

# SUN

AT THE MOVIES



*Extremely Wicked:*  
mostly interesting [28]



# Tracking scavengers

*Volunteers with the Hi Mountain Condor Lookout partner with wildlife agencies, Cal Poly, and area nonprofits to keep an eye out for the California condor [14]*

BY CAMILLIA LANHAM

**NEWS** Lompoc's fire station is unsound [10]

**ARTS** Live script reading in action [24]

**EATS** Pure, naturally delicious juice and more [31]

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MAY 9 - MAY 16, 2019 VOL. 20 NO. 10

**H**eading into its 22nd year, Hi Mountain Condor Lookout is preparing for another summer of condor tracking. Through volunteers and Cal Poly student interns, the lookout has served as a radio-telemetry site for monitoring the giant scavengers since at least 1996. The lookout serves as a strategic location for tracking the birds, which have come a long way since the population's low of 22 condors in the wild. Santa Barbara County recently got its first nesting pair since recovery efforts began. For this week's cover story, I speak with biologists, conservation enthusiasts, and the university about condors and the lookout [14].

Also this week, the Oceano Dunes dust debate has a reprise in Arroyo Grande [8], Lompoc doesn't have the money to fix its seismically challenged fire station [10], movie enthusiasts are getting ready for a performance from Central Coast Live Read [24], the Santa Maria Civic Theatre knocks one spelling bee out of the park [27], and get the scoop on the makings of a healthy and delicious lifestyle [31].

*Camillia Lanham,*  
editor



**SOARING:** California condors often fly more than 100 miles a day, scouring their territories for food.

Cover photo courtesy of U.S. Fish and Wildlife > Cover design by Alex Zuniga

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## Political Watch

State Assemblyman Jordan Cunningham (R-San Luis Obispo) announced on April 30 that his Anti-Eavesdropping Act passed the Assembly Privacy and Consumer Protection Committee. The bill, if signed into law, would prohibit smart speaker manufacturers from storing, data mining, or selling voice recordings collected through smart speakers. "Recent revelations about how certain companies have staff that listen in to private conversations via connected smart speakers further shows why this bill is necessary to protect privacy in the home," Cunningham said in a press release. "People shouldn't have to sacrifice their private conversations in order to live in a modern home. I am thankful for committee Chairman Ed Chau's support and look forward to working with him on critical privacy issues facing the state." In the release, Cunningham cited Bloomberg reports on a team of thousands of Amazon employees and contractors around the world that listen in to, transcribe, and annotate audio recordings made via Amazon Echo. While the voice recordings analyzed by humans at Amazon do not contain any personally identifiable information, Amazon employees can easily identify a user's home address via geographic coordinates, according to the release. Cunningham and other Republicans introduced the Anti-Eavesdropping Act earlier this year.

U.S. Rep. Salud Carbajal (D-Santa Barbara) responded on May 2 to the U.S. Department of the Interior's decision to roll back 68 offshore oil drilling safety requirements that were imposed after the Deepwater Horizon oil spill. The rollbacks, according to a press release sent out by Carbajal's office, include weakening standards for well blowout preventers and reductions in real-time well monitoring requirements. "Time and time again we've seen oil and gas corporations sacrifice safety in order to cut costs at the expense of worker protections, our environment, and local economies," Carbajal said in the release. "After 11 people were killed and 4.9 million barrels of oil flooded the Gulf Coast during the Deepwater Horizon disaster, we took decisive action to ensure that this type of disaster would never happen again. Interior's decision to roll back 68 of those requirements is a dangerous decision that places oil companies' profits over the American people." The final rule will go into effect 60 days after its publication in the *Federal Register*.

The California Water Board is hosting a meeting on May 15, where the board will discuss Agricultural Order 4.0, a list of specific requirements adopted every three years that farmers in the region must meet. Ag Order 4.0 is still in its drafting stages, and a final order must be officially adopted by March 7, 2020. The upcoming meeting is a continuation of one held in March, where the board considered five updated conceptual options for Ag Order 4.0 that were originally presented to the board and the public in November 2018. During the time available, staff presented four options to the board and stakeholders, and the board heard comments and presentations from community members. Due to time constraints, staff did not present its last option, and the board didn't have an opportunity to provide specific direction to staff regarding preparation of the draft order. The upcoming meeting will be held at the Central Coast Water Board Offices at 895 Aerovista Place, suite 101, in San Luis Obispo from 8 a.m. until 6 p.m. The Ag Order is slated as the board's first discussion item. ○

## Firefighters union sues Santa Maria city, employees

The Santa Maria Firefighters Union is accusing the city and three of its current and former employees of illegally retaliating against labor union executives for opposing a proposed hiring policy.

A lawsuit filed in March, shortly after a Public Employment Relations Board (PERB) hearing found that the city violated the state law on collective bargaining, claims that Santa Maria Fire Chief Leonard Champion, Human Resources Director Jayne Anderson, and former City Manager Rick Haydon threatened to investigate and impose disciplinary measures on labor union executives for pushing back on a policy that would have changed how the department hires fire department captains.

"By retaliating against members for openly defending themselves against a policy that could potentially harm citizens, it has created an atmosphere of fear surrounding union activities," the complaint states.

According to the complaint, in March 2016, then interim Fire Chief Scott Kenley proposed opening the captain's exam to firefighters outside of the Santa Maria Fire Department to fill three open positions. Labor union executives openly opposed this move, and said it could not be done without discussing the proposal with the union. The situation was resolved after three internal candidates were promoted to fire captain positions in April 2016.

Less than a year later, Fire Chief Champion proposed the same idea as his predecessor, and he was met with the same opposition from labor union executives.

According to the complaint, Champion notified labor union executives via email that he planned to post the job opening to outside candidates in February 2017. Two labor union executives, Anthony Morales and Jill Hoover, discussed the situation with Chris Mahon, a representative from the California Professional Firefighters (CPF), which represents more than 100 fire agency labor associations throughout the state.

After Champion moved forward with posting the job opening, the CPF sent an email to all of its member agencies recommending that firefighters don't apply for the job.

"In an act of solidarity and mutual support ... CPF has routinely broadcast such notices to its



**FILING SUIT:** The Santa Maria Firefighters Union filed a complaint in March claiming that city officials retaliated against labor union executives for opposing a promotion policy.

members to keep professional firefighters aware of the illegal actions of certain administrations and agencies," the complaint states.

Following this, Champion sent a memorandum to all members of the fire department expressing his frustration with the notice. According to the complaint, Champion then notified labor union executives that they were under investigation for their roles in the notice and could face disciplinary actions, including termination.

"Champion has deliberately harassed, discriminated, and retaliated against [labor union executives] by investigating them for no other reason other than to retaliate for plaintiffs' association activity," the complaint states.

According to PERB's proposed decision, the city violated state law by not meeting and conferring with the labor union before making changes to the hiring process. Additionally, PERB's decision states that the city violated state law by retaliating against labor union executives.

In its proposed decision, PERB directs the city to meet and negotiate with the labor union on the possibility of changing the hiring process for fire captains. The proposed decision also directs the city to destroy any documents obtained during the investigation against labor union executives. Both the labor union and the city have the chance to comment on PERB's proposed decision before it becomes official.

In the complaint, labor union executives are requesting relief through more than \$25,000 in damages, as well as lawsuit costs, attorney fees, and all other relief deemed necessary in court. Labor union executives are also requesting a jury trial.

The city has not yet filed its response to the complaint and doesn't have a comment on the lawsuit, said city Public Information Officer Mark van de Kamp. The Santa Maria City Council is set to discuss the complaint during a closed session at a meeting on May 7.

According to attorney Michael McGill, who is representing the labor union executives in the lawsuit, the city has said the lawsuit lacks merit and that it intends to file a motion for the case to be dismissed.

"The sad thing about a case like this is the city is going to end up paying their attorneys more money than it would take to resolve it," McGill said.

—Zac Ezzone

## Camp 4 bill passes House after months of volatility

It's been a crazy few months for the Santa Ynez Band of Chumash Indians, and the tribe's long-standing effort to get Camp 4 officially placed into trust is starting to seem like a never-ending rollercoaster.

The Chumash got over another hump on that coaster on April 29, when the U.S. House of Representatives passed a resolution that, if approved by the Senate and the president, would affirm Camp 4's fee-to-trust status with the federal government, adding the land to the tribe's reservation and taking it out of Santa Barbara County's jurisdiction.

"We are pleased that the House of Representatives voted without objection to pass our land affirmation act bill, [House Resolution] 317, which now moves on to the Senate," Chumash Tribal Chairman Kenneth Kahn wrote in a statement. "This bill includes the memorandum of understanding with Santa Barbara County and a perpetual exclusion on gaming. Our tribe is committed to building tribal housing on our historical homelands."

Kahn could not be reached for further comment before the *Sun's* press time.

Camp 4 is a 1,400-acre parcel of land in the Santa Ynez Valley that the U.S. Bureau of Indian Affairs placed into fee-to-trust with the federal government in January 2017.

After the acquisition, Congress forced the county to enter into negotiations with the Chumash regarding development on the land, and the Board of Supervisors officially entered into an agreement with the tribe on Oct. 31, 2017. The Chumash hope to build 143 housing units and a tribal administrative building for members on a portion of the land while keeping the rest for agriculture or environmental open space.

But on Feb. 13 of this year, Santa Ynez Valley landowner Anne Crawford-Hall successfully appealed the 2017 decision to take Camp 4 into trust for the Chumash.

In the decision, U.S. District Court Judge Stephen Wilson found that Lawrence Roberts, who issued the Department of Interior's decision on the 2017 Camp 4 fee-to-trust acquisition, was not authorized to do so. A few days later, Assistant Secretary of Indian Affairs Tara Sweeney announced her decision to take Camp 4 back into trust for the Chumash. On March

## Weekend Weather

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

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NEWS from page 4

29, Sweeney reversed her decision, pulling the land from the Chumash once again. Sweeney cited endangered bird species in the area as the reason for her reversal and said an environmental review should be conducted.

If House Resolution 317 is approved by the Senate and president, it would bypass the Department of Interior's recent reversal.

Bill Krauch is chair of the Santa Ynez Valley Coalition, an organization that has long opposed the Camp 4 fee-to-trust acquisition. The coalition plans to fight the bill's passage through the Senate, Krauch said, adding that it's inappropriate for Congress to bring the land into trust if the Bureau of Indian Affairs won't do it.

"We do not feel—and in the last court hearing the judge implied that we were correct—that they used the proper environmental report when it was approved by the Bureau of Indian Affairs [in 2017]," Krauch said.

—Kasey Bubnash

## Santa Maria resident offers emergency bystander training in wake of Oceano shooting

It's been about a year since Santa Maria resident Scott Hunter retired after 30 years in firefighting and started offering free classes to Central Coast residents on ways to block massive bleeding injuries during violent incidents.

The classes are part of a national awareness campaign called Stop the Bleed, which Hunter said was first launched by a coalition of first responders in 2013. In the same way that everyday citizens can learn CPR, Stop the Bleed trains people to stop major bleeding as bystanders during emergencies.

While the campaign was initially a direct response to the 2012 school shooting at Sandy Hook Elementary School in Newtown, Connecticut, Hunter said it started to take off in 2017, when it became clear that incidents of mass violence were becoming increasingly common.

Hunter, who is also a trained EMT and part-time faculty member in public safety at Allan Hancock College, instantly loved the idea.

He has a saying: "It's not a matter of if, it's simply a matter of when."

"The when happened," Hunter told the *Sun*.

At about midnight on May 5, the San Luis Obispo County Sheriff's Office received reports of a shooting at the Oceano Dunes. State Parks responded, according to a SLO County press release, and multiple victims were treated for gunshot wounds, including six who were rushed to local hospitals for further treatment.

SLO County Sheriff's Office detectives were dispatched to assist, and after taking the lead on the investigation, later arrested suspect Francisco Orozco, a 19-year-old Oakland resident, on attempted murder charges in connection with the shooting.

No further information was available as of press time, according to the SLO Sheriff's Office, and the investigation is ongoing.

Hunter plans to help residents and park goers take safety measures into their own hands. He hopes residents will start to realize that emergencies can happen anytime, anywhere, and that it's best to know how to save a life in that situation.

"For us living on the Central Coast, it hit close to home," Hunter said, "and for some people, for the people the Oceano, it happened in their backyard."

The Stop the Bleed classes are completely free of charge and typically run for about an hour and a half. Hunter said one Stop the Bleed report found that 32 percent of those killed in the 2016 Pulse Nightclub shooting in Orlando, Florida, died of massive bleeding wounds that could have been repaired and treated had the victims not bled out. A person can bleed out in four to five minutes, Hunter said, and that can be prevented by bystanders waiting for emergency personnel to arrive.

While Hunter's most recent Stop the Bleed training was scheduled for May 8 in Cayucos, he said he hopes to host more in the wake of the Oceano shooting. The plan is to do two each month—one in northern Santa Barbara County and another in SLO County.

"This is a very important training, especially in the world we live in," Hunter said. "I feel it's something everyone should take. It's basically turning citizens into first responders."

—Kasey Bubnash

## State agencies consider aquifer exemption in Cat Canyon Oil Field

Oil companies may have more space to build injection wells in the Cat Canyon Oil Field if the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) approves a potential recommendation from various state agencies.

The California Department of Conservation's Division of Oil, Gas, and Geothermal Resources (DOGGR)—along with the State Water Resources Control Board and the Central Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board—is considering recommending that the EPA expand the aquifer exemption area in the oil field where injection projects can take place.

The original boundaries for injections in the oil field were established in 1983. Two years ago, several well operators within the oil field requested that DOGGR recommend the EPA expand the existing exemption area based on updated information.

"In the decades since, it has been established that the reservoir containing the oil/groundwater mixture is larger than was believed," California Department of Conservation Media Relations Manager Don Drysdale said in an email to the *Sun* earlier this year.

If the EPA approves expanding the exempted area, class 2 injection wells could be built over almost the entire oil field boundary, according to maps prepared by DOGGR. These wells are used to dispose of fluids associated with oil and gas production.

According to DOGGR, even if the EPA approves this expansion, any injection well project would still involve a regulatory process separate from the aquifer exemption. According to federal law, injection wells can only be built in aquifers that don't currently serve as a source of drinking water and can't serve as a source of drinking water in the future.

The aquifers in most of the Cat Canyon Oil Field meet these requirements because the water contains hydrocarbons that are commercially producible. Additionally, the fluids injected into the aquifer are expected to remain in the portion of the aquifer that would be exempted.

"Expanding the geologic zones into which injection is allowed may be appropriate, since the water they contain is not suitable for drinking or agricultural use," Drysdale said.

On May 3, DOGGR announced it's holding a public comment period and public hearing that will give residents an opportunity to

weigh in on the proposal. As part of that process, DOGGR is also holding a public hearing in Santa Maria at the Veterans' Memorial Community Center located at 313 W. Tunnell St. on June 5 from 4 to 7 p.m.

—Zac Ezzone

## Dispensary owner faces charges in Los Alamos cannabis probe

One of 805 Beach Breaks' owners is facing criminal charges in Santa Barbara County as part of an investigation into a cannabis farm in Los Alamos that was raided by law enforcement in March.

Brian Touey is one of three growers being charged in connection to the site at 9676 Harvest Road, which housed hundreds of thousands of unlicensed plants, according to the Santa Barbara County District Attorney's Office.

Authorities also seized plants and more than \$32,000 in property assets from a facility in Nipomo on Hutton Road that was "used as an instrument to facilitate ... the sale of a controlled substance," according to court records.

The raids are part of an ongoing probe by the Santa Barbara County Sheriff's Office's Cannabis Compliance Team into the Los Alamos operation, which the agency called the largest that it had ever investigated.

"This case involves the issue of fraudulent licensing and the black-market diversion of cannabis," Santa Barbara Sheriff's spokesperson Kelly Hoover said over email. "Our investigation from Los Alamos led us to the dispensary to search for evidence and documentation."

Hoover said that while deputies found cannabis from the Los Alamos grow for sale at 805 Beach Breaks, the shop is not the main focus of the investigation.

"[The product] appeared to be labeled to meet the state standards for retail sale," Hoover said.

Touey, one of the dispensary's owners, faces one felony charge for perjury—related to falsifying documents to Santa Barbara County—and two misdemeanors for the unlawful cultivation and sale of cannabis. He pleaded not guilty to the charges on April 23.

Touey declined to comment on the case on April 24.

The charges filed are only relevant to activities that allegedly took place in Santa Barbara County, according to Senior Deputy District Attorney Lee Carter.

The Grover Beach Police Department investigated 805 Beach Breaks in light of Santa Barbara's probe and determined that the dispensary hadn't violated any local laws. The dispensary briefly closed on March 28 while authorities searched the shop and found cannabis products allegedly sourced from the Los Alamos grow.

At the time, the Sheriff's Office declined to disclose whether Touey was involved with the grow.

Per documents obtained by the *Sun*, Santa Barbara County sent state cannabis licensing agencies multiple letters of temporary approval for Touey's cultivation activities in Los Alamos—based on his statements that cannabis was grown on the site before Jan. 19, 2016. Prosecutors are alleging that Touey's statements were false.

According to the state Bureau of Cannabis website, Touey is listed as part owner of 805 Beach Breaks with Erich Haas. It was the first brick-and-mortar cannabis store to open in SLO County in 2018. ○

—Peter Johnson



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# A dusty debate

Locals and park goers workshop draft plan to  
reduce dust emitted by Oceano Dunes

BY KASEY BUBNASH

It's been more than 50 years since Jim Suty's family first started traveling from the Bay Area to the Oceano Dunes. Since then, he can only remember three Thanksgiving dinners he's spent away from the beach.

To Suty, the debate over the Oceano Dunes State Vehicular Recreation Area is about more than just riding dirt bikes and ATVs. It's about having a sanctuary away from the bustle of life in San Jose. It's about family and giving his kids the same memories he'll always have of holidays and weekends at the beach.

"This fight is personal," Suty told the *Sun*.

Suty was one of dozens of like-minded individuals who attended a public workshop on May 1 at the South County Regional Center in Arroyo Grande. They wore blue T-shirts to show unified opposition to possible cuts to camping and off-highway vehicle spaces in the Oceano Dunes state park.

Hosted by the San Luis Obispo County Air Pollution Control District (APCD) and State Parks, the meeting was an opportunity for community members to give feedback on the Oceano Dunes Draft Particulate Matter Reduction Plan. The plan is required by a legal

native vegetation, run parallel to the ocean, and help slow the winds coming off the ocean, ultimately reducing the dust flowing into nearby communities.

Suty doesn't like that idea because the foredune would likely be built on space that's currently used for camping, eliminating some swaths of beach and campground space entirely. But scientists working on the project say that a foredune could be the most efficient way to see the biggest decreases.

Ian Walker is a geologist working with the Science Advisory Group, an independent team of scientists tasked with researching the Oceano Dunes and providing recommendations on ways to improve the park's dust emission rates. He's worked on dozens of coastal dune projects worldwide and said that while Oceano is beautiful, "it's anomalous."

"We don't see the types of dust emissions that we see here in Oceano from most coastal dunes systems," he said. "There are geologic reasons behind this, and there are other land-use activities behind this."

