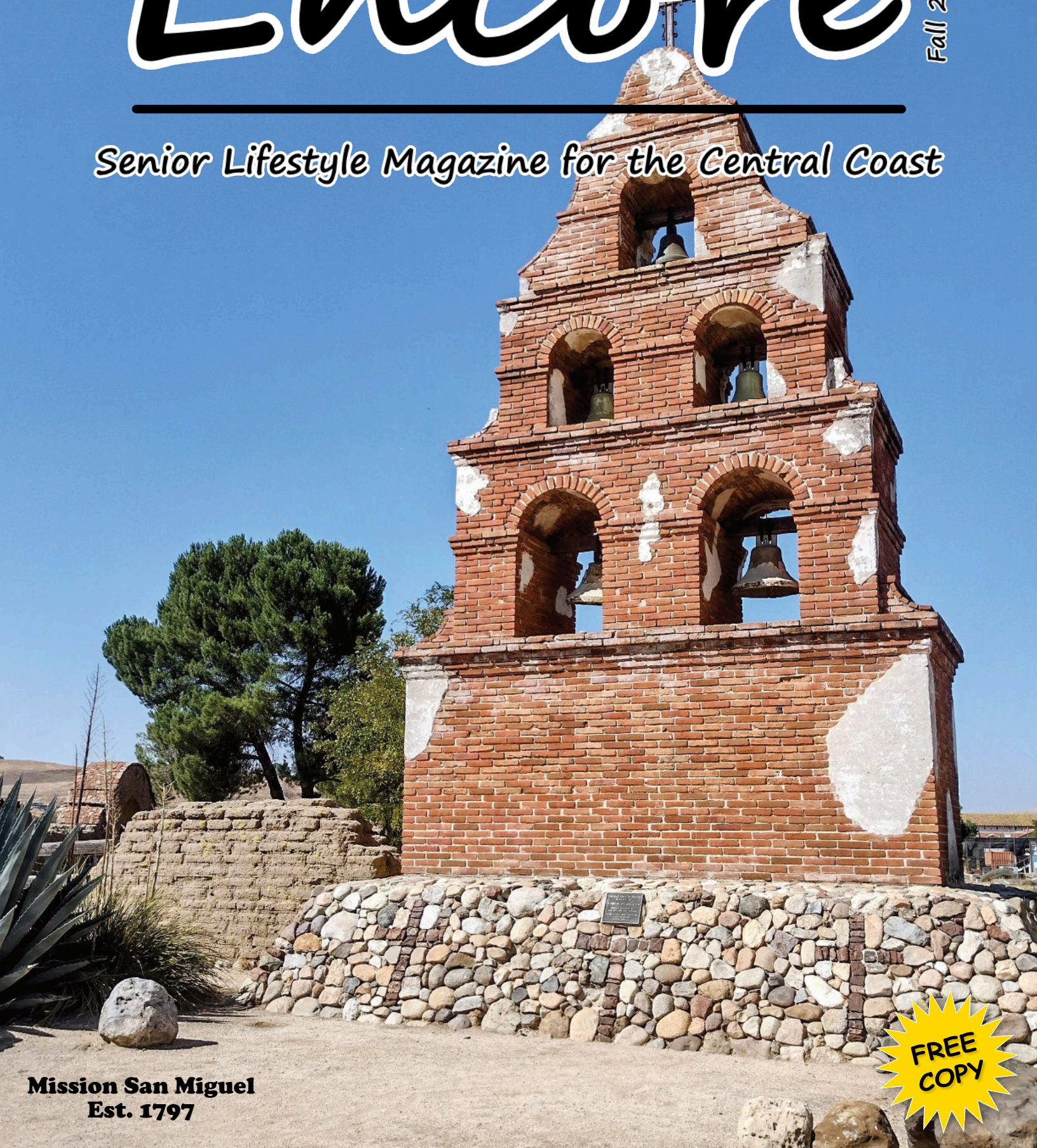


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Fall 2026

Senior Lifestyle Magazine for the Central Coast



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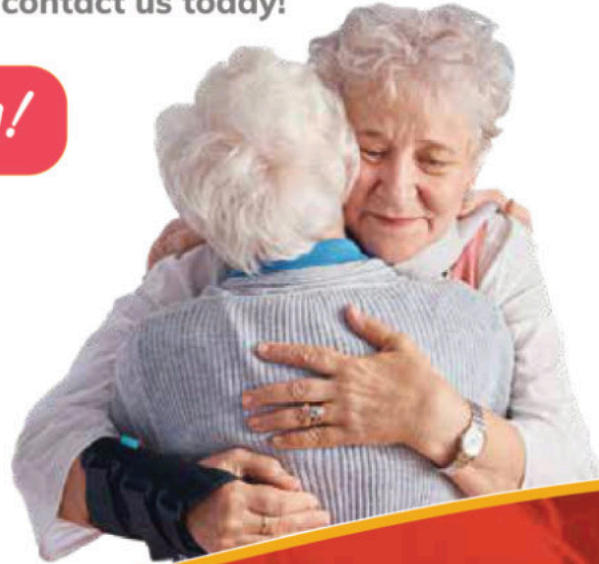
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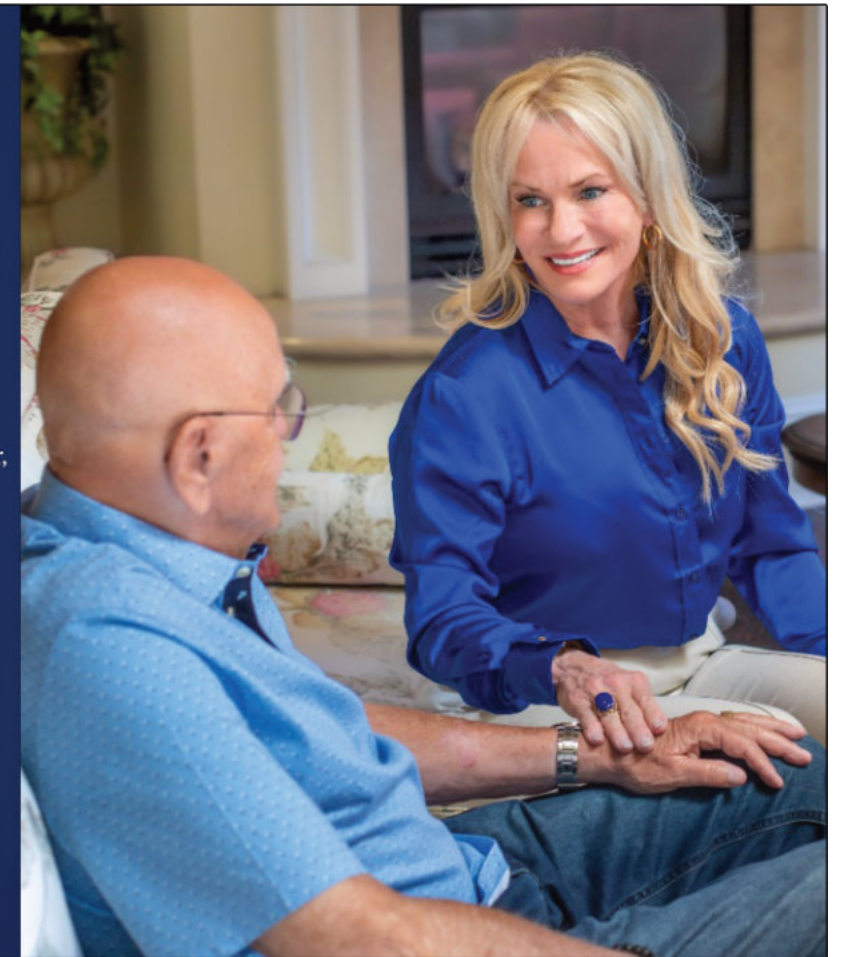


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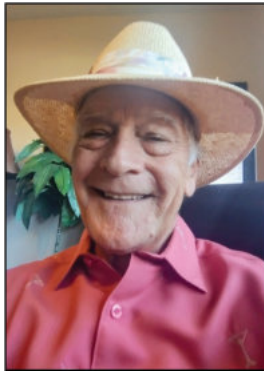
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Publisher's Introduction - Fall 2026



Greetings fellow seniors! As we enter autumn in more ways than one, it's a season that calls for reflection over the last year and perhaps various events that have helped shape us and brought us to this moment in time. I became 75 in September - three quarters of a century. Hard to believe when I consider the roller coaster ride I have been on at different eras of my life. I think most of us live several lifetimes over the course of our existence. Some great, some good and some became valuable learning experiences.

Much of the days of oppressive heat should be behind us now, though fall can still produce some warm days and it's usually my favorite time of the year. We are introducing our new event calendar this issue.

We hope you find it informative and encourage you to participate as our county always has a plethora of entertainment choices.

Is it just me or are the shelves of local retailers displaying Halloween merchandise earlier and earlier every year? In mid August, there were already ghosts and goblins and witches and skeletons lurking around every aisle. The American traditions of Halloween decorating has vaulted past every holiday besides Christmas over the last decade or so. And, it's not even an actual recognized holiday! It really has become a huge industry generating over \$13 billion in retail sales. So much for candy corn, apples and lollipops.

I wish you all a wonderful Thanksgiving and Christmas as fall gives way to winter. Spend quality time with your family, friends and neighbors. But just as importantly, spend time on yourself and remember to not take life too seriously. We're all in this together.

Dixon

Encore

Senior Lifestyle Magazine for the Central Coast

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Encore

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SENIOR RESOURCES SLO COUNTY

Office of Emergency Services - SLO County
805-781-5011 / SLOCounty.ca.gov

CentralCoastSeniors.org
805-928-2552
(Area Agency on Aging)
Hicap@centralcoastseniors.org
805-928-5663
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Seniors Helping Seniors - Seniorcareslo.com
805-369-2110 / info@seniorcareslo.com

Senior Citizen Centers:

Morro Bay Active Adults 55+
MorroBaySeniors.org
805-772-4421
1001 Kennedy Way, Morro Bay, CA

