influence is a monthly series that explores the impact film has on society, culture and the world of cinema. Professor Doug Keesey will give an introduction and there is a Q&A discussion after for those wanting to stay. March 10, 6-8 p.m. Free. 805-781-1215, San Luis Obispo Library Community Room, 995 Palm Street, San Luis Obispo.

MUSEUM MOVIE NIGHT: LITTLE STONES Directed by Emmy Award-winning filmmaker Sophia Kruz, this film follows the uplifting stories of four women using rap, graffiti, fashion, and dance to fight for women’s rights around the world and show that the world is full of little stones waiting to be discovered. March 16, 7 p.m. Suggested donation at the door: $5 members, $7 nonmembers. 805-543-8362, sloma.org. San Luis Obispo Museum of Art, 1010 Broad St., San Luis Obispo.

SAN LUIS OBISPO

CONCERT FOR PEACE WITH YUVAL RON ENSEMBLE Oscar-winning composer and Grammy nominee Yuval Ron bridges racial, religious, and cultural divides through his unique inspirational music. March 14, 7:30-9:30 p.m. S45, my805tix.com. Congregation Beth David, 10180 Los Osos Valley Road, San Luis Obispo, 805-544-0760.

DEBORAH KALAS: AUTHOR PRESENTATION A special presentation by acclaimed equine author and photographer Deborah Kalas as she shares her experience and her new book. March 14, 7 p.m. 805-255-7470, marina.writersnet.com. Los Osos Library Community Room, 1468 Obispo St., Santa Maria.

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- 3/25
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Home is where the heart is

Orcutt native Pryor Baird embarks on national tour with fellow Voice alumnus Caleb Lee

BY CALEB WISEBLOOD

"I'm on the phone with Pryor Baird and he just called me "dude." "Dude, I miss the weather. I miss that beautiful 73 and 52 every day," the former contestant on NBC's The Voice said, after I asked him what he misses about living on the Central Coast. The Orcutt native currently resides in Nashville, Tennessee, and just recently embarked on a national tour with Black River Entertainment, titled Country's Back, joined by peer and fellow The Voice alumnus Caleb Lee. The two met while competing on Season 14, and both artists made it to the top 10.

The duo kicked off their new tour at the beginning of March in Fontana, California, and will continue through May with stops in Florida, Georgia, South Carolina, Ohio, Kentucky, and other states. But no matter how far his hometown Baird performs, Orcutt is still on his mind constantly, and he comes back to visit as often as possible.

"My mom still lives in the same house I was born and raised in," Baird said. "My sister lives in Santa Barbara—all my family's out there." Another Old Town Orcutt aspect Baird misses, compared to living in Nashville, is being the neighborly small-town feel, he said.

"You don't get to wave at people. That's what I miss, you don't get to wave at your friends, you don't get to see people you know every day," Baird said. "I'm missing being able to drive with the windows down all the time."

To find out more about the Country's Back tour, visit blackriverevent.com.

Going south

"Round round get around, I get around, yeahh," The Beach Boys still get around too, as the legendary pop-rock group brings its 12 Sides of Summer Tour to the Chumash Casino Resort in Santa Ynez, on Friday, March 6, at 8 p.m. Although the current lineup notably lacks co-founder Brian Wilson, it's hard to turn down the chance to see Mike Love, Bruce Johnston, and company performing the band's biggest hits, live in person. Tickets to the show range from $49 to $99. For tickets or more info, visit chumashcasino.com. The resort is located at 3400 E. Highway 246, Santa Ynez.

Also in the Santa Ynez Valley, the Maverick Saloon presents two local country-rock groups back to back, starting with LiveWire on Friday, March 6, from 8 to 11 p.m., and followed by The Tex Pistols on Saturday, March 7, from 8 to 11 p.m. Solo artist Sam Mitchell takes over the saloon for a daylight patio performance the following afternoon, Sunday, March 8, 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, visit themavericksaloon.com.

