

# South County Business News

*A publication of South County Chambers of Commerce—your regional Chamber that is a catalyst for business growth, a convener of leaders and influencers, and a champion for a stronger South San Luis Obispo County.*



April 2023  
Volume 63, Issue 4

## Chamber to bring business resource and job fair to South County Regional Center on June 1st

ARROYO GRANDE—South County Chambers of Commerce, the regional Chamber of Commerce for South San Luis Obispo County, will be hosting “Passport to Success,” a business resource and job fair on Thursday, June 1st, at the South County Regional Center in Arroyo Grande from 3 pm to 7 pm.

In partnership with the San Luis Obispo County Workforce Development Board, South County Chambers of Commerce is bringing this event to the South San Luis Obispo County business community to provide the tools necessary to hire and



retain their job force. For local businesses, this will be an opportunity for networking and connecting with valuable resources. Job seekers are also encouraged to attend so they can interact with local businesses and participate in on-the-spot interviews, receive

resume assistance, and access other opportunities.

“There are so many resources available for businesses that need to hire and/or worry about retention, and we need to let the South County business community know that services do exist in this area,” said Kathy McCorry, CEO for South County Chambers of Commerce. “And while we have all of these businesses here learning about resources, we felt we could utilize the time more efficiently and invite those looking for new job

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## Chamber Business of the Month for April 2023: Mechanics Bank (with five branches in South County)

The Marketing Committee of the South County Chambers of Commerce—a group of local business owners who represent various industries—selected Mechanics Bank as the Business of the Month for April 2023.

With five locations in South San Luis Obispo County, Mechanics Bank annually supports local organizations that help brighten the lives of their neighbors and enrich the quality of the communities where they live and work. They invest in local Boys and Girls Clubs, Junior Achievement, Volunteer Income Tax Assistance, community health clinics, children advocacy organizations, elderly



support organizations, and public school programs.

They also continuously support community development, demonstrated through their support of Community Development Financial Institutions (CDFIs), which provide economic development through job training, small-business lending and technical assistance to low-income, minority, and women-owned businesses.

Mechanics Bank also encourages their employees to volunteer their time, talent, and professional skills to organizations near and dear to

their hearts.

Mechanics Bank is committed to youth and families along

the Central Coast and is proud to be an active supporter of Family Care Network since 2008. They have participated in their “Give Joy” campaign for nearly 15 years. The Give Joy campaign helps to ensure those in FCN's care have positive holiday experiences for their children and families. Mechanics Bank local branches partner with Toys for Tots during the holiday season to help deliver the joy of Christmas and a message of hope through the gift of a new toy.

Members of their Grover

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### APRIL CHAMBER EVENTS:

#### Wednesday, April 5:

“Rise & Shine,  
South County”  
regional business meeting  
(open to the local  
business community)  
7:30 am to 9 am  
South County Regional  
Center at 800 W. Branch  
St. in Arroyo Grande

#### Thursday, April 13:

Ambassadors meeting  
8 am to 9 am at the  
Chamber conference room  
in Arroyo Grande

#### Wednesday, April 19:

Chamber luncheon  
with guest speaker: PG&E  
11: 30 am to 1 pm  
Vespera Resort  
on Pismo Beach  
(in the ballroom)

#### Wednesday, April 26:

Membership Mixer  
5 pm to 7 pm  
Vespera Resort  
on Pismo Beach  
(oceanfront patio)

#### Thursday, April 27:

Business workshop  
“QuickBooks 101”  
from 1 pm to 4 pm at The  
Launch Pad cowork office  
in Grover Beach  
(hosted by the Cal Poly  
Center for Innovation  
& Entrepreneurship)

#### Friday, April 28:

Governmental Affairs  
Committee Meeting  
via Zoom  
8 am to 9:15 am  
Please RSVP at  
southcountychambers.com  
to receive the login details

## Update from Supervisor Jimmy Paulding, District 4: Nipomo, Arroyo Grande, Oceano, Huasna, Edna Valley, California Valley, and unincorporated portions of SLO

Besides rain, March also produced an outpouring of action by our Board of Supervisors. We took steps that will save South County residents and businesses money on electric and garbage bills, and other steps to reinforce good governance practices. The highlights:

**Electric bills:** The Board voted to join Central Coast Community Energy (3CE), which should save county government over \$1.1 million per year on its own electricity bill. In addition to those taxpayer savings, residents and businesses in unincorporated areas could save \$26 million annually thanks to rates being on average 39% lower than PG&E's current rates. This will go into effect in 2025.

**Garbage bills:** The Board took steps to rejoin the Integrated Waste Management Authority (IWMA), which will reduce increases in garbage-collection rates. The County is currently spending \$1.7 million on a duplicate waste management division. By rejoining the IWMA, economies of scale will help residents and businesses save on their garbage bill.

**Reducing campaign contribution limits:** Intent on curbing big money's influence on local elections, the Board took



Sign up to volunteer for We Heart AG on Sunday, April 23.

steps to change the current policy of allowing an individual, business, or political action committee to give a candidate up to \$25,000. Reducing the limit from \$25,000 to the current state limit of \$5,500 will help level the playing field for voters. The Board will take a final vote April 4. Please attend and voice your opinion.

**Redistricting do-over:** The year-old redistricting lawsuit, which alleges that the County engaged in illegal gerrymandering, is nearing resolution. Our Board has reached an agreement with SLO County Citizens for Good Government to settle

the suit. The settlement will toss out the so-called Patten map, which left Oceano residents without a supervisor. The Board will select a new district map at a hearing on April 18.

**County Administrative Officer (CAO) resigns:** Wade Horton, who served with exemplary integrity as our CAO the past five years and deserves our gratitude, is resigning effective May 1. We will conduct a nationwide search for a new CAO who can bring a fresh perspective to addressing our community's many challenges.

**We Heart AG:** Join me for We Heart AG's third annual community volunteering event on Sunday April 23, organized by my amazing wife, Kendra! Visit [WeHeartAG.com](http://WeHeartAG.com) to sign up to volunteer.

