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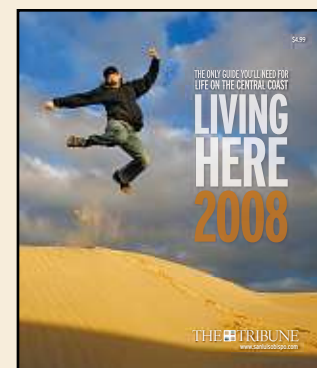
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We hope you find Living Here 2008 useful. We have tried to be as inclusive as possible with the contents of this guide to life in San Luis Obispo County. If your group was inadvertently left out, please let us know at 781-7902 or newsroom@thetribunenews.com so the information can be included next year.

Visit The Tribune online at sanluisobispo.com.



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Sitting halfway between Los Angeles and San Francisco, San Luis Obispo County is a haven for those looking to escape the hectic lifestyles of the big city. It's a popular tourist destination, and its burgeoning wine industry is gaining attention and accolades on par with the more established Napa and Sonoma regions.

Because of high housing costs, the county's demographic is changing. The population continues to age as well-to-do retirees find the Central Coast a haven from the urban lifestyle. Young families continue to migrate out in pursuit of affordable housing elsewhere.

The county remains a desirable destination with its 100 miles of coastline and diverse geography, as well as a retirement spot for those who can afford it.

The county's population of 267,154 ranks 23rd among the

state's 58 counties, with about 75 people per square mile, contrasted to the statewide figure of 240.

The annual rate of change in the population of the county during the past 10 years has been primarily because of people moving here rather than births.

County statistics

Age: The median age of the population in 2006 (the latest year figures were available) was 38.5, a drop of about a half year from 2005.

Household size: The number of people per household has continued to drop with the aging of the population: It went from 2.53 in 1990 to 2.39 in 2007.

Income: The 2005 median family income rose from \$60,731 in 2005 to \$63,826 in 2006; the median household income rose from \$49,721 in 2005 to \$50,209 in 2006.



Racial makeup: The county remains primarily white at 84.5 percent; 18.3 percent Hispanic; 3.1 percent Asian; 1.8 percent black; more than a half percent American Indian; and almost 2 percent multiracial. White rates

were up year over year in 2006, while Hispanics, Asians, American Indians and multirace residents showed a slight decrease.

Politics: The county is still a Republican county, although the GOP lost a couple of thousand

voters last year while the Democrats have added a like number to their rolls. Voter registration as of March 2008 shows: Republican, 61,616; Democrat, 52,640; decline to state, 25,292; American Independent, 3,543; Green, 1,640; Libertarian, 919; Peace and Freedom, 275; and other, 1,749

County government

The County Government Center is at 1055 Monterey St. in San Luis Obispo. County supervisors are Harry Ovitt, District 1; Bruce Gibson, District 2; Jerry Lenthall, District 3; Katcho Achadjian, District 4; and James Patterson, District 5.

The board meets at 9 a.m. most Tuesdays in the County Government Center.

Contact information: To contact county government, visit www.countyofslo.org or call 781-5450.

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COMMUNITY

COUNTY HISTORY

Early culture

The culture of the earliest residents of San Luis Obispo County is unknown.

But by 1585, Salinan Indians inhabited the area north of the Cuesta Grade, and Chumash Indians lived south of the grade and along the coast. The earliest European explorers here were Pedro de Unamuno in 1587 and Rodriguez Cermeño in 1595. Sebastián Vizcaino charted the Central Coast in 1602 and 1603, and the expedition of Gaspar de Portolá and the Franciscan Father Crespi traveled through in 1769.

Lying down missions foundation

Mission San Luis Obispo de Tolosa, the fifth in California's chain, was established by Father Junípero Serra on Sept. 1, 1772. It prospered with help from a rancho established at Santa Margarita in the 1790s. Mission San Miguel was founded July 25, 1797, with ranchos in San Marcos and El Paso de los Robles.

Commerce grows

The founding of the San Luis Obispo Tribune in 1869 by Walter Murray signaled the start of U.S. consolidation in the county. Many new buildings went up.

Dairy farming spread to the North Coast and generated a need for greater maritime commerce. Sea traffic increased, with landings at the People's Wharf, Capt. John Harford's Wharf in Avila Beach, Capt. James Cass' wharf in Cayucos and Sen. George Hearst's wharf in San Simeon.

Attraction of railways and gold

Land transportation improved in the 1870s. Harford began construction of the Pacific Coast Railway in 1872, eventually running a line from his wharf to San Luis Obispo.

It continued south to Arroyo Grande, Los Berros, Nipomo, Central City (now Santa Maria), Los Alamos and Los Olivos.

The success of the railway and a Southern Pacific Railroad line from San Jose sparked a land boom in the 1880s. Several towns, including Templeton and Santa Margarita, were established.

About the same time, the discovery of gold in the eastern part of the county brought a rush of miners to the area.

The railroad came to San Luis Obispo in 1894. The city continued to prosper with the 1901 founding of the vocationally oriented California Polytechnic School.

Beans fuel WWI economy

During World War I, many county farmers turned to the production of navy beans because it was subsidized by the War Relief Administration. The county's economy boomed. When peace brought an end to government subsidies, the county saw an increase in dairy, seed and truck farming. The county also became a leading dairy and produce center.

Hollywood discovered the county in the 1920s, when "The Sheik," "The Ten Commandments" and "Diamond Jim Brady" were filmed here.

The Great Depression

Agricultural diversity shielded the county from the worst of the Great Depression in the 1930s. But difficult times hit job seekers who came from other areas. Photographer Dorothea Lange took her famous photo "Migrant Mother" near a migrant camp on the Nipomo Mesa.

Depression-era federal programs such as the Works Progress Administration and the Civilian Conservation Corps brought a new courthouse, flood-control projects and highway improvements to the county.

Military training camps installed

As World War II began, the U.S. War Department located training camps at Camp Roberts and Camp San Luis Obispo, a naval training base at Morro Bay and a Coast Guard station near Cambria. These camps brought nearly 100,000 military personnel, some with families. Many settled here after the war.

Tourism surges

Though tourism was part of the county's economy from the late 19th century on, the number of visitors grew steadily, with such attractions as clam digging in the Pismo Beach area, the opening of Hearst Castle as a state park in 1958 and a surge in local wineries.

Provided by the San Luis Obispo County Historical Museum.



The success of the Pacific Coast Railway and a Southern Pacific Railroad line sparked a land boom in the 1880s. Left, the railroad depot in San Luis Obispo.

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Enjoy a slice of the SLO life in San Luis Obispo

What it's known for: San Luis Obispo is considered the historic center of the county. It is the county seat and most populated city. Its award-winning downtown features Mission San Luis Obispo de Tolosa, founded by Father Junípero Serra when he dedicated the mission in 1772. Downtown features eclectic shops, chain stores, galleries, restaurants, a creek walk and a renowned Thursday night farmers market with produce, food and entertainment. The city also is home to Cal Poly, which holds the distinction of being the most difficult campus for admission in the California State University system.

Key challenges ahead

Earthquake retrofitting: A jury delivered a wake-up call to owners of unreinforced masonry buildings recently when it awarded \$2 million to survivors

of two women killed in the December 2003 San Simeon Earthquake. The verdict prompted the eviction of two businesses in an earthquake-vulnerable building scheduled for demolition as part of the Chinatown development. The city had 126 unreinforced masonry buildings at the time of the quake. Half of those have been retrofitted, and the remainder are scheduled for retrofit through 2012.

Development: Two large developments are expected to significantly alter the character of downtown. In one of the biggest developments in the history of the city, the Copeland family has proposed building a 67-room hotel, 36 condominiums, and retail and office space in the historic Chinatown district. Meanwhile, a separate development called the Garden Street Terraces project

Please see SLO, Page 10



Artist Cecelia Linayao creates her chalk artwork at the I Madonnari Festival in San Luis Obispo at Mission Plaza last year.

TRIBUNE FILE PHOTO BY JENNINE DUREAU

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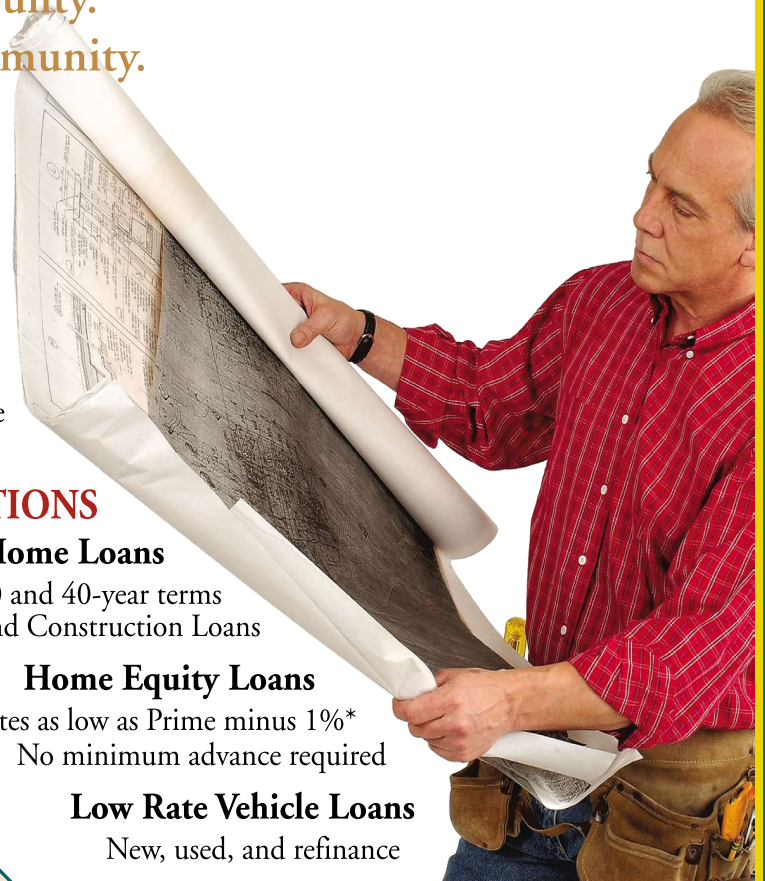
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SLO

From Page 8

calls for a hotel, retail and condominium space of more than an acre.

Growth: The city is planning significant growth along its southern border where three annexations are proposed in the airport, Margarita and Orcutt areas. Much of the development would be residential with open space and some mixed-use commercial areas. The annexations have rekindled a long-standing debate between residents who oppose them as sprawl and those who support them as a means to ease the city's chronic shortage of affordable housing.

Community stats

Population: 44,239

Established: Incorporated in 1856

Origins of name: The city is named after Saint Louis, a 13th-century bishop of Toulouse, France.

Major events: The San Luis Obispo International Film Festival in March, the popular Concerts in the Plaza series Friday nights during summer in Mission Plaza, the SLO Triathlon, the Mozart Festival, Cal Poly's Week of Welcome for new students in September and Cal Poly Open House in spring. The Amgen Tour of Cal-

ifornia professional bike race came through the city for the third year in a row in February.

Major employers: Cal Poly; County of San Luis Obispo; Pacific Gas and Electric Co.; California Men's Colony; the Cal Poly Corp.; San Luis Coastal Unified School District; Cuesta College; Sierra Vista Regional Medical Center; city of San Luis Obispo; French Hospital Medical Center; and American Eagle Airlines.

What locals know: The weather is perfect for outdoor eating almost 10 months out of the year. The intersection of Los Osos Valley and Madonna roads can be a nightmare at noon. Farmers Market downtown is more peaceful and child-friendly during the summer when most Cal Poly students are gone.

Famous residents past and present: Former San Francisco Giants pitcher Mike Krukow; "Weird Al" Yankovic; former Oakland Raiders head coach John Madden; baseball great Ozzie Smith; and mixed martial arts champion Chuck Liddell.

Contact information: City Hall, 990 Palm St., San Luis Obispo, CA 93401; 781-7100; www.slocity.org

City Council: Mayor Dave Romero, Vice Mayor Christine Mulholland. Council members Paul Brown and Andrew Carter and Allen Settle.



Noah Burns, emerges from a human tunnel during 2007's WOW-a-rama at Cal Poly. The idea is to 'break down the inhibitions and posturing that go on as freshmen meet people,' says coordinator Frank Warren.

TRIBUNE FILE PHOTO BY JAYSON MELLOM

Meetings: The City Council meets at 7 p.m. the first and third Tuesday of every month.

On TV: Charter Communications Channel 20 carries live City Council meetings, but only for city residents. They are replayed throughout the week. Replay schedule information and live streaming video are available at www.slocity.org.

Visitor information:

- The Tribune's Web site, www.sanluisobispo.com.
- San Luis Obispo Downtown Association: 1108 Garden St., Suite 210, San Luis Obispo; 541-0286; www.downtownslo.com.
- San Luis Obispo Chamber of Commerce: 1039 Chorro St., San Luis Obispo, CA 93401; 781-2777; www.slochamber.org; www.visitslo.com.

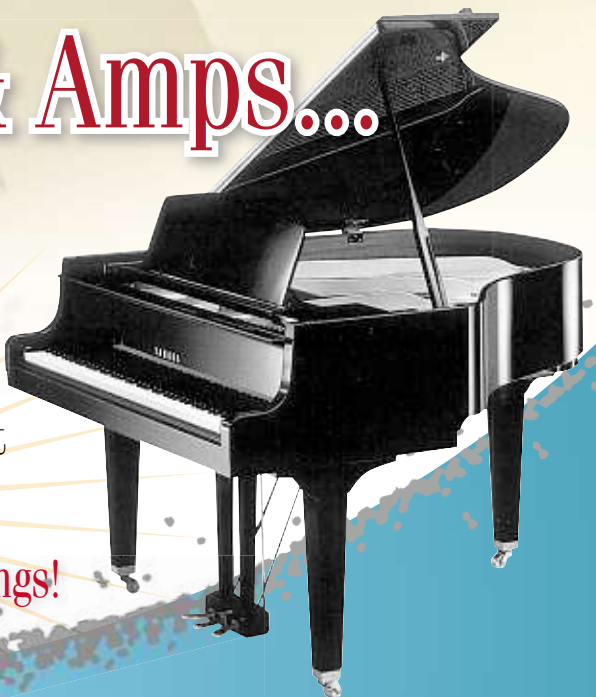
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Paso Robles blooms into a top wine locale

What it's known for: Paso Robles is gaining attention for its burgeoning wine industry. The city is surrounded by vineyards and wineries. It's also the city with underground mineral springs. A sulfur hole ripped open in the Library/City Hall parking lot after the 2003 San Simeon Earthquake. Downtown is the place to go for a movie, shopping or a bite to eat.

Key challenges ahead

Water: The city has signed on to the Nacimiento Water Project but hasn't yet figured out how it will pay for it. A consultant is preparing a report about consumer rate options. The 4,000-acre-feet per year that will come from the project is needed to supplement existing water sources.

Traffic: Traffic volume and subpar service levels on Highway 46 East are a continuing concern for Paso Robles. The city is evaluating options for alternate routes, improving roadway capacity and other improvements while a Caltrans project to improve and widen the highway moves slowly forward.

Planning and the economy: Four major planning efforts are under way, two on the east side — the Chandler Ranch and Olsen/Beechwood developments — and two on the west side — the Town Centre and Up-town plans. With the real estate market in a major slump, development has slowed, and city revenues have been reduced. As a result, spending cuts will take place this year.

Community stats

Population: 29,514

Established: 1857, incorporated 1889

Origin of name: Spanish for "the pass of the oaks." The Salinan Indians and Mission fathers called the city Agua Caliente, or "hot water," for its many natural underground mineral springs.

Major events: California Mid-State Fair, Paso Robles Wine Festival, Pioneer Day and Vine Street Victorian Showcase.



TRIBUNE FILE PHOTO BY JOE JOHNSTON

Milisa Lass, left, pours wine for some tasters at the Robert Hall Winery tasting room in February 2007. In the past 20 years, Paso Robles has transformed itself into one of the nation's leading wine regions, with top quality vineyards, wineries and tasting rooms. As the wine industry continues to bloom, so does the city's number of quality restaurants, hotels and inns.

Major employers: Paso Robles Public Schools, Wal-Mart, Sunbank Electronics, JIT Manufacturing, Zurn/Wilkins, Specialty Silicone Fabricators and Applied Technologies Associates.

What locals know: Vic's and other early morning eateries are the place to find locals and gossip. Roblans eat early and big. The city is full of families who have lived here for generations. If your family has been here for fewer than 50 years or three generations, you'll still be a newcomer. The city is divided by the Salinas River. The west side has older homes and a small-town feel. The east side has more new development and is slightly more suburban.

Famous residents past and present: Ignacy Jan Paderewski, Polish pianist in the early 1900s; King Vidor, MGM film director

from the 1920s to the 1950s; Sean Berry, who played for the Milwaukee Brewers; and Sandy Koufax, who played for the Los Angeles Dodgers.

Contact information: City Hall, 1000 Spring St., Paso Robles, CA 93446. 227-7276. www.prcity.com.

City Council: Mayor Frank Mecham, Mayor Pro Tem Gary Nemeth, council members John Hamon, Duane Picanco and Fred Strong.

Meetings: The City Council meets at 7:30 p.m. on the first and third Tuesday of every month.

Visitor information: Paso Robles Chamber of Commerce and Visitors & Conference Bureau, 1225 Park St., Paso Robles, CA 93446; 238-0506; www.pasorobleschamber.com.

The Tribune Web site at www.sanluisobispo.com.



TRIBUNE FILE PHOTO BY DAVID MIDDLECAMP

Olive oil had their day in the sun at the fourth annual Paso Robles Olive Festival. The August event in City Park includes wine and beer tasting and, of course, olive oil sampling. Above, Olea Farm of Templeton offers samples of olive oil. The popular event was presented by the Paso Robles Main Street Association.

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TRIBUNE FILE PHOTO BY JAYSON MELLOM

Megan Cordes of Cambria rides down La Panza Road with her dog, Gu, during the Wildflower Bicycle Ride in Creston in April.

Creston's character defined by its close-knit qualities

What it's known for: The rural community with Western flavor east of Atascadero has a church, library, post office, cemetery, elementary school, steakhouse, rodeo arena, fire station and general store. Large ranches surround the tiny town.

Key challenges ahead

Development: As large agriculture parcels near the eastern San Luis Obispo County community complete their Williamson contracts, there are concerns about antiquated subdivisions that could come forward in the form of proposed development. Under the Williamson Act, landowners agree not to develop agricultural land in exchange for long-term property tax breaks.

Water: Residents also have concerns about the water table

beneath Creston, and some well owners have had to lower the depth of their wells from 200 feet to 400 feet to get water for their homes and ranches.

Community stats

Population: About 250 residents. (If the outlying ranches and farms are included, the population grows to about 1,600.)

Established: 1884

Origin of name: Can be traced to one of the town's four founders, Thomas Cressi.

Major events: Wildflower Bicycle Ride in April and the Creston Classic Rodeo in September.

Major employers: Creston Elementary School, post office, ranches, restaurants and wineries.

What locals know: It's a

place where residents want to keep the town the way it is: a tiny, close-knit, supportive community. Sunday brunch at The Loading Chute restaurant is a must.

Famous residents past and present: Monte Mills, country singer of the Lucky Horse Show Band; "Jeopardy" game show host Alex Trebek; and L. Ron Hubbard, founder of Church of Scientology, who lived in Creston for a short time before he died. His widow still lives in the area and runs a horse operation.

Contact information: Santa Margarita Area Advisory Council, P.O. Box 627, Santa Margarita, CA 93453; www.smaaonline.org.

Visitor information: Stop by the Creston general store on its main street.

Atascadero emphasizes successes despite Wal-Mart differences

What it's known for: Halfway between San Luis Obispo and Paso Robles, Atascadero is the third-largest city in the county. The community is home to several landmarks, including the historic Rotunda building, Sunken Gardens and Atascadero Lake Park. Civic leaders also are banking on high-profile developments, such as the Colony Square retail plaza, to jump start the city's ambitious downtown revitalization plans.

Key challenges ahead

Development: This year is expected to bring at least two new hotels to Atascadero, an 80-room Holiday Inn Express at 8870 W. Front Road and Fairfield Inn at 9700 El Camino Real. Those new businesses will help attract new tourists lured by the region's wine industry, City Manager Wade McKinney said.

Attracting business: Like other communities, Atascadero has seen a dip in its per-capita sales tax revenue, now the second-lowest in the county. This has created challenges for existing businesses, such as the upscale Carlton Hotel, which recently scaled down its restaurant, and has slowed progress on the planned Colony Square. Many residents worry that the slump could jeopardize public safety and other municipal services. Meanwhile, Wal-Mart officials and developer The Rottman Group are beginning an environmental and economic analysis of a 146,000-square-foot store and 115,000-square-foot strip mall.

Perception: Civic and business leaders are working to bridge the gap between supporters and opponents of large-scale commercial developments such as Wal-Mart. McKinney said the city is looking to draw on its successes, such as the opening of the long-awaited Colony Park Community Center in November, to help bring the divided community together.

Community stats

Population: 27,778

Established: Founder E.G. Lewis established the unincorporated community in 1915; it was formally incorporated in 1979.

Origin of name: Atascadero's name is Spanish for "mud hole."

Major events: Colony Days, Springtime in the Colony, Main Street Music and Winter Wonderland.

Major employers: Atascadero State Hospital, Atascadero Unified School District, city of Atascadero.

What locals know: For scenic driving, locals recommend newcomers drive the rural roads on the east and west sides of the city. Atascadero Lake, off Highway 41 West, is a popular spot.

Famous residents past and present: Former Los Angeles Dodger Sandy Koufax, who lived on River Road in Atascadero from the late 1970s to early 1980s and was a frequent fixture at local diners and coffee shops (he also lived in Paso Robles); and actor Robert Mitchum, who once owned a horse ranch on the east side of the city.

Contact information: City Hall, 6907 El Camino Real, Atascadero, CA 93422; 461-5000; www.atascadero.org.

Council members: Mayor Mike Brenner, Mayor Pro Tem Ellen Beraud, Councilmen Jerry Clay, Tom O'Malley and George Luna.

Meetings: The City Council meets at 7 p.m. the second and fourth Tuesdays of the month.

Visitor information: Atascadero Chamber of Commerce, 6550 El Camino Real, Atascadero, CA 93422; 466-2044; www.atascaderochamber.org. Atascadero Main Street Association, 5901 East Mall, Atascadero, CA 93422; 462-0177; www.atascaderomainstreet.org. The Tribune Web site at www.sanluisobispo.com.

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Templeton savors sophisticated rural charm

What it's known for: Templeton residents enjoy a rural way of life, with wineries and ranches dotting the hillsides. The town sits halfway between Atascadero and Paso Robles.

Key challenges ahead

Growth: Recent years have seen new housing tracts and some commercial development in Templeton. A recently completed shopping center at Vineyard Drive and Rossi Road houses a coffee shop and Trader Joe's, prompting concerns from some residents about traffic at the intersection.

Traffic: The arrival of the popular grocery store and recent expansion at Twin Cities Community Hospital has triggered an increase in traffic in the North County town. Some residents are anxiously awaiting the completion of a \$5.7 million expansion along Vineyard Drive next year.

Community stats

Population: 6,461

Established: 1886

Origin of name: Named after Charles Templeton Crocker, the son of C.F. Crocker, former Southern Pacific Railroad Co. vice president.

Major events: Parade on Main Street and Fire Department Pancake Breakfast on July 4, annual Wine and Roses Bike Ride, Concerts in the Park in the summer, Templeton Education Foundation Denim and Diamonds Dinner, Old Fashioned Threshing Bee and Cowboy Christmas.

Major employers: Twin Cities Community Hospital and Templeton Unified School District.

What locals know: The building inhabited by McPhee's Grill was the first building in Templeton, but it was not built at its current site at 416 S. Main St. The building, which used to be a trading post/store, was moved from Sixth and Main streets in the early 1900s by rolling it down the street on logs.

Famous residents past and present: Jerry Lucas, NBA Hall of Famer formerly of the New York Knicks; Buck Owens, entertainer on the 1970s show



TRIBUNE FILE PHOTO BY JAYSON MELLOM

Dallas Holt and Valerie Benson stir up paella, a Spanish dish, at the fourth annual Pinot and Paella cook-off in Templeton in 2007.

"Hee-Haw"; actor Josh Brolin; actress Minnie Driver; actress Diane Lane; and Terry Hoage, former Washington Redskins football player.

Contact information: Templeton Community Services District, 420 Crocker St., Templeton, CA 93465; 434-4900; www.templetoncsd.org.

CSD Board members: John Gannon, Bob Bergman, David Brooks, Judith Dietch and Kevin Hunt.

Meetings: The board meets the first and third Tuesday of each month at 7 p.m. at the district's board meeting room at 206 Fifth St.

Visitor information: Templeton Chamber of Commerce, P.O. Box 701, Templeton, CA 93465; 434-1789; www.templetonchamber.com.



Kids from Laugh and Learn Preschool scream as loud as they can in anticipation of the Templeton Fourth of July parade last year.

TRIBUNE FILE PHOTO BY NICHOLAUS HULSEBUS

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TRIBUNE FILE PHOTO BY JAYSON MELLOM

Santa Margarita's rural ambience was founded and nurtured through cattle ranching since the state's Gold Rush days. Some residents are worried that the town's legacy could be affected by development plans for the Santa Margarita Ranch. Above, Patrick Wagster works on his family's ranch in 2005.

Santa Margarita faces challenges of growth

What it's known for: This unincorporated community of Santa Margarita, south of Atascadero, boasts a quiet downtown and sprawling homes and ranches nestled on nearby hillsides. Meanwhile, the tiny enclave of Pozo is a favorite for concert-goers who flock to the diverse shows at the Pozo Saloon.

Key challenges ahead

Development: The small community remains split over the proposed 500 new homes for the Santa Margarita Ranch. Developers Doug Filliponi, Rob Rossi and Karl Wittstrom have challenged an environmental impact report unveiled in January that found 11 "significant but unavoidable" effects, a number that the county says is particularly high, including the removal of 200 to 400 oak trees. Charlie Whitney, vice chairman of the Santa Margarita Area Advisory Council, said the matter may come back to the county Planning Commission late this year.

Drainage: The low-lying community faces potentially significant drainage problems in coming years, Whitney said, and talk continues about improving pipelines that deliver water to Santa Margarita. Officials are also looking to buy additional water from the state, he said.

Community stats

Population: 1,338

Established: 1897

Origin of name: Unclear; many say it refers to St. Margaret of Cortona, an Italian nun who helped the sick and those in need.

Major event: Days of the Dons parade.

Major employers: Farms and ranches.

What locals know: The local post office is among the community's most active social spots, longtime residents say, as those living within 20 miles of town do not have at-home mail delivery. Visitors are encouraged to spend a day at Santa Margarita Lake, which offers a boat camp area and trails for hiking, mountain biking and equestrian activities.

Famous residents past and present: Former state Sen. Patrick Murphy bought the Santa Margarita Ranch from founder Joaquin Estrada, and aviator Charles Lindbergh vacationed on a family ranch on Parkhill Road.

Contact information: Santa Margarita Area Advisory Council, P.O. Box 627, Santa Margarita, CA 93453; www.smaac.org.

Meetings: The advisory council meets on the second Wednesday of the month, except in December and July.

Visitor information: Santa Margarita KOA Campground, 4765 Santa Margarita Lake Road, 438-5618; Santa Margarita Lake Regional Park, 788-2397.

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San Miguel's post-earthquake revitalization continues



TRIBUNE FILE PHOTO BY JOE JOHNSTON

Riders participating in the county's 2007 Cruise for Kids drive past the grounds of Mission San Miguel on their way from Paso Robles to Parkfield. The mission, which is the town's landmark, was damaged in the 2003 San Simeon Earthquake. The gift shop and museum are open, but officials are scrambling for money to restore the building.

What it's known for: Mission San Miguel is the town's landmark and in years past would attract about 600,000 visitors annually. But damage from the 2003 San Simeon Earthquake has left the main sanctuary off-limits and officials scrambling for money to restore it. The gift shop and museum are open and Mass is held on mission grounds. The town is a bedroom community for Paso Robles and Camp Roberts.

Key challenges ahead

Downtown improvements and development: Progress was made in 2007 to revitalize the San Miguel downtown business district along Mission Road. New sidewalks and parking were installed. Commercial development is ongoing, including construction of a new bank building.