Country-rock and roots band Stray Herd is set to perform at the Cold Spring Tavern off of Highway 154 on Friday, March 6, from 6 to 9 p.m. The Santa Barbara six-piece features Grayson Dale on lead vocals and rhythm guitar, Nick Hoffman on lead guitar, Kate Ingalls and Aliy Shiras on harmonica vocals, "Wyoming" Steve Clemens on bass, and Snake Farmer on percussion.

The tavern's lineup continues with Cuyama Indigo folk singer Joe Goodrow on Saturday, March 7, at 7:30 p.m. $20. Standing Sun Wines, 3687 Sagunto St., suite D, Santa Ynez. To find out more about upcoming artists at the saloon, visit themavericksaloon.com.

More music

Starting Friday, March 6, R&B artist Dante Marsh becomes the Presqu'ile Winery's monthly Musician-In-Residence, for the month of March. Marsh and his band, The Vibe Setters, will kick off their residency with their first performance of the month that evening, roughly from 4:30 to 7 p.m. The group won both Best R&B Song (for "Jungle Boy") and Best Live Performance at the New Times Music Awards last year. Admission to Marsh's concert series at Presqu'ile is complimentary. Visit presquilewine.com to find out more. The winery is located at 5391 Presqu'ile Road, Santa Maria.

The Santa Maria Valley Senior Citizens Club presents Green is the Thing, a St. Patrick's Day dance party featuring live music from the Riptide Big Band. On Sunday, March 8, from 1:30 to 4 p.m., at the Elwin Mussel Senior Center. Guests are invited to wear green!
**South Coast SLO County**

**LOMPOC/VANDENBERG**

**LOMPOC CONCERT ASSOCIATION; JEANNINE GOECKERT** Renowned solo flutist Jeannine Goekert graces the stage during this performance. Presented by the LCA, 7:30 p.m., 55-525, 805-588-5971, lompolconcert.org, First United Methodist Church, 925 North F St., Lompoc.

**SIP MUSIC CLUB** Paring music and wine with 4 tickets and 1 bottle of wine for each ticket, each calendar year. Price includes 3 VP access tickets to each SIP Music event, and 1 bottle of premium wine every 3 months. ongoing at Lompoc Winery, 321 N. D St., Lompoc, 805-243-8398, lompocwinery.com.

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**SANTA MARIA/LOS ALAMOS**

**ALL FOR REAL WITH SARAH JACKSON** First Saturday of every month, 7-10:30 p.m. Anthony’s, 859 Guadalupe St., Guadalupe, 805-219-0977.

**BENDER AND JACK LIVE** March 6, 6-9 p.m. Bender and Jack live at the winery for the month of March. Fridays, 4-7:30 p.m. through March 27 Complementary, Prestige’ Winery, 5391 Prestige Dr., Guadalupe, 805-272-8110, presqueline.com.

**DANTE MARSH AND THE VIBE SETTERS LIVE** Every weekend at the winery for the month of March. Fridays, 4:30-7:30 p.m. through March 27 Complementary, Prestige’ Winery, 5391 Prestige Dr., Guadalupe, 805-272-8110, presqueline.com.

**FOKEN SECOND SUNDAYS: LIVE MUSIC AND FOOD TRUCK** Every Second Sunday of every month, Foukken will have music and a food truck on property. Sundays, 6-8 p.m. Anthony’s, 859 Guadalupe St., Guadalupe, 805-219-0977.

**HAHN AVENUE** Enjoy live music acts, including Victor Valencia and others, Fridays, 7-9 p.m. Cubanissimo Cuban Cafe, 4869 E. Bradley Rd., SLO. 805-588-5971, lompolconcert.org.


**KHALD BRISSON LIVE** FREE CONCERT presented by Cal Poly Music Department student instrumentalists. March 12, 11 a.m. Free. 805-756-2406, music.calpoly.edu/calendar/. Cal Poly Davidson Music Center, Room 218, Cal Poly, San Luis Obispo.