Central Coast Senior Center: 805-481-7886
1580 Railroad St., Oceano, CA

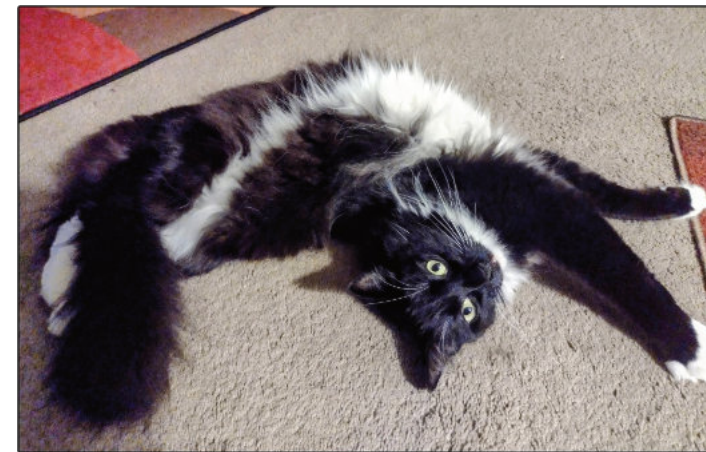
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Senior Citizens Center: 805-995-3543
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Paso Robles Senior Center: 805-237-3880
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5905 East Mall, Atascadero, CA

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200 E. Dana St., Nipomo, CA



The Cat's Meow

Feline Quotes by Kozmo

**"I don't have an attitude.
I have standards."**

**"I'm not ignoring you. I'm giving you
time to reflect on what you've done."**

**"I knocked it off the table because I
wanted to know if gravity still works.
You're welcome."**

**"You call it shedding.
I call it interior decorating."**

**"I don't chase mice. I provide them
with opportunities to escape."**

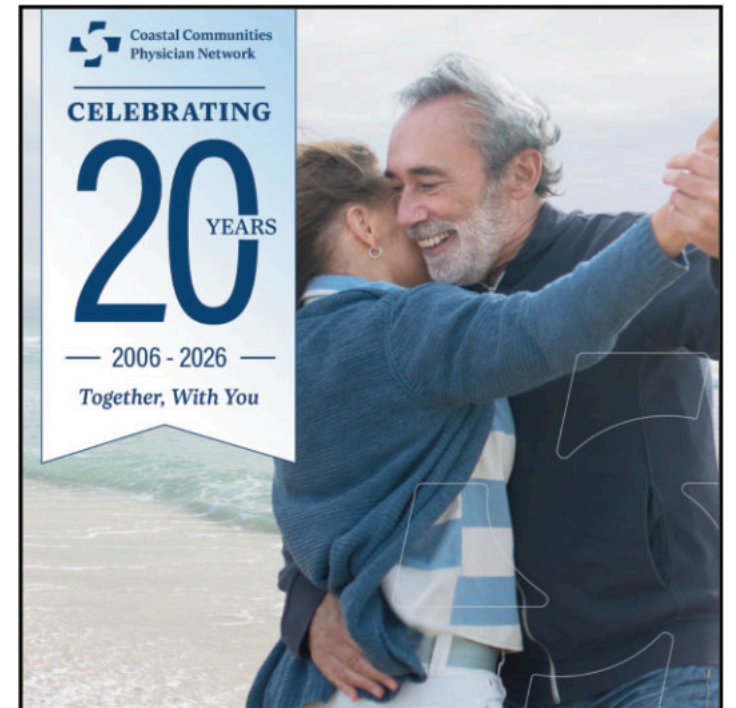
**"I was going to catch that bird, but
then I remembered I have people for
that."**

**"You say I'm spoiled.
I say I'm appropriately appreciated."**

"Dogs have owners. Cats have staff."

**"I was going to help, but then I
remembered I'm a cat."**

**"I'm not judging you. I'm simply
taking notes."**



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16th Annual Central Coast Railroad Festival will be held October 2-4

Check out the complete schedule at:
CCRRF.com/schedule.HTML

Encore - Calendar of Events

For more detailed information visit: EncoreSeniorLife.com

October 1-31

Scarecrow Festival - Cambria & San Simeon

Colorful hand-made scarecrows created by local artists will be posted along the city streets. Festival showcased nationally in USA Today and LA Times. cambriascarecrows.com

October 2-4

Central Coast Railroad Festival - San Luis Obispo & Northern Santa Barbara Counties

16th annual event showcases model railroading, train-themed activities and local railroad history. Fun activities, vendors, and displays at various locations.

October 10

Pickle Festival - Madonna Inn Expo

Enjoy pickle sips and bites, pickle eating contest, live music, local vendors, face painting, kids play area and more. Best pickle themed costume contest. Event is a fundraiser for Meals That Connect - Senior Nutrition Program of SLO County. slopicklefestival.org

October 10-11 & October 17-18

Open Studios Art Tour - SLO County

Local artists and talented crafters will open their studios to showcase and sell their art. Visitors create their own self-guided tours using the catalog of participating artists. slocountyarts.org

October 17-31

Jazz Jubilee Central Coast - SLO County and Northern SB County

The Basin Street Regulars Hot Jazz Club presents a vibrant celebration of jazz music stretching across the region. This multi-venue, area-wide festival has numerous jazzy events scheduled. basinstreetregulars.com

October 17-18

80th Annual Pismo Beach Clam Festival

Join in the fun for the 80th year. The festival began in 1946 as a community celebration and soon became one of Pismo's longest-running traditions. Kids zone, clam chowder contest and more. experiencepismoeach.com

October 25

Cello Delight by Candlelight at Old Mission San Miguel

Experience an intimate evening of beautiful music inside the historic Mission sanctuary, illuminated by candlelight. 775 Mission Street, San Miguel oldmissionsanmiguel.org, 805-536-0532