The Science Advisory Group first met in July 2018 and has since been working to gather emissions data. In 2013, Walker said the Nevada-based Desert Research Institute found that roughly 75 to 80 percent of Oceano's collected dust emissions come from the off-highway vehicle area.

Walker said that later this year, scientists will be re-collecting data similar to that collected in 2013.

In 2018, State Parks implemented scores of dust mitigation strategies, including added vegetation and wind fencing, and saw a 25 percent drop in dust emissions from 2017 to 2018.

To reach a 50 percent reduction, Walker said a foredune will likely be

**'We don't see the types of dust emissions that we see here in Oceano from most coastal dunes systems. There are geologic reasons behind this, and there are other land-use activities behind this.'**

—Ian Walker, Science Advisory Group geologist

order that State Parks agreed to months ago, after the agency was nearly sued by the APCD for failing to address the park's unnaturally high dust emissions.

Health officials say the dust could be harmful to residents' health and that fewer dust particles would be stirred up if vehicles were not allowed in the area. As part of the stipulated abatement order State Parks entered into, dust emissions must be cut by 50 percent by 2023.

Suty, who is president of the Friends of Oceano Dunes, a nonprofit that advocates to keep the area as accessible as possible, said he thinks that shoddy data collection has led to misinformation. The emissions are naturally occurring, he said, and have been overstated in recent reports.

One issue, Suty said, is that much of the emission data were collected in 2013, one of the area's driest and windiest years in recent history, leading to abnormally high levels of dust.

At the May 1 meeting, officials and scientists working on the dust mitigation project suggested creating a foredune, which confirmed Suty's and others' fears that their access could be limited or cut off. The proposed foredune would eventually grow

necessary. The Oso Flaco area has a foredune, and Walker said the dust emissions there are almost nonexistent.

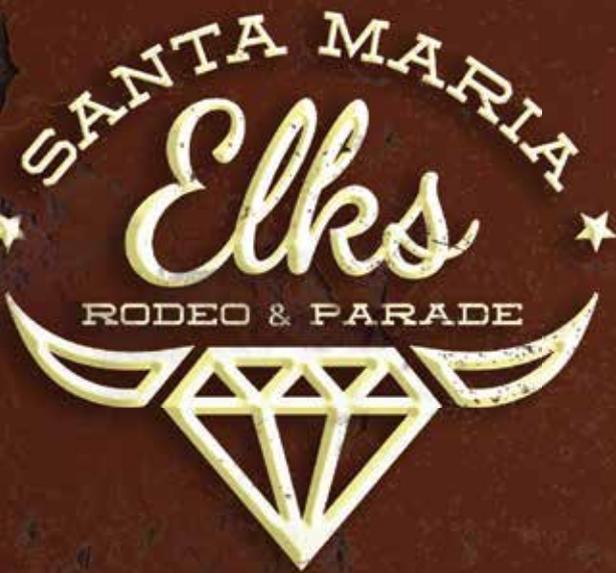
Community members and stakeholders will be able to submit comments regarding mitigation online until May 15, according to Gary Willey, director of the APCD, though the deadline may be extended until the end of this month.

Tom Sherry—a Nipomo Mesa resident of about four years who attended the meeting wearing red alongside other locals concerned about air quality issues—said he appreciates the scientific, data-driven approach officials are taking.

While the battle between Nipomo residents and Oceano recreators has been long and controversial, Sherry didn't seem overly concerned about the situation. He said he's just glad something is being done to protect Nipomo Mesa residents.

"It's a matter of ensuring that people who live here have a healthy environment," Sherry said at the meeting. He then pointed toward those from the ATV community. "It's for them, too." ○

Staff Writer Kasey Bubnash can be reached at [kbubnash@santamariasun.com](mailto:kbubnash@santamariasun.com).



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# Seismically unsafe

Lompoc's main fire station faces structural, budget issues

BY ZAC EZZONE

Firefighters with the city of Lompoc are working 24-hour shifts in a fire station that may not be able to withstand an earthquake. The fire department's most recent attempt to fix this problem was rejected earlier this year.

In March, the department was informed that the Federal Emergency Management Agency denied a grant application to fund retrofitting the building to meet earthquake standards. Additionally, City Manager Jim Throop said there probably won't be money in the 2019-21 biennial budget to fund the project.

"If we're taking the route of reducing budgets, then there's nothing we can do [about the station]," Throop said.

The city is staring down an estimated \$3.6 million deficit over its next two fiscal years. At a budget workshop meeting on April 17, city staff presented the City Council with two ways to make up this deficit: a sales tax measure that would need to be approved by voters, or budget cuts. The majority of the council didn't support a sales tax measure.

Lompoc has known about Fire Station No. 1's structural deficiencies for at least the last five years. In 2014, the city hired the Santa Barbara-based engineering firm Ehlen Spiess & Haight Inc. to complete a seismic evaluation

of the station. According to the firm's report, the facility would probably sustain significant damage during an earthquake.

"In our opinion, the building is very likely to be partially or completely non-functional as a fire station if subjected to current building code design level earthquake forces," the report states.

The report cites numerous issues that

**'Firefighters shouldn't have to work like this—they show up ready to go, and then you walk into a building that's seismically unsafe.'**

—Lompoc Firefighters Union President Anthony Hudley

limit the building's ability to withstand an earthquake; however, it states that the biggest concerns relate to how the building's roofs are connected to its walls.

"Although we have identified many potential deficiencies in the seismic force-resisting system, the most serious is the deficient

connections of the wood-framed roofs ... to the masonry walls in all parts of the facility," the report states.

Firefighters, work, eat, and sleep at the station during their 24-hour shifts. Lompoc Firefighters Union President Anthony Hudley said concerns about spending so much time in a fire station with these structural issues weigh on the minds of the firefighters.

"Firefighters shouldn't have to work like this—they show up ready to go, and then you walk into a building that's seismically unsafe," Hudley said. "Everybody's worried about us being able to provide service to everybody else, but what about us?"

The building's deficiencies could also cause problems for the entire city if the building caved in and trapped people and gear during an earthquake, Fire Chief Gerald Kuras said. This would limit the department's ability to respond and assist residents during a disaster.

Two years after receiving the seismic evaluation, the fire department applied for grant funding through FEMA's Pre-Disaster Mitigation Program to address the issues raised in the report. According to the grant application, the total retrofit was projected to cost about \$3.8 million. The city requested \$2.8 million from FEMA and planned on covering the rest itself.

Three years after applying for the grant, a representative with the California Governor's Office of Emergency Services (Cal OES) told the

department that FEMA denied the application, according to an email exchange obtained by the Sun.

"FEMA determined that the project is ineligible because it is neither feasible nor effective as a long-term solution," Cal OES Hazard Mitigation Grant Specialist Shafeel Koya said in an email.

After this rejection, Kuras said the department began looking into other grant opportunities. Based on the reasoning behind FEMA's denial, he believes the best solution is to demolish the station and build a new one.

Throop agrees that the city should replace the station rather than putting more money into the existing facility, given how much retrofitting would cost. Based on his estimates, a new station would run about \$8 million, which is a little more than double the estimated cost of the retrofitting.

Finding the money to do either will be a challenge. With FEMA rejecting the fire department's grant application and the limited funding available in the city's 2019-21 biennial budget, it's unclear when the building's issues will be addressed. Union President Hudley said he knows the city is financially restricted, but he believes the department's firefighters would feel better working in the station if the city identified a path forward.

"I get it's not a quick fix, but if there's a plan, then we can operate with that," Hudley said. ○

Staff Writer Zac Ezzone can be reached at [zezzone@santamaria.com](mailto:zezzone@santamaria.com).

BY ZAC EZZONE

Virginia Perry Souza and her mother first opened the Natural History Museum in Santa Maria as a tribute to Souza's late father, who was fascinated by the Central Coast's nature and wildlife and passed that appreciation on to his daughter. Despite her genuine enjoyment of wildlife, Souza said she'd had no intention of acting on this interest until she developed the idea for the museum.

"The idea was just ready to be born," Souza said. "I don't know how the idea first started germinating, but it did."

The museum began in 1996 as a traveling exhibit kit that a naturalist would take to schools in Santa Maria to teach students about birds from the area. Three years later, the museum found a permanent location at 412 McClelland St., near the library and City Hall.

Over time, the museum has accumulated pieces for its exhibits of animals and plants from different Central Coast habitats, such as shorebirds that live on beaches and furry critters that dwell in forests. Many of the taxidermed animals have been donated, but some are the result of a museum volunteer or board member finding animals killed along roads and highways near Santa Maria. That's how the museum obtained its mountain lion, which was found near Highway 166.

However, after years of accumulating items and adding to the museum, Souza, and Mike

Lehane, president of the museum's board of directors, want to get back to the museum's roots and focus on educating students.

Lehane, who became president of the board of directors in February, said the idea is to create an educational outreach program where museum volunteers travel to schools with kits of items related to what students are learning, to supplement their education.

"I think it's important for anybody to learn about the world they live in because it makes them more aware of how the natural world works," Lehane said. "And once they know that, they

are able to join in the stewardship of their environment."

Souza, who stepped away from the museum about five years ago to focus on other endeavors, rejoined the board of directors earlier this year to help move this educational effort forward. She said that throughout this year, museum directors and volunteers will begin laying the foundation for the program by working with educators to identify items needed, and they'll then write grants to obtain those items.

Souza said she hopes the program starts next year, with the goal of sparking students' interest and making them think about the world around them.

"We want to pass on the concept that we are all linked—everything from the smallest thing to the biggest," Souza said.

In addition to the education program, Lehane said he is thinking about other ways

## Spotlight on: Natural History Museum Virginia Perry Souza, Mike Lehane

## SPOTLIGHT ON BUSINESS

PHOTO BY ZAC EZZONE



**PIECE OF HISTORY:** The Natural History Museum's building is one of the oldest homes still standing in Santa Maria, according to board President Mike Lehane.

the museum can grow its offerings, such as starting summer camps where students visit the museum once a week for two or three hours. He said he has also started dreaming up the possibility of expanding the museum's physical space.

"We have people wanting to donate things all the time, and we just don't have room to put them out," Lehane said. "Our storage room is filled with things the public would like to see and we would like them to see."

### Highlights

- The city of Santa Maria plans to hire Thomas Watson as its new city attorney, after its former attorney of 14 years, Gilbert Trujillo, retired in December 2018. The City Council is set to approve Watson's hiring at its May 7 meeting. ○

Staff Writer Zac Ezzone wrote this week's Biz Spotlight. Information should be sent to the Sun via fax, mail, or email at [spotlight@santamariasun.com](mailto:spotlight@santamariasun.com).

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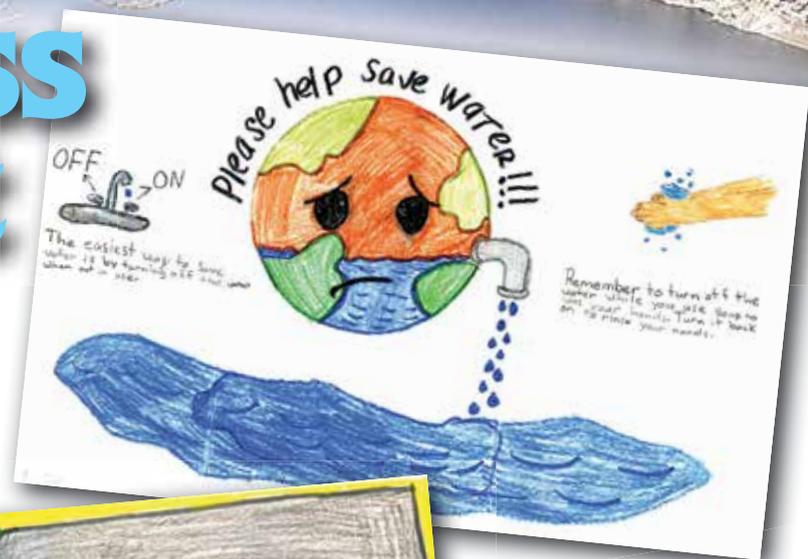
# Water Awareness Poster Contest

The City of Santa Maria Utilities Department is proud to feature the winners of the 2019 Water Awareness Poster Contest. Third grade students enrolled in the Santa Maria Bonita School District created colorful posters celebrating May as Water Awareness Month. Their posters promoted water awareness and conservation, and showed the importance of water in Santa Maria.

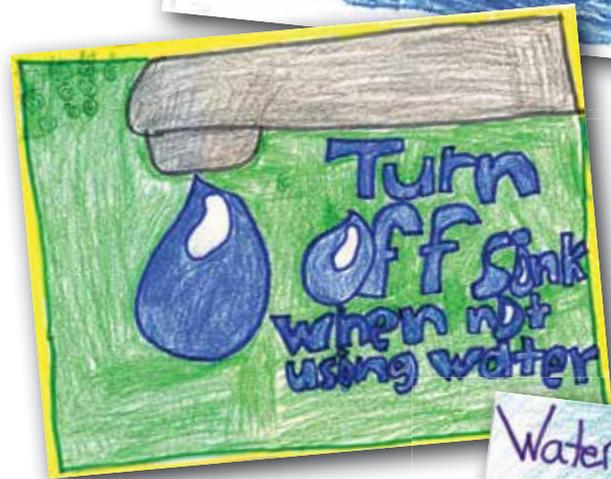
The Utilities Department wishes to acknowledge the more than 200 students for their participation, artwork, and creativity as well as Santa Maria Bonita School District teachers who encouraged students to take part in this year's Water Awareness Poster Contest.

Special thanks to the following organizations whose involvement and prize contributions made this contest possible:

- American General Media
- Boomers of Santa Maria
- City of Santa Maria Recreation and Parks Department
- Emerald Wave Media
- Santa Maria Valley Discovery Museum



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## Online Poll

### Should Santa Maria create a rent control ordinance for residents living in mobile home parks?

- 40% The city should implement rent control for all residents.
- 30% No—rent should be negotiated between residents and park owners.
- 20% Yes—many residents are retired and on a fixed income.
- 10% Rent control isn't fair to park owners.

24 Votes

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# We need services

## Lompoc's temporary tax: Should it be for a single purpose?

**BY RON FINK**

Lompoc has a revenue problem that looks like it's not going away anytime soon. Many are arguing that any proposed temporary sales tax to help alleviate the revenue problem should be for a specific purpose, so let's try and figure out just what that purpose would be.

The City Council majority is currently standing by their misguided position that the problem can be solved by drastically cutting services. With only four council meetings remaining until the current budget period ends, it looks like we could be in for another lengthy delay caused by City Councilmember Jim Mosby and his fake facts.

First, I am an active member of a local taxpayer's association, but I am speaking for myself in this commentary. You would think that I would oppose most taxes; well, you're right unless I know what I am paying for.

A temporary 1 percent sales tax would generate more than is needed to overcome the current deficit; so, tying that tax to one specific item doesn't seem logical when the budget shortfall is impacting the ability to provide all the services of the general fund.

So, say the council would OK a single purpose tax—what would it be?

When you buy a car, the single purpose is to purchase transportation. But there are numerous options and trim packages that could be included with the car or truck you choose.

In this case, the additional tax money is needed to accomplish many things, so the single purpose tax could be directed to "augment current revenue sources to support general fund services." But, like buying a car or truck I would want to know what the options are, and they should be clearly spelled out in the ballot language.

Of course, the first option, more akin to standard equipment, would be to pay down the CalPERS debt. The lion's share of any revenue collected, say 50 percent, should be dedicated to this purpose and the rest for other options.

The CalPERS "contributions" seem to be the big donkey in the room that's creating the revenue shortfall. Over the years, the fund hasn't been managed to generate income as much as it has been used by the governing board to make politically correct investments. This board is made up of political appointees selected by politicians, and we all know which political party controls the state of California.

Most of the speakers at public meetings have been strong supporters of the police and fire departments, so one option would be to establish minimum staffing levels for each department consistent with the levels originally approved by the council in the 2017-19 budget.

Part of the public safety option must be replacement of aged rolling stock. The entire fleet of fire and police vehicles is approaching the end of their useful life and will soon become a liability to the safe delivery of those services.

Replacing, modernizing, and/or expanding fire stations and the police station should be included. Fire station 1, the headquarters, has been evaluated by engineering and is subject to partial or full collapse during a seismic event. Not only could firefighters be injured or killed, but who would respond to assist the rest of the community if the station collapses and fire equipment becomes unusable and first responders disabled?

Fire station 2 was built as a "temporary station" more than 30 years ago. It needs to be moved to a more centralized location and enlarged to meet today's service needs.

The police department needs more space.

Some evidence requires special handling such as weapons, ammunition, DNA samples, and other items that may deteriorate if not stored in temperature/humidity-controlled environments.

The emergency operation center and dispatcher's area needs some serious upgrades to meet the current and future service needs.

Although it hasn't been discussed at length, the library and parks and recreation programs must be funded at a level that provides the community with adequate service. This includes replacing deteriorated park equipment, major renovations at several parks, keeping the library open six days a week, offering youth programs, and properly maintaining those facilities.

Why should voters demand specifics such as these in any tax proposal? Well, it might surprise you, but if there isn't any clarity in that ballot language, then some future council could change the priorities for spending and defeat the purpose of this tax.

As you can see, there are a lot of options that must be included in the "single purpose tax." As a taxpayer advocate, I could support this tax if the ballot language clearly defined spending priorities, a citizens oversight committee was created to monitor expenditures, and it included a defined end date with no option to extend it.

If at a future date, the people determined that the tax should be extended, then another ballot measure would have to be put to the people as it was recently in Santa Maria.

But first, the Lompoc City Council, specifically three council members, need to allow voters in Lompoc to make the choice. So far, they haven't listened to scores of citizens who have simply asked for the right to vote. ○

Ron Fink writes from Lompoc. Send comments through the editor at [clanham@santamariasun.com](mailto:clanham@santamariasun.com) or write a letter for publication and email it to [letters@santamariasun.com](mailto:letters@santamariasun.com).

## We need solutions

Karen Garcia wrote an excellent article on the personal heartbreak that is the result of immigration policies and enforcement that has been given the wink and nod for more than 40 years ("After deportation," April 25). Congress needs to do something about this now. Actually it should have been done yesterday. President Trump has offered many opportunities to pass legislation addressing DACA, among other immigration issues, and the Democrats have flatly said no. How does the saying go? "If you are not part of the solution, then you must be part of the problem."

I personally sent emails twice to U.S. Representative Salud Carbajal (D-Santa Barbara) to please work with the president to stop this separation of families by finding legislative solutions to immigration law and violations. I got standard "thanks" replies. Perhaps Carbajal should be spelled "Cabal." The Democrats will not stop grousing about the last election until they lose the next one. Voters did not elect representatives to fuss and obstruct government action on the people's concerns, or did they, perhaps by mistake.

Jan Lipski  
Vandenberg Village

## Plains pipeline gets away with it

Let's put this in perspective: The fine levied by Judge James Herman against Plains All-American Pipeline, based in Houston, for the 2015 Refugio Oil spill was \$3.3 million. Plains' revenue during the last quarter was \$8.79 billion. That comes out to more than \$4 million per hour. In one hour, Plains made more money than that measly fine. It's like a parking ticket to you and me.