**LUNA LUNGE WITH CLOUDSHIP** Chubspop is a two man rock band from Freesia, NJ. They are multi-tasking and unique equipment to generate more sound than you would think. March 12, 9-11 p.m. lanaredolo.com, Luna Red, 1023 Chorro St., SLO, 805-540-5243.

**LUNA LUNGE WITH HELEN** Join Luna Red in the Late Night Lounge as Helen provides a relaxing and eclectic set of original and classic alternative rock covers ranging from the 70s to present day. March 14, 9:30-11:30 p.m. lanaredolo.com, Luna Red, 1023 Chorro St., SLO, 805-540-5243.

**LUNA LUNGE WITH LET GO FLY** and Bo have been playing music together over 10 years; their connection comes through the music, and if you get to see them live, their onstage chemistry is special and inspiring. March 7, 9:30-11:30 p.m. lanaredolo.com/happening, free. 805-540-4969. lanaredolo.com/product/jazz-concert/. San Luis Obispo Museum of Art, 1010 Broad St., SLO, 805-540-5243.

**March 7, 9-11 p.m. lanaredolo.com, Luna Red, 1023 Chorro St., SLO, 805-540-5243.

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**Santa Maria Valley/LOS ALAMOS**


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Storm drains lead straight to waterways.

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KARAOKE WITH DJ RANDY
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KARAOKE WITH DJ RANDY
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KARAOKE WITH DJ RICARDO

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KARAOKE WITH DJ RICARDO
A daring decade, indeed

Pismo Beach local’s new book takes a deep dive into what made the 1970s a revolutionary time for film

BY MALEA MARTIN

What makes a good movie, great? Is it the acting? The special effects? Must the film have new, innovative, or groundbreaking themes? Or is it something even less tangible: the ineffable way that some films just make us feel?

While everyone has a favorite movie—or perhaps a few—one era in particular seems responsible for an inordinate number of great films: the 1970s, or as local author Chris Strodder prefers to call it, “The Daring Decade.”

“I kept running into this phrase: ‘The greatest of all time,’” Strodder told the Sun. “After watching thousands of movies … I realized that this phrase was true. This really was the greatest period ever for movies, and it wasn’t just my belief based on nostalgic high school memory. Many experts have come to the same conclusion.”

Strodder, who grew up in the midst of this iconic wave of filmmaking that the ‘70s ushered in, has spent the last 50 years watching, rewatching, studying, and analyzing movies like The Godfather (1972) and The Exorcist (1973), films that today are canonized for their revolutionary approach to film. With the 50th anniversary of many early ‘70s films fast approaching, the Pismo Beach local decided it was time he wrote his decades of observations and analysis into a book: The Daring Decade: The Exciting, Influential, and Bodaciously Fun American Movies of the 1970s.

Split into two volumes, Volume One, 1970-1974 was published in December 2019, and Volume Two, 1975-1979 will be released later this summer. The book research to analyze and celebrate about 200 of these great movies from 1970 to 1974.

The success of these some 200 movies cannot be boiled down to any one element in particular, Strodder has identified a few key reasons for why the ‘70s were such a hotbed for film greatness.

“The real significant change had come in 1968 with the end of the old production code,” he explained. “This was the set of guidelines that Hollywood had been using since 1934 as rules of what you could say and what you could show in movies. You weren’t allowed to have any profanity. … Married couples had to be shown in separate beds. … Violent scenes had to be suggested or implied. … All the criminals had to be caught and punished by the end of the movie.”

But as the ‘60s rolled around—and with it a new surge of civil rights movements, women’s rights movements, the youth movement, and rock ‘n’ roll music—“that old set of guidelines seemed very tired and archaic,” Strodder said. With the production code banished and a revolutionary spirit in the air, many of the directors who today are household names made their film debuts in the early ‘70s.