Mission restoration: Efforts to secure grant funding for restoration of Mission San Miguel continue.

In 2007, a settlement was made with the mission's insurance company over the claim for damages during the 2003 San Simeon Earthquake. This year, continued efforts will be made to pay for the restoration, estimated to cost more than \$15 million.

Housing: Numerous development projects, including the San Miguel Ranch, could change the community dramatically with an influx of more than 1,000 residents. An environmental impact report of the proposed ranch, a 345-home project on 550 acres, could be finished this year.

Community stats

Population: 1,427 (2000 U.S. Census Bureau)

Established: 1797

Origin of name: It comes from Mission San Miguel Arcangel.

Major events: Sagebrush Days, the town's pioneer celebration; May Day school carnival; Mission San Miguel Fiesta; and Festival of Lights during Christmas time.

Major employer: San Miguel School District and Aqua Engineering-Awalt & Son.

What locals know: The Farmers Market on Sunday is the place to go to chat with neighbors and buy fresh produce.

Contact information: San Miguel Community Services District, 1150 Mission St., San Miguel 93451; 467-3388; www.sanmiguelcsd.org.

CSD Board members: President Dale Hamblin; Vice President Gib Buckman; Directors Richard Harrison, Connie Jarvis and Bud Wimer.

Meetings: The board meets every fourth Thursday of the month at 7 p.m.

Visitor information: The San Miguel Resource Connection, www.discoversanmiguel.com.

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Marriage of ranches and wineries in Shandon

What it's known for: A rural community 20 miles east of Paso Robles, Shandon is changing as developers buy vacant land and people seeking affordable housing move in. Farming, ranching and winemaking are what make this community unique.

Key challenge ahead

Development: Shandon is in the midst of a planning process for the future of the rural community, off Highway 46 near San Luis Obispo's eastern boundary.

An environmental review of the Shandon Plan could be complete later this year, according to 1st District Supervisor Harry Ovitt.

The plan looks at increasing services and businesses in the community and also provides suggestions on how to handle housing and growth in Shandon in the future.

Community stats

Population: 1,300

Established: 1885

Origin of name: Originally called Starkey, Shandon was suggested by Dr. John Hughes, supposedly from a story published in Harper's magazine.

Major events: Memorial Day Barbecue at the Crawford W. Clarke Memorial Park and the Halloween open house and barbecue.

Major employers: Shandon Unified School District, local wineries, vineyards and ranches.

What locals know: Shandon is becoming a bedroom community, with people buying affordable housing and commuting to work elsewhere. The population is more than 50 percent Hispanic. Some residents encourage growth, while others are not as positive about the effect it will have on the town's quaint atmosphere.

Famous residents past and present: William P. Clark, national security adviser and secretary of the interior during then-President Ronald Reagan's administration.



TRIBUNE FILE PHOTO BY DAVID MIDDLECAMP

A horse rears its head along Highway 41 near Shandon after a rare morning snowfall in 2005. Ranches and wineries create the town's quaint atmosphere.

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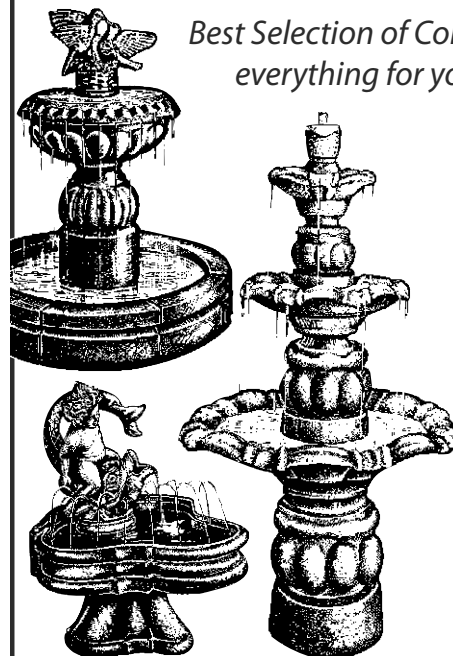
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Find solitude in California Valley's panoramic view

What it's known for: This remote community off Highway 58, about 57 miles northeast of San Luis Obispo and 54 miles southeast of Paso Robles, sits near the Carrizo Plain National Monument. It offers few public services and has a population of about 300 people.

Key challenges ahead

Image: Some residents plan to continue their efforts to clean up parts of California Valley, which has historically been the final resting place for hundreds of derelict cars and substandard mobile homes. Last year, residents worked with county code enforcement officers to remove 320 abandoned cars, some of which were abandoned more than a decade ago.

Community discord: Many California Valley residents remain skeptical of their local elected leaders, prompting repeated accusations of fraud and mismanagement of the lo-

cal community services district. A county jury report released in June found that the agency was beset by amateur mistakes but saw no evidence of illegal conduct.

Community stats

Population: About 300

Established: Developers, some making exaggerated promises, began selling land as "rancheros" in California Valley in the 1960s.

Major employers: With business limited to a small convenience store, many in California Valley commute to jobs elsewhere in the county. The area has also proven popular for retirees and others with outside sources of income.

What locals know: California Valley boasts a level of solitude and uninterrupted views not seen in the rest of the county.

Contact information: California Valley Community Services District, 475-2211.



TRIBUNE FILE PHOTO BY JOE JOHNSTON

A view of California Valley, a remote community, looking west on Highway 58.

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Avila's beach town character quickly on the rise after oil spill

What it's known for: Funky, laid-back Avila Beach is re-emerging from the trauma of having its beach and entire commercial core razed and excavated to clean up an underground oil spill. The cleanup took place from 1998 to 2000, and the town is rapidly rising in a denser and more upscale fashion.

Key challenges ahead

Development: The beach town is still rebuilding after Unocal conducted a massive underground oil cleanup that saw the entire commercial center of the town razed. The cleanup was completed in 2000, and the town has been slowly rebuilt. John Wallace, general manager of the Avila Beach Community Services District, estimates that about 65 percent of the town is rebuilt. Some lots remain empty, and an affordable housing apartment complex is not yet finished.

Tank farm: Chevron is deciding the future of the oil tank farm that sits atop bluffs overlooking the town. The oil tanks have been removed, but the site, while offering spectacular views of the surrounding coastline, is heavily polluted with oil



TRIBUNE FILE PHOTO BY DAVID MIDDLECAMP

Brian Zelenke and son Ethan write in the wet sand at Avila Beach.

in some parts. Chevron has hired developer Rob Rossi to come up with a proposal. Ideas include turning the site into a park and building a convention center or some other development.

Parking: Finding a parking spot in Avila Beach during the hectic summer months is a perennial problem. Port San

Luis Harbor District operates the main parking lot in the town. "During peak times it can be difficult to find parking in Avila, but I think we are a lot better off than other beach towns in California," said Casey Nielsen, port operations manager. An Avila parking task force has been named to look at solutions.

Community stats

Population: About 1,180 (including Avila Valley)

Established: 1867

Origin of the name: The town was named for Miguel Avila, a corporal at the mission in San Luis Obispo and a Spanish land grantee.

Major employers: Most jobs are related to tourism. The town is also near the entrance to Diablo Canyon nuclear power plant, a major employer in the county.

What locals know: The area has the nicest weather of any local beach town. It faces south, and warm air from the surrounding Irish Hills keeps fog to a minimum.

Contact information: Avila Beach Community Services District, 191 San Miguel St., Avila Beach, CA 93424; 595-2664; avilacsd@aol.com.

CSD Board members: President Christopher Helenius; Vice President Pete Kelly; board members Perris Bernardo, Terry Brown and Tom Guernsey.

Meetings: The board meets the second Tuesday of each month at 7 p.m.

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For a 1950s coastal experience, head to Pismo Beach

What it's known for: This seven-mile-long city is known for its breathtaking stretch of coastline, pier, boardwalk, surfing, kayaking, horseback riding and seafood restaurants.

Key challenges ahead

Parking: The City Council has unanimously passed a controversial parking management plan, which has the following goals: to efficiently administer parking, provide more parking to support future demand, improve enforcement, improve financial operations related to parking and establish a financing program for future parking. The California Coastal Commission says it has jurisdiction over the parking areas and has threatened the city if it goes forward with its plan.

Housing programs: The city's Redevelopment Agency board recently passed a five-year implementation plan on very low,

low- and moderate-income housing programs. The plan includes a first-time home buyer program, which will assist low- to moderate-income residents with their down payments. The board also approved a home improvement program aimed at very low- and low-income homeowners, assisting them with home repairs that affect health and safety conditions.

Taxes: The City Council must determine whether to go forward with a half-cent sales tax increase ballot initiative. A 2006 sales tax ballot initiative was narrowly defeated. The council will have to weigh the pros and cons of a sales tax increase and how an additional \$1 million a year in revenues could be used.

Community stats

Population: 8,545

Established: 1891

Incorporated: 1939; unincorporated, 1940; reincorporated in 1946.

Origin of name: The city is said to be named after "pismu," the Chumash word for the tar-like substance found on local beaches.

Major events: Clam Festival, St. Anthony's Festival and car shows.

Major employers: Hotels and restaurants.

What locals know: The best clam chowder in town is at Splash Café on Pomeroy Avenue and Cypress Street.

Contact information: City Hall, 760 Mattie Road, Pismo Beach, CA 93449; 773-4657; www.pismo-beach.org.

City Council: Mayor Mary Ann Reiss, Pro Tem Mayor Shelly Higginbotham. Councilmen Ted Ehring, Bill Rabenaldt and Kris Vardas.

Meetings: The City Council meets at 4:30 p.m. the first and third Tuesdays of the month.

On TV: Council meetings are



The Pismo Beach Pier offers unparalleled views of the sunset.

TRIBUNE FILE PHOTO BY JOE JOHNSTON

broadcast on Charter Communications Channel 20 at 9 a.m., 6 p.m. and 1 a.m.

Visitor information: Pismo Beach Conference & Visitors

Bureau, 581 Dolliver St., Pismo Beach, CA 93449; 773-4382; www.classicalcalifornia.com. The Tribune Web site at www.sanluisobispo.com.

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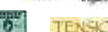
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Grover Beach: More than an entry to the dunes

What it's known for: This small city is one of the more affordable places to live for people who want homes near the beach. The main road, Grand Avenue, ends at the access point where people can get to the sand dunes with their off-road vehicles. It also has the only train depot in the South County.

Key challenges ahead

Economic development: Fostering existing local business and bringing more businesses to the city is a priority for Grover Beach, as well as getting a long-term economic strategy in place. The city plans to deepen and expand the local economy by adding more jobs and sales tax revenues. Progress has been made with planning for the much talked about Beachfront Lodge and Conference Center and Hilton Garden Inn, which Mayor John Shoals says are keys to

boosting the city's tax revenues.

Infrastructure: Grover Beach will spend nearly \$1 million on street repairs this year, but the city has more than \$40 million in needed road fixes. It is developing a long-term funding strategy for its streets. The city also is working toward completing the Grand Avenue Bridge, Grand Avenue storm drain project and the South County transit hub project, City Manager Bob Perault said.

Resources: The November 2006 passage of the sales tax measure, which increased the tax to 7.75 percent from 7.25 percent, was a help to the city. But a slowing local economy will limit revenues over the next couple of years, challenging the city's ability to deliver basic services, officials said.

Community stats

Population: 13,085



Members of the Taiko Center of Los Angeles perform traditional Japanese drumming at Stone Soup Ethnic Music Faire in Grover Beach.

TRIBUNE FILE PHOTO BY DAVID MIDDLECAMP

Established: 1887

Origin of name: D.W. Grover, a lumber man from Santa Cruz who founded the town. Originally called the City of Grover City, residents in 1992 voted to change the name to Grover Beach.

Major events: Stone Soup

Ethnic Music Faire, Dune Run Run, Off-Highway Vehicle Show, Holiday Parade and the Sizzlin' Summer Concert Series.

Major employers: City of Grover Beach, Vons, Miner's Ace Hardware and the construction industry.

What locals know: For beach

access, take the boardwalk that winds through eucalyptus groves and dunes to Pismo Beach.

City Council: Mayor John Shoals; Mayor Pro Tem William Nicolls; council members Chuck Ashton, Karen Bright and Stephen Lieberman.

Meetings: The City Council meets at 6:30 p.m. the first and third Mondays of each month. If Monday is a holiday, meetings are usually the next day.

On TV: Regular council meetings and some special meetings are broadcast live through Charter Communications Channel 20 and replayed throughout the week at 1 a.m., 9 a.m. and 6 p.m. The following week, the meetings are replayed Thursdays and Sundays at the same times.

Visitor information: Grover Beach Chamber of Commerce, 180 Highway 1, Grover Beach, CA 93433; 489-9091; www.groverchamber.com.

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Oceano takes the starring role of recreational fun

What it's known for: The coastal community continues to boast the lowest housing costs for a beach town in San Luis Obispo County. Although Oceano is small, it is used as the gateway to the Oceano Dunes State Vehicular Recreation Area by thousands of tourists each year. Visitors and locals flock to the Dunes to drive on the only beach in California that allows off-road vehicles.

Key challenges ahead

Flooding: The most significant challenge facing the community is the reduction of extensive flooding during rain, which has a substantial negative effect on residents. The Oceano Community Services District's board of directors intends to work with the county Board of Supervisors to obtain results in this chronic problem area.

Affordable housing: Development of an effective mobile-

home conversion ordinance by the county Board of Supervisors is crucial to the many senior citizen and low-income residents of Oceano, who depend on mobile-home parks as an affordable-housing alternative.

Oceano Dunes: Mitigation of the adverse effects of the Oceano Dunes State Vehicular Recreation Area, particularly the effects on emergency services and traffic congestion, is a challenge as well.

Community stats

Population: 7,877

Established: 1893

Origin of name: Developers reportedly first chose Deltina, then changed it to Oceano.

Major employers: Pismo Oceano Vegetable Exchange, Lucia Mar Unified School District and local farms.

What locals know: The Oceano Lagoon, off Pier Street, is home to dozens of ducks and

geese who always seem to be ready for a treat.

Famous residents past and present: Gavin Arthur, grandson of President Chester Alan Arthur; and the Varian brothers, inventors of the tube used in radar.

Contact information: Oceano Community Services District, 1655 Front St., Oceano, CA 93475; 481-6730; www.nvo.com/oceanocsd.

CSD Board members: President Jim Hill, Vice President Bill Bookout and board members Pamela Dean, Vern Dahl and Barbara Mann.

Meetings: The board meets at 6:30 p.m. the second and fourth Wednesday of each month in the district meeting room.

On TV: The sessions are broadcast on Charter Communications Channel 21 and are also available on the Internet at www.slo-span.org. Copies of tapes are available at libraries.



Riders take to the Oceano Dunes State Vehicular Recreation Area. Visitors and locals flock to the Dunes to drive on the only beach in California that allows off-road vehicles.

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Arroyo Grande exudes a family-friendly lifestyle

What it's known for: Arroyo Grande cultivates a small-town, family-friendly culture. Branch Street serves as the main street though the Arroyo Grande Village, a charming array of historic buildings that house various shops and restaurants.

Key challenges ahead

Road improvements: The city must get the go-ahead to move forward with proposed improvements to the Brisco Road/Halcyon Road and Highway 101 interchange.

"This has been identified as the highest priority capital improvement need for the city," City Manager Steve Adams said. "Existing deficiencies not only severely restrict mobility for residents and visitors, but also impact emergency response capabilities and serve as a barrier to projects important to meeting regional needs."

The city has developed a proposal for widening the underpass and auxiliary lane and ramp improvements. It is prepared to pay for a substantial portion of the project with revenues generated by the local sales tax, Adams said. However, the project can only move forward upon the approval from Caltrans for proposed improvements and approval from the San Luis Obispo Council of Governments for supplemental state funding.

Water: The city also must address its water needs. "It has been determined that additional water supply is necessary in order to meet long-term needs consistent with the city's General Plan," Adams said. The city is working with the city of Grover Beach and Oceano Community Services District on a feasibility study regarding construction of a desalination plant. Water conservation efforts are being expanded, and other options are being studied.

City funding: The decline of sales tax revenues and property tax growth will make it a challenge to meet the financial needs of the city.

Local sales tax money will continue to generate revenue to fund a variety of infrastructure needs, but funding ongoing operational services and programs will be a challenge, Adams said. The city is continuing to develop and pursue a number of cost control and efficiency strategies, he said.

Community stats

Population: 16,759

Established: 1862; incorporated in 1911

Origin of name: Arroyo Grande is Spanish for "big ditch," which refers to the path-



TRIBUNE FILE PHOTO BY JAYSON MELLOM

Robert Brewer, left, and Emily Myhre sell strawberries for the Village Improvement Association at the Strawberry Festival in Arroyo Grande.

way cut by Arroyo Grande Creek through the Village.

Major events: Harvest Festival, Strawberry Festival and Christmas in the Village.

Major employers: Arroyo Grande Community Hospital, Lucia Mar Unified School District and the retail sector.

What locals know: Arroyo Grande is home to the South County's only performing arts center, the Clark Center at Arroyo Grande High School.

Famous residents past and present: Lou Ferrigno (TV's "The Hulk"), former Major League Baseball player Robin Ventura, former NBA player Horace Grant and saxophonist Greg Smith, who played for the Eagles.

Contact information: Arroyo Grande City Hall, 214 E. Branch St., Arroyo Grande, CA 93420; 473-5400; www.arroyogrande.org.

City Council: Mayor Tony Ferrara, Mayor Pro Tem Ed Arnold, Councilmen Jim Guthrie, Chuck Fellows and Joe Costello.

Meetings: The City Council meets at 7 p.m. the second and fourth Tuesdays of each month at 215 E. Branch St.

On TV: Meetings are televised live on Charter Communications Channel 20 and then rebroadcast each day for one week at 9 a.m., 6 p.m. and 1 a.m., and the following Thursday and Sunday at 6 p.m. Public education programs and an ongoing bulletin board providing information on city services and programs also are aired on Channel 20.

Visitor information: Arroyo Grande Chamber of Commerce, 800 W. Branch St., Arroyo Grande, CA 93420; 489-1488; www.arroyograndecc.com. The Tribune Web site at www.sanluisobispo.com.

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Nipomo's allure produces growing pains on the Mesa

What it's known for: The longtime rural community is one of the fastest-growing places in the county. For years, people have been peddling their wares and looking for bargains at the Nipomo Swap Meet. The town is experiencing growing pains as it tries to create roads and water sources for new residents.

Key challenges ahead

Water: The lack of water will continue to be a challenge for Nipomo, said Bruce Buel, Nipomo Community Services District's general manager. The dramatic drop in groundwater levels in 2006 prompted the county Board of Supervisors to certify a Level of Severity III, the highest level of concern, for the Nipomo Mesa water supply.

The supervisors are considering a retrofit ordinance for new construction and existing residences upon change of ownership. The Nipomo services district is considering emergency water shortage regulations, and it has proposed a water pipeline with Santa Maria and a desalination facility. Construction of the pipeline could start by 2009, but a desalination facility could be up to 12 years away.

Willow Road: Nipomo is working toward a \$26 million freeway interchange on Highway 101. The interchange likely won't start construction until 2012, said Dale Ramey, a county transportation project manager. The extension of Willow Road from the west to Highway 101 and continuing past the freeway east to Thompson Avenue, will cost an estimated \$20 million in addition to the interchange work.

The county has about \$6 million to spend on the project, and it is seeking additional funding from sources, including a community facilities district, road impact fees and a parcel tax, Ramey said. Designs and land purchases associated with the project are under way.

Upgrade of sewer system: The district is seeking a \$12 million upgrade of its plant in a first phase to help meet Regional Water Quality Control Board requirements, services district President Mike Winn said. The sewer is nearing 100 percent capacity.

Growth: The residential growth in Nipomo in the past several years is a concern for many residents, Winn said. The growth is because of relatively cheaper housing and Nipomo's proximity to Santa Maria, which offers jobs, national retailers and other economic draws. The real challenge is how to take



TRIBUNE FILE PHOTO BY JAYSON MELLOM

Yesteryears members Cinthia Harper and David Weidner perform La Varsuvian, an early California dance, at the eighth annual Rancho Nipomo Dana Adobe Heritage Day last year.

additional grow without losing the rural character of the community that residents enjoy, Winn said.

Community stats

Population: 14,700

Established: 1882

Origin of name: Nipomo comes from the Chumash word "nepomha," meaning "at the foot of the hill."

Major events: Rancho Nipomo Dana Adobe Heritage Days and Nipomo Chamber of Commerce's October Festival.

Major employers: Nurseries, greenhouses and growers; All Season's Flowers LLC; Blacklake Golf Resort; Lucia Mar Unified School District; Tosco Distribution Pipeline Co.; Sav-on; and Vons.

What locals know: Avoid Tefft Street during rush hour. Take a picnic to the Dana Adobe and experience Nipomo the same way as its founder, Capt. William Dana.

Famous residents past and present: The subject of Dorothea Lange's famous "Migrant Mother" photograph lived at a camp in Nipomo during the Great Depression.

Contact information: Community Services District, 148 S. Wilson St., P.O. Box 326, Nipomo, CA 93444; 929-1133; <http://nipomocsd.com>.

CSD Board members: President Mike Winn; Vice President Larry Vierheilig; Directors Ed Eby, Cliff Trotter and Jim Harrison.

Meetings: The board meets at 9 a.m. the second and fourth Wednesday of the month at the district board room.

Visitor information: Nipomo Chamber of Commerce, 671 W. Tefft St., No. 8, P.O. Box 386, Nipomo, CA 93444; 929-1583; www.nipomochamber.org.



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Despite a sewer struggle, Los Osos remains a natural beauty by the bay

What it's known for: Tucked into the southern tip of Morro Bay, Los Osos, Baywood Park and Cuesta-by-the-Sea blend together into a town most people call Los Osos. The community has gained statewide notoriety for its decades-long battle over a sewer project, but that struggle has been a mixed blessing — a sewer-related building moratorium keeps the town looking and feeling much like it did 30 years ago.

Key challenges ahead

Bankruptcy: The Los Osos Community Services District needs to come up with millions of dollars to pay contractors, lawyers and state and regional water boards while maintaining city services. Inability to pay fines from state water-quality regulators and contractors forced the town to file for bankruptcy protection in August 2006 to find a way to pay off an estimated \$45 million in debt. That makes Los Osos the largest special district bankruptcy in state history.

Sea water intrusion: Services district officials will work with water purveyors and the county to prevent sea water intrusion into the water basin, to develop a basinwide recharge plan and to identify other potential threats to water. Local groups have started holding events to help residents understand the benefit of low-flow fixtures in their homes and businesses and the importance of overall water conservation.

Community stats

Population: 14,842

Established: 1842

Origin of name: Los Osos is Spanish for "the bears," a name that recalls a time when grizzly bears were so common in the county that early settlers referred to them as a nuisance and built scarecrows to keep them away.

Major events: Taste of the South Bay, Law Enforcement Barbecue for Special Olympics, Memorial Day Celebration, Family Fest, Mozart Fringe Concert on



Scouts salute the American flag during Veterans Day ceremonies at Los Osos Memorial Park.

TRIBUNE FILE PHOTO BY JAYSON MELLOM

the Bay, Oktoberfest, Community Harvest Festival, Veterans Day Celebration and Holiday Parade.

Major employers: Retailers

What locals know: Noi's Little Thai Takeout at 1288 Second St. in Baywood Park is a favorite Thai restaurant. It has limited hours, so call ahead at 528-6647. Los Osos is also the entrance to Montaña de Oro State Park.

Contact information: Los Osos Community Services District, 2122 Ninth St.; P.O. Box 6064, Los Osos, CA 93412; 528-9370; www.losososcsd.org.

CSD District board: President Chuck

Cesena; Vice President Joe Sparks; and members Lisa Schicker, Steve Senet and Julie Tacker.

Meetings: The board meets at 7 p.m. the first Thursday of the month at the South Bay Community Center. It also holds special meetings.

On TV: Regular and special meetings are broadcast on Charter Communications Channel 20 throughout the week.

Visitor information: The Los Osos/Baywood Park Chamber of Commerce & Visitors Center, 781 Palisades Ave., P.O. Box 6282, Los Osos, CA 93412; 528-4884; www.losososbaywoodpark.org.

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Morro Bay repositions itself as a tourist destination



TRIBUNE FILE PHOTO BY JAYSON MELLOM

Hayli Krasowski chases a kite flown by her mom, Kersti, at the Kite Festival in Morro Bay in April.

What it's known for: Morro Rock is an iconic landmark of the Central Coast. Of course, no picture of the town would be complete without the three tall stacks of the more than 50-year-old power plant that sits at the edge of the town's shop-filled waterfront district or the beaches that stretch for miles north past the town's limits.

Key challenges ahead

Tourism: Once known for its booming fishing industry that heavily supplemented the city's budget, the town has increasingly moved toward promoting tourism. The Morro Bay Chamber of Commerce works heavily with local businesses to encourage residents to shop locally and invite guests for major celebrations such as the annual Fourth of July festivities. In 2007, the chamber hosted a Kite Festival and an Avocado and Margarita Festival as a way to draw tourists.

General fund: City officials are constantly looking for ways to boost revenue to pay for city services. Some of the City Council's ideas include a possible ballot

measure that would increase the transient occupancy (bed) tax for local lodging properties and possibly contracting city services with County/Cal Fire.

Community stats

Population: 10,436

Established: 1870

Origin of name: Portuguese explorer Juan Rodriguez Cabrillo sailed past the bay in 1542 and named the 576-foot-high rock "El Morro," which translates loosely to "the rounded rock."

Major events: Winter Bird Festival, tall ship visits, Celebrate Morro Bay Parade, Cruisin' Morro Bay car show, Art in the Park, Merchants Street Faire, Harbor Festival, Lighted Boat Parade and holiday tree lighting.

Major employers: Hotel and restaurant industries, health care and retail.

What locals know: Before the land bridge between Morro Rock and the mainland was built in the 1930s, the easternmost side of the Rock was dynamited off and used to build the Port San Luis

breakwater, the Morro Bay jetties, homes and other structures.

Famous residents past and present: Fitness legends Jack and Elaine LaLanne and former state Sen. and retired Los Angeles police Chief Ed Davis.

Contact information: City Hall, 595 Harbor St., Morro Bay, CA 93442; 772-6200; www.morro-bay.ca.us.

City Council: Mayor Janice Peters; council members Rick Grantham, Melody DeMeritt, William Peirce and Betty Winholtz.

Meetings: The City Council meets at 5 p.m. the second and fourth Monday of the month in the City Hall conference room at 595 Harbor St.

On TV: City Council and special meetings are broadcast on Charter Communications Channel 20 throughout the week at various times.

Visitor information: Morro Bay Chamber of Commerce, 845 Embarcadero Road, Suite D, Morro Bay, CA 93442; 772-4467 or 800-231-0592; www.morrobay.org. The Tribune Web site at www.sanluisobispo.com.

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Cayucos' beach-town feel provides a great hideaway

What it's known for: Cayucos has been a popular vacation spot for people drawn by its stunning ocean vistas and small-town atmosphere. A growing number of retirees are also flocking to the area, boosting the real estate market. The town's population swells tenfold for the annual Fourth of July extravaganza.

Key challenges ahead

Parking: Local businesses are struggling for additional parking spots in the commercial areas of the town, according to Bill Shea, Cayucos Chamber of Commerce president. A special committee will assess parking needs and determine the best options for businesses.

Volunteer firefighters: A lack of volunteer firefighters could lead the Cayucos Fire District to seek a tax increase to boost its staffing budget. Three of the district's part-time officers have been

overseas with the California National Guard, and there are seven volunteers — compared to the 24 volunteers recommended by the district's board.

Fourth of July: Shea hopes the community can continue the success of last year's Fourth of July celebrations. However, local officials will push for extra enforcement on the beach to maintain safety.

Community stats

Population: About 3,000

Established: 1875 by Capt. James Cass.

Origin of name: The name Cayucos comes from the Spanish word "cayuco," meaning a fishing canoe. It's the Spanish version of the word "kayak."

Major events: Carlin Soule Memorial Polar Bear Dip on New Year's Day; Seafood Festival; Peddler's Faire; Fourth



Chad Jackson boosts an air, which he landed, during the Pro Am division of the Morro Bay Surf Co.'s annual triple-crown surf competition in Cayucos.

