

# LOMPOC RECORD

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SLO Public Market offers great eats, including Bing's Bao Buns. **LIFESTYLES, B5**

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**'IT'S A LIFESAVER'**



LISA ANDRÉ PHOTOS, STAFF

Lompoc Valley Haven staff member Sandy Stinson reads to client Ruth Pilaria excerpts from newsletter The Daily Chronicle in the living area at St. Mary's Episcopal Church.

**ABOUT TOWN**

**Lompoc Library kicks off monthlong reading challenge**

The fifth annual Winter Reading Challenge has officially kicked off at the Lompoc Public Library, inviting readers of all ages to examine the world through the exploration of library reading materials.

The challenge dubbed "Read for a Better World," sponsored by Lerner Publishing Group, tasks participants with reading at least 300 minutes through Jan. 31.

Library members can keep track of their reading via the Beanstack mobile app, or the Beanstack site accessible at [cityoflompop.beanstack.org](http://cityoflompop.beanstack.org).

Participants who complete the challenge by the end-of-month deadline will be entered into a grand-prize drawing to win one of 10 library-themed swag bags, with the grand prize drawing occurring on Feb. 1, a library spokeswoman said.

All winners must have a Lompoc Public Library card, she noted.

Other reading challenges available on Beanstack include the 2022 Reading Challenge and the ongoing 1,000 Books Before Kindergarten Challenge.

In addition, Take and Make craft kits are still being handed out each week at the main library, while supplies last.

For more information, go to [www.cityoflompop.com/library](http://www.cityoflompop.com/library) or contact the library at 805-875-8775.

**Lompoc High School Alumni Association offering scholarships to alum**

Lompoc High School Alumni Association is offering three \$1,000 scholarships to both Lompoc High School graduates and graduating seniors who are attending college or vocational school.

Seniors who have attended Lompoc High for grades 9-12 and are a dependent of a member of the Lompoc High School Alumni Association are eligible for the scholarship and can apply by downloading the Common Application on their Senior Counseling Google Classroom. An Additional Information form also must be picked up in the Counseling Office.

Applications must be submitted by Monday, March 14.

Scholarship eligibility requirements for Lompoc High School graduates who are currently enrolled in at least 12 units at a university, community college or vocational school include: four years of attendance at Lompoc High School and membership in the Lompoc High School Alumni Association.

Applications for college students are available at the Lompoc High School counseling office, 515 West College Ave., or by

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## Valley Haven adult day program fills hearts while filling a need

Social enrichment activities once again offered to members

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While reading historical facts from The Daily Chronicle newsletter, Sandy Stinson, a staff member at Lompoc Valley Haven Adult Day Program, looked over at Ruth Pilaria and two other members who were listening intently, and asked, "Isn't that interesting?"

Since its reopening in September 2021 after a two-year forced closure due to the pandemic, and a relocation from downtown Lompoc to St. Mary's Episcopal Church in March 2019, the daytime program for older adults is slowly welcoming back its membership twice a week for a full day of social enrichment.

"We would love to get it to three times a week and, ultimately, five," said Executive Director Colodia Owens, who was hired into the role in December 2019 after consulting for the nonprofit over 10 months during its relocation to St. Mary's.

Prior to her work with Valley Haven, Owens, a specialist in hospital health-care administration, worked as the director of business operations with Lompoc

Valley Medical Center from 2005 to 2018.

According to Owens, the change of pace is a welcome one. "This work is so much more fulfilling than working in a hospital," she said, noting that her years of clinical experience have served her well in her new capacity. "You get to help people before they are [in the hospital]."

Lompoc Valley Haven, founded in 2000 with support from the Friendship House in Santa Ynez, was launched as a way to serve local seniors with little to mild cognitive impairment who might otherwise be socially isolated. The program caters to older adults of all financial levels, including low-income and veterans, offering respite to around-the-clock caregivers.