“You get the first movies that are made by legends like Steven Spielberg and George Lucas. There’s Jonathan Demme who will win the Oscar for Silence of the Lambs—he makes his first movie in the early ‘70s. Oliver Stone, who will make Platoon. Clint Eastwood directs his first movie in 1971,” Strodder said.

“Now you have this new energy that was pushing movies from the old traditional way of making movies towards this radical new approach and these youthful, energetic new ideas.”

And in addition to the innovation happening from the director’s chair, technological advancements also contributed to this decade’s fresh take on filmmaking.

“Computers are coming into play; there are new special effects being developed; new camera lenses are being invented,” Strodder said. “So a movie like Star Wars, 1977—this great science fiction movie about robots at a theme park where they all malfunction and they start killing the guests—that’s the first movie to use computer generated imagery. And all of this will come to fruition with Star Wars in 1977.”

While Strodder said there are plenty of great films made today, he said many of today’s movies have traded quality characters and themes for mind-boggling animation. Leigh Taylor-Young—“a prominent movie star in the ‘70s [who was] in Soylent Green, one of the great science fiction movies,” according to Strodder—affirms this notion in her forward to The Daring Decade.

“She says that she thinks that some current movies are kind of soulless,” Strodder said. “Yes, the special effects are great, but they’ve taken over the movie. … Many superhero movies are amazing to look at, but they seem kind of artificial and superfluous.”

Nevertheless, Strodder said that there are directors and films today that continue to capture the richness and soul of the great ‘70s movies.

“In Quentin Tarantino’s movies, for instance, he is using ‘70s music, sometimes ‘70s movie stars. The Kill Bill movies, those are clearly derived from genres established in the 1970s,” Strodder said. “His latest, Once Upon a Time … in Hollywood—it takes you right back to 1969 with the details and the themes and the music.” Whatever movie or era of filmmaking is your favorite, Strodder’s fascinating and informative book shines a spotlight on why the ‘70s were particularly important. His own passion and excitement for this decade can be felt on every page.

They say, ‘Write the book that you yourself want to read.’ Strodder said. “This is 50 years in the making, and it’s the book I’ve wanted to read since watching these movies in the 1970s.”

Staff Writer Malea Martin is headed to the movies. Send arts story tips to mmartin@santamariasun.com.

Santa Maria Civic Theatre’s (SMCT) production of The Red Velvet Cake War opens on Friday, March 13, from 7 to 9:30 p.m. Performances will continue every Friday and Saturday at 7 p.m. and every Sunday at 1:30 p.m. through March 29. This comedy takes place in Sweetgum, Texas, at 7 p.m. and every Sunday at 1:30 p.m., through Sunday, March 29. Ticket information to cwiseblood@santamariasun.com. Arts Briefs is compiled by Arts Editor Caleb Wiseblood. Send information to cwiseblood@santamariasun.com.
Here's something extraordinary about being an aunt to a 5-year-old, but I've learned it's even more special if you live exactly 200 miles away from one another. For the better part of my auntie-hood, I've lived in San Luis Obispo while my nephew Miles Sanchez is growing up in Torrance—in Los Angeles County. Although 200 miles is nothing—and let's be honest it's just a three and a-half to four-hour drive away—I visit my family about five to six times a year. Which is a lot, compared to some that might have family out of state, but to a 5-year-old it's not enough.

You see, I split my usual four-day visits between my parents, siblings, aunt, and Miles. To be fair, I spend most of that time with him and my parents. Visits with my nephew are something I look forward to, especially because he doesn't want to sit next to anyone else, hold anyone else's hand, or play with anyone but me.

But when it's time for me to leave, he furrows his brow, looks down, and filled with sadness he never fails to ask me, "Why don't you live close to me like uncle, nana, and papa?" Crushed, I usually reply by telling him I have bills to pay and a job that I really enjoy. He's never satisfied with that answer.

