

## City-Chamber Mull Visitor's Center Future

Photo & Story By Neil Farrell



Morro Bay's Visitor Center was closed permanently in April when the Chamber of Commerce and City ended the contract that had the Chamber staffing and running the center for the past 5 years. Right now, the City of Morro Bay does not have a visitor's center, part of the City's efforts to discourage tourism during the Coronavirus Pandemic and economic shutdown. It's unknown what the City will do about providing visitor information once the shutdown is lifted.

With the coronavirus pandemic causing the near cessation of tourism in Morro Bay, the City finds itself without a visitor's center for the first time in decades.

When the City adopted shelter-at-home orders on March 19, all non-essential businesses were shuttered — the visitor's center included — and like turning off a light bulb, the town's tourism trade went dark.

The Morro Bay Chamber of Commerce and the City had already been discussing the future of the visitor's center, currently located at 695 Harbor St. The Chamber has run the Visitor's Center since at least the early 1990s, excepting about 3 years when the Independent Tourism Bureau (an arm of the Tourism Business Improvement District Board) took it over. The City has always contributed funds to it.

The visitor's center was housed in an old farmhouse in the 800 block of Main St. in the 1990s, and in the early 2000s was moved to the Boatyard Center in the 800 block of Embarcadero, where it stayed for

several years before being moved again to a one-time gas station and former real estate office at the corner of Morro Bay Boulevard and Morro Avenue.

That move up the hill in January 2013 came when the Tourism Bureau took over and was a strategic spot between the waterfront and Downtown.

In October 2015, the City re-awarded the contract to the Chamber for \$50,000 a year and the visitor's center was moved to Harbor Street, where the Chamber Office had been since the start of 2013.

The Chamber's contract for the visitor's center was set to expire in June but the Chamber opted out in early April.

"With the closure of the Center," City Manager Scott Collins said in a staff report, "and the many unknowns related to the pandemic, the City and Chamber terminated the contract."

"Staff recommends looking into the Visitor Center options once we have a better grasp of the pandemic, our financial position, and a sense of how best to use our limited dollars for tourism purposes."

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## 2020 Looks To Be A 'Lost Summer'

By Neil Farrell



An aerial photo of the 2018 Harbor Festival taken from the top of the fire department's ladder truck shows a bustling waterfront, a sight that's not likely to be seen during the coronavirus summer.

Coronavirus... COVID-19... Despite the Estero Bay Area so far having only a handful of virus cases, the worldwide pandemic that's killed hundreds of thousands of people, will pretty much kill this summer, too.

That's the logical conclusion to be drawn, as popular special events are canceled almost daily, falling like Domino's one after another, leaving what's looking a lot like a "Lost Summer."

Special events — from the Sea Glass and Kite Festivals, to the spectacular Cayucos Independence Day Parade — are all gone. None of it will happen this year, and it's unclear when such gatherings will resume.

A partial list of lost events includes: Morro Bay Yard Sale Weekend (originally postponed from April to May and now canceled); Cayucos Sea Glass Festival; Morro Bay Art Association Plein Art

Festival; Morro Bay Kite Festival; MB Car Show (both Cruise Night and the Car Show proper); Cayucos Rotary Masked Ball; Community Easter Egg Hunts in Los Osos and Cayucos; weekly Bingo with MB Active Adults (the Senior Center's closed too); Cuesta College, Cal Poly, and Morro Bay High School Graduations; Cal Poly Open House and Rodeo; Blessing of the Fleet; Los Osos Memorial Day Ceremony; Cayucos Lost at Sea Ceremony; Cayucos Independence Day Parade and Fireworks Show; Cambria's 4th of July Picnic and Fireworks; Morro Bay's July 4th Family Picnic; Morro Bay Art Association's Memorial Day Art in the Park (July 4th and Labor Day are pending); Los Osos' weekly Beer at the Pier shows and the Sea Pines Saturday Concerts on the Green; the Rock to Pier Run; Festival Mozaic; and Morro Bay Triathlon.

Even radio station 97.3/107.9 FM The Rock's 7th Annual Fundraiser Concert was

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## PG&E Plans to Leave Contamination at Closed Power Plant

By Neil Farrell

A State agency that monitors and regulates toxic substances is seeking public comments on a proposal to not clean up several contaminated areas at the long-closed Morro Bay Power Plant.

The California Department of Toxic Substances Control or DTSC extended the public comment period for a draft "Statement of Basis," a document that lays out Pacific Gas & Electric's plan to deal with its messes.

According to the DTSC notice, "Pacific Gas and Electric Company began generating electricity at the power plant in 1955 using natural gas or oil as a fuel source. In 1998, PG&E transferred ownership of the site to Duke Energy Morro Bay, LLC and then to Dynegy. In 2014, Dynegy closed the power plant.

"As the original owner of the power plant, PG&E remains responsible for investigating and addressing environmental conditions resulting from historical power generation activities."



This map from the Department of Toxic Substances Control shows the eight 'Areas of Concern' or AOCs found to be polluted at the Morro Bay Power Plant. PG&E is proposing to leave the pollutants in the ground and instead limit the future uses of the property. Map courtesy DTSC

Any future plans to "demolish or redevelop the property are not a part of this project and will be handled separately by Dynegy," according to the DTSC's notice. Dynegy is now part of Vistra Energy after the two Houston Texas companies merged in 2018.

So what's under the surface at the power plant? "PG&E has conducted environmental investigations at the Site that have found the presence of total petroleum

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## Library Fans Can Still Check Out

By Theresa-Marie Wilson



The 14 buildings in the County of San Luis Obispo Public Library system are shuttered due to the coronavirus, but many of the resources patrons love are now just a few finger-taps away.

Via slolibrary.org, folks can access free downloadable eBooks, audiobooks, streaming video, magazines, music, and on-line classes. All of these are accessible after filling out the online library card application. Remember to write down the number it gives you because that is now your library card.

"I think it's working out great, considering the circumstances," said Chase McMunn, assistant library director, County of San Luis Obispo Public Libraries. "Digital was already a quickly rising collection; it was getting more and more popular each year. We kind of looked at it almost like a fifteenth branch. Last year, it was actually our fourth busiest library."

With the physical libraries closed, the numbers continue to increase. For March and April, the majority of which time was under stay at home orders, checkouts were three times higher than the same timeframe last year. Almost 2,000 people have registered for the e-card this year alone.

Recognizing the need for more digital resources, the Morro Bay Friends of the Library are helping to purchase new E-Book titles for the downloadable collections through a gift of \$10,000 to the County of SLO Public Libraries.

"Using funds raised through book sales, the Morro Bay Friends of the Library traditionally support the local branch by sponsoring programs and purchasing materials, but this gift will benefit users throughout the county," said Jude Long, the group's publicity chair.

Almost all the digital resources work on Android or iOS devices or smart TVs

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## County to Attest, Again— Businesses Should Prepare

The County of San Luis Obispo is almost set to re-attest it is ready to reopen certain segments of the community given new Stage 2 criteria from the State of California.

On Sunday, the State provided County officials with specific criteria that focuses on (1) ensuring low or stable hospitalization rates of COVID-19 cases, and (2) the rate of positive cases per 100,000 population.

“It’s clear that the State heard us,” said County Health Officer., Dr. Penny Borenstein. “The State issued two new criteria that are better indicators of current transmission trends, and both of those criteria work in our favor.”

A county that has met certain State criteria in containing COVID-19 can increase the pace at which they advance through Stage 2 of California’s Resilience Roadmap for reopening.

As of this now, 23 counties meet the State’s criteria to move faster through Stage 2. Dr. Borenstein says SLO county meets the new criteria and plans to fill out a new State form attesting to our readiness to reopen.

“This week, we will again attest to the State that we are ready to adapt and reopen under this new criteria,” Dr. Borenstein said. “This means that we should soon get approval to move forward with in-store retail shopping and dine-in restaurants. Retailers and restaurants should prepare now by reviewing State-required public health precautions for their industry.”

On Tuesday, the County Board of Supervisors reviewed the new attestation and then Dr. Borenstein will submit it to the State for review. It is unclear when the State will make determination, but County officials believe it will be this week.

“We are very hopeful that our County’s new attestation, once it’s sent to Sacramento, would be approved by the end of this week— meaning we are on the precipice of being able to move more deeply into Stage 2 of the Governor’s Resilience Roadmap,” said Erica Crawford, president and CEO of the Morro Bay Chamber of Commerce. “Now is the time to get ready for reopening.”

Local businesses can find State criteria for reopening based on their specific industry by visiting [emergencySLO.org/reopen](https://bit.ly/2X3la3S). The readiness to reopen form specifically is at <https://bit.ly/2X3la3S>.