According to Judge Herman, the \$3.3 million fine was the largest allowed by law, despite the \$1.2 billion the prosecutors requested to cover losses for cleanup, fisheries, commercial and recreational boating, tourism, and the layoffs of oil workers due to shutting down the pipeline. Even the judge questioned whether the fine was enough to discourage future spills on our

LETTERS continued page 16

## THIS MODERN WORLD

by TOM TOMORROW

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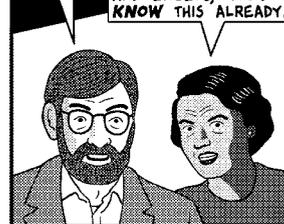
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IF YOU'D READ MARX AND ENGELS, YOU'D KNOW THIS ALREADY!



### 3. THEY WANT TO ABORT BABIES AFTER THEY ARE BORN, AND ALSO UP TO THE AGE OF 25!

WHO CARES IF IT MAKES ANY SENSE? WE'RE JUST CARTOONISHLY EVIL, THAT'S ALL THERE IS TO IT!

THE ONLY THING STANDING IN OUR WAY IS THAT DAMNED MEDDLING FOX NEWS CHANNEL!



### 4. THEY WANT TO FORCE EVERYONE TO WEAR SCRATCHY WOOL UNDERPANTS!

NO REAL REASON FOR THIS ONE.

IT JUST SOUNDS EXTREMELY UNPLEASANT!



### 5. THEY WANT MANDATORY BEDBUGS IN EVERY HOME!

WE BELIEVE THESE SMALL, NON-HUMAN-IDENTIFYING CREATURES SHOULD BE TREATED WITH RESPECT AND DIGNITY!

UNLIKE BABIES, PUPPIES, AND KITTENS! AND COWS! DON'T EVEN GET ME STARTED ON COWS!



### 6. THE REAL COLLUSION IS BETWEEN DEMOCRATS--AND SATANI!

OF COURSE! HOW ELSE WERE WE GOING TO CONVINCE AMERICANS THAT A GOOD AND DECENT MAN LIKE DONALD TRUMP IS REALLY A CORRUPT, VENAL, SCATTERBRAINED IDIOT?

WE NEEDED EXPERT HELP ON THAT!



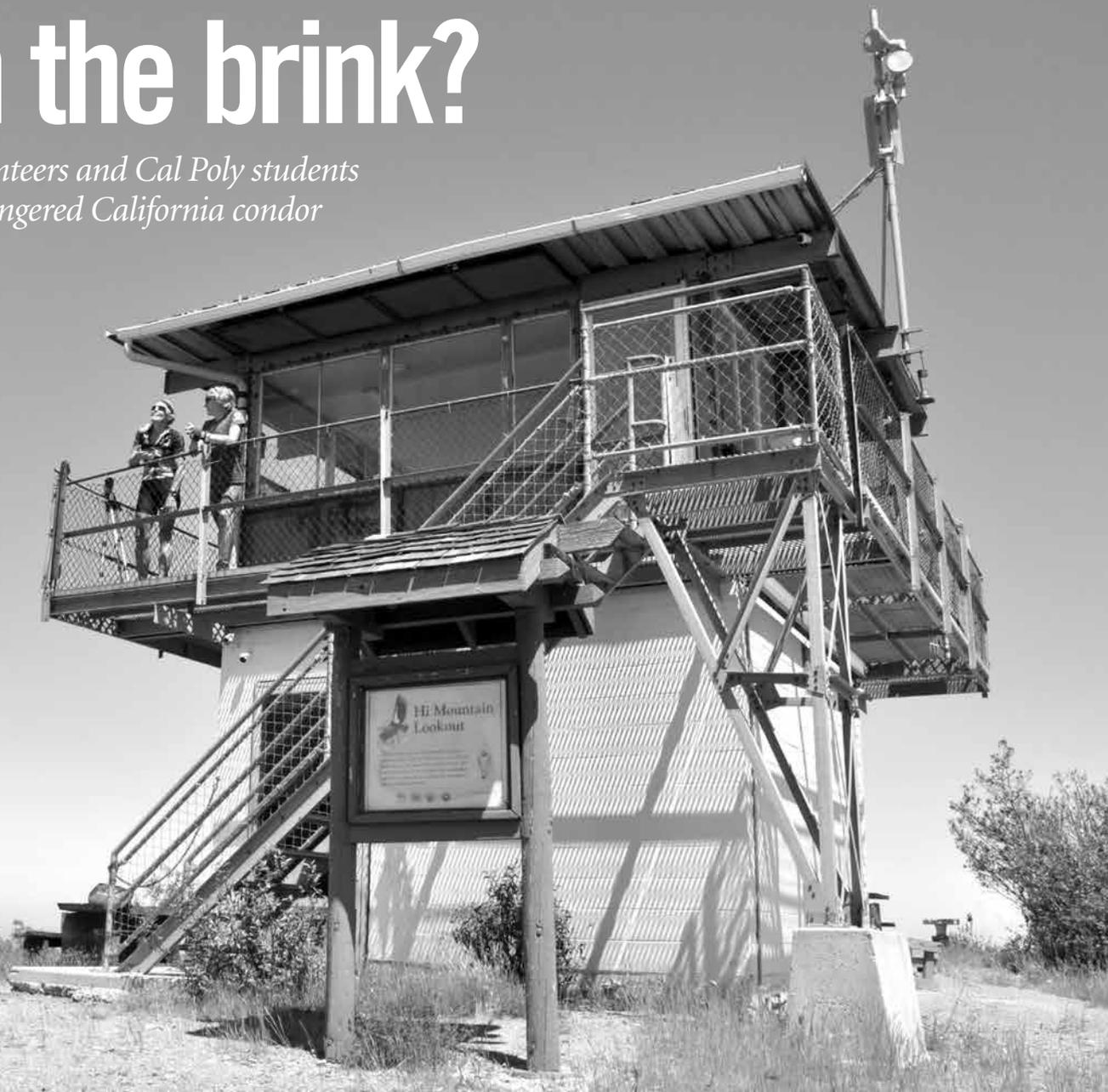
TOM TOMORROW © 2019

# Back from the brink?

*Hi Mountain Condor Lookout volunteers and Cal Poly students help wildlife agencies track the endangered California condor*

STORY AND PHOTOS BY CAMILLIA LANHAM

**SEASON'S GREETINGS:** The Hi Mountain Condor Lookout had an opening event on May 4. Volunteers packed the lookout with all of the essentials for a summer of tracking condors, and visitors brought lunches with them for a picnic on top of the world.



At the first creek crossing, you know it's not going to be a smooth ride up Hi Mountain Road. It's steep and deep, with rivulets of earth carved out by heavy creek flows rolling up the other side.

This road was graded and re-opened to the public in 2018, but a winter of heavy rain flowing across packed dirt put deep grooves into the path of vehicles. Climbing into Los Padres National Forest, the ruts up ahead make the trek bouncy and slow-going. A high-clearance vehicle is a necessity. Four-wheel drive is recommended.

At the 3,198-foot-high summit, land stretches for miles in all directions. Lopez Lake, wineries, the Pacific Ocean, and sometimes—on the clearest of days—Mount Whitney in the Sierra Nevada are visible from the Hi Mountain Condor Lookout.

The restored fire tower is accessible one of two ways. From Pozo to the north or from Lopez Lake to the south. Both are bumpy, and the road isn't really maintained in either direction—sometimes it's closed. Basically, you have to be committed to get there.

On the first Saturday in May, a handful of volunteers and visitors made the commitment, attending the Hi Mountain Lookout Picnic and Social. A life-sized condor mural soars from the first floor of the tower. Up top, glass windows give unfettered 360-degree bird's-eye views of the surrounding wilderness.

Heading into its 22nd year, Hi Mountain Condor Lookout is preparing for another summer of condor tracking. Through volunteers and Cal Poly student interns, the lookout has served as a radio-telemetry site for monitoring

the giant scavengers since at least 1996. The lookout was restored in 2002 with funding from the Morro Coast Audubon Society and the help of dedicated volunteers such as Audubon member Steve Schubert, Kevin Cooper with the U.S. Forest Service, and Cal Poly professor Francis Villablanca.

"It was kind of bird driven with a lot of cooperators," said Cooper, who recently retired from his position as the Los Padres forest biologist. "It represents a lot of the work that I've done with conservation over the years ... and it's really been a community thing. ... Plus it's just beautiful up there. It's a very special place."

Cooper met Schubert in the 1970s through their work monitoring peregrine falcons, a species that was close to extinction at the time. Peregrine falcon nesting habitat is similar to what condors prefer—rocky cliffs and sometimes tall, dead trees. Both the Forest Service and Audubon volunteers were using the lookout to track falcon recovery. In the late 1980s and 1990s, the desire to help re-establish condors drove Cooper, Schubert, and others to restore the lookout and use it as a condor monitoring site.

The falcon nesting sites observed from the lookout in the '70s are considered to also be historic nesting sites for condors. Although condors haven't used the nearby cliffs for more than 50 years, biologists hold out hope that as the population of condors continues to grow in Central California, they will return to their old stomping grounds.

For now though, the telltale "beep, beep, beep" on the radio of a condor passing through from the north or south will have to suffice.

The population of California condors dwindled to 22 in the wild before the wildlife conservation community underwent a huge experiment, capturing all of them, breeding them in captivity until the population had multiplied enough, and reintroducing them to the wild. More than 400 exist today, and the numbers are growing. Most of the condors are tracked, Cooper said, either through a radio transmitter or a GPS monitor.

"The birds have been reproducing on their own pretty well," Cooper said. "A lot of individual attention was given to the birds, and it's paid off."

However, condors still face hurdles to recovery, including lead, DDT, and something called micro-trash—tiny pieces of garbage (bottle caps, pieces of glass, broken plastic fork tines, etc.) that people leave behind.

"From a philosophical standpoint, those things that affect these species, like condors and falcons, also impact humans," Cooper said.

Continuing to address these impacts and bring back species that have been pushed to the brink of extinction is something people should strive for "as caretakers of our environments," Cooper said. "And also taking responsibility for the impacts that we've had on those species because we've changed the survivability of them."

## Recovery

Hi Mountain is right in the middle of the only two condor flocks in California. Joseph Brandt, a supervisory wildlife biologist with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's California Condor Recovery Program, said Fish and Wildlife manages a southern flock that extends from Los Padres' southern end to almost as far north as Yosemite. The Ventana Wildlife Society and Pinnacles National Park manage

the central California flock, which hangs around Big Sur, Monterey, and Pinnacles.

"[Hi Mountain] is kind of the ideal place to monitor any exchange between these two flocks," Brandt said. "It's nice to have folks strategically positioned so that they can do telemetry ... and that's a big part of the way that we track condors."

Small radio transmitters with tags on them are attached to the condors' wings, allowing people with radios to try to tune in to those telltale beeps that indicate where the birds are flying. It's how they can detect birds in



**BIRD SIGHTING:** A group of condors soars above the Big Sur coastline near McWay Falls in 2015.

## Condor love

Get more information about condors by visiting the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's California Condor Recovery Program at [fws.gov/cno/es/CalCondor/Condor.cfm](http://fws.gov/cno/es/CalCondor/Condor.cfm). Find the Hi Mountain Condor Lookout at [condorlookout.org](http://condorlookout.org) or on Facebook @condorlookout.

real time, Brandt said, those locations aren't exact—they're more triangulated. Some condors are outfitted with GPS trackers, which pinpoint a more exact location and collect detailed information, but the data is only available when the bird is in an area with cellphone service.

Condors often fly upward of 100 miles per day within their territories. The farthest that one has ever been tracked is 220 miles in one day, Brandt said. Overall, he said, reintroducing condors into their historic habitat has been a success.

"The population is growing in part because we're making headway in terms of recovery," Brandt said. "The habitat's there, the population just needs to get large enough and expand into the [Hi Mountain] area."

And the population of that southern flock is starting to expand north. Recently, Los Padres in Santa Barbara County had its first nesting pair of condors since recovery efforts began. Their range covers hundreds of miles, occupying a territory that's larger than any county.

"We now see that Santa Barbara backcountry little family of condors. The parents are starting to fly around with their chick and introduce them to that range," Brandt said. "It's exciting to see nesting in Santa Barbara; that's an expansion of where birds are nesting. We hope that that nest will draw other birds into the Santa Barbara backcountry because there's lots of nesting habitat."

While condors have come a long way, the species still isn't quite to a place where wildlife biologists feel comfortable. The population



**POISONED AND STUFFED:** Now hanging in a biological science classroom at Cal Poly, this condor died of lead poisoning last year before being taxidermied.

PHOTO BY JAYSON MELLOM

a firearm in California. The law will complete its years-long phase-in on July 1, 2019.

The 2013 bill was controversial, and it polarized the issue—pitting condors and conservation against the hunting community. Non-lead ammunition was also hard to come by when the bill was first passed. Although it's easier to find now, non-lead ammunition still isn't as pervasive as lead ammo and it costs a little more. As part of that process, some wilderness conservation nonprofits such as the Ventana Wilderness Society started handing out non-lead ammo to hunters.

"Sometimes when things are well-intended, it may also have consequences of making that conversation more polarized," Brandt said. "I definitely see why a hunter would have [their] gripes. No one likes to be legislated against, especially when you don't know why. That's why outreach and education is imperative."

he says as he points northwest. "Condors are now in our backyard, and we're hoping that as time goes on ... they will find their way back."

As a Cal Poly graduate, Schubert believes his work with the lookout is a way for him to give back to the school that brought him so much. He's been involved with the Audubon since he was a freshman in 1974, and he's been a link between the society, which often funds part of the student internships, and the lookout. As a graduate student, doing field work with the Los Padres National Forest changed his life. He would camp out near peregrine falcon nests to collect data and prevent thefts, which he said was a problem in the '70s due to the birds being popular with falconers.

"It was a big deal," he said. "It impacted me in a huge way."

Cal Poly biological sciences student Marie Solis interned at the lookout in 2018 with a fellow student. Three to four days a week for 10 weeks, she and her partner lived at the lookout, sleeping on the metal walkway that runs all the way around the outside of the second story. The lookout does have space to sleep inside, but some volunteers prefer being in the open.

"My partner and I slept outside on that every night, and we woke up to the sunrise every day," Solis said in an email response to questions from the *Sun*.

They manned the lookout so people could come out and visit (inquiring before you go is highly recommended because it isn't always open). But Solis said they also worked on other projects, continuing a multi-year survey of narrowleaf milkweed started by professor Villablanca, putting up a handful of game cameras to document some of the local residents, and using the radio telemetry equipment to track the condors. The final project they worked on became Solis' senior project for Cal Poly.

The pair conducted micro-trash surveys in roadside pullouts along Hi Mountain Road. Comparing what they found to a 2007 study in Los Padres National Forest on micro-trash collected from condor nests and necropsied condor chicks, the students found that the birds prefer plastic micro-trash to other materials.

"An important thing to note about the project is that the pullouts we sampled were only along

Hi Mountain Lookout Road, and the Los Padres National Forest is a *huge* national forest (about 3,000 square miles)," Solis cautioned. "Therefore, it's totally possible that the proportions we collected aren't necessarily representative of the entire area. However, it's a good start and potentially an interesting research question that can be further studied by future interns at the lookout."

Solis presented her work at a February meeting of the Western Section of the Wildlife Society, which is part of a national organization of professional wildlife

biologists and managers in the U.S. Due to her work with condors, Solis will be interning with the Ventana Wildlife Society after she graduates with a bachelor's degree in biological sciences this June.

The Ventana Wildlife Society has played a key role in the condor recovery process on the Central Coast. The nonprofit releases captive-bred condors at sites in Big Sur and Pinnacles National Park, with a recently added release site near San Simeon. Solis attributes her success to the work she did at the Hi Mountain Condor Lookout.

"It can help open the door of many different opportunities, simply because one of its main focuses is simply exposing the interns to many field techniques and allowing the interns to experiment with different studies and assignments to see what their interests are," Solis said. "The Hi Mountain internship is a great stepping stone in any biology undergraduate student's career."

John Perrine, a Cal Poly professor who teaches wildlife ecology and conservation, recently took over for his colleague Villablanca in working with the lookout. He said that projects like the one Solis and her partner completed enable people to organize to help mitigate the issue. For trash, a simple sign could make all the difference, Perrine said. Informing people to pick up after themselves because the little bits they leave behind could harm condors might be a big step in preventing micro-trash from accumulating in the future.

Obviously, this kind of work aligns with Cal Poly's motto—learn by doing. With wildlife ecology, Perrine said, it can be a struggle to get students involved in hands-on roles.

"That's challenging because some of these species are highly protected so you need permission and permits to work with them, and some of these species just aren't very abundant," he said. "If you can accomplish that, you can help send someone right on their way to becoming a field biologist because these opportunities are very hard to come by."

Cal Poly's collaboration with the lookout is a win-win for everybody involved, Perrine said—the Forest Service, nonprofit collaborators such as the Audubon Society, and the university. Plus, there's not a lot of money in wildlife conservation, which is a largely volunteer-run enterprise. So an internship that has a stipend, such as the one at the lookout, makes it an opportunity for all students, not just those who can afford to not be employed during the summer.

"Everybody wants to help conserve the condors and restore the condors, and they want to help train the next generation of wildlife stewards," Perrine said. "If you've got an undergrad coming out of school saying, 'I've done radio-telemetry on condors,' it gets your attention." ○

Editor Camillia Lanham can be reached at [clanham@santamariasun.com](mailto:clanham@santamariasun.com).



**INTERPRETIVE WORK:** Steve Schubert went out to the Hi Mountain Lookout before visitors arrived on May 4, prepping the lookout and installing interpretive signs that identified vegetation around the fire tower.

is growing at a rate that outpaces those that die each year, but the way in which scientists believe condors are dying is troubling. DDT, the legacy pesticide banned in 1972 that wreaked havoc among bird populations (including the peregrine falcon), is still around. It's part of the water column and the food chain, accumulating more in each species as it gets eaten.

DDT is affecting the central flock, Brandt said. It causes thin shells and chick mortality. Biologists' most educated guess is that the condors get it from feeding on sea lions—which are at the top of the marine life food chain on the coast. The level of DDT that's found in the birds, though, is dropping, Brandt said, which is promising.

An even bigger issue is the number of condors that die from lead poisoning each year. The majority of condor deaths (as in, more than 50 percent) are associated with ingesting lead, Brandt said. That lead most likely comes from bullet fragments that condors eat as part of dinner, wild animals that have been shot—either from gut piles left behind by hunters or from pests like wild pigs, which are shot and left for scavengers. Those dead animals are also key to condor recovery.

"Shooting of wild game plays an important part of the diet of condors," Brandt said. "It's definitely a part of their food base and what they're feeding on, and we want to maintain that food source. We just don't want to have lead; we just don't want it to be contaminated."

California's state Legislature passed Assembly Bill 711 in 2013, which requires the use of non-lead ammunition when taking any wildlife with

As part of that education, Brandt said, the Fish and Wildlife Service tries to stress how essential hunting is to the condor recovery process. Fish and Wildlife continues to work on education and outreach with the hunting community about the issue, and Brandt said he feels like it's starting to make an impact on the debate.