**Office hours:** I welcome hearing from constituents. Please schedule an appointment by emailing our office at [district4@co.slo.ca.us](mailto:district4@co.slo.ca.us) or calling 805-781-4337. You can also sign up for my email newsletter and learn more about district news on the District 4 webpage at [slocounty.ca.gov/district4](http://slocounty.ca.gov/district4).

...

Sincerely,  
Jimmy Paulding  
San Luis Obispo County  
District 4 Supervisor

## Update from Supervisor Dawn Ortiz-Legg, District 3: Avila Beach, Grover Beach, Pismo Beach, and San Luis Obispo

Hello South County! Welcome Spring!

While we are grateful for the rain, the storms kept coming these past weeks. The impacts to agriculture, hospitality, the roads, and water ways have been significant. My monthly report will highlight various information on county news as well as ways to engage in our special community.

The leadership of the County of San Luis Obispo is both a difficult job and one that requires dedication and honor. Wade Horton has served well on all accounts. It was difficult to accept the resignation and Mr. Horton has truly given his all to San Luis Obispo County. Thank you, Wade, for taking command and leading our staff and community through

many difficult times. Your dedication and hard work are recognized by many, and we are grateful for your service.

One significant county development under Wade's leadership was the establishment of the Homeless Services Division and the revised and realistic Homeless Strategic Plan. The past years taught us much. To highlight accountability with one division in charge with improved data management and a regionally focused effort to expand shelter space and ensure services is the direction Wade wanted to ensure, in alliance with a cadre of stakeholders: service providers, nonprofits, city managers, agencies, and community leaders.

As it turns out, this type of coordinated

approach is now being launched in a state-wide initiative called "AT HOME" led by California State Association of Counties (CSAC). AT HOME was developed by counties over the last year and is based on an intensive examination of the complicated and yet often ineffective web of programs and funding streams available today and which agency, city, county is responsible for what service, program, and encampment. We are all aware of how critical this issue is in our region as we all witness the impacts to our downtowns, neighborhoods, and open spaces. In April, I will attend a historic summit in Sacramento between

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## Arroyo Grande News

Hello Chamber members: Spring is in the air. The Easter Bunny is on his way. It's the season of rebirth, and it feels like we are emerging from a damp, dark winter into a welcome time of growth.

Our water cup runneth over. Literally. As I'm sure you're aware, Lopez Lake spilled for the first time in 25 years. There is at least five years of supply available in the lake now, and our groundwater basin is equally supercharged. The AG City Council voted to rescind our Stage 1 Water Emergency. Penalties have ended, and we can return to a sense of normalcy. However...

Given this extraordinary water year, it is vital that we don't take our eye off the ball. There is a new normal in terms of water supply and conservation. As such, the Council will be revamping our Water Management Plan, including looking at programs that will encourage permanent conservation measures. We will also update it with respect to changes in state law regarding per-capita water consump-

tion limits. This is expected to come forward in May, and we welcome your input. We have had cash-for-grass, plumbing retrofits, and washer efficiency rebates for years. What other kinds of water programs would you like to see?

We also made the decision to abandon the Brisco Roundabout project. Costs ballooned to over \$38 million, and given our critical infrastructure needs and limits to our revenue, it was out of reach. We look forward to focusing on our critical capital improvement projects and pavement.

Due to the failure of the sales tax measure, those needs far outstrip our ability to fix them, so VERY difficult decisions are ahead. Programs and projects will need to be cut, and the Council, again, welcomes your input as these decisions come forward during budget time in May and June.

Don't forget about the Easter Egg Hunt on Saturday, April 8th. Happy Easter!

**Caren Ray Russom**

**Mayor, City of Arroyo Grande**

### Welcome new Chamber members:

- 7 Points Delivery
- Perfetto Caffè
- Carol Chenot, Optimal Health Coach
- SLO Review
- Central Coast Amateur Radio Group (CCARG)
- Coastal Community Builders
- Powerhouse Barre & Pilates
- Budget Blinds of San Luis Obispo County

## Grover Beach News

Hello from Grover Beach!

It's hopping here in Grover Beach! Following are a few highlights.

Last week Council approved an updated Camping Ordinance to help with the enforcement of camping on public and private property. We are hopeful this additional tool will work in conjunction with other programs to assist in alleviating issues regarding our homeless population.

The Cabins for Change Project has been up and running for several months. The facility is full with a wait list. There have been no calls for service from the

neighborhood or facility. Success stories are waiting to be told.

The GBPDC brought forward their Three-Year Strategic Plan, and the goals are:

- ☆ Implement Dynamic Health and Wellness Program;
- ☆ Expand Community Engagement (including a youth engagement program utilizing our exceptional drone force);
- ☆ Respond to Community Concerns (current average response time: 1 minute, 48 seconds!!);
- ☆ Develop a Police Department Facilities Master Plan.

On a somber note Anna Miller, Mayor

Pro Tem, resigned from Council on March 13. Unfortunately, personal circumstances required her to move out of the City limits. Her calm manner and common sense insights will be greatly missed. On the positive side, Council member Robert Robert has been appointed as Mayor Pro Tem and we are seeking applications to fill the vacancy in our District Three.

Here's wishing you all a smashing April!

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**Karen Bright**

**Mayor, City of Grover Beach**

## Pismo Beach News

The continuing atmospheric rivers of rain have soaked our area since December. The good news is Lake Lopez is full and overflowing, the ground water basin has recovered, and there is now plenty of state water project as well. Our Council has rescinded our water restrictions, but we still ask people to use water wisely.

We had substantial bluff erosion from the storms. and we have submitted a claim to FEMA for mitigation relief.

We are experimenting with a new parking arrangement on Price Street downtown. You may have noticed that we eliminated curb parking and put in additional center parking instead. We claim several additional parking spaces as a result. We will see how it works this summer, and we may make it permanent if there is a positive response.

