

Orcutt PIONEER

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Santa Maria Public Airport On Lookout for Commercial Service



Central Coast AirFest will host a radio-controlled aircraft for the first time on Oct. 12 and 13.

2nd Annual AirFest Oct. 12-13

Despite concerns that the Santa Maria Public Airport hasn't added a new airline service, recent announcements from a neighboring airport will benefit the search, according to General Manager Chris Hastert.

"Although it seems counterintuitive, this is actually a good sign for future flights from Santa Maria," he explained.

In the past two months, San Luis Obispo County Regional Airport (SBP) officials revealed the addition of direct flights to San Diego, Las Vegas and Portland. Santa Maria Airport staff, on the other hand, have been working towards adding a new service since Mokulele Airlines stopped flights in 2017. Since then, Allegiant Air has offered the only commercial flights, taking passengers to Las Vegas.

"For Santa Maria to succeed in adding service with one of the major carriers, both of our neighbors need to be doing very well with their air service," he said. "The good news is they are, and it has generated more interest in Santa Maria from a couple of those carriers."

The Santa Maria Public Airport District's board of directors met on Aug. 8 to discuss the ongoing effort. During the meeting, a presentation was given that noted the

airport's strengths and challenges.

Strengths include its central location, local tourism, usage by Vandenberg Air Force Base, and that Santa Maria is the fastest growing city on the Central Coast. Additionally, the airport has superior facilities with the runway at 8,000 feet — the longest on the California Coast between the Los Angeles International Airport and the San Jose International Airport — and is managed by a special district.

There are two core challenges, the first being its proximity to SBP and the Santa Barbara Municipal Airport (SBA).

"The natural method of airlines adding flights to the Central Coast usually begins with Santa Barbara, capitalizing on their strong reputation as a tourist destination, county seat and state university," Hastert said.

When the airlines seek to add more service to the area, he continued, they typically skip Santa Maria for SBP in hopes that they don't pull passengers away from SBA. Many of the big airlines already feel they're adequately serving the Central Coast with service at SBP and SBA.

The other challenge is that new airlines look to service airports with the highest historical passenger demand.

The presentation also revealed that nonstop

service beyond 1,000 miles is unlikely because of the higher cost of fuel and crew, larger aircraft and need for higher passenger demand.

Arguably the biggest takeaway from the presentation was that it disclosed the results of recent meetings with various airlines. Some destinations being explored are Denver, Seattle, Portland, Phoenix, San Diego, Dallas, Los Angeles and San Francisco. Based on the notes, Denver and Phoenix are strong prospects. Flights from SBP and SBA to Denver are doing well — with load rates of more than 85 percent — which could support additional service in Santa Maria. Denver also has military ties. Phoenix loads are average, but American Airlines is pleased with the overall performance and said a route from Santa Maria is "just a matter of time."

Additionally, Santa Maria is on the shortlist for service to Phoenix through Allegiant.

Airport officials are continuing to meet one-on-one with airlines. In October, a meeting with United Airlines will be held. United could offer service to Denver, Los Angeles or San Francisco. United provided service to Los Angeles until 2015, then switched to San Francisco until 2016 when flights were pulled due to high rates and

underperformance. However, all markets are now contract-based which should improve any future fares.

October will also bring the second annual Central Coast Airfest, featuring new performances from the United States Air Force F-16 Viper Demo Team and Robert Holland, a record-breaking aerobatic pilot, on Oct. 12 and 13 from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

It's an event that exposes the community to a different side of aviation, helps local businesses, and collects proceeds for volunteers that help with the event, aviation scholarships and more.

"First and foremost, it allows the community access to the airport to experience the excitement of aviation and potential career opportunities," Hastert said. "In these days of strict security measures related to air travel, it is difficult to get up close to aircraft, pilots and businesses located on the airport."

To purchase tickets for the Central Coast AirFest, visit centralcoastairfest.com.

Jamie Guista reporting

The First-Ever Orcutt Boo Fest

Do you or your neighbors set up spooky sights for October nights? Next month we will feature some local Halloween displays in the paper, and we want to show off your haunted houses!

E-mail us photos of your ghoulish graveyards and pumpkin-filled porches to OrcuttBooFest@gmail.com! Be sure to include your address so we can encourage hitchhiking ghosts to visit your moonlit displays.