TRIBUNE FILE PHOTO BY JOE JOHNSTON

of July parade, sand sculpture contest and Fourth of July fireworks show; Gem Show; Cayucos Car Show; and Cayucos Wine & Food Festival.

Major employers: Cayucos Elementary School District, area hotels and restaurants.

What the locals know: Locals visit Kelleys Espresso & Desserts on Ocean Avenue for a dose of morning gossip. Cayucos' community atmosphere yields lots of unexpected attractions, such as a dog parade and the town's many public

murals.

Contact information: Cayucos Citizens Advisory Council, P.O. Box 781, Cayucos, CA 93430; www.cayucosccac.org.

Meetings: Monthly meetings are held the first Wednesday of each month at 7 p.m. at the Cayucos Veterans Memorial Lions Hall at the foot of the pier.

Visitor information: Cayucos Chamber of Commerce, P.O. Box 346, Cayucos, CA 93430; 935-1200; www.cayucoschamber.com.

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Living a quaint life is a virtue in the town of Harmony

What it's known for: This tiny town served as the dairy hub for San Luis Obispo County starting in 1869. Harmony Valley Creamery Association formed in 1909. In the creamery's peak year of 1936, about 400 dairymen countywide shipped 500,000 pounds of cheese and 2 million pounds of butter to San Francisco through the co-op in Harmony and an auxiliary plant in San Luis Obispo. Now, Harmony is an art colony and quaint tourist destination.

Key challenges ahead

Business activity: The first wedding ceremony in several years was held in the Harmony Chapel on Dec. 29. In April, Geary Whiting Shiatsu Massage for Humans and Horses, the first new business in the tiny town in years, opened next to the circa-1914 post office.

Noted glass artist Eric Dan-

durand has leased a former Harmony garage, where Phoenix Glass operated for 20 years, and hopes to open his glass-blowing studio there in March. Another entrepreneur wants to rent the former Backroads Craft Gallery site next door.

John Shoenstein's Harmony Pottery Works has been here for more than 30 years, and Harmony Winery is on the hill above downtown.

Restoration: The Meh-dizadeah family of Calyork Development Corp. in Southern California owns downtown Harmony. Some repair work must be done to the town's historic buildings and nearby creek bank before some units can be rented. Some Harmony enthusiasts have formed a historical society to preserve photos, records and memories.

Limited size: Harmony spans 2.5 acres 18 residents residents

calling the tiny town home. Homes and ranches also dot some nearby hills.

Community stats

Population: In the early 1970s, Harmony got its first official census sign at the edge of town, which read "Pop. 18." That number apparently hasn't changed since then.

Established: About 1869, when Excelsior Cheese Factory built the town's first creamery building.

Origin of name: Legend says that after a dispute over an access road turned bloody, residents reconciled and built the Harmony Valley School in 1875. The town took its name from the school, which no longer exists.

Major employers: The two main businesses are Harmony Pottery and the boutique, Harmony Cellars winery.



A couple of cows enjoy an afternoon meal in the tranquility of Harmony. The town has only 18 residents, according to the 2000 Census.

TRIBUNE FILE PHOTO BY JOE JOHNSTON

What the locals know: Wine-making is not a new occupation in Harmony. Winery owner Kim Mulligan's grandfather, Giacomo Barloggio — a director of the old creamery cooperative in "downtown" Harmony — used to make homemade wine in his

basement. The winery now sits on part of his original land holdings, which have been in Mulligan's family for four generations.

Visitor information: www.harmonyca.com or www.beachcalifornia.com/harmony.

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Artists' colony thrives in idyllic Cambria

What it's known for: Cambria's pine tree-covered hills reach the rocky seashore. Fiscalini Ranch Preserve offers midtown hikes along the ocean bluff and in the forest, and people stroll on the recently lengthened Moonstone Beach boardwalk. Cambria has been a noted artists' colony since the mid-1940s. The historic East Village, top-quality restaurants, galleries and shops attract many visitors.

Key challenges ahead

Water supply: With two new, larger water tanks on line at the Pine Knolls site, the Cambria Community Services District is seeking permits to move the central "water yard" and expand water storage at the Stuart Street site. The district will again try to get community approval for higher water and sewage-treatment rates. It continues the struggle to research and get permission to build a desalination plant to ensure that residents and firefighters have enough water.

Controlling growth: The services district wants to limit the number of lots that will get water and sewer services so that a new water supply, such as a desalination plant, won't nudge the town into growing beyond its other resources. One plan would remove development rights from those parcels that won't be served, which officials say is key to getting state approval for a desalination plant.

Other key issues: Other key issues in Cambria include improving cell-phone service and finding money to provide other services, such as requirements of an aging population and managing the Monterey pine forest that laces through the town. With steep housing and living costs, service employees have a tough time living where they work.

Community stats

Population: 6,515

Established: The Cambria Post Office was recorded Jan. 10, 1870.

Origin of name: A topic of ongoing debate. The area likely was named Cambria in 1869 by surveyor/attorney/newspaper publisher Peter Aloysius Forrester, who said it reminded him of Cambria County, Pa., where he'd lived. Another account says Cambria was named after the Roman name for Wales.

Major events: Art and Wine Festival, Chili Cook-Off, Garden Tour, Heritage Day, Kitchen Tour, Greenspace Art Auction, Pinedorado, Octoberfest, Holidays in the Pines and free children's party in December.

What locals know: One of the area's nicest hikes starts in a day-use area off



TRIBUNE FILE PHOTO BY NICHLAUS HULSEBUS

Courtney Castle and Luther Gennert work the lemonade stand, providing refreshments to the crowd at the Cambria's annual Heritage Day. The popular event features live music, games and a barbecue.

Highway 1 north of San Simeon Creek Road. A state park boardwalk meanders around a coastal meadow and up into the Monterey pine forest.

Famous residents past and present: Catherine Ryan Hyde, author of "Pay It Forward"; Peter Horton, star of TV's "thirtysomething"; Baroness Olga van Root Hammer, Russian opera star and wife of Armand Hammer; state Sen. Elmer Rigdon, responsible for the initial planning and funding for Highway 1 between Cambria and Carmel.

Contact information: Cambria Community Services District, 1316 Tamson Drive, No. 201, Cambria, CA 93428; 927-6223; www.cambriacsd.org.

CSD Board members: President Ilan Funke-Bilu; Vice President Joan Cobin; and members Greg Sanders, Don Villeneuve and Peter Chaldecott. Contact them through the district's clerk, Kathy Choate, at 927-6233 or e-mail board@cambriacsd.org.

Meetings: The board meets at 12:30 p.m. on the fourth Thursday of each month at the Veterans Memorial Building at 1000 Main St.

Visitor information: Cambria Chamber of Commerce, 767 Main St., 93428; 927-3624; www.cambriachamber.org. The Tribune Web site at www.sanluisobispo.com



TRIBUNE FILE PHOTO BY DAVID MIDDLECAMP

Pat Moreno of the Cambria Garden Club passes out roses, which were donated by Eufloria Flowers, at the Pinedorado parade in Cambria in September.

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TRIBUNE FILE PHOTO BY JOE JOHNSTON

Seagulls hunt for food among the windswept kelp beds just north of San Simeon.

San Simeon: Castle country

What it's known for: San Simeon is at the edge of the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary. Old San Simeon Village includes Sebastian's Store, a state historic monument and the historic Pacific School. The two tiny communities about four miles apart on Highway 1 are gateways to Hearst Castle, a large colony of elephant seals south of Piedras Blancas, the Piedras Blancas lighthouse and Big Sur. The "southern" end of San Simeon was developed in the 1940s. Residents there are mostly retired.

Key challenges ahead

Sewage treatment: Repairs are under way at the town's aging sewage treatment plant. Water quality violations at the plant in recent years have cost the San Simeon Community Services District's ratepayers — fewer than 210 accounts — more than \$200,000 in state-levied fines. The district could invest some of that money in a plant upgrade, which would treat wastewater to a level at which it could be used to irrigate landscaping. However, district officials say that "tertiary" system would be more costly than the fines.

Water supply: The district must find more water before it can lift a building moratorium that's been in place since April 1988. It is also researching how to raise rates to cover costs of the upgrades.

Rip-rap trouble: The district is negotiating with the California Coastal Commission about rip-rap placed on the shore in the past couple of decades to protect the pipe that carries treated wastewater into the ocean.

Community stats

Population: About 470

Established: Unincorporated village established in mid-1860s. The post office was established Aug. 9, 1878.

Origin of name: San Simeon Point, San Simeon Bay and San Simeon Creek. Among the first mentions of the name are two documents in Santa Barbara Mission archives from 1819.

Major events: Sunset at San Simeon fundraiser for Friends of the Elephant Seal in March and Friends of Hearst Castle events, including the Enchanted Evening in September and the Holiday Feast in early December. Tours of Piedras Blancas Light Station are monthly.

What locals know: See zebra grazing occasionally on Hearst Ranch property along the highway. Monarch butterflies roost in Old San Simeon Village in the mid-winter. There's easy access to a wide, lovely beach at the west end of Pico Avenue.

Famous residents past and present: Sen. George Hearst, wife Phoebe Apperson Hearst and son William Randolph Hearst.

Numbers to know: San Simeon Community Services District, 111 Pico Ave., San Simeon, CA 93452; 927-4778; www.sansimeoncsd.com.

CSD Board members: Chairman Terry Lambeth; Vice Chairman John Russell; Directors Alan Fields, Dee Dee Ricci and Ralph McAdams.

Meetings: The board meets at 6 p.m. the second Wednesday of every month at the Cavalier banquet room, 9415 Hearst Drive.

Visitor information: San Simeon Chamber of Commerce, 250 San Simeon Ave., Suite 3A., San Simeon; 927-3500; www.sansimeonchamber.org. The Tribune Web site at www.sanluisobispo.com

Culture, curiosities and lots of character

Scenery is one of the many things that make the Central Coast unique. Beyond the rugged coastline and beautiful sunsets are a wealth of places to go and things to do that fit almost every taste and budget.

Hearst Castle, probably the county's most popular attraction, is an incredible sight with its architecture and art collection. Smaller attractions, such as the Morro Bay Aquarium, are generally inexpensive and make excellent day trips.

Here are some destinations for a day in San Luis Obispo County:

Apple Farm Millhouse. Picturesque working millhouse with a 14-foot water wheel. Lavish gardens and patios, plus tours of the elegant country Victorian inn rooms. Homemade ice cream available. 2015 Monterey St., San Luis Obispo. 544-2040, 800-255-2040 or www.applefarm.com/millhouse.

Avila Valley Barn. 560 Avila Beach Drive. An array of fresh fruits, vegetables, homemade sweets, pastries and ice cream. For a taste of the farm experience, Avila Valley Barn offers "u-pick" fruits, berries and veggies and a chance to give treats to its farm animals. Open seasonally from May 12 to Dec. 24; 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. until the end of October, and 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. through Dec. 24. 595-2810. www.avilavalleybarn.com.

Avila Valley Hot Springs Spa and RV Resort. A freshwater swimming pool and separate mineral pool heated to 105 degrees are open to the public year-round. 250 Avila Beach Drive, San Luis Obispo. 595-2359. www.avilahotsprings.com.

Bubblegum Alley. It's colorful and sticky and has been a San Luis Obispo landmark for more than 40 years. You don't need any money to see this oddity, but it's best to come prepared with chomping jaws and your favorite pack of gum so you can add a piece to the wall. Between Broad and Chorro streets.

Charles Paddock Zoo. Established in 1955, the Charles Paddock Zoo houses more than 200 animals on five acres in Atascadero. Admission is \$5 for adults, \$4 for children 3-11, and free for children younger than 3. Tours are available daily. Open April through October from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., November through March from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. 461-5080. www.charlespaddockzoo.org.

Piedras Blancas Rookery. Highway 1, seven miles past San Simeon. Enjoy the fresh sea air and Central Coast scenery while observing elephant seals playing, relaxing and fighting in their natural habitat. The seals are at the rookery year-round, but become scarce in August and September. With no admission or tempting gift shops, this is an educational and inexpensive place to spend a day with the family. www.elephantseal.org.

Farmers Market in downtown San Luis Obispo. Bustling with activity, downtown offers its famous Thursday night Farmers Market, where you can

buy locally grown fresh produce, enjoy outdoor barbecue and listen to live music. 6 to 9 p.m. Higuera Street, San Luis Obispo. 544-9570.

The Great American Melodrama & Vaudeville. The melodrama has been drawing actors to perform and tourists and residents to watch for 33 years. Every show ends with a vaudeville revue. Admission is \$16 to \$19. 1863 Pacific Blvd. (Highway 1), Oceano. 489-2499. www.americanmelodrama.com.

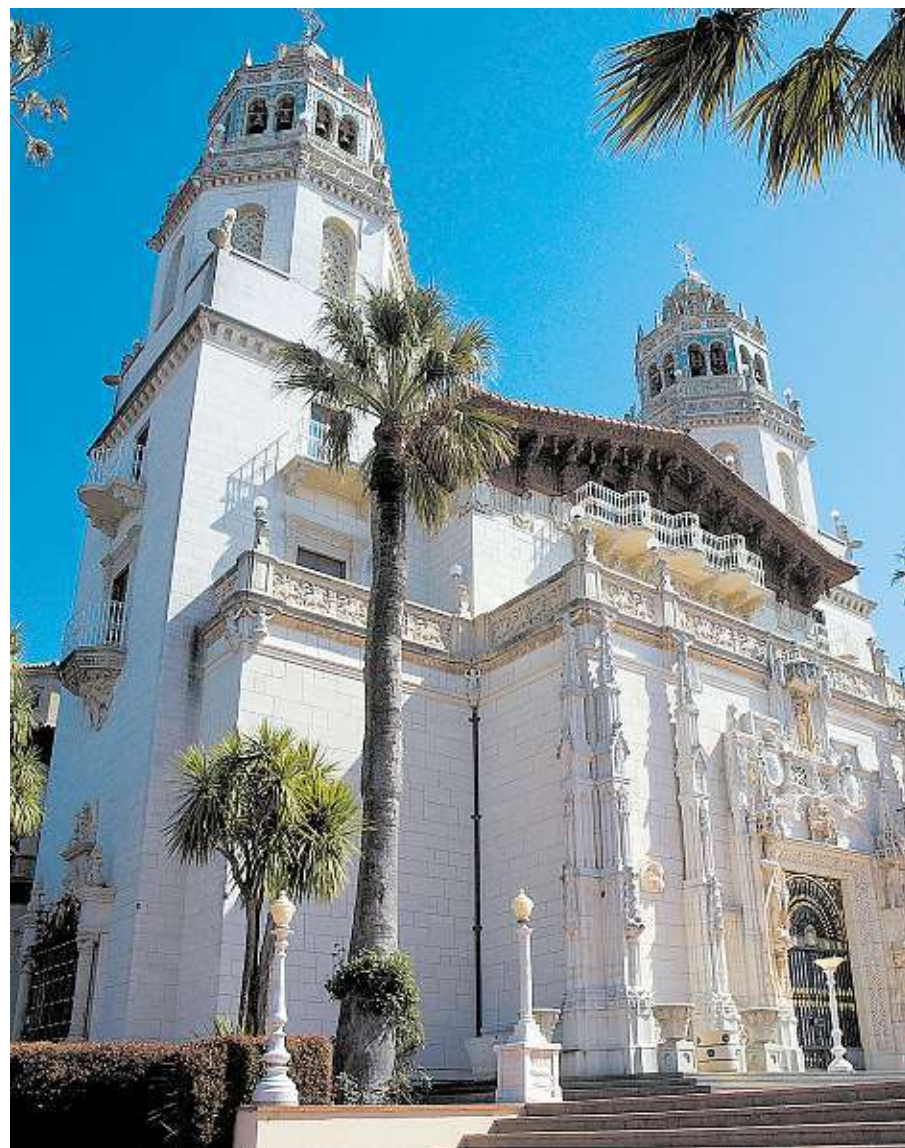
Hearst Castle. Tours of the world-famous castle are available daily. Evening tours are available in spring and fall and during the Christmas holidays. 750 Hearst Castle Road, San Simeon. 800-444-4445 (reservations) or 927-2020 (information). www.hearstcastle.org.

Jack House. This picturesque Victorian home, donated to the city by the Jack family, is a San Luis Obispo monument. Tours are available Sundays from 1 to 4 p.m. The garden area of the grounds may be reserved for weddings or special occasions. Tickets are \$2 per person and children under 12 are free. 536 Marsh St., San Luis Obispo. 781-7303 (group tours) or 781-7308 (information). www.slocity.org/parksandrecreation/historicjh.asp.

Madonna Inn. This famous pink-and-white landmark is renowned for its individually themed fantasy rooms. The inn has an elegant dining room and a more casual coffee shop. Make sure to check out the men's restroom before you leave. 100 Madonna Road, San Luis Obispo. 543-3000 or 800-543-9666. www.madonnainn.com.

Mission San Luis Obispo de Tolosa. The county's namesake mission was built in 1772, and Catholic services are held in the sanctuary – the largest congregation in the Monterey Diocese. Grounds also include gardens, a museum and a gift shop. 751 Palm St., San Luis Obispo. 781-8220 (parish) or 543-6850 (gift shop). www.missionsanluisobispo.org.

Morro Bay Aquarium. The aquarium was built in 1960 and became a rehabilitation center for distressed mammals in 1984. Visitors can feed the sea lions and harbor seals or view local marine life such as fish, sharks, eels and more. The aquarium is open daily 9:30 a.m. to 5 p.m., later in the summer. Admission is free for children ages 4 or younger, \$1 for children ages 5 to 11, and \$2 for



TRIBUNE FILE PHOTO BY JOE JOHNSTON

Hearst Castle celebrated 50 years since opening its doors to the public. The Hearst Corp. donated the 127-acre estate to the state in December 1957.

those 12 and older. 595 Embarcadero Road, Morro Bay. 772-7647. www.morrobay.com/morrobay aquarium.

Museum of Natural History at Morro Bay State Park. Natural history exhibits, docent walks, lecture programs and videos related to local natural history and environment. The museum features interactive exhibits that provide scientific information related to the estuary and bay ecosystems and allows visitors to learn about tidal forces, geology, erosion and preservation. Hours are 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily. Admission is \$2 for adults and free for those 16 and under. Morro Bay State Park Road, Morro Bay. 772-2694. www.morrobaymuseum.org.

Nitt Witt Ridge. Art Beal was no William Randolph Hearst, but his self-built Nitt Witt Ridge – made of gathered scraps of materials set on 2.5 acres – is every bit as amazing as Hearst Castle, and a state historical landmark as well. The owners have gathered stories about Beal, a Cambria character also known as "Der Tinkerpaw," and share them as they give tours of the house. Reservations are recommended. 881 Hillcrest Drive, Cambria. 927-2690.

River Oaks Hot Springs & Spa. Spread across 240 acres off Highway 46 East, the former Paso Robles Hot Springs and Spa has patio spas, hillside mineral tubs and massages. 800 Clubhouse Drive, Paso Robles. 238-4600. www.pasohotsprings.com.

Performing Arts Center at Cal Poly. The 91,500-square-foot center on the university campus plays hosts to dozens of concerts and performances throughout the year. It is the result of a partnership among the city of San Luis Obispo, Cal Poly and the Foundation for the Performing Arts. Tours are available. 756-7222 or 756-2787 for tickets. www.pacslo.org.

San Luis Obispo Botanical Garden. This botanical garden with plants from Mediterranean climates is being developed in El Chorro Regional Park, on Highway 1 across from Cuesta College. 541-1400. www.slobg.org.

Sycamore Mineral Springs Resort. This hotel and restaurant resort rents private outdoor hot tubs by the hour. Rates vary from \$12.50 to \$15 per hour based on day. Call for reservations. 1215 Avila Beach Drive, San Luis Obispo. 595-7302 or 800-234-5831. www.sycamoresprings.com.

Top acts anchored in ag at the Mid-State Fair

Live music, dancing, food and fun are tradition at the California Mid-State Fair, which kicks off July 23 at the Paso Robles Event Center and runs through Aug. 3.

Known for its signature amusement rides, carnival booths and concession stands, the event is known as the "biggest little fair anywhere" and is popular for its entertainment.

Among the performers already booked for this year are country big names, Toby Keith and Alan Jackson.

Keith is booked for July 24. Jackson will perform July 27. Rod Stewart, who last played at the fair in 1988, will start his summer tour here July 30. He will play with Bryan Adams.

Also slated to entertain this year are Ozomatli, Sawyer Brown, The Spinners and Raul Malo, with more announcements to come.



TRIBUNE FILE PHOTO BY DAVID MIDDLECAMP

Danny Leslie, front, prepares to compete in a roping championship at the Mid-State Fair in Paso Robles. The fair, for all of its fame of big-name entertainment, remains firmly rooted in its agricultural traditions.



TRIBUNE FILE PHOTO BY NICHOLAUS HULSEBUS

Mickey Sickelton, who runs a home for developmentally disabled children, rides a bumper car with Tamar DeLeon at the Special Needs Day hosted by the California Mid-State Fair in Paso Robles last year. Admission was free for the day to visitors with disabilities and their families.



These Craftsman-style homes are on the beautiful lake in the gated Cypress Ridge Golf Community, near restaurants, stores and services. The community's Peter Jacobsen Signature championship golf course is rated 4.5 stars by Golf Digest. Upscale amenities and full landscaping are standard; an extensive upgrade package is included. Seven homes are under construction, priced from \$789,500.

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Heritage House Museum & Gardens. Open Saturdays, noon to 3 p.m., and Sundays, 1 to 4 p.m. Interesting collection of period clothing, photographs and kitchen items. In the late 1990s, a garden and gazebo were added to provide a setting for social events and weddings. 126 Mason St. 473-5077. www.southcountyhistory.org.

Historic I.O.O.F. Hall. Formerly the meeting place for the International Order of Odd Fellows. The first floor has a large collection of historical artifacts from the South County, and the second floor has a historical library and study area. 128 Bridge St. 473-5077. www.southcountyhistory.org.

Paulding History House. Open first Saturday of every month from noon to 3 p.m. or by appointment. Carvings and artifacts. 551 Crown Hill Road. 473-5077. www.southcountyhistory.org.

Patricia Loomis History Library and Resource Center in Ruby's House. Books, pamphlets, photos and other resources on California history, emphasis on south San Luis Obispo County. 134 S. Mason St. 473-5077. www.southcountyhistory.org.

Santa Manuela Schoolhouse. Open Saturdays, noon to 3 p.m., and Sundays, 1 to 4 p.m. Free. The schoolhouse was built in 1901 and restored to its original state, including school books, maps, a genuine slate blackboard and pictures from that era. 127 Short St. 473-5077. www.southcountyhistory.org.

"The Barn" Museum. Open Saturdays, noon to 3 p.m., and Sundays, 1 to 4 p.m. Free. Antique vehicles, printing presses and agricultural artifacts. Behind Heritage House Museum and Gardens. 473-5077. www.southcountyhistory.org.

CAMBRIA

Cambria Historical Society. Preservation of resources. P.O. Box 906, Cambria 93428. 927-2891. www.cambriahistoricalsociety.org.

MORRO BAY

Museum of Natural History. Open daily, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., except Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Year's Day. State Park Road, Morro Bay. Admission is \$2 for 17 and older, free for 16 and younger. 772-2694. www.slostateparks.com.

GUADALUPE

Guadalupe Historical Society. Preserves cultural and economic history of the Guadalupe area. 1005 Guadalupe St. 343-5901. www.guadalupe-museum.org.

Guadalupe Museum. 1 to 3 p.m. Saturdays and Sundays or by appointment. Collections of photos from early pioneers and adobe artifacts. Items representative of European, Chinese, Filipino, Swiss-Italian, Japanese, Mexican, Portuguese and Spanish cultures arriving as the Americans Indians, the Chumash, ebbed. Veterans Memorial Building, 1005 Guadalupe St. and Highway 1.

Historical Jail. Open last Sunday of the month from 1 to 3 p.m. or by appointment. Next to Allied Arts Schoolhouse Gallery on Main Street.



TRIBUNE FILE PHOTO BY JAYSON MELLOM

From left, Aubrey Shick, Caleb Shick and Amy Shick check out an anti-aircraft gun at the Estrella Warbird Museum in Paso Robles. The Estrella Warbird Museum held a Youth in Action Day to honor youth in the county.

NIPOMO

Dana Adobe. No prescheduled hours. Call ahead or visit Web site for descriptions and times of tours. 671 S. Oakglen Ave., Nipomo. 929-5679. www.danaadobe.org.

PASO ROBLES

Estrella Warbird Museum. Open Saturdays, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., and Sundays, noon to 3 p.m.; group tours by appointment. Free. American aircrafts, vehicles and artifacts. On the first Wednesday of each month, the museum holds a dinner featuring a speaker that is open to the public. 4251 Dry Creek Road. 227-0440. www.ewarbirds.org.

Pioneer Museum. Open Thursdays through Sundays, 1 to 4 p.m.; tours after hours by appointment. Collection of visual and written history preserving the cultural heritage of the Paso Robles area. 2010 Riverside Ave. 239-4556. www.pasoroblespioneer-museum.org.

Camp Roberts Historical Museum. Open Thursdays and Saturdays, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Vintage vehicles and exhibits from WWII through the Iraq war. Camp Roberts, 12 miles north of Paso Robles. 238-8308. www.militarymuseum.org/camproberts-museum.

SAN LUIS OBISPO

Central Coast Veterans Memorial Museum.

Open Wednesdays through Saturdays, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Artifacts and displays honoring the men and women of the United States military services from WWI through the Iraq war. 801 Grand Ave., San Luis Obispo. Free. 543-1763. www.vetmuseum.org.

Conservation Corps State Museum. By appointment. Memorabilia and artifacts document youth corps movement of the 20th century. 1536 Modoc Ave. (near Cuesta College). 788-0517. www.militarymuseum.org/cccmuseum.html.

San Luis Obispo County Historical Museum. Open Wednesday through Sunday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Explore the history of San Luis Obispo County. 696 Monterey St. 543-0638.

San Luis Obispo Children's Museum. Focuses on education through exploration with interactive exhibits for children. Under construction. Expected to open this spring. 1010 Nipomo St. 544-KIDS, 545-5874. www.slokids.org.

San Luis Obispo Railway Museum. Under construction. Spotlights the history of California's Central Coast railroads. P.O. Box 13260, San Luis Obispo, CA 93406. 461-3456. www.slorm.com.

SAN MIGUEL

Rios-Caledonia Adobe. Open Fridays through Sundays, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. View a collection of

antiques. 700 S. Main St. 467-3357. www.rios-caledoniaadobe.org.

SAN SIMEON

Hearst Castle. Tours of the former residence of publisher William Randolph Hearst are available daily. Evening tours available during the months of March-May and September-December, normally on Fridays and Saturdays. 750 Hearst Castle Road. 800-444-4445. www.hearstcastle.com.

TEMPLETON

Templeton Historical Museum. Open Fridays to Sundays, 1 to 4 p.m. Explore memorabilia of Templeton's early residents. 309 Main St. 434-0807. www.templetonmuseum.com.

SAN LUIS OBISPO COUNTY

San Luis Obispo County Genealogical Society. Collection and preservation of historical and genealogical records. 473-4963. www.kcbx.net/~slogen.

San Luis Obispo County Historical Society. Preservation of local history. 543-0638. www.slochs.org.

South County Historical Society. Dedicated to research, restoration and dissemination of information to preserve historical heritage. 473-5077. www.southcountyhistory.org.



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ACTIVITIES

KIDSACTIVITIES

• **Reading Lab – Doc Burnstein's Ice Cream Lab.** Afternoons of fiction, fun and fantasy through popular children's literature read by local story tellers. Tuesdays, 3:30 to 4:15 p.m. Free.

• **Comedy Show – Doc Burnstein's Ice Cream Lab.** Comedy show with audience participation. Afterward, the audience creates an ice cream flavor and names it. Wednesdays, 7 to 7:30 p.m.

Children's Day in the Plaza – San Luis Obispo. Petting zoo, bounce house, live performers, booths, games, food and more. 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. April 12. Free. Mission Plaza, San Luis Obispo. 541-8000.

Children's Day in the Park – Atascadero. Fun events for the whole family. \$5 wristband for carnival games, booths and entertainment. 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. May 17. Atascadero Lake Park, 9305 Pismo Ave.

Summer Cinema Series. Free movie on the lawn. Feel free to bring your dinner and a blanket

or low-back chair. Gates open at 6:30 p.m., Damon-Garcia Sports Complex. Dates and movies to be announced.

