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The 10 best things to do in SLO County this Memorial Day weekend

BY KAYTLYN LESLIE

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Among the activities happening around San Luis Obispo County for Memorial Day weekend are, clockwise from top left: Strawberries through Grover Beach, the Avila Beach Blues Festival, a World War II uniform display at the

Oceano Train Depot and Heritage Day in Cambria. FILE PHOTOS



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Memorial Day Weekend in SLO County

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Memorial Day is the official start of summer, and from car shows to a blues festival, there are plenty of fun things scheduled throughout San Luis Obispo County this weekend.

Here are 10 of the best events and activities to enjoy during a beautiful holiday weekend along the Central Coast:

1. EAT STRAWBERRIES (AND GET DEALS) IN GROVER BEACH

Date: Friday through Sunday

Location: participating Grover Beach businesses

Though Arroyo Grande's Strawberry Festival is no more, the South County will still have a strawberry-themed event this Memorial Day weekend called Strawberries through Grover Beach. Visitors can enjoy strawberry dishes at local restaurants and get coupons from participating businesses through the weekend. Those participating businesses include: California Cool; Thrift Empower Yoga Studio and Community Boutique; Grand Inspirations Gifts, Furnishing and Decor; Halcyon Store; Mike's Record Rack; Nan's Pre-Owned Books; Second Chances; Fuego; Grover Beach Sourdough; Grover Station Grill; Lil' Bits Cafe; Okui's Strawberry N Fruit Stand; Pardon My French Bakery; Red Bee; The Spoon Trade and Taqueria El Guero.



A farmer shows off some ripe strawberries at his field in Nipomo. Both of Nipomo's weekly farmers markets will have closed by the end of 2018. Joe Johnston jjohnston@thetribunenews.com

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2. VIEW ANTIQUE FARM EQUIPMENT IN SANTA MARGARITA

Date: Friday, Saturday and Sunday; 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Location: Santa Margarita Ranch; 20000 El Camino Real

Website: bestofthewestshow.com

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A unique event that's fun for the whole family, the Best of the West Antique Equipment Show will return to the historic Santa Margarita Ranch over Memorial Day weekend. It features an “up-close and hands-on look at antique equipment,” according to the website. Some of that equipment includes tractors, engines, cars, steam trains, airplanes and more. General admission is \$10 for a day pass, while weekend passes cost \$25. Children under the age of 10 are free.



Jake Merrill, 10, of Saratoga, drives his great-great-great grandfather's John Deere 1940 Model D tractor as his grandfather, Lupe Rodriguez walks beside him in the tractor parade during the Best of the West Antique Equipment Show in 2017. Joe Johnston jjohnston@thetribunenews.com

3. CELEBRATE HISTORY AT CAMBRIA'S HERITAGE DAY

Date: Saturday, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Location: Cambria Historical Museum, 2251 Center St., Cambria

Cambria's annual Heritage Day will feature a range of free and fun activities for visitors, including live music, local artwork, woodcarving, historical demonstrations and, of course, food, beer and wine. Tours of the historic red Chinese Assembly Hall will be running, and historical society docents will teach children how to make rope and corn husk dolls.



Youngsters enjoy horseback rides during the annual Heritage Day celebration at the Cambria Historical Society's Cambria Historical Museum on Saturday, May 24, 2014, at the corner of Burton Drive and Center Street. *Special to The Cambrian*

4. SIP TEQUILA AT FIESTA IN A BOTTLE

Date: Saturday, gates open at noon

Location: Avila Beach Golf Resort, 6464 Ana Bay Road

Website: www.tixr.com/groups/avilabeachresortevents/events/fiesta-in-a-bottle-9th-annual-tequila-festival-23314

After canceling last year's event, the Fiesta in a Bottle tequila festival will return to the Avila Beach Golf Resort on Saturday. The event will feature live music and tequila tastings, including a performance by alternative rock band Carbon City Lights. Guests must be 21 years or older to enter. General admission is \$50 and includes on-site parking, a complimentary shot glass and six tastings. VIP tickets cost \$130 and include expedited entry, an exclusive tequila tasting area, complimentary appetizers and VIP Beach Club Access.

5. TAKE IN SOME ARTS AND CRAFTS IN MORRO BAY

Date: Saturday and Sunday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Monday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Location: Morro Bay Park, 734 Harbor St.

