

Accent on research
UA professor studying speech dialects
of native Arkansans. — Arkansas, 1B



Champions crowned
Searcy survives late Benton charge;
PA wins 8th state title. — Sports, 1C

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TRAVEL

Arkansas Democrat-Gazette

4E

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SUNDAY, DECEMBER 8, 2019



The Washington Post/Celebrity Cruises
This all-female bridge and officer
team will head the Celebrity Edge
on a special International Women's
Day cruise.

Women's
cruise set
for 2020

HANNAH SAMPSON
THE WASHINGTON POST

There's an old seafaring
superstition that says women are
bad luck at sea. It's a trope that
Nicholine Tifuh Azih, a second officer
with Celebrity Cruises, even heard
when she was training for her
maritime career, according to the
cruise line's chief executive officer.

But next year, Tifuh Azih and
26 of her colleagues at the Miami-
based cruise company will set
sail on the Celebrity Edge seeking
to make history and prove a larger
point about women working in the
cruise industry: The March 8 trip
— International Women's Day, not
coincidentally — will be led by an
all-female bridge and officer team,
Celebrity announced last month.

The idea came out of a meeting
cruise line executives had this year.
Celebrity, which has a female CEO,
had celebrated the women's holiday
in the past. But they wanted to
make a bigger splash, and the
marketing and public relations team
suggested an all-female team on
the bridge, or operational control
center.

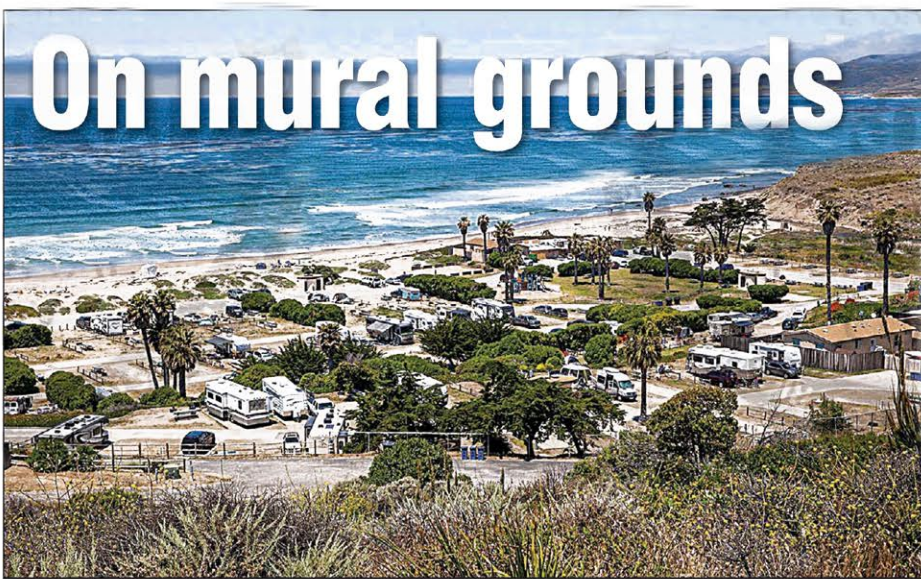
"I wasn't sure we could pull it
off," says CEO Lisa Lutoff-Perlo. "I
said, 'Could we actually do this? Do
we actually have women in every
single position on the bridge where
we could put together an entire
bridge team for one ship?'"

Her staff was confident. Within
approximately two days, the entire
bridge was staffed with women.
But the idea didn't stop there.
Lutoff-Perlo said the company has
worked hard to hire women for
"hotel-side," too, overseeing
areas such as culinary, financial,
guest services, housekeeping and
medical. The next thought was:
"Wouldn't it be great if every major
decision or function onboard was
run by a woman?"

That's how the group of women
from 17 countries got assembled for
the trip. They will be in roles
including captain, hotel director, staff
captain, doctor, cruise director,
food and beverage director, safety
investigation officer, environmental
officer and third engineer.

Captain Kate McCue, who
became the first female American
cruise ship captain in 2015, has
been referring to the bunch as
"Ocean's 27."

Lutoff-Perlo said the March 8



Jalama Beach County Park, home of the famous "Jalama Burger" joint, is the only designated sand and swimming beach on Lompoc, California's rocky coast. A 19-mile drive from the cutoff at California 1, the park includes camping sites and encourages beachcombing, surfing, whale watching and fishing.