Trading Day and Kids Flea Market. North County's largest garage sale, with collectibles, bargains, music and food in the park. Children in third through eighth grade have their own section. 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. June 28. Downtown City Park, Paso Robles. Free. 238-4103.

An Ice Cream "Zoofari" for Kids. All-you-can-eat ice cream and entertainment spectacular to benefit the Charles Paddock Zoo. Ice cream, sodas, entertainment and animals. July 12. Charles Paddock Zoo. 9100 Morro Road at Highway 41, Atascadero. Call for times and admission prices. 470-3182.

Howl-o-ween Hoopla. Halloween event on Garden Street in San Luis Obispo with 25-cent games, candy, toys and costume contest. Bring a pumpkin for the "Pumpkins on Parade" showcase. 6 to 8:30 p.m. Oct. 30, in conjunction with Farmers Market.

BOWLINGLANES

Mustang Lanes. University Union, Cal Poly campus, San Luis Obispo. 10 lanes. 756-5523.

Paso Bowl and Grill. 2748 Spring St., Paso Robles. 16 lanes. 238-5020.

Pismo Bowl. 277 Pomeroy Ave., Pismo Beach. Eight lanes. 773-2482.

DOGPARKS

Cambria Regional Dog Park. Open dawn to dusk. Fenced, off-leash area. Main Street and Santa Rosa Creek Road.

Laguna Lake Park. Open dawn to dusk. Large, off-leash area near the lake with no fencing. 498 Madonna Road, San Luis Obispo.

El Chorro Regional Park. Open dawn to dusk. Two large, off-leash, fenced areas, one for small dogs, one for large. Highway 1, San Luis Obispo, near Cuesta College.

Heilmann Regional Park. Open dawn to dusk. Fenced, off-leash area. 100 El Bordo, Atascadero.

Nipomo Regional Dog Park. Open dawn to dusk. Fenced, off-leash area. Pomeroy Road and Tefft Street.

MOVIETHEATERS

The Bay Theatre. 464 Morro Bay Blvd., Morro Bay. One screen. 772-2444.

Downtown Centre Cinemas. 888 Marsh St., San Luis Obispo. Seven screens. 546-8600. www.themovieexperience.com.

Fair Oaks Theatre. 1007 Grand Ave., Arroyo Grande. One screen. 489-2364. www.rodkey.net/fairoaks.htm.

Regal Festival Cinemas. 1160 W. Branch St., Arroyo Grande. 10 screens. 481-7553. www.regalcinemas.com.

Fremont Theater and Mission Cinemas. 1025 Monterey St., San Luis Obispo. Four screens. 541-2141. www.themovieexperience.com.

Palm Theatre. 817 Palm St., San Luis Obispo. Three screens. 541-5161. www.thepalmtheatre.com.

Park Cinemas. 1100 Pine St., Paso Robles. Nine screens. 227-2172. www.centralcoastcinemas.com.

Sunset Drive-In Theater. 255 Elks Lane, San Luis Obispo. One screen. 544-4475. www.rodkey.net/sunset_drivein.htm.



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ACTIVITIES

FARMERS MARKETS

ARROYO GRANDE

8:30 to 11 a.m. **Wednesdays** at Spencer's Market on Courtland and East Grand. 544-9570.

Noon to 2:30 p.m. **Saturdays** in City Hall Parking Lot at 215 Branch St. 544-9570.

ATASCADERO

3 to 6 p.m. **Wednesdays** in the Sunken Gardens at El Camino Real and The East Mall. 239-6535.

AVILA BEACH

4 to 8 p.m. **Fridays** at Avila Promenade at the pier. 801-1349. (Runs from April to October)

BAYWOOD PARK

2 to 4:30 p.m. **Mondays** on Santa Maria Street between Second and Third streets. 239-6535.

CAMBRIA

2:30 to 5 p.m. **Fridays** at the Veterans Memorial Building parking lot on Main



Francisco Valesquez, center, sells fruits and vegetables at the San Miguel Farmers Market in 2004.

TRIBUNE FILE
PHOTO BY
JAYSON
MELLOM

PASO ROBLES

10 a.m. to 1 p.m. **Tuesdays** at the City Park. 239-6535.

9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. **Fridays** at the Wal-Mart parking lot, at South River and Niblick roads. 237-0345.

8 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. **Saturdays** at the City Park. 237-0345.

SAN LUIS OBISPO

6 to 9 p.m. **Thursdays** downtown on Higuera Street. 544-9570 or 541-0286.

8 to 10:30 a.m. **Saturdays** at the SLO Promenade shopping center parking lot. 544-9570.

SAN MIGUEL

10 a.m. to 2 p.m. **Sundays** at Mission and 10th streets. 237-9254.

TEMPLETON

9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. **Saturdays** at the park on Crocker and Sixth streets. 239-6535.

Street. 927-4715.

MORRO BAY

3 to 5 p.m. **Thursdays** at Spencer's Market, 2650 Main St. 544-9570. 772-4467.

3 to 6 p.m. **Saturdays** in the 800 block of

Main Street. 772-4467.

NIPOMO

11:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. **Sundays** in front of Mission Community Bank at 671 W. Tefft St. 929-3081.

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

MARCH

- 20-30: Tall Ships Visit (Morro Bay)
- 22: Easter Egg Hunt (Arroyo Grande, Grover Beach, Los Osos, Pismo Beach)
- 23: Easter Egg Hunt (Cambria)

APRIL

- 4-6: Central Coast Equine Experience (Paso Robles)
- 5: Greenhouse Garden Tour (Nipomo)
- 11-13: Cattlemen's Western Art Show (Paso Robles)
- 12: Children's Day in the Plaza (San Luis Obispo)
- 19: Sunken Gardens Flea Market (Atascadero)
- 19: Chili Cook-Off & Car Show (Cambria)
- 24: Rib Cook-Off (San Luis Obispo)
- 25-26: Hot Air Balloon Festival (Paso Robles)
- 25-26: Wildflower Bike Ride (Atascadero)
- 25-27: Reined Cow Horse Show (Paso Robles)
- 26: Colony Home Tour (Atascadero)
- 26: Celebrate Morro Bay Parade (Morro Bay)
- 26-27: Kite Festival (Morro Bay)
- 26-27: Quilt Show (Templeton)

MAY

- 1-3: Hospice du Rhone Wine Festival (Paso Robles)
- 1-4: Cruisin' Morro Bay Car Show (Morro Bay)
- 1-4: Roll Out The Barrels Wine Festival (San Luis Obispo)
- 2-4: Wildflower Triathlon (Paso Robles)
- 3-4: Garden Tours (Cambria)
- 3-4: Trout Derby (Arroyo Grande)
- 4: Antiques & Collectibles Faire (Cayucos)
- 4: Garden Tour (Cambria)
- 10: Day in the Shade Art Fair (Templeton)
- 10: Miracle Miles for Kids Run (Morro Bay, Cayucos)
- 10: Birth & Baby Fair (San Luis Obispo)
- 11: Mother's Day Concert (San Luis Obispo)
- 16-17: Antique Insulators Show (Cayucos)
- 16-18: Paso Robles Wine Festival (Paso Robles)
- 17: Children's Day in the Park (Atascadero)
- 17: Dana Adobe Heritage Day (Nipomo)
- 23-26: Great Western Bike Rally (Paso Robles)
- 24-25: Strawberry Festival (Arroyo Grande)
- 24-25: Blues & Beers Festivals (Avila Beach)
- 24-26: Peddler's Faire (Cayucos)
- 24-26: Art in the Park (Morro Bay)
- 26: Memorial Day Celebration (Los Osos)

JUNE

- 3: Taste of South Bay (Los Osos)
- 11, 18, 25: Concerts in the Park (Templeton)
- 8: Pinot & Paella Cook-Off (Templeton)
- 8, 22: Village Summer Concert Series (Arroyo Grande)
- 9: Rios Caledonia Adobe Car Show (San Miguel)
- 13, 20, 27: Concerts In the Plaza (San Luis Obispo)
- 14: Outdoor Quilt Show (Templeton)
- 15, 29: Sizzlin' Summer Concert (Grover Beach)
- 14-15: Gem & Mineral Show (Cayucos)
- 17, 24: Tuesday in the Park (Atascadero)
- 17-22: Reined Cow Horse Derby (Paso Robles)
- 20-21: Golf & Wine Festival (Atascadero)
- 20-22: Fun in the Sun Car Show (Pismo Beach)
- 20, 27: Twilight Concerts in the Park (Paso Robles)
- 21: Country Bike Ride (Cambria)
- 21: TOO SLO Turtle, Tortoise and Reptile Mini Show (San Luis Obispo)
- 28: Trading Day & Kids Flea Market (Paso Robles)

JULY

- 1, 8, 15, 22, 29: Tuesday in the Park (Atascadero)
- 2, 9, 16, 23, 30: Concerts In the Park (Templeton)
- 4: Fourth of July Fireworks (Cayucos, Cambria, Morro Bay, Pismo Beach, Paso Robles)
- 4: Fourth of July Parade (Templeton)
- 4-6: Art in the Park (Morro Bay)
- 4-6: Peddler's Faire (Cayucos)
- 4, 11, 18, 25: Summer Concerts (San Luis Obispo, Paso Robles)
- 4, 13, 27: Village Summer Concert Series (Arroyo Grande)
- 5: Great Americana Festival (Paso Robles)
- 5: Pecho Ranch Day/Montaña de Oro (Los Osos)
- 5, 12, 19, 26: Saturday Concerts in the Park (Atascadero)
- 6: Pride in the Plaza (San Luis Obispo)
- 10-12: Central Coast Wine Classic (San Luis Obispo County)
- 11-8/16: Shakespeare Festival (Avila Beach)
- 11-27: SLO Mozart Festival (San Luis Obispo County)
- 12: Atascadero Main Street Mayhem (Atascadero)
- 12: Ice Cream Zoofari (Atascadero)
- 12-13: Lavender Festival (Atascadero)

SLO COUNTY | MOZART FESTIVAL



TRIBUNE FILE PHOTO BY NICHLAUS HULSEBUS

- 13, 27: Sizzlin' Summer Concert (Grover Beach)
- 19: Rock to Pier Run (Morro Bay, Cayucos)
- 19-20: Central Coast Renaissance Festival (San Luis Obispo)
- 20: SLO Triathlon (San Luis Obispo)
- 23-8/3: California Mid-State Fair (Paso Robles)
- 25: Arroyo Valley Cruise Night (Arroyo Grande)
- 26: Arroyo Valley Car Show (Arroyo Grande)
- 27: Criterium Bike Race (San Luis Obispo)

AUGUST

- 1-3: California Mid-State Fair (Paso Robles)
- 1-3: Rainbow of Gems Show (Nipomo)
- 1, 8, 15, 22, 29: Summer Concerts (San Luis

- Obispo, Paso Robles)
- 2, 9, 16, 23, 30: Saturday Concerts in the Park (Atascadero)
- 3: Merchants Street Faire (Morro Bay)
- 10, 24: Sizzlin' Summer Concert (Grover Beach)
- 5, 12, 19, 26: Tuesday in the Park (Atascadero)
- 9: Obon Festival (San Luis Obispo)
- 10, 24: Village Summer Concert Series (Arroyo Grande)
- 15-17: Antique Show (Arroyo Grande)
- 16: Day With Creative Women (San Luis Obispo)
- 16-17: Basil Festival (Paso Robles)
- 17: Art In The Jack House Garden (San Luis Obispo)
- 22: Hot El Camino Cruise Night (Atascadero)

ACTIVITIES

THE TRIBUNE'S GUIDE TO HAPPENINGS ON THE CENTRAL COAST FOR THE REST OF 2008

- 23:** Mid-State Cruizers Car Show (Atascadero)
23: Dune Run Run (Grover Beach)
23: Olive Festival (Paso Robles)
23-24: Stone Soup Ethnic Music Faire (Grover Beach)
29-31: Old-Fashioned Threshing Bee (Templeton)
29-9/1: Pinedorado Celebration (Cambria)
30-9/1: Art In The Park (Morro Bay)
30-9/1: Peddler's Faire (Cayucos)
31 Pops By The Sea (Avila Beach)

SEPTEMBER

- 1-30:** FallFest (San Luis Obispo County)
6: Best Buddies Bike Ride (San Simeon)
6: Book & Author Festival (San Luis Obispo)
7, 21: Village Summer Concert Series (Arroyo Grande)
7, 14: Sizzlin' Summer Concert (Grover Beach)
12-14: Rodeo (Creston)
13: Art At The Spa (Paso Robles)
13-14: I Madonnari Chalk Festival (San Luis Obispo)
13-14: Almond Country Quilt Show (Paso Robles)
20: Taste of Downtown & Arte De Tiza (Paso Robles)
20: Sunken Gardens Flea Market (Atascadero)
20: Avocado & Margarita Festival (Morro Bay)
26: Lighthouse Bike Rally (Los Osos)
26-27: Harvest Festival (Arroyo Grande)
27: Family Fun Run (Paso Robles)
27: TOO SLO Turtle, Tortoise, and Reptile Annual Show (San Luis Obispo)
29-10/5: Plein Air Festival (San Luis Obispo)

OCTOBER

- 1-31:** FallFest (San Luis Obispo County)
4: Oktoberfest (Cambria)
4: Wine & Roses Bike Ride (Templeton)
4-5: Harbor Festival (Morro Bay)
11: Pioneer Day (Paso Robles)
11: Greek Festival (Arroyo Grande)
11-12: Open Studios Tour (North County)
12: City-To-Sea Half Marathon (San Luis Obispo, Avila Beach)
16-19: Oceano Dunes Beach Race & Festival (Grover Beach)
17-19: Harvest Wine Tour (Paso Robles)
17-19: Colony Days (Atascadero)
18-19: Gem & Mineral Show (Cayucos)
18-19: Open Studios Tour (South County)
18-19: Clam Festival (Pismo Beach)

CAYUCOS | FOURTH OF JULY PARADE



TRIBUNE FILE PHOTO BY DAVID MIDDLECAMP

- 19:** Antique Street Faire (Cayucos)
23-26: Jubilee by the Sea Jazz Fest (Pismo Beach)
24-26: Concours d'Elegance Car Show (San Luis Obispo County)
25: Holiday Craft Faire (Atascadero)
25: Golden Oak Fest & Car Show (Paso Robles)
25: Wiener Dog Races (Atascadero)
26: Oktoberfest & Car Show (Los Osos)
30: Halloween Festivities (San Luis Obispo)
31: Halloween Activities (Grover Beach)
31: Halloween Zoo Boo (Atascadero)
31: Halloween Downtown (Paso Robles)

NOVEMBER

- 1:** Car Show (Cayucos)
1-2: Western Art & Trappings Show (Paso Robles)
1-19: FallFest (San Luis Obispo County)
7: Wine & Food Festival (Cayucos)
7-9: Harvest Wine Festival (San Luis Obispo, Arroyo Grande)
8: Marching Band Review (Pismo Beach)
8: Arts, Crafts & Collectibles Fair (Los Osos)
9-18: Poetry Festival (San Luis Obispo)
15: Elegant Evening Downtown (Paso Robles)
15: Holiday Boutique (Atascadero)
15: Paderewski Festival (Paso Robles)
23-12/31: Hearst Castle Holiday Tours (San Simeon)
28: Downtown Lighting Ceremony (Paso Robles)

- 28-12/24:** Santa's House in Mission Plaza (San Luis Obispo)
28-12/31: Craft Art Market (San Luis Obispo)
30: Christmas Street Faire (Morro Bay)

DECEMBER

- 1-23:** Holiday in the Pines (Cambria)
1-24: Christmas in the Village (Arroyo Grande)
1-24: Santa's House in Mission Plaza (San Luis Obispo)
1-29: Carousel in Mission Plaza (San Luis Obispo)
1-31: Craft Art Market (San Luis Obispo)
1-31: Hearst Castle Holiday Tours (San Simeon)
5: Holiday Parade (San Luis Obispo)
5: Holiday Harmony & Tree Lighting (Paso Robles)
5: Wine & Wassail (Atascadero)
6: Cowboy Christmas (Templeton)
6: Lighted Boat Parade (Morro Bay)
6: Christmas Light Parade (Paso Robles)
6: Holiday Parade (Grover Beach)
6: Lakeside Caroling (Atascadero)
6-7: Christmas in the Plaza (San Luis Obispo)
7: Las Posadas at Dana Adobe (Nipomo)
12: Winter Wonderland (Atascadero)
13: Vine Street Victorian Showcase (Paso Robles)
13: Holiday Parade (Los Osos)
13: Free Movie For Kids & Food Drive (San Luis Obispo)
20: Teddy Bear Tea (Paso Robles)

MORE INFORMATION

Calendar information is from the San Luis Obispo Visitors & Conference Bureau. For details about individual events, refer to the directory below to contact the appropriate chamber of commerce.

SLO COUNTY VISITORS & CONFERENCE BUREAU

541-8000
www.sanluisobispo.com

AVILA BEACH

541-6020
www.visitavilabeach.com

ARROYO GRANDE

489-1488
www.arroyogrande.com

ATASCADERO

466-2044
www.atascaderochamber.org

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www.cambriachamber.org

CAYUCOS

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www.cayucoschamber.com

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www.groverchamber.com

LOS OSOS/BAYWOOD PARK

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www.losososbaywoodpark.org

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www.nipomochamber.org

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481-6730

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SANTA MARGARITA

466-2044
www.atascaderochamber.org

SAN LUIS OBISPO

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www.visitslo.com

SAN SIMEON

927-3500
www.sanluisobispo.com

TEMPLETON

434-1789
www.templetonchamber.com

So you like sports? SLO County has 'em

It's safe to say Jordan Hasay has attained celebrity status.

Since winning the national 2005 Foot Locker Cross Country Championships as a high school freshman, the Arroyo Grande native and junior distance runner from Mission Prep has appeared in Sports Illustrated, was The Tribune's No. 1 sports story of 2007 and even has a page on Wikipedia.

But Hasay, 16, is only one example of all that the county has to offer sports fans.

With a Division I university (Cal Poly), a community college (Cuesta College), 12 high schools and two summer collegiate baseball teams, the sports calendar in the county is just about year-round.

All that bustle comes without a professional sports franchise, although fans don't seem to mind. Attendance at Cal Poly football games in fall 2007 averaged 9,644 per game at the revamped, 11,750-seat Alex G. Spanos Stadium. In the same venue, the men's soccer program smashed its attendance record when 7,143 took in the Mustangs' 2-1 upset win over defending national champion UCSB on Oct. 17.

While Cal Poly's 2007 men's soccer season was something of a turnaround story, the football team has strung together five straight winning seasons at the Football Championship Subdivision level (formerly Division I-AA). The Mustangs, who had a player chosen in the NFL Draft in three consecutive years from 2005-07, are likely to garner even more national recognition when they play at Wisconsin on Nov. 22.

Although there is no men's volleyball program at Cal Poly, the women have reached the NCAA Tournament each of the past two years, including a trip to the Sweet 16 last season.

The Mustangs' softball team appeared in the NCAA Tournament for the first time last season, and baseball has compiled four straight winning campaigns.

Individual standouts in other Cal Poly sports include senior and two-time All-American dis-



TRIBUNE FILE PHOTO BY JAYSON MELLOM

Jordan Hasay leads the pack at the county cross-country meet at Laguna Lake in 2007.

CUESTACOLLEGE

Remaining spring home games:

BASEBALL

April 1: Santa Barbara College, 2:30 p.m.
April 5: Ventura College, 1 p.m.
April 10: Oxnard College, 2:30 p.m.
April 15: Allan Hancock College, 2:30 p.m.
April 19: Moorpark College, 1 p.m.
April 26: Ventura College, 1 p.m.
May 2: Moorpark College, 2 p.m.

SOFTBALL

March 29: West Hills, 1 p.m.
March 29: West Hills, 3 p.m.
April 10: Allan Hancock, 2:30 p.m.
April 17: Pierce, 2:30 p.m.
April 22: Moorpark, 1 p.m.
April 22: Moorpark, 3 p.m.

WOMEN'S TENNIS

March 11: Glendale College, 2 p.m.
March 18: Santa Monica College,

2 p.m.

March 20: Santa Barbara College, 2 p.m.
April 3: Bakersfield College, 2 p.m.

TRACK AND FIELD

March 29: Cal Poly Invitational, 10 a.m.
April 4: WSC No. 4 Ventura, Citrus, Oxnard, 2 p.m.
April 19: WSC Conference Prelims, 10 a.m.

tance runner Phillip Reid (men's cross country), senior and 2005 NCAA outdoor high jump champion Sharon Day (women's track) and top-ranked senior 141-pounder Chad Mendes (wrestling).

Neither the Cal Poly women's nor men's basketball teams have reached the NCAA Tournament since moving to the Division I level in 1994-95.

In all, the Mustangs compete in 20 intercollegiate sports.

Cuesta has no football program but competes in 16 sports with proud traditions in women's and men's water polo, as well as baseball and softball.

The county's 12 high schools compete in three leagues — five when counting football-on-

ly leagues. Year-round, Paso Robles, Atascadero, San Luis Obispo, Arroyo Grande and Nipomo are in the PAC 7; Templeton and Morro Bay are in the Los Padres League; and North County Christian, Coastal Christian and Shandon are in the Coast Valley League. Except for football, both Mission Prep and Coast Union compete as independents.

In the postseason, those schools compete in the Southern and Central sections, respectively, of CIF.

In summer collegiate baseball, the San Luis Obispo Blues had dominated the local scene since their 1940s origin and 1994 rebirth. But last summer, the San Luis Obispo Rattlers

were formed, spawning controversy because the two franchises compete for players from Cal Poly and Cuesta, and were forced to share San Luis Obispo Stadium at Sinsheimer Park. Both teams, though, eventually made it through the summer with winning records.

Every May, the Wildflower Triathlon brings some of the top triathletes in the world to Lake San Antonio.

And San Luis Obispo has even been called home by a small handful of prominent professional athletes, including former Ultimate Fighting Championship light heavyweight champion Chuck Liddell and eight-time PGA Tour winner Loren Roberts.

CALPOLY

Remaining spring home games:

BASEBALL

March 29: UC Irvine, 6 p.m.
March 30: UC Irvine, 1 p.m.
April 9: Fresno State, 6 p.m.
April 11: Pacific, 6 p.m.
April 12: Pacific, 6 p.m.
April 13: Pacific, 1 p.m.
April 15: Fresno State, 6 p.m.
April 16: Loyola Marymount, 3 p.m.
April 25: UCSB, 6 p.m.
April 26: UCSB, 6 p.m.
April 27: UCSB, 1 p.m.
April 29: Southern California, 6 p.m.
April 30: California, 6 p.m.
May 2: UNLV, 6 p.m.
May 3: UNLV, 6 p.m.
May 4: UNLV, 1 p.m.
May 13: Pepperdine, 6 p.m.
May 16: Long Beach State, 6 p.m.
May 17: Long Beach State, 6 p.m.
May 18: Long Beach State, 1 p.m.

SOFTBALL

March 29: Cal State Fullerton, noon.
March 29: Cal State Fullerton, 2:30 p.m.
March 30: Cal State Fullerton, noon
April 19: Cal State Northridge, noon
April 19: Cal State Northridge, 2:30 p.m.
April 20: Cal State Northridge, noon
May 3: UC Davis, 4 p.m.
May 3: UC Davis, 6:30 p.m.
May 4: UC Davis, noon
May 9: UC Riverside, 4 p.m.
May 9: UC Riverside, 6:30 p.m.
May 10: UC Riverside, noon

MEN'S TENNIS

March 29: Loyola Marymount, noon
April 5: Pacific, noon
April 6: UC Davis, noon
April 10: UC Santa Cruz, 10 p.m.

WOMEN'S TENNIS

April 4: Long Beach State, 1:30 p.m.
April 12: UC Davis, 11 a.m.
April 13: UCSB, 11 a.m.

TRACK AND FIELD

March 29: Cal Poly Invitational, 11 a.m.
May 3: UCSB Dual, 11 a.m.

WINECOUNTRYGUIDE

SLO COUNTY WINERIES AND TASTING ROOMS



WEST OF HWY. 101

15 degrees C. 1121 Rossi Road, Suite A, Templeton. 434-1554. www.15degreescwines.com. Open Mondays through Thursdays, 11 a.m. to 7 p.m.; Fridays and Saturdays, 11 a.m. to 9 p.m.; Sundays, noon to 5 p.m. Wine shop with tastings and gifts. (F7)

Adelaida Cellars. 5805 Adelaida Road, Paso Robles. 239-8980, 800-676-1232. www.adelaida.com. Open daily, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Popular wines: pinot noir, cabernet, Rhône wines. (C4)

AJB Vineyards. 3280 Township Road, Paso Robles. 239-9432. www.ajbvineyards.com. Open Saturdays and Sundays, noon to 5 p.m. Popular wines: Italian wines, sangiovese, nebbiolo. (E6)

Anglim Winery. 740 Pine St., Paso Robles. 227-6813. www.anglimwinery.com. Open Thursdays through Saturdays, 11 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.; Sundays, noon to 5:30 p.m.; Mondays, 11 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Popular wines: Rhône, grenache, roussanne. (B8)

Arroyo Robles Winery. 739 12th St., Paso Robles. 226-5454, 877-759-WINE. www.arroyorobles.com. Open Wednesdays through Mondays, 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. Popular wines: cabernet, syrah, sparkling wine. (B7)

Bear Cave Cellars. 1227 Park St., Suite B, Paso Robles. 238-4329. www.bearcavecellars.com. Open weekends and by appointment. Popular wines: cabernet, syrah, zinfandel. (B7)

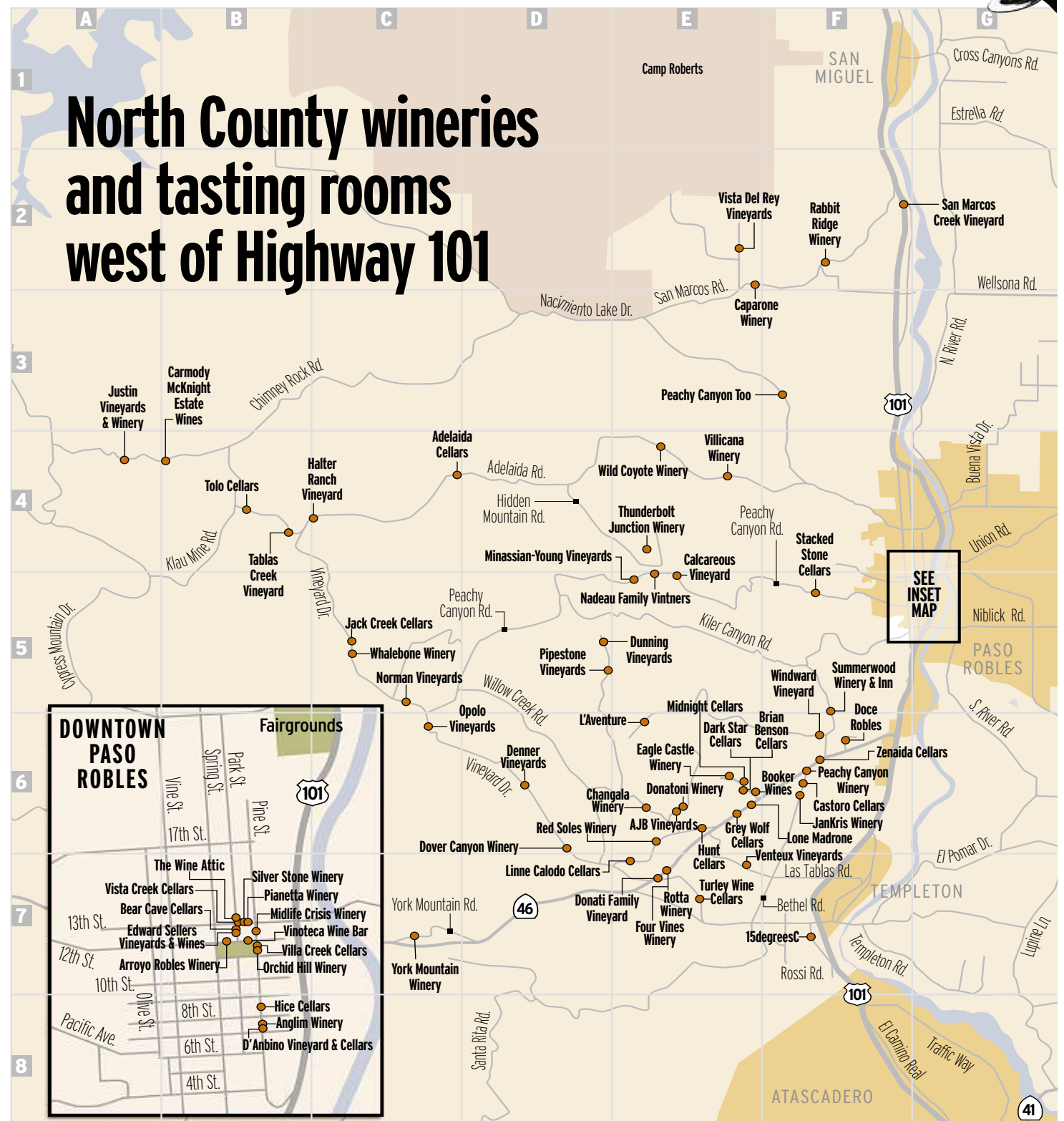
Brian Benson Cellars. 2985 Anderson Road, Paso Robles. 296-9463. www.brianbensoncellars.com. Open Fridays through Sundays, 10:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Popular wines: syrah, zinfandel, red blends. (E6)

Booker Wines. 2640 Anderson Road, Paso Robles. 237-7367. www.bookerwines.com. Open Fridays through Sundays, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Popular wines: Rhône. (E6)

Calcareous Vineyard. 3430 Peachy Canyon Road, Paso Robles. 239-0289. www.calcareous.com. Open Thursdays through Mondays, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. and by appointment. Popular wines: Rhône, Bordeaux wines. (E5)

Caparone Winery. 2280 San Marcos Road, Paso Robles. 467-3827. www.caparone.com. Open daily, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Popular wines: reds, nebbiolo, Italian wines. (E2)

Carmody McKnight Estate Wines.