October 30 & 31

Coastal Communities Physician Network (CCPN) Senior Health Expo

North County & South County Annual health fairs offer a variety of information and resources for the senior population. Vendors will showcase special products and services. Health screenings, free flu shots, refreshments and raffles. More info: ccpnhpn.com, 805-540-6204

Arroyo Grande - 2nd Annual Event

Friday, October 30, 9am-noon
South County Regional Center, 800 W Branch Street, Arroyo Grande

Templeton - 5th Annual Event

Saturday, October 31 - 9am - noon
CCPN North County, 325 Posada Lane, Templeton

November 6-8

Paderewski Festival, Paso Robles

Annual music event features concerts, master classes and cultured events. paderewskifest.com

Holiday Events

November 27 - December 20

Christmas at the Ranch

Santa Margarita Ranch

November 28

Santa's Doggie Parade - Avila Beach

Promenade & Front Street

Holiday Parades

San Luis Obispo - December 4

Morro Bay - December 5

Paso Robles - December 5

Arroyo Grande - December 6

December 6

Pismo Partita Concert - Trinity Lutheran Church, Paso Robles

Join in for the joyful sounds of chamber music played by trio Susan Davies, piano, Jessica Hoffman, oboe and Grace Seng, violin. Location: 940 Creston Road, Paso Robles

December 11

Winter Wonderland - Atascadero Sunken Gardens

New Year's Eve Events

OperaSLO: New Year's Eve Gala Harold Miossi Hall at Cal Poly

Dazzling lineup of internationally acclaimed soloists and dancers for a spectacular night of Broadway, opera and Hollywood favorites. pacslo.org

Paso Robles Concert & Bonfire

Free family-friendly downtown is highlighted with the East Coast ball drop at 9pm. prcity.com

Noon Year's Eve at the Central Coast Zoo, Atascadero

Festive event for children and grandparents. Enjoy themed activities, festive ball drop and sparkling cider toast. visitatascadero.com

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by candlelight

October 25th

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THE

KITCHEN HACK

by Carrie Head



Crock-Pot Cooking 101

The big advantage of using a slow cooker is how easy and convenient it is – just add your ingredients in the morning, turn it on and let time do most of the work while you go about your day. Although, keep in mind that slow cookers work differently from stovetop or oven cooking because their covered design traps steam which prevents a lot of the liquid from evaporating. As a result, recipes may need to be adjusted by reducing the amount of added liquid. Understanding how moisture, cooking time and temperature work in a slow-cooker can help you create meals that are flavorful, delicious and have a different consistency than other cooking methods.

Get creative and experiment making new recipes. You can even make applesauce, oatmeal, yogurt, cakes, desserts, baked potatoes and more in your handy slow-cooker.

Layer Your Ingredients Strategically

Heat radiates from the bottom and sides of a slow cooker and liquids take time to warm up.

• **Tip:** Always place dense hard root vegetables – such as potatoes and carrots – at the very bottom of the pot, so they will cook evenly.

• **Why it works:** Meat cooks faster than

hearty vegetables, placing root vegetables on the bottom submerges them in the building liquids allowing them to cook completely through.

Lifting up the lid to check on your meal

It can be tempting to lift the lid to check on your dinner or stir it but doing so can make the cooking of your meal uneven.

• **Tip:** Keep the lid firmly secured throughout the cooking process, only open it in the final 30 to 45 minutes if you need to add delicate ingredients such as cream or sour cream that will curdle if you add them early on.

• **Why it works:** Every time you lift the lid the cooker loses a massive amount of trapped heat and steam. Opening it just once can add 15 to 20 minutes to your total cooking time.

When it comes to liquids, less can be more

In traditional cooking, moisture evaporates into the air. In a slow cooker the tightly sealed lid traps steam which condenses and drips right back into the food.

• **Tip:** If you are adapting a standard oven recipe for the slow-cooker reduce the liquid amount by roughly one-third to one-half.

• **Why it works:** Over-pouring liquid dilutes your flavors and leaves you with a watery sauce instead of a rich, concentrated gravy.