## Booze Thieves Caught by Major Crimes



Alcohol and a few other items reportedly stolen from Costco.

Sheriff’s investigators arrested an apparent theft crew from Bakersfield after they allegedly stole thousands of dollars worth of top shelf hooch and got nabbed in an attempted getaway.

According to Sheriff’s spokesman Tony Cipolla, on May 8 at 11:20 a.m. “detectives from the Sheriff’s Office Major Crimes Unit observed a vehicle speeding on Highway 101 in San Luis Obispo. The Detectives initiated a traffic stop on the vehicle at northbound Highway 101 at Reservoir Canyon Road in rural San Luis Obispo.” Reservoir Canyon Road is near the foot of the Cuesta Grade.

Inside the vehicle, detectives reportedly saw, “a large quantity of unopened, high-dollar value alcohol and other items inside the vehicle,” Cipolla said, “which was determined to have been stolen minutes earlier from the Costco store in San Luis Obispo.” Costco is located on Los Osos Valley Road near the Hwy 101 interchange.

The bottles of liquor included Johnnie Walker’s Double Black Scotch Whiskey, Blanco Tequila, and Silver Patron Tequila, along with clothing by Champion and Kirkland, and other items totaling more than \$3,000.

The four occupants of the vehicle — two men and two women all from Bakersfield — were detained. Two of them were reportedly “known gang members from Kern County,” Cipolla said. One of the women had a no-bail felony warrant.

The suspects were identified as: Cinthia Olivia Cervantes Rizo, 36, Adam Joseph Velasquez, 36, David Diaz, 43, and Krystle Monique Gonzales, 34, all are from Bakersfield.

Though seemingly caught red-handed, Cipolla said under the current “statewide Emergency Bail Schedule, issued by the California Judicial Council, bail for most misdemeanor and felony offenses must be set at \$0.”

Rizo had the felony warrant, according to Cipolla, and was held in County Jail. Velasquez, Diaz and Gonzales were booked and released from jail and Major Crimes will reportedly file charges with the District Attorney’s Office for suspicion of grand theft. The booze was of course confiscated as evidence.

## Morro Bay Man Claims Cell Site Making Him Sick

By Neil Farrell



Renderings from AT&T’s official report on its cell tower atop a local motel show the nine antennas arrayed behind a large box.

A Morro Bay man, who is suffering a number of health issues, is pointing to a cell tower atop a local motel about 50 yards from his home as the cause of what ails him and several of his neighbors, too.

Chad Whitworth, who lives in a small house at the corner of Main and Marina Streets, for the past 5 months or so, has been experiencing two main symptoms — ringing in his ears and night sweats — that are affecting his ability to sleep, he told Estero Bay News in an interview from inside his living room.

That’s where he says he’s measured radio frequency (RF) radiation of 20,000 microwatts per square meter (mW/M2), which he interprets to be many times the safe level for human health.

The general term here is “electromagnetic hypersensitivity” and according to a Wikipedia post: “There are no specific symptoms associated with claims of EHS, and the reported symptoms range widely between individuals. They include headache, fatigue, stress, sleep disturbances, skin prickling, burning sensations and rashes, pain and ache in muscles and many other health problems. In severe cases such symptoms can be a real and sometimes disabling problem for the affected person, causing psychological distress.”

However, “There is no scientific basis to link such symptoms to electromagnetic field exposure.”

Whitworth hired an expert, Rich Horner of EMF Inspect in San Luis Obispo, who investigates all manner of electromagnet radiation (see: [www.emfinspect.com](http://www.emfinspect.com)), and who shares concerns about EMF radiation and its health effects.

“We measured 20,000 (mW/M2) in my house,” Whitworth said in an email to EBN, “52,000 on my deck, over 100,000 in my yard, and over 500,000 right outside my fence!”

He spoke with neighbors on either side of his home and behind on Monterey Avenue and discovered several were experiencing similar issues, as well as some much more serious health problems, including a couple of cases of melanoma, a cancer that’s been linked to excessive radiation exposure.

The child of a neighbor (who has since moved away), he said, was experiencing ringing ears, headaches and insomnia, and that family “had symptoms months before they were made aware of the cell tower.”

He also posted a call to action on the Next Door Morro Bay gossip site, seeking others having difficulties in the neighborhood. A couple of people contacted him, he said, who live on the other side of the motel and also have similar health issues.

Whitworth registered his concerns at City Hall and the planning department, which issued a permit to install a cell tower array hidden behind a big box atop a local motel in 2018. (Note: Estero Bay News is not going to name the motel because in our investigations, they are not responsible for the tower, which was installed. It is owned and operated by AT&T, which rents space from them.)

It was the second antenna array on top of that building, as the initial antennas were installed in 2006.

Whitworth emailed back and forth with Community Development Director Scot Graham and shared those with EBN. In the emails, Whitworth’s frustration with what he sees as a lack of concern by City officials comes through clearly.

“The City and hotels receive money while MB residents are getting cancer, dizzy spells, ringing in ears, loss of appetite, headaches, loss of sleep, DNA damage, confusion, depression, anxiety,” he wrote in one email. “These cell towers are so well hidden no resident could possibly know where they are.”

Community Development Director, Graham, said that Federal Communications Commissions regulations do not allow local jurisdictions to review potential health effects and can only control the aesthetics of a project.

“Honestly,” Graham said, “the City is pre-empted on health effects from cell towers.” He acknowledged exchanging lots of emails and phone calls with Whitworth and meeting with a dozen of the neighbors, but denies that the City abandoned them.

With Whitworth’s report from EMF Inspect in hand, Graham said he asked AT&T to make sure the site was operating properly. On April 1, an engineer came out and tested the cell site and the neighborhood at the same places where Whitworth took readings.

Those findings didn’t necessarily dispute Whitworth’s high readings, but pointed out a possible reason for why

his are so high but are apparently nothing to be concerned about.

The report from EBI Consulting of Burlington, Mass., issued on company letterhead so it carries the weight of a legally-binding document, reads, “The FCC guidelines incorporate two separate tiers of exposure limits that are based upon occupational/controlled exposure limits [for workers] and general public/uncontrolled exposure limits for members of the general public.”

As Whitworth and his neighbors would be the general public, EBI said the FCC rules measure RF radiation by the square centimeter (cm2) and not the “meters squared” that Whitworth measured. Different frequency cell sites have different radiation levels deemed safe by the FCC. According to EBI, this cell site’s RF is well below the FCC’s legal limits (measured in milliwatts; 1 microwatt = 0.001 milliwatts).

“Based on the report submitted to the City of Morro Bay dated February 27, 2020,” reads EBI’s report, “the max power density value measured was 400,000 uW/m2. Converting this value to terms of power [mW] over a unit surface area [cm2] yields a value of 0.04 mW/cm2. This equates to power density that is 8.51 percent of the FCC’s general public limit... As such, the values presented in this report do not exceed the max permissible exposure levels set by the FCC.”

During the April 1 tests, EBI reported, “measurements were taken on the rooftop, as well as at ground level in the surrounding neighborhood. The highest level of RF emissions measured on the roof was 0.7899% of the FCC’s Maximum Permissible Exposure [MPE] limits based on the Occupational standard. Additionally, the highest level of RF emissions measured at ground level surrounding the building was 2.5430% of the FCC’s MPE limits for the General Public.”

And, “The results of the RF emissions survey indicate that the levels of RF emissions exposure at this telecommunications facility do not exceed applicable FCC MPE limits.”

But does that mean they are safe? Whitworth doesn’t think so. He worries about long-term exposure should he continue to live in the house. He’s been there 3 years now.

He doesn’t feel it’s safe and has taken to sleeping in a trailer behind the house, he said, because the RF levels there are lower. “I’ve got 10,000 microwave ovens in my front yard,” he said. “This has forced me out of my house.”

He criticizes the City for hiring the same expert that AT&T used. “They should have hired a third party to come and test,” he said.

So from EBI’s report, the radiation levels could be nearly 40 times higher? “Everything has shown us,” Graham said, “that all those [cell antennas] are compliant.” He added that when EBI tested the site “they turned the an-

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tennas all the way up. The emission levels they found were a lot less than allowed.”

He said if Whitworth could come up with something that shows otherwise, the City would act. “If there was something here,” Graham said, “I would definitely run it down.”

As it is, he suggested Whitworth contact the FCC hotline to report his concerns, something Whitworth said he’s already done, but has not heard back from them. He’s not very hopeful the feds will help and so he’s turned to a potential legal challenge, contacting a lawyer who he said may take his case on contingency.