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Steve Southwick, Stephanie Southwick Hull,

James Jepsen, Rebecca Ross, Michael Shaw,

Jamie Guista, Trenton Kozel

Contact Phone:

Business & Advertising: (805) 714-6584

Postal Address:

P.O. Box 2545, Orcutt CA 93457

E-Mail address:

info@orcuttpioneer.com

Graphic Art Department

James Jepsen, Art Director

pioneer@jamesjepsen.com

Webmaster: Archie Miller

w6alm@aol.com

www.OrcuttPioneer.com

Walking America, and Through Orcutt, for Cancer Research

"We did not know Tom prior to him knocking on our door, but we opened our home to him," says Joe Waltuch of Thomas Curran, the 50 year old Californian walking across the country in support of children's cancer research.

After seven months on the road, Curran found himself passing through our neck of the woods and, through a series of friends and relations networking, spent a night with the Joe and Pam Waltuch right here in Orcutt.

"He's a very nice person, very knowledgeable, and we are glad we were able to spend some time with him," says Joe.

A visit to Thomas Curran's website, MovingOnWest.com begins like this: "Dear family and friend, old and new, grab a glass of wine or coffee and have a seat." Tom has a story to tell and he wants to take us all along with him.

"I've been a chef for 25 years," he wrote. "I love cooking, I love opening restaurants, I love seeing happy faces, I love the community and everything that comes with the grueling lifestyle of a chef."

So how does a chef become a cross-country walker? After opening a little taqueria and sausage joint called Taco Brat in Costa Mesa, Curran and his business partner parted ways. "It's been one hell of a long,

wonderful few years for me both personally and professionally," he explained. "[But] Taco Brat and the lifestyle/financial impact it had on me became overwhelming."

Curran said going through this process had him questioning what was really important to him in life. "Call it my Fight Club moment. 'The things you own end up owning you'. And that's how I've lived my life... always trying to get ahead and not quite getting there and feeling stressed and disappointed. I know that I cannot move forward like that and be healthy. I need a deep soul cleanse. I need a big change and I want that change to mean something to other people than just me. I have never allowed myself the space or time to find my spiritual path."

After reading several books by others who had walked across America, Curran realized that they all had one thing in common: their Why. "Whether to explore the country, find their soul, figure out their life, or for philanthropic reasons, they had a purpose that motivated them to get up, fold up their tent, and get walking. Without the 'Why', they never would have made it."

Curran certainly had the desire and the determination for such a feat. "As I was thinking about getting the hell out of here, before I started thinking about this walk,

I always pictured myself running off to Europe," he wrote. "But then I realized that I don't even know my own country, so perhaps the best place to start this journey is right here in America. I want to meet the people of this country, I want to see the small towns, I want to sit on a stranger's porch and drink root beer and make a new friend, I want to be scared out of my mind because I think there's a bear outside my tent, I want to brave the Rocky Mountains with my cart and sing when I get to the top and know it's all (mostly)

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Crash Survivor Facing Road Ahead with Determination



Chelsee Fuerch, center, with Michelle Graham, left, and Rachel Ross at the Santa Clara Valley Medical Center.

A 23-year-old Orcutt native who suffered major injuries after a single-car rollover in June is making strides, but could use the community's help as she continues on her road to recovery.

Chelsee Fuerch was the passenger in a 1998 Toyota Corolla when the driver, Sienna Diaz-Tremper, drifted onto the right shoulder of Figueroa Mountain Road near the Chamberlin Ranch in Los Olivos. According to the California Highway Patrol, Diaz-Tremper overcorrected and caused the vehicle to spin, travel down an embankment and roll over. Fuerch was airlifted to Santa Barbara Cottage Hospital and Diaz-Tremper, 21, died at the scene.

Fuerch suffered spinal cord injuries leading to quadriplegia. She's had to relearn things that come naturally to most — how to breathe, speak and laugh. Though she has no hand or finger movement, she's improved her arm control and has been learning how to use devices with the limited movement she has at Santa Clara Valley Medical Center.

She describes her life over the past few

months as a roller coaster ride. In early May, Fuerch and her family lost their home in Orcutt after 15 years. On May 18, she graduated from California State University, Channel Islands. On June 18, the accident happened, permanently altering her life.

After graduation, Fuerch planned to work and enjoy her newly stress-free life, according to Rachel Ross, her best friend of more than 10 years. The two graduated with each other and found comfort in the fact that "they would be continuing into the unknown together." Fuerch loved the outdoors — hiking, beach trips and exploring — and above all, to dance, Ross said.

