

# HOME & Garden

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SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 6, 2016

## CALENDAR

### SUNDAY

**Haskell's Beach Walk:** Noon-4:30 p.m. Haskell's West. "The Carving of Cliffs and Tidepools." Instructor is Susie Bartz. Presented by Santa Barbara Botanic Garden. \$65 general, \$45 members. To RSVP and for directions, call 682-4726 or go to [www.sbbg.org](http://www.sbbg.org).

**Nature Hike:** 10 a.m.-3 p.m. Sulphur Mountain Nature Hike in Casitas Springs area. Leader is Lanny Kaufer, who is celebrating 40 years of herb walks. \$25 general, \$20 seniors 62 and older and full-time students. To RSVP and for directions, go to [www.herbwalks.com](http://www.herbwalks.com).

### TUESDAY

**Remodeling for Retirement:** 5:30-7 p.m. Santa Barbara location to be announced upon reservation. Learn design strategies for remodeling your home for retirement and your golden years from local aging-in-place experts. Class presented by Allen Construction. \$10. 884-8777.

### THURSDAY

**Entomology for Gardeners and Botanists:** 4:30-6:30 p.m. Thursdays through March 17, also field day 9 a.m.-noon March 5. Santa Barbara Botanic Garden, Arroyo Room and garden grounds, 1212 Mission Canyon Road. An introduction to the diversity of insects associated with plants. Instructor is Frederique Lavoipierre. \$150 general, \$125 members. To RSVP, call 682-4726 or go to [www.sbbg.org](http://www.sbbg.org).

### FRIDAY

**Drawing the Natives:** 11 a.m.-1 p.m. Fridays through March 18. Santa Barbara Botanic Garden, Arroyo Room, 1212 Mission Canyon Road. Instructor is JoAnn McGeever Metzger. \$100 general, \$85 members. To RSVP, call 682-4726 or go to [www.sbbg.org](http://www.sbbg.org).

**Guide to the Jepson Manual:** 1-3 p.m. Fridays through Feb. 26. Santa Barbara Botanic Garden, Arroyo Room, 1212 Mission Canyon Road. Hands-on introduction to the Jepson Manual and basic terminology used in plant identification. Instructor is botanist Mary Carroll. Bring 10x hand lens and second edition of manual (available in book shop; limited class copies for those who need them). \$90 general, \$75 members. For reservations, call 682-4726.

### UPCOMING

**Valentine's Day Picnic:** 11 a.m.-4 p.m. Feb. 14. Santa Barbara Botanic Garden, 1212 Mission Canyon Road. Spend a day at the garden with your sweetheart. Baskets include lunch by Flagstone Pantry, admission for two to garden, keepsake map, utensils and 20 percent off coupon for gift shop, and can be picked up anytime between these hours. For reservations, call 682-4726, ext. 103.

### ONGOING

**Carpinteria Salt Marsh Nature Park Docent Tour:** 10 a.m. Saturdays. Park entrance across from Sandlyland and Ash avenues in Carpinteria. Docent-led tour provides history of the landmark's rescue and geology, flora and fauna. Free. 684-4060.

**Nature Walk:** 10-11:30 a.m. Saturdays. Meet at Cachuma Lake Nature Center, State Route 154. Free with \$10 park admission per vehicle. 688-4515 or [www.cachuma.com](http://www.cachuma.com).

**Fabing-McKay-Spanne House Tours:** 9-11 a.m. Mondays and Thursdays. 207 N. L St., Lompoc. The historic house, blacksmith shop, reference room, museum room and carriage house are available for viewing. Hosted by Lompoc Valley Historical Society. Admission by donation. 735-4626 or [www.lompochistory.org](http://www.lompochistory.org).

Submit Home & Garden calendar items two weeks in advance to [listings@newspress.com](mailto:listings@newspress.com).

## It's a wash on Bath Street

Shabby laundromat gets chic makeover

BY MARILYN MCMAHON  
NEWS-PRESS STAFF WRITER

Nick Mason was warned not to do it. But he went ahead anyway and leased the laundromat at the corner of East Haley and Bath streets.

"I was told the location on the lower west side was marginal. It's right near the Bath Street exit from the freeway. Traffic is heavy," said Mr. Mason.

"I was led to believe that the customers who frequented it — many from SBCC up the hill — didn't care about the shabby interior or outdated machines to do their laundry, but that's not true at all. Business has increased 100 percent. Customers tell me every day, 'Thank you!' They give me hugs. It's a happy place."

Which is just what the 27-year-old charismatic young man hoped would happen when he took over last October.

"My goal was to make this an extremely clean, boutique-type, sexy laundromat — a neighborhood hangout where people can drink free coffee or sit on the front porch and watch the cars go by while they do their laundry. Or they can people-watch — this is the best people-watching in town — or the occasional car accident," said Mr. Mason with a chuckle.

After arranging financing for \$100,000, he purchased 20 brand-new washing machines and 20 brand-new stainless steel dryers, which are made by Huebsch, "the Ferrari of laundry equipment," according to Mr. Mason.

"There were three dryers when I took over," he said.

The interior was painted a fresh white with French blue accent walls. The wall above the dryers is decorated with horizontal strips of wood. He also had a custom wood sign made for the name of the new business — Linen, replacing the former name of Linen Fluff and Fold.

Custom pendant lights hang from the ceiling, and there are two 55-inch Sony TVs and free Wi-Fi.

One narrow wall near the back is covered with black chalk paint, and there are containers of toys for young children to amuse themselves while their parents do their laundry.