Whitworth is asking anyone in Morro Bay who feels their health may have been affected by cell towers to call him at: (805) 952-5546. He’s determined to get to the bottom of what’s going on with his and his neighbor’s health issues.

The City did pass an emergency moratorium some time ago when the concern was that the cell phone industry was in a rush to put up cell sites everywhere, but that ordinance was preempted by the FCC rules.

Graham said the anticipated cell tower flood didn’t happen, at least not yet.

Off hand he could only name a few cell sites in town — the top of Radcliff, the top of the motel discussed here, and a fake pine tree at Rock Harbor Church on Quintana at South Bay Boulevard. Graham said that site was recently upgraded and the fake tree repaired.

## High Speed Chase Crashes in Morro Bay



Photo by Danna Joy Dykstra-Coy

A Los Osos man was arrested in connection with shoot-  
ing another man and leading police on high-speed chase.

On May 18, at about 6 p.m., the San Luis County Sheriff’s Department responded to a report of shots fired at a home in the 1200 block of San Luis Bay Drive in Avila Beach. The suspect, John Salazar, 53, of Los Osos, was reportedly involved in a fight with another man, an acquaintance. During the argument, Salazar reportedly shot the

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## Sheriff Seeks Pair of Grifters



Suspects in a stolen checks case in Templeton.

The County Sheriff’s Office is hot on the trail of a pair of apparent grifters suspected of stealing a Templeton woman’s purse in February and then going on a check-writing spree stealing thousands of dollars in merchandise and cash.

According to Sheriff’s spokesman Tony Cipolla, On Feb. 18, “a female victim in Templeton reported a theft of her purse from her house. Besides cash and credit cards, the victim reported her checkbook, which was inside the purse, was also taken.”

On March 6, the thieves struck. “The victim reported someone had used her checks at Costco stores in San Luis Obispo, Santa Maria, Hanford and Fresno,” Cipolla said. “Checks had also been passed at a Bank of America in Fresno. All told, the checks totaled approximately \$5,000.”

That total pushed the crimes into felony territory. Police have a good photo of the suspects. “Costco was able to identify the suspect with surveillance photos,” Cipolla said. “The photographs show one male and one female. Both appear to be white and approximately 50-70 years old.” A photo from the Bank of America clearly shows the woman’s face, close up.

He added they might be driving a white, Ford F-150, extended-cab pickup truck, possibly a 2004 model. Sheriff’s deputies put out an all point bulletin (APB) with photos of the suspects sending it to law enforcement agencies and media in Santa Barbara, San Luis Obispo, Monterey, Kings, Kern and Fresno counties.

If anyone has information on the suspects or this incident, call the SLO County Sheriff’s Office at (805) 781-4550.

## Coronavirus Restrictions Slowly Easing

By Neil Farrell

Restrictions tying up practically everything from which businesses can open to who can go fishing in response to the coronavirus pandemic, appear to be loosening the knots somewhat and could soon be dropped almost entirely in San Luis Obispo County.

In Morro Bay the Harbor Department changed its rules for using the boat launch ramp, removing a residency provision that limited access to San Luis Obispo County residents.

Recreational fishing opened April 1 for rockfish as well as salmon. Commercial salmon season opened May 1.

In a May 1 updated notice from the Harbor Department, the City said, “Morro Bay Harbor Department will conduct a trial opening of the public boat launch ramp in order to provide recreational fishing opportunities. In order for the launch ramp to remain open, we MUST adhere to the State and County Shelter at Home Orders, which specify recreating in your own neighborhood and limiting discretionary travel.”

Back on April 20 the notice that opened the launch ramp limited use to: “...San Luis Obispo County residents only in order to provide recreational fishing opportunities.”

Such a rule is inherently unconstitutional, violating the 14th Amendment guarantee to equal protection (enforcement) of the law. The City kept the rule in place for about 10 days before the residency restriction was dropped.

- There are still restrictions in place, they are:
- The launch ramp will be open to recreational and commercial vessels with restricted hours each day from 6 a.m. to 4 p.m.;
  - The Fish Cleaning Station and Rinse Down Station are CLOSED, you must clean your fish and boat at home;
  - Physical distancing guidelines must be followed to the greatest extent possible and face masks are encouraged when outside your vehicle; and,
  - Parking fees will be collected for the yellow trailer stalls; \$6 per day or annual pass available at the Harbor Office.

In another development, with restaurants still mostly closed and only filling takeout orders, demand for the commercial fish catch has been interrupted significantly.

So several commercial fishermen have begun selling their catch direct to the public, setting up sales stations on the Beach Street floating docks.

Back on April 20, the County also opened up other businesses — non-urgent surgery and outpatient practices,

Slowly Easing Continued on page 4

# Bayside Cafe

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# News

## Slowly Easing

construction, and dog grooming.

SLO County announced May 8 that it had “moved into Stage 2” of its phased reopening plan, the “Resilience Roadmap.” That followed the Governor’s announcement to allow retail stores to reopen for curbside pickup, as well as the associated manufacturing and logistics related to retail, according to the County’s announcement.

“The State has also outlined a process that allows counties to move more quickly through Stage 2 if they are able to show progress around key readiness criteria and health metrics.”

Supervisors and officials with County Health and both Tenet and Dignity Health, which own the four area hospitals, all signed a letter sent to the State Health Department “attesting to the County’s readiness to proceed down this path,” the County news release said. Gov. Gavin Newsome had already rejected SLO County’s first appeal to allow reopening of the economy under its own plan.

That same day, Morro Bay adopted the Governor's edict and allowed bookstores, toy stores, florists, clothing stores and music stores to reopen with curbside pickup only. However, "Customers will not be allowed into stores."

The City added, "Plans for further re-opening of the County and state are under development. SLO County developed a re-opening plan over the past several weeks, with input from 240 stakeholders, under guidance from and overseen by SLO County Public Health Officer, Penny Borenstein.

“The County is working collaboratively with the State on that effort and continues to follow the Governor’s Stay at Home order.”

In another announcement, the County indicated it's ready to open more and asked the State for permission to do so under it's own reopening plan

“In a 5-0 vote,” County spokeswoman, Michelle Shoresman, wrote, “the Board of Supervisors approved the submittal of an attestation by County Public Health Officer, Dr. Penny Borenstein, to demonstrate the readiness of San Luis Obispo County to loosen restrictions and reopen businesses and the community based on public health criteria set forth by the State.”

If the County's attestation is approved by the State (Department of Public Health) and the local epidemiologic situation remains stable, Shoresman said, the County will allow in-store retail and in-restaurant dining to reopen.

“SLO County has done everything right,” Dr. Borenstein said. “We have sheltered, we have planned, we have prepared. We are now advocating and attesting to the State that SLO County is ready to move forward with reopening safely, responsibly.”

SLO County in April set up a 165-bed emergency hospital for COVID-19 patients, in anticipation of what was predicted to be a potential tsunami wave of patients needing medical care.

The idea, which was carried across the nation, was to have beds available for virus overflow patients, so as to not overwhelm the local hospitals.

That emergency hospital was up in the Cal Poly Recreation Center and was planned, designed and installed in

just a few weeks by a task force the County formed through the Health Department and Public Works with input from local contractors and hospital officials from Tenet and Dignity.

The 165-bed hospital was the initial step in a multi-step plan to have more and more beds set up — eventually to total more than 900 — as the pandemic sickened more and more people.

But the big wave of illnesses hasn't thus far materialized and the emergency hospital has not yet been needed, as SLO County hospitals have handled the patient influx with beds to spare.

Indeed, in at least one hospital, nurses and other staff had their hours cut or were laid off mainly due to medical services like elective surgeries and even cancer treatments, being suspended for nearly 2 months (now opened up again).

Meanwhile, Morro Bay was credited with its seventh COVID-19 patient over the May 9-10 weekend. The City, as reported by the County Health Department, had recorded just six patients for over a month.

As readers can see, the situation with the virus shutdown and shelter-at-home orders changes almost daily. Go online to: [www.readyslo.org](http://www.readyslo.org) for updates from SLO County; and to: [www.morrobayca.gov/covid19](http://www.morrobayca.gov/covid19) for updates from the City of Morro Bay.

# City Continues Assessment Districts

By Neil Farrell

The Morro Bay City Council voted May 6 to re-up two assessment districts used to pay for upkeep of parklands in their respective subdivisions.

Every year since 1996, the City has charged homeowners along Toro Lane \$564 a year to provide money for the maintenance of the North Point Natural Area and street lighting on the lane.