The Farmer's Market returns at the Pier Plaza on Wednesday, April 5, from 4 to 7 pm and continues weekly until

September 27.

Our annual Easter Egg-stravaganza will be held on Saturday, April 8, at Dinosaur Caves Park at 10 am. The event features bounce houses, games, crafts, and of course, the Easter Egg hunt. The hunt begins at 10:10 am for children 3 and under with older children scheduled at later times.

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**Ed Waage**

**Mayor, City of Pismo Beach**



## RECENT RIBBON CUTTINGS



### Congrats Guadalupe-Nipomo Dunes Center!

South County Chambers of Commerce officiated a ribbon cutting last week for Guadalupe-Nipomo Dunes Center in downtown Guadalupe. The Dunes Center is a museum to promote the conservation and restoration of the Guadalupe-Nipomo Dunes ecosystem through education, research, and the support of cooperative stewardship. They offer community hikes into the dunes with a variety of focal points. Their educational programs bring science and nature education into classrooms from Lompoc to San Luis Obispo. The Dunes Center is well known for its collection of artifacts excavated from the 1923 site of Ten Commandments silent film set. Don't miss the Blacklake Golf Resort tournament in Nipomo on April 28th to benefit the Dunes Center. To learn more, please visit [dunescenter.org](http://dunescenter.org). The Dunes Center is located at 1065 Guadalupe St. in Guadalupe.

### Congrats Perfetto Caffè in Grover Beach!

Congrats to Jami and Brian, new owners of Perfetto Caffè, on their ribbon cutting last month in Grover Beach! Thanks to Grover Beach City Councilmember Dan Rushing, Councilmember Clint Weirick, and City Manager Matt Bronson for celebrating with us. Perfetto Caffè is a traditional Italian cafe that serves delicious coffee, paninis, salads, and more. Earlier this year, Jami and Brian became the new owners of this Grover Beach staple from Genarro and Laura who still live locally. Jami and Brian are excited to keep the coffee shop the same as it's always been. They've added scones, biscotti, and homemade soup to the menu. They are located at 1750 El Camino Real in Grover Beach. Follow them on [Facebook](#) or Instagram to learn more.



### Congrats Central Coast Wound Care in Pismo Beach!

We officiated a ribbon cutting for Central Coast Wound Care & Hyperbarics in Pismo Beach as part of their open house celebration. Central Coast Wound Care & Hyperbarics (CCWC) is the first and only full-service, physician-supervised, wound care and hyperbaric oxygen therapy center in San Luis Obispo and North Santa Barbara Counties. Led by their wound care expert and board-certified physician, Dr. Steve Sabo, they specialize in treating a variety of wounds and medical conditions in their state-of-the-art facility located in Pismo Beach. CCWC is located at 901 Oak Park Blvd. #103 in Pismo Beach (near the corner of James Way). Learn more at [ccwounds.com](http://ccwounds.com).





# FARM FRESH JUICE

## FROM OUR FAMILY TO YOURS

Our family takes no shortcuts in bringing you the freshest and tastiest ingredients from our local farms, growers, and producers right here in Arroyo Grande. Our food is prepared daily with love and respect for life and our earth.

We farm local, pesticide-free fruits and use a high-end press that extracts all nutrients, enzymes, acids, proteins, and soluble fibers so that your body receives maximum nutrients.



Visit us Saturdays from 12 noon to 2:30 pm at Farmer's Market in the Arroyo Grande Village.

# ALL NATURAL FARM FRESH FOOD, COLD-PRESSED JUICES, SMOOTHIES AND MORE.

COME SEE US AT  
**960 W. Grand Avenue, Suite F in Grover Beach**  
located between 9th and 10th Streets across from Darwish Cuisine



## RECENT RIBBON CUTTINGS



### Congrats Powerhouse Barre & Pilates in Nipomo!

We celebrated a ribbon cutting last month with new Chamber member Powerhouse Barre & Pilates in Nipomo. Their mission is to grow a community built on encouragement and positivity. Their 50-minute classes consist of small, low-impact movements that result in big changes. They will keep you challenged, connected, mindful, and motivated all while giving you better posture, increased flexibility, and full-body toning. Powerhouse Barre & Pilates is located at 338-C W. Tefft St. in Nipomo. Follow their [Facebook](#) page or visit them online at [phbarrepilates.com](http://phbarrepilates.com).

### Congrats Team-System Corp!

We celebrated a ribbon cutting with new Chamber member Reginald of Team-System Corp—along with his family (including a charming great grandson). Team-System Corp is an integrated real estate services company that strives to make the home buying and selling process as smooth and stress-free for clients as humanly possible. Their team and network consist of highly experienced, real estate brokers, transaction coordinators, and contractors. For more information, please visit [team-system.biz](http://team-system.biz), or email Reginald at [rjohnson@team-system.biz](mailto:rjohnson@team-system.biz).



## LOOKING TO GET MORE INVOLVED? SIGN UP FOR A CHAMBER COMMITTEE.

Chamber members: We invite you to participate on a Chamber Committee as a way to help advance and unify the business community and promote the overall health and resiliency of the local economy. This is also an excellent opportunity to network with other businesses and nonprofits in a small, in-person setting.

Please read through the eight opportunities listed below and let us know if there are any committees that interest you. You can select more than one. All meetings will be in person with the exception of Governmental Affairs Committee meetings. Some meetings

are monthly and others are less frequent.

There are eight current committees for 2023:

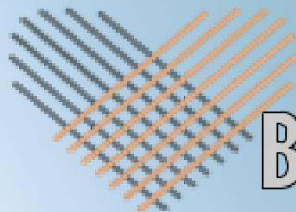
- Governmental Affairs Committee (monthly via Zoom)
- Chamber Ambassador Committee
- Annual Dinner Planning Committee
- 4th of July Fireworks Sales Committee
- Foundation Committee

- Legislative Papers Committee
- Resource Fair Task Force Committee
- Business Roundtable Committee

Click [here](#) to learn more and sign up.