Town's art depicts its history to attract tourists

ANNE Z. COOKE
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

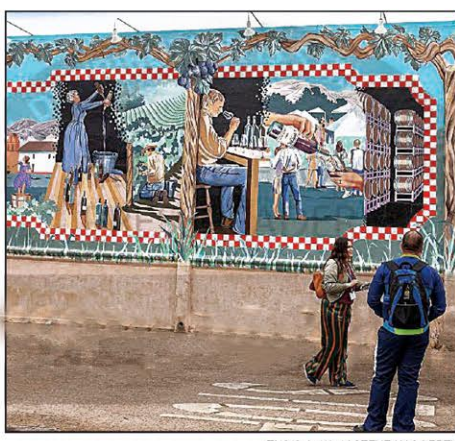
Lompoc, Calif. — I
thought I'd seen every-
thing.
Then I discovered a
remarkable collection of
the world's oldest pictorial art
hiding out in Lompoc, a modest
hamlet perched on the wave-
dashed coast of California, north
of Santa Barbara.

Murals are what I mean, 36
huge paintings on the walls in the
Old Town district, an art which
originated 35,000 years ago — or
more — to figures drawn on cave
walls in Europe and elsewhere.

The who and why of cave art
remains a mystery. But not in
Lompoc, where the now-famous
mural project was launched with
a purpose, to revitalize the historic
center and attract more
tourists.

According to Vicki Andersen,
administrator of the Lompoc
Mural Society and a painter in
her own right, Lompoc needed
a boost after 1989, when Vandenberg
Air Force Base, the community's
biggest employer and customer,
shut down the shuttle
launch program.

Murals were suggested. But
the residents wanted more than
a disjointed array of big
pictures. Instead, they chose a
single theme: the story of Lompoc,



The 2008 mural Lompoc Vintage by painter Colleen Chronister shows
scenes of wines and wine-tasting, recording Lompoc's emergence as
a thriving, award-winning wine industry, its unique AVA appellation, 40
successful wine makers and popular visitor tasting rooms.

from its earliest inhabitants —
the Chumash Indians — to the
present.

Naysayers wondered if a town
of 43,400 people, straddling a
rocky shore on a lonely corner
of the coastline, had much to
sell. But Lompoc surprised them. Tak-

en together — think of them as
a contemporary "book of hours"
— the murals are as fascinating
as any medieval manuscript.

But I'm getting ahead of my-
self.
The solution was obvious. A
weekend in town, where I met

Ken Ostini, 6-foot-6 and rangy,
and president of the Lompoc
Tourism Council. A tireless local
historian, he volunteered to
show me around.

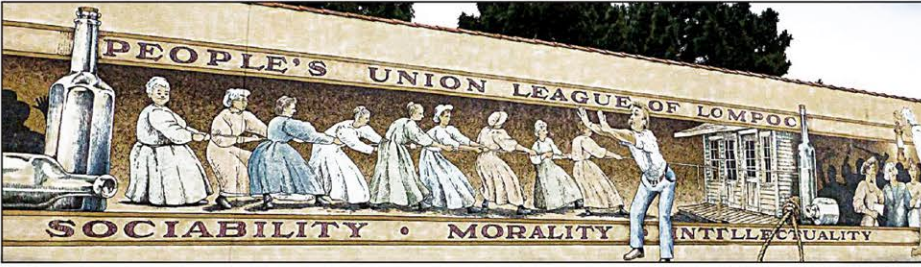
"I'm pretty good with a
self-guided map, as long as it has
street names and numbers." I as-
sured him when we met in the
hotel parking lot. "I can navigate
this by myself."

"No worries, no worries," he
replied, pumping my hand. "I
always learn something from
touring people around. Lompoc
is home, so showing it off keeps
me up to date."

He pointed east, toward the
valley. "I was born on a farm
right out there, next to that hill,
so I know most of the folks here.
Ask all the questions you want."
He paused, the soul of honesty.
"And if there's something I can't
answer, I know who to call."