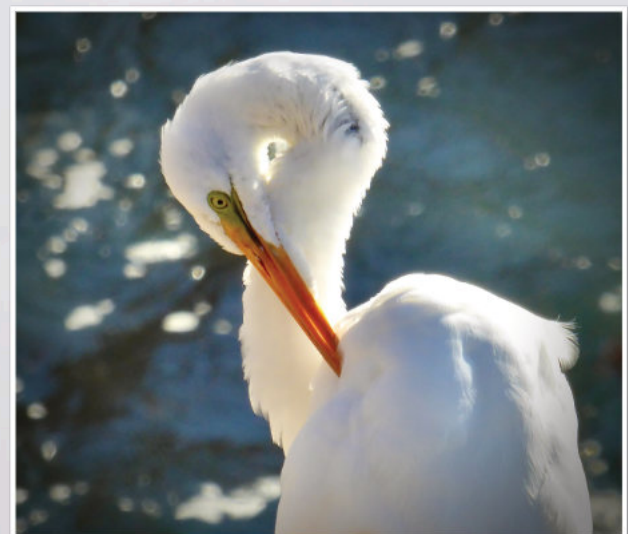
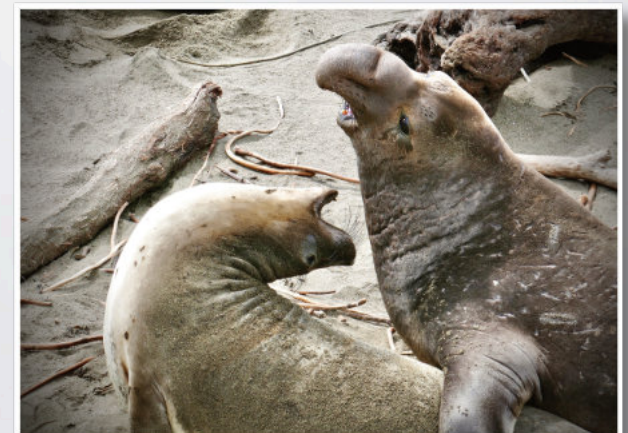
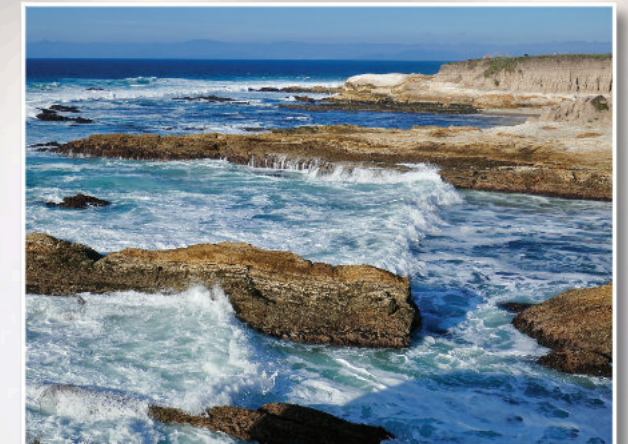
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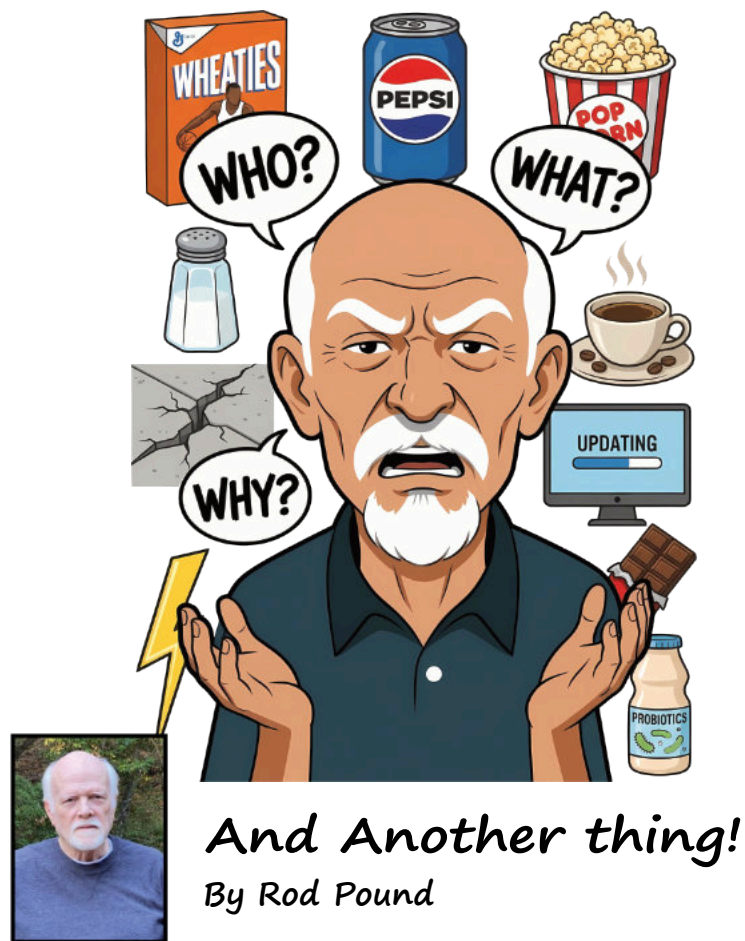
email: carrie3936@gmail.com

Photography Spotlight:

Linden Nelson

(Former Cal Poly Psychology Professor turned amateur photographer)





you wouldn't check to see if a baby is in there? I know I would.

Who said I shouldn't steal someone else's thunder? I won't - but even if I did, what would I carry it in?

Speak of the devil, whatever that means. And who decided Bob's your uncle?

Why would you throw salt over your shoulder? Have you no consideration for the person sitting behind you?

Who said you could break your mother's back simply by stepping on a crack? Damn inconsiderate is what I call it.

Who decided my computer needs an update? Is it the same guy who insists on upgrading my phone? I don't like him. He could at least upgrade my car. Now, that would be helpful.

Another thing, is coffee healthy or not? Ten years ago, it wasn't. Then it was. Then it wasn't again. Who makes those decisions? And what about chocolate? I really don't care but my wife wants me to ask. She lives on coffee and chocolate, so the question is pretty important.

Concerning television commercials, how many people out there need new windows and doors, or a new bathroom, or leaf gutter guards? Well? How many? And Probiotics? Anyone know what they are and why I just have them? Can I substitute Amateurbiotics? What about wrinkle cream? I'm proud of my wrinkles. I worked hard to earn them. Every line tells a story - I've got a novel on my face and it's a good read.

I'm asking you, dear reader. Who are these people and how did they gain control over my life? I need to find out where they live.

If you have answers, please share. Jot them down and send them to: publisher@encoreseniorlife.com attn: Mr. Grouchy. That's me. But you knew that. I'll give you a writing credit in the next issue. Or not.