The key is to understand that everyone's in this conservation process together. Setting land aside for condors benefits open spaces, other species and habitats, and sometimes preserves hunting land. Lead isn't just poisonous for condors, it affects humans and other species as well, even if it's mere traces of lead that are being ingested.

"Showing that we can recover a species from just 22, we learned a lot from doing. Condors are well-funded and we've invested a lot into this species, but it's not just about condors," Brandt said. "It's also just benefitting our knowledge of conservation and endangered species as well."

## Microcosm

Schubert introduces himself to the group gathered at Hi Mountain Condor Lookout on May 4. He and Cooper, the retired Forest Service biologist, have been in it since the beginning, working to keep the lookout's program running. Schubert talks about the historic nesting sites before encouraging people to volunteer if they want to.

"We now have a release site in San Simeon,"



**FOREST SERVICE:** Retired U.S. Forest Service forest biologist Kevin Cooper worked with Steve Schubert and a couple of others to get the fire lookout on top of Hi Mountain restored and ready to use for tracking wildlife like the California condor.

## The issues remain the same

Who's ready for some Ocean Dunes State Vehicular Recreational Area dust talk? Oh come on, it's thrilling.

All this talk about micro-particulate matter, cancer, and dust mitigation is making me feel like I want to talk about the Oso Flaco Lake controversy again.

On one side, we've got the Central Valley revved up and rearing to jump the top of a big 'ol dune. On the other, we've got Trilogy ready to tell everyone to get out of their air! Jim Suty and the Friends of the Ocean Dunes are spouting the same talking points they've been yammering about for years.

"Fake science! Fake facts!" they scream, which makes them sound like a bunch of climate change deniers.

Ian Walker, a scientist who studies coastal dunes, is what I like to call an "expert," guys!

"We don't see the types of dust emissions that we see here in Oceano in most coastal dunes systems," he said. "There are other land use activities behind this."

And he's calling for a foredune. A wall of sand that will block sand from blowing past it and block more of the recreation area from riders. How do you think that will go over?

It's not. This saga will never end. Just like the Camp 4 saga, which has been placed into trust with the federal government on behalf of the Santa Ynez Band of Chumash Indians so many times that my head is struggling to keep up.

The Department of the Interior approved it. Then it was appealed. Then U.S. District Court Judge Stephen Wilson sent it back to the department. Then Assistant Secretary of Indian Affairs Tara Sweeney said "Yes way!" And then, she said, "Oops, there are endangered bird species there." Not approved.

Now, the House of Representatives passed a resolution to place it into trust, which needs to be approved by the Senate and signed by the president. Do you see that happening? The ever positive Tribal Chairman Kenneth Kahn said "We are pleased." Meanwhile, if I was him, I'd be saying "WT actual F, people?"

And that's what I would also say to the city of Lompoc if I was a firefighter working, sleeping, and eating in a seismically unsafe fire station that the city's known about for at least five years. WT actual F, Lompoc? Get your budget together! Get your priorities figured out. O

The Canary knows that nothing ever changes. Send comments to [canary@santamariasun.com](mailto:canary@santamariasun.com).

### LETTERS from page 13

coastline. Do we wonder why oil companies and ancillary businesses continue to target Santa Barbara County, thinking they can get away with shoddy inspections or complete lack thereof—as was documented in the case against Plains, which allowed its pipeline to become so corroded that it split and leaked onto our precious coastline and waters?

Clearly, the law is on the side of the corporations, and as long as we are subject to the oligarchy that is running this country, the law will not change.

Plains has applied to build a new pipeline in Santa Barbara County. If you think we should trust them and our regulatory agencies to be accountable, think again.

Rachel Altman  
Santa Barbara



**Pop-Up Dinner:**  
Sally Loo's and Danior Kitchen,  
Spanish Tapas  
FRIDAY, MAY 10  
Sally Loo's



**Tyler Blanton Group**  
SATURDAY, MAY 11  
Unity Concert Hall



**Teen Monologues**  
TUESDAY, MAY 14  
SLO Repertory Theatre



**Point SLO Lighthouse Tours**  
EVERY WED & SAT  
Point San Luis Lighthouse



**Silent Sky**  
MAY 3-26  
By the Sea Productions



**SLO Blues Baseball**  
2019 SEASON PASSES  
Sinsheimer Stadium



**Sugar Daddy Swing Kings**  
FRIDAY, MAY 10  
SLO Veterans Hall



**Tommy TuTone**  
FRIDAY, MAY 10  
Maverick Saloon



**HERBS 101 Workshop**  
FRIDAY, MAY 10  
Studios on the Park



**Mother's Day Brunch at the Lighthouse**  
SATURDAY, MAY 11  
Point San Luis Lighthouse



**Mother's Day Weaving Workshop**  
SATURDAY, MAY 11  
Talley Vineyards



**Mother's Day Vegan Tea Party**  
SUNDAY, MAY 12  
Meadow Park



**Summer Concerts at Peter Strauss Ranch Season Tickets**  
MAY 12-SEP 14 2019  
Presented by Tiny Porch Concerts



**Leftover Cuties with Honey Whiskey Trio**  
SUNDAY, MAY 12  
Tiny Porch Concerts



**Tribute to Judy Collins**  
TUESDAY, MAY 14  
Morro Bay Wine Seller



**LED ZEP AGAIN**  
THURSDAY, MAY 16  
Maverick Saloon



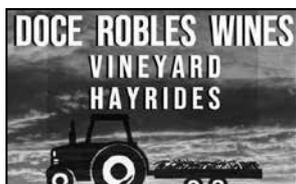
**Wine & Dine May Wine Festival**  
SATURDAY, MAY 18  
Wild Coyote Estate Winery



**Vocal Flight - Central Coast Youth Chorus**  
SAT & SUN, MAY 18-19  
United Methodist Church



**Australia's Adam Miller in Concert**  
SATURDAY, MAY 18  
Morro Bay Wine Seller



**Doce Robles Wines Vineyard Hayrides**  
SATURDAY, MAY 18  
Doce Robles Winery & Vineyard



**Sunset Winos All-Star Band**  
SATURDAY, MAY 18  
Rava Wines + Events



**Beer Yoga**  
SUNDAY, MAY 19  
Naughty Oak Brewing Co.



**Wine Down Vinyasa Flow**  
SUNDAY, MAY 19  
Rava Wines + Events

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# HOT STUFF

MAY 9 - MAY 16  
2019



**STAY GOLD**  
*The Solvang Antiques Fine Art Gallery holds a champagne reception for featured artist Mary Kay West (pictured) on Wednesday, May 15, from 3 to 7 p.m. West is an artist member of the California Art Club and has shown works in the club's Gold Medal Exhibition in Pasadena for the last four years. The gallery is located at 1693 Copenhagen Drive, Solvang. Visit [solvangantiques.com](http://solvangantiques.com) to find out more.*  
 —Caleb Wiseblood

PHOTO COURTESY OF SOLVANG ANTIQUES FINE ART GALLERY

## SPECIAL EVENTS

### SANTA YNEZ VALLEY

**BOOK SIGNING WITH ROBERT BYRNE** Robert Byrne returns in time for Mother's Day to sign his book, *Like Mother Like Daughter*. **May 11**, 11 a.m.-1 p.m. 805-688-6010. [bookloftsolvang.com](http://bookloftsolvang.com). The Book Loft, 1680 Mission Dr., Solvang.

**SB MEDICAL CANNABIS CONFERENCE AND EXPO: SCIENCE, HEALING, AND HOPE** This all-day conference (for adults 21 and over) includes sessions from expert speakers, a Q&A, a documentary presentation, various exhibitors, and book signings. **May 11**, 7:30 a.m.-6 p.m. \$35-\$70. 805-467-6777. [cannabismedconference.org/](http://cannabismedconference.org/). Veterans' Memorial Building, 1745 Mission Dr., Solvang.

### SANTA MARIA VALLEY/LOS ALAMOS

**MOTHER'S DAY TEA** A special tea honoring mothers, grandmothers, aunts, and others. Features teas, sandwiches, desserts, and pastries. **May 11**, 11 a.m.-2 p.m. \$10 adults; \$5 for ages 10 and under. 805-264-2128. [odox.com](http://odox.com). Annunciation Orthodox Church, 877 Francine Lane, Santa Maria.

**NATIONAL SMALL BUSINESS WEEK: REVIEW AND REFRESH YOUR BUSINESS** Features free resources and support in various capacities. This event covers a variety of business topics. **May 10**, 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Free. 818-552-3201. [santamaria.com/](http://santamaria.com/) events. Santa Maria Public Library, 421 S. McClelland St., Santa Maria.

**THE SIDEWAYS SAAB** The owners of the Saab are partnering with Summer in the Park to raise money for a free summer camp program open to all Los Alamos children. **May 11**, 11 a.m.-4 p.m. Free. 805-937-4251. [foxenvineyard.com](http://foxenvineyard.com). Foxen 7200, 7200 Foxen Canyon Road, Santa Maria.

### SAN LUIS OBISPO

**HOW TO MAKE AFFORDABLE HOUSING** Hear from affordable housing experts what our local elected officials could do to solve our seemingly insoluble affordable housing crisis. **May 15**, 7-9 p.m. Free. 805-543-8717. [sierraclub.org/santa-lucia](http://sierraclub.org/santa-lucia). French Hospital Copeland Health Education Pavilion, 3rd Floor, 1911 Johnson Ave, San Luis Obispo.

**MOTHER'S DAY HIGH TEA AT THE DALLIDET** Enjoy a full traditional afternoon tea with all the fixings. **May 11**, 1-4 p.m. \$50 adults; \$15 children. [eventbrite.com](http://eventbrite.com).

[com/e/mothers-day-high-tea-at-the-dallidet-tickets-59471628241?aff=ebdssbdestsearch](http://com/e/mothers-day-high-tea-at-the-dallidet-tickets-59471628241?aff=ebdssbdestsearch). Dallidet Adobe and Gardens, 1185 Pacific St., San Luis Obispo, 805-543-0638.

**SLO TRAIN DAY** Celebrating the 150th anniversary of the transcontinental railroad. Enjoy free beer tastings by Central Coast Brewing Co, live Irish music, Chinese lion dancers, food, and more. **May 11**, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. \$3-\$5. 805-548-1894. [slorm.com/190511.html](http://slorm.com/190511.html). San Luis Obispo Railroad Museum, 1940 Santa Barbara Ave, San Luis Obispo.

**SUCCULENTOPIA** A student-run plant sale, featuring more than 100 varieties of succulents. At the Horticulture Unit at the end of Via Carta Road. Stop by and pick out some water thrifty plants. **May 10**, 10 a.m.-6 p.m. and **May 11**, 9 a.m.-1 p.m. Price varies by plant size. 805-756-1106. Cal Poly: Horticulture Unit, 1 Grand Ave, San Luis Obispo.

## FUNDRAISERS

### SAN LUIS OBISPO

**MASQUERADE FASHION SHOW** Enjoy appetizers and a lively evening supporting San Luis Obispo High School's FCCLA Chapter. See this season's latest fashions from the boutiques of downtown SLO. **May 11**, 5-7 p.m. \$15 advance; \$20 at the door. King David's Masonic Lodge, 859 Marsh St., San Luis Obispo, 805-545-5681.

**RUMMAGE SALE TO BENEFIT HOSPICE SLO COUNTY** Presented by Cuesta College AGS Honor Society. To donate items to the sale, please deliver donations on Friday, May 10. **May 11**, 9 a.m.-1 p.m. By donation. 805-544-2266. [hospiceslo.org/events/rummage-sale-for-hospice-slo-county](http://hospiceslo.org/events/rummage-sale-for-hospice-slo-county). Hospice SLO County, 1304 Pacific St., San Luis Obispo.



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

## ARTS

### CLASSES & WORKSHOPS

#### SANTA MARIA VALLEY/LOS ALAMOS

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

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

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

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

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

#### SOUTH COAST SLO COUNTY

**ACRYLIC POUR: INTERMEDIATE WORKSHOP** With artist and teacher Shelley Kenny. Learn intermediate techniques and tips. Wednesdays, 6-8 p.m. through May 29 \$40. 805-550-3732. [theartgalanipomo.com](http://theartgalanipomo.com). Gala De Arte Plaza, 136 N Thompson Ave. B, Nipomo.

**DRUM MAKING** Drum making with Julie Johnson. Second Saturday of every month, 12-4 p.m. \$250. 805-674-4277. Halcyon Store Post Office, 936 S. Halcyon

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## OPEN STUDIO FOR HOMESCHOOLED CHILDREN

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

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

### SAN LUIS OBISPO

**HIKING AND HAIKU** Join Leslie St. John of Prose and Poses and Sarah Hawkins of Course Care for a morning of poetry and hiking. **May 11**, 9 a.m.-noon \$29. 805-242-2219. [eventbrite.com/e/hiking-haiku-tickets-52239074478](http://eventbrite.com/e/hiking-haiku-tickets-52239074478). Reservoir Canyon Open Space, Hwy 101, San Luis Obispo.

**MOSAIC ROCK** Learn basic mosaic techniques to decorate a rock with a variety of baubles, for a colorful touch to your garden or to use as a decorative paperweight. **May 14**, 6-8 p.m. \$45. 805-286-5993. [creativemetime.com](http://creativemetime.com). San Luis Coastal Adult School, 1500 Lizzie St., San Luis Obispo.

**PAINTED PETALS AND WATERCOLOR WINGS WITH JEANNIE VODDEN** Jeannie Vodden shares her secrets to painting luminous, lifelike watercolors using a limited palette of only 3 colors. **May 17-19**, 9 a.m.-4 p.m. \$300-\$325. 805-543-8562. [sloma.org/product/painted-petals-and-watercolor-wings/](http://sloma.org/product/painted-petals-and-watercolor-wings/). San Luis Obispo Museum of Art, 1010 Broad St., San Luis Obispo.

**PAINTING IN WATERCOLOR WITH STRONG VALUES** Learn how to create relationships with strong values. No prior experience is necessary. Paper is supplied. Students supply their own paint and brushes. **May 9**, 10:30 a.m.-1 p.m. and **May 11**, 10:30 a.m.-1 p.m. \$45 per session; \$150 for 5 consecutive classes. 805-688-9977. [artcentralslo.wordpress.com/workshops-events/](http://artcentralslo.wordpress.com/workshops-events/). Art Central, 1329 Monterey St., San Luis Obispo.

## SPECIAL ART EVENTS

### SANTA MARIA VALLEY/LOS ALAMOS

**POETRY NIGHT AT CORE WINERY** Monthly poetry

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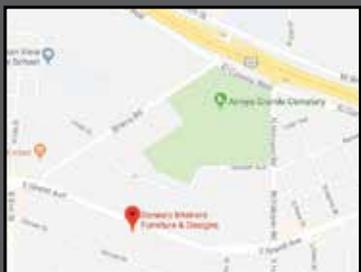
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ARTS from page 17

group with two featured poets and open readings. Check CORE Winery Facebook page for details or schedule changes. Second Saturday of every month, 7:30 p.m. Free. 805-937-1600. [corewine.com](http://corewine.com). CORE Winery, 105 W Clark Ave., Orcutt.

## EXHIBITS

### SANTA YNEZ VALLEY

**ART EXHIBIT AND ARTIST RECEPTION: ANIMAL KINGDOM**  
Mondays-Sundays, 2-4 p.m. through May 31 Free. 805-688-7517. [GalleryLosOlivos.com](http://GalleryLosOlivos.com). Gallery Los Olivos, 2920 Grand Ave., Los Olivos.

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

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



IMAGE COURTESY OF CAROLINE ACOSTA



### ART TREK

The Ann Foxworthy Gallery in Santa Maria presents *Creative Journeys*, a new group show, through Tuesday, May 28. The exhibit features more than 80 pieces of artwork created by Allan Hancock College fine arts students during the 2018-19 academic year. The gallery is located at 800 S. College Drive, Santa Maria. Visit [hancockcollege.edu/gallery](http://hancockcollege.edu/gallery) for more info.

—C.W.

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

**PAVLOV GALLERY: FEATURED ARTISTS**  
Showcasing new collections on a weekly basis. Featured artists include Chris Pavlov, Iris Pavlov, Robert Hildebrand, Doug Picotte, and more. ongoing, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Free. 805-686-1080. [pavlovgallery.com](http://pavlovgallery.com). Pavlov Art Gallery, 1608 Copenhagen Dr., Ste C, Solvang.

**RAY STRONG: A COLLECTOR'S PASSION** One collector, David Parker, is sharing his Ray Strong paintings as well as his stories of how he built his collection of over thirty pieces. Mondays, Wednesdays-Sundays, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. through July 8 \$5. 805-686-8315. [wildlingmuseum.org/news/ray-strong-2019-art-exhibit](http://wildlingmuseum.org/news/ray-strong-2019-art-exhibit). Wildling Museum of Art and Nature, 1511-B

Mission Dr., Solvang.

**THE SANTA YNEZ VALLEY ARTS ASSOCIATION: SECOND SATURDAY ARTISANS** Applications to be a featured artist will be accepted throughout the series. Second Saturday of every month, 12-5 p.m. Free. 805-688-7338. [santaynezvalleyarts.org](http://santaynezvalleyarts.org). Santa Ynez Valley Grange Hall, 2374 Alamo Pintado, Los Olivos.

### SANTA MARIA VALLEY/LOS ALAMOS

#### SANTA MARIA VALLEY/LOS ALAMOS

**ALLAN HANCOCK FINE ARTS STUDENT SHOW** The gallery is open Monday through Thursday from 9 a.m. to 7:45 p.m. and Friday from 9 a.m. to 2:45 p.m. Through May 30 Ann Foxworthy Gallery, 800 S. College Dr., Santa Maria, 805-922-6966, Ext. 3252, [hancockcollege.edu/gallery/](http://hancockcollege.edu/gallery/).

**FEATURED ARTISTS: MAY, JUNE, JULY, AUGUST** The featured artists at the gallery during the months of May, June, July, and August are TBA. Saturdays, 10 a.m.-3 p.m. and Tuesdays-Fridays, 12-6 p.m. through Sept. 1 Valley Art Gallery, 125 W. Clark Ave., Orcutt, 805-937-2278, [valleygallery.org](http://valleygallery.org).

**JERI YOUNG: FEATURED ARTIST** This exhibit is part of an ongoing series of shows to spotlight local art and artists. Through June 27 Ameriprise Financial, 2605 S Miller St., Suite 104, Santa Maria.

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

**SANTA BARBARA PRINTMAKERS JURIED EXHIBITION** ongoing [smartsCouncil.org](http://smartsCouncil.org). Betteravia Gallery, 511 E. Lakeside Parkway, Santa Maria.

### SOUTH COAST SLO COUNTY

**FROM ARTISTS, FOR ARTISTS, BY ARTISTS** Featuring fine art oils and pastels from Corynn Wolf, acrylics from Ryan Adams, and works from various mediums by Marc Wolf ongoing Free. 805-773-6563. Puffers of Pismo, 781 Price St., Pismo Beach, [puffersofpismo.com/](http://puffersofpismo.com/).