I could picture his parents'
farm. I'd come that way, north-
west from Santa Barbara on U.S.
101. Turning off on California 1
was the first surprise; no urban
sprawl, the bane of Southern
California. The highway, crossing
the valley, wound between
open meadows, flowering hedge-
es, stands of white oaks, white
farmhouses, neatly hoed vegeta-
ble plots, vineyards planted in

See ART on Page 5E



What better way to celebrate the story of Lompoc's 1884 founding as a temperance colony and the oft-told tale of the nine outraged women
who hauled a speak-easy off its foundation than this 1992 mural by Dan Sawatsky-Chemains.

Southern France's artistic license for all to see

With its romantic coastline,
inviting beaches and reliable sun-
shine, southern France's Riviera
region has been a tourist destina-
tion since the 1860s. A hundred
years ago, aristocrats from Lon-
don to Moscow flocked here to
socialize, gamble and escape the
dreary weather at home. But the
area also attracted a who's who
of 20th-century artists, who were
drawn by the Mediterranean's
bohemian atmosphere, luminous
light and contrasting colors of sea,
sand and sky.

The legacies of the many arti-
sts who worked in the south —
including Pierre-Auguste Renoir,
Henri Matisse, Marc Chagall,
Georges Braque, Raoul Dufy, Fernand
Leger and Pablo Picasso —
are memorialized today in an
intriguing collection of local mu-
seums. And visiting them is easy,
without the long lines and crowds
of other major museums (leaving
you plenty of time for the beach).
Here are some highlights:

- Renoir Museum, Cagnes-sur-Mer
■ Pierre-Auguste Renoir, whose
impressionist paintings straddled
the turn of the last century, built
a house and workshop for him-

TRAVEL IN EUROPE



RICK STEVES

self in Cagnes-sur-Mer in 1907. By
then an old man, Renoir would
spend his last 12 years in this
little village (halfway between Nice
and Antibes), happily tending his
fruit trees, painting in his studio,
and dabbling in sculpture. Visi-
tors see his atelier, with his easel
and palette still in place (as well
as his wheelchair and canes), and
some original paintings (www.
cagnes-tourisme.com).

■ Matisse Museum, Nice
Henri Matisse, the master col-
orist, first came to Nice in 1917,
leaving behind financial struggles
and a difficult marriage in Paris.
He would remain in the Riviera,
on and off, until his death in 1954.
Though this museum's collection

See STEVES on Page 5E



The essential elements of the French Riviera — azure water, blue sky and
endless sunshine — appeal to vacationers and artists alike in places like
Nice.

Arkansas Democrat-Gazette

Travel

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Some towns are known for peaches; some for watermelons. Lompoc, Calif., is known for its art, and
a culture that supports creative design in every form, from murals to crosswalks.



Need advice on what to see? Ask the friendly staff at South Side Coffee Co., in Old Town, serving
breakfast, lunch and a dozen special coffee flavors.

Art

Continued from Page 4E
geometric rows, and all of it
framed by the gold-and-green
Santa Rita Hills.

Twenty-odd miles later, ap-
proaching the town, a rainbow
appeared overhead. Glistening
through a misty veil, it shed a
glow on the empty lots and
dinky repair shops that clutter
the outskirts of almost every
small town.

And there was Ostini, in the
Hilton Garden Inn's parking
lot, proposing that we start
at the South Side Coffee Co.,
a funky Old Town hangout at
the corner of Ocean Avenue
and South H Street. Finding a
broth, we sat over a latte and
studied the mural map, then
walked south to the center of
Old Town.

Since wall space becomes
available at different times,
the murals aren't painted in
sequence. Flower Industry, for
instance, by artist Art Mortimer,
celebrating the 1960s and
'70s, when Lompoc's flower
seed business was the nation's
largest, is on one corner, while
the mural Chumash Indians,
where the history actually
starts, is on another.

The La Purisima Mission
("purisima" is one of several
Chumash languages) is dis-
cipated twice, and the name of
the town, founded in 1884, as
a temperance community, also
remembers its origins: "lom-
poc" is a Chumash word for
"lagoon," or "still water."

