

RIGHETTI GRAD NOW TOP SEA GAL

Moore named director of Seahawks cheerleaders. **SPORTS, D1**



Buellton Brew Fest

Thousands attend annual event at River View Park. **CENTRAL COAST, B1**



PARTIAL SUNSHINE **69 • 50** FORECAST, B6 | **SUNDAY, MAY 6, 2018** | santamariatimes.com

Early GOP primaries march to right

BILL BARROW
Associated Press

As primary season kicks into high gear, Republicans are engaged in nomination fights that are pulling the party to the right, leaving some leaders worried their candidates will be out of step with the broader electorate in November.

Primaries in four states on Tuesday, all in places Donald Trump carried in 2016, showcase races in which GOP candidates are jockeying to be seen as the most conservative, the most anti-Washington and the most loyal to the president. It's evidence of the onetime outsider's deepening imprint on the Republican Party he commandeered less than two years ago.

In Indiana, Republicans will pick from among three Senate candidates who have spent much of the race praising Trump and bashing each other. In West Virginia, a former federal convict and coal baron has taken aim at Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, R-Ky., with racially charged accusations of corruption.

In Ohio, Republicans are certain to nominate someone more conservative than outgoing GOP Gov. John Kasich, a 2016 presidential candidate, moderate and frequent Trump critic. Even Kasich's former running mate, Lt. Gov. Mary Taylor, has pledged to

Please see **GOP**, Page A6

Cannabis fees and groundwater on agenda

MIKE HODGSON
mhdgson@leecentralcoastnews.com

Cannabis business licensing fees, capital improvement projects for the next fiscal year and the potential for issuing certificates of participation to pay for them are among the items facing the Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors at Tuesday's meeting in Santa Maria.

The board is also slated to receive a report on the financial position of the County Employees Retirement System, consider a modification of the Santa Maria Valley Groundwater Basin boundaries and hear an appeal of the denial of a stone mining operation in Lompoc.

Supervisors are scheduled to meet at 9 a.m. in the Board Hearing Room of the Joseph Centeno Betteravia Government Administration Building, at 511 E. Lakeside Parkway.

For those who can't attend, the meeting will be streamed by CSBTV on YouTube and on the Board

Please see **AGENDA**, Page A6

INSIGHT MISSION TO MARS

LAUNCH MAKES HISTORY



NASA/BILL INGALLS

The NASA InSight spacecraft launches on board a United Launch Alliance Atlas V rocket Saturday from Vandenberg Air Force Base. InSight, short for Interior Exploration using Seismic Investigations, Geodesy and Heat Transport, is a Mars lander designed to study the "inner space" of Mars: its crust, mantle and core.

Despite low visibility, launch doesn't disappoint stargazers

MATHEW BURCIAGA
mburciaga@leecentralcoastnews.com

Ten-year-old Sonya Moreno and Morgan Delira didn't sleep.

Growing up in Lompoc, the La Cañada Elementary students said they have seen a lot of rockets and missiles lift off from Vandenberg Air Force Base. They're normal, they said, and not usually that big of a deal.

But early Saturday morning, the friends and classmates were two of thousands of people flooding the airstrip at Lompoc Airport, eagerly awaiting the launch of NASA's InSight mission to Mars.

"I normally wake up at noon," Sonya said, "but I wanted to wait for the rocket to launch. I'm excited."

"I'm really tired," added Morgan, "but we had to move. This one is historic. It's pretty crazy."

Making the drive from Riverside, Arthur Noguera said his family came to Lompoc to witness the launch at Vandenberg Air Force Base — and wish his daughter, Abigail, goodbye. When the lander touches down on Mars later this year, Abigail Noguera will be one of several million



MATHEW BURCIAGA, STAFF

Lompoc resident Julie Howard, left, and Petaluma residents Jaime and Keanu Jahncke try to capture video of NASA's InSight launch from the Lompoc Airport early Saturday morning.

earthlings to land symbolically on the red planet.

"My name is on the rocket," explained Abigail Noguera, referring to two specially designed microchips containing the names of NASA's "frequent flyers." The list, which opened for registration in 2015 and again last October, drew 2.4 million names to be included on InSight's groundbreaking mis-

sion — more than the 1.38 million who signed up to "fly" on Orion in 2014.

Leaving Santa Barbara at 2 a.m. with his children, Anya and Kylan, and members of his astronomy club in tow, Erin O'Connor, associate professor in the Department of Earth and Planetary Sciences at

Please see **VISIBILITY**, Page A7

Thousands flock to viewing sites to witness early morning liftoff

MATHEW BURCIAGA
mburciaga@leecentralcoastnews.com

If the low rumble from the Atlas V rocket didn't rock residents of the Lompoc Valley awake early Saturday morning, the cheers and applause from the thousands of people who flocked there to witness the historic launch of NASA's InSight spacecraft surely did.

The rocket's 4:05 a.m. liftoff from Vandenberg Air Force Base Space Launch Complex 3 treated the crowds gathered at viewing parties at the Lompoc Airport and St. Mary's Episcopal Church, as well as the thousands of predawn stargazers across Southern California, to spectacular sound if not visibility.

The first interplanetary mission to originate from the West Coast, the Atlas V rocket carrying InSight — short for the Interior Exploration Using Seismic Investigations, Geodesy and Heat Transport — was visible to viewers south of Lompoc as a small, red or white dot trailing across the sky. Poor visibility in the area surrounding the launch, largely the result of thick overcast and lingering fog, gave little chance of viewing the event.

Though it may have put a damper on early morning viewing parties, Saturday's heavy fog had no effect on the launch window. Roughly 30 minutes before launch, 1st Lt. Kristina Williams, weather officer for VAFB's 30th Space Wing, issued a green weather report advising a zero percent chance of weather violation.

"It's a common event, especially

Please see **LAUNCH**, Page A7

PERSPECTIVE

Historic launch is hopeful, exciting

I had the opportunity to view the launch of NASA's InSight "Mission to Mars" Saturday morning at the distinguished visitors site situated near the

Rod & Gun Club at Vandenberg Air Force Base. Although the weather was not optimal for viewing the launch, with our coastal marine layer obscuring the view, the weather did not deter the public from showing up.

As an "Honorary Squadron Commander" for the 2nd Range Operations Squadron, I am often invited to view launches on the base. Of course, show up



FRANK CAMPO

Please see **CAMPO**, Page A6

DISCOVER DIGITAL



■ See photos, video of yesterday's historic Mars InSight launch from Vandenberg

AT SANTAMARIATIMES.COM

ASTROGRAPH C3
CLASSIFIED E1
COMICS C6, INSIDE

FOOD C1
JUMBLE A6, C4
LOTTERY A2

OBITUARIES B5
OPINION A4
PUZZLES C4, C5