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Happy Hour is one of my favorite times of the day. I mean just the name makes you smile. So, each issue will have a Happy Hour section in it. The column will contain 1 or 2 cocktail recipes plus 1 or 2 appetizer recipes for you to try, taste and enjoy. The first contributions will come from our editorial staff, but we would love to hear from our readers for future recipes which we will reprint, giving the creator full credit.

Old Fashion (A Classic)

- Place one large ice cube in a rocks glass
- Add: 2 oz. good bourbon whiskey
- 1/2 oz. simple syrup or 1 sugar cube
- 2-4 dashes of your favorite bitters
- Splash of water if using a sugar cube
- Garnish w/ an orange slice and a cocktail cherry
- Optional: Add 1/2 tsp. cherry juice

Stir and enjoy on a cold, dark night

White Russian (It ain't Russian)

- 2 oz. vodka
- 1 oz. Kahlua
- Add either regular cubes or shaved ice
- Stir gently
- Pour 1 oz. heavy cream or 1/2 & 1/2 over top as a float

It's a great alternative to all your holiday nog creations

Cranberry Baked Brie (A great holiday party treat)

- 1/4 C of honey
- 1/4 C fresh or frozen cranberries
- 1/4 tsp. cracked black pepper
- 2 strips of orange peel & 2 sprigs of thyme
- 12-18 oz. wheel Brie or Camembert
- 2-3 tbsp. roasted chopped almonds

Heat all ingredients (except almonds & cheese) in a sauce pan for 2-3 min. while gently squishing cranberries. Discard orange peel & thyme and transfer mix to a bowl to cool.

Place Brie in small baking pan, spoon cranberry mix on top & place in oven at 275 degrees until soft. Take out of oven and sprinkle almonds on top. Serve w/crackers or slices of baguette.



Basin Street Regulars Hot Jazz Club continue to celebrate their 50th anniversary year.

Upcoming Events include:
September 27th - Dance Concert at the Pismo Beach Veterans Memorial Building
October 18-27th - Jazz Jubilee Central Coast

For further information, go to:
BasinStreetRegulars.com



MUSIC ROYALTY
Match the epithet with the singer.

- A) King of Rockabilly
- B) King of Pop
- C) King of Country
- D) King of the Blues
- E) Queen of Rock and Roll

- 1) Carl Perkins
- 2) B.B. King
- 3) Tina Turner
- 4) Michael Jackson
- 5) George Strait

Answers on bottom of page

SUDOKU

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A-1 B-4 C-5 D-2 E-3



In the Garden with Janice **The Winter Crop** **Cool-Season Edible Garden** *by Janice Van Bever*

We are so fortunate to live on the central coast of California - which is one of the many counties where we can have a year round garden to supply our kitchen. Even though most people think of edible gardens, they are thinking more of summer gardens with fresh tomatoes, cucumbers, squash and corn which grow and require lots of sunshine and heat. The fall or winter planting has advantages for planting cool season edibles that thrive in mild temperatures and will tolerate a light frost. The edible parts of such plants are leaves, roots or unopened flowers. Winter edible gardening provides nice fresh veges with fewer pests, and requires much less water than our summer gardens.

In selecting your site, make sure you are maximizing full sun exposure with at least 6 hours of full sun. The soil, whether in ground or in a raised bed or container, should be rich, amended with compost to supply the nutrients for plenty of leafy growth. A supplemental drip irrigation

system is ideal but many old-fashioned gardeners still enjoy collecting rainfall and handwater in between rains (when we have them). If your location is prone to unexpected freezing dips, as in North County, it would be wise to utilize a cold frame or purchase some frost cloth for those frigid mornings.

Some suggestions for plantings are fast growing leafy greens like lettuce and spinach, which are great for "cut and come again harvesting." Swiss chard, asian greens, rainbow chard, bok choy and mizuna are great for vibrant color and a quick turnaround. Broccoli and cauliflower (unopened flowers), brussel sprouts, hole kale and cabbages are heavy feeders and love the cool weather. Some of the early root crops such as carrots and beets require deep, loose, friable soil, radishes and turnips work great as fillers in between slower-growing crops. Garlic cloves, shallots and leeks planted in the late fall/early winter are great for a spring/summer harvest. Don't forget the sugar snap peas, yum.

Even though it's cool out, mulching is still our friend for temperature regulation and harvesting at peak tenderness. I hope you will embrace the ability to grow your own food during the 'off season' and appreciate the fabulous climate we live in to enjoy your edible garden year round.

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Interesting Facts: The 1940s-1980s

1940s

- 1946: The first photos of Earth taken from space were captured by a modified German V-2 rocket launched from New Mexico.
- 1949: Scientists announced the construction of the world's first atomic clock.
- Television was beginning to move from experimental technology into American homes during the late 1940s.
- Many everyday household conveniences that we take for granted today were still relatively uncommon.

1950s

- 1955: Disneyland opened in Anaheim, California, on July 17.
- 1957: The Soviet Union launched Sputnik 1, the world's first artificial satellite.
- 1958: The United States launched Explorer 1, its first satellite, which helped scientists discover the Van Allen radiation belts.
- The decade saw television become an increasingly important part of American family life.

1960s

- 1964: The Beatles made their famous first American appearances, helping fuel Beatlemania across the country.
- 1967: The first Super Bowl was played.