### SAN LUIS OBISPO

**BRUCE EVERETT: A CHANGE OF SCENERY** Featuring large California and local landscape oil on canvas paintings, created over a 40 year span. Mondays, Wednesdays-Sundays, 11 a.m.-5 p.m. through May 12 Free. 805-543-8562. [sloma.org](http://sloma.org). San Luis Obispo Museum of Art, 1010 Broad St., San Luis Obispo.

**CYNTHIA MEYER: LOCAL COLOR** Enjoy landscape, light, and architecture captured on a sunny day in SLO. ongoing, 6-9 p.m. Free. 805-210-8687. [secretslo.com](http://secretslo.com). Sauer-Adams Adobe, 964 Chorro St., San Luis Obispo.

**HERE AND THERE: KEN CHRISTENSEN** Featuring Ken Christensen's original oils inspired by California, New Mexico, and France. Through May 28 805-542-9000. [sloart.com](http://sloart.com). Frame Works, 339 Marsh St, San Luis Obispo.

**LIMITLESS: THE PROCESS OF INNOVATION EXHIBIT** A showcase of prototype vehicles and processes to demonstrate the power of alternative energy through innovative engineering. Mondays-Sundays through June 7 Free. 805-756-6395. [lib.calpoly.edu/events/limitless](http://lib.calpoly.edu/events/limitless). Robert E. Kennedy Library, 1 Grand Ave, San Luis Obispo.

**SUPERBLOOM** Features floral paintings, drawings, watercolors, and pastels from three centuries and two continents, with special attention to the artists and flowers of the Central Coast. Mondays, Wednesdays-Sundays, 11 a.m.-6 p.m. through June 15 Free. 805-470-0983. [secretslo.com](http://secretslo.com). Sauer-Adams Adobe, 964 Chorro St., San Luis Obispo.

## CALLS FOR ARTISTS

### SAN LUIS OBISPO

**CALL FOR ARTISTS: BRUSHSTROKES 2019** A non-themed state-wide juried exhibition at SLOMA. Juror: Jerry McLaughlin. Visit site for details. Mondays-Sundays through May 15 \$35 for up to two paintings. 805-543-8562. [sloma.org](http://sloma.org). San Luis Obispo Museum of Art, 1010 Broad St., San Luis Obispo.

**CALL FOR ARTISTS: AWAKEN SLO COUNTY STUDENTS** A year-long program celebrating art and community expressed through the imaginative creations of our county's students. Three student exhibitions will be displayed at SLOMA throughout the year. Through May

ARTS continued page 19

12 Free. 805-543-8562. sloma.org. San Luis Obispo Museum of Art, 1010 Broad St., San Luis Obispo.

## STAGE

### SANTA MARIA VALLEY/LOS ALAMOS

**MARIAN THEATRE: A GENTLEMAN'S GUIDE TO LOVE AND MURDER** Book and lyrics by Robert L. Freedman. Music and lyrics by Steven Lutvak. Through May 12 Marian Theatre, 800 S. College Dr., Santa Maria, 805-928-7731, pcpa.org.

### SOUTH COAST SLO COUNTY

**TREASURE ISLAND** A stolen treasure map falls into the hands of young Jim Hawkins as he becomes the pirates' next prey. Wednesdays-Sundays, through June 16 \$23-\$30. 805-489-2499. americanmelodrama@gmail.com. Great American Melodrama, 1863 Front St., Oceano.

### SAN LUIS OBISPO

**BLITHE SPIRIT** Noel Coward's classic comedy about ghosts, mediums and marital bliss, delivered with properly restrained British hilarity. Wednesdays-Sundays, 7-8:30 p.m. through May 19 \$20-\$36.

805-786-2440. slorep.org/shows/blithe-spirit/. San Luis Obispo Repertory Theatre, 888

Morro St., San Luis Obispo.

#### COMEDY NIGHT

**AT 7 SISTERS** Enjoy live stand-up comedy from local and touring comics with locally brewed beverages.

Second Saturday of every month, 7-9 p.m. \$5 suggested donation. 805-868-7133. 7Sisters

Brewing Company, 181 Tank Farm Rd. Suite 110, San Luis Obispo, 7SistersBrewing.com.

**IMPROV COMEDY SHOW** Fast-paced improv comedy shows performed by the ensemble of Central Coast Comedy Theater. All shows are based on audience suggestions making every show unique. Saturdays, 8-10 p.m. \$5. centralcoastcomedytheater.com. Kreuzberg Coffee Company, 685 Higuera Street, San Luis Obispo, 805-430-0260.

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

**STOP KISS** Two young women in New York, Callie and Sara, unexpectedly fall in love. Their first kiss incites a violent, homophobic attack that transforms each of their lives in ways they never could have imagined. Thursdays-Saturdays, 8-10 p.m. through May 18 \$20 general admission; \$12 student, faculty/staff, senior. 805-756-4TIX. theatredance.calpoly.edu/productions. Spanos Theatre, Cal Poly, San Luis Obispo.

## CULTURE & LIFESTYLE

### LECTURES & LEARNING

#### SANTA YNEZ VALLEY

**MOTHER'S DAY NATURAL PERFUME-MAKING WORKSHOP LED BY SUSAN FARBER** Design your own artisanal fragrance with your mom, for your mom, or simply pay homage to Mother Earth in this natural perfume-making workshop. **May 11**, 1-4 p.m. \$90. 805-686-8315. wildlingmuseum.org/news/mothers-day-natural-perfume-making-workshop. Wildling Museum of Art and Nature, 1511-B Mission Dr., Solvang.

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

#### LOMPOC/VANDENBERG

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

#### SANTA MARIA VALLEY/LOS ALAMOS

**BI-LINGO** Informal conversation to practice Spanish language skills for anyone with basic Spanish-speaking skills. Second Thursday of every month, 6-7 p.m. Free.

CULTURE & LIFESTYLE continued page 20

# CHUMASH

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FRIDAY

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FRIDAY

JUNE 7

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Santa Maria Public Library, 421 S. McClelland St., Santa Maria, 805-925-0994.

**SANTA MARIA VALLEY/LOS ALAMOS**

**20 YEARS OF SCIENCE WITH CHANDRA** The Chandra X-ray Observatory provides images of the otherwise invisible high-energy universe. Rodolfo Montez Jr. of the Harvard-Smithsonian Center for Astrophysics will discuss the scientific contributions enabled by Chandra. **May 14**, 6:30-9 p.m. Free. 805-756-2448. physics.calpoly.edu/space. Spanos Theatre, Cal Poly, San Luis Obispo.

**BIOLOGY OF SERPENTINE PLANTS** The Central Coast Biological Society spring meeting will feature speakers on serpentine plants. **May 14**, 6:30-8:30 p.m. Free. 805-868-7133. facebook.com/events/674512719650212/. 7Sisters Brewing Company, 181 Tank Farm Rd. Suite 110, San Luis Obispo.

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

**RAMADAN AND FASTING** The talk will be about the Blessed Month of Ramadan and why Muslims all over the world observe fasting, one of the Five Pillars of Faith. **May 11**, 11 a.m.-1 p.m. Free. Chumash Auditorium, 1 Grand Ave., San Luis Obispo, 805-756-1281.



**CLUBS & MEETINGS**

**SANTA MARIA VALLEY/LOS ALAMOS**

**ANIME CLUB FOR TEENS** Meet once a month to watch anime, discuss manga, try Japanese snacks, or do an activity. **May 10**, 4:30-5:30 p.m. Free. 805-925-0994. Santa Maria Public Library, 421 S. McClelland St., Santa Maria.

**BOARD OF LIBRARY TEENS (BOLT)** Teens have the opportunity to plan upcoming teen events and make changes in the teen zone. **May 18**, 10-11 a.m. Free. 805-925-0994. Santa Maria Public Library, 421 S. McClelland St., Santa Maria.

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

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

**SUPPORT GROUPS**

**SANTA MARIA VALLEY/LOS ALAMOS**

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

FILE PHOTO COURTESY OF BRENNAN SWANSTON



**BUSY AS A BEE**

The SB County Master Gardeners and the Lompoc Valley Botanical and Horticultural Society co-host Planning a Pollinator Garden at Stone Pine Hall on Sunday, May 19, from 2 to 3:30 p.m. Attendees will learn the importance of pollinators, how to build a habitat for pollinators, and more. Admission is free. Stone Pine Hall is located at 210 S. H St., Lompoc. Call (805) 453-0988 for more info.

—C.W.

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

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

**SOUTH COAST SLO COUNTY**

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

**NAMI FAMILY SUPPORT GROUP** Hosted by NAMI (National Alliance on Mental Illness). A confidential and safe group of families helping families who have a loved one living with mental health challenges. Third Saturday of every month, 10-11:30 a.m. Free. 805-544-2086. Safe Haven, 203 Bridge St, Arroyo Grande.

**SCLERODERMA SUPPORT GROUP MEETING** A support group for those who have Scleroderma or those who love someone with Scleroderma. **Nov. 17**, 11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m. Free. 805-878-6261. St. John's Lutheran Church, 959 Valley Rd., Arroyo Grande.

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

**CREATE & LEARN**

**SANTA MARIA VALLEY/LOS ALAMOS**

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

**CRAFTY AFTERNOON** Take a creativity break after school during this program for elementary school students. Third Wednesday of every month, 4-5 p.m. through May 15 Free. 805-925-0994. Santa Maria Public Library, 421 S. McClelland St., Santa Maria.

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

**SOUTH COAST SLO COUNTY**

**ESSENTIAL OILS WORKSHOP** Learn essential oil basics, such as uses and applications. **May 11**, 2-3 p.m. Free. 805-473-7161. Arroyo Grande Library, 800 W. Branch, Arroyo Grande, slolibrary.org.

**SEWING CAFE CLASSES AND WORKSHOPS** Sewing Cafe offers various classes and workshop. Call for full schedule. ongoing Sewing Cafe, 541 Five Cities Dr., Pismo Beach, 805-295-6585.

**MIND & BODY**

**SANTA MARIA VALLEY/LOS ALAMOS**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**WISDOM READINGS** AnnKathleen is available every day by appointment for Wisdom Readings with Tarot and Oracle

IMAGE COURTESY OF THE GREAT AMERICAN MELODRAMA



**TREASURES UNTOLD**

Treasure Island opened at the Great American Melodrama on Friday, May 3, and runs through Sunday, June 16. Based on the classic Robert Louis Stevenson novel, the plot follows young Jim Hawkins, who discovers a stolen treasure map. Tickets range from \$23 to \$30. The theater is located at 1863 Front St., Oceano. Call (805) 489-2499 or visit americanmelodrama.com for more info. —C.W.

cards. Gift certificates available. ongoing \$95-\$160. 805-598-1509. divining.weebly.com. Divine Inspiration, 947 E Orange St, Santa Maria.

**OUTDOORS**

**SOUTH COAST SLO COUNTY**

**OCEANO'S BEAVERS** Discover the beaver's physical adaptations, role in westward expansion, why they were hunted, and local history. **May 11**, 10 a.m.-noon Free. 805-474-2667. Oceano Dunes Visitor Center, 555 Pier Ave, Oceano.

**SIERRA CLUB HIKE AND YOGA: ONTARIO RIDGE** **May 12**, 1-3 p.m. Free. 916-450-1416. sierraclub.org/santa-lucia. Sycamore Mineral Springs Resort, 1215 Avila Beach Dr., Avila Beach.

**SANTA MARIA VALLEY/LOS ALAMOS**

**LOS OSOS OAKS RESERVE WALK** Meet at Reserve Parking Lot on Los Osos Valley Road. This hike includes colorful history, native plants, evidence of Chumash habitation, and more. **May 11**, 10-11:30 a.m. Free. 805-772-2794. Los Osos/ Baywood Park, 2nd St., Los Osos.

**SPORTS**

**SANTA MARIA VALLEY/LOS ALAMOS**

**CAL POLY BASEBALL VS. UC RIVERSIDE** For Youth Day, all kids ages 13 and under get free admission and can run the bases and get autographs from the Mustangs after the game. **May 19**, 1 p.m. gopoly.com/. Baggett Stadium, 1 Grand Ave., San Luis Obispo, 805-756-7297.

**CAL POLY SOFTBALL VS. UCSB** The first 100 attendees to this Senior Day game will get a free Cal Poly visor. **May 11**, 1 p.m. Free. Bob Janssen Field, 1 Grand Ave., San Luis Obispo, 805-756-7297.

**CAL POLY SOFTBALL VS. UCSB (DH)** The Mustangs take on UCSB in a doubleheader. **May 10**, 3 p.m. Free. Bob Janssen Field, 1 Grand Ave., San Luis Obispo, 805-756-7297.

**KIDS & FAMILY**

**SANTA MARIA VALLEY/LOS ALAMOS**

**HOMEWORK HELP** For grades K through 6. Mondays-Thursdays, 4-7 p.m. through June 6 Free. 805-925-0994. cityofsantamaria.org. Santa Maria Public Library, 421 S. McClelland St., Santa Maria.

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

**MOVIE NIGHT** The Santa Maria Library offers free movie nights to patrons. **May 13**, 3-5 p.m. Free. Santa Maria Public Library, 421 S. McClelland St., Santa Maria, 805-925-0994.

**FOOD & DRINK**

**FARMERS MARKETS**

**LOMPOC/VANDENBERG**

**LOMPOC FARMERS MARKET** Features fresh fruit

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

**SANTA MARIA VALLEY/LOS ALAMOS**

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

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

**SOUTH COAST SLO COUNTY**

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

**NIPOMO FARMERS MARKET** Includes a large variety of locally grown produce. Open year round Sundays, 11:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m. nipomofarmersmarket.com/. Nipomo Farmers Market, Via Concha Road, Nipomo.

**SANTA MARIA VALLEY/LOS ALAMOS**

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

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

**SLO GUILD TUESDAY FARMERS' MARKET** Tuesdays, 2-5 p.m. through Dec. 31 Free. 805-762-4688. facebook.com/TuesdayFarmersMarketSLOGuildHall/. SLO Guild Hall, 2880 Broad St., San Luis Obispo.

**EVENTS**

**SANTA YNEZ VALLEY**

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

**STANDING SUN: TASTING ROOM HOURS** Visit site for Cellar Club details and more info. Mondays-Thursdays, 11 a.m.-5 p.m. 805-691-9413. standingsunwines.com. Standing Sun Wines, 92 2nd St., Unit D, Buellton, 805-691-9413.

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

**LOMPOC/VANDENBERG**

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

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

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

**SOUTH COAST SLO COUNTY**

**JOIN THE MOVEMENT: HAPPIER HOUR** Mix and mingle with other guests and even meet current Trilogy Members. **May 15**, 4-6 p.m. Free. 800-685-6494. sheahomes.com/new-homes/california/central-coast/nipomo/trilogy-at-monarch-dunes-and-monarch-ridge-town-homes/. Trilogy at Monarch Dunes, 1645 Trilogy Parkway, Nipomo.

**MOTHER'S DAY BRUNCH** Features fine breakfast foods, drinks, live music, and a tour of the historic site. **May 11**, 11 a.m.-2:45 p.m. \$27-\$54. my805tx.com. Point San Luis Lighthouse, 1 Lighthouse Rd., Avila Beach.

**G** Enjoy tasting Rhône varietal wines from SLO and SB counties, as well as local Boccabella Farms' craft olive oils. ongoing, 11 a.m.-5 p.m. \$20. 805-237-1245. mcpricemyers.com. McPrice Myers Wine Company, 3525 Adelaida Rd., Paso Robles.

**WINE DOWN MONDAYS** Enjoy half off all wines every Monday at The Carlton Hotel's Nautical Cowboy. Mondays, 4-9 p.m. 805-461-5100. the-carlton.com/dining/the-nautical-cowboy. The Nautical Cowboy, 6005 El Camino Real, Atascadero.

**WINE TASTING AT CASS WINERY** Wine by the glass and bottles are also available for purchase. ongoing, 11 a.m.-5 p.m. Free. 805-239-1730. casswines.com/. Cass Winery And Vineyard, 7350 Linne Rd., Paso Robles.

**WINE TASTING AT CHANGALA** Enjoy local art and meet Changala's wine dogs while sampling various wines. Fridays-Sundays, 11 a.m.-5 p.m. \$10. 805-226-9060. ○

# ENTRY PERIOD IS MAY 2—MAY 20 BY 5 P.M.

## Winning Images

### IT'S TIME FOR OUR 24TH ANNUAL PHOTO CONTEST!

CATEGORIES: ANIMALS · ARCHITECTURE · FLORA · LAND/SEASCAPES · PEOPLE · TRAVEL · OPEN · YOUTH

Winners will be published in our annual *Winning Images* issues on June 20, and will be featured in a photo exhibit at SLOMA that runs from June 19–23!

#### THE RULES:

Entry divisions are either **ADULT** or **YOUTH** (18 & under)

##### ADULT

- Categories are: **Animals, Architecture, Flora, Land/Seascapes, People, Travel, Open, and Youth**
- Prints may be between 5x7 and 11x14 and **MUST** be mounted on a thick 11x14 black or white board without a mat. Images may be color or b/w. No slides are allowed.
- Photos submitted in previous years are ineligible.
- Each submission must be accompanied by a \$5 check, cash, or money order made out to *New Times*. Multiple entries may be paid for with one check or money order.
- *New Times* is not responsible for damage or loss of entry.
- Submissions are due in the *New Times* office (1010 Marsh Street, SLO, 93401) or the *Sun* office (2540 Skyway Drive, Santa Maria, 93455) **by 5 p.m. on Monday, May 20, 2019.**
- A completed entry form **MUST** be attached to the back of each mounted entry.
- All photos must be the original, creative work of the submitting photographer.
- All photographs must be taken within the boundaries of San Luis Obispo and Santa Barbara counties – except submissions to the Travel and Open categories – for which photos may be taken anywhere else.
- Photos can't be returned, but may be picked up at the *New Times* or *Sun* offices between July 1 and 31, 2019.
- Entry in the contest constitutes permission to use the photo in the paper, online, and for display.
- All entrants are *asked* to submit a high-quality digital file of their image (jpeg format, at least 300 dpi) to [photocontest@newtimeslo.com](mailto:photocontest@newtimeslo.com) or on any portable storage device (e.g.: flash drive or CD). Multiple entries may be put onto the same portable storage device. Winners will be *required* to provide their photo electronically. Please include photographer's name and entry name with each digital submission
- Judges have the right to reassign categories for mislabeled or misfiled photos at their discretion.

##### YOUTH (18 & UNDER)

- This is an **Open** category. Photographs can be of any subject of the entrant's choosing, but must have been taken within the boundaries of San Luis Obispo and Santa Barbara counties.
- Entrants must be 18 or younger as of May 31 and enrolled in any school (including a home school) that's not a college. A winner's legal guardian will be required to sign a release form.
- All other rules from the adult categories apply.

All entry money goes toward prizes. Winners will be contacted prior to the opening of the photo exhibit at the SLO Museum of Art on Wednesday, June 19, 2019, where winners will be announced and prizes awarded. SLOMA is located at 1010 Broad Street in SLO. The exhibit runs through June 23, 2019. Winning images will be published in the Thursday, June 20 issues of *New Times* and the *Sun*; and in an online gallery.