"People need to have a place to go, and caregivers need a break, too," said Mary Lou Parks, Valley Haven board president. "Just being in a social environment is good for them."

Parks explained that members are first given a memory screening and are placed into the program based on their level of impairment, mild or moderate.

"Some that are severely impaired can't come to the program because they are not cooperative," she said, "and won't fit well in the program."



Valley Haven Executive Director Colodia Owens and board President Mary Lou Parks stand outside of St. Mary's Episcopal Church in Lompoc where the adult day program is now located.

Parks, 87, a retired registered nurse with a master's degree in gerontology, is a longtime Lompoc resident who years ago recognized the need for a daytime social program for local seniors, buckled down and helped launch Valley Haven.

"We needed one here," she said, having working side by side with Friendship House, which also offers a day program in addition to an assisted living facility. "We

**How to attend**

Lompoc Valley Haven Adult Day Program is located at 2800 Harris Grade Road, Lompoc, inside of St. Mary's Episcopal Church.

The program is available twice per week, Wednesdays and Fridays, from 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

The fee is \$75 per day. Veterans are invited to attend at no cost with approval from the Veterans Affairs.

For more information, visit [lompopvalleyhaven.com](http://lompopvalleyhaven.com) or contact Colodia Owens at 805-733-9459.

have a lot of veterans and people that needed it."

Local veteran Walter Day who was diagnosed with advanced Alzheimer's disease has attended Valley Haven's day program since the center's inception over 20 years ago. His wife, Lola Day, said it's "a lifesaver."

"It's important to have him in the program," she said. "I need him in the program; and I need some respite."

Since reopening post-pandemic, Parks said Valley Haven has adopted safety protocols issued by Public Health to keep

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## Supervisors retain districts after boundaries redrawn

Majority of significant changes in North County

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All five Santa Barbara County supervisors remain valid representatives of their districts after the Citizens Independent Redistricting Commission adopted new boundaries in December, according to a report going to the Board of Supervisors on Tuesday.

However, the redistricting may affect individuals who were appointed by supervisors to

serve as district representatives on various boards, commissions and committees.

County staff is checking their addresses against the revised boundaries to determine which ones ended up in another district, according to the report prepared by Assistant County Executive Officer Nancy Anderson.

Planning Commissioner Dan Blough, who represents the 5th District, has already said his home is no longer within that district but is now a resident of the 4th District.

The changes, which left two districts looking radically different than they have since 2012,

will become effective Thursday — 30 days after the final plan was adopted by the commission.

A majority of the most significant changes, as highlighted by the report, took place in the North County, the most visible being the increase in the geographical size of the 4th District, which expanded eastward, and the shrinking of the 5th District, which contracted to the northwest corner of the county.

Those changes were primarily the result of the western portion of Cuyama Valley shifting from the 5th District into the 1st District and the Guadalupe area being cut from the 3rd District and pasted into the 5th.

Some areas of Santa Maria moved from the 5th District to the 4th.

Carpinteria resident Das Williams represents District 1, Joan Hartmann, who lives in the Santa Ynez Valley, serves District 3 and Santa Maria resident Steve Lavagnino is the supervisor for District 5.

The Lompoc area moved out of the 4th District and became part of the 3rd District, essentially trading representation with Los Alamos, Vandenberg Village and Vandenberg Space Force Base, which moved from the 3rd District into the 4th District.

Garey and Sisquoc areas were also shifted from the 5th to the

4th District.

Orcutt resident Bob Nelson, who just completed his first year on the Board of Supervisors, represents District 4.

On the South Coast, Isla Vista and UC Santa Barbara left the 3rd District to become part of the 2nd District, which is represented by Gregg Hart of Santa Barbara. Eastern Goleta Valley and portions of Santa Barbara shifted from the 2nd to the 1st District.

The projected budget for the redistricting process was \$800,000, and costs to date total \$262,630. But Anderson noted most consultant fees have yet to be submitted.

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