The soul-crushing questions started about two years ago, and it made me realize that I want to do more than just talk over the phone and occasionally Facetime with him. So I decided that I want to make the trip to visit my family, more importantly my nephew, as often as I can—and I recently found the perfect opportunity.

Miles is at such an interesting age where he can really express himself conversationally and figure out what his interests are by trying new things. His newest interest is basketball, and at the beginning of the year he joined a local youth team. On Feb. 22 I woke up at 5 a.m. and hit the road by 5:30 to make it to his 10 a.m. game. Miles had no idea my boyfriend and I were making the early drive to support him and his team that morning. When he opened the door of his house, at the request of my sister, Miles' first question was how we got to his house and the next was if we were going to watch his basketball game. He was beaming and instantly attached himself to my hip.

On the way to the basketball court at the Dee Hardison Sports Center, Miles showed us his techniques for playing defense—spreading his arms out from his sides—and shooting the ball into the basket—a slight flick of the wrist. Clearly I know nothing about basketball, but not to worry. My nephew said all I would have to do is watch his game and I would learn. What I enjoyed most about watching the game was how much fun Miles and his team were having and the support shown by the parents.

Sure, the coaches would remind the kids where to go on the court or to hold their positions, but it wasn't aggressive or negative. It really felt like a place where an interest and a possible passion could be cultivated—if that's the child's desire. The competitiveness can come later.

When the game was over, Miles ignored his parents congratulating him on a good game and ran straight to me to say, "And that's how you play basketball, auntie. What did you think?"

I spent the rest of the day with him practicing shooting baskets, playing with his Hot Wheels, cuddling on the couch, and dancing in the car to his favorite songs. When it's time for me to leave, Miles hands me a drawing he made for me and sadly asked when I would drive down from San Luis Obispo next. Sooner than you think, kid.
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**Film Reviews**

**THE INVISIBLE MAN**

**What's it worth?** Anna

**What's it worth, Glen?**

**Where's it showing?** Movies Lompoc, Parks Plaza, Stadium 14

**What's it worth, Anna? Matinee**

**What's it worth, Glen?**

**What's it worth?** Anna

**What's it worth, Matinee**

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

**What's it rated?**

**The Invisible Man**

(1) directs screenwriter Michael Flanagan.

In Whannell's version, the brilliant scientist is Adrian Griffin (Oliver Jackson-Cohen), a young and clever engineer who invents a device that allows him to become invisible. This leads to a series of events that change both his and Cecilia's lives.

Cecilia (Elisabeth Moss) is a woman living with an abusive partner, Adrian Griffin, who has devised a way to become invisible using an experimental device. Cecilia, with the help of her sister Alice (Harriet Dyer) and her friend James (Oliver Jackson-Cohen), begins to forge a plan to escape from Adrian and put an end to his cruel behavior.

The film is a tense and gripping thriller, with Moss delivering a standout performance as Cecilia. The invisible man is a threatening and elusive presence throughout the movie, creating a palpable sense of unease.

**Glen:** One hundred and thirty-two years after director James Whale first brought the story to the silver screen, the idea remains fresh thanks to Whannell’s thoughtful adaptation of the story that weaves in #MeToo-style abuse, the ultimate form of gaslighting, and female empowerment.

The film opens with a taut sequence of Cecilia escaping from Adrian in the dead of night. Later, Adrian purportedly commits suicide and leaves Cecilia some of his fortune, but she senses Adrian’s presence with her friend James begin to wonder what’s going on. She’s been subjected to a barrage of invisible attacks, and she’s determined to find out who’s behind them.

Adrian’s psychological torture can only go on so long, and as Cecilia continues to resist, she forces him to go beyond making her look crazy and instead making her look criminal. Imagine the frustration of knowing you’re being plagued by an evil genius but no one will believe you. Moss is terrific at playing desperate, but she’s also great at playing determined. If you’re a fan of I Spit on Your Grave (1978), as I am, you’ll save the satisfaction as Cecilia navigates Adrian’s ingenious manipulations and gaslighting, slowly but assuredly setting up a conclusion that will satisfy your bloodlust for so long, and as Cecilia continues to resist, especially when Cecilia begins to turn the tables on her tormentor.