11240 Chimney Rock Road, Paso Robles. 238-9392. www.carmodymcknight.com. Open daily, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Popular wines: Meritage Cadenza, sparkling and dessert wines. (B4)

Castoro Cellars. 1315 North Bethel Road, Templeton. 238-0725, 888-DAM-FINE. www.castorocellars.com. Open

daily, 10 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Popular wines: zinfandel. (F6)

Changala Winery. 3760 Willow Creek Road, Paso Robles. 238-0421. www.changalawinery.com. Open Fridays through Sundays, 11:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Popular wines: viognier, syrah, red blend. (E6)

D'Anbino Vineyard & Cellars. 710 Pine St., Paso Robles. 227-6800. www.danbino.com. Open Fridays through Sundays, 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Popular wines: sauvignon blanc, cabernet sauvignon, syrah. (B8)

Dark Star Cellars. 2985 Anderson Road, Paso Robles. 237-2389.

www.darkstarcellars.com. Open Fridays through Sundays, 10:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Popular wines: Ricordati, cabernet, zinfandel. (E6)

Denner Vineyards. 5414 Vineyard Drive, Paso Robles. 239-4287.

Please see WEST, Page 46

WINECOUNTRYGUIDE

SLO COUNTY
WINERIES AND
TASTING ROOMS

West

From Page 45

www.dennervineyards.com. Open Fridays through Mondays, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Popular wines: Rhône wines and blends. (D6)

Doce Robles. 2023 Twelve Oaks Drive, Paso Robles. 227-4766. www.doce-robles.com. Open daily, 10:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Popular wines: reds. (F6)

Donati Family Vineyard. 2720 Oak View Road, Templeton. 238-0676. www.donatifamilyvineyard.com. Open daily, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Popular wines: Bordeaux blends. (E7)

Donatoni Winery. 3225 Township Road, Paso Robles. 226-0620. Open Saturdays and Sundays, noon to 5 p.m. and by appointment. Popular wines: zinfandel, cabernet sauvignon, syrah. (E6)

Dover Canyon Winery. 4520 Vineyard Drive, Paso Robles. 237-0101. www.dover-canyon.com. Open Thursdays through Sundays, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Popular wines: Rhône wines, zinfandel. (D6)

Dunning Vineyards Estate Winery and County Inn. 1953 Niderer Road, Paso Robles. 238-4763. www.dunning-vineyards.com. Open Thursdays through Mondays, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. and by appointment. Popular wines: zinfandel, cabernet, syrah. (D5)

Eagle Castle Winery. 3090 Anderson Road, Paso Robles. 227-1428. www.eagle-castlewinery.com. Open daily, 10:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Popular wines: cabernet, zinfandel, cab/syrah blend. (E6)

Edward Sellers Vineyards & Wines. 1220 Park St., Paso Robles. 239-8915. www.edwardsellers.com. Open Thursdays through Mondays, noon to 7 p.m. Popular wines: Rhône-style wines. (B7)

Four Vines Winery. 3750 Highway 46 West (at Cider Creek Bakery), Templeton. 237-0055. www.four-vines.com. Open daily, 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. summer; 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. winter months. Popular wines: zinfandel, Rhône blends, tempranillo blend. (E7)

Grey Wolf Cellars. 2174 Highway 46 West, Paso Robles. 237-0771. www.greywolfcellars.com. Open daily, 11 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Popular wines: reds, zinfandel, syrah blends. (E6)

Halter Ranch Vineyard. 8910 Adelaida

Road, Paso Robles. 226-9455. www.halterranch.com. Open daily, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Popular wines: reds. (C4)

Hice Cellars. 821 Pine St., Unit D, Paso Robles. 237-8888. www.hicecellars.com. Open Fridays through Sundays, noon to 5 p.m. and by appointment. Popular wines: alicante bouchet, cabernet sauvignon, syrah. (B8)

Hunt Cellars. 2875 Oakdale Road, Paso Robles. 237-1600. www.huntcellars.com. Open daily, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.; 10:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. winter months. Popular wines: cabernet, syrah, port. (E6)

Jack Creek Cellars. 8530 Vineyard Drive, Paso Robles (at Pasolivo Olive Oil). 227-0186, 226-8283. www.jackcreek-cellars.com. Open Fridays and Saturdays, noon to 5 p.m. and Sundays by appointment. Popular wines: pinot noir, syrah, chardonnay. (C5)

JanKris Winery. 1266 North Bethel Road, Templeton. 434-0319. www.jankris-winery.com. Open daily, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Popular wines: Crossfire, Riatta, Picaro blends. (F6)

Justin Vineyards & Winery. 11680 Chimney Rock Road, Paso Robles. 238-6932, 800-726-0049. www.justin-wine.com. Open daily, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Popular wines: Isosceles, Bordeaux blends. (A4)

L'Aventure. 2815 Live Oak Road, Paso Robles. 227-1588. www.aventurewine.com. Open Thursdays through Sundays, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Popular wines: Paso blends, syrah, cabernet. (E6)

Linne Calodo Cellars. 3030 Vineyard Drive, Paso Robles. 227-0797. www.linnecalodo.com. Open daily, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Popular wines: Rhône blends, zinfandel blends. (E7)

Lone Madrone. 2485 Highway 46 West (at Sycamore Farms), Paso Robles. 238-0845. www.lonemadrone.com. Open daily, 10:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Popular wines: cabernet, reds. (E6)

Midlife Crisis Winery. 1244 Pine St., Paso Robles. 237-8730. www.midlife-crisiswinery.com. Open Thursdays through Mondays, 10:30 a.m. to 6 p.m. Popular wines: merlot, pinot grigio, sparkling wine. (B7)

Midnight Cellars. 2925 Anderson Road, Paso Robles. 239-8904. www.midnight-cellars.com. Open daily, 10 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Popular wines: Mare Nectaris, zinfandel. (E6)

Minassian-Young Vineyards. 4045 Peachy Canyon Road, Paso Robles. 238-7571. www.minassianyoung.com. Open Saturdays and Sundays, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. and by appointment. Popular wines: zinfandel, Rhône wines. (E5)

Nadeau Family Vintners. 3860 Peachy Canyon Road, Paso Robles. 239-3574. www.nadeaufamilyvintners.com. Open Fridays through Sundays, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Popular wines: zinfandel, Rhône, blends. (E5)

Norman Vineyards. 7450 Vineyard Drive, Paso Robles. 237-0138. www.normanvineyards.com. Open daily, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Popular wines: Monster zinfandel, syrah, No Nonsense Red. (C5)

Opolo Vineyards. 7110 Vineyard Drive, Paso Robles. 238-9593. www.opolo.com. Open daily, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Popular wines: Rhapsody Bordeaux blend, zinfandel. (C6)

Orchid Hill Winery. 1140 Pine St., Paso Robles. 237-7525. www.orchidhillwine.com. Open Thursdays through Mondays, 11 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. and by appointment. Popular wines: pinot noir, syrah, zinfandel. (B7)

Peachy Canyon Too. 2020 Nacimiento Lake Drive, Paso Robles. 237-7848. www.peachycanyon.com. Open Saturdays and Sundays, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Popular wines: zinfandel, cabernet sauvignon, blends. (F3)

Peachy Canyon Winery. 1480 North Bethel Road, Templeton. 239-1918. www.peachycanyon.com. Open daily, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Popular wines: zinfandel, cabernet sauvignon, blends. (F6)

Pianetta Winery. 829 13th St., Paso Robles. 226-4005. www.pianettawinery.com. Open Mondays, Thursdays and Fridays, noon to 6 p.m.; Saturdays and Sundays, 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Popular wines: cabernet sauvignon, syrah, sangiovese. (B7)

Pipestone Vineyards. 2040 Niderer Road, Paso Robles. 227-6385. www.pipestonevineyards.com. Open Thursdays through Mondays, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. and by appointment. Popular wines: syrah, viognier, grenache. (D5)

Rabbit Ridge Winery. 1172 San Marcos Road, Paso Robles. 467-3331. www.rabbit-ridgewinery.com. Open daily, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Popular wines: zinfandel, Italian. (F2)

Red Soles Winery. 3230 Oakdale Road, Paso Robles. 226-9898. www.redsoles-winery.com. Open Fridays and

Saturdays, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Sundays, noon p.m. to 5 p.m. Popular wines: zinfandel, blends, dessert wines. (E6)

Rotta Winery. 3750 Highway 46 West (at Cider Creek Bakery), Templeton. 237-0510. www.rottawinery.com. Open daily, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Popular wines: zinfandel, cabernet franc, dessert wines. (E7)

San Marcos Creek Vineyard. 7750 N. Highway 101, Paso Robles. 467-9260. www.sanmaroscreek.com. Open daily, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Popular wines: zinfandel, cabernet, merlot. (B2)

Silver Stone Winery. 827 13th St., Paso Robles. 226-2788. www.silverstone-wines.com. Open Fridays and Saturdays, 1 to 8 p.m.; Sundays, Mondays and Thursdays, noon to 7 p.m. Popular wines: syrah, chardonnay, pinot noir. (B7)

Stacked Stone Cellars. 1525 Peachy Canyon Road, Paso Robles. 238-7872. www.stackedstone.com. Open Fridays through Sundays, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Popular wines: zinfandel, Bordeaux blends, syrah. (F5)

Summerwood Winery & Inn. 2175 Arbor Road, Paso Robles. 227-1365. www.summerwoodwine.com. Open daily, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Popular wines: Diosa, Sentio, Diosa Blanc. (F5)

Tablas Creek Vineyard. 9339 Adelaida Road, Paso Robles. 237-1231. www.tablas-creek.com. Open daily, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Popular wines: Southern Rhône wines and blends. (B4)

Thunderbolt Junction Winery. 2740 Hidden Mountain Road, Paso Robles. 226-9907. www.thunderboltjunction.com. Open Fridays through Sundays, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. and by appointment. Popular wines: merlot, dry muscat. (E4)

Tolo Cellars. 9750-1A Adelaida Road, Paso Robles. 226-2282. www.tolocellars.com. Open Fridays through Mondays, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Popular wines: aged wine, blends, Asini zinfandel blend. (B4)

Turley Wine Cellars. 2900 Vineyard Drive, Templeton. 434-1030. www.turley-winecellars.com. Open daily, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Popular wines: old vine zinfandel. (E7)

Venteux Vineyards. 1795 Las Tablas Road, Templeton. 610-9293. www.venteuxvineyards.com. Open Fridays through Sundays, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and by appointment. Popular wines: cabernet sauvignon, syrah, petite sirah. (E7)

Villa Creek Cellars. 1144 Pine St., Paso Robles (at Villa Creek Restaurant). 238-7145. www.villacreek.com. Open daily, 4 to 10 p.m. Popular wines: grenache, syrah, mourvedre. (B7)

Villicana Winery. 2725 Adelaida Road, Paso Robles. 239-9456. www.villicana-winery.com. Open Thursdays through Sundays, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Popular wines: zinfandel, cabernet sauvignon. (E4)

Vinoteca Wine Bar. 835 12th St., Paso Robles. 227-7154. www.vinoteca-winebar.com. Open Tuesdays through Thursdays, 4 to 10 p.m.; Fridays and Saturdays, 4 to 11 p.m.; Sundays, 4 to 8 p.m. Wine bar with tasting of local and global wines. (B7)

Vista Creek Cellars. 729 13th St., Paso Robles. 610-1741. www.vistacreek-cellars.com. Open Thursdays through Mondays, 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Popular wines: Rhône, tempranillo. (B7)

Vista Del Rey Vineyards. 7340 Drake Road, Paso Robles. 467-2138. Open most Sundays, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m., during events and by appointment. Popular wines: zinfandel, barbera, pinot blanc. (E2)

Whalebone Winery. 8325 Vineyard Drive, Paso Robles. 239-9020. www.whalebonevineyard.com. Open Mondays through Thursdays, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Fridays through Sundays, 11 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Popular wines: Bob Wine red table wine. (C5)

Wild Coyote Winery & B&B. 3775 Adelaida Road, Paso Robles. 610-1311. www.wildcoyote.biz. Open daily, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Popular wines: reds. (E4)

Windward Vineyard. 1380 Live Oak Road, Paso Robles. 239-2565. www.windward-vineyard.com. Open daily, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Popular wines: pinot noir. (F6)

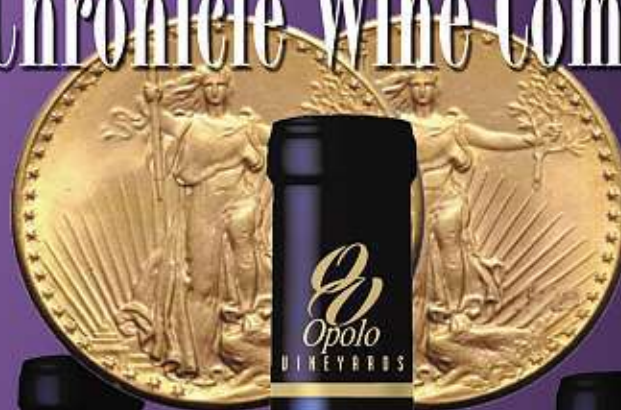
The Wine Attic. 1305 Park St. Alleyway, Paso Robles. 227-4107. www.thewine-attic.com. Open Tuesdays through Saturdays, 11:30 a.m. to 7 p.m.; Sundays through Mondays, 11:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Shop and cafe with wine tasting. (B7)

York Mountain Winery. 7505 York Mountain Road, Templeton. 238-3925. www.yorkmountainwinery.com. Open daily, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Popular wines: albarino, pinot noir, syrah. (C7)

Zenaida Cellars. 1550 Highway 46 West, Paso Robles. 227-0382. www.zenaidacellars.com. Open daily, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Popular wines: zinfandel, syrah, Zephyr. (F6)

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WINECOUNTRYGUIDE

SLO COUNTY
WINERIES AND
TASTING ROOMS



EAST OF HWY. 101

August Ridge. 8790 E. Highway 41, Creston. 239-2455. www.augustridge.com. Open Saturdays and Sundays, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m., and by appointment. Popular wines: Cal-Ital wines. (D8)

B&E Vineyard & Winery. 10000 Creston Road, Paso Robles. 238-4815. www.bevineyard.com. Open Fridays through Sundays, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m., and by appointment. Popular wines: merlot, meritage blend, cabernet. (F7)

Bella Luna Winery. 1850 Templeton Road, Templeton. 434-5477. www.bellalunawine.com. Open Saturdays through Sundays, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., sometimes Fridays. Popular wines: sangiovese, tempranillo, Fighter Pilot Red. (B7)

Bianchi Winery. 3380 Branch Road, Paso Robles. 226-9922. www.bianchiwine.com. Open daily, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Popular wines: pinot grigio, sangiovese, pinot noir. (E4)

Cass Winery & Vineyard. 7350 Linne Road, Paso Robles. 239-1730. www.casswines.com. Open Mondays through Fridays, noon to 5 p.m.; Saturdays and Sundays, 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Popular wines: Rhône wines, Hacienda, Rockin' One. (E5)

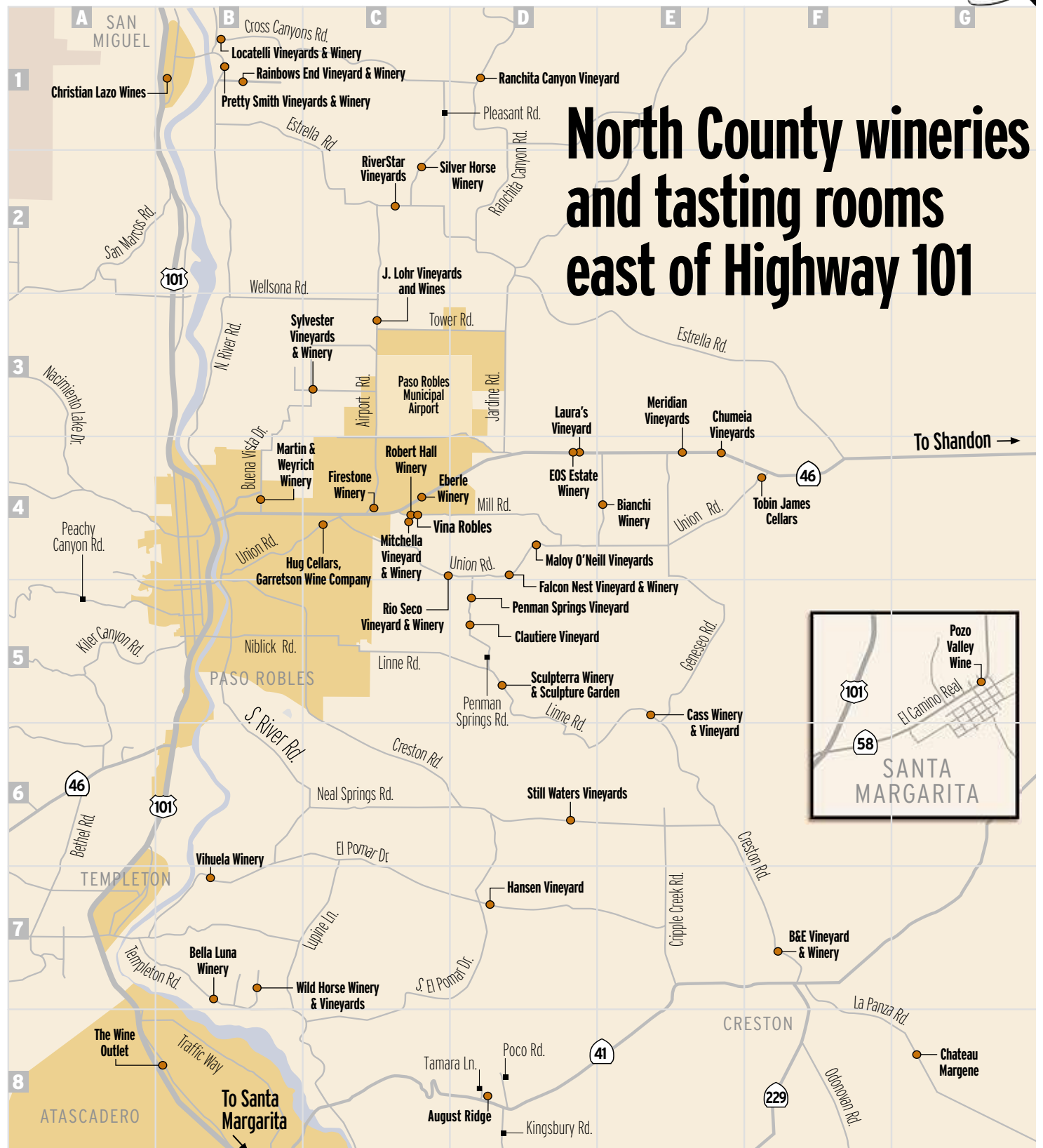
Chateau Margene. 4385 La Panza Road, Creston. 238-2321. 877-MARGENE. www.chateaumargene.com. Open Saturdays and Sundays, noon to 5 p.m., and by appointment. Popular wines: cabernet sauvignon. (G8)

Christian Lazo Wines. 249 10th St., Suite B, San Miguel. 467-2672. www.christianlazowines.com. Open Saturdays and Sundays, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and by appointment. Popular wines: zinfandel, barbera. (B2)

Chumeia Vineyards. 8331 Highway 46 East, Paso Robles. 226-0102. www.chumeiavineyards.com. Open daily, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Popular wines: zinfandel, barbera. (E4)

Clautiere Vineyard. 1340 Penmen Springs Road, Paso Robles. 237-3789. www.clautiere.com. Open daily, noon to 5 p.m. Popular wines: Rhône wines and blends. (D5)

Eberle Winery. 3810 Highway 46 East, Paso Robles. 238-9607. www.eberlewinery.com. Open daily, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.; winter hours, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Popular wines: cabernet sauvignon,



Italian wines, viognier. (C4)

EOS Estate Winery. 5625 Highway 46 East, Paso Robles. 239-2562. www.eosvintage.com. Open daily, 10 a.m. to 5

p.m. Summer hours: Mondays through Fridays, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Saturdays and Sundays, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Popular wines: petite sirah, late harvest muscato. (D4)

Falcon Nest Vineyard & Winery. 5185 Union Road, Paso Robles. 226-0227. www.falconnestwine.com. Open daily, 10 a.m. to 7:30 p.m., and holidays. Popular wines: reds. (D4)

Firestone Winery. 2300 Airport Road, Paso Robles. 591-8050. www.firestonewine.com. Open daily, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

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WINECOUNTRYGUIDE

SLO COUNTY WINERIES AND TASTING ROOMS



East

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Popular wines: Bordeaux wines, merlot, cabernet sauvignon. (C4)

Garretson Wine Co. 2323 Tuley Court, Suite 110, Paso Robles. 239-2074. www.garretsonwines.com. Open daily, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Popular wines: Rhône wines. (C4)

Hansen Vineyard. 5575 El Pomar Drive, Templeton. 239-8412. www.hansenwines.com. Open Fridays through Sundays, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Popular wines: cabernet, syrah, viognier. (D7)

Hug Cellars. 2323 Tuley Court, Suite 120D, Paso Robles. 226-8022. www.hugcellars.com. Open Thursdays through Mondays, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Popular wines: syrah, pinot noir. (C4)

J. Lohr Vineyards and Wines. 6169 Airport Road, Paso Robles. 239-8900. www.jlohr.com. Open daily, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Popular wines: cabernet, merlot, syrah. (C3)

Laura's Vineyard. 5620 Highway 46 East, Paso Robles. 238-6300. www.laurasvineyard.com. Open daily, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Popular wines: Bordeaux and Rhône wines. (D4)

Locatelli Vineyards & Winery. 8585 Cross Canyons Road, San Miguel. 467-0067. www.locatelliwinery.com. Open Fridays through Sundays, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m., and by appointment. Popular wines: petite sirah, merlot, cabernet sauvignon. (B1)

Maloy O'Neill Vineyards. 5725 Union Road, Paso Robles. 238-7320. www.maloyoneill.com. Open Fridays and Saturdays, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Sundays, noon to 5 p.m.; and by appointment. Popular wines: cabernet, syrah, Bordeaux blends. (D4)

Martin & Weyrich Winery. 2520 Buena Vista Drive, Paso Robles. 238-2520.

www.martinweyrich.com. Open Sundays through Thursdays, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Fridays and Saturdays, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Popular wines: sangiovese, pinot grigio, Moscato Allegro. (B4)

Meridian Vineyards. 7000 Highway 46 East, Paso Robles. 226-7133. www.meridianvineyards.com. Open daily, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Popular wines: chardonnay, cabernet, cabernet blanc. (E4)

Mitchella Vineyard & Winery. 2525 Mitchell Ranch Way, Paso Robles. 239-8555. www.mitchella.com. Open Fridays through Mondays, noon to 5 p.m., and by appointment. Popular

wines: cabernet, syrah, port. (C4)

Penman Springs Vineyard. 1985 Penman Springs Road, Paso Robles. 237-7959. www.penmansprings.com. Open Fridays through Sundays, 11 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.; closed January. Popular wines: reds, whites & dessert wines. (D5)

Pozo Valley Wine. 2200 El Camino Real, Santa Margarita. 438-3375. www.pozovalley.com. Open Fridays through Sundays, noon to 6 p.m. Popular wines: merlot, cabernet, zinfandel. (G5)

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SOUTH COUNTY

Alapay Cellars. 415 First St., Avila Beach. 595-2632. www.alapaycellars.com. Open daily, 10:30 a.m. to 6 p.m. Popular wines: viognier, pinot noir, zinfandel. (C5)

Avila Winery. 453 Laetitia Vineyard Drive, Arroyo Grande (at Laetitia Vineyard). 481-1772. www.avilawine.com. Open daily, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Popular wines: chardonnay, merlot. (G6)

Baileyana & Tangent wineries. 5828 Orcutt Road, San Luis Obispo. 269-8200. www.baileyana-tangent.com. Open daily, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Popular wines: chardonnay, pinot noir, sauvignon blanc. (F4)

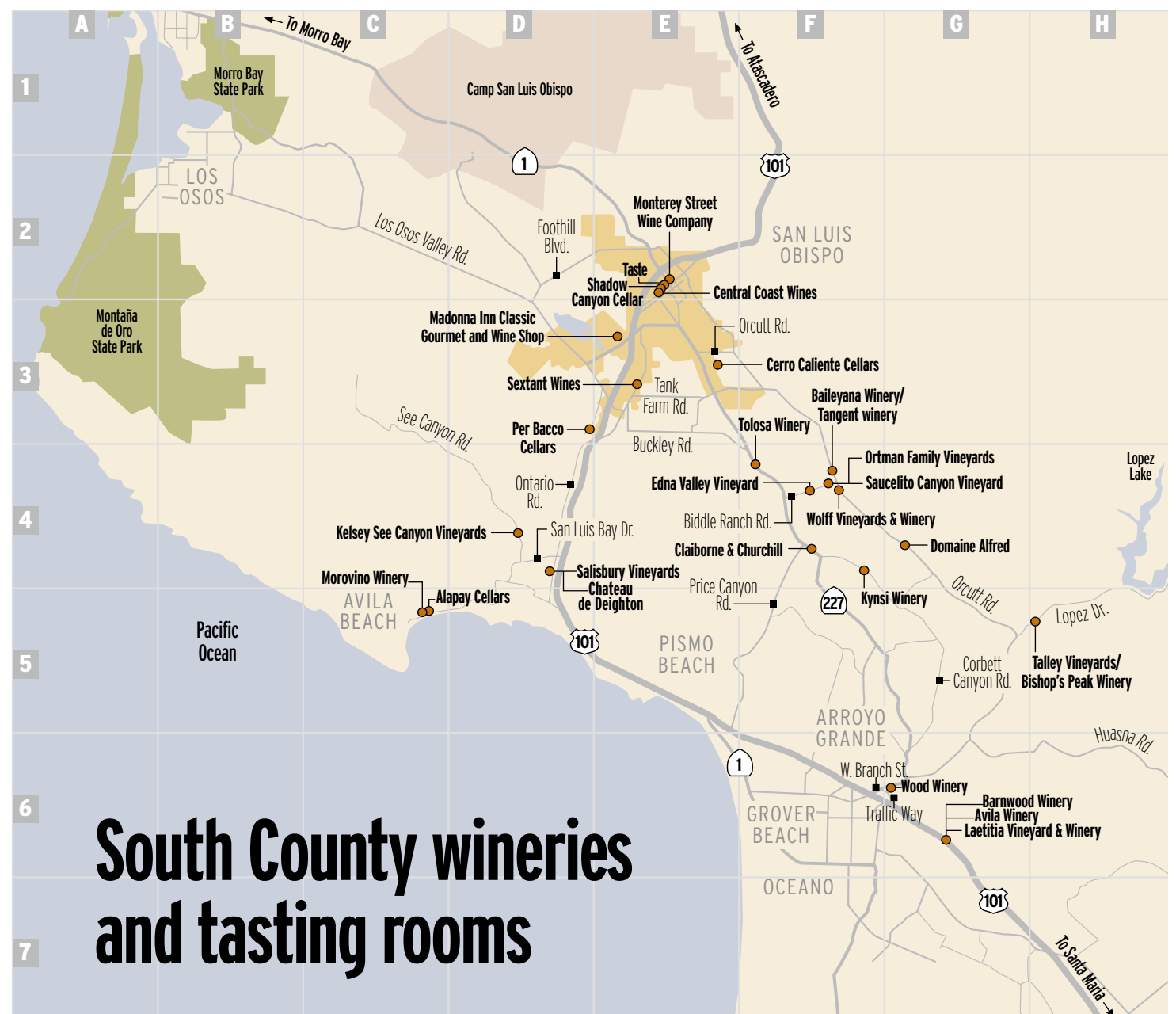
Barnwood Winery. 453 Laetitia Vineyard Drive, Arroyo Grande (at Laetitia Vineyard). 481-1772. www.barnwoodwine.com. Open daily, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Popular wines: cabernet sauvignon, sauvignon blanc. (G6)

Central Coast Wines. 712 Higuera St., San Luis Obispo. 784-WINE. www.ccwines.com. Open Sundays through Wednesdays, 11 a.m. to 6 p.m.; Thursdays, 11 a.m. to 9 p.m.; Fridays, 11 a.m. to 7 p.m.; Saturdays, 11 a.m. to 9 p.m. Store with tasting of Central Coast wines. (E2)

Cerro Caliente Cellars. 831 Via Esteban, San Luis Obispo. 544-2842. www.cerocalientecellars.com. Open Fridays through Sundays, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Popular wines: Bordeaux blends, merlot, syrah. (E3)

Chateau de Deighton. 6985 Ontario Road, San Luis Obispo (at Salisbury

Please see SOUTH, Page 50



South County wineries and tasting rooms

WINECOUNTRYGUIDE

SLO COUNTY WINERIES AND TASTING ROOMS



Dennis and Debbie Seiv of Modesto enjoy wine tasting at Tobin James Cellars while tasting room attendant Tim Booth pours a zinfandel wine.