# Swing For Life Benefiting LifeLine Pregnancy Center

**SATURDAY, APRIL 29TH**

**FIRST ANNUAL  
LIFELINE PREGNANCY CENTER  
EVENT  
SUPPORTING OUR LOCAL  
COMMUNITY FACING  
UNPLANNED PREGNANCIES**

**Cypress Ridge Golf Course  
780 Cypress Ridge Course Pkwy, AG**

*Make Checks Payable to LifeLine Pregnancy Center  
Fill out and mail or drop-off the form below to:*

**LifeLine Pregnancy Center  
200 S. 13th St., Ste. 105  
Grover Beach, CA 93433  
(805)481-4987**

**E-MAIL to:**

**lifelinepregnancycenter@gmail.com**

**www.lifelinepregnancycenter.org/events**



## **Tournament Info:**

<b>7:30am</b>	<b>Check in</b>
<b>9:00am</b>	<b>Tee Time</b>
<b>11:00am</b>	<b>Lunch</b>
<b>2:00pm (estimated)</b>	<b>Appetizers, Raffle, &amp; Awards</b>

Four Person Scramble, Scored by handicap. Awards for the lowest team score, longest drive, closest to pin, and hole in one. Appropriate golf attire is required. Limited room. First to pay, first to play.

## **Cost per player- \$200**

Includes golf, breakfast, lunch for 1

## **Gold Sponsor- \$5,000**

Includes golf for 4, breakfast, lunch, banner at check in and logo on merchandise given to players and 2 tee signs

## **Silver Sponsor- \$2,500**

Includes golf for 2, breakfast, lunch, logo on merchandise given to players and 2 tee signs

## **Bronze- \$1,000**

Includes golf for 1, breakfast, lunch, and 2 tee signs

## **Hole sponsor-\$500**

Includes 1 tee sign

**Raffle Donor-** Recognition at raffle table

YES, I want to support LifeLine Pregnancy Center:

Tax ID#77-0398749

☐ \$200 Registration   ☐ \$5000 Gold Sponsor   ☐ \$2500 Silver Sponsor   ☐ \$1000 Bronze Sponsor  
☐ \$500 Hole Sponsor   Total:\$\_\_\_\_\_ Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

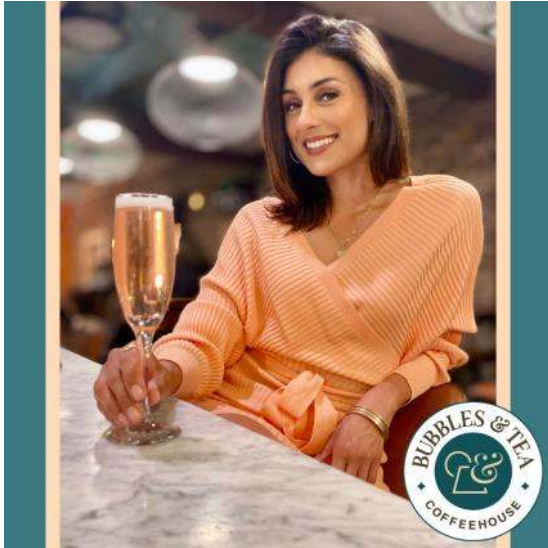
Company Name/Team Captain: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Billing Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Handicap Index \_\_\_\_\_ or average score \_\_\_\_\_

Team Members Names: 2) \_\_\_\_\_ Handicap \_\_\_\_ 3) \_\_\_\_\_ Handicap \_\_\_\_ 4) \_\_\_\_\_ Handicap \_\_\_\_

## NEW CHAMBER MEMBER HIGHLIGHTS



### Welcome Bubbles & Tea Coffeehouse of Nipomol

After living in San Diego for 10 years in Little Italy where she spent most of her time working and enjoying coffee shops, wine bars, and restaurants, Maricruz needed a change. She felt compelled to bring all of the unique surroundings she had experienced in life and place them in a beautiful little corner in Nipomo, where she could not only give back to her community but to also fulfill and reawaken the inspiration that she had been longing for, and so Bubbles & Tea Coffeehouse was born. Bubbles and Tea Coffeehouse provides a relaxing, comfortable space to focus and unwind. They bring a fresh, innovative concept to the coffee industry with great coffee, fresh pastries, salads, sandwiches, in addition to local or international wine. This new business will be opening soon at 338 W. Tefft St. Suite B in Nipomo. Follow them on [Facebook](#) or Instagram to stay connected.

### Welcome Coastal Community Builders!

New Chamber member Coastal Community Builders recently celebrated the grand opening of their new Vintage Ranch Estate model homes in Orcutt. Vintage Ranch is a special collection of 41 modern farmhouses in Orcutt nestled against 580 acres of open space with large lots surrounded by oak-studded groves. Lots 1 and 3 are both Belmont Plan 1, 2,282 square-foot homes with three bedrooms, three bathrooms, and an optional fourth bedroom. They also have a three-car tandem garage, covered patio, and courtyard. Please click [here](#) for more information. Contact Coastal Community Builders at [sales@ccb1.net](mailto:sales@ccb1.net) or (805) 556-7322.



### Welcome 7 Points Delivery!

7 Points Delivery provides professional and discreet cannabis delivery service straight to your door. They give their customers a smooth and professional experience that will surely make ordering cannabis comfortable. They take pride in their extensive menu that includes all of the top California brands on the market. They work with some of the most respected brands like 710 Labs, Papa & Barkley, STIIIZY, Gelato, CBX, Fig Farms, Alien Labs, Rosin Tech, West Coast Cure, Caviar Gold, Raw Garden, and much more. On top of the inventory they currently hold, they are always looking for what's new and trending in the cannabis market, which calls for a consistently rotating menu as newer brands emerge and their customers get interested in new products. They now deliver within one-hour windows. Visit [7points.biz](https://7points.biz).





Where  
powerful  
tools

meet  
local  
business  
needs.

As a proud part of our local community, we love every opportunity to help local businesses grow and thrive. Come see us for personalized, one-on-one business banking — built to help your business grow.