The \$5,640 total assessments is the same amount as was first levied for the 10-lot subdivision on property that once housed the Point Motel, which caught fire and was destroyed in the early 1990s.

The City annually does an engineer's report on the maintenance costs/needs at the park and to legally justify the assessment district. "The cost estimates are based on the maintenance standards currently adhered to in existing parks within Morro Bay," reads a staff report, "and included in the Flat Rate Manual for Parks Maintenance, as well as maintenance costs from the current fiscal year."

Though costs have gone up every year, the Natural Area is cheap to maintain. “Personnel costs, as well as supplies and services, have risen significantly in the last several years,” according to the City. “However, due to the small acreage, natural landscaping, minimal street lighting, and little irrigation in the assessment district, the assessment amount collected is currently adequate to cover the costs of maintenance.”

The council vote starts a waiting period that will end June 23 when the Council holds a public protest hearing and vote.

That's when homeowners can oppose the assessments, though the district is embedded in the home's conditional use permit and therefore would be hard to get rid of without violating terms of the original permits, reducing the assessment district votes to mere formalities.

The City's other assessment district, for the Cloisters subdivision, is considerably more expensive and covers maintenance of Cloisters Park and pedestrian/bike lanes that wind through the property.

It also covers maintenance of several large, landscaped, traffic islands, street lighting, open space areas, and a small pond, as well as a playground, restroom and more. The district covers 27.75 acres of park and open space.

Cloisters' assessment district also began in 1996 and charges \$1,241 per parcel or some \$148,900 total. While costs for this work too has risen over time, the City said, "due to increased efficiency in the service delivery originally provided in district, the City has been able to maintain the facilities and accrue an accumulation," the same conclusion drawn for the North Point A.D. There are some 120 lots covered in the Cloisters assessment district and should a small, 5-lot subdivision proposed for a vacant 1-acre lot at Coral and San Jacinto be approved, those lots would be added to the assessment district, because that lot was part of the original subdivision's 124 lots (three are left in open space and one — encompassing the coastal dunes — went to State Parks).

The vacanacre at Coral and San Jacinto was originally deeded to the City for a new firehouse, but the City chose to replace its firehouse on Harbor Street and sold the lot as excess property for some \$650,000. The public hearing for Cloisters is also set for June 23.

# Update PG&E Info Before Wildfire Season

The Pacific Gas and Electric Company (PG&E) is reminding all customers to update their contact information so they will be alerted to a Public Safety Power Shutoff due to hot temperatures, high winds and dry vegetation that foretell elevated wildfire conditions.

If you have a new cell phone number, a new preferred email address or just haven't checked with them to make sure they have the correct and current information, now is a good time by visiting [www.pge.com/mywildfirealerts](http://www.pge.com/mywildfirealerts) or by calling the PG&E contact center at 1-866-743-6589. Customers are encouraged to list multiple methods for contact including home phone numbers, mobile phone numbers, and email addresses.

In March, PG&E sent postcards to more than 200,000 customers encouraging them to update their mobile number, email and other key information so the company can contact them in advance should it become necessary to temporarily turn off power for safety this fire season. In early May, a second notice postcard was sent about 57,000 customers who have missing or incomplete contact infor-



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mation associated with their PG&E account.

It is important that all customer information is up to date so PG&E can share important wildfire safety alerts. This is especially critical for medical baseline customers. In addition to notifying customers directly, PG&E also will provide outage updates and information through channels such as social media, local news, radio and [www.pge.com](http://www.pge.com). And if your home or business is served by PG&E but you are not the account holder, you can still get alerts for your zip code. Sign up at [www.pge.com/pspszipcodealerts](http://www.pge.com/pspszipcodealerts).

“We want to thank those customers who have taken action to ensure that we have your current contact information,” said Laurie Giammona, PG&E’s chief customer officer and a senior vice president. “If you haven’t shared your updated contact information, please do so right away as it will keep us all better prepared to stay emergency-ready and to keep our families and friends safe.”

The Public Safety Power Shutoff program is one of many safety measures that PG&E has in place as part of its Community Wildfire Safety Program to reduce wildfire threats and strengthen communities for the future.

Besides updating their contact information to prepare for Public Safety Power Shutoffs, PG&E encourages customers to do the following:

- Have an emergency plan, review it with your friends, family and neighbors, and practice evacuations
- Check in with your elderly neighbors and friends who may have special needs.
- Update or create a go bag or 72-hour kit that can be used if you need to evacuate
- Prepare an emergency supply kit with food, water, flashlights, batteries, medications and other critical supplies.
- Customers concerned about pet safety during a PSPS should identify which kennels, shelters or veterinarians can care for pets during an emergency ahead of time

• Clear defensible space around your home or business.

## Purchase of Dog Beach Almost Completed

By Neil Farrell



The County’s only off-leash dog beach is now almost entirely in public hands and the County Parks System has a new slice of open space.

Escrow closed April 30 on a 258-acre parcel of ranch-

land at the intersection of Hwy 1 and Toro Creek Road and was added to the County Parks System’s inventory. And the County has already approved a new lease with the same people who have lived and cared for the property for years.

The Cayucos Land Conservancy, one of the key members of the complex land deal, announced to its members in an online newsletter, “The southern boundary of Cayucos is now permanently preserved.”

The ranchlands are the first of the land deals that will eventually bring a portion of the old Chevron Marine Terminal lands under public ownership. Deals to bring the Chevron Dog Beach into ownership by the County and City of Morro Bay are slated to close escrow May 30, according to CLC.

In a parallel path, the Morro Bay City Council in April accepted a \$150,000 grant from the State Coastal Conservancy, specifically to help pay for the southern portion of Dog Beach.

That patch of sand was purchased by the Cayucos Sanitary District as part of the CSD’s new sewer project and included a parcel on the east side of Hwy 1 needed for a new lift station.

The plan is for the Trust for Public Lands to buy it from the CSD and convey it to the City of Morro Bay. Total cost for the two Dog Beach lots is approximately \$338,050, according to a Morro Bay staff report. “The remainder of the purchase price (\$188,050) will come from already secured philanthropic funds,” as raised by the CLC.

That eastside parcel will end up with County Parks as well, with the CSD keeping a utility easement for its new lift station and pipelines. Escrow on that part of the deal will close later this year, according to the CLC.

The City, County, Chevron, CLC, State Coastal Conservancy, Trust for Public Lands, Morro Bay Open Space Alliance, and the Land Conservancy of San Luis Obispo

**Dog Beach** Continued on page 6

## News Briefs

### Los Osos Fitness Closes Due to Pandemic

The only gym in Los Osos made the hard decision to close their doors for good stating financial reasons related to the coronavirus.

After 25 years in business, Los Osos Fitness owner Terry Brown and manager Laura Watson announced the decision via a letter on their website that was also emailed it to their clients.

“Thank you for over 25 years of supporting our mission ‘Getting You Fit for Life,’ the letter reads. “Thank you for sharing your smiles, accomplishments, stories, jokes and wisdom.

“Everyday we did our best to make exercise a therapeutic and fun part of your life. Staff and members seemed like one big family. We have missed that very much since we had to close almost 2 months ago.

“Sadly Los Osos Fitness will not be reopening for financial reasons. I imagine when gyms are allowed to reopen and the economic climate improves, someone will open a fitness center in Los Osos.

Until then, stay healthy my friends. Drink water, eat well, breathe, laugh and please get some exercise!”

Los Osos Fitness could not be reached for comment by press time.

### Burn Season Over, Fire Season Starts

County Fire officials announced the end of this year’s burn season, and the official start of fire season, and now anyone who wants to burn debris, must seek permission.

May 1 marked the end of the open burn season, said the Cal Fire/County Fire Department. “Backyard burn-

ing is now suspended within SLO County until the end of fire season. All other burning, including agricultural, now requires a Cal Fire burn permit in addition to an Air Pollution Control District burn permit.”

To see about a burn permit, go online to: [www.slo-cleanair.org/programs/burningpermit.php](http://www.slo-cleanair.org/programs/burningpermit.php).

### Cuesta Graduation Ceremony Delayed

Cuesta College will postpone spring commencement to December 2020 to help slow the spread of the coronavirus pandemic. The school says the decision was made after consideration of input from students, faculty, and staff.

“Commencement is a joyous culmination of the hard work and dedication of our graduating students, and we are committed to properly recognizing their accomplishments,” said Dr. Jill Stearns, Cuesta College Superintendent / President. “Our students want the opportunity to celebrate with their family and friends present as they receive their diploma.”

To ensure the safety and health of the campus community, the college explored multiple scenarios to celebrate the achievements of graduating students, including a virtual celebration. The response from a survey sent to 1,125 students made clear their preference of walking across the stage at an in-person event.

