



NK BLASKOVICH / NEWS-PRESS PHOTOS

The numbers suggest that vinyl is back. Seth Kunin, owner of Kunin Wines, lets customers listen to tunes from his collection during "Vino and Vinyl" nights.

Is there a record renaissance in SB?

By TED MILLS

NEWS-PRESS CORRESPONDENT

In 2009, Nielsen SoundScan, an information system that tracks music sales, showed what record junkies had suspected for a few years: Vinyl is back and hot again. This had been the best year for sales of vinyl — you know, those round discs from your parents' generation that contained music — since 1991. The convenience of MP3s for some has run up against its limitations: sound fidelity and corporeality. People like the "thing-ness" of records.

"There's just a certain authenticity to listening to stuff on vinyl," says Kurt Legler of the new Warbler Records. "It's a better sound."

His fiancée, Leigh Van Der Werff, agrees. "It's ownership, too. It's something that will stay with you. It brings everything together, the artwork, the sound quality, and it takes work. It takes work to take it out of the sleeve, put it on the turntable, and drop the needle. It's really an experience."

The Portland couple only recently moved to Santa Barbara and a few weeks ago quietly opened Warbler Records, located near the corner of Santa Barbara and De la Guerra streets. Their bright and sunny store with its wooden racks and handmade counter is the first attempt at an independent record store in Santa Barbara since Buffalo



THOMAS KILSEY / NEWS-PRESS

Just Play Music offers records and turntables.



ROBBY BARTHELMUSS / NEWS-PRESS

Leigh Van Der Werff and Kurt Legler recently opened Warbler Records in downtown Santa Barbara. It's the first attempt at an independent record store in the city since 2004.

Please see **VINYL** on **D8**