**Business & Commercial Lending**  
**Business Banking**  
**Treasury Management Solutions**



**BUSINESS SERVICES**

[sesloc.org/business-services](https://sesloc.org/business-services) | (805) 543-1816

Federally insured by NCUA, a U.S. government agency.  
All loans subject to credit union approval. Visit any branch location  
for terms and conditions.

## NEW CHAMBER MEMBER HIGHLIGHTS

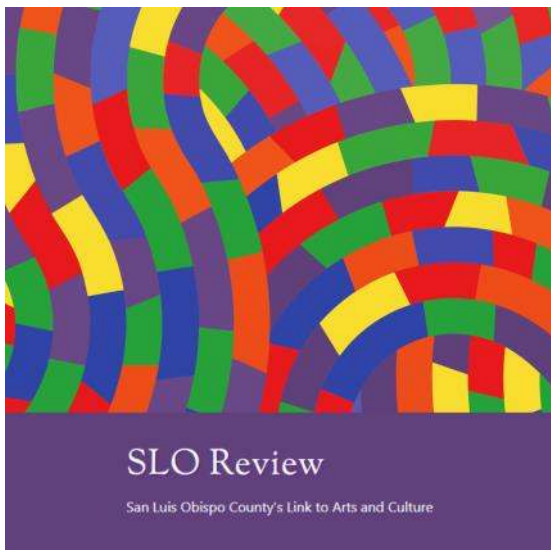


### Welcome Carol Chenot, Optimal Health Coach!

Sometimes a small business is born out of a passion or a hobby. In the case of Carol Chenot's health coaching business, it was a direct result of her losing 47 pounds in 2020. At the age of 70 (after a lifetime of yo-yo dieting), Carol said "enough is enough" and she set out to find a health program that would help her achieve her goals once and for all. What she found is the program she is now so passionate about coaching. Carol said successful weight loss is just the beginning of a journey that focuses on habits of health including nutrition, sleep, motion, mindset, and more. She would love to talk with you more about your health goals and how you can achieve them "once and for all," and there is never an obligation with that conversation. Contact Carol at [coachcarol4health@gmail.com](mailto:coachcarol4health@gmail.com), or call (805) 400-0017.

### Welcome Central Coast Amateur Radio Group!

Central Coast Amateur Radio Group (CCARG) is a "ham radio" enthusiast group. Based in Grover Beach, their objectives are to provide training and certification of Amateur Radio Licensed Radio Operators, give communication support to the San Luis Obispo Emergency Communications Counsel, and support the Diablo Canyon Nuclear Power Plant Emergency Disaster Plan and Five Cities local events for public safety. CCARG performs regular training drills as well as the annual ARRL Field Day training and other fun events in South County. CCARG is hosting a swap meet/fest on Saturday, May 13th, at Grover Beach Recreation Center from 8 am to 12 noon. Learn more at [ccarg.com](http://ccarg.com).



### Welcome SLO Review!

Based in Nipomo, SLO Review is San Luis Obispo County's online connection to arts and culture. They publish feature articles covering creative areas of interest, reviews of local productions and exhibits, commentary on creative expression, and opportunities for everyone to explore their personal relationship with the arts. Their vision is to be an eloquent, innovative, and fertile nexus for the diverse members of the San Luis Obispo County community to engage, discuss, and promote the arts. Their mission is to cultivate support for the visual, literary, and performing arts in San Luis Obispo County; to showcase the impact of the arts, cultural experiences, and authentic creative expression on the community; to create an online space accessible to all for meaningful discussion, education, and commentary about the arts; and to communicate opportunities for artists, writers, performers, and students to explore and articulate their personal artistic expressions. Find them online at [sloreview.org](http://sloreview.org).



# DANA RESERVE

**Rooted in Central Coast culture.  
Committed to Nipomo's future.  
Dana Reserve.**

Nearly 200 years ago, Captain W.G. Dana founded Nipomo with a vision for creating a wonderful home for his family, where they would live, work and enjoy the vast natural beauty of the area. Today, a fourth-generation descendant of Captain Dana, is committed to continuing the traditions of his ancestor through the master-planned community, Dana Reserve. Dana Reserve will be developed with the people of Nipomo in mind. Here, locals will find the Central Coast lifestyle, culture, heritage and the exceptional natural resources of Nipomo are all carefully preserved for future generations.

Dana Reserve is designed to showcase Nipomo's natural beauty, while simultaneously providing affordable homes for local residents. Both citizens of Nipomo and residents of Dana Reserve will enjoy access to extensive horse, bike and walking trails, as well as several parks and play areas. In addition, Dana Reserve will provide Nipomo residents with the added benefits of a new community college campus and daycare center, a fire station location, a high-speed fiber network, and more.



## Stay Informed and Join our Interest List

To learn more about Dana Reserve  
and all the exciting plans for this wonderful community,  
visit our website and sign-up for our interest list.

Priority will be given to those already living or working in Nipomo or those who can  
demonstrate reduced vehicle miles traveled by relocating to the Dana Reserve.

[LiveDanaReserve.com](http://LiveDanaReserve.com)



## We appreciate our renewing Chamber members for their continued support

A.G. Community Hospital/Dignity Health:  
Founding Level Chairman's Circle member  
Tenet Health Central Coast:  
Platinum Level Chairman's Circle member  
Vespera Resort on Pismo Beach:  
Platinum Level Chairman's Circle member  
Dana Reserve: Gold Level Chairman's  
Circle member  
Touchstone Central Coast  
Linda Vleit Insurance Services  
Geriatric Care Management and  
Dementia Consulting—Alexandra Morris  
ACE Certified Tree Care  
Richardson Properties—Paul Alandt  
Round Table Pizza

Fissori Real Estate Team  
Camino Mercado Associates  
Dunes Alliance  
TNT Fireworks  
Sierra Body Shop LLC  
Radiology Associates—Five Cities Medical  
Imaging  
Pismo Coast Village RV Resort  
Ken Levine: Associate member  
James R Murphy Jr and John D Baron—A  
Law Corporation  
Lady Di's Boutique  
Gary Gracia Real Estate  
Printpal Promotions & Printing  
Central Coast Glow