Brought to you by:



Kathleen Gerber, 2018



Cary Geihs, 2018



Wes Bracken, 2018



Dylan Kyle, 2018



Barry Goyette, 2018

#### 2019 WINNING IMAGES ENTRY FORM (Forms are also available online at [newtimeslo.com](http://newtimeslo.com))

Photographer's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Entry name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: Day: \_\_\_\_\_ Evening: \_\_\_\_\_

Email address: \_\_\_\_\_ Instagram: @ \_\_\_\_\_

Photo Division:  Adult  Youth 18 & Under (Open Category)

Adult Photo Category:  Animals  Architecture  Flora  Land/Seascapes  People  Travel  Open

All entrants are *asked* to submit a high-quality digital file of their image (jpeg format, at least 300 dpi) to [photocontest@newtimeslo.com](mailto:photocontest@newtimeslo.com) or on a CD attached to the back of their entry. Winners will be *required* to do so. Include photographer's name and entry name with each digital submission.

PHOTO COURTESY OF CHUMASH CASINO RESORT

### Live Music

#### SANTA YNEZ VALLEY

**BACK POCKET LIVE** Food and drinks available for purchase. No outside food or drinks allowed. **May 18**, 5 p.m. Cold Spring Tavern, 5995 Stagecoach Rd., Santa Barbara, 805-967-0066, coldspringtavern.com/entertainment.html.

**BIG STEVE AND THE REGULARS LIVE** **May 19**, 1 p.m. Maverick Saloon, 3687 Sagunto St., Santa Ynez, 805-686-4785, mavericksaloon.org.

**CAITLYN CHUI LIVE** Food and drinks available for purchase. No outside food or drinks allowed. **May 18**, 1-4 p.m. Cold Spring Tavern, 5995 Stagecoach Rd., Santa Barbara, 805-967-0066, coldspringtavern.com/entertainment.html.

**CHEYENNE SKYE LIVE** Soulful music inspired by Patsy Cline and others. Food and drinks available for purchase. No outside food or drinks allowed. **May 10**, 6-9 p.m. Cold Spring Tavern, 5995 Stagecoach Rd., Santa Barbara, 805-967-0066, coldspringtavern.com/entertainment.html.

**DUSTY JUGZ LIVE** **May 18**, 8 p.m. Maverick Saloon, 3687 Sagunto St., Santa Ynez, 805-686-4785, mavericksaloon.org.

**THE JIMI NELSON BAND LIVE** **May 11**, 8-11 p.m. Maverick Saloon, 3687 Sagunto St., Santa Ynez, 805-686-4785, mavericksaloon.org.

**THE MAC TALLEY TRIP LIVE** Food and drinks available for purchase. No outside food or drinks allowed. **May 11**, 5-8 p.m. Cold Spring Tavern, 5995 Stagecoach Rd., Santa Barbara, 805-967-0066, coldspringtavern.com/entertainment.html.

**MELISSA REID AND MOONRIDGE LIVE** **May 11**, 8-11 p.m. Maverick Saloon, 3687 Sagunto St., Santa Ynez, 805-686-4785, mavericksaloon.org.

**NATE LATTA LIVE** **May 12**, 1-5 p.m. Maverick Saloon, 3687 Sagunto St., Santa Ynez, 805-686-4785, mavericksaloon.org.

**THE SALT MARTIANS LIVE** A bluegrass group. Food and drinks available for purchase. No outside food or drinks allowed. **May 11**, 1-4 p.m. Cold Spring Tavern, 5995 Stagecoach Rd., Santa Barbara, 805-967-0066, coldspringtavern.com/entertainment.html.

**SYCAMORE STRINGS LIVE** Food and drinks available for purchase. No outside food or drinks allowed. **May 17**, 6-9 p.m. Cold Spring Tavern, 5995 Stagecoach Rd., Santa Barbara, 805-967-0066, coldspringtavern.com/entertainment.html.

**TERESA RUSSELL AND COCOBILLI LIVE** A blues/rock trio. Food and drinks available for purchase. No outside food or drinks allowed. **May 12**, 4:30 p.m. Cold Spring Tavern, 5995 Stagecoach Rd., Santa Barbara, 805-967-0066, coldspringtavern.com/entertainment.html.

**TOMMY TUTONE LIVE** **May 10**, 8 p.m. Maverick Saloon, 3687 Sagunto St., Santa Ynez, 805-686-4785, mavericksaloon.org.

#### LOMPOC/VANDENBERG

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

# We go together

Frankie Avalon, Bobby Rydell, and Fabian Forte team up as *The Golden Boys*

BY CALEB WISEBLOOD

“Beauty school dropout/ No graduation day for you ...” When it comes to generation gaps, Frankie Avalon’s performance as the guardian angel who encourages Frenchy to go back to high school in *Grease* knows no boundaries. Or do kids not grow up with *Grease* anymore? People still watch ABC Family, right? What’s that you say? Not a channel anymore? “Freeform”? ... Ruh-roh.

Whether you’re a baby boomer, millennial, Siri, Alexa, Skynet, or anything in between, be advised that Avalon is coming down from his malt shop in the sky to play at the Chumash Casino Resort in Santa Ynez on **Friday, May 17**, at 8 p.m. But he’s not alone—and lucky for me, I get to make a second *Grease* reference. Anyone know who Rydell High School is named after? None other than ’50s heartthrob Bobby Rydell, who joins Avalon and fellow former teen icon Fabian Forte to perform as **The Golden Boys**.

The three iconic singers will take turns singing some of their classic hits, including Forte’s “I’m a Man,” “Tiger,” and “Turn Me Loose”; Avalon’s “Bobby Sox to Stockings,” “Dede Dinah,” and “Venus”; and Rydell’s “Kissin’ Time,” “Volare,” and “Wild One.” The group will also pay tribute to material from other artists such as Elvis Presley, Bobby Darin, Ricky Nelson, Bill Haley, and others.

Forte earned his title as a teen idol of the late ’50s and early ’60s through several appearances on *American Bandstand* and because 11 of his songs reached the Billboard Hot 100 listing. Avalon is also known for his various television appearances as well as film roles, many of them co-starring with former *Mickey Mouse Club* Mouseketeer Annette Funicello. One of Avalon’s biggest breaks was getting cast in 1963’s *Beach Party*, in a role that, coincidentally, was originally written for Forte.

As for Rydell, his musical ambitions started at age 9 when he took up drumming. At 19, he was a polished performer and the youngest artist to ever headline at the Copacabana in New York. Rydell might not have appeared in *Grease*—despite the name drop in the film’s primary setting—

PHOTO COURTESY OF CARBON CITY LIGHTS



LIGHT IT UP: Carbon City Lights perform at Naughty Oak Brewing Company on **Friday, May 17**.



YOU, ME, AND THE ANGEL MAKES THREE: The Golden Boys perform at the Chumash Casino Resort on **Friday, May 17**.

but he did have a starring role at age 21 in 1963’s *Bye Bye Birdie*, opposite Ann-Margret and Dick Van Dyke (in his feature film debut). The film is ranked as No. 38 in *Entertainment Weekly*’s top 50 high school movies.

*Grease* has it beat at No. 21, though. I just can’t stop talking about *Grease* can I? It must be the word of the day—if not every day. “*Grease* is the word/ Is the word/ Is the word.”

Admission to the May 17 concert ranges from \$39 to \$69. The Chumash Casino Resort is located at 3400 E. Highway 246, Santa Ynez. Call (800) 248-6274 or visit [chumashcasino.com](http://chumashcasino.com) for tickets or to find out more.

## When the lights go down

**Carbon City Lights**, an alternative/indie rock band based in San Luis Obispo, heads south to Orcutt for a concert at Naughty Oak Brewing Company on **Friday, May 17**, from 7 to 10 p.m. These local rockers will perform an eclectic assortment of original material that blends folk, pop, funk, country, and other genres. Most of the group’s live performances consist of extended jamming highlighted by dueling guitarists Michael Venia and Bret Heenan.

The band—which also includes Dan Hernandez on bass and Gerald Purify on drums—originally started as a solo project by Venia, who serves as the group’s principal singer and songwriter. Venia first picked up a guitar while growing up in Saudi Arabia, influenced by hits he heard on the radio from the Dave Matthews Band, Pearl Jam, Coldplay, and other acts.

Admission to the Naughty Oak performance is free, and food from AJ Catering will be available for purchase starting at 5:30 p.m. The brewery is located at 165 Broadway St., suite 102, Orcutt. Call (805) 287-9663 or visit [naughtyoak.com](http://naughtyoak.com) to find out more.

## More music

Acoustic artist **Cheyenne Skye** performs songs of humor and romance at the Cold Spring Tavern off Highway 154 on **Friday, May 10**, from 6 to 9 p.m. Influences of this singer-songwriter include Patsy Cline, Nina Simone, and Janis Joplin. The tavern also hosts bluegrass group **Salt Martians**, from 1 to 4 p.m., and Americana, rock, and pop act **The Mac**

MUSIC LISTINGS continued page 23

LOCAL NOTES continued page 23



Kathleen Gerber, 2018



Dylan Kyle, 2018



Cary Geihs, 2018



Wes Bracken, 2018



Barry Goyette, 2018

# Winning Images

## It’s time for our 24<sup>th</sup> Annual Photography Contest & Exhibition!

ENTER NOW! ENTRIES ARE DUE BY 5PM ON MONDAY, MAY 20

CATEGORIES: ANIMALS · ARCHITECTURE · FLORA · LAND/SEASCAPES · PEOPLE · TRAVEL · YOUTH · OPEN

New Times

Entry forms are in New Times and Sun, or download online. Opening night at SLOMA is June 19.

Sun

LOCAL NOTES from page 22

**Alley Trip**, from 5 to 8 p.m., on **Saturday, May 11**. Blues and rags duo **Tom Ball and Kenny Sultan** take the stage on **Sunday, May 12**, from 1:15 to 4 p.m., followed by blues/rock band **Teresa Russell and Cocobilli**, from 4:30 to 7:30 p.m.

Vino et Amicis Wine Bar in Orcutt presents Santa Barbara-based artist **Will Breman** on **Friday, May 17**, from 7 to 10 p.m. Although mostly known for his soul music, there are few genres Breman hasn't been caught performing, from metal to bluegrass. Also local to the Central Coast, singer, songwriter, and guitarist **Sherell Jane** will perform the following night, **Saturday, May 18**, from 7 to 10 p.m. The lyrics found in Jane's songs cover themes of love, family, and dreams of the future, according to press materials. Admission to both concerts is complimentary.

Showcasing local talent continues with San Luis Obispo-based folk artist **Kevin Graybill**, who performs at Hangar 7 in Lompoc on **Saturday, May 17**, from 8 to 10 p.m. Graybill's influences include Jack Johnson, Iron and Wine,



**PEOPLE OF EARTH:** The Salt Martians perform at Cold Spring Tavern on **Saturday, May 11**.

and Michael Franti. According to his website, this acoustic singer-songwriter explores both his external surroundings as well as internal musings through the lyrics of his songs. ○

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



**CENTRAL COAST LOCAL:** Singer-songwriter Sherell Jane performs at Vino et Amicis Wine Bar on **Saturday, May 18**.

MUSIC LISTINGS from page 22

Lompoc, 805-243-8398, [lompocwinefactory.com](http://lompocwinefactory.com).

**SPRING 2019 CONCERT: CELEBRATE AMERICA** Presented by the Lompoc Valley Master Chorale. **May 10**, 7:30 p.m. \$5-\$20. [lvmasterchorale.org](http://lvmasterchorale.org). First United Methodist Church, 925 North F St., Lompoc.

SANTA MARIA VALLEY/LOS ALAMOS

**BENDER AND JACK LIVE May 10**, 6-9 p.m. Vino et Amicis, 156 S. Broadway, Orcutt, 805-631-0496, [vinoetamicis.com](http://vinoetamicis.com).

**FOXEN SECOND SUNDAYS: LIVE MUSIC AND FOOD TRUCK** Second Sunday of every month, 12:30-3:30 p.m. Free admission. 805-937-4251. [foxenvineyard.com](http://foxenvineyard.com). Foxen Winery & Vineyard, 7600 Foxen Canyon Rd., Santa Maria.

**FOXEN SECOND SUNDAYS: LIVE MUSIC AND FOOD TRUCK** Every second Sunday of every month, we will have live music and a food truck on property. Second Sunday of every month, 12:30-3:30 p.m. through Feb. 10 Free. 805-937-4251. [kazzit.com/event/foxen-second-sundays-live-music-and-food-truck.html](http://kazzit.com/event/foxen-second-sundays-live-music-and-food-truck.html). Foxen Winery & Vineyard, 7600 Foxen Canyon Rd., Santa Maria.

**KEITH T. COX LIVE May 11**, 7-10 p.m. Vino et Amicis, 156 S. Broadway, Orcutt, 805-631-0496, [vinoetamicis.com](http://vinoetamicis.com).

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

**ST. PETERSBURG MEN'S ENSEMBLE** A cappella concert by Russia's acclaimed vocal quartet singing popular Russian folk songs, Russian and European sacred hymns by Rachmaninoff, Bruckner, Mozart, and others. **May 14**, 7-8:30 p.m. Goodwill offering. 905-543-2261. Orthodox Church of the Annunciation, 877 Francine Ln., Santa Maria, [odox.org](http://odox.org).

**THE WAVEBREAKERS BAND CELEBRATES MOTHER'S DAY AT FOXEN WINERY** Celebrate Mother's Day with The Wavebreakers Band. **May 12**, 12:30-3:30 p.m. Free. 805-937-4251. [foxenvineyard.com/](http://foxenvineyard.com/). Foxen Winery & Vineyard, 7600 Foxen Canyon Rd., Santa Maria.

SOUTH COAST SLO COUNTY

**A MYRIAD OF MUSIC FOR MOTHER'S DAY** This evening concert will be presented at the First United Methodist Church of Arroyo Grande. **May 12**, 7 p.m. \$10. 805-773-0323. [slocountyband.org/news.htm](http://slocountyband.org/news.htm). First United Methodist Church of Arroyo Grande, 275 N. Halcyon Rd., Arroyo Grande.

**PACIFIC BREEZE CONCERTS IN PISMO BEACH** The City of Pismo Beach Recreation Division proudly presents the 11th annual Pacific Breeze Concerts at Pismo Beach Rotary Amphitheater. **May 12**, 1-3:30 p.m. Free. 805-773-7063. [pismo-beach.org/73/Recreation](http://pismo-beach.org/73/Recreation). Dinosaur Caves Park, 2701 Price St, Pismo Beach.

**SONGWRITERS AT PLAY: LUIS OLIART** Fort Vire is an indie-folk-rock band named after a secret tree fort in Manhattan. **May 15**, 6-8:30 p.m. Free; tips accepted. 805-489-9099. [songwritersatplay.com](http://songwritersatplay.com). Branch Street Deli, 203 E. Branch St., Arroyo Grande.

DJ/DANCE

SANTA YNEZ VALLEY

**KRAZY COUNTRY HONKY-TONK THURSDAY** Thursdays, 6 p.m. Maverick Saloon, 3687 Sagunto St.,



ALL THAT JAZZ

*Coastal Voices Community Choir performs at St. Andrew United Methodist Church in Santa Maria on Saturday, May 18, from 4 to 5:15 p.m., and Monday, May 20, from 7 to 8:15 p.m. Attendees can expect to hear show tunes and jazz selections. Tickets are \$10. Call (805) 354-0480 or visit [coastalvoices.info](http://coastalvoices.info) to find out more.*

—C.W.

Santa Ynez, 805-686-4785, [mavericksaloon.org](http://mavericksaloon.org).

LOMPOC/VANDENBERG

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

SANTA MARIA VALLEY/LOS ALAMOS

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

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

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

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

SOUTH COAST SLO COUNTY

**DJ CAMOTE** Thursdays, 5 p.m. Harry's Night Club And Beach Bar, 690 Cypress St., Pismo Beach, 805-773-1010, [harryspismo-beach.com](http://harryspismo-beach.com).

**DJ DRUMZ AT MONGO'S** Fridays Free. 805-489-3639. [mongosaloon.com](http://mongosaloon.com). Mongo's Saloon, 359 W. Grand Ave., Grover Beach.

SAN LUIS OBISPO

**CENTRAL COAST COUNTRY DANCE SOCIETY DANCE May 11**, 5-10 p.m. Varies. 805-602-2929. cccds.org. Odd Fellows Hall, 520 Dana St., San Luis Obispo.

**LUNA NOCHE: SLO'S NEWEST LATE NIGHT** Every Friday and Saturday night, Luna Red will transform into Luna Noche, an alluring late night series full of eclectic music and dancing. Fridays, Saturdays, 10 p.m.-1 a.m. through Dec. 28 [lunaredslo.com/luna-noche/](http://lunaredslo.com/luna-noche/). Luna Red, 1023 Chorro St., San Luis Obispo, 540-5243.

KARAOKE/OPEN MIC

SANTA YNEZ VALLEY

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

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

SANTA MARIA VALLEY/LOS ALAMOS

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

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

SOUTH COAST SLO COUNTY

**FRONT ROW KARAOKE** Thursdays, 9 p.m. 773-1010. Harry's Night Club And Beach Bar, 690 Cypress St., Pismo Beach, [harryspismo-beach.com](http://harryspismo-beach.com).

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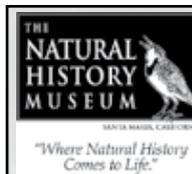
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## Arts Briefs

### SCVB establishes Film Solvang

The Solvang Conference and Visitors Bureau (SCVB) announced the establishment of Film Solvang, a strategic marketing service to assist filmmakers, local businesses, residents, and government representatives with planning film productions throughout the Santa Ynez Valley.

"Filming is an important source of revenue for our economy

PHOTO COURTESY OF SCVB



in the short and long term," SCVB Executive Director Tracy Farhad said in a press release. "We're thrilled to launch Film Solvang now and reap long-lasting positive economic benefits for the city."

Film Solvang's website, filmsolvang.com, will soon feature a complete library of local talent and Santa Ynez Valley locations for film producers and others to browse through. The site will also offer free support "packages" for filmmakers, which include local laws, permits, ordinances, timelines, and contacts for film production use.

The new service is to be led by SCVB staffer Daniel Lahr (pictured above), who has been named the first Film Solvang liaison.

"We can help connect local residents and businesses with interested producers for mutual benefits," Lahr said in the release. "We are very excited about adding Film Solvang services to our outreach."

Prior to joining the SCVB management staff in 2017, Lahr worked as an assistant visual effects editor on several films, including *Spider-Man 3*, as well as in operations positions at both Walt Disney World and Disneyland. Lahr currently volunteers as the executive director of the Central Coast Film Society.

For more information on Film Solvang, contact Lahr at (805) 688-6144 or through email: daniel.lahr@solvangusa.com.

### Santa Maria Valley Discovery Museum acquires new musical instruments

The Santa Maria Valley Discovery Museum recently added two new instruments to its musical library for guests of all ages to enjoy. Thanks to an anonymous donation, two conga drums and a collection of soprano pentatonic freechimes now stand in the museum's outdoor area, next to the Discovery Farms produce truck.

"We're so excited to offer more hands-on opportunities for children to play and learn about music," museum Executive Director Nancy Gastelum said in a press release. "Music

PHOTO COURTESY OF SANTA MARIA VALLEY DISCOVERY MUSEUM



supports children's all-around development and helps shape their skills in concentration, memory, and listening. In a free-play environment, where there are no wrong notes, the experience can lead to a lifelong love of music and music making."