**Anna:** This is a real “got or be gotten” approach to the story, and Adrian’s cruelty and calculated plan is nothing short of ingeniously evil. Their dramatic, cold, unbendingly beautiful horror over looks a turbulent rocky shoreline and is guarded by gates, cameras, and their Doberman Pinschers, Zeags. It’s clear that Cecilia’s plan has been brewing for a while.

How to escape the man who refuses to be bested and is a card-carrying genius is no easy task. She’s worked through every what-if, hidden her go bags and necessities safely away, and planned her escape down to the second. Why can’t it all go perfectly after that? Admittedly, that would not make for the psychological thriller this story turns out to be. Adrian wakes as she runs to her freedom, and while she makes it out, it isn’t without him discovering who she’s with and doing some damage as she flees. Even in the home of James—a 6-foot-tall slab of muscle—she can barely step out of the house.

Every sound, every person is Adrian. Cecilia is an emotional and psychological sensation that you’re being watched. Imagine living with this? Cecilia is an emotional wreck, a thin wire stretched to its breaking point, Alice and James want to believe her, but she comes off as irrational and paranoid, and soon she finds herself hospitalized. Of course Adrian’s psychological torture can only go on for so long, and as Cecilia continues to resist, especially...
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 zeros. (100 min.) —Glen Starkey

REDEMPTION: An alcoholic former high school basketball star (Ben Affleck) is offered a coaching job at his alma mater, but he must overcome his personal demons in order to succeed, in The Way Back.

Drive-In, Movies Lompoc, Parks Plaza

NEW: Dan Scanlon (Monsters University) directs this animated adventure comedy about two teenage elf brothers—Ian (Tom Holland) and Barley Lightfoot (Chris Pratt)—who go on a quest to discover if magic still exists in the hopes of spending one day with their father, who died before they were old enough to remember him. (102 min.) —Glen

SUNSET THE REUSEHUG

What's it rated? PG
What's it worth? Matteine
Where's it showing? Movies Lompoc

POCKET. 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-funded 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 careless fun. The cartoonish plot might feel like an extended Jim and Amy 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 a crossing guard in the middle of the street, and with just three episodes, it makes for a fast-paced and engaging watch, despite some questions left frustratingly unanswered. And, in case you’re wondering, it does not show the actual footage of knittens dying.

The documentary mini-series also brings up some interesting ethical questions. The killer in this case, like many serial killers, is really in it for the rush of the chase and the worldwide attention. He only escalates to murder people after he gets so much notice for his initial cat-killing video. If this group of well-intentioned individuals hadn’t banded together on the mission to find this killer, would a man still be dead? If today’s world weren’t so obsessed with blood and gore, would there be less?

That’s left up to you to decide. (three episodes, 60 min. each) ☺ —Kasey Bobnash

THE WAY BACK

What’s it rated? R
Where’s it showing? Parks Plaza

NEW: Gavin O’Connor (Warrior: The Accountant) directs this sports drama written with Brad Ingelsby (Out of the Furnace). All Night Long about an alcoholic former high school basketball star (Ben Affleck) who’s offered a coaching job at his alma mater. Can he confront his old demons, redeem himself, and lead his squad to victory? (108 min.) ☺ —Glen

Sonix movie reviews are compiled by New Times Senior Staff Writer Glen Starkey. Contact him at gstarkey@newtimesmccall.com.
THE FOUR TOPS: Chosen from our growing pool of amazing chefs, these four entertained the public with their super culinary skills and charming anecdotes at this year’s Chef Showdown. From left are Libry Darusman of Thomas Hill Organics, Will Torres of Farmhouse Corner Market in SLO, James King of Somerset Grill in Pismo Beach, and Julien Asseo of Les Petites Canailles of Paso Robles.