TRIBUNE FILE PHOTO



East

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Pretty Smith Vineyards & Winery. 13350 North River Road, San Miguel. 467-3104. www.prettysmith.com. Open Fridays through Sundays, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Popular wines: Bordeaux wines. (B1)

Rainbows End Vineyard & Winery. 8535 Mission Lane, San Miguel. 467-0044, 467-3345. Open Fridays through Mondays, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m., and by appointment. Popular wines: reds. (B1)

Rio Seco Vineyard & Winery. 4295 Union Road, Paso Robles. 237-8884. www.riosecowine.com. Open daily, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Popular wines: zinfandel, cabernet franc. (C4)

RiverStar Vineyards. 7450 Estrella Road, San Miguel. 467-0086. www.riverstarvineyards.com. Open Thursdays through Mondays, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Popular wines: sauvignon blanc, syrah, cabernet. (C2)

Robert Hall Winery. 3443 Mill Road, Paso Robles. 239-1616. www.roberthallwinery.com. Open daily, 10 a.m. to 6

p.m.; winter hours, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Popular wines: Rhône wines, Blanc de Robles, Rosé de Robles. (C4)

Sculpterra Winery. 5125 Linne Road, Paso Robles. 888-302-8881. www.sculpterra.com. Open Fridays through Sundays, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., and by appointment. Popular wines: cabernet sauvignon, zinfandel, merlot. (D5)

Silver Horse Winery. 2995 Pleasant Road, San Miguel. 467-WINE. www.silverhorse.com. Open Fridays through Mondays, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Popular wines: Bordeaux, rioja wines. (C2)

Still Waters Vineyards. 2750 Old Grove Lane, Paso Robles. 237-9231. www.stillwatersvineyards.com. Open Thursdays through Mondays, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Popular wines: sauvignon blanc, viognier, Bordeaux reds. (D6)

Sylvester Vineyards & Winery. 5115 Buena Vista Drive, Paso Robles. 227-4000, 800-891-6055. www.sylvesterwinery.com. Open daily, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Popular wines: cabernet sauvignon, chardonnay, merlot. (C3)

Tobin James Cellars. 8950 Union

Road, Paso Robles. 239-2204. www.tobinjames.com. Open daily, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Popular wines: zinfandel, cabernet sauvignon, syrah. (F4)

Vihuela Winery. 995 El Pomar Drive, Templeton. 886-5400. www.vihuelawinery.com. Open Saturdays through Sundays, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Popular wines: cabernet sauvignon, syrah, Concierto del Rojo. (B7)

Vina Robles. 3700 Mill Road, Paso Robles. 227-4812. www.vinarobles.com. Open daily, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Popular wines: signature red blend, petite sirah, cabernet. (C4)

Wild Horse Winery & Vineyards. 1437 Wild Horse Winery Court, Templeton. 434-2541. www.wildhorsewinery.com. Open daily, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Popular wines: pinot noir. (B7)

The Wine Outlet. 2280 El Camino Real (in the outlet center), Atascadero. 462-WINE. www.wineoutlet.net. Open Sundays and Mondays, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.; Tuesdays through Saturdays, 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. Tasting bar open Thursdays through Sundays, noon to 5 p.m. Wine and coffee shop with wine tasting. (B8)

South

From Page 49

Vineyards). 595-WINE. www.chateau dedeighon.net. Open weekends. Popular wines: zinfandel, cuvee noir. (D4)

Claiborne & Churchill. 2649 Carpenter Canyon Road, San Luis Obispo. 544-4066. www.claibornechurchill.com. Open daily, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Popular wines: gewürztraminer, riesling, pinot noir. (F4)

Domaine Alfred. 7525 Orcutt Road, San Luis Obispo. 541-WINE. www.domainealfred.com. Open daily, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Popular wines: pinot noir, chardonnay, syrah. (G4)

Edna Valley Vineyard. 2585 Biddle Ranch Road, San Luis Obispo. 544-5855. www.ednavalley.com. Open daily, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Popular wines: chardonnay, pinot noir, cabernet. (F4)

Kelsey See Canyon Vineyards. 1947 See Canyon Road, San Luis Obispo. 595-9700. www.kelseywine.com. Open daily, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Popular wines: syrah, apple chardonnay, zinfandel port. (D4)

Kynsi Winery. 2212 Corbett Canyon Road, Arroyo Grande. 544-8461, 544-6181. www.kynsi.com. Open Thursdays through Mondays, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Popular wines: pinot noir, syrah, pinot blanc. (F4)

Laetitia Vineyard & Winery. 453 Laetitia Vineyard Drive, Arroyo Grande. 888-809-VINE. www.laetitiawine.com. Open daily, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Popular wines: pinot noir, chardonnay, sparkling wine. (G6)

Madonna Inn Classic Gourmet and Wine Shop. 100 Madonna Road, San Luis Obispo. 784-2438. www.madonnainn.com. Open daily, 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. Store with tasting of private label wines. (E3)

Monterey Street Wine Company. 1255A Monterey St., San Luis Obispo. 541-1255. www.montereystreetwines.com. Open Mondays through Wednesdays, 11 a.m. to 7 p.m.; Thursdays, 11 a.m. to 9 p.m.; Fridays and Saturdays, 11 a.m. to 8 p.m.; Sundays, noon to 5 p.m. Store with tasting of international wines. (E2)

Morovino Winery. 550 First St., Avila Beach. 627-1443. www.morovino.com.

Open Thursdays through Sundays, noon to 5 p.m. Popular wines: Tango, Ambrato, Cosa Dolce. (C5)

Ortman Family Vineyards. 3080 Biddle Ranch Road (at Saucelito Canyon Vineyard), San Luis Obispo. 473-9463. www.ortmanvineyards.com. Open daily, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Popular wines: chardonnay, pinot noir. (F4)

Per Bacco Cellars. 1850 Calle Joaquin, San Luis Obispo. 787-0485. www.perbaccocellars.com. Open daily, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Popular wines: pinot grigio, chardonnay, pinot noir. (D3)

Salisbury Vineyards. 6985 Ontario Road, San Luis Obispo. 595-WINE. www.salisburyvineyards.com. Open daily, 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Popular wines: pinot noir, chardonnay, syrah. (D4)

Saucelito Canyon Vineyard. 3080 Biddle Ranch Road, San Luis Obispo. 543-2111. www.saucelitocanyon.com. Open daily, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Popular wines: zinfandel, cabernet. (F4)

Sextant Wines. 3536 South Higuera St., Suite 250, San Luis Obispo. 866-833-WINE. www.sextantwines.com. Open Thursdays through Mondays, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Popular wines: zinfandel. (E3)

Talley Vineyards. 3031 Lopez Drive, Arroyo Grande. 489-0446. www.talleyvineyards.com. Open daily, 10:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Popular wines: chardonnay, pinot noir. (H5)

Taste. 1003 Osos St., San Luis Obispo. 269-8278. www.taste-slo.com. Open Mondays through Saturdays, 11 a.m. to 9 p.m.; Sundays, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Store with Enomatic machines dispensing wine tastes. (E2)

Tolosa Winery. 4910 Edna Road, San Luis Obispo. 782-0500. www.tolosawinery.com. Open daily, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Popular wines: chardonnay, pinot noir. (F4)

Wolff Vineyards. 6238 Orcutt Road, San Luis Obispo. 781-0448. www.wolffvineyards.com. Open daily, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Popular wines: chardonnay, pinot noir, syrah. (F4)

Wood Winery. 136 Bridge St., Arroyo Grande. 489-9663. www.wildwoodwine.com. Open Thursdays through Mondays, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Popular wines: pinot noir, syrah, viognier. (G6)

www.sanluisobispo.com

WINECOUNTRYGUIDE

SLO COUNTY
WINERIES AND
TASTING ROOMS



NORTH COAST

AronHill Vineyards. 845 Embarcadero, Suite F, Morro Bay. 610-5751. www.aronhillvineyards.com. Open daily, noon to 6 p.m.; winter months, Thursdays through Mondays, noon to 5 p.m. Popular wines: primitivo, port, cabernet sauvignon. (G7)

Cambria Wine Shop. 788 Main St., Cambria. 927-0990. Open Sundays through Thursdays, 11 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.; Fridays and Saturdays, 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. Store with tasting of local boutique and other wines. (A2)

Cayucos Cellars. 131 N. Ocean Ave., Cayucos. 995-3036. www.cayucoscellars.com. Open Wednesdays through Mondays, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Popular wines: chardonnay, pinot noir. (F5)

Fermentations. 4056 Burton Drive, Cambria. 446-7505. www.fermentations.com. Open daily 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. Store with tasting of hand-crafted wines. (B2)

Harmony Cellars. 3255 Harmony Valley Road, Harmony. 927-1625, 800-432-9239. www.harmonycellars.com. Open daily, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.; 10 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. in July and August. Popular wines: chardonnay, cabernet, merlot. (C4)

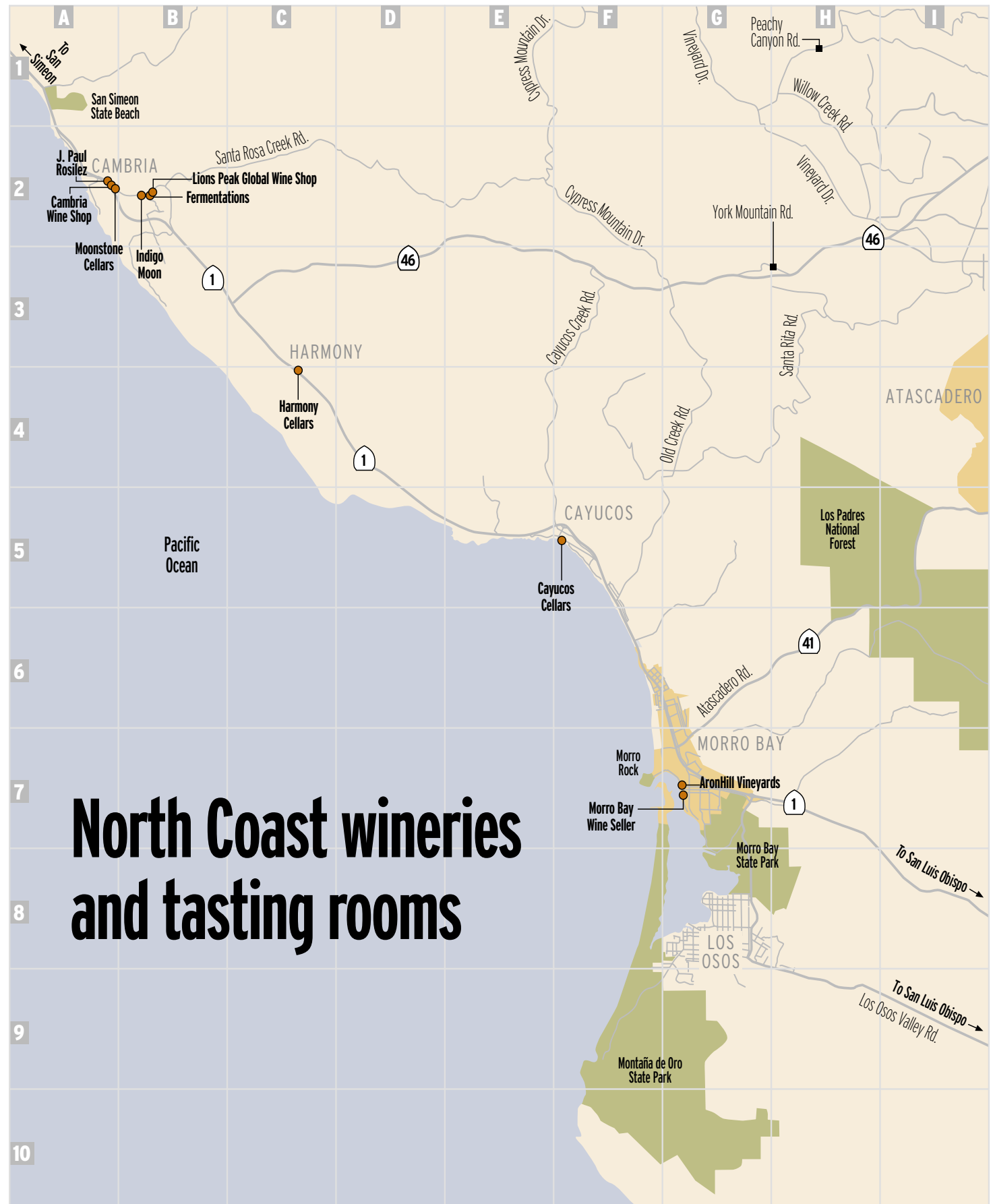
Indigo Moon. 1980 Main St., Cambria. 927-2911. Open Mondays through Thursdays, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.; Fridays and Saturdays, 10 a.m. to 9 p.m.; Sundays, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Cafe with wine tasting. (B2)

J. Paul Rosilez. 734 Main St., Suite C, Cambria. 927-5110. Open Thursdays through Mondays, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. (A2)

Lions Peak Global Wine Shop. 4044 Burton Drive, Cambria. 927-1450. www.lionspeakwinecompany.com. Open Tuesdays through Saturdays, 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Shop selling Lions Peak and other small producers. (B2)

Moonstone Cellars. 801 Main St., Suite C, Cambria. 528-9463, 877-517-9463. www.moonstonecellars.com. Open Thursdays through Mondays, 11 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.; winter months, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Popular wines: syrah, chardonnay. (A2)

Morro Bay Wine Seller. 601 Embarcadero #5, Morro Bay. 772-8388. www.morrobaywineseller.com. Open Sundays through Thursdays, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.; Fridays and Saturdays, 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. Store with tasting of regional and international wines. (G7)



North Coast wineries and tasting rooms

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WINE

ANNUAL WINE EVENTS

APRIL

Highway 46 Westside Wineries Group Tax Revolt Weekend. April 11-13. The 13 Westside wineries in Paso Robles will eliminate all sales tax on wine purchased Saturday and Sunday. Friday night wine, cheese and olive oil tasting at Midnight Cellars from 6 to 8 p.m. 434-0319. www.paso46westwineries.com.

Earth Day Wine & Food Festival. April 19. This new festival features earth-friendly cuisine, sustainably produced wines, live entertainment, silent auction and educational exhibits highlighting innovative products. Held at the historic Santa Margarita de Cortona Asistencia ranch in Santa Margarita from 1 to 4 p.m. Tickets are \$75. 369-CCVT. www.earthdayfoodandwine.com.

Cal Poly Wine Festival. April 26. Cal Poly students plan and run the festival with wine, food, music and art from around the county and state. 1 to 4 p.m. at Santa Margarita Ranch. 440-9080. www.calpolywinefestival.com.

MAY

Roll Out the Barrels. May 1 to 4. San Luis Obispo wineries host open houses with food, live entertainment and wine tasting. The weekend kicks off with food and wine at a barrel tasting in Mission Plaza; tickets are \$25. Two-day passport for weekend events is \$50. 541-5868. www.slowine.com.

Hospice du Rhône Festival. May 1 to 3. The world's largest international celebration of Rhône wines, with a barrel auction, bowling tournament, wine and food tasting and seminars. This year's theme is "From Roussanne with Love." Paso Robles Event Center. Tickets available for specific events or the entire festival, ranging from \$100 to \$795. 784-9543. www.hospicedurhone.com.

Paso Robles Wine Festival. May 16 to 18. More than 90 Paso Robles wineries will be featured at California's largest outdoor wine tasting at City Park. Other weekend events include winemaker dinners, winery events and a golf tournament. Cost is \$55 for admission from 2 to 5 p.m. Saturday and \$75 for a Premium Ticket from 1 to 5 p.m. 239-8463. www.pasowine.com.

JUNE

Pinot & Paella Cook-Off. June 8. Chefs compete for the best paella to pair with Paso Robles pinot noirs at Templeton Community Park. Event benefits the Paso Robles Youth Arts Foundation. Tickets are \$65. 238-5825. www.pinotandpaella.com.

Atascadero Wine Festival. June 20 to 21. The Atascadero Sunken Gardens plays host to a winemaker dinner under the stars on Friday. On Saturday, the Wine Tasting and Fine Arts Festival takes over Atascadero Lake Park from 11:30 a.m. to 4 p.m., with 45 wineries, local artists and food. www.atascaderowinefestival.com.

JULY

Central Coast Wine Classic. July 10 to 13. Charitable events throughout the weekend include wine tasting, auctions, seminars, demonstrations, the annual Black-Tie Dinner at Hearst Castle and winemaker dinners. Most events held at The Dolphin Bay Hotel and Residences in Shell Beach. Reservations are recommended and ticket prices vary. www.centralcoastwineclassic.org.

AUGUST

Winemaker Invitational Cook-off. Aug. 9. Central Coast wineries pair gourmet food with their wines as they compete for a coveted award. The Paso Robles Rotary Club designates all profits to the Harlow Ford Scholarship Fund benefiting local high school seniors. At the River Oaks Hot Springs and Spa from 6 to 9 p.m. Tickets are \$75. 226-5674. www.winemakerscookoff.com.

SEPTEMBER

West Fest Wine and Blues Festival. Sept. 3. Taste award-winning wines while listening to the blues at Peachy Canyon Winery from 2 to 6 p.m. Admission price TBA. 434-0319. www.paso46westwineries.com.

OCTOBER

Paso Robles Harvest Wine Tour. Oct. 17 to 19. Paso wineries host events throughout the weekend. www.pasowine.com.

NOVEMBER

SLO Harvest Wine Festival. Nov. 7-9. San Luis Obispo and Arroyo Grande wineries host individual tastings and dinners. www.slowine.com.



Sipping wine isn't the only thing you can do at the Atascadero Wine Festival. Eileen Hervy, left, and Maggi Daame shop for a custom sip slip for their wine glasses.

TRIBUNE FILE
PHOTO BY
NICHOLAUS
HULSEBUS

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STATEPARKS

Cayucos State Beach. Picnic and children's play facilities. In Cayucos, 5 miles north of Morro Bay at the western end of Cayucos Drive. 781-5930. www.slostateparks.com/cayucos_state_beach/default.asp.

Los Osos Oaks State Reserve. Eighty-five acres of centuries-old coastal live oak trees and beautiful hiking trails. Off Los Osos Valley Road, just east of town. For day use only. 772-7434. www.slostateparks.com/los_osos_oaks/default.asp.

Montaña de Oro State Park. More than 8,000 acres of rugged cliffs, secluded sandy beaches, coastal plains, streams, canyons and hills just south of Los Osos. Also mountain biking and equestrian trails. Wildlife includes black-tailed deer, coyotes and various shore birds. Primitive and equestrian campsites. 528-0513 or 772-7434. www.slostateparks.com/montana_de_oro/default.asp.

Morro Bay State Park. Lagoon and natural bay habitat in adjacent estuary. Most prominent landmark is Morro Rock. Opportunities for sailing, fishing, hiking and bird watching. Park museum has exhibits on natural features and cultural history, Native American life, geology and oceanography. Colorful marina and 18-hole public golf course. In Morro Bay, just off Highway 1. 772-2560 or 772-2694 for the Museum of Natural History. www.slostateparks.com/morro_bay/default.asp.

Morro Strand State Beach. A coastal frontage park featuring outstanding beach camp sites. Beach combing, fishing, wind surfing, body boarding, surfing, running and kite flying popular along the 3-mile beach. At the northern end of the city of Morro Bay, off Highway 1. 772-8812. www.slostateparks.com/morro_strand/default.asp.

Oceano Dunes. One of seven State Vehicular Recreation Areas, these 3,600 acres are among the most popular and unique of State Parks. 5.5 miles of beach open for vehicle use and the 1,500 acres of dunes available for off-highway motor vehicle recreation. The Dunes is the only State Park in which vehicles may be driven on the beach. Primitive camping, with only toilets provided. Located in Oceano, 3 miles south of Pismo Beach off Highway 1. 473-7223. www.slostateparks.com/oceano_dunes/default.asp.

Pismo State Beach. Attractions include hiking, swimming, surfing, surf fishing, annual winter migration of thousands of monarch butterflies and tree-lined dunes. The beach is also popular with bird watchers. Access just south of Pismo Beach off Highway 1. 489-2684. www.slostateparks.com/pismo_beach/default.asp.

William Randolph Hearst Memorial State Beach. Near the historic town of San Simeon along Highway 1. Opportunities to hike, swim and fish. Picnic tables, barbecue grills and restrooms are available. Across Highway 1 from Hearst Castle, about 8 miles north of Cambria. 927-2020. www.slostateparks.com/hearst_memorial/default.asp.

Explore miles of beauty along the coast

Thirteen miles of coastline — 959 acres in all — were added to Hearst San Simeon State Park in 2004. The acquisition was part of an historic \$95 million Hearst Ranch conservation deal.

Since the land was added, State Parks has been making it easier to access by adding hiking entrances at strategic locations.

The southern part of the park includes the Junge Ranch, which offers a mile of coastal bluffs that are excellent for marine wildlife viewing. It also features two and a half miles of beach south of Hearst Memorial State Beach.

Entrances to the Junge Ranch are at the end of Lone Palm Drive and at the corner of Balboa Avenue and Vista del Mar in San Simeon Acres. The beach can be accessed from Hearst Memorial State Beach or from three highway vista points.

Four miles of coastline stretch south from Point Piedras Blancas. This area includes the famous elephant seal viewing areas as well as a three-quarter mile long beach popular with windsurfers at Arroyo Laguna.

Two parking lots — one paved and another unpaved — are available to elephant seal viewers. A dirt parking lot and a well-worn trail lead to the beach at Arroyo Laguna just south of the elephant seal viewing area.

North of Point Piedras Blancas is three more miles of coast that stretch all the way to Arroyo de la Cruz. Highlights of this area include the Piedras Blancas Motel, which was recently acquired by State Parks, and a small beach at Arroyo de la Cruz, a creek popular with steel-head fly fishermen.

Two main access points are available to hikers wishing to explore this area.



TRIBUNE FILE PHOTOS BY DAVID MIDDLECAMP

Above, at the northern end of the Hearst Ranch coast, wisps of clouds tickle the Santa Lucia mountain range as it rises from the sea. Right, native succulents dot the coastline.



One is at the Piedras Blancas Motel and the other is a pullout just south of Arroyo de la Cruz with a pedestrian entrance.

The northern two miles of the new parkland is considered the crown jewel of the park. It features stunning ocean vistas with Big Sur as a backdrop, grassy bluffs and near pristine tide pools.

Reaching this part of the park can be difficult because it is fenced. During the summer when the beach blocks the creek, hikers can walk north from Arroyo de la Cruz. Otherwise, look for gaps in the fence usually identified by faint trails visible in the grass.

OTHERHIKING

The county's state parks boast spectacular opportunities for hiking and mountain biking, and there are dozens of other scenic areas with trails as well.

A breathtaking view of San Luis Obispo can be seen from Bishop Peak. Any nature lover seeking the water should head to Lopez Lake, where many trails can be found.

There are too many to list here, but these should send you in the right direction. For more information, visit www.slocountyparks.com.

El Chorro Regional Park. On Highway 1, four miles northwest of San Luis Obispo. Three trails

ranging from 0.7 to 2.2 miles.

Guadalupe-Nipomo Dunes. This fragile ecosystem and national wildlife refuge stretches 18 miles along the coast between Pismo Beach and Vandenberg Air Force Base. It consists of dunes, freshwater lakes and saltwater marshes and is home to rare plant and animal species. For information on guided hikes to the area, call the Dunes Center, open Tuesdays through Sundays, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. 1055 Guadalupe St., Guadalupe. 343-2455.

Heilmann Regional Park. In Atascadero, north of El Camino Real at the end of El Bordo Avenue. Two trails, 1.3 and 1.7 miles.

Santa Margarita Lake Regional Park. Along

Santa Margarita Lake Road off Highway 58. Nine multiuse trails, from 1.5 to 10 miles.

Lopez Lake Recreation Area. On Lopez Drive off Highway 227, eight miles east of Arroyo Grande. 788-2381. Nine multiuse trails from 0.4 to 2.3 miles. Close by is the 7-mile Hi Mountain Trail.

OPEN SPACE TRAILS

Bob Jones City to the Sea Bike Trail. Runs from Ontario Road staging area to San Luis Bay Drive, Avila Beach.

Bishop Peak Trail. 1.5 miles of moderate hiking to the top of Bishop Peak, accessible from Patricia Avenue in San Luis Obispo.

COUNTYCAMPGROUNDS

San Luis Obispo County offer some of the most spectacular sights in the world – not to mention dozens of sites for camping.

SAN SIMEON STATE PARK

The campground here is divided into two parts – the San Simeon Creek Campground and the Washburn Primitive Campground. This is a great place for trips to see the elephant seals, Hearst Castle or Ragged Point. Even though many of the sites are afforded privacy with trees and vegetation, you don't get a strong woodsy feeling here, partly because it's so close to the highway. **Fees:** \$15 at Washburn; \$25 at San Simeon Creek (\$11 and \$20, Sept. 16-May 14). No hook-ups. San Simeon Creek has pay showers. Reservations taken from March 15-Sept. 30.

We like: Some of the sites offer ocean views from your tent. Also, the nearest beach is just a short walk away. And when it's packed everywhere else, this is one of the best places to find availability.

Not so good: The nearest beach is pretty rocky with lots of driftwood, and it's often windy out here. If you run out of supplies, you'll have to drive to Cambria to go to a full-size grocery store.

Contact information: 800-444-7275; www.slostateparks.com/san_simeon.

MORRO STRAND STATE BEACH

This is basically a long runway of pavement. With few trees, this campground doesn't offer much cover. That said, the site nudges against the dunes and lies just a few yards from the ocean.

Fees: \$25 (\$20 from Sept. 16-May 14). No hookups. No showers. Reservations taken May 25-Sept. 4.

We like: This is a great place for a surfer to camp. Sunsets are great, and it's a perfect place to watch Fourth of July fireworks. If you're not the outdoors type, stores and restaurants are close.