Frederick Law Firm  
Allstate Suncoast Insurance Services Inc  
Holiday Inn Express  
Fin's Seafood Restaurant  
Huckleberry's Restaurant Pismo Beach  
Computer Techs/Professional IT Solutions  
Sensorio  
SCORE San Luis Obispo County  
Smith Mechanical Electrical Plumbing  
South County Historical Society  
Gold Coast Express Registration  
DANA Adobe & Cultural Center  
WCP Developers LLC  
Fashions for a Purpose  
Astro Financial and Insurance Services

### Passport to Success: Business Resource & Job Fair, continued from page 1

opportunities to attend as well. We appreciate our partnership with our title sponsor, San Luis Obispo County Workforce Development Board. It is through their generous support of the business

community and strong partnership with our Chamber that we are bringing this program to South County."

This will be a free community event that includes giveaways, complimentary beverages, raffle prizes, and food available for purchase. South County Chambers of Commerce is also providing the

local business community with opportunities to sponsor this event for extra promotional benefits or to purchase a table so they can participate at the fair. Businesses can contact Chamber CEO Kathy McCorry to sign up at [kathy@southcountychambers.com](mailto:kathy@southcountychambers.com), or call (805) 489-1488.

### Mechanics Bank, continued from page 1

Beach team volunteered for the Stone Soup Mardi Paws Dog Parade and helped local Rotary assemble 10,000 packs of rice in partnership with Rise

Against Hunger.

Mechanics Bank has also supported Transitions-Mental Health Association and Woods Humane Society in San Luis Obispo. Mechanics Bank is proud to continue their support of California Poly-

technic State University (Cal Poly)'s Student Athlete of the Week.

Mechanics Bank has local branches in Arroyo Grande, Grover Beach, and Nipomo, as well as two branches in Pismo Beach. Visit [mechanicsbank.com](http://mechanicsbank.com).

### District 3 news, continued from page 2

county and city leaders to engage in creating and implementing a comprehensive statewide plan to address homelessness. The more the state gets its act together, the better it is for all of us. We have seen success at 5 Cities Homeless Coalition's Cabins for Change program in Grover Beach, so let's keep this effort rolling forward.

Every dollar matters these days and as costs rise, perhaps your employees could benefit from the Get Connected California!—the Affordable Connectivity Program (ACP) enrollment. This program is to help more households start saving on their home internet bill and on April 22nd an event to register will be held at the Boys and Girls Club in Paso Robles. Click [here](#) for more information.

There are many ways to serve your community and being on the Grand Jury is a big one. A new grand jury is empan-

eled each year and this year's applications are due April 14. Grand jurors volunteer to work as an independent body under the guidance of the Superior Court. Investigations may be initiated in response to formal complaints, newspaper articles, or recommendation from a previous grand jury. Investigating and reporting on the operations of local government is known as the "watchdog" function of a civil grand jury. Each civil grand jury determines which officers, departments, and agencies it will investigate during its term of office. Download the grand jury application [here](#).

Get ready to celebrate children and families in April, the Month of Child & Child Abuse Prevention Month. It will be officially proclaimed by the SLO County Board of Supervisors on April 4th. First 5 SLO County and partners invite you to just a few of many upcoming events dedicated to our youngest population and honoring their value to our communities. Learn more [here](#).

Last month, the Board of Supervisors honored the recipients of The Community Foundation of San Luis Obispo County Richard J. Weyhrich Leadership Scholarship Awards who were local high school students. It is important to remember the challenges of attending high school virtually yet somehow these students kept their drive for excellence, although they noted the stress of the pandemic and challenges. Each award winner shared their college prospects and examples of how they engage in their community. We all enjoy the leadership demonstrated by these inspiring young adults. Congratulations!

This month's office hours: April 6th Avila Beach Civic Center; April 13th Shell Beach Library; April 20th at the Grover Beach Launch Pad. Reach out to Legislative Assistant, Kelley Abbas at [kabbas@co.slo.ca.us](mailto:kabbas@co.slo.ca.us) or 805-781-4336.

**Dawn Ortiz-Legg**  
San Luis Obispo County  
District 3 Supervisor





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## Top 12 tech startup semi-finalists announced for AngelCon

SAN LUIS OBISPO—The Cal Poly Center for Innovation for Entrepreneurship (CIE) Small Business Development Center (SBDC) recently announced the 12 tech startup semi-finalists to compete in the 2023 Angel Conference (listed below). The hybrid conference will take place at SLO Brew Rock and stream on YouTube Live on June 1st. Companies will have an opportunity to compete for \$100,000+ in equity-backed funding.

AMS Pharma: a novel medical treatment for autism

Artifex Technologies: a web-based data processing tool for construction professionals who need quick synthesis of their 3D data

DEMO Studios: allows creators to make money by selling collaboration rights to their content

Eden Concept Fill: developed Cellyfill, a new, fully sustainable replacement to synthetic oil-based cushioning known as Polyfoam

MyMetaFi: collect, use, and trade the most valuable NFTs without having to



pay full price. MyMetaFi enables users to pool money together with others to buy valuable NFTs

Neocharge: a sustainably driven company dedicated to optimizing home energy usage to reduce cost, carbon emissions, and support the reliability of the electrical grid

PureSite: designs, manufactures, and installs advanced air purification systems that clean and disinfect the air in commercial applications, such as agriculture cold storage, airport terminals, and entertainment venues

Quantum Energy: The TotalView Energy Platform and API is a comprehensive AI-driven software tool for clean energy decision-makers

Ryde: peer-to-peer travel marketplace that connects student drivers with student riders for long-distance travel

Vetama: a mobile veterinary company  
VLab Education: helping students find a passion for STEM by developing VR science experiments for students, giving them a method of experiencing what it is like to be a scientist, regardless of their access to traditional lab resources  
Zoetic Motion: an innovative physical therapy platform that combines computer vision technology with gamification to provide patients with an engaging and effective recovery experience

This annual event is propelled by a dedicated group of angel investors interested in investing in early-stage startups in exchange for ownership equity or convertible debt. The top six startup finalists will compete in the sixth annual AngelCon pitch competition on Thursday, June 1st, at SLO Brew Rock and stream on YouTube Live. The winner will receive \$100,000+ in angel investments to grow their business.