"Everything's changed," Fuerch explained. "Breathing, coughing, laughing, going to the bathroom, walking, what I think of myself, how I feel about myself, my family, my friends. Literally everything."

With the changes, Fuerch's goals shifted. Since every day is still a challenge and round-the-clock care is a necessity, her ultimate wish is to become as independent as possible. Physically, she hopes to gain wrist and tricep movement, which would increase her abilities tremendously. Medical staff said the first year is when she'll make the most progress, according to her cousin Christy Reasner. She's scheduled to return to Orcutt at the end of September, where the struggles will continue.

"I'm terrified to go home," she explained.

"All the change that's going to come — adapting to being in my hometown as a quadriplegic — is going to be overwhelming."

"She's still looking forward to the future, just knows it's going to be different," Reasner added.

Fuerch will temporarily reside with her aunt as she and other family members have yet to find a home to rent in Orcutt. Members will take turns providing 24-hour care, some considering job changes.

"We're hoping to coordinate as a team because it really is a team effort," Reasner said.

Reasner created a GoFundMe to raise money for Fuerch's ongoing needs with a goal of \$50,000. As of press time, nearly \$14,000 had been donated.

"People have been so generous and kind, it's just amazing," Reasner said. "It renews our hope in mankind."

The idea is to do everything possible to make things easier for Fuerch. She is seeking items such as a manual wheelchair, a van for transport and an Apple Watch to communicate and connect with the world.

Many of her needs are still undetermined, according to Ross' mom, Michelle Graham.

"Her needs are beyond anything we could imagine," Graham said. "She needs so many new resources to help her gain some freedom and basic life necessities."

Fuerch and her family want to express the importance of safe driving and making good choices. Eventually, Fuerch hopes to share the message at local schools.

To donate, visit gofundme.com and search for Chelsee Fuerch. Reasner's contact info is also available on the website for alternative forms of donations.

Jamie Guista reporting

Walking

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downhill to home."


If this desire for connection wasn't enough of a Why, Curran decided to devote his walk to the Pediatric Cancer Research Foundation, a cause near and dear to his family, as his ex-wife is a childhood cancer survivor. The PCRF has raised over \$42 million for cancer research since 1982 and funds thirteen institutions across the country.

Curran embarked on his mission on February 2nd after visiting his son Holden, and began his walk in Holden Beach, North Carolina. From there he walked through cities in Tennessee, Kansas, and Oklahoma with his dog Wink before taking his pup home to California, going back to OK, and continuing the rest of the journey alone, departing from his originally planned route to walk through Idaho and Oregon and down through California.

On September 3rd he stayed in Orcutt, continuing on to Lompoc on September 4th. As of press time, Curran was in Marina de Rey, only a short 50 miles from his endpoint at Newport Beach Pier.

To make a donation or to find out more, visit www.MovingOnWest.com

Rebecca Ross reporting

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Orcutt Schools Update

Community Invited to 'Feast on the Arts' at OCAF Chalk Festival

Dr. Debbie Blow, Superintendent, OUSD

The eighth annual Orcutt Children's Arts Foundation (OCAF) Chalk Festival on Saturday, September 28, will be nothing short of a community celebration of the arts. The Festival will take place from 10:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. on South Broadway in Old Orcutt. Everyone is invited to attend.

"This year's theme is 'Feast on the Arts' because we wanted to highlight that everything we do in life has an artistic flair," says event chair and OCAF volunteer Rick Corbo. "We will have so many artists there. Plus, in Old Orcutt we have lots of culinary artists, and we wanted to include them this time."

As in past years, visitors to the Chalk Festival will be able to eavesdrop on skilled artists as they outline and color in chalk pictures and murals on sidewalks and blacktop. Over 50 amateur and emerging artists have committed to participate. Meanwhile, featured artists Ever Galvez and Ruben Espinoza will be doing paintings that they will donate back to OCAF for the foundation's annual Gala fund-raiser in February.

Kids can try their hands at chalk artistry, too. For \$10, children receive a box of professional pastel chalk and a street square to produce their own masterpiece. Children also can drop by a

Kids' Corner with activities focused on science, recycling, and the arts.

