



RICHARD GREEN/THE SALINAS CALIFORNIAN FILE PHOTO

With the July opening of Oldtown's Maya Cinemas, the south Salinas area is a new hot spot at night.

# Spend nights in town

*Promise of fun, friends, alcohol, lures younger crowds to hot spots*

By **LESLIE ESCOBAR**  
The Salinas Californian

Mandy Oliver's way of getting regular crowds at her Oldtown British pub is simple.

"We have a lot of young people in town, and there's nowhere for them to go, so bringing in the DJ and bands works," Oliver said.

Oliver is co-owner of the Penny Farthing Tavern, one of Salinas' most popular spots on Friday and Saturday nights. But it's not the only place to find live music without a drive to Monterey or Santa Cruz.

Just down the street, Mexican restaurant La Perla has begun hosting live bands nearly every weekend.

For something a little mellow, try a Friday night open mic session at nearby coffee shop Rollick's.

If you're searching for a local-

ly brewed beer, the Penny Farthing and Monterey Coast Brewing both have a big selection on draft.

The Penny Farthing offers 22 beers on tap, including several from the Marina British Ale Brewery. Monterey Coast Brewing has nine of its own draft beers, as well as a wine selection and a handful of internationally bottled beers.

Plus, Monterey Coast Brewing offers a sampler platter — a 4-ounce shot of each beer — to help you decide which brew you like best.

The biggest recent addition to Salinas' nightlife is likely the 14-screen Maya Cinemas, down the street from Monterey Coast Brewing. The cinema offers a family night each Tuesday, when movies are \$5 per person.

Oliver said she hopes the expected addition of a 30-screen sports bar to Oldtown Salinas this fall will improve the city's nightlife even more.

"That's good because no one wants to stay in one place all the time," she said. "It'll make it more like a walk-in town; park and walk from one place to the other."

## DETAILS

A few places to check out during an evening spent exploring the nightlife in Salinas:

n **ELLI'S GREAT AMERICAN RESTAURANT AND LALLA LOUNGE**, 1250 S. Main St., 759-8455

n **HULLABALLOO RESTAURANT**, 228 S. Main St., 757-3663

n **KING'S DEN**, 22 W. Alisal St., 422-1116

n **LA PERLA**, 129 Main St., 757-6333

n **MONTEREY COAST BREWING**, 165 S. Main St., 758-2337

n **PENNY FARTHING TAVERN**, 9 E. San Luis St., 424-5652

n **SIDE POCKET BILLIARDS**, 247 Main St., 771-0100

n **CHERRYBEAN GOURMET COFFEEHOUSE**, 332 Main St., 424-1981

n **ROLICK'S SPECIALTY COFFEE**, 210 Main St., 422-1760

n **CENTURY 14 NORTHDRIDGE MALL CINEMAS**, 350 Northridge Shopping Center, 449-9101

n **MAYA CINEMAS**, 153 Main St., 757-6292

# Salinas' theaters splice up your life

*Movie viewing options abound at state-of-the-art area cinemas*

By **ZACHARY STAHL**  
The Salinas Californian

With its two movie theaters, it's easy to pair dinner with a movie or shopping with a movie in Salinas.

Shoppers at Northridge Mall need only walk across the parking lot to catch a flick at Century Northridge 14, while diners in Oldtown can stroll over to Maya Cinemas near the National Steinbeck

Center. Both show blockbuster films in state-of-the-art complexes with stadium seating and digital sound.

## AT A GLANCE

A sampling of Salinas-area movie theaters:

n **CENTURY NORTHDRIDGE 14:** Northridge Mall, Salinas, 449-9101.

n **MAYA CINEMAS:** 153 Main St., Salinas, 757-6292.

n **CENTURY CINEMAS:** at Del Monte Center, Monterey. 373-8080.

n **KING CITY CINEMAS:** 200 Broadway, King City, 385-9100.

"We offer a great entertainment experience where you watch a movie as it was meant to be," said Frank Haffar, chief operating officer and president of Los Angeles-based Maya Cinemas.

The 14-screen theater at 153 Main St. opened in July. The debut was overseen by film producer Moctesuma Esparza, who is chief executive officer of Maya Cinemas.

The theater regularly shows independent films and offers \$5 admissions on Tuesday nights. Sur-

rounded by restaurants, clothing boutiques and coffee shops, Maya Cinemas pairs nicely with Oldtown's evening entertainment.

"I think it's more of a destination place and a theater experience, more than just parking your car and seeing a movie," Haffar said.

Maya's competitor at Northridge Mall also has 14 screens. It's location at the north Salinas mall make it attractive to shoppers as well as teenagers who like to hang out in front of the theater on weekends.

Century remodeled its 44,000-square-foot Northridge multiplex by expanding from eight to 14 screens in July 2003.

In March, Century Theatre's closed its seven-screen theater at 10 Simas St., anticipating approval of a retail development on the site, which could include a Lowe's home improvement store.

The theater was showing second-run films.

Century also opened a 13-screen theater at Del Monte Center in late 2004.

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