

All about the strawberry

Festivalgoers pick their favorites. **CENTRAL COAST, B1**



Touching moment

Mother of Righetti grad honored at LMU softball game. **SPORTS, D1**

Copycat candy

Homemade versions of treats. **FOOD, C1**



MOSTLY SUNNY AND BREEZY 66 • 47 FORECAST, B6 | **SUNDAY, APRIL 29, 2018** | santamariatimes.com

LAUNCH: MAY 5 - JUNE 8 | TRAVEL TIME: ABOUT 6 MONTHS | MISSION DURATION: ABOUT 728 EARTH DAYS

HISTORIC LAUNCH TO GIVE InSight INTO MARS

Tourism officials hopeful for economic boost back on Earth

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While this week's historic Mission to Mars launch has already captivated the imagination of space and science enthusiasts around the globe, several agencies in and around the Lompoc Valley are hoping to capitalize on that enthusiasm and use it to bolster the local economy.

Thousands of visitors are expected to descend upon the region this week to witness the first leg of the NASA InSight lander's six-month journey to Mars. The spacecraft will leave Earth aboard a United Launch Alliance-built Atlas V rocket

that is scheduled to take off from Vandenberg Air Force Base's Space Launch Complex-3E at 4:05 a.m. Saturday. If successful, the launch will kick off the first interplanetary mission to ever originate from the West Coast of the U.S.

Back on the ground, several people with stakes in Lompoc Valley tourism are hopeful that the launch — and all the attention and fanfare surrounding it — will lead to economic impacts that last long after the Atlas V rocket disappears into the early-morning sky.

"(This) is a great opportunity for people to come and watch the launch and experience everything that Lompoc has to offer," said Gilda Cordova,

a Lompoc hotelier and board member for Explore Lompoc, an organization that aims to increase tourism. "We are proud to have VAFB, and launches have always made a great impact on our hotels and those of the surrounding cities."

Rolling out the carpet

Perhaps no agency, aside from those directly involved in the InSight mission, has spent more time preparing for Saturday's launch than Explore Lompoc.

The organization, which has a board comprised primarily of Lompoc-area hotel managers and owners, launched a website

Please see **TOURISM**, Page A7

Nuts, bolts of science will determine Martian makeup

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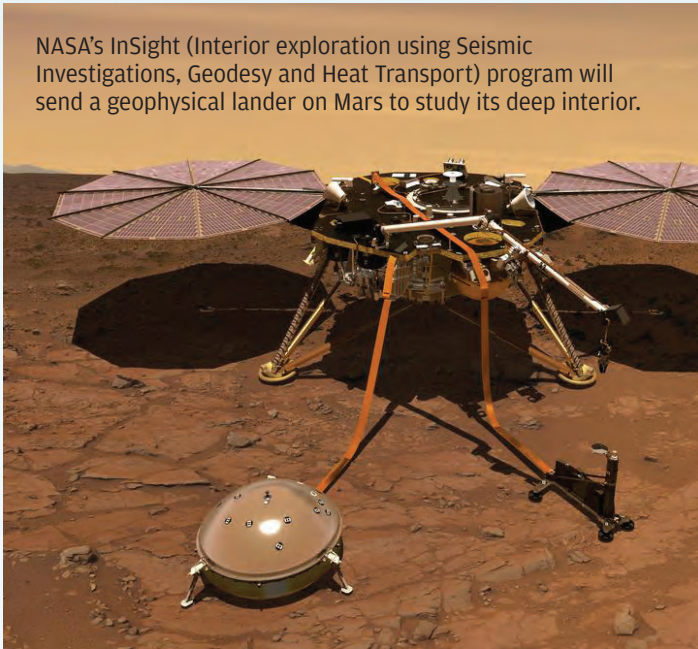
Mars rovers Opportunity and Curiosity may have some new company by the end of the year with the launch of InSight, NASA's newest mission to Mars.

Originally set to launch in March 2016 but delayed due to failed attempts to repair a leak, the latest launch window for InSight (short for Interior Exploration using Seismic Investigations, Geodesy and Heat Transport) opens May 5 at 4:05 a.m.

Set to take off from Vandenberg Air Force Base, Saturday's mission marks a historic first for the space agency: the first-ever interplanetary mission from the West Coast.

Focused on the geophysics of the red planet, InSight researchers hope to probe the depths of the Martian surface for a greater understanding of Mars' planetary structure, and how it and other rocky planets — especially Earth — were born.

Please see **MARS**, Page A8



NASA's InSight (Interior exploration using Seismic Investigations, Geodesy and Heat Transport) program will send a geophysical lander on Mars to study its deep interior.

Mission to Mars provides North County students, educators with teachable moment

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Students and educators across northern Santa Barbara County have a unique opportunity to teach, learn and witness history this week, as NASA, JPL and Vandenberg Air Force Base prepare for their historic May 5 mission to Mars — the first-ever interplanetary mission launched from the West Coast.

Tapping into the enthusiasm and energy surrounding the launch, late last month NASA scientists and engineers launched a statewide tour to bring family-friendly science activities, exhibits and public talks about the InSight mission to children, teachers and parents across California. Partnering with a handful of local

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US reaffirms commitment to defend South Korea

MATTHEW PENNINGTON
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — President Donald Trump and Defense Secretary Jim Mattis spoke on Saturday with their South Korean counterparts after the historic meeting between leaders of the two Koreas, and Trump said "things are going very well" as he prepares for an expected summit with the North's Kim Jong Un.

Mattis and Defense Minister Song Young-moo said they were committed to "a diplomatic resolution that achieves complete, verifiable and irreversible denuclearization" of the North, according to the Pentagon's chief spokeswoman, Dana W. White. Mattis also reaffirmed "the ironclad U.S. commitment" to defend its ally "using the full spectrum of U.S. capabilities."

Trump tweeted Saturday that he had "a long and very good talk" with President Moon Jae-in. He also said he updated Japan's prime minister, Shinzo Abe, about "the ongoing negotiations" for an anticipated summit with Kim, tentatively scheduled for May or early June.

Moon and Kim have pledged to seek a formal end to the Korean War, fought from 1950 to 1953, by year's end and to rid the Korean Peninsula of nuclear weapons. Trump has said he's looking forward to the meeting with Kim and that it "should be quite something."

"Things are going very well, time and location of meeting with North Korea is being set," Trump tweeted. A statement from the White House describing the call between Trump and Moon also referred to the North's future being contingent upon "complete, verifiable, and irreversible denuclearization."

Please see **SOUTH KOREA**, Page A6

Supervisors to consider cannabis on ag preserves

But crop may not be protected under Right to Farm Ordinance

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Cannabis will be considered an agricultural product allowed on agricultural preserves if the Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors approves a recommended resolution at its meeting Tuesday.

But the board will also consider introducing an amendment to the Right to Farm Ordinance that, if ultimately approved, would exempt cannabis from the protections the ordinance provides other agricultural products.

Supervisors are scheduled to meet at 9 a.m. in the Board Hearing Room on the fourth floor of the County Administration Building at 105 E. Anapamu St. in Santa Barbara.

Please see **CANNABIS**, Page A6

DISCOVER
DIGITAL



See the scenes from this weekend's Strawberry Festival with photo galleries

AT SANTAMARIATIMES.COM

ASTROGRAPH C2
CLASSIFIED E1
COMICS C6, INSIDE

FOOD C1
JUMBLE B6, C4
LOTTERY A2

OBITUARIES B5
OPINION A4
PUZZLES C4, C5