The Festival's entertainment includes singing, dancing, and instrumental music. The lineup is as follows: 10:30 a.m., Garcia Dance Studio; 11:15, Noon Bender and Jack; 12:15 p.m., Beyond the Vessel and Me; 1:15, Milania Espinoza; 2:15, Orcutt Junior High School Ukelele Band; 2:30, Champion McConnell. Between performances four different flash mobs will build from those in the audience.

Culinary arts are included, and six food trucks will be parked on the Old Orcutt roadway to vend their own edible creations. And throughout the streets numerous artisans, organizations, and merchants will welcome passerby at booths and tables.

"There's something for everyone," says Lee Ann Luongo, OCAF's executive director.

Proceeds from the event will support OCAF's efforts to fund arts education in Orcutt Union School District classrooms.

Corbo, who been involved with the Festival from its inception, values how the event engages families in the arts. He and his wife Ruth have three children and have hosted 14 foreign exchange students whom he calls "my 14 other kids." He encourages families near and far to make the effort to visit Old Orcutt on September 28.

"This Chalk Festival will be an event of the synergy of the arts," he says. "I mean that literally because it's all of the arts coming together: performance arts, visual arts, culinary arts, and arts vendors. It's going to be cool."

"The Chalk Festival is a way for OCAF to give back to the community," adds Luongo. "Without the generosity of our community, OCAF wouldn't be here. We love to see our community coming together at this event."

Superintendent Dr. Debbie Blow can be contacted by phone at 938-8900 or by e-mail at dblow@orcutt-schools.net. Follow her on Twitter at @debblow.



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Oasis Big Band Barn Bash Slated for October 20

Get those toes tapping because it's time for OASIS's Big Band Barn Bash. The Orcutt senior center is throwing its first ever dance themed fundraiser at Nipomo Creek Farm in October and everyone is invited to buy a ticket and come on down.

Monday evening Line Dancing, Wednesday Ballroom and Swing, and Thursday Country Line Dancing have been a big hit at OASIS. "We are finding that people are interested in line dance and ballroom who are both single and married," says OASIS Development Director Ali Bailey. "They want to try something new and dance is a fun way to get movement, express yourself, and get exercise benefits."

"We wanted to create an event that would pique the interest of our OASIS members who enjoy big band music, line dancing, and want to attend an event like our annual Gala that's priced more affordably [but] still benefits OASIS programming," she says. "This event does just that."

The barn dance idea has generated a lot of excitement among members, donors, and people in the Orcutt community. "There is interest from those wanting to learn more about OASIS and our programs," says Bailey. "So this is essentially both a fundraiser and

a fundraiser."

The headliner for the Big Band Barn Bash is Riptide, a dance band that "plays music from the big band era through the light rock of the 60s and 70s" and specializes in standards from the 30s and 40s "when big bands were the nation's primary entertainment and everyone danced."

"We have a strong following of Riptide groupies who swing dance all over the Central Coast," says Bailey.

But it's not a Barn Bash without a barn, right? Bailey describes Nipomo Creek Farm as a friend of OASIS that has been great to work with and says that it's a beautiful venue that's also used for weddings and special events.

With an idyllic locale and a live band, there's no better way to spend an autumn afternoon! The OASIS Big Band Barn Bash will be held on Sunday, October 20th from 1-4pm at the Nipomo Creek Farm in Nipomo. Tickets are \$25 for singles, \$45 for couples. To find out more, visit www.oasisorcutt.org.

Rebecca Ross reporting



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Oak Veneer Entertainment Center, 6' tall x 5' wide-\$50. Bookshelves, 6' tall, \$35 each. Microwave cart, \$20. Pair of Yamaha 115 passive pro DJ speakers, one needs repair, \$100/both. James, 805-878-1739

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The history of local aviation wouldn't be complete without mentioning the significance of the P-38 Lightning. Imagine taking a walk through town when suddenly a squadron of fighter pilots passes overhead. In 1943, a P-38 in the skies over Santa Maria was fairly common. We were home to the Santa Maria Army Air Base, one of the largest training bases on the west coast.

The P-38 was one of the premier fighting aircraft of World War II, designed to fly as high as bombers and with the same range. Used in both theaters, many a bomber pilot saw his chances of returning to base significantly increased when escorted by one of these powerful aircraft. And many of those pilots were trained right here in Santa Maria.



Second Lieutenant James K. Kunkle who went through P-38 training in Santa Maria was awarded The Distinguished Service Cross during WWII.