- 1968: Apollo 8 became the first crewed spacecraft to travel to the vicinity of the Moon and orbit it.
- 1969: Neil Armstrong and Buzz Aldrin became the first humans to walk on the Moon.
- By the end of the decade, the Space Race had captured the imagination of millions of Americans.

1970s

- 1973: Motorola engineer Martin Cooper made the first handheld mobile-phone call.
- 1979: Sony introduced the Walkman, making portable personal music a reality.
- Video games began becoming a major form of entertainment, with arcade games such as Pong helping launch the industry.
- The decade brought major changes in music, fashion and popular culture.

1980s

- 1981: The Space Shuttle made its first flight, beginning a new era of reusable spacecraft.
- 1981: MTV launched and helped transform the way people experienced popular music.
- Compact discs began gaining popularity as a new way to listen to music.
- Personal computers became increasingly common in homes and offices.
- The World Wide Web was still in its infancy—the first website wouldn't appear until 1991.

How many of these do you remember?

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CENTRAL COAST**

LAST TWO WEEKS OF OCTOBER

JAZZ JUBILEE "ORCHESTRATED" BY BASIN STREET REGULARS

DETAILS AT: BASINSTREETREGULARS.COM



Gluten Free Recipe

By Pat Chaney (Old hobby baker who enjoys her craft)

ASIAN TURKEY OR BEEF LETTUCE WRAPS

MAIN DISH

- 1 T sesame oil
- 1 1/2 lbs ground turkey or ground beef
- 1/2 cup shredded or finely chopped carrots
- 8 oz mushroom, coarsely chopped
- 8 oz chopped water chestnuts, drained
- 4 green onions, chopped
- 1 or 2 garlic cloves, chopped

SAUCE

- 1/2 cup Hoisin sauce
- 4 T low sodium soy sauce
- 2T rice wine vinegar
- 2 tsp red chili paste
- 12 or more butter lettuce leaves, little gem, romaine and iceberg will also work

In a large skillet over med/high heat add the oil and protein. Cook & crumble it until almost done. Add veggies, continue to cook for 1 to 2 min until protein is cooked & veggies are tender. Combine sauce ingredients, stir into the protein/veg mix let simmer 1 to 2 min more. serve on lettuce leaves. Very tasty!



Senior Solo Living:

Many seniors find themselves living alone either by choice or because of various circumstances. Whether you are currently living on your own because of divorce or the death of a companion or you have chosen to be completely independent, in this new series we're going to offer some advice on some of the best ways to navigate through this journey and offer tips that you may find beneficial. The first contribution, however, is more of a generic look at the benefits of living independently and overcoming the societal stigma that is sometimes placed on the single individual.

The Art of Living Solo

By Eric G.

Living solo doesn't mean being lonely. It simply means being the only human in the house—a space that is peaceful, independent, and sometimes shared with pets to fill the silence. My two cats always look at me like I'm crazy when I talk on the phone; they just aren't used to me speaking to anyone else but them.

Solo living means cooking exactly what you want, when you want it. You can experiment freely, exploring global cuisines right from your own kitchen without the constraints of anyone else's dietary restrictions or preferences. It is culinary exploration, solo and deeply satisfying.

Of course, there is a catch. Cooking for one means managing smaller volumes of food. You can't easily take advantage of bulk pricing or massive warehouse stores like Costco. But I see an upside to this: buying less quantity allows you to raise the quality. You can choose better ingredients, fresher produce, and less processed food. It becomes a massive advantage for your palate, your cooking, and your health.

Then come the chores. Maintaining a household while working a full-time job is a unique challenge when you're on your own. Weekends fill up incredibly fast with the routine maintenance of daily life. For a solo person, prioritizing and occasionally

procrastinating becomes a survival skill. Time is rigid, and it flies by quickly. Finances require strict discipline too. With only one salary entering the bank account, there is no safety net, and working isn't a luxury—it's a necessity. This demands careful planning, a knack for finding deals, and a close eye on the bills. Conversely, you are also the sole decision-maker for that money. You can buy what you want, when you want, and treat yourself without answering to anyone.

Admittedly, solo life isn't always practical. Handling every household task alone is a challenge, but you get to solve problems your own way. If a project fails, you own the mistake, but you also escape the complaints, unsolicited advice, or interference from others.

When you see someone who has mastered living solo, pay close attention. You are looking at a person who is deeply secure. It's a truth most people miss.

Over time, you learn that quality matters infinitely more than quantity. You don't need a constant audience to validate your worth. Confidence comes from within, not from the fleeting approval of whoever happens to be in the room. Being alone isn't scary when you already know your own strength, having tested and proven it through daily life.

Living this way makes you incredibly selective about your energy and who you allow into your world. This selectivity isn't a flaw; it's a virtue. It's about curating a life rather than collecting acquaintances like trophies just to boast a large social circle. You naturally walk away from drama and gossip because you've built a peaceful life, brick by brick. When you spend years constructing that peace, you learn very quickly who is worth disrupting it for. Usually, the answer is nobody.

True independence means not needing a crowd to feel complete. It's about being entirely comfortable in your own company—grounded, steady, and unwilling to waste time on draining, superficial relationships just to avoid a quiet room.

Living solo isn't sad, and it isn't bad. It is simply a different, highly disciplined way of moving through the world.



