

monca.org Thurs - Sunday 11:00 to 5:00



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#### READERS' PICKS CONTINUED FROM PAGE 31

there's plenty of other fun to be had at Feather Falls. The on-site brewery and live entertainment are draws, as is the opportunity for locals to make an easy weekend escape via the casino's luxurious lodge or more rustic KOA **RV Park.** 

**SECOND Place: Rolling Hills Casino & Resort** 2655 Everett Freeman Way, Corning, 528-3500

**THIRD Place: Gold Country Casino Resort** 4020 Olive Hwy, Oroville, 334-9400

# Happy Hour

**FIRST Place: Pour House** 

855 East Ave., Ste. 270, 893-3000 A good thing about most "happy hours" is they generally last more than an hour. The Pour House not only embraces this tradition by offering discounted drinks and appetizers from 3 to 6 p.m. daily but one-ups it with a second happy hour from 9 p.m. to closing.

SECOND Place: Crush Italian Cuisine & Lounge 201 Broadway, Ste. 200, 342-7000

**THIRD Place: La Salles** 229 Broadway, 487-7207

## Local Music Act

**FIRST Place: Smokey the Groove** smokeythegroove.wixsite.com/smokeythegroove

Smokey the Groove's Facebook bio bills the band as "California's premiere Rage Funk Experience." It's a title the six-piece ensemble earned with a tireless live schedule-including online livestream gigs during COVID- and a fresh, young, dance-band sound for local fans of booty-shaking.

**SECOND Place: Hot Flash THIRD Place (tie): Decades** THIRD Place (tie): Max Minardi

### Local Visual Artist **FIRST Place: Janet Lombardi Blixt**

In addition to her own bright, colorful paintings (her favored method is working "en plein air," or on location). Janet Lombardi Blixt is known for sharing her talent and passion for art. Since 2009, she's offered classes to children and adults at the Chico Art School and Gallery (261 E. Third St.).

**SECOND Place: Ama Posey THIRD Place: Christine Mac Shane** 

## Margarita

### FIRST Place: Tres Hombres Long Bar & Grill

100 Broadway, 342-0425 "Meet me at Tres!" is a local rallying cry when Margaritas are in order. The downtown landmark offers the classic chilly concoctions in a wide range of flavors including peach, pineapple, blackberry and seasonal fresh fruits. Additionally, Tres Hombres features more than 120 types of tequila.

**SECOND Place: La Hacienda** 2635 Esplanade, 893-8270

**THIRD Place: Sol Mexican Grill** 3269 Esplanade, 342-4616



# Mixologist (name and location) **FIRST Place: Scott Barwick**,

Scott Barwick is manager and chief mixologist at Duffy's Tavern, though his influence extends to other local bars, where he's served or for whom he's created cocktails. A real renaissance man, Barwick regularly shares his favorite cocktail recipes alongside videos of his synth compositions (as Push Button Bobby) on social media.

**SECOND Place: Stephanie Sosa, Argus Bar** + Patio

212 W. Second St., 332-9914

THIRD Place: Wendy Reid. Studio Inn Lounge 2582 Esplanade, 343-0662

### Museum

### FIRST Place: Museum of Northern **California Art (MONCA)**

900 Esplanade, 487-7272 The largest gem in Chico's art crown, MONCA houses a magnificent permanent collection of works by artists from the region, excellent special exhibitions and community events in a beautiful space-the reinvigorated Veterans Memorial Hall, originally built in 1927.

**SECOND Place: Gateway Science Museum** 625 Esplanade, 898-4121

THIRD Place: Chico Children's Museum 325 Main St., 809-1492

## Place to Buy Art

### **FIRST Place: Chico Paper Company** 345 Broadway, 891-0900

This downtown art shop is well stocked with original pieces and prints by local and more far-flung artists for established and burgeoning art collectors. Chico Paper Company also offers custom framing and is the exclusive seller of prints of Jake Early's iconic renditions of local landmarks.

SECOND Place (tie): 1078 Gallery 1710 Park Ave., 630-7522

SECOND Place (tie): Chico Art Center 540 Orange St., Ste. 6, 895-8726

### Place to Dance **FIRST Place: The Beach**

191 F. Second St., 898-9898 When college-aged Chicoans go in search of a club atmosphere, they hit The Beach. Open only on weekends. The Beach features multiple dance floors with local and out-of-town DJs serving up a wide range of music for moving.

**SECOND Place: Duffy's Tavern** 337 Main St., 343-7718