"Join us on October 12 and 13 for the 2nd Annual AirFest in Santa Maria."
Janet Silveria, President/CEO



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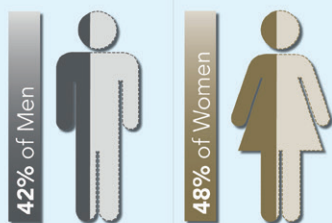
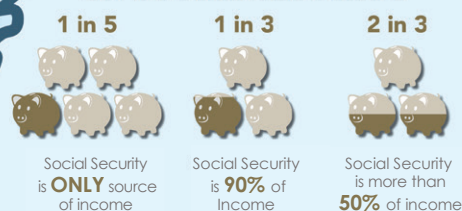
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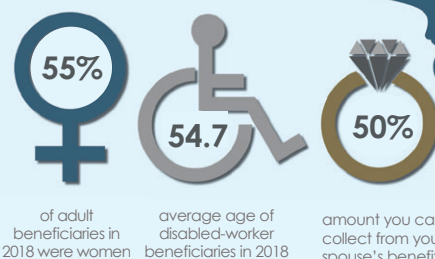


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*sources: Social Security Administration | Fast Facts & Figures about Social Security, 2018 | Fact Sheet Social Security, 2019

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Community Events

To submit your community event, email 50 words or less to info@orcuttpioneer.com by the second Wednesday of the month. Be sure to include, in this order, the name of the event, location, time, a short description and contact information.

SPECIAL EVENTS

HOLIDAY CRAFT & VENDOR FAIR. Old Town Market parking lot. Shop before, during & after the Orcutt Christmas Parade. Last minute gifts for all. Info: Wendy Knapp 805 261-2954.

FEEL THE MUSIC with the Santa Maria Philharmonic, September 28, 7:30PM, Grace Baptist Church, corner of East McCoy and College. Guitarist Jack Cimo will share the beauty of the Spanish guitar in Rodrigo's Concierto de Aranjuez while the rhythms of Mexican folk music will charm in Copland's El Salon Mexico, and a French impression of Spanish life with gypsy flair will capture your imagination in Bizet's colorful and captivating Carmen Suite No.2. Ticket prices: \$15-\$45 Family Rate \$60 (available only at the door). For more information or to purchase tickets, santamariaphilharmonic.org, or 805 925-0412.

MUSCLE, MUTTS & MEOWS 3rd Annual Car Show, Saturday, October 5th from 10-3 at the Elks Lodge in Santa Maria. All funds raised support Santa Barbara County Animal Care Foundation.

FRIENDS OF THE ORCUTT LIBRARY BOOK SALE, November 2, 10AM-1:30PM at the library. Friends of the Orcutt Library is a not-for-profit organization and all proceeds go to the library.

MONTHLY OR WEEKLY EVENTS

50+ CLUB LUNCHEON, at St Louis De Montfort Church Hall at 11:30AM on the second Thursday of the month. Event is catered with nominal charge. For reservations call Irene at 934-2511.

ADULT CHILDREN OF ALCOHOLIC AND DYSFUNCTIONAL FAMILY SYSTEMS meets 1) Sun at 4PM in the conference room of the Marian Extended Care Facility at 1530 Cypress Way and 2) Thur at 6PM in the Casa Del Rio Mobile Estates at 1124 N. Suey Rd. Contact Kim at (805) 714-6908 with questions.

AA (or Alcoholics Anonymous). If you want to drink, that's your business. If you want to stop, that's ours. Meetings Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday, 6:30PM Orcutt Presbyterian Church. General information and other meeting times and places, 925-3782.

ALL AMERICA CITY QUILT GUILD meets at Gloria Dei Lutheran Church, 4380 Orcutt Rd., on the second Wednesday of each month at 6:30PM except March and July. Info: www.santamariaquilters.com or 937-4024.

ALTRUSA OF THE CENTRAL COAST meets at Noon on the 2nd and 4th Mondays of the month. Altrusa is an international non-profit organization of men and women that strives to make our local communities better through leadership, partnership and service. For more information and meeting location call our president at 805.835.7627 or go to our website: www.altrusaofthecentralcoast.org.

AMERICAN LEGION POST 534 Breakfast 9-NOON on the first Sunday of each month. Public invited. 145 W. Clark Ave.

AMERICAN LEGION POST Veterans BBQ in Orcutt, 145 W. Clark Ave. 11AM-3PM or until sold out on the third Saturday of each month.