"Linen is open from 6 a.m. to 10 p.m. daily. I was even open on Christmas," Mr. Mason said.

With his lanky frame straddling a wooden chair in an intimate utility yard outside the back door, Mr. Mason told the News-Press how he became the unlikely owner/operator of a laundromat in Santa Barbara and a frozen yogurt

Please see **WASH** on A7



In a rare moment of relaxation, Mr. Mason, along with his constant companion, Charles, relaxes on the front porch of Linen.

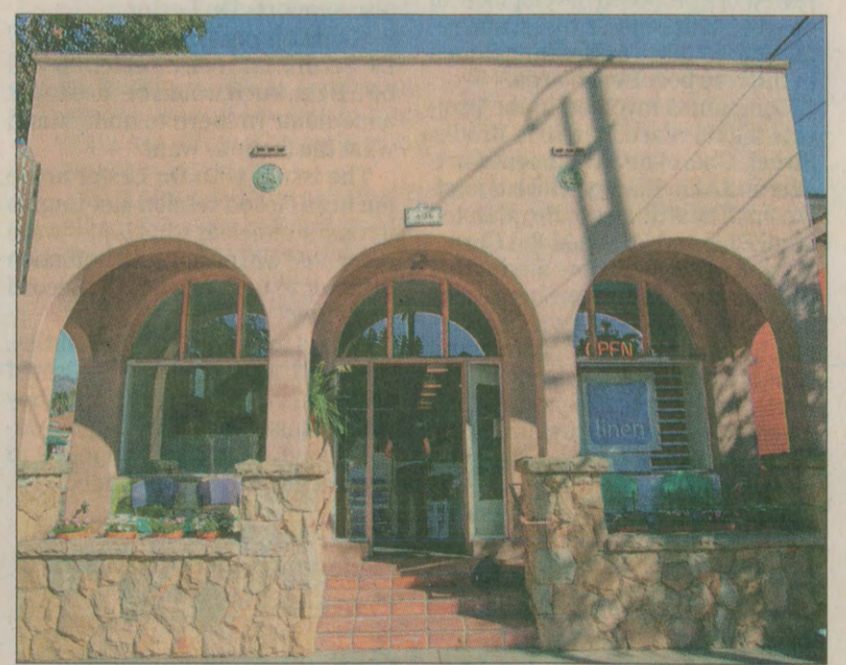


HELENA DAY BREESE / NEWS-PRESS PHOTOS

Nick Mason, the new hands-on owner of Linen, a laundromat at the corner of Haley and Bath streets, helps his employee, Bertha Hernandez, fold laundry to be delivered to customers from Goleta to Montecito. Since taking over last October, he has transformed the rundown business into "an extremely clean, boutique-type, sexy laundromat."



While making free pickups and deliveries, Mr. Mason is often accompanied by his white English Lab, who, in honor of his breed, is the "more formal Charles and not Charlie."



Customers can sit on the front porch at Linen and watch the cars go by while they do their laundry.

## GET YOUR FIBER

Natural look trending with furniture makers

By PATRICIA SHERIDAN  
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

HIGH POINT, N.C. — Whether dressing up a dresser, covering a cabinet or embellishing a bureau, furniture makers are adding layers of interest with digital images and natural fibers such as linen, seagrass, paper and metal.

In showrooms this spring, consumers will see storage units, tables and consoles with enough panache to become the focal point of a room.

At the Fall Market, Thibaut delivered several variations of casegoods covered in raffia, linen, grasscloth and paper. It's all made in the United States, including custom creations with more than 200 Thibaut fabrics. The company's Paperweave in White cabinet has contrasting

pink doors made of extra fine sisal, and the Regatta side table is wrapped in navy raffia.

Also using natural fibers to build heirloom pieces is Bungalow 5, which pumped up the appeal of its lacquered grasscloth-covered four-door Janak large chest with diamond-patterned brass nail heads. It comes in navy or white.

Currey and Company's Cadena three-drawer chest also uses textural elements to get the most bang for the buck. The wood frame is enveloped in black linen, which becomes a backdrop for solid-brass drawer pulls and drawer collars.

Mitchell Gold + Bob Williams introduced its multipurpose Weaver chest, which is wrapped in a gray raffia and outlined in dark-stained mahogany.

The inside of the drawer is red lacquer. The chest can be used in a bedroom, entryway or as a media cabinet because there are cutouts in the back for cords. It looks great with the Weaver mirror hanging above it.

Bernhardt and Selamat, meanwhile, managed to enhance and entrance with skins of metal. The Barcelona Sideboard is hand-carved reclaimed teak covered in German silver, which is not really silver but a silver-white alloy of nickel, copper and zinc. It's also found on the Essen cocktail table.

Going digital is John Strauss Furniture's Lake Shore Watercolor console, which is adorned in a painterly palette. The doors of the lacquered piece are covered in digitally printed wallpaper for dramatic impact.



TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

This Mitchell Gold + Bob Williams Weaver chest and mirror features a skin of natural raffia in a warm gray finish and signature red lacquer drawer interior.

### SOURCES

- Thibaut: [thibautdesign.com](http://thibautdesign.com)
- Bungalow 5: [bungalow5.com](http://bungalow5.com)
- John Strauss Furniture: [johnstrausfurniture.com](http://johnstrausfurniture.com)
- Mitchell Gold + Bob Williams: [mgbwhome.com](http://mgbwhome.com)
- Selamat: [selamat.com](http://selamat.com)
- Bernhardt: [bernhardt.com](http://bernhardt.com)