



Local panelists to question economists

New speakers lined up for SLO Economic Forecast

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The UC Santa Barbara Economic Forecast Project has revamped its annual economic outlook forum for San Luis Obispo County, set for Friday, Nov. 6, at Embassy Suites, 333 Madonna Road, San Luis Obispo.

The annual SLO County Outlook 2010 will feature a diverse group of speakers and panelists to analyze the state and local economy, an event spokeswoman said.

Featured speaker will be economist Chris Thornberg, chief forecaster for the state of California, who has been described as having been "right about just about everything since the recession began," the spokeswoman said.

Thornberg is the founding principal of Beacon Economics and also serves on the state controller's Council of Economic Advisors.

He will be joined by Beacon's Brad Kemp, a recognized expert in local community forecasting, who will focus on the year ahead for San Luis Obispo County.

Kemp has made presentations to numerous California counties in 2009. Before joining Beacon, he was a labor research analyst for the California Employment Development Department.

John Myers, Sacramento Bureau chief for KQED Public Radio, will return for a third appearance at the forum to offer a local perspective on state policies.

Myers spent several years as a reporter in San Luis Obispo before moving to the Sacramento assignment. He offers a local perspective on State policies.

A panel of local experts will engage in a question-and-answer session and discussion with Thornberg and Kemp.

The panelists will include Anita Robinson, chief executive officer of Mission Community Bank and current chair of the SLO County UCSB Economic Forecast Project board of directors; Tom Jones, Pacific Gas and Electric Co. government and community affairs director and current chair of the SLO County Economic Vitality Corp.; and Chip Visci, Cal Poly associate vice president for strategic communications and former Tribune publisher.

The forum will begin with a continental breakfast at 7 a.m., followed by the program presentation from 8 to 11 a.m.

Reservations received by Oct. 30 are \$120; after that, the cost is \$135. Admission includes the breakfast and a copy of the forecast.

Tickets are available online at www.slochamber.org. For more information, call 786-2772 or e-mail lori@slochamber.org.

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