MYSTERY BAG OF TRICKS: Host and Wine Shine distiller Patrick Brooks comments on the craziness of the competition’s mystery bag, which chefs Julien Asseo (left) and Libry Darusman (right) hold in good measure and love. However Brooks did say one item was especially nice: his own Wine Shine brandy.

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Spam … seriously?

Final round of local competition challenged top Central Coast chefs to make miracles from hellish anti-food items

BY BETH GIUFFRE

The Chef Showdown started out like something on one of those Food Network competition shows: four top chefs creating gorgeous masterpieces in a studio kitchen.

But this was on the Central Coast, at the Paso Robles Event Center before locals’ very eyes. The audience even participated in judging after visiting the tables of small bites from each of the dueling top chefs: James King of Somerset Grill in Pismo Beach; Julien Asseo of Les Petites Canailles in Paso Robles; Libry Darusman of Thomas Hill Organics in Paso; and Will Torres of Farmhouse Corner Market in SLO.

I saw a couple of middle-schoolers trying Torres’ beef tongue for the first time and nodding to their parents. “It’s actually good!” one said.

For his small bites offering, chef King made a hocho stew, a twist on his mom’s recipe, in a cup that warmed me into comfort heaven, especially after hearing his story about its Depression origins. Chef Darusman won me over with his homemade pasta, and I was delighted to have such a big portion of chef Asseo’s beef cheeks and truffled mashed potatoes.

Chef Asseo ended up winning the People’s Choice award for those tender, melt-in-your mouth, slow-cooked braised beef cheeks served with light earthy celery root puree. Those small bites were the perfect winter dish, braised in veal stock and red wine with carrots, onions, and mushrooms. Having grown up in France, he’s accustomed to cooking with different cuts of meat.

“They’re every bit as good as a rib-eye steak if you know what you’re doing,” said Jensen Lorenzen of Larder Meat, visiting the chefs’ contestants.

Best of the best

The Enjoy SLO Chef Showdown took place Feb. 23 at the Paso Robles Event Center. Hundreds of foodies flocked to the event center to witness the face-off between chefs James King of Somerset Grill in Pismo Beach, Julien Asseo of Les Petites Canailles in Paso Robles, Libry Darusman of Thomas Hill Organics in Paso Robles, and Will Torres of Farmhouse Corner Market in SLO. Producer was provided by Talley Farms, meat by Larder Meats, and olive oil from The Groves on 41. The event was hosted by Patrick Brooks of Wine Shine.

The judges were Stew McLenan, winemaker of Sharpei Moon Wines and founder of the Garagiste Festival; chef Rachel Ponce of Par With; and Stanley Barrios, owner and winemaker for Top Winery.

For video footage of the event, visit enjoySLO.com.

Chef Darusman made fire and liquid-nitrogen steam with his preparations. A big fan of the juxtaposition of hot and cold on the plate, he likes to play with temperature, and he knows how to make a mean cauliflower rice flavored with citrus and almonds. In the first round against chef Torres, Darusman used the rice as the cold component. He used liquid nitrogen in a blender to make mysterious fog flow forth. He shared technical expertise about ground beef and rice, Brazil nuts, mousse and ginger—fire and ice—all of which went totally over my head.

In the end, Darusman made a two-part masterpiece with more colors than the most beautiful rainbow, reminiscent of sushi and sashimi.

Chef King made a traditional beef and stout shepherd’s pie topped with melted sharp cheddar. He listed all the ingredients—onions, garlic, carrots, mushrooms, herbs, “and a bunch of stout … I even put some in the food actually,” he said.

Chef Torres made Filipino-style congee for the first round showdown with chef Darusman. Torres said he grew up with Filipinos friends and found inspiration in their cooking. His version of congee was all fresh, local ingredients. He used fluffy Arborio rice; chicken, pork, and beef stock; ginger; black garlic; shallots; chilis; and vinegar, giving us tips on texture, flavor, acid, and fermentation.