Attendees can purchase tickets at [angelcon2023.eventbrite.com](https://angelcon2023.eventbrite.com). Virtual and in-person tickets are available.



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## Costa Rica Photo Tour & Workshop

**Nov. 25<sup>th</sup> – Dec. 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2023**

Come join me on this wonderful Costa Rica trip, right after Thanksgiving. This trip is an excellent opportunity to photograph amazing wildlife, unique flora, and spectacular views. Whether you want to learn wildlife photography or are already a pro, this trip is sure to fill your memory card with wall-hangers and gifts to share with family and friends over the holidays. During this guided trip, we'll visit 3 beautiful regions and 9 amazing locations for taking pictures. We'll have sessions for photo reviews and feedback, and post processing sessions using Lightroom. You'll also get to enjoy free time to explore optional activities. Limited to 8 spaces, this trip is sure to fill up quickly at \$3,695\* per person for double occupancy. Non-workshop companions are welcome at a discounted rate.

For questions or to reserve your spot contact: Adi Ringer 805-779-1622 or [adi@artemisartworks.com](mailto:adi@artemisartworks.com).

Full details at <https://artemisartworks.com/costarica/>



## Mission Community Services Corporation (MCSC) announces new Executive Director

SAN LUIS OBISPO COUNTY — Starting last month, Maxine Kozler became the Executive Director of the Mission Community Services Corporation (MCSC) which runs the Women's Business Center for SLO, Kern, and Monterey Counties.

Maxine "Maxi" started her career in the entertainment business with a specialty in protecting and growing intellectual property assets including licensing and partnerships. She continued her career by developing consumer product brands through PR, social media, and influencer marketing. She was able to combine her experience with IP, marketing, and operations to invest and advise startup founders by becoming a venture capital investor.

Maxi is the Co-Managing Director of LDR Ventures, a California-based, female-led consulting and venture capital firm. Her expertise includes early-stage capital raising, deal structuring and syndication, strategies for growth, market-



**Maxine Kozler**

ing, and scaling. She invests in and advises founders to help grow their businesses from proof-of-concept to market leadership. Maxine also has a strong background in fundraising for nonprofits and gives her time to several organizations that benefit women and female entrepreneurs.

The MCSC Board of Directors said they are very pleased to have Maxine join their team.

"She brings a background and experience level we believe will guide us into the next stage of life as we continue to grow and expand our Women's Business Centers in San Luis Obispo, Kern, and Monterey Counties. Maxine brings an energy and vibrancy which is invigorating and shares our passion for the work we do," they said.

...

Mission Community Services Corporation (MCSC) is a 501(c)3 and host to the Women's Business Center since October 2006. Visit [mcscorp.org](http://mcscorp.org) for more info.

Buy Local gift card program ends ahead of expected deadline

GROVER BEACH — The popular "Buy Local" gift card program ended March 22—over a week ahead of the March 31st deadline—since all gift cards were claimed.

Here is a quick recap: Over \$22,985 worth of Grover Beach dining receipts were submitted via the Chamber's website and 203 free \$25 gift cards were distributed to participating diners. Receipts from Grover Beach restaurants, wineries, and breweries dated from February 12, 2023 to March 22, 2023 could be redeemed for a free \$25 gift card once \$100 worth of receipts were collected. Participants received gift cards from another restaurant, winery, or brewery.

In partnership with the South County Chambers of Commerce, the Grover Beach City Council implemented the Buy Local program as part of the City's ongoing efforts to stimulate the economy, retain local jobs, and help businesses thrive.

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## Arroyo Grande's Computer Techs, Inc. rebrands to become Professional IT Solutions

ARROYO GRANDE — Computer Techs, Inc., a regional provider of business technology solutions to the small-to-medium (SMB) size business market, announced its name change to Professional IT Solutions. The new name takes effect on April 3, 2023.

The company-wide name change and rebranding comes as technological capabilities, user adoption, and client demands have advanced. Computer Techs, Inc. has simultaneously evolved, transforming from a “break-fix” shop to a regional IT services and security provider. As IT has grown to play a strategic role in organizations across size and industries, Computer Techs, Inc. has seen a complete evolution of its technology offerings, providing proactive solutions that monitor and maintain client networks to mitigate downtime should a disaster arise.

That solution suite will carry into and



expand with Professional IT Solutions, with its technology offerings focusing on physical and network security, including: data backup and disaster recovery solutions, network and email security, cyber security, training and compliance, vCIO and vCSO services, and numerous other offerings.

“Our name change reflects the company we have grown into over the past 25+ years—one that is known for providing leading technology solutions that align with our clients’ business strategy,” said company CEO, Lyle Thomas, who founded the company in 1996. “From network and physical security to the cloud and data storage, the Professional IT Solutions brand allows us to better communicate and encompasses our mission.”

For more information about Professional IT Solutions and its offerings, visit [ProlITZone.com](http://ProlITZone.com).

## SESLOC announces new CFS Financial Advisor

SAN LUIS OBISPO — SESLOC Federal Credit Union appointed Chris Datu, a registered financial advisor with SESLOC's broker/dealer CUSO Financial Services, L.P. (CFS), to their Wealth Management program.



**Chris Datu**

“We’re excited to offer Chris’ knowledge to our members. He will be a valuable resource to support their financial goals at every life stage. As a long-term Central Coast resident, Chris understands the unique financial needs and challenges of our community,” says Kelli Briggs, SESLOC EVP/Chief Operations Officer.