Not so good: Lacking trees and shrubbery, your business is everyone else's. If the wind and fog come in, you'd better have a sweater handy.

Contact information: 800-444-7275; www.slostateparks.com/morro_strand.

MORRO BAY STATE PARK

Near Black Hill and the estuary, this campground offers a warm, woodsy feel with lots of trees and nice scenery. The park includes the golf course, natural history museum and a marina where you can rent kayaks. Most sites provide stone picnic tables and fire pits. And despite the fact that trees were cut down during recent renovations, there's still lots of leafy cover, allowing for filtered sunlight.

Fees: \$25 per night; \$34 with hook-ups (\$20 and \$29 from Sept. 16 to May 14). Reservations taken year-round.

We like: From Black Hill and the back of the museum, there are great views of Morro Rock. The tables here are sturdy, and this is usually a calm, quiet campground – good for family outings.

Not so good: Mosquitoes can get nasty. And the renovations, while adding space, also added

pavement. Walking trails are somewhat limited.

Contact information: 800-444-7275; www.slostateparks.com/morro_bay.

MONTAÑA DE ORO

Set in a bowl surrounded by lush hills, this campground features striking views. There are plenty of trees for shade, a fair amount of grass and a vast network of trails for hiking, mountain biking or horseback riding.

Fees: \$15 (\$11 from Sept. 16-May 14). No hook-ups. No showers. Reservations taken May 26-Sept. 4.

We like: Because the site is tucked away and there are no busy roads nearby, you'll feel like you're really out in the wilderness. At 1,347 feet, Valencia Peak is relatively easy to climb, and the payoff – great 360-degree views – is well worth it. And there are beautiful coves and crashing waves.

Not so good: Heavy rainfall can make fertile ground for ticks. Also, it can get foggy here.

Contact information: 800-444-7275; www.slostateparks.com/montana_de_oro.

EL CHORRO REGIONAL PARK

Located across Highway 1 from Cuesta College, El Chorro Regional Park offers more than 60 campsites in a tree-filled setting. Forty-five of the campsites have electricity, sewer and water hook-ups, and 18 do not, though bathrooms and showers are nearby. The park also contains Dairy Creek Golf Course, an off-leash dog park, a botanical garden and trails.

Fees: \$27 per night (\$23 from October through March) for full hook-up sites; \$18 per night for primitive sites. First-come, first-served except for large groups.

We like: The campsites with hook-ups are fairly large and well-shaded, and the park is pretty. There's lots to do in the park besides camp.

Not so good: The highway and the National Guard base are easily visible from the primitive camping area, and the golf course is visible from the other section – it's hard to feel like you're in nature when golf carts or cars are going by.

Contact information: 781-5930; www.slocountyparks.com/activities/el_chorro.htm.

SANTA MARGARITA LAKE REGIONAL PARK

Santa Margarita Lake Regional Park is east of Santa Margarita off Pozo Road and offers more than 50 campsites and a marina. The Santa Margarita Lake Swimming Pool inside the park is open through Labor Day.

Fees: \$18. Camping reservations can be made up to a year in advance.

We like: Wildlife is friendly enough to be seen while driving around the park, the lake is open to boating and fishing, and there are plenty of trails. Campsites on high ground offer nice views.

Not so good: There's no swimming allowed in the lake (it's San Luis Obispo's drinking water reservoir), and the sites are of the primitive kind, though outhouses and bathrooms are available

RESERVATIONINFORMATION

Reservations are needed for some state park campgrounds at certain times of the year. Reservations can be made by calling 800-444-7275 from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. or going online to www.reserveamerica.com. A reservation fee of \$7.50 is added to the campground fee. Campgrounds are first-come first-served when not on reservations.

throughout the grounds. Also, some orange fencing set up near the pool is unsightly, though likely not permanent.

Contact information: 788-2397; www.slocountyarks.com/activities/santa_margarita.htm.

LOPEZ LAKE RECREATION AREA

About 10 miles northeast of Arroyo Grande, past Talley Vineyards, lies Lopez Lake Recreation Area, which has more than 350 campsites.

Fees: \$18; \$22 to \$27 for hook-ups, depending on season and type. Showers are available. Reservations can be made up to a year in advance for a \$6 fee and can be made online.

We like: The recreation area is large with ample camping space, and the marina includes a tackle shop, food store, launch ramps and year-round boat rentals for fishing enthusiasts. Part of the lake is open for swimming, and the Mustang Waterslides also are in the recreation area.

Not so good: It's a bit of a drive to get there.

Contact information: 788-2381; www.slocountyparks.com/activities/lopez.htm.

PISMO STATE BEACH, NORTH CAMPGROUND

Located in the north end of Pismo State Beach, this pleasant campground combines grassy fields with stands of trees and shrubs. Migrating Monarch butterflies spend the winter months here in thick groves of eucalyptus and Monterey pines.

Fees: \$25 (\$20 from Sept. 16-May 14). No hook-ups. Pay showers. Reservations taken May 25-Sept. 4.

We like: With tall trees shielding tents and RVs from traffic noise, campers will forget they're so close to town. It's a short walk to the stunning stretch of beach south of the Pismo Beach Pier.

Not so good: The campground shares its northern border with the upscale Pismo Coast Village RV Resort. North Beach fills up quickly, so latecomers may find themselves staring at the gleaming backside of a Winnebago.

Contact information: 800-444-7275; www.slostateparks.com/northbeach_campground.

PISMO STATE BEACH, OCEANO CAMPGROUND

Oceano Lagoon makes a pretty focal point for this well-maintained campground shaded by tall stands of eucalyptus trees. It's just off Pier Street and within easy walking distance of the beach and a number of shops and restaurants.

On certain afternoons, visitors can check out the Nature Center for insight about the area's flora, fauna and history.

Fees: \$25; \$34 with hook-ups (\$20 and \$29 from Sept. 16-May 14). Pay showers. Reservations taken year-round.

We like: This campground seems suited for RV travel with its asphalt surface, well-shaded campsites and generous bathroom facilities. Roughly half of the 82 spots have full hook-ups.

Not so good: It's difficult to see the ocean.

Contact information: 800-444-7275; www.slostateparks.com/oceano_campground.

OCEANO MEMORIAL CAMPGROUND

All the comforts of home are available at this 24-space campground, which offers water, sewer and electric hook-ups just a few blocks away from shops and restaurants. Campers can fish at the nearby Oceano Lagoon, surrounded by a well-maintained park where seagulls outnumber ducks. There's another park down the street.

Fees: \$23, \$27 with hook-ups. Showers available. First-come first-served.

We like: Although it might bore older kids, this tiny campground is ideal for tots who aren't ready to take on the great outdoors. They can feed bread to the birds, watch small planes take off at the county airport next door or explore a lavish playground complete with plastic palm trees.

Not so good: Just like camping in your back yard, there's little sense of escape about setting up a RV in this asphalt-and-barkdust lot surrounded by homes. There's no view of the beach, and the facilities are drab and outdated.

Contact information: 781-4900; www.slocountyparks.com/activities/oceano.htm.

OCEANO DUNES VEHICULAR RECREATION AREA

Ever popular with off-roaders, this massive beach campground gives visitors a choice of two spectacular views: the rollicking Pacific Ocean or the sun-kissed sand dunes. Drive on the beach, roar down the dunes in an ATV or take in the local wildlife.

Campers should be mindful of the barebones facilities; they'll have to haul in water and take out trash.

Fees: \$10 per vehicle. No showers. Reservations are taken year-round.

We like: Few places in the county offer the otherworldly beauty of the Oceano Dunes: massive slopes of shifting sand, pelicans resting beside a deep blue sliver of lake, kiteboarders using the wind to crest the waves. Enough said.

Not so good: In general, the Oceano Dunes are only accessible to folks with four-wheel drive because of a swift-moving stream that cuts off campsites from the rest of the beach. Plus, those seeking rest may find their sleep disturbed by rambunctious 20-somethings on ATVs.

Contact information: 473-7220; www.slostateparks.com/oceano_dunes.

CYCLING

Highway 1 is a popular and scenic route with cyclists from around the world. In 1990, California's legislature designated Highway 1 as an official state bicycle route, based partly on its being a "challenging route that passes some of the nation's most beautiful scenery."

In February, the third Tour of California came through the county along Highway 1. If you're inspired to do some cycling of your own but not quite up for such a Lance Armstrong-like endeavor, you can still see some of that scenery on the rides below.

Tailor a trip of any length by choosing from among the following segments. Restrooms and parking lots are available at Lila Keiser Park in Morro Bay, Hardie Park in Cayucos, Shamel Park in Cambria and Hearst Memorial State Beach in San Simeon.

SAN LUIS OBISPO TO MORRO BAY

15 miles, mostly downhill with a couple of small climbs at the California Men's Colony and at the approach to Morro Bay.

The good: Wide shoulder; well-used bicycle route.

The bad: Merging on- and offramps through Morro Bay. Keep an eye over your shoulder as you

cross them and watch for traffic entering the freeway from the side.

Alternate: Take Foothill Boulevard to Los Osos Valley Road and turn right; turn right again on Turri Road; turn right on South Bay Boulevard; enter Highway 1 from the onramp. Sixteen miles that are flat and rural once you leave town with a nice climb over Turri Road. Watch out for a dangerous hairpin curve on the Turri descent.

Alternate: Take Foothill Boulevard to O'Connor Road. Ride the Wayne Williams Bikeway the back way into Cuesta College, through the college and rejoin Highway 1 at the traffic light. Distance is about the same as the previous two routes.

MORRO BAY TO CAMBRIA

Twenty miles that combine coastal and inland highway. After leaving Morro Bay on Highway 1, turn right at Old Creek Road in Cayucos, then immediately left onto Ocean Avenue, the frontage road.

Follow the bike trail past the cemetery and across the Colin Reilly Memorial Bridge. Turn left at the stop sign to rejoin Ocean Avenue on the other side of the freeway. Ride the bike lane through town. Connect again with Highway 1 at the north end of Cayucos. Watch carefully for



TRIBUNE PHOTO BY LAURA DICKINSON

Cyclists ride along Highway 1, which was a part of the fourth stage of the 2008 Tour of California. The ride contains great views of the coast.

cross traffic as you re-enter Highway 1.

The good: Wide shoulder with one exception; great coastal views.

The bad: Toro Creek Bridge north of Morro Bay has no shoulder. Look behind you for traffic before you cross the bridge.

CAMBRIA TO HEARST STATE BEACH

Eight miles of flat highway.

The good: Wide shoulder; great coastal views; nice alternate route along Moonstone Drive at the north end of Cambria.

The bad: Can't think of anything.

HEARST STATE BEACH TO PIEDRAS BLANCAS AND CAPPUCCINO COVE

Seven miles of rolling hills alongside Hearst Ranch past beaches that are ruled by elephant seals.

The good: Exquisite coastal views. Caltrans has done a good job widening the highway and adding bike lanes. Cappuccino Cove coffee shop serves soup and sandwiches, pastries and ice cream.

The bad: Northbound cyclists frequently encounter heavy headwinds. Drivers distracted by seals sometimes don't see law-abiding cyclists.

The return: If you have a headwind going out, you will have a tailwind coming back. You can crank up some speed getting past the seals and the tourists.

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GOLFCOURSES

AVILA BEACH RESORT GOLF COURSE

6464 Ana Bay Drive, Avila Beach; 595-4000 ext. 1; www.avilabeachresort.com.

Yardage: Championship, 6,580 yards, par 71; Men's, 6,053 yards; Women's, 5,041 yards

Rating: Championship, 72.3; Men's, 69.6; Women's, 70.3

Slope: Championship, 138; Men's, 130; Women's, 121

Green fees: Weekdays: \$56. Seniors: \$48. Twilight: \$40. Weekends: \$70. Seniors: \$58. Twilight: \$50.

Carts, 18 holes: \$17 per player; nine holes: \$14.

Spectator fee: \$12.

For your enjoyment: Championship course with views of Avila Beach. Half the course is in an oak-lined valley, and the other half is situated around a tidal estuary. At many holes, accuracy is more important than distance off the tee. The fringes are kikuyua grass, which sticks like Velcro and makes it almost impossible to bump and roll the ball.

BLACKLAKE GOLF RESORT

1490 Golf Course Lane, Nipomo; 343-1214, ext. 4; www.blacklake.com.

Yardage: 27-hole course, Lakes and Canyon nines are par 36, the Oaks is par 35. Lakes/Canyon, 6,400; Canyon/Oaks, 6,000; Lakes/Oaks, 6,200

Rating: Championship, Lakes/Canyon, 71.2; Canyon/Oaks, 69.3; Lakes/Oaks, 70.3

Slope: Championship, Lakes/Canyon, 125; Canyon/Oaks, 124; Lakes/Oaks, 122

Green fees: Weekdays: \$56. Seniors: \$48. Twilight: \$40. Weekends: \$70. Seniors: \$58. Twilight: \$50. Carts, 18 holes: \$17 per player; nine holes: \$14 per player. Spectator fee: \$12.

For your enjoyment: Oaks and ponds decorate the 27-hole course with three distinct nines for players of all levels. Accurate tee shots will help, as each tee box is framed by towering oaks or pines.

CHALK MOUNTAIN GOLF COURSE

10000 El Bordo Road, Atascadero; 466-8848; www.chalkmountaingolf.com.

Yardage: Gold, 5,330; White, 5,926; Blue, 6,299, par 72

Rating: Gold, 71.4; White, 69.3; Blue, 70.9

Slope: Gold, 119; White, 120; Blue, 125

Green fees: Weekdays: \$32. Seniors: \$23. Juniors: \$13. Weekends: \$37. Seniors: \$37. Juniors \$14. Carts: \$16 per rider.

For your enjoyment: An 18-hole course set among rolling hills and mature oak trees. A meandering stream accentuates the course and comes into play on six of the holes. Accuracy is a must when playing in the narrow fairways.

CYPRESS RIDGE GOLF COURSE

780 Cypress Ridge Parkway, Arroyo Grande; 474-7979; www.cypressridge.com.

Yardage: Black, 6,803; Blue, 6,443; Combo, 6,140; White, 5,838; Red, 5,087, par 72

Rating: Black, 72.9; Blue, 71.2; Combo, 70.0; White, 68.5; Women's white, 75.0; Red, 70.7

Slope: Black, 134; Blue, 129; Combo, 126; White, 124; Women's white, 131; Red, 122

Green fees: Mondays through Thursdays: \$55.

Fridays through Sundays: \$68. Twilight: Mondays through Thursdays, \$30. Fridays through Sundays, \$40. Carts: \$17 per rider.

For your enjoyment: This Peter Jacobsen Signature Course is designed around the natural environment. In most cases, trouble exists over the greens. Favoring the front part of the green will allow the best chance for par.

DAIRY CREEK GOLF COURSE

2990-B Dairy Creek Road, San Luis Obispo. 782-8070. www.slocountyparks.com/facilities/dairycreek.htm.

Yardage: Red, 4,965; White, 5,561; Blue, 6,103; Gold, 6,548, par 71

Rating: Red, 70.5; White, 67.5; Blue, 69.9; Gold, 72.0

Slope: Red, 121; White, 115; Blue, 124; Gold 127

Green fees: Weekdays: \$36. Seniors, \$25. Juniors, \$15. Weekends: \$44. Carts, 18 holes: \$15 per rider.

For your enjoyment: Dairy Creek is a county-owned, par-71 golf course. Elevation changes are dramatic, and many water hazards and bunkers make it a challenge. For precision, position tee shots toward cart path side of fairway (opposite from hazards). Keep approach shots below hole, as greens are typically very fast.

HUNTER RANCH GOLF COURSE

4041 Highway 46 East, Paso Robles. 237-7444. www.hunterranchgolf.com.

Yardage: Blue, 6,741; White, 6,292; Red 5,639

Rating: Blue, 72.6; White, 70.7; Red, 72.0

Slope: Blue, 136; White, 131; Red, 128

Green fees: Mondays through Thursdays: \$60 before noon, \$45 after noon. Twilight: \$38. Early bird nine holes with cart: \$25. Fridays through Sundays: \$78 before noon, \$60 after noon. Twilight: \$48. Early bird nine holes with cart: \$25. Carts, 18 holes: \$19 per rider; twilight: \$14 per rider. Spikeless shoes are required.

For your enjoyment: Given 4½ stars by Golf Digest, Hunter Ranch is a pristine and elegant course. No houses, natural grasses and views of wine county accentuate the course. Hunter Ranch will reward the player who is patient and will punish the player who tries to force a score.

LAGUNA LAKE MUNICIPAL GOLF COURSE

11175 Los Osos Valley Road, San Luis Obispo. 781-7309. www.slocity.org/parksandrecreation/golf.asp.

Yardage: 1,284; par 29 for men, par 30 for women

Green fees: Weekdays: adults, \$8.75; juniors (18 and under), \$6.75; seniors (62 & older), \$6.75; students with ID, \$6.75. Weekends and holidays: adults, \$9.75; seniors, youth and students, \$7.75.

For your enjoyment: Nine-hole, executive-length course suitable for all playing levels. One of the major features of this course are the small, elevated greens. Hitting the greens from the tees is important to score well, but this is difficult because of their construction. The preferred method of attack is to hit low and short to let the ball roll onto the green or set up a short chip.

THE LINKS COURSE OF PASO ROBLES

5151 Jardine Road, Paso Robles. 227-4567.

www.linkscourseatpasorobles.com.

Yardage: Gold, 6,937; Blue, 6,642; White, 6,220; Red, 5,610, par 72

Rating: Gold, NA; Blue, 71.3; White, 69.5; Red, 72.1

Slope: Gold, NA; Blue, 113; White, 109; Red, 121

Green fees: Mondays through Fridays: adult, 18 holes, \$28; nine holes: \$14. Seniors: \$18. Juniors: \$10. Twilight, \$20. Saturdays and Sundays: adult, 18 holes, \$38; nine holes, \$17. Seniors: \$28. Junior: \$10. Twilight: \$25. Carts, 18 holes: \$12; nine holes: \$6.

For your enjoyment: Designed in a traditional Scottish layout. Avoiding the numerous pot bunkers, seasonal creeks and hazards is a must. Grasses and shrubs are also a challenge. Play the subtle greens with a little less break than you think.

MONARCH DUNES GOLF CLUB

1606 Trilogy Parkway, Nipomo. 343-9459. www.monarchdunesgolf.com.

Yardage: Tournament, 6,810; Gold, 6,337; White, 5,821; Bronze, 5,320; Green, 4,702 yards, par 71

Green fees: Weekdays, 7:30-10:50 a.m.: walk, \$57; ride, \$74. 11 a.m. to 12:50 p.m.: walk, \$47; ride, \$64. 1 p.m. (twilight): walk, \$30; ride, \$47. Weekends, 7:30 to 10:50 a.m.: walk, \$78; ride, \$95. 11 a.m. to 12:50 p.m.: walk, \$62; ride, \$78. 1 p.m. (twilight): walk, \$40; ride, \$57. All rates include green fee and cart fee.

For your enjoyment: Reminiscent of the Scottish links-style courses, Monarch Dunes is a tribute to the origins of golf. Dunes and eucalyptus trees surround this course, and a bump-and-run game is a must for successful scoring on fairways that are planted with fescue – the same variety used at the Old Course at St. Andrews in Scotland.

MORRO BAY GOLF COURSE

201 State Park Road, Morro Bay. 782-8060. www.slocountyparks.com/facilities/morrobay.htm.

Yardage: Blue, 6,360, par 71; White 6,073; Gold 5,633; Red 5,055

Rating: Blue, 70.7; White, 69.6; Gold, 72.9; Red, 69.7

Slope: Blue, 115; White, 112; Gold, 118; Red, 111

Green fees: Weekdays: adults, \$37; seniors, \$25; juniors, \$15. Weekends: adults and seniors, \$46; juniors, \$15. Carts, 18 holes: \$15 per rider.

For your enjoyment: Stunning scenery inside the Morro Bay State Park and estuary. Watch out for visual tricks; uphill looks like downhill and downhill looks like uphill. Remember the ball breaks toward the bay and away from Black Hill.

PASO ROBLES GOLF CLUB

1600 Country Club Drive, Paso Robles. 238-4722. www.centralcoast.com/pasoroblesgolfclub.

Yardage: Blue, 6,260; White, 6,032; Red 5,748, men's par 71, women's par 73

Rating: Blue, 71.0; White, 69.9; Red, 73.5

Slope: Blue, 122; White, 120; Red, 126

Green fees: Weekdays: 18 holes, \$20; nine holes, \$12; seniors, \$15.50; juniors, \$5. Twilight, \$15. Weekends: 18 holes, \$27; nine holes, \$17; seniors, \$23; juniors: \$5. Twilight, \$18. Carts: 18 holes, \$24; nine holes, \$12; single rider, \$12; seniors, weekdays only, \$20; twilight, \$15.

For your enjoyment: The secret to playing well

here is patience and good course management. Yardage will be a factor at several key holes. For the longer hitters, some par-5 holes may be reachable in two shots, while some par-4 holes may not require drivers to be played off the tees.

PISMO STATE BEACH GOLF COURSE

25 West Grand Ave., Grover Beach. 481-5215. www.pismogolf.com.

Yardage: 1,465, par 27

Green fees: Weekdays: before 1 p.m., \$9.25; after 1 p.m., \$10.25; seniors, \$7; juniors, \$6.25. Weekends and holidays: adults, \$10.50; juniors, \$6.75; seniors, \$8; twilight, \$11.75.

For your enjoyment: Seaside course for all playing levels. Take a smooth swing when hitting it over the water. The wind blows a lot, so learn to hit it down. Hit the ball low to score well.

RIVER OAKS GOLF COURSE

700 Clubhouse Drive, Paso Robles. 226-8099. www.riveroaksgolfcourse.com.

Green fees: Six holes: juniors, \$7; adults, \$12; seniors, \$10; golf cart, \$10. 12 holes: juniors, \$10; adults, \$18; seniors, \$14; golf cart, \$10. 18 holes: juniors, \$13; adults, \$23; seniors, \$18; golf cart, \$10. Pull carts, \$4.

For your enjoyment: Newly designed six-hole course with three tees at each hole. This allows golfers to choose a beginner, intermediate or advanced playing level.

SEA PINES GOLF RESORT

1945 Solano St., Los Osos. 528-5252. www.seapinesgolfresort.com.

Yardage: 1,886, nine holes, par 31

Rating: 58.2, 18 holes

Slope: 90

Green fees: Mondays through Thursdays, \$8.50 to \$13. Fridays through Sundays: \$11 to \$16. Driving range: medium, \$4; large, \$6. Electric carts: \$12 to \$16.

For your enjoyment: Executive nine-hole course with views of Morro Bay Estuary and coastal protected dunes. Massive cypress, pine and eucalyptus inhabit the area. It is especially important to be careful of holes three and six because water is not visible from the tee. Properly placed tee shots and well-executed second shots over the water hazards on these two holes will help.

SAN LUIS OBISPO GOLF AND COUNTRY CLUB (PRIVATE)

255 Country Club Drive, San Luis Obispo. 543-3400, office; 543-4035, golf shop

Yardage: Blue, 6,738; White, 6,391; Gold, 5,819; Black, 5315; men's par 72, women's par 74

Rating: Men's blue, 73.6; Men's white, 72.2; Men's gold, 69.5. Women's white, 77.6; Women's black, 71.8; Women's gold, 74.6

Slope: Men's blue, 129; Men's white, 127; Men's gold, 125. Women's white, 136; Women's gold, 129; Women's black, 123

Fees: Membership fees are posted monthly.

For your enjoyment: Drive the ball well off the tee and stay below the pin on the green.

BIRDING

San Luis Obispo County is a haven for bird lovers, featuring habitats for all kinds of species at the beach, lakes, marshes and in inland areas.

The highlight for birders is the Morro Bay Estuary. It is an important stopping point along migration routes, and it is recognized as a Globally Important Bird Area on the Pacific Flyway, which stretches from Alaska to South America. The diversity of the landscape attracts more than 200 species, making it one of the Audubon Society's top birding spots nationwide.

Morro Rock is a protected nesting ground for peregrine falcons, which were once on the verge of extinction. A rookery of great blue herons can be found near the Morro Bay Natural History Museum. The estuary attracts the snowy egret and other waterfowl, shorebirds and birds of prey.

Many of the free walks through the Central Coast Natural History Association (772-2694 or www.ccnha.org/naturewalks.html) feature the birds of Morro Bay, with the chance to learn more and get out and observe the birds with a guide. Plus, the active Morro Coast Audubon Society (772-1991 or <http://morrocoastaudubon.org>) offers free monthly field trips, programs and other periodic events. The society's Web site also contains a wealth of information on



TRIBUNE FILE PHOTO BY JAYSON MELLOM

A white-tailed kite, common in California, soars near Cambria looking for a meal. Kites are in the hawk family.

birding in the area.

Birding checklists are available at the Morro Bay Natural History Museum (www.slostateparks.com) in Morro Bay State Park. The Central Coast Birding Trail (<http://ca-ccbt.info/SLO.htm>) Web site provides highlights, seasons and best viewing times for each area.

For more information on birding in San Luis Obispo County, check out Central Coast Birding Trail (<http://ca-ccbt.info/SLO.htm>) for birding locations, species information, events and resources, and San Luis Obispo County Birds (www.calpoly.edu/~mstiles/slobird.html) for species and sighting information, photo galleries, discussion board, links and more.

MORROBAY BIRDING

Where to get the best glimpse of Morro Bay's birds:

HERON ROOKERY AND MORRO BAY STATE PARK

The rookery can be seen from the bay or from the Inn at Morro Bay parking lot. Look for the cluster of dead trees along the waterfront, which was killed by droppings from the large birds. In addition to great blue herons, there are great and snowy egrets and cormorants. The park, containing the estuary, salt marsh, pine, riparian and chaparral habitats, is a prime place to spot a wide variety of birds.

MORRO ROCK AND MORRO STRAND STATE BEACH

Besides peregrine falcons, the Rock attracts cormorants, loons, brown pelicans and more. The low dunes and creek mouths along the strand are a protected nesting area for the snowy plover and habitat for other species.

AUDUBON OVERLOOK

The society has a covered viewing platform overlooking the bay and estuary. Take South Bay Boulevard south to Santa Ysabel Avenue, turn right and follow the road down to Third Street. Turn right onto the dirt lane to the

parking area.

SWEET SPRINGS NATURAL PRESERVE

Owned by the Morro Coast Audubon Society, the 24-acre preserve offers trails around freshwater ponds, eucalyptus and cypress trees in the back bay. Take South Bay Boulevard into Los Osos, turn right on Pismo Avenue, left on 18th Street then right on Ramona Avenue, which runs to the preserve.

MONTAÑA DE ORO

The rich diversity of habitats in the park – cliffs, tidepools, eucalyptus groves, chaparral hillsides and riparian streams – attracts a wide variety of birds that can be seen from the many trails and overlooks.

WINTER BIRD FESTIVAL

Every year on the Martin Luther King Jr. Day holiday weekend, more than 500 birders converge on Morro Bay for the Winter Bird Festival (866-464-5105 or 805-275-4143; www.morrobaybirdfestival.org). The festival offers more than 100 events, including ocean trips, whole- and half-day field trips, Morro Bay Natural History Museum events, guest speakers and vendors. Registration is subject to available space.

NEARBY SKIING

Each ski area can provide current conditions. For the latest skiing conditions at all mountains, visit www.snocountry.com.

Alpine Meadows

North Lake Tahoe, three miles off State Route 89. 100 trails, 13 lifts. 530-583-4232. www.skialpine.com.

Badger Pass

Inside Yosemite National Park, 6 miles east of Highway 41 on Glacier Point Road. 10 trails, 5 lifts. 209-372-8430. www.yosemite rentals.com/badger.htm.

Bear Mountain

Off Highway 38 near San Bernardino. 27 trails, 12 lifts. 909-866-5766. www.bearmountain.com.

Bear Valley

Off Highway 4 at Highway 207. 67 trails, 10 lifts. 209-753-2301. www.bearvalley.com.

Boreal

I-80 at the Boreal/Castle Peak offramp. 42 trails, 9 lifts. 530-426-3666. www.rideboreal.com.

Dodge Ridge

Exit Highway 108 at Pinecrest Lake Road and then right on Dodge Ridge Road. 59 trails, 10 lifts. 209-965-3474. www.dodgeridge.com.