Website: www.morrobayartinthepark.com

The 66th annual Morro Bay Art in the Park showcases a range of artists and craftspeople in “a high-quality outdoor setting to display and sell their wares to an appreciative audience,” according to the organization's website. The first of three events this year, the Memorial Day weekend show will feature 108 booths representing 125 independent artists and craft workers, and a wide variety of food and drinks.



Visitors peruse arts and crafts at Morro Bay's Art in the Park. The event returns July 2-4. *Courtesy Steve Powers*

6. STAY COOL AT A SLO COUNTY WATERPARK

Date: Saturday, Sunday and Monday

Locations: The Ravine, 2301 Airport Road, Paso Robles, and Mustang Waterpark, 6840 Lopez Drive, Arroyo Grande

Websites: ravinewaterpark.com and mustangwaterpark.com

Summer is almost here, and with it comes the opening of SLO County's two waterparks. Both The Ravine in Paso Robles and Mustang Waterpark reopen for the summer starting Saturday, so grab your swimsuit and get ready for a day of fun in the water. Both parks offer water slides, kiddie pools, water attractions and on-site food and drinks. Information on tickets is available at the parks' websites.



The Ravine water park in Paso Robles reopens for the summer on May 28, 2022. Laura Dickinson
ldickinson@thetribunenews.com

7. CHECK OUT CLASSIC CARS IN PASO ROBLES

Date: Saturday, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Location: Paso Robles Downtown City Park, Spring Street, Paso Robles

Website: www.goldenstateclassics.org

About 300 cars and trucks will gather in downtown Paso Robles as part of the Golden State Classics on Saturday. The car show will also feature live music, food and a raffle. New to the show this year is a “Manufacturers Row,” which will feature local fabricators and builders and other auto-related businesses, according to the Golden State Classics Car Club.



The Golden State Classics Car Club, expecting about 300 cars, returns to Paso Robles for Memorial Day weekend. ldickinson@thetribunenews.com

8. DRINK BEER AND EAT TACOS AT VIVA LA CERVEZA

Date: Saturday, 12:15-4:15 p.m.

Location: Madonna Meadows, 100 Madonna Road, San Luis Obispo

Website: www.vivalacerveza.com

Want something to do that feels more like hanging out with a group of friends? Try the Viva La Cerveza event at Madonna Meadows, where you can drink beer and eat tacos to your heart's content on Saturday. The event will feature a best tacos competition, a taco-eating contest, unlimited beverage tastings, live music and games. Shuttles will be available to and from the event starting at the SLO Museum of Art and Campus Bottle.

9. VIEW WORLD WAR II UNIFORMS IN OCEANO

Date: Sunday, 1-3 p.m.

Location: Oceano Train Depot, 1650 Front St.

Website: www.facebook.com/Oceano-Depot-215152251850564

Oceano historian Mark Weedon has assembled a Memorial Day tribute at the Oceano Train Depot, featuring more than a dozen uniforms from World War II. Take a look at the costumed mannequins, wearings outfits representing the World War II service of Army soldiers, Marines, airmen, sailors and nurses. The display will be available for viewing through July 10.



Mark Weedon, an Oceano historian, has assembled a tribute to Memorial Day at the Oceano Train Depot. More than a dozen uniformed mannequins represent the World War II service of soldiers, Marines, airmen, sailors and nurses. The display runs from May 21 to July 10, 2022. David Middlecamp
dmiddlecamp@thetribunenews.com

10. LISTEN TO SOME BLUES MUSIC IN AVILA BEACH

Date: Sunday, gates open at noon, shows start at 2 p.m.

Location: Avila Beach Golf Resort, 6464 Ana Bay Road

Website: www.tixr.com/groups/otterproductionsinc/events/27th-annual-avila-beach-blues-festival--23252

Now in its 27th year, the Avila Beach Blues Festival kicks off the Central Coast's outdoor concert season with an event full of blues music, food and drinks all against a backdrop of the Pacific Ocean. This year's festival will feature George Thorogood & The Destroyers on their 45th Anniversary Good to Be Bad Tour, WAR and Tommy Castro & The Painkillers on their 30th anniversary tour. The festival is open to all ages, and children under 7 are admitted for free in lawn seating. General admission tickets cost \$55.



The 21st Annual Avila Beach Blues Festival with Gregg Allman, Trombone Shorty and John Mayall was held at the Avila Beach Resort, Sunday, May 25, 2014. Idickinson@thetribunenews.com

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