The Santa Maria Valley Discovery Museum is located at 705 S. McClelland St., Santa Maria, and is open Tuesdays through Saturdays, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Sundays, from noon to 4 p.m. Call (805) 928-8414 or visit smvdiscoverymuseum.org for more information. ○

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

## Stick to the script

Central Coast Live Read holds sixth performance to benefit the Ian M. Hassett Foundation

BY CALEB WISEBLOOD

I had zero acting experience when Central Coast Live Read (CCLR) founder Alli Wallace asked me to join the cast of the group's inaugural production—a live table read of the *Toy Story* screenplay in 2016. Full disclosure: We've been friends since preschool, so the offer to read the pivotal role of Slinky Dog—who woofs a whopping total of 15 lines or less—could be seen as favoritism.

Biased or not, I wasn't about to turn down the chance to wear socks ("dog ears") on my head in front of a live audience. And it was encouraging to learn that most of the cast was made up of other non-actors, including Wallace herself.

"Although my mom to this day will recount to you my leading role in a fourth grade play about the California 1848 Gold Rush," she clarified. "I don't think acting experience is necessary. Embracing the character and the overall experience seems to be the key to success."

### Grasshop to it

Central Coast Live Read presents its live script reading of Pixar's *A Bug's Life* at Grace Baptist Church on Friday, May 17, at 7 p.m. Admission is free, but donations will be accepted to benefit the Ian M. Hassett Foundation. The church is located at 605 E. McCoy Lane, Santa Maria. Visit [centralcoastliveread.com](http://centralcoastliveread.com) for more info.

script reading series at LACMA.

"I was instantly hooked on the concept, and the idea of mirroring it on a local level," Wallace said.

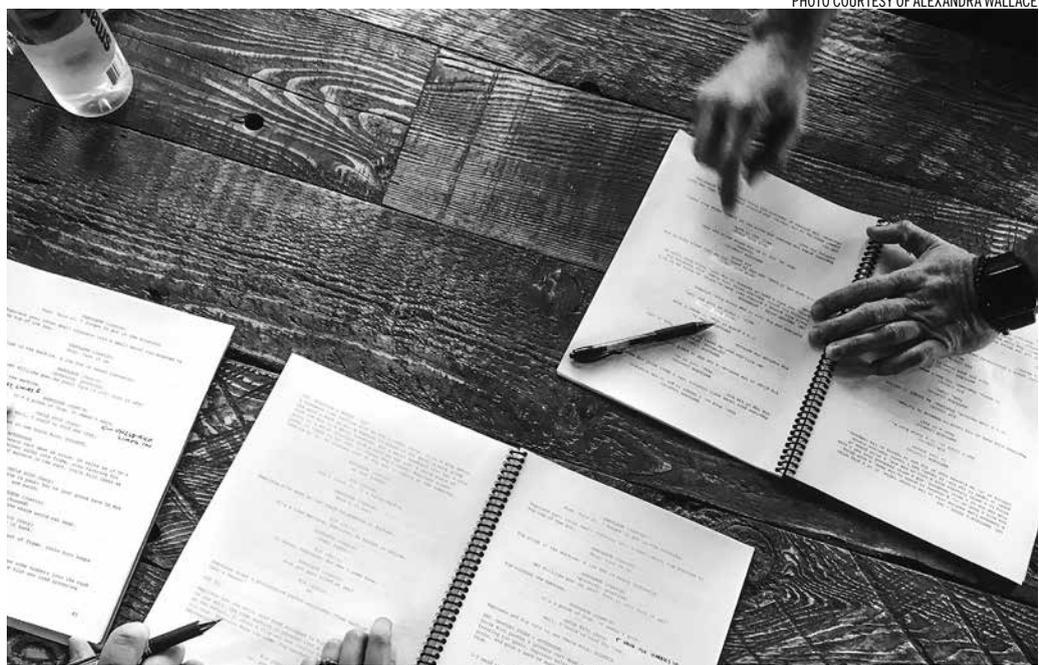
Following its *Toy Story* debut, CCLR has presented one-night-only readings of *Back to the Future* and *Home Alone* in Santa Maria as well as *Ferris Bueller's Day Off* and *Napoleon Dynamite* in San Luis Obispo. *A Bug's Life*, the group's sixth venture, will be read on Friday, May 17, at Grace Baptist Church in Santa Maria.

Like the five readings before it, proceeds of *A Bug's Life* will benefit the Ian M. Hassett Foundation, which offers scholarships, grants, and art supplies to young artists and students. Although admission to the

PHOTO COURTESY OF ALEXANDRA WALLACE



WE NEED TO TALK ABOUT KEVIN: Christian Schmidt gave voice to Kevin McCallister during Central Coast Live Read's table read of *Home Alone* in 2017.



BETWEEN THE LINES: Since 2016, Central Coast Live Read has been hosting live table reads of film scripts in both Santa Maria and San Luis Obispo.

reading is free, donations will be collected to benefit the local charity. The foundation is dedicated to the memory of Ian Hassett, an aspiring artist and musician who died of cancer at age 19 in 2012, two years after graduating from Righetti High School. Many of the volunteers behind CCLR, Wallace and myself included, were Hassett's classmates.

"Ian was my friend in later years of high school, and his family has been incredibly supportive of all of our creative endeavors," Wallace said. "I don't even think there was any conversation about the show benefitting Ian's foundation. It was just the natural choice."

As for choices that do come into question, several movie ideas get thrown around before it's finally decided which one CCLR should tackle next. One major factor in determining whether or not a script will make a good table read is if there are enough interesting characters for people to play, CCLR organizer and actor Chris Lambert told the *Sun*.

"We have a lot of fun 'casting' movies with our friends and acquaintances, to see if a live read will hold up," Lambert said. "Sometimes a movie sounds great on paper, but doesn't hold up to those kinds of tests. Sorry, no *Kill Bill*."

Part of the fun for Lambert—whose roles have included Woody in *Toy Story*, Cameron in *Ferris Bueller's Day Off*, and Hopper in next week's *A Bug's Life*—when it comes to table reads is getting to voice characters without worrying about the physical aspects of traditional theater.

"I actually think I'm a better reader than an actor, because I can't really commit physically, but I can usually mimic voices and inflections pretty well," Lambert said. "Playing George McFly [in *Back to the Future*] and Kip [in *Napoleon Dynamite*] were great because people recognized the voices and laughed as soon as I started reading, which is really the only validation I need."

On the other hand, CCLR actor Kris Chavez embraced a very physical approach to his role as Pedro in *Napoleon Dynamite*, Lambert explained. The night of the performance, Lambert and Chavez walked into a dark alleyway, armed with hair clippers.

"There's a scene where Pedro shaves his hair off because it's making him too hot. Kris decided to go all in by actually shaving his head at intermission," Lambert said. "So I got to do the honors in the alleyway behind Lincoln Market and Deli. It was a lot harder than we thought it was going to be. His hair was thick." ○

Arts Editor Caleb Wiseblood wouldn't say no to a free haircut in a dark alley. Reach him at [cwiseblood@newtimeslo.com](mailto:cwiseblood@newtimeslo.com).

IMAGE COURTESY OF DAREN MAGEE

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**LEAF AND LET LEAF:** The one-night-only reading of *A Bug's Life* takes place on Friday, May 17, at Grace Baptist Church in Santa Maria.



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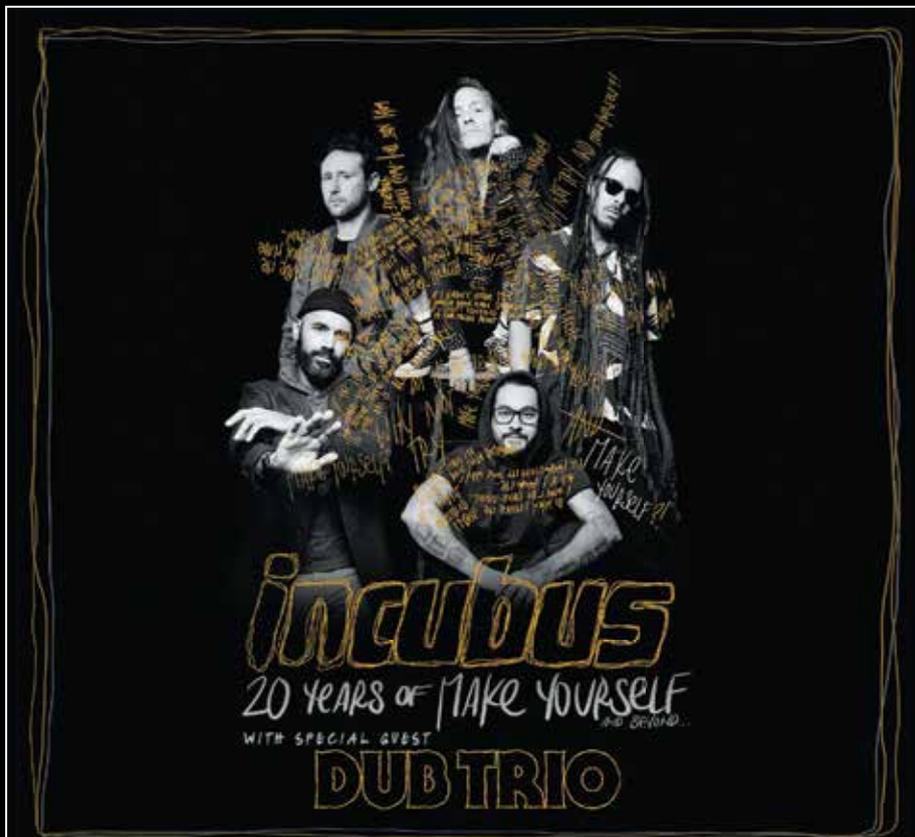
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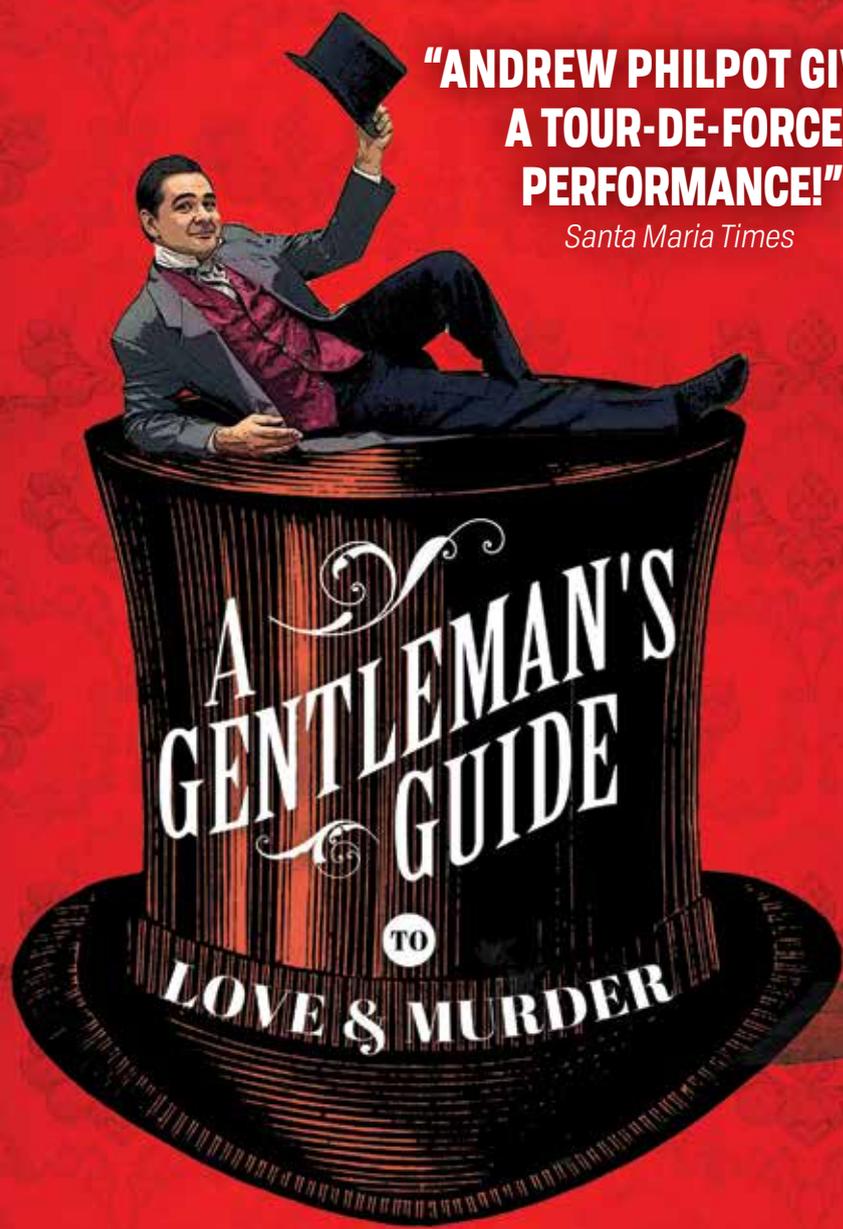
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# Ready to bumble

Santa Maria Civic Theatre's  
Putnam County Spelling Bee is hysterical

BY CALEB WISEBLOOD

I had never seen a production of Rachel Sheinkin's *The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee*, so every joke in Santa

Maria Civic Theatre's (SMCT) rendition of the Tony Award-winning musical—which runs through Sunday, May 19—was brand new to me. Nor have I ever competed in a spelling bee myself, but it's the former that matters. What can I say? I loved every minute of it, and I highly doubt my reaction would have been any different had this not been my first time.

The story centers on six colorfully manic tweens competing at the titular competition. In between turns, each kid ends up candidly disclosing both hilarious and surprisingly moving stories from their home lives, either through monologue, song, or both. And all the while, the one thing they seem to have in common is the mutual dread of hearing the soul-crushing sound of the bell that signals an incorrect spelling. Everything on the page is brilliant of course, but even with a play written as well as this one, it's up to the cast to bring each wonderfully diverse character to life. Long story short: They knock it out of the park. And I feel inclined to see it again, just to watch how differently they improvise certain scenes in front of a new crowd. If you're a first-timer to the *Bee* like I was, you should know there is a bit of audience participation involved. And that's where the improv comes in.

"Hey! That's my thing!" contestant William Morris Barfée (played with pitch-perfect

PHOTO COURTESY OF SALLY BUCHANAN



**BEE THERE OR BEE SQUARE:** Santa Maria Civic Theatre presents its production of *The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee* through Sunday, May 19.

tenacity by Melody McCormick) yells at one of the surprise spellers plucked from the audience.

It appears that the newcomer had picked up on Barfée's "Magic Foot" technique—which



PHOTO COURTESY OF KAT MARTINEZ

**LET IT BEE:** Leaf Coneybear (Jessica Rogers) monologues a bit before spelling her word, in SMCT's *The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee*.

entails spelling out each word on the floor with his right foot before verbalizing it.

I don't remember what the word was in that instance, but that's not really the point anyway. As the play progresses, the words go from aggressively difficult to hilariously nonsensical. By the end of the show, bee moderators Rona Lisa Peretti (Lynda Mondragon) and Douglas Panch (Jim Dahmen) simply announce phrases like "blah blah" in place of words as each contestant gets knocked out (with a few climactic exceptions). Some of the funniest deliveries from Peretti and Panch come out of the false and seemingly random facts they reveal about each speller—especially the ones from the audience ("So-and-so does an amazing Chewbacca impression. And their favorite smell is gasoline.")

There are just too many quirks to mention when it comes to these characters: helmet-wearing homeschooler Leaf Coneybear's (Jessica Rogers) otherworldly trance as he spells; Boy Scout Chip Tolentino's (Kyle Hawkins, who doubles as Jesus Christ in a cameo appearance) fatal crush on a certain audience member; overachiever Marcy Park's (Maryann Montalbo) infallible RBE. I don't think this counts as a quirk per se, but I do love the way Mitch Mahoney (Steven Equihua)—an ex-convict who works as the bee's "official comfort counselor" as part of his required community service—hands out apple juice boxes to the kids who lose.

Arts Editor Caleb Wiseblood would lose on purpose for a juice box. Reach him at [cwiseblood@newtimeslo.com](mailto:cwiseblood@newtimeslo.com).

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### Film Reviews

#### AVENGERS: ENDGAME

What's it rated? **PG-13**  
 What's it worth? **Full price**  
 Where's it showing? **Hi-Way Drive-In, Movies Lompoc, Parks Plaza, Santa Maria 14**

**PICK** Anthony and Joe Russo (*Captain America: Civil War*) co-direct this follow-up to their 2018 film *Avengers: Infinity War*, which resulted in Thanos turning half the universe's population into dust. The remaining Avengers reassemble and work to undo Thanos' destructive act and restore the universe. It's the 11th film in the connected Marvel Universe series.

This direct sequel to the events of *Infinity War* opens with Clint Barton (Jeremy Renner), aka Hawkeye, enjoying a picnic with his family on their rural property. He helps his daughter with her archery skills, and as he turns back from responding to his wife's call of lunchtime, the girl is gone ... vanished. When he turns back to his wife and sons, they too have disappeared. It's an emotionally resonant reminder of the stunning loss the survivors of Thanos' act experienced.

This scene is followed by other scenes introducing the various main characters and reminding viewers of their loss. This turns out to be both the film's strength and weakness. It's got a surprising emotion heft for a superhero flick but it's also overlong and repetitive as we explore in detail the dozens of characters, their relationships and connections, their losses and reaction to those losses, and their eventual reunification and renewed fight to reverse what Thanos wrought.

As I wrote in my review of *Infinity War*, Thanos' act felt like a stunt. Too many of the characters who disappeared had already scheduled films and sequels coming up. It didn't feel final, and of course it wasn't because ... wait for it ... time travel! If that's a spoiler to you, you're obviously not a fan of the Marvel Universe because those who know that Thanos' destructive act cannot stand.

Lucky for everybody, Tony Stark (Robert Downey Jr.), aka Iron Man, is wicked smart and figures out how to go back in time. The film unfolds as Steve Rogers (Chris Evans), aka Captain America; Bruce Banner (Mark Ruffalo), aka The Hulk; Thor (Chris Hemsworth); Natasha Romanoff (Scarlett Johansson), aka Black Widow; Rocket (voiced by Bradley Cooper); and Scott Lang (Paul Rudd), aka Ant Man, all team up to get the Infinity Stones before Thanos has time to wipe out half the universe with them.

Even though I think the filmmakers could have cut 30 minutes and had a better film, this is still kickass!

Historically, the comic book realm has always been a boys' world. In the past, even the female superheroes seemed more designed to appeal to boys rather than girls—have you noticed, for instance, that most female superheroes dress like a PG-13-rated pole dancer or dominatrix? However, both Marvel and DC seem to be trying to evolve, not just on gender issues but other social issues. For instance, when Steve Rogers attends a survivors group therapy session, one of the male members casually mentions his gay relationship and nothing's made of it. It's accepted

FILM REVIEWS continued page 30

#### SCORING

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## Banality of evil

Joe Berlinger (*Brother's Keeper*, *Whitey: United States v. James J. Bulger*, *Cold Blooded: The Cutter Family Murders*) directs Elizabeth Kendall's script based on Michael Werwie's 1981 true crime book *The Phantom Prince: My Life with Ted Bundy*, which chronicles the capture and trial of serial killer Ted Bundy (Zac Efron), who police apprehended thanks to a tip by Bundy's longtime girlfriend, Liz Kendall (Lily Collins). *The trial mesmerized 1970s America.* (110 min.)