Mastering Shot Selection: The Key to Better Pickleball

by Gregg Whitfield - National Award Winner and Instructor/Trainer (5.0 Player)

Shot selection is simple: **hitting the right shot at the right time to the right spot.** Beyond winning points, the shots you choose broadcast your skill level, dictate the flow of the game, and determine who wants to play with you.

Playing "Catch," Not "Fetch"

A great rally is what makes pickleball fun for every level. Choosing the right pace and angle is the difference between playing *catch* and playing *fetch*. If you blast every ball out of reach, opponents spend more time retrieving balls than playing.

Inconsistent hard-hitters who try to end the point on every shot—often attempting low-percentage shots out of impatience—are not preferred players. Smart shot selection reduces unforced errors and extends the rally, making the game better for everyone.

Etiquette & Inclusivity

Shot selection also means deciding **who** to hit to:

- **In Competition:** Isolating the weaker player is a valid strategy.
- **In Recreational Play:** It's bad etiquette to freeze someone out. Hit to everyone. If you're the stronger player, focus on placement and touch rather than powering away every shot.

If lower-level players avoid hitting to the best player on the court, that player has no incentive to play with them again. Give everyone a chance to participate.

Why Shot Selection Matters

- **Dramatically cuts unforced errors** by eliminating low-percentage shots.
- **Extends rallies** and promotes an all-around game (drops, dinks, and resets).
- **Makes you a better partner** and a more desirable opponent across all age and skill levels.
- **Dictates the style of play**—if you want to dink, you must first hit a soft ball into the kitchen.

As pickleball continues to grow, smart shot selection keeps the game fun, inclusive, and competitive. Play with intention, control your pace, and share the court.



This Moment - for Ryah

by Will Jones

(Retired teacher and high school principal)

I'm watching the ballgame
my team winning
when you wander in
and sit beside me.

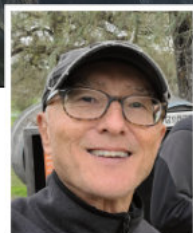
You've played hard today.
Now your six-year-old body
is winding down, naturally,
easing its way sleep
in a way a grandfather
can hardly remember.

You place a pillow
on my lap, lay your head down,
pull a throw over your body
and ask, can I fall asleep here papa?

With just those few words
as I gently rub your back
your dark hair spread on the pillow
the outcome of the game
becomes meaningless.

Soon your breathing becomes
slow and rhythmic.
The day's heat and exertion
released,
your body relaxes and everything,
everything is at peace.





Morro Strand Hike

by Renne Gardner

Hikers looking for a change from rugged trails and respite from early autumn heat need look no further than Morro Strand State Beach. A Central Coast state park where hiking is but one of a multitude of recreational activities. There are kite flyers, Frisbee tossers, dog walkers, surfers, fishermen and -women, shell collectors, paddle boarders and a flat shoreline of hard-packed sand, perfect for beach hiking.

On a recent weekday, I parked at the Morro Strand State Beach day use area just south of Cayucos. With water bottle and some trail mix in hand, I hit the beach with the goal to hike to the Rock and back. (You can do an out-and-back hike of any distance.) Surfers and paddle boarders were doing their thing in the water. I was ready to do my hiking thing on the sand.

The sand beneath my feet is welcome softness compared to rocky trails. Each foot fall squishes slightly into the damp earth. And the earth propels me forward. I retreat from incoming surf. And splash straight through ankle-deep streams.

I smell brine, seaweed and sea animals. The natural aroma of the coast. I take deeper breaths and feel sea air fill my lungs and power my hiking muscles. I taste the salt as well. Some of it is my own sweat. But most of it is in the air. Breathing through my mouth, the salt air coats my lips, my tongue and my throat.

I hear the roar of the waves, the rhythmic pulse of the tide, the friendly laughter of gulls and the cheerful greetings of people lucky like me to spend some time here with the beachcombers, drift wood collectors and folks out for a short morning stroll.

I see diving pelicans determined to find lunch. I see the surfer, so fluid and smooth on her board, reminding me to relax my shoulders and loosen my arms. I see a kite high up over the beach. And I'm inspired to look beyond the everyday. I see huge coastal rock formations in the shape of lions and elephants. Eventually, I see Morro Rock. This is no ordinary place.

In fact, this is our front yard! Morro Strand State Beach belongs to me and everyone else who calls California home. So, leave your music and podcast devices at home. And head out to the front yard to embrace the joyful sights and sensations of the Strand. Morro Strand State Beach: miles of music for the heart, lungs and soul.



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Did you know?

Why Are Pencils Yellow?

Have you ever wondered why so many pencils are painted yellow? That familiar color isn't just a random choice—it actually has a fascinating connection to the history of pencil making and a little bit of clever marketing.

In the late 1800s, high-quality graphite from China was considered especially desirable. American pencil manufacturers wanted customers to know that their pencils contained this premium graphite. To make their products stand out, some manufacturers began painting their pencils yellow, a color that was associated with royalty and quality in China at the time.

One of the best-known examples came in 1890, when an American pencil company introduced a yellow-painted pencil. The unusual color helped distinguish the pencil from its competitors, and other manufacturers soon began adopting yellow for their own pencils.

Over time, the color became so strongly associated with pencils that it simply became what we expect a traditional pencil to look like. Today, we rarely stop to think about it—but that little yellow pencil sitting on a desk is actually a reminder of a clever advertising idea from more than 130 years ago!





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