Chris will serve SESLOC's membership at all six branches in Arroyo Grande, San Luis Obispo, Paso Robles, Atascadero, Santa Maria, and at Cal Poly. He will offer wealth management services including comprehensive financial planning, tax-deferred investments, retirement income strategies, retirement plan rollovers, insurance, and retirement plans for businesses.

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Jacqueline Frederick has been a trial lawyer for over 40 years and has tried cases throughout California. She was the only woman to be elected to the Board of the Los Angeles Trial Lawyers Association from 1982 to 1990 and is the current President of the Central Coast Trial Lawyers Association.

She is an accomplished trial lawyer and in 2021 was awarded the largest general damages verdict in the history of San Luis Obispo County winning \$13.8 million for her client.

Jacqueline is a 2016 Wall of Fame Award recipient and was awarded the Outstanding Women Lawyer in 2014, The San Luis Obispo County Bar Association Seitz Award in 2017 and the Access to Justice Award in 2019, among other recognitions for her professional and community achievements.



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## Rise & Shine, South County

**REGIONAL BUSINESS MEETING  
HOSTED BY SOUTH COUNTY CHAMBERS OF COMMERCE**

**Wednesday, April 5, from 7:30 am to 9 am  
South County Regional Center  
800 W. Branch St. in Arroyo Grande**

Connect with government leaders and meet other business owners. This Chamber event is open to the local business community. Coffee and pastries will be provided.

Exclusive sponsorship opportunities are available. Email [kathy@southcountychambers.com](mailto:kathy@southcountychambers.com) for further details.

RSVP for this free event at [southcountychambers.com](http://southcountychambers.com).





## Leadership South County Class IV experiences an unexpected snowy retreat



SOUTH COUNTY—South County Leadership Class IV enjoyed a once-in-a-lifetime winter wonderland for their weekend retreat at the Lodge at Oak Creek Ranch in nearby Santa Margarita. This retreat kicked off the nine-month program where the class will participate in leadership development classes with Marty and Wes of CultureStoke and engage in community-based themed day sessions. Class IV's first day session (Health and Wellness Day) was at the Matthew Will Memorial

Medical Center in Arroyo Grande sponsored by Dignity Health.

Welcome to the Class IV participants:  
 Lisa Jean: Pismo Coast Assoc. of Realtors  
 Whitney McDonald: City of Arroyo Grande  
 Cindy Ambriz: 1st Capital Bank  
 Amber Rogers: A.G. Community Hospital  
 Kristine Canada: Talley Vineyards  
 Gabriel Munoz-Morris: City of Grover Beach  
 Ligia Zavala: South County Chambers  
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Jim Munro: City of Grover Beach Police  
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 — Learn more about Leadership South County at [southcountychambers.com](https://southcountychambers.com).

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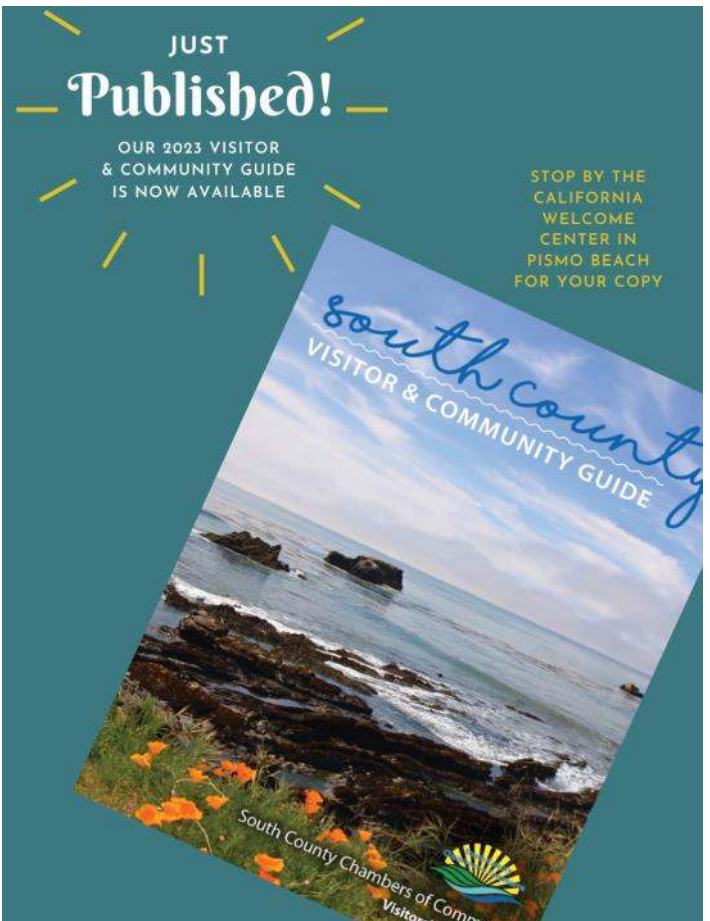
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## CHAMBER LUNCHEON AT VESPERA RESORT

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**Ballroom at Vespera Resort  
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**Special speaker: Eric Daniels serves as a Sr. External Affairs and Public Policy representative for PG&E, covering the areas of Santa Barbara County and San Luis Obispo County. This includes supporting government relations activities associated with general PG&E activities and Diablo Canyon Power Plant.**



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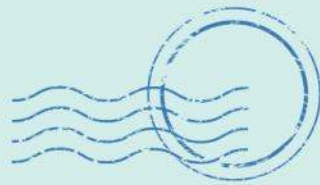
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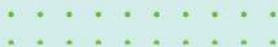
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Chambers of Commerce

Enjoy an evening of networking, appetizers, and wine on the oceanfront patio at Vespera Resort on Pismo Beach. Music and sound will be provided by Epic Entertainment. Mixers are a free benefit for members of South County Chambers of Commerce.



— PLEASE RSVP AT [SOUTHCOUNTYCHAMBERS.COM](http://SOUTHCOUNTYCHAMBERS.COM), OR CALL (805) 489-1488. —