The Cuesta College 2020 Commencement Ceremony will be held on Friday, December 18. The graduation ceremony was initially scheduled for Friday, May 22.

Cuesta graduates from the Summer 2019 through Fall 2020 semesters are eligible to participate in the December ceremony. The college is also planning to celebrate the graduating Class of 2020 on May 22 with videos and social media posts. Additional details are forthcoming.

Registration for summer and fall classes is available now at [bit.ly/cuestaregistration](http://bit.ly/cuestaregistration). Summer classes are offered online starting June 15, and the fall semester begins August 17.

### All Good Doing Good

As businesses begin to open again, and as California looks to loosen restrictions on the shelter at home order, people are more aware of personal safety and protection. All Good, a Morro Bay based company, has hand sanitizer in their list of ethically-made, premium body care products,

“It is such a bizarre situation we are all in, and we really want to make sure everyone in this community has what they need to feel comfortable beginning the process of regaining your ability to move about,” said Caroline Duell, founder of All Good. “Everything we do as a company is rooted in a commitment to the health and wellness of you, your families, our communities, and our planet. That does not change for us, whether in crisis or not. Offering plant based U.S. made hand sanitizer formulas is just one of the ways we can do our part.”

All Good is also donating items to people on the frontlines. With increased hand washing and surface cleaning, many people find dry and cracked hands to be a secondary challenge right now. For that reason, the company is making donations of their organic lotions and All Good Goop, skin relief balm to nurses and doctors at French Hospital in this time of need.

The company plans to continue its ongoing relief effort to local and global organizations through product and monetary donations in partnership with 1% for the Planet - a commitment through which All Good donates 1% of total sales every year to nonprofits.

For more information and to order products, go to [allgoodproducts.com](http://allgoodproducts.com) or contact Lindsey Bolton: [lindsey@allgoodproducts.com](mailto:lindsey@allgoodproducts.com).

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**Dog Beach** From page 5  
have all been working on the conservation deal for about 5 years.

It's the first part of a phased conservation program that will include an effort to buy canyon lands east of Morro Bay's Del Mar Park, drained by Alva Paul Creek.

The CLC and others will begin this summer to raise monies for that purchase, the price for which is under negotiation.

"Many, many thanks to our generous donors and supporters," the CLC's message said, "you have bolstered funds for this project beyond all expectations. CLC is still accepting donations for the remaining parcels, as the precise figure for their closing is still being determined."

As an aside in this matter, the City Council's grant acceptance is just one part of the City's obligations in the matter.

This past January, the City Council approved a non-binding memorandum of understanding (MOU) with regards to the conservation deals that included potential expansion of the City Limits to include several single family lots along Panorama Drive just north of Del Mar Park.

According to the City report, the MOU addresses four items:

- Acquisition of lot 6SW (southern portion of Dog Beach) by the City of Morro Bay.
- Amendment of the City's Sphere of Influence (SOI) to include five lots above Panorama Drive.

The lots are owned by Chevron, and the company wants them to be annexed into the City. Each of the lots would accommodate one, single-family residence, for a total of no more than 5 single-family homes in that area.

The lots are pretty steep going up from Panorama Drive, and any homes built "would be restricted to the lower portions of each lot leaving the remainder of the hillside above Panorama undeveloped."

- Detachment of lot 6NE (the CSD's property east of Hwy 1) from within the City's boundary, resulting in lot 6NE being under County jurisdiction.

The City Council will have to submit an "Application for Detachment" with the Local Agency Formation Commission (LAFCo.), the countywide agency that regulates annexations and be approved by LAFCo's board.

- Annexation into the City of Lot 6NW (Dog Beach). The beach "is currently located in the County but is within the City's SOI. The intent behind Lot 6NW's location within the City's SOI was to facilitate its future annexation into the City for preservation of Dog Beach."

Annexation requires city council authorization and approval by LAFCo.

But as Dandy Don used to say, there could be a hitch in the get-a-long. The State Coastal Conservancy grant includes "a requirement to record both an offer to dedicate to the State and restrictive covenant limiting use to open space."

"The acceptance of the offer to dedicate by the State would be triggered only in the situation where the property were somehow under threat of condemnation," accord-

ing to the City.

Turning over Dog Beach to State Parks could signal the end of the puppy utopia, as State's Parks' rules prohibit dogs on State Beaches, whether on or off leash.

Indeed, keeping the beach out of State Parks' hands and ensure it remains open to dogs is one of the goals of the entire conservation deal.

Once Dog Beach comes under City control, the City's ordinances will have to be addressed as dogs are allowed on the City's other beach — Morro Strand from Morro Rock to Morro Creek — but only if the dog's on a leash.

How well this ordinance is enforced is debatable, as with most City ordinances, it is complaint driven. And there have been incidents over the years with out-of-control dogs running amok on Dog Beach.

The City could also be expected to draft a master plan for what would essentially be a new City-owned park. Most other City parks have such a plan in place guiding uses, amenities, maintenance, law enforcement and more.

Another issue that will have to be worked out is access to Dog Beach. Currently, most people access it at parking areas on the wide shoulder along Hwy 1, passing through holes cut in Caltrans' highway fence.

At a February town hall meeting in Cayucos, Daniel Bohlman, the conservation director at the Land Conservancy of San Luis Obispo, commented that additional parking might need to be built at the northern end of Dog Beach at Studio Drive or the southern end at Morro Bay's North Point Natural Area.

It's a situation similarly faced by the County when it sought to open the Pismo Preserve, and discovered there was inadequate parking available.

Funding for all these land deals breaks down as: Wildlife Conservation Board (for \$1.75 million); the California Coastal Conservancy (\$950,000); and \$1 million from the California Natural Resources Agency, along with private monies coming through the Trust for Public Lands and Land Conservancy of San Luis Obispo County; some \$4 million in grants. And the CLC raised some \$750,000.

Acquiring Dog Beach also clears a hurdle in the anticipated "Morro Bay-Cayucos Connector," a separated bike path project running along the bluffs on the west side of Hwy 1 that has already gotten all permits needed and awaits funding through the San Luis Obispo Council of Governments or SLOCOG.

Chevron (originally Standard Oil) and Texaco piped in crude oil from the Oildale Area and the San Ardo Oil Field respectively loading it onto tanker ships bound for refineries in the Bay Area and Southern California, from 1929 until the plant closed in 1999, when a direct pipeline was completed.

Chevron's extensive land holdings in the area spans hundreds of acres of coastal hills east of Morro Bay and numerous agricultural parcels of varying sizes going up Toro Creek Road that had been leased to farmers for decades.

All those ranches were put up for sale when the leases expired. The CSD bought two of them for its treatment plant, private owners have purchased others, some are still for sale, and the County now has the first parcel along the highway.

# Sheriff's Surveillance on LOVR

Photo & Story By Theresa-Marie Wilson



A sign informing people that the area at South Bay Blvd. and Los Osos Valley Road is under surveillance by the SLO County Sheriff's Department.

Between cell phones and video surveillance cameras used at businesses, schools, churches, government buildings and even doorbells, getting caught on camera doing just about anything is commonplace. A few drivers stopped in traffic near the east corner if South Bay Blvd. and Los Osos Valley Road have likely noticed a sign posted by the SLO County Sheriff's Department stating, "You are entering a 24 hour surveillance area."

"The signs are placed to let citizens know there are cameras in the area and at the same time act as crime prevention tool," said Sherriff's spokesperson Tony Cipolla, "The cameras are not monitored 24/7. Video review is used to assist deputies or detectives if a crime has been committed. The premise is very similar to a home surveillance system or a Ring doorbell."

To be clear, although are not monitored around the clock, they are recording 24-hours a day and can be viewed on cellphones by investigators and the watch commander.

The surveillance program first began in San Miguel in 2016. Since then cameras have been added in Oceano and Nipomo as well.