ALL YOU CAN EAT BREAKFAST at OASIS Senior Center, 420 East Soares, Old Orcutt on the second Saturday of each month 8-10AM: Adult members \$5, Non members \$7, Children under 10: \$3.

BIBLE STUDY on I & II Corinthians at St. Louis de Montfort. Monday nights 7-8:30PM. For more info contact Steve Stanley 937-1353; Trent Benedetti 937-9625.

BSA Troop 87 in Orcutt. Enjoy outdoors camping, hiking, fishing, snow & water sports, etc. Scouting provides an opportunity to try new things, build self-confidence, provide service to others, and reinforce ethical standards that improve relationships, family lives, and values. ron@enginotech-ca.com

Bilingual worship services at Christian Life every Sunday at 2PM, Unity Chapel of Life church located at 1165 Stubblefield Rd, Santa Maria, CA 93455. 719-660-9789.

CA 0295 TOPS (Take Off Pounds Sensibly) meets at the Foster Road Church of Christ every Monday evening. Weigh-ins @ 5:30 meeting @ 6PM. (805)2681480

CAMPING LOVE OF ADVENTURE is a nonprofit single adult camping club. We meet the second week of each month on Wednesday for up to six night or less. For more information contact Elaine 805-937-5357

CAREGIVER'S SUPPORT GROUP. Learn coping strategies and gain support from a professional social worker. For those who care for people that are home bound or suffering from Alzheimer's, dementia or senility. Class is free and meets on the first Wednesday of each month at the OASIS Senior Center.

CENTRAL COAST BEACH BOARDWALKERS WALKING CLUB meets at Giovanni's Pizza in Orcutt (next to Albertson's) on the fourth Thursday of each month from 6-7:30PM. Anyone interested in joining the CCBB is invited to meet Thursday, August 23rd for the next club meeting. Details can be found at www.beachboardwalkers.org, or call Club

President Ty Fredriks at 805-714-1552.

CENTRAL COAST CHORDSMEN invite those who would like to sing or would like to learn to participate with them. Call 937-7960 for information.

CENTRAL COAST CORVETTE CLUB open to Corvette Owners and Enthusiasts. meetings at 7PM on the first Thursday of the month @ Merrill Gardens, Wellness Center, 1350 N. Suey Road, Santa Maria. Info: call Mike @ 805-934-3948 or Tawnya @ 805-260-6090.

CENTRAL COAST COMPUTER CLUB Knollwood Village Clubhouse 4012 S. Bradley Meets on the third Tuesday of the month at 5:45PM. with Q&A session, coffee and cookies, followed by a 7PM. brief business meeting. Information: Bill 934 0775 or www.CentralCoastComputerClub.com

Central Coast Gardeners meet at the Luis OASIS Senior Center, 420 Soares Ave., on the third Tuesday of the month at 6:30PM. from September through May. Guests are welcome. Info: Dorothy 934-8325.

CENTRAL COAST SAMS RV GROUP meets the 3rd Tuesday of each month for a 3 day "campout". We enjoy planned tours, good food and fellowship at local campgrounds within 100 miles of the Central Coast. We welcome new members. Contact Faye Cardoza 805-481-1047.

COASTAL VALLEYS MARINE CORPS LEAGUE 1340 monthly meeting on the fourth Tuesday of the month held at Veteran's Memorial Bldg at 313 W Tunnell in Santa Maria at 7PM.

COASTAL VOICES is looking for singers to join us! Rehearsals are held Mondays, 7 PM, at St. Andrew United Methodist Church, 3945 S. Bradley Rd., Santa Maria. A love of singing and the willingness to work hard and learn beautiful music is the only requirement. Check our website at <http://www.coastalvoices.info/>.

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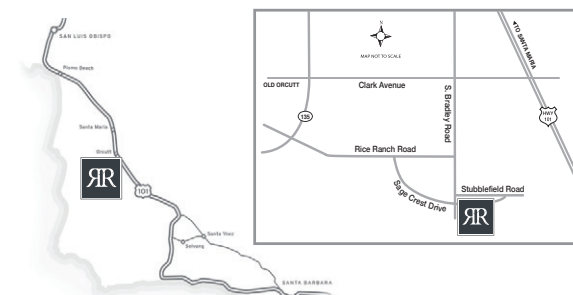


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