**Glen:** I, and I think all of us, should be embarrassed by our fascination with serial killers. After all, they're disgusting excuses for human beings who would be better off forgotten rather than a source of entertainment.

And yet here we are watching another film about a depraved killer. Maybe it's because it's so difficult to imagine what it would take to go there—to lure, rape, and murder. Maybe it's because people like Ted Bundy had relationships, friends, and lovers, and we can't imagine how they didn't know, didn't suspect, didn't realize they were in the presence of evil. That's really what's at the heart of this new Netflix film, which almost never resorts to depicting the violence and the horror of Bundy's crimes. Instead, it focuses on his relationship with Kendall and her daughter as well as his apprehension, his escapes, and his eventual trial in Florida—the state that put him to death in 1989. His charisma and intelligence were enough to have many people believing he may be innocent, and the film has the good sense to allow its viewers the same misconception by never showing him committing his crimes ... until the very end. Instead of walking through the sleaze and sensationalism of Bundy's deeds, this film is about how he manipulated and how he passed through society undetected, eventually killing 30 women. Pretty boy Efron, who grew up in Arroyo Grande, is perfectly cast as the killer, and between his resemblance to Bundy, his skillful affectation of Bundy's mannerisms and speech patterns, and the public's knowledge of Bundy and his crimes, it feels like you're in the moment.

**Anna:** As someone who is enthralled with the world of true crime, this is an argument I've had countless times. Glorifying a malicious killer should never be the aim in any type of retelling. However, Bundy is a fascinating character

even beyond what is covered in the film. His trial was a sensation—the first to be aired on television—and his antics were so bonkers that the country—young, pretty women in particular—was fascinated by him. I appreciate the approach this writer and director took with the film, focusing in on his relationship with Liz, his trials, and



**SEEMINGLY NORMAL:** Serial killer Ted Bundy (Zac Efron, left) is brought to authorities' attention by his longtime girlfriend, Liz Kendall (Lily Collins, right).

escapes. Interspersed with re-created news footage and home movies, there is no denying Efron's resemblance to Bundy. For people less familiar with Bundy's string of trials, they may find some of his antics shocking. He escapes prison twice, once by leaping from a window and once by crawling through a duct in the ceiling. He fired his lawyer and represented himself. He manipulated the system any way he could, and he maintained his innocence until the bitter end. This guy was a piece of work. Efron did a fantastic job as the ruthless con man, and the fact that they chose to not re-create his crimes on screen was very much appreciated.

**Glen:** Aside from Kendall, who eventually withdrew from Bundy, he also found a partner in Carole Anne Boone (Kaya Scodelario), who sought him out in Utah when he was on trial there and again in Florida, where he went after his second escape and where he murdered his final two victims. To escape twice is pretty remarkable, and to escape, move to a new state, and start killing again is even crazier. Unlike a lot of serial-killer films, this one takes no interest in what drives Bundy. There's no backstory about an abusive upbringing, no attempt to understand what motivated his heinous crimes. I think that's a problem because I want to know why anyone would do what he did. The film's so busy showing Bundy's kinder side that it offers no insight into the why of his murders. How was he able to have a seemingly normal relationship with Kendall? How did he climb into bed with her, charm her daughter, make her love him, and never resort to violence against her? What's

the switch he was able to turn on and off again? Maybe Berlinger, who's best known as a serial-killer documentary filmmaker, doesn't know, or maybe his documentary background prevents him from editorializing. For me, it's the big missing piece of this puzzle. If you want to see a film that depicts how a serial killer charmed those around him, this might do just fine, but if you're hoping for insight and answers, you'll find none here. If this was in theaters, I'd probably tell you to wait for a rental. Since it's on Netflix, let your schedule be your guide.

**Anna:** I can't quite pinpoint the intended audience here, though Netflix is full of true crime documentaries and series, so this does seem like a logical project for their production company. This movie is based on a book written by Ted's longtime girlfriend, Liz, and while I haven't read that, the details of their life together were already known to me after reading *The Stranger Beside Me*, a detailed account of Bundy's life in its entirety by true crime queen Anna Rule. I think one of the fascinations with this particular monster is that his motivation is so unclear. After receiving his death sentence, Judge Cowart (John Malkovich) told Bundy, "It is an utter tragedy for this court to see such a total waste of humanity, I think, as I've experienced in this courtroom. You're a bright young man. You'd have made a good lawyer, and I would have loved to have you practice in front of me, but you went another way, partner." There is no accounting for Bundy's horrific actions, and the fact that he wouldn't own up to them until the very end in a ploy to stay his execution shows just how wicked, evil, and vile he really was. Efron gives a great performance, and this is worth watching for that. ○

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

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FILM REVIEWS from page 28

as normal. During the pitched final battle, it's a group of female superheroes who convene to take a stand while their male co-parts wage individual battles. Carol Danvers (Brie Larson), aka Captain Marvel, is the desperately needed tiebreaker in the final fight to the death. These moments are signs that the times they are a-changin', and it's a welcome change.

That said, don't leave reading this review with the idea that everything's going to turn out perfectly for our heroes. The film has the good sense to make at least some of its stakes real, so prepare yourself for some losses. Also keep in mind, prequels are a thing, so I have no doubt that if your favorite hero meets her (or his) final demise, Marvel will find a way toward resurrection. This film is proof positive that anything, even time travel, is possible. Taking in consideration the spectacle on screen, this film is worth paying full price! (181 min.)

—Glen Starkey

THE HUSTLE

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

**NEW** Chris Addison (*Veep*) directs this comedy about two mismatched female scam artists—classy Josephine (Anne Hathaway) and low-rent Lonnie (Rebel Wilson)—who team up to take down the men who wronged them. (94 min.)

—Glen

THE INTRUDER

What's it rated? **PG-13**  
What's it worth? **Stream it**  
Where's it showing? **Movies Lompoc**

Deon Taylor (*The Hustle*, *Chain Letter*, *Traffik*) directs this thriller about a young couple—Annie (Meagan Good) and Scott Russell (Michael Ealy)—who buy a house with acreage from Charlie Peck (Dennis Quaid), only to discover he refuses to leave them and his former property alone.

Quaid's unhinged performance is a bit of fun, but the ridiculous and contrived plot is derivative and predictable, and the Russells are so clueless they almost deserve what they get. Stream it if you're a fan of retreaded thrillers; ignore if not. (102 min.)

—Glen

LONG SHOT

What's it rated? **R**  
What's it worth? **Matinee**  
Where's it showing? **Movies Lompoc**

Jonathan Levine (*The Night Before*, *Warm Bodies*, *The Wackness*) directs this rom-com about frumpy journalist Fred Flarsky (Seth Rogen), who reunites with his first crush: the beautiful, ambitious, but lonely presidential hopeful, Charlotte Field (Charlize Theron). Fred's down-to-earth charm leads Charlotte to hire him as her speechwriter, and sparks fly, but can this mismatched couple really make a go of it? (125 min.)

—Glen

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What's it rated? **PG**

BARRY

When? **2018-present**  
What's it rated? **MA**  
Where's it available? **HBO Go, HBO Now, Amazon Prime**

If you're a *Saturday Night Live* fan of any kind—like, even if you just stumble upon a sketch on social media once every few months—you probably know who Bill Hader is.

He's the brain behind unforgettable, larger-than-life character Stefon, a flamboyant New Yorker and frequent guest at the Weekend Update desk, where he gives mind-bending, coked-out descriptions of what he currently considers to be "New York's hottest club." As an *SNL* cast member from 2005 to 2013, Hader became famous for other similar characters and his incredibly accurate impressions, and throughout that time, he also appeared in quirky box office hits like *Superbad* (2007), *Hot Rod* (2007), and *Tropic Thunder* (2008).

Now, long after his days performing at 30

Rock, Hader is gaining a different kind of notoriety for his new show: *Barry*.

In *Barry*, which Hader co-created, writes, directs, and stars in, Hader plays—you guessed it—Barry, a depressed war veteran turned hitman who, despite a knack for efficient killing, is grappling with the meaninglessness of his life and all the pain he's caused.

When he's sent by a mobster to kill an actor wannabe in Los Angeles, Barry follows the mark to an acting class, where he finds himself intoxicated by the thrilling and often emotional structure of the class, and its group of hopeful and cheery students. Barry instantly falls for an especially devoted student, Sally (Sarah Goldberg), and the feeling of finally fitting in somewhere, so he trades in his gun for a script.

But as we all know (thanks to mandatory elementary school theater productions), acting isn't all that easy, and (thanks to Hollywood's obsession with violence) we also know you can't just suddenly leave a life of crime behind. Naturally, Barry faces a number

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

**NEW** Rob Letterman (*Shark Tale*, *Monsters vs. Aliens*, *Gulliver's Travels*) directs this adventure comedy about Detective Pikachu (voiced by Ryan Reynolds), who comes to the aid of 21-year-old Tim Goodman (Justice Smith), whose detective dad, Harry, goes missing. It turns out Pikachu and Harry were former Pokémon partners, and even more amazing, only Tim can understand what Pikachu is saying. (104 min.)

—Glen

POMS

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

**NEW** Zara Hayes (*The Legend of Billy Jean: Battle of the Sexes*) directs this comedy starring Diane Keaton, Jacki Weaver, Pam Grier, and Rhea Perlman as a quartet of women who start a

cheerleading squad at their retirement community. (91 min.)

—Glen

TOLKIEN

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

**NEW** Dome Karukoski (*Tom of Finland*, *Lapland Odyssey*) directs this biographical drama about the author J.R.R. Tolkien's (Nicholas Hoult) formative years, when the orphan finds fellowship with other outcasts at school, in particular Edith Bratt (Lily Collins) and R.Q. Gilson (Patrick Gibson). (104 min.)

—Glen

Sun movie reviews are compiled by New Times Senior Staff Writer Glen Starkey. Contact him at [gstarkey@newtimeslo.com](mailto:gstarkey@newtimeslo.com).



PHOTO COURTESY OF ALEC BERG PRODUCTIONS

**COLD BLOODED ACTOR:** In HBO's *Barry*, which is in its second season, Bill Hader plays a hitman turned theater actor who is searching for a more positive lifestyle.

of obstacles both on the stage and in burying his secret life.

Moments between Hader and other cast members—Henry Winkler (*Happy Days*, *Heroes*) plays Barry's money grubbing but passionate acting coach, and Stephen Root (*Dodgeball: A True Underdog Story*, *Office Space*) is wonderful as Barry's best friend and partner in crime, literally—make for belly-jiggling comedy.

BINGEABLE

Yet the show isn't at all what you'd expect, in terms of its actors' performances, plot, or character development. Every episode brings something completely fresh to the table, and the show, which is in the midst of airing its second season, only gets more difficult to pin down with each passing week.

Hader is especially unpredictable in *Barry*, almost entirely setting aside his typical ridiculousness, leaving space to showcase his character's inner turmoil. And unlike his character, Hader has talent.

There's a reason this show's first season was critically acclaimed, why it racked up wins at the 2018 Emmy Awards, and has a 99 percent rating on Rotten Tomatoes: It's fantastic.

—Kasey Bubnash

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**RAIN BOWLS:** Get it? Like rainbow, but it in a bowl? On account of how these wonderful açai bowls are so colorful with their assortment of granola, coconut, blueberries, strawberries, kiwis, and mangoes? Yeah, you get it.

PHOTO BY NICK POWELL



**JUICE WIZARD:** Owner and founder Erik Lachino serves up one of his many vitamin-packed, flavorful potions, The Green Machine.

# A healthy dose of decadence

*Pure Natural Juice Bar makes eating healthy taste like a cheat day*

BY NICK POWELL

Look, I'm not a doctor. I'm not a nutritionist. I'm not even in particularly good shape. I'm just another doughy dude lumbering his way into middle age and hoping for the best. But I'll tell you this: After sampling a few things off the menu, it sure feels like I'd be an Adonis in no time if I ate at Pure Natural Juice Bar every day and did a few pushups every now and then.

Let me pull the curtain back a little bit.

Last week, I went to a festival dedicated to red meat, pork, and beer. The next day was Easter, and my family roasted a fat loin of lamb whose leftovers we've been eating for dinner every day since. Instead of burning calories by building things during the day

like I usually do, I've been sitting around at a training seminar where the hosts have been hooking us up with carnitas and chile verde for lunch.

It's been a meaty week, and my colon needed a vacation. So, I plugged "healthy food" into my Yelp machine and ended up at a little cafe and juice bar that had exactly what I was craving.

I wasn't looking for some diluted, artificial fruit water. No. I wanted pure, natural juice, and guess who delivered? I'm a fairly clever chap, so I assumed this place would have my juice bases covered (which it did, with smoothies to boot), but the food menu was much more expansive than I expected. There were entire categories—wraps, paninis, salads, açai bowls, freakin' waffles

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even—each with multiple entries. Some featured light proteins like salmon, chicken, or turkey, and they all had creative combinations of veggies, fruits, and dressing.

After deliberating among my many options, I ordered the grilled veggie panini, the "sunlight energy bowl," and the super "C" juice, to-go.

I was hoping to chat with owner and

founder Erik Lachino, but he was busy working the kitchen and running the cash register. So when the food came out, I gave him my email address to talk later, paid, and got out of there like a bank robber with a bag of gold. I live in Lompoc and had another 30 minutes before I could really inspect the loot, but you know I

EATS continued page 33

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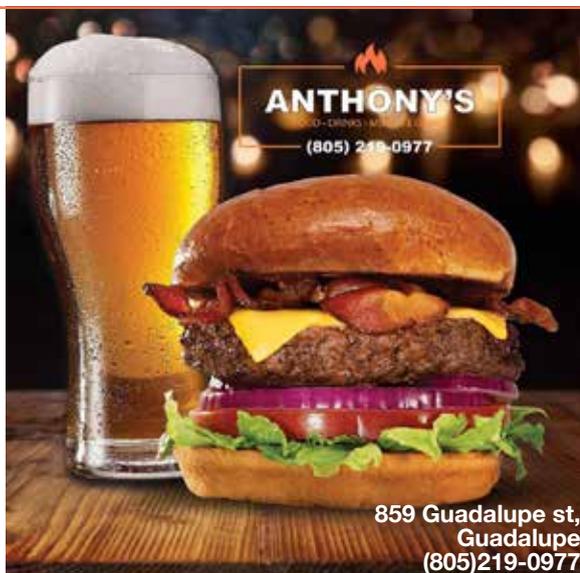
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**VEGGING OUT:** The grilled veggie panini combines a variety of roasted vegetables with spicy cream cheese and feta. It's delicious, satisfying, and healthy all at the same time!

EATS from page 31

dove right into that super “C” juice.

When I ordered it, I’d seen the word “guava” and pulled the trigger, not bothering to read down the line that “C” stood for “celery”—my third least favorite flavor next to olives and pickles—those green logs of garbage. But alas! The guava, orange, and lemon juice mixed with the celery and tempered it, like a spoonful of sugar that helped the medicine go down. Celery was still the most prominent flavor, but I somehow liked it ... a lot.

Without the celery flavor, this would have been basic orange juice, and without the citrus flavors, celery juice alone would be unbearable. But Lachino mixed a cocktail that worked beautifully. The “C” juice was gone before South Broadway became Highway 135, and I felt more awake and revitalized at the end of my day than I had after the two cups of coffee that kicked it off.

At home, I opened my sandwich box to find a grilled wheat flatbread overflowing with an entire garden’s worth of vegetables—zucchini, squash, bell peppers, onions, sprouts, and lettuce—all held together with a spicy and wonderfully funky blend of jalapeño cream cheese and feta.

The açai bowl consisted of a sweet and creamy blend of soy milk, banana, mango, turmeric, and agave nectar topped with crunchy granola and coconut shavings, plus tart kiwi and strawberry slices. It was a perfectly indulgent dessert, with none of the heavy richness or regret that comes with cake or pie.

I shared half of the panini and half of the açai bowl with my daughter. It was plenty of food for both of us, and we finished the day feeling satisfied, refreshed, and invigorated from our meal, instead of feeling groggy and full like our usual diet leaves us.

Two meals and juice cost less than \$25, and there was enough variety on the menu at Pure Natural Juice Bar to have a different combination every day for a few weeks, at least. That could easily be the makings of a healthy and delicious lifestyle.

Later, Lachino told me he’d worked as a cook and sous chef for years before making the decision to add some healthy options to Santa Maria’s food scene by opening Pure Natural Juice in 2013. He said he worked for months beforehand to perfect his recipes, offering samples to friends and co-workers and tweaking the flavor balance until it was just right.

Business was slow at first, but now he has a steady stream of loyal regulars who use his concoctions as the fuel for healthy lifestyles.

“I wanted to do something for the community to promote health,” Lachino said. “I really love what I do. It’s my passion: fast food but healthy food.” ○

*Contributing writer Nick Powell is pure and natural. Send juicy info to npowell@santamariasun.com.*

### POWELL’S PICKS

• I’ve been on an eight-month mission to try and compare every last taco offered in Lompoc (winner to be declared eventually). I always get carne asada as my standard, but I recently strayed from that path and tried the **ribeye tacos at Floriano’s Mexican Food** in Lompoc. They’re on a whole other level, in a very good way. Try some for yourself at **1129 N. H St.**

• In Los Alamos, **Bob’s Well Bread Bakery** is offering a special Mother’s Day brunch menu on May 12 with crab or prosciutto eggs Benedict, fresh berries, mimosas, and a choice of pastry for \$35. Give mom the gift of brunch at **550 Bell St.**

• **Yellow (Ataulfo) mangoes.** They’re available at every grocery store. They’re not always ripe or cheap, but they’re both right now. Buy a bunch and eat ‘em. You won’t regret it.

• It’s probably no secret that **North China** in

FILE PHOTO BY WENDY THIES SELL



Santa Maria has some damn good moo shoo pork, but I tried it for the first time recently and can re-confirm that it is indeed delicious. Re-re-confirm this fact at **113 North Broadway.** ○

*Contributing writer Nick Powell is hungry for story ideas. Please send fresh tips to npowell@santamariasun.com.*

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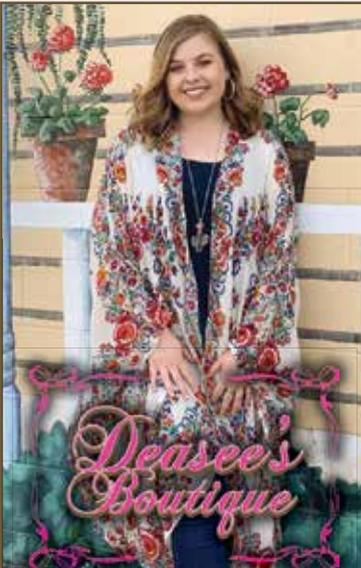


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