Surveillance Continued on page 9



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Pastor John Tiffin, Estrella Warbirds, Bay Osos Kiwanis Club, Sullivan Studios/Estero Bay News



Police Blotter



Morro Bay Police Logs

- **May 10:** Police responded to the 1500 block of Main where some unknown Secret agent Double-O I.Q. vandalized an innocent car.
- **May 9:** Police contacted a regular customer at 10:51 p.m. in the 200 block of Harbor. Logs indicated the 26-year-old desperado had three warrants and was cited and released, a case of three'll get you four.
- **May 9:** Someone reported a disturbance at 6 p.m. in the 700 block of Harbor. Police nicked a 50-year-old schnockered gal apparently having a bag lady moment.
- **May 8:** Police stopped a suspicious vehicle at 7:37 p.m. in the 200 block of Atascadero Rd. A 64-year-old fellow was jailed on suspicion of driving on drugs.
- **May 8:** A citizen in the 500 block of Aleppo Dr. spoke to police about an un-neighborly felony.
- **May 7:** Police were called at 9 a.m. to the 1000 block of Quintana for a domestic disturbance. A 54-year-old louse was served with a temporary stay-the-hell-away order.
- **May 6:** Police were called at 5 p.m. to a disturbance in the 400 block of Trinidad. No arrests needed.
- **May 6:** At 1:54 p.m. to a crash at the Roundabout in the 900 block of Morro Bay Blvd. No injuries reported.
- **May 6:** Some secret squirrel broke into unlocked cars parked in the 500 block of Estero and 300 Kern.
- **May 5:** Police stopped a suspicious vehicle at 11 p.m. at Kern and Dana Way. Logs indicated the driver, 33, and his lady passenger, 26, both got snicker-doodled for suspicion of driving on drugs and possession of paraphernalia, their stash apparently went up in smoke.
- **May 5:** Police contacted a repeat customer at 8:12 p.m. in the 700 block of Harbor. The 57-year-old scofflaw had two no-cite warrants. A search allegedly found suspected meth in his britches and he went to Jail.
- **May 5:** Police were asked to check the welfare of a missing suicidal teenager from Tulare on San Jacinto.
- **May 5:** A woman in the 2800 block of Ironwood received several harassing email scams. She knew they were scams and did not respond, which is what the Mark as Spam button is for.
- **May 5:** The property manager at Morro Bay Mini Storage, 1000 block of Quintana, told police several locks were cut sometime between May 1-5. Police found no clues as to the identity of the Raiders of the Lost Junk.
- **May 5:** A woman in the 2700 block of Dogwood told police that an unknown thief stole \$6,005.74 worth of jewelry. Logs indicated "No suspects and no arrests," and no leads either.
- **May 4:** Police stopped a suspicious vehicle at 10 p.m. on South Bay Boulevard. Logs indicated the driver, 26, had a suspended license, which naturally led to a search and

- discovery of a handgun, violating his probation.
- **May 4:** Police contacted a suspicious young woman at 9:23 p.m. in the 1900 block of Sunset. The 22-year old got busted for suspicion of possessing dope and paraphernalia. She was cited and released back into the wild.
  - **May 4:** Police responded to a disturbance at 6 p.m. in the 600 block of Quintana. A 39-year-old apparent hellcat was arrested for suspicion of being toddy stricken.
  - **May 4:** Police responded at 10:30 a.m. to Coleman Drive for a 6-year-old child that was bitten by a dog on a leash that was "out of owner's control." Logs indicated the incorrigible cur reportedly bit the child on the right side and wrist. Fire paramedics treated the kid for minor punctures and scratches. Police documented the incident for the lawsuit to follow.
  - **May 3:** Police responded at 10 p.m. to a disturbance in the 1200 block of Main. Logs indicated a 45-year-old apparent ruffian was arrested for suspicion of domestic battery, as shelter-at-home creates another swamp donkey.
  - **May 3:** Police responded at 4:45 p.m. to a family disturbance in the 2400 block of Elm. No arrests were needed this time.
  - **May 3:** A man in the 1900 block of Sunset said his 23-year-old daughter was missing from a relative's home in San Jose.
  - **May 3:** At 5:19 p.m. police responded to the 800 block of Morro to help settle an uncivil financial dispute, because it always starts with money.
  - **May 1:** A citizen in the 2700 block of Dogwood asked police to document another uncivil dispute, as Mr. King so famously said, "Can't we all just get along?"
  - **May 1:** Police responded at 12:48 p.m. to the 2700 block of Alder where a mother reported a missing child. Logs indicated the little rascal was found safe at a nearby relative's house, and was returned home.
  - **May 1:** A citizen in the 100 block of Orcas St., told police some thievin' bilge rat stole a speaker out of his boat sometime overnight.
  - **May 1:** Some poor schmuck lost his wallet. No word on where but then again if he knew where it wouldn't be lost. Oddly enough the day before, someone turned in a wallet that he or she found but also didn't say where.
  - **May 1:** Police responded to the 400 block of Atascadero Rd., for a reported trespassing woman. They caught up to the suspected squit a block up the street and she was cited for suspicion of trespassing and released to no doubt soon have a bench warrant.
  - **May 1:** At 7 a.m. in the 400 block of Quintana an old power pole said, "I've fallen and I can't get up!" PG&E was called.
  - **April 30:** Police called County Mental Health at 8:53 p.m. regarding someone on Nutmeg Avenue having suicidal thoughts.
  - **April 30:** Police responded at 7:40 p.m. to a disturbance in the 2600 block of Main. Logs indicated a 19-year-old hussy was cited and released for contributing to the delinquency of a juvenile delinquent and disturbing the peace. The minor was released to her proud grandmother.
  - **April 30:** Police responded at 6:13 p.m. to Albertson's Market on Quintana where a woman shopper said some thief stole her money, and this was BEFORE she checked out.
  - **April 30:** At 2:40 p.m. police contacted a suspicious women at Beach and Main. Logs indicated a 52-year old was arrested for suspicion of being high on drugs. She was taken to French Hospital for a bloodletting and then to the hoosegow without incident, because you can't shovel water with a pitchfork.
  - **April 30:** A citizen in the 800 block of Lusita showed police predatory emails sent out randomly to try and steal money by making threats to harm people's reputations, in this week's example of why you can't trust nothing on the Internet.
  - **April 30:** A woman in the 2600 block of Nutmeg said her husband's address was changed through the San Luis Obispo Social Security Office, which of course it means it can never be fixed.
  - **April 28:** Police got a report from Child Welfare Services regarding a suspected child abuse incident of unknown severity occurring somewhere in the 300 block of

- Sequoia.
- **April 29:** Police contacted a familiar face at 10 p.m. in the 2600 block of Main. The woman, 35, was arrested for suspicion of being high on drugs and possession of paraphernalia, her stash apparently already shot.
  - **April 29:** Police contacted yet another regular customer at 8 p.m. in the 700 block of Harbor. The 57-year-old woman had a bench warrant. She was cited and released with her soon-to-be second FTA.
  - **April 29:** Someone found a wallet in the trash at City Park. Police returned it to the rightful owner.
  - **April 28:** Police contacted a suspicious fellow at 10:37 p.m. in the 900 block of Embarcadero. Logs indicated the 38-year-old apparent scoundrel was allegedly in possession of stolen property, methamphetamine and "admitted to stealing the items he was in possession of," according to the MBPD media logs. The little devil's donut was nicked.
  - **April 28:** Police were called at 1:31 p.m. to a disturbance in the 2900 block of Alder. Logs indicated a 68-year-old woman was arrested for suspicion of being deep in her cups. She was booked into the Parkinson Plaza, where she should be eligible for the new get-out-of-jail without bail reform program.
  - **April 28:** Police joined the fire department at 12:27 a.m. on a medical aid call in the 500 block of Yerba Buena. Logs indicated a juvenile boy or girl "became unconscious after smoking marijuana."
  - **April 28:** Police caught up to a wanted man at 3 a.m. in the 200 block of Beach. The 21-year-old desperado had two out-of-county warrants. He was issued a future third warrant and released, which ought to fix his wagon fer sure.
  - **April 28:** Police responded at 2:30 a.m. to the 700 block of Harbor where an officer served a domestic violence restraining order against some feculent zhlub.
  - **April 27:** Police contacted a swizzle stick swaggering about at Main and Harbor at 11:38 p.m. Logs indicated the 52-year-old ripened fellow was plucked up for suspicion of being pickled in public. A bit earlier at 11 p.m. and at the same corner, police cited some mope for alleged possession of a crack pipe.
  - **April 27:** Police stopped a suspicious vehicle at 8 p.m. on Southbound Hwy 1. Logs indicated the 40-year-old driver was arrested for suspicion of driving stoned.
  - **April 27:** Police responded to Rite Aid where someone had pulled a fast one with a drug prescription.

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Every Color Deserves a Forever Home



Surveillance From page 6

“We’ve had many residents in those areas thank us for putting up the cameras in their community,” Cipolla said. “It provides an added sense of security and safety.”

According to Cipolla, the cameras serve several functions. They increase the Sheriff’s Office presence and help identify suspects and suspect vehicles involved in crimes.

Although there are no statistics to point to, Cipolla said that since the cameras are located in public areas and are identified with public signs. they also serve as a deterrent to crime.