Donner Ski Ranch

U.S. Route 40 atop Donner Summit. 53 trails, 6 lifts. 530-426-3635. www.donnerranch.com.

Heavenly

Off Highway 50 East near Lake Tahoe. 91 trails, 30 lifts. 775-586-7000. www.skiheavenly.com.

Homewood

Off Highway 89 south to Tahoe City; right at Tahoe City along the west shore of Lake Tahoe to Homewood. 60 trails, 10 lifts. 530-525-2992. www.skihomewood.com.

June Mountain

Twenty miles north of Mammoth Lakes; from U.S. 395, take Highway 158 West. 35 trails, 7 lifts. 800-MAMMOTH. www.junemountain.com.

Kirkwood

Off Highway 88 West, South Lake Tahoe. 65 trails, 12 lifts. 877-KIRKWOOD. www.kirkwood.com.

Mammoth

I-5 to State Route 14 north to U.S. 395 north to State Route 203. 150 trails, 29 lifts. 800-MAMMOTH. www.mammothmountain.com.

Mountain High

Highway 138 west, left on Highway 2, three miles

past town of Wrightwood. 60 trails, 16 lifts. 888-754-7878. www.mthigh.com.

Mount Baldy

Take the Mountain Avenue/Mount Baldy exit off the 210 freeway. 26 trails, 4 lifts. 909-982-0800. www.shopbaldy.com.

Mount Shasta

Off Highway 89 near Mount Shasta. 32 trails, 4 lifts. 800-SKI-SHASTA. www.skipark.com.

Northstar at Tahoe

Just off Highway 267 in North Lake Tahoe, near Truckee. 83 trails, 16 lifts. 800-GO-NORTH. www.northstarattahoe.com.

Royal Gorge XC

Off Interstate 80 in Soda Springs, near Lake Tahoe. 90 trails, 4 surface lifts, 170 miles. 800-500-3871. www.royalgorge.com.

Sierra at Tahoe

Off Highway 50 east, 45 miles past Placerville. 46 trails, 11 lifts. 530-659-7453. <http://sierraattahoe.com>.

Sierra Summit

On Highway 168, 65 miles northeast of Fresno at Huntington Lake. 50 trails, 10 lifts. 559-233-2500.

www.sierrasummit.com.

Snow Summit

Just off Highway 38 outside of San Bernardino. 31 trails, 14 lifts. 909-866-5766. www.snowsummit.com.

Snow Valley

30 minutes from the base of the San Bernardino Mountains, 5 miles east of Running Springs on Highway 18. 28 trails, 12 lifts. 909-867-2751. www.snow-valley.com.

Soda Springs

One mile off Interstate 80 at Donner Summit. 42 trails, 7 lifts. www.skisodasprings.com.

Squaw Valley USA

North Lake Tahoe. 150 trails, 34 lifts. 800-545-4350. www.squaw.com.

Sugar Bowl

On Highway 46 just off Interstate 80, near Truckee in North Lake Tahoe. 84 trails, 13 lifts. 866-843-2695. www.sugarbowl.com.

Tahoe Donner

Near Truckee in North Lake Tahoe. 14 trails, 4 lifts. 530-587-9444. www.tahoedonner.com.

SKATEPARKS

ATASCADERO

Indoor. 5493 Traffic Way. 8,000 square feet. Bowl with spine, euro-gap, pyramids, grind rails and ramps. Wood skating surface. Park monitored by staff. Helmets required; knee and elbow pads recommended. Skaters under 18 must have signed waiver before skating. **Mondays through Fridays:** 10:30 a.m. to 3 p.m., \$5; 3 to 6 p.m., free; 6 to 10 p.m., \$5. **Saturdays:** 12 to 6 p.m., free; 6 to 10 p.m., \$5. **Sundays:** 12 to 4 p.m., free. 461-5000, ext. 3472.

CAYUCOS

The 1.5-acre park facility in Cayucos is being developed on Ocean Avenue. The park improvements will include a skate park, children's playground, basketball court, restroom and picnic areas. The skate park is planned to be about 10,000 square feet. Construction documents are being prepared, and improvements are pending the county Board of Supervisors' approval. 781-5930. www.slocountyparks.org.

GROVER BEACH

1750 Ramona Ave. 13,234 square feet. Half-pipe, rails, quarter-pipes. Concrete skating surface. Helmets and knee and elbow pads required. \$2 fee.

Tuesdays through Fridays: 2:30 to 5 p.m.; **Saturdays and Sundays:** 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. **Closed Mondays.** 473-4580. www.grover.org/skatepark.htm.

LOS OSOS

2180 Palisades Ave. 6,000 square feet. Grind rails and bowls. Helmets and knee and elbow pads required. \$2 daily fee; 12-entry pass available for \$20. **Mondays through Fridays:** 2 p.m. to dusk; **Saturdays through Sundays:** 10 a.m. to dusk. 781-5930. www.slocountyparks.org.

MORRO BAY

Coleman Park on Embarcadero next to Morro Rock. 14,400 square feet. Four-foot half-pipe, pyramid,

fun box. Helmets and knee and elbow pads required. \$2 fee. In fall, **Thursdays and Fridays:** 3 p.m. to dusk; **Saturdays and Sundays:** 12 to 5 p.m. In winter, **Fridays:** 3 p.m. to dusk; **Saturdays and Sundays:** 12 to 5 p.m. In spring, **Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays:** 3 p.m. to dusk; **Saturdays and Sundays:** 12 to 5 p.m. In summer, **Mondays through Saturdays:** 12 to 5 p.m. 772-6278 or www.morro-bay.ca.us/recreation.html.

PASO ROBLES

2198 Riverside Ave. Outdoor concrete park. Rails and quarter-pipes. Helmets and knee and elbow pads required. \$2 admission; 10-entry punch pass available for \$15. Summer hours, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. and 4 to 8 p.m. School year hours, **Mondays through Fridays:** 3 to 7:30 p.m., **Saturdays through Sundays:** 10 a.m. to dusk. 237-3988. www.prcity.com/government/departments/recreation.

SAN LUIS OBISPO

870 Mission St., Santa Rosa Park, corner of Santa Rosa and Oak streets. 4,800 square feet. Four-foot half-pipe, pyramid, tabletop and spine. Helmets required; knee and elbow pads recommended. A signed waiver must be completed or on file prior to skating. \$2 fee. From September to May, **Tuesdays through Fridays:** 3 to 7 p.m.; **Saturdays:** 12 to 7 p.m. From June to August, **Tuesdays through Fridays:** 1 to 7 p.m.; **Saturdays:** 12 p.m. to 7 p.m. 781-7300. www.slocity.org.

TEMPLETON

599 S. Main St., behind youth center. 10,000 square feet. Two bowls, rails, half-pipes. Concrete skating surface. Helmets and elbow pads required. Monitored by staff. Free admission. **Weekdays:** 2:30 p.m. to dusk; **weekends:** 9 a.m. to dusk. 434-4829. www.templetoncsd.org.

Highway 101, Cambria. 927-4447.

Templeton Park Pool. Corner of 6th and Old Country Road, Templeton. 434-3596.

The following pools also are located in the county:

Avila Hot Springs. 250 Avila Beach Drive, San Luis Obispo. 595-2359. www.avilahotsprings.com.

Five Cities Swim Club Public Pool. 425 Traffic Way at Grand Avenue, Arroyo Grande. 481-6399. www.5cityesswimclub.com.

Centennial Pool. 600 Nickerson Drive, Paso Robles. 237-3986.

Paso Robles Municipal Pool. 28th and Oak streets, Paso Robles. 237-3984 or 227-7224 for 24-hour information line.

Sinsheimer Pool/SLO Swim Center. 900 Southwood Drive in Sinsheimer Park, San Luis Obispo. 781-7284 or 781-7288.

YOUTHSports

Thanks to San Luis Obispo County's mild year-round climate, kids have one less excuse not to get out and exercise. And once they get outside, plenty of activities are available to them.

For young golfers, the county offers a golf card that allows juniors 17 and younger to play several area courses for less than \$6 a round. In addition, courses such as Chalk Mountain in Atascadero offer free lessons for juniors during the summer months.

For aspiring gymnasts, Central Coast Gymnastics in San Luis Obispo offers lessons, camps and programs for all ages.

The county's youth soccer scene got a boost in recent years with the opening of the Damon-Garcia Sports Complex in San Luis Obispo and the Barney Schwartz Park fields in Paso Robles.

The San Luis Distance Club also has a youth program, known as the Roo Rats, which allows children from



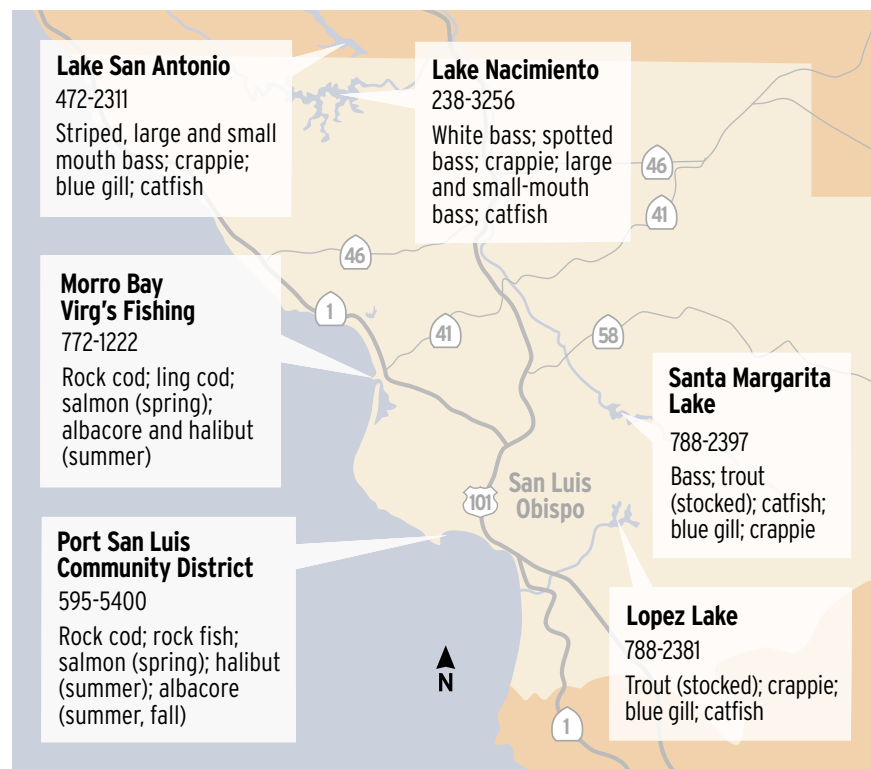
TRIBUNE FILE PHOTO BY JAYSON MELLOM

Three gymnastics teams work out at Central Coast Gymnastics. The company offers lessons, camps and programs for aspiring gymnasts of all ages.

9-15 to receive training in running distances from 1600 meters to 5000 meters.

In addition, numerous cities in the county have youth programs in a variety of sports, such as Little League baseball, volleyball, basketball and rugby.

FISHING



TRIBUNE MAP

If you're planning on fishing, you'll need to obtain a Sport Fishing License to avoid fines.

Most sporting goods stores sell licenses for \$35.50. They are valid for one calendar year, beginning Jan. 1 and ending Dec. 31, so time your purchase to ensure maximum usage. Additional en-

hancements, such as a second-rod license, also can be obtained at sporting goods locations.

For more information on sport fishing licenses and other related information, contact the California Department of Fish and Game at 916-928-5805.

SWIMMINGPOOLS

San Luis Obispo County Parks operates the following swimming pools. They are open from Memorial Day weekend until Labor Day. All pools are closed Mondays for maintenance. Admission fees for all children 12 and under are \$1.50 and for adults are \$3. For other scheduling information on all county-owned pools, please call 781-5930 or visit www.slocountyparks.org.

C.W. Clarke Park Pool. 101 West Centre, Shandon. 239-1577.

Hardie Park Pool. North Birch and B streets, Cayucos. 995-1435.

San Miguel Park Pool. 1221 K St. at 12th Street, San Miguel. 467-3010.

Santa Margarita Lake Pool. 4695 Santa Margarita Lake Road, approximately 12 miles southeast of Santa Margarita off Pozo Road. 788-2402.

Shamel Park Pool. 5455 Windsor Blvd., west of

BUS SERVICES

San Luis Obispo Regional Rideshare is a one-stop shop for transportation information in the region. Visit www.rideshare.org or call 541-2277 to get automated information in English regarding bus, shuttles, senior services, carpool, vanpooling and biking in San Luis Obispo County. Personalized trip planning assistance and other inquiries can be made by calling 541-2277 and pressing 0.

Rideshare provides instant matching for carpool, vanpool and bike buddies to work and matches people to meetings and events with Casual Carpool. Parents also may share trips to school with School Pool. Online matching is available through TripLink at <http://rideshare.org/cm/about/triplink.html>.

Bus routes, times of operation and fares vary. All buses provide bike racks and wheelchair accommodations. Riders must have exact change and should request transfers when boarding.

RTA (Regional Transit Authority)

This countywide bus system provides scheduled service seven days a week to and from most communities in San Luis Obispo County and to the city of Santa Maria. RTA serves such areas as Cal Poly, Cuesta College, California Men's Colony and Hearst Castle.

Fares: Range from \$1 to \$2.50, depending on distance traveled. Daily passes are available for \$4, and monthly punch passes can be purchased for \$30 for the general public, \$15 for seniors, disabled riders and students (K-12). A VIP gold pass, which offers unlimited free rides and transfers on all RTA and SCAT busses, is available to seniors ages 80 and over. Children 5 and under ride free with an adult.

Information: 541-2228 or www.slorta.org.

RTA-SCAT (South County Area Transit)

This service offers bus routes serving the communities of Arroyo Grande, Grover Beach, Oceano, Pismo Beach and Shell Beach.

Fares: \$1 regular fare; 50 cents for seniors and disabled riders. Children 5 and under ride free with an adult.

Information: 541-2228 or www.scattransit.org.

SLO Transit

Six scheduled bus routes within San Luis Obispo city limits are offered seven days a week, as well as 25-cent rides on the Downtown Trolley, Thursdays through Sundays.

Fares: \$1 for the general public or 50 cents for seniors and disabled. Transfers are free between SLO Transit buses and 75 cents to RTA buses. Ask for a transfer slip. Cal Poly students and faculty ride for free with university identification. A free monthly Gold Pass is available for downtown employees. Monthly passes are \$30 for the public; \$20 for students (K-12); and \$10 for seniors and disabled riders. A five-day pass is available for \$7, a three-day pass for \$5 and a one-day pass for \$3. Medicare cards are an acceptable form of identification to receive discounts.

Information: 541-2277 or www.slocity.org/publicworks/download/busmap.pdf.

SMAT (Santa Maria Area Transit)

RTA makes connections with SMAT at the Santa Maria Town Center mall.

Fares: One-way fare from San Luis Obispo to the mall in Santa Maria is \$2.

Information: 541-2277 for travel between SLO County and Santa Maria; 928-5624 for service within Santa Maria.

PRCATS (Paso Robles City Area Transit Service)

Scheduled bus service within the city of Paso Robles runs Mondays through Saturdays, 7 a.m. to 7 p.m., except major holidays.

Fares: Regular fare is \$1; fare for seniors and disabled riders is 50 cents. Qualifying seniors can buy a discount ticket book. Children under 4 ride free with an adult.

Information: 541-2277 or <http://rideshare.org/cm/bus/bus.html> (under North County)



TRIBUNE FILE PHOTO BY JAYSON MELLOM

North County Shuttle

The North County Shuttle operates from Paloma Creek Park at the south end of El Camino Real through Atascadero, Templeton and Paso Robles to the North County Cuesta campus. This hourly service starts northbound Mondays through Fridays at 7 a.m., with a reduced hourly service Saturdays. There is no Sunday service. There are shared stops with RTA Route 9 (including Las Tablas Park & Ride, the old City Hall in Atascadero and the Transit Center on Pine Street).

Fares: \$1 for the general public; 50 cents for seniors and disabled passengers. Children age 3 and younger are free. Cuesta College students also travel free with a student body card.

Information: 541-2277 or <http://rideshare.org/cm/bus/us.html> (under North County)

North Coast

The Cambria Village Trolley offers free transportation through the community Thursdays through Mondays in the summer and Fridays through Mondays the rest of the year.

Fares: Free.

Information: 541-2228.

The Morro Bay Trolley operates three routes Fridays through Mondays between Memorial Day and Labor Day and on weekends only between Labor Day and the first weekend in October.

Fares: 50 cents per ride or \$2 for an all-day ticket. Children 40

inches or shorter ride free with an adult.

Information: 772-6200.

Senior Shuttle

Ride-On Transportation operates senior shuttles in the following areas from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.:

- South County: Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays
- North County: Mondays, Wednesdays and Saturdays
- North Coast: Mondays, Wednesdays and Saturdays
- San Luis Obispo: Mondays through Saturdays

Fares: \$4.

Reservations and information: 541-8747 or for detailed information visit <http://rideshare.org/cm/take-a-shuttle/shuttleSeniors.html>

Dial-A-Ride

The door-to-door service operates within the communities of Atascadero, Baywood Park, Cambria, Los Osos, Morro Bay, Nipomo, Paso Robles, Shandon and Templeton. Operating hours vary. You must call ahead to reserve a ride.

Fares: Rates vary.

Information:

- Atascadero, 466-7433
- Cambria, 927-5673
- Los Osos and Baywood Park, 528-7433
- Morro Bay, 772-2744
- Nipomo, 929-2881
- Paso Robles, 239-8747
- Shandon, 226-4242
- Templeton, 226-4242

For detailed information visit <http://rideshare.org/cm/take-a>

shuttle/Dialaride.html.

Runabout

This countywide ADA Paratransit program provides service to ADA-certified riders who are unable to use the fixed route bus service. The service operates county-wide seven days a week and includes early morning and late evening service dependent on date, time and route of travel. All vehicles are equipped with wheelchair lifts, and mobility aids (walkers, canes and crutches) are accommodated.

Fares: Rates vary between \$2 and \$6.50 per one-way trip, depending on distance traveling.

Information about eligibility: 781-4363.

Ride-On

Ride-On is a nonprofit, cooperative organization whose mission is to provide affordable transportation. Services include a fleet of vans, shuttles and wheelchair lift-equipped vehicles. The following services are available through Ride-On:

- The Airport Shuttle serves train and bus stations. Reservations required; 24-hour notice is recommended.

Fares: Rates vary.

- Guaranteed Ride Home provides emergency rides home for employees who arrive to work without driving alone and have registered on TripLink at www.rideshare.org.

Fares: \$4.

- Lunchtime Express provides free transportation for two or more people to participating restaurants within the City of San Luis Obispo and is available from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Mondays through Fridays. Reservations required; 24-hour notice recommended.

Fares: Free.

Information on all services: 541-8747

Outside the county

For bus service outside the region, contact Greyhound Bus Lines at 800-231-2222 or visit www.greyhound.com. For information in Spanish, call 800-531-5332. Greyhound operates the terminals in Paso Robles at 800 Pine St., 238-1242; and in San Luis Obispo at 150 South St., 543-2121.



CHOICES



FREEDOM



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**REGIONAL TRANSIT AUTHORITY
SOUTH COUNTY AREA TRANSIT
NIPOMO DIAL A RIDE
SOUTH BAY DIAL A RIDE
SHANDON/PASO DIAL A RIDE
TEMPLETON DIAL A RIDE
AVILA BEACH TROLLEY
CAMBRIA VILLAGE TROLLEY
RUNABOUT**



UTILITIES



WATER

There are several water and sewer providers within San Luis Obispo County. For renters, some landlords will include this utility in the monthly rent. If that's not the case, water service should be set up as soon as a move-in date is known.

You'll need to give your address, move-in date and Social Security number, plus a setup fee. Most companies require notice of at least 24 hours before an appointment.

ARROYO GRANDE

Arroyo Grande City Hall, 473-5400

ATASCADERO

Atascadero Mutual Water Co., 466-2428

Garden Farms Community Water District, Garden Farms, 438-3751

AVILA BEACH

Avila Beach Community Services District, 595-2664

CAYUCOS

Cayucos County Service Area 10-A, 781-5283

Morro Rock Mutual Water Co., 995-3766

Paso Robles Beach Water Association, 995-3766

CAMBRIA

Cambria Community Services District, 927-6223

GROVER BEACH

Grover Beach City Hall, 473-4550

LOS OSOS

Los Osos Community Services District, 528-9370

Golden State Water Co., 528-1626

S&T Mutual Water Co., 528-0643

MORRO BAY

Morro Bay Public Works Department, 772-6261

NIPOMO

Nipomo Community Services District, 929-1133

PASO ROBLE

Paso Robles Water Department, 237-3996

PISMO BEACH

Pismo Beach City Hall, 773-4655

OCEANO

Oceano Community Services District, 481-6730

Rural Water Co., 481-8432

SAN LUIS OBISPO

San Luis Obispo Water Department, 781-7133

SANTA MARGARITA

County Water Works District No. 6, 781-5252

SAN MIGUEL

San Miguel Community Service District, 467-3388

SAN SIMEON

San Simeon Community Service District, 927-4918

SHANDON

Shandon County Service Area 16-1, 781-5252

NATURAL GAS

To arrange for natural gas service, call Southern California Gas Co. at 800-427-2200. Representatives are available 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Internet customer service is available at www.socalgas.com, and services can be arranged via e-mail.

It generally takes three working days for a scheduled appointment with a field representative. The customer may have to be present during the appointment when the gas will be turned on.

The fee for establishing natural gas service is \$25. A security deposit may be required.

ELECTRICITY



Pacific Gas and Electric Co., the electricity provider for San Luis Obispo County, requires notification one week before you will need service at your new address; call 800-PGE-5000.

PG&E offers four-hour appointment windows for services that require a customer to be present. A deposit may be required to establish service. For residential customers, the deposit amount is twice the highest monthly bill.

GARBAGE AND RECYCLING

Residents can set up garbage and recycling service through these providers, according to the San Luis Obispo County Integrated Waste Management Authority:

Arroyo Grande: South County Sanitary, 489-4246

Atascadero: Atascadero Waste Alternatives, 466-3636

Avila Beach: South County Sanitary, 489-4246

Baywood Park: Mission Country Disposal, 543-0875

Cambria: Mission Country Disposal, 927-4995

Cayucos: Mission Country Disposal, 995-0817

Grover Beach: South County Sanitary, 489-4246

Heritage Ranch: San Miguel Garbage, 467-9283

Los Osos: Mission Country Disposal, 543-0875

Morro Bay: Morro Bay Garbage, 543-0875

Nipomo: South County Sanitary, 489-4246

Oak Shores: San Miguel Garbage, 467-9283

Oceano: South County Sanitary, 489-4246

Paso Robles: PR Waste Disposal, 238-2381

Pismo Beach/Shell Beach: South County Sanitary,

489-4246

Pozo: Mid-State Solid Waste & Recycling, 434-9112

San Luis Obispo: San Luis Garbage, 543-0875

San Miguel: San Miguel Garbage, 467-9283

San Simeon: Mission Country Disposal, 927-4995

Santa Margarita: Mid-State Solid Waste & Recycling, 434-9112

Templeton: Mid-State Solid Waste & Recycling, 434-9112



RECYCLING GUIDELINES

Residential and commercial curbside recycling is offered in most communities throughout San Luis Obispo County.

For specific information on the program in your community, please call your service provider.

Tips that apply to all programs

- Containers should be rinsed to avoid odors and bugs.
- Remove beverage caps from plastic bottles.
- Do not put mirrors, ceramics, pottery, window glass, light bulbs or leaded crystal in glass recycling.

More information

For information on composting, recycling batteries, hazardous waste and other unusual items, go to www.iwma.com or call 782-8530.

The Web site also has a list of buy-back centers where you can get cash for dropping off recyclable materials.

TELEVISION

Charter Communications is the cable provider for nearly all of the county, featuring basic to premium channels, high-speed cable Internet access and a digital cable network. Charter requires two to three working days' notice before cable can be installed and does not require any deposit.

Call Charter at 544-2688 or 800-640-6959.

San Simeon Community Cable serves the small North Coast community. Call 927-5555 for more information.

Local satellite TV providers are Dish Network, 461-9514, Paso Robles Satellite, 238-6662, and SCS Communications, 543-7799.

TELEPHONE

AT&T provides local phone service and requires notification at least four working days before the date of expected service. Applications are taken over the phone at 800-288-2020.

AT&T will need your address, move-in date, some form of identification and Social Security number or valid driver's license and a credit check to set up a new account. A setup fee of \$10-\$40 is standard, and a deposit may be required depending on past credit.



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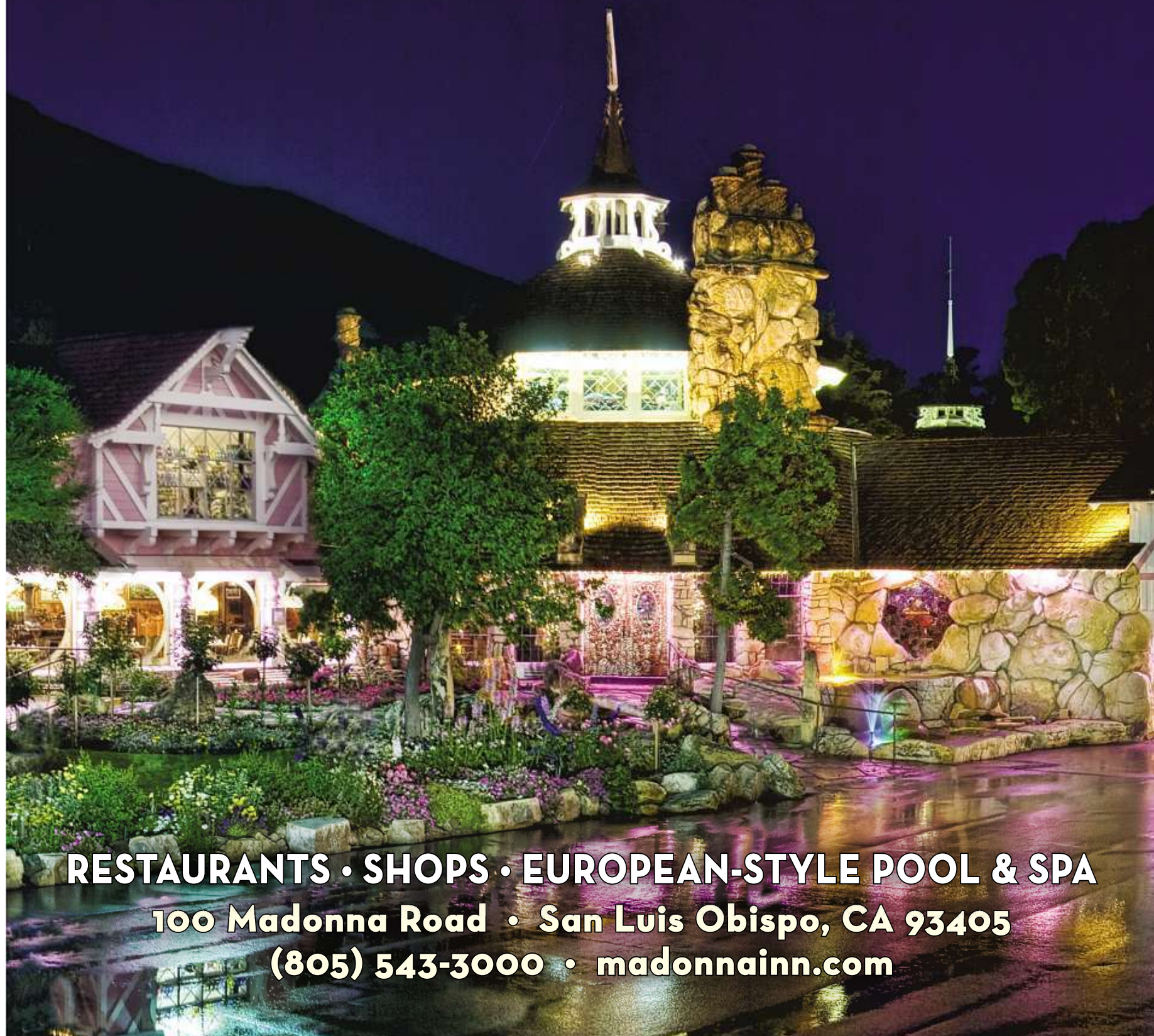
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