The Nitty Gritty

- Find more at these sites:
Chamber of Commerce and
Visitors Bureau, (805) 736-
4567, explorelompop.com
The Mural tour map: lom-
pocmurals.com
Fabling-McKay-Spanne home
and museum: lompopchistory.
org
Hilton Garden Inn: hilton-
gardeninn.com
Budget Inn: budgetinn.com
Jalama Beach County Park:
sbparks.org
La Purisima Mission State
Historic Park: lapurisimamission.
org
Vandenberg Airforce Base:
www.vandenberg.af.mil
Wild Horse Sanctuary: re-

turntofreedom.org
Golf: lapurisimagolf.com
and missionclubgolf.com
Ocean fog keeps Lompoc
gray and cool during April,
May and June, but is re-
placed by increasingly sunny
days and blue skies from July
through February. The com-
bination of cool damp days
followed by hot sunny days
makes for excellent wines,
including award-winning Pinot
Noir and Chardonnay.
Lompoc is on California 1,
on the coast north of Santa
Barbara and Point Concep-
tion, 19 miles from the inter-
section of California 1 and
U.S. 101 north.
butterflies, the last Titan rock-
er test and the emergence of
the wine industry in 2005.
"When a new mural is
planned, we request bids and
choose a painter through a ju-
rying process," said Andersen,
who manages each stage of
the project along with a team
of volunteers.
"It's wonderful, but it's hard
work, preparing the site, carry-
ing ladders and scaffolds,
cleaning and restoring older
murals, helping the painters
and raising money," she said.
"It's expensive, and with
everyone so busy nowadays, vol-
unteers are hard to find."
Ending the day at Sissy's



The 1991 mural Chumash Indians was designed by Robert Thomas Koskik and painted with
volunteers as part of the "Mural in a Day" project. The painting remembers the indigenous people
who lived on the coast for millennia and who gave their name to the town (lom poc means lagoon,
or still water) and to the mission (purisima is one of several Chumash languages).

Uptown Cafe, (don't miss this
place, the town's top-rated
restaurant), notable for Paint-
er John Pugh's trompe l'oeil
ship, which seems to be crash-
ing through the wall, we talked
about other tourist attractions.
I'd noticed that Lompoc has
two golf courses.

The biggest draw, Ostini
said, are the vineyards, which
offer wine tours and tasting
rooms. Known for outstanding
pinot noirs and chardonnays,
the Rita Hill vineyards have
earned their own AVA wine
appellation.

The next most popular is
the partially restored and
wonderfully ancient La Purisima
Mission, which I visited
the next morning, joining
a tour with guide Parker
Grand, through the workshops
and the garden. Since the
2,000-acre state historic park
next door has 25 miles of hik-
ing trails, the place is always
busy.

I loved the back-to-grand-
ma memories on the
Fabling-McKay-Spanne
house tour, a restored Victorian
property and blacksmith shop,
but missed the Lompoc Muse-
um, now located in the former
Carnegie Library, a 1910 col-
onial revival gem. Next time, I
hope.

Although the ocean is right
there, submerged rocks and
fiercer currents make swim-
ming dangerous. Ocean Park
Beach adjoins the shallow,
meandering Santa Inez River
estuary, and Surf Beach is one
of the nation's most dangerous
shark sites. Read the warning
signs. Go there to get your feet
wet, make sandcastles and
walk along the shore.

To swim, try Jalama Beach
County Park, a sandy beach
19 miles from Lompoc, off
California 1. I checked out
the campsites and noticed
people surfing, sunning and
beach-combing. The water

can be rough but lifeguards
are posted in summer.
If I'd planned ahead I
could have toured Vandenberg,
on 100,000 rough and
rugged coastal acres. The
West Coast's answer to Cape
Canaveral, Vandenberg is the
launchpad for SpaceX's Falcon
9 and several other com-
mercial rockets.

Hot stuff for space wonks,
they arrive hours early and
line up for a parking space in
the "Hawk's Nest," a public
parking-and-viewing area with
bathrooms, five miles directly
across from the launch site.

"You wouldn't think five
miles is close enough, but
these rockets are so huge and
loud that the ground rumbles
for miles around," Ostini said.
"The launch last January al-
most knocked me off my feet.
Some people here watch them
from town. It's a good way
to end a weekend, I promise."

New York Times Crossword Puzzle



The Chagall Museum in Nice was purpose-built during the artist's lifetime to present his biblical
paintings.

Steves

Continued from Page 4E
is slender, you'll see ten-

teau Grimaldi. Forced to
improve his materials after the
shortages of the war years,
but elated by the newfound
peace (and a new girlfriend),

with 25,000 trees and shrubs,
and hired the Catalan archi-
tect Jose Luis Sert to design
a museum for his collection.
Today, it gathers the work of