“As you might expect, it’s difficult to quantify crimes that have been prevented,” he said. “But, with the signage we have in place, it can serve as a deterrent to crime. Much like the signs in many stores warning of surveillance cameras in operation.”

Locally, the camera pod was installed on Oct. 30, 2019. It has four cameras onboard:

- Camera 1 is a fixed camera capable of capturing video of traffic traveling on South Bay Blvd.
- Camera 2 is a Pan, Tilt, Zoom (PTZ) camera capable of capturing video 360 degrees. However, this camera is currently programmed to capture video from traffic traveling Los Osos Valley Road east of South Bay Blvd.
- Camera 3 is a PTZ camera capable of capturing video 360 degrees. This camera is currently programmed to capture video from traffic traveling Los Osos Valley Rd west of South Bay Blvd.
- Camera 4 is a PTZ camera capable of capturing video 360 degrees. The camera is currently programmed to capture video from traffic traveling South Bay Blvd.

“We look to place the camera pods in strategic places like heavily traveled areas or main arteries to the highway,” Cipolla said.

The camera cost \$7,495 and was paid for using state Justice Assistance grant funding.

Trying to Keep Tourists Away

Before the crowds start heading our way for Memorial Day weekend, the County of San Luis Obispo is taking steps to limit tourism to the region to protect public health.

“Leisure travel should not take place during a pandemic. Increases in new COVID-19 infections further delays our ability to adapt and reopen together under the State’s Resilience Roadmap,” said County Health Officer Dr. Penny Borenstein. “We are taking preventative measures as a starting point to protect public health as we begin a gradual reopening all across the state.”

The rate of new cases in neighboring counties is higher than they are in San Luis Obispo County. With the exception of Monterey County, nearby counties have seen much higher positive COVID-19 cases per capita than SLO County. San Luis Obispo County has 85 positive cases per 100,000 residents, which is significantly less than neighboring Kings, Tulare, and Santa Barbara Counties, all of which have positive cases per 100,000 in the triple digits.

The County will limit the use of campgrounds to SLO County residents only at County-operated campgrounds at Lopez Lake, Santa Margarita Lake, and Oceano Memorial Park beginning Monday, May 18. In addition, County

Emergency Services Director Wade Horton Dr. Borenstein announced an emergency order limiting hotel and short-term lodging occupancy rates to no more than 50 percent only for essential travel to limit the spread of COVID-19. The order reinforces State guidance.

The emergency order takes effect at midnight on Sunday, May 17. It will be reviewed every 14 days to evaluate the need to continue the order.

“Now is not the time to visit,” Horton said. “We look forward to when we are once again able to welcome visitors but right now, we are focused on meeting State criteria to gradually open our community. Tourism puts that at risk.”

To see the full order and for more information on COVID-19 in SLO County, visit ReadySLO.org.

City reopens The Rock, No Problems Noted, Yet

By Neil Farrell



These drone photos over Morro Bay on May 16, the first day of the Rock parking lot being reopened, show a not-too-crowded Morro Strand Beach, and a pro-business rally held outside GAFCo. Photos courtesy City of Morro Bay

The City of Morro Bay reopened the Morro Rock parking lot last Saturday for the first time since March, when Coleman Drive leading to the Rock and Morro Strand Beach, was barricaded and closed to vehicle traffic.

The City also closed Atascadero Road to traffic at Morro Bay High’s west entrance, all part of a strategy to enforce shelter-at-home orders and social distancing.

City officials claimed too many people had been congregating too closely in the parking lots. The City has issued a handful of parking tickets to people who went around the barricades at the start of the closures, but has reported overall, good compliance.

On May 14, the City Council voted 2-1 to reopen the Rock parking lot in part to relieve pressure on other parking lots on the north end of the Embarcadero.

With the beach open again, City Manager Scott Collins shared drone photos of both the beach on last Saturday, and of a gathering of citizens outside Great American Fish Co.

“By in large,” Collins told EBN, “we had good compliance with social distancing today, as you can see in the overhead photo taken above the Rock near midday.”



The rally was apparently peaceful and not too concerning, as the photo shows the crowd separating from each other.

“There was a rally for local business support (rally to re-open the community), organized by a couple of local folks on the waterfront,” Collins added. “MBPD staff worked closely with them onsite to ensure there was good social distancing.”

“It was a peaceful event overall, and big thanks to PD for keeping the situation calm.”

Collins added that the restaurant did not organize the rally and that organizers did not first get a permit from the City to hold a gathering in a public space.

“If they or another group were to pursue a rally/protest like this in the future,” Collins said, “they would need to work with staff to get a permit and conduct it in such a way that parking and walkways aren’t blocked.”

The parking lot reopening comes as other restrictions are being slowly lifted and some businesses are able to re-open, albeit under much different circumstances that prior to the Coronavirus Pandemic.

With visitors beginning to come again and in larger and larger numbers, the City has had to face several new problems caused by the shutdown restrictions.

For instance with all restaurant dining rooms closed, and only takeout orders being filled, trash cans overflowed. So the City put out more trash cans and the council affirmed ordering some actual 3-yard garbage dumpsters to be placed along Embarcadero for public use.

This adds to the City already putting out port-a-potties at park restrooms, which have been closed for weeks. The City also put out portable hand-washing stations on the waterfront and Downtown.

Motorcyclist Killed in Hwy 1 Accident

A motorcyclist died in a collision on May 15 on Highway 1 near Ardath Drive in Cambria at around 3:20 p.m., the California Highway Patrol reported.

At about 3:20 p.m., CHP received a report of a collision between a black Jeep SUV and a yellow motorcycle. Reportedly the jeep’s driver turned onto the shoulder of the road to make a U-turn and turned into the path of the motorcycle.

The rider was taken to the hospital and pronounced dead. The identity of the deceased is withheld at this time pending notification of next of kin.



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# Community

## An Adventure in Local Food

By Theresa-Marie Wilson



At the heart of every city, downtown or business district is a restaurant or café serving up flavorful nourishment that can delight the palate or provide satisfying comfort. Like many businesses, the restaurant industry was hard hit by the coronavirus pandemic. To help with the major adjustments that come with a curbside pickup and delivery services only approach to dining out, the Los Osos/Baywood Park Chamber of Commerce is offering a Local Food Passport encouraging residents to support our restaurants. “With the circumstances of COVID-19, it is more important than ever to show our support to our local restaurants,” said Amanda Esparza, a chamber director, who, along with Energy-Wise Realty business partner Melissa Carstairs, spearheaded the project. “We can do so by offering take-out, buying gift cards, and merchandise. The goal of the food passport was to offer our support to a few of our local restaurants and also offer a great deal for the consumer. We feel it is a win-win situation.” Independent restaurants make up about two-thirds of the American dining landscape, according to the New York Times. In Los Osos and Baywood Park that number is likely higher. The majority of eateries in the area, which includes franchises such as Dominos and Subway, are locally owned. The passport has something for every taste bud from Thai to Mexican to sweet treats. As an added bonus, folks who use all 12 squares can turn in the completed punched card to the LO/BP Chamber for chance to win a \$50 gift card to a local restaurant. “We are selling a limited amounts so make sure to get yours before they sell out,” said Dawn Rodden, Chamber of executive director. “This is perfect for your food-loving friend (or self), an appreciation gift for our essential workers or for Father’s Day that is right around the corner.”

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**Blue Heron** – \$10 off an order of \$50 or more  
**The Greasy Weiner Food Truck** – Free drink or fries with the purchase of a hotdog, burger, or sausage.  
**Valley Liquor** – Buy any burger or chicken strip meal and get second one 50% off  
**Carlock’s Bakery** – Bakers Dozen – Buy 12 get 1 donut free  
**Lotus Thai** – Spend \$29.95 get a free order of dumplings  
**Vintage Cheese Company** – \$1 off each block of cheese  
**La Palapa** – Buy 1 combo, get the 2nd one 50% off, no substitutions  
**Baker & Brain** – Buy 4 or more bottles of red wine and get 30% off the retail pricing of your whole order  
**Nardonne’s Pizzeria** – Free mixed green salad with a purchase over \$20  
**Noi & Doi’s 2nd Street Cafe** – Free Thai tea when purchasing \$20 or more  
**The Clubhouse Grill at Sea Pines** – 10% off any order

“Our local restaurants make up the heart of Los Osos,” Esparza said. “We have many restaurants that have been a vital part of the community for many years. Not only do restaurants provide an experience to our community members and tourists, but they contribute to our local economy.” The Chamber is working to put together a similar passport for local retail business that are open for pick up or delivery. If any business is interested they can contact the LO/BP Chamber through via email at lobpcmarketing@gmail.com or on their facebook page. Participants don’t have to be Chamber members. To purchase a Local Food Passport valued at over \$100 for only \$20, got to [www.lobpchamber.org](http://www.lobpchamber.org). Passports expire on July 31, 2020.