Asseo went on to earn the most points in a blind tasting to woo the judges. The New York Times has already singled out and praised Asseo’s new restaurant in Paso Robles, Les Petites Canailles, which means “little rascals” in French. Chef Asseo joked that he probably should have chosen something that’s easier to pronounce, but he wanted the name to portray a casual environment that feels like home.

“It’s my second home,” he said. “It’s my first home, actually.”

Asseo is every bit as charming as you would expect. He told us he learned much of what he knows from his mom, an amateur chef but the best chef he’s ever known and someone who always spices meals to absolute perfection.

Then came the final showdown featuring the bag of weird food ingredients. Asseo and Darusman had to use liver from Larder Meats, and there was bacon in there too; gorgeous veggies from the Talley Farms CSA box; Flamin’ Hot Cheets, Patrick Brooks’ Wine Shine brandy. And Spam. Seriously?

“I get the brandy,” I said to the gentleman next to me. “But why the Cheets?”

He said, “You know Spam was invented during World War II for the soldiers?”

If this were a football game, the Spam is like having an alien from Area 51 subdued in, and those unnatural bright red chips—that’s like having a crackhead on the team. The real
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challenge: The chefs had to use all mystery items as main ingredients.

On one side of the Presentation Kitchen, Darusman was cooking with fire. Literally. He was so entertaining, Brooks asked him what was going on in his mind.

“Spam and Cheetos, I guess,” he said.

Darusman’s final dish looked amazing. At the end of the 45 minutes, he leaned back and let us see his plate—it was a Spamy, brandylicious, liver dream (and breaded and branded in Cheetos).

Across the kitchen, it was apparent that Asseo had never tried Spam.

“Zat’s not fresh at all,” he said with a refreshing amount of humor.

He paused for a moment, then came up with a game plan, which eventually earned him the $1,000 prize for best dish.

As he was cooking, Asseo took some swigs out of the Wine Shine brandy.

“Do I get to keep this?” he asked Brooks.

Brooks laughed and said, “Yes you do, my friend.”

Contributing writer Beth Giuffre will leave cooking beef cheeks to the pros. Send rib-eye steaks through the editor at clanham@santamariasun.com.

“Let it be Spamy, brandylicious, liver dream, and bacon. I’m going for the works.”

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Contributing writer Beth Giuffre says it takes just enough homegrown treats. Send your favorite snack stops to the editor at clanham@santamariasun.com.

EATS

Nibbles & Bites

• The Santa Maria Valley Chamber of Commerce is hosting a strawberry industry recognition dinner on April 8 at Santa Maria Fairpark. Tickets are now on sale for the event, which celebrates members of the valley’s strawberry industry. Visit santamaria.com for more information.

• Patty Brown, the owner of Santa Maria-based Dottie’s Sweet Delights, featured her delicious treats at the Inspired Home and Gourmet Expo in Paso Robles, in between rounds of the recent Chef Showdown. She had all her samples out, and from her old-fashioned caramel corn and peanut butter truffles, the best was her lavender-infused sea salted honey caramels. Wrapped in colorful foil, the buttery, smooth caramels sweetly sink into your mouth and surprise you with a bouquet of lavender under your nose. What I love about all of Dottie’s products is that the ingredients she uses are sweet, but they won’t hurt your teeth with artificial sugars or preservatives. Brown makes her treats the old-fashioned way, using organic cane sugar and local honey, hormone-free dairy, home-brewed vanilla made with vodka and Madagascar vanilla bean, and Himalayan sea salt.

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$2195 2602 Rubel Way 3+2, Classics 2story center hm w/mld mstr bdrm u/s, bdmms dl, L/R, F/R, M/Ry m/Hnpus, 2car grg, low maint yd, grdnr, no pets.

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