



RIVERSIDE

The Right Notes

Singer-songwriter Danielle Taylor floats her music across nationwide air waves.

■ Stay tuned for the latest releases from Riverside's Danielle Taylor, a singer-songwriter whose contemporary piano pop style falls somewhere along the lines of Sara Bareilles, Adele and Train, but retains its own unique quality. After adding *1440*, a full-length album, to her popular repertoire in 2017, she plans to keep going with music videos and more original tunes in 2018.

"The process takes time, but it's worth it," says Taylor, whose music can be heard through various mediums, including Sirius XM Radio and iHeartRadio stations nationwide. She also performs live throughout California, including venues in Temecula's wine country. Her résumé includes opening for Aaron Carter, Wilson Phillips, and Kate Voegele, among others.

But getting there wasn't easy. Taylor's road to success includes street gigs that fetched gas money, but also fueled her passion for her art.

"Music is all about creativity and expression," she says, and is constantly evolving. Her advice to those just starting out: keep at it. "Perseverance is 100 percent the name of the game," she says.

Taylor learned to play clarinet in third grade and eventually moved to piano, which she took to immediately. Recent performances include San Antonio Winery in Ontario. For tour dates or to hear and purchase her music, go to danielletaylormusic.com. — *Tammy Minn*

MORENO VALLEY

Last Chance Pets

A photographer brings out the best in shelter animals to help them find forever homes.

■ Kelly Vela, Moreno Valley's 2016 volunteer of the year, spends hours photographing shelter animals, coaxing them to relax and play so their images reflect their true selves. She hopes her pictures will help them find homes. In 2016, Vela photographed 2,300 shelter residents in the region. She continues to expand her work with various animal rescue operations, including Riverside's Mary S. Roberts Pet Adoption Center.

Vela's photos have helped dramatically decrease the "kill rate" at the Moreno Valley shelter, says city spokeswoman Kimberly Sutherland. More than 90 percent of Vela's portrait pets have been adopted. "This is why I left my 8-to-5 great-paying cubicle job" in customer service, Vela says. "This is so rewarding." Vela and her husband, Anthony, own photography business Dos Velas. See dosvelas.com. — *Jeanne Boyer*