## Pre-COVID 19: Volunteers Gather to Fight Hunger



On February 1, local San Luis Obispo County Rotary Clubs & community members joined at Laguna Middle School in San Luis Obispo to package more than 13,000 meals with the humanitarian relief organization Rise Against Hunger. With the recent onset of COVID-19, efforts to fight hunger locally and worldwide are more important than ever. The meal packages prepared by volunteers were vegan, with a combination of rice, soy, dehydrated vegetables and a flavoring mix that includes 23 essential vitamins and minerals. Participating organizations can buy the materials for the packs at \$0.29 each and host events to get them put together and ready for shipment to disaster relief centers, school feeding programs, and orphanages. After packing, the food has a shelf-life of two years. Ninety percent of the aid is sent over-seas though partner organizations that run on the ground assistance in education and other methods where nutritional aid is an ancillary to their work.

## Cambria Scouts are Planting Their Future

By Jill Turnbow



Scouts Tristen Lehrmann, Shawn Lehrmann, Cameron Lehrmann and Lyla Melchtry with some of the plants for sale as part of a fundraiser.

The Cambria Scouts are growing their fundraising efforts by selling vegetables and herbs to help pay for their summer programs. In previous years, prior to the pandemic, the Scouts held spring fundraisers like pairing with Linn’s for chicken wings and football, BBQs and spaghetti dinners with help from the Sons of the American Legion, and a popcorn fundraiser, all are cancelled due to the coronavirus. Proceeds were to go to summer camp, which is also expected to be cancelled. “This would have been the first camp experience for the girls,” says Scoutmaster Jade Lehrmann-Bodine, “so of course it’s disappointing.” But, Jade came up with a new idea to help the Scouts cover their costs for uniforms and other activities by purchasing 1000 tomatoes, peppers, and herbs from Cuesta College, where she works. The plants were intended for a Cuesta fundraiser but that, too, got cancelled and the plants became available. Now the Scouts are selling them for \$5 each. “We still have costs and need the funds,” said Jade, the scoutmaster for the Girl Scout program and committee chair for the Cub Scout board. “All 5 of my kids are involved in the scout program. Shawn is 15, Tristen 14, Cameron 12, Lyla 11, and Owen is 9. They have really gotten into gardening, building garden boxes, and planting. They are learning about compost, fertilizer, and they are excited about the process.” There are 26 kids in the various Scout troops —12 Cub Scouts, eight Girl Scouts, and six Boy Scouts. They are learning how to start seeds, plant trees, and have started a mini-farm. “I think it’s important for the future of the earth. It’s important for them to learn how to grow their own produce and develop a curiosity about the future and sustainability,” said Jade. The scouting program in Cambria is open to boys and girls from the age of 11 to 17, while the Cub Scout program is open to all kids from kindergarten to fifth grade. Scouting provides adventure, friendships, learning, responsibility, and fun. It also instills a sense of community service and develops leadership skills. For this fundraiser the Scouts are offering up tomatoes, eggplants, and all kinds of peppers including bell peppers, sweet peppers, mild peppers, and a variety of herbs. Most were started from heirloom seeds. You can help the Scouts by purchasing plants for just \$5 each. They are available for pickup or delivery. Call Jade Lehrmann-Bodine at 805-927-5424 or text 805-395-1484 to make arrangements. Locations are being set up for pickup in SLO and Paso Robles as well. All proceeds go directly to the Scouts to help them keep growing.

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Kevin says,  
“Look for the ANT on the Door”



# Community

## May is Mental Health Awareness Month

The County of San Luis Obispo Behavioral Health Department supporting May Mental Health month by sharing messaging of hope, kindness and recovery. May Mental Health Awareness Month has historically helped reduce stigma, build wellness, break down barriers to treatment, and has overall helped strengthen our local communities.

Over 450 million people worldwide suffer from a mental illness, including 1 in 5 Americans. Now more than ever amid COVID-19 it is vital to recognize the importance of taking care of your mental health. As physical distancing and the shelter at home order continues, people are struggling to maintain good mental health. The Behavioral Health Department encourages individuals to reach out for help and know they are not alone.

“May Mental Health month is all about spreading awareness, love and support in our community,” said Caroline Johnson, communications coordinator for Behavioral Health. “It’s about opening up and sharing our own experiences with others, so we can all make it through hard times together, especially now during our state of emergency. We know this year things look a little different and although we aren’t able to have our usual big events, we are still challenging everyone to show their support for mental health in other ways.”

The Behavioral Health Department is partnering with Transitions Mental Health Association (TMHA) to host ‘Mental Health Resource Drive Thrus’ for the community. The drive thrus will offer SLO County residents a chance to pick up mental health care packages and learn about ways they can receive virtual mental health supports during the COVID-10 pandemic.

Behavioral Health has also created a webpage where community members and mental health advocates can go and show their support for Mental Health Awareness month. The website includes downloadable resources for

the community as well as virtual and at-home activities meant to inspire individuals and families to practice self-care and start conversations around mental health. The department is also highlighting the different ways San Luis Obispo County residents’ show their support on their Facebook and Instagram as well. Virtual awards will be given to outstanding citizens and community organizations who support Mental Health Awareness Month efforts. To get involved, the public can visit <http://www.slocounty.ca.gov/MayMH> and/or follow Behavioral Health on Facebook and Instagram at @slobehavioralhealth.

## Garden Club Members Add Mulch to Library Garden



Wendy McKeown, president and Debbie Weitzman, vice president of Los Osos Valley Garden Club give each other a socially distanced high-five for completing the project. Not pictured is Alex Van Nuys, treasurer who also helped with the mulching.

Recently, members of the Los Osos Valley Garden Club (LOVGC) finished spreading mulch at the Los Osos Library Pollinator Garden. While maintaining social distancing during this time



of the COVID-19 pandemic, a few members filled buckets of mulch from the back of a pickup truck and applied it around all the plants and trees to help retain soil moisture, reduce weed growth, and beautify the garden. Sea Pines Golf Resort donated the mulch. This garden was originally installed by the club alongside the parking lot at the Los Osos Library in early 2019. Spreading mulch over the garden is a vital part of maintaining the many drought tolerant plants that attract bees, butterflies and hummingbirds. LOVGC members encourage people to stop by the library and enjoy this public garden and the pollinators who visit it.

## Nurse Creates ‘Serenity Room’

Stephanie Walczuk, a French Hospital Medical Center (FHMC) Telemetry Unit RN, created a “Serenity Room” for fellow staff to provide a space of calm and relaxation during these considerably stressful times for health care employees. The tranquil space is filled with items from Stephanie’s own home, as well as from an outpouring of community donations, and will offer additional support to FHMC staff, aside from what chaplains and social workers already provide to employees.

“After researching how I could help provide my amazing staff with additional support during the COVID-19 pandemic, I was led to create this space as a way for my colleagues to practice self-care and self-reflection during their breaks, says Walczuk. “By providing this space, I hope to offer a form of decompression to help improve their overall health and wellbeing, as well as foster resiliency, for those that visit the space. I know it is needed, and I am so happy I can help in providing this additional support to them.

Stephanie spent weeks planning and preparing the room, as a special gift to her colleagues for the first day of National Nurses Week, which took place May 6 -12. The serene space is quiet with low light, and includes greenery, aromatherapy, relaxing white noise, massage chairs, a place to stretch or do yoga, and inspirational reading materials. She filled the space with items she knew would be calming for those that needed a break from



Stephanie Walczuk stands in the Serenity Room she created at French Hospital Medical Center.

daily operations. The room is located within the hospital centralized between the Telemetry Unit, Critical Care, and the Family Birthing Center, and will likely get much use. To donate items as well as make financial contributions to support the Serenity Room go to [supportfrenchhospital.org/serenity-room](http://supportfrenchhospital.org/serenity-room) or contact the French Hospital Foundation at (805) 542-6496.

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Wilson Adobe, Turri Ranch  
Pencil drawing by Joan Sullivan. 1975

How did you spend Mother’s Day? I enjoyed going down memory lane with my daughter, Lynne. By memory lane I mean Turri Road. Turri Road is a 4.6 mile long winding road that can be taken from Los Osos Valley through to South Bay Boulevard or by way of South Bay Blvd to Los Osos Valley Road.

My nostalgia for Turri Road began in the early 1970s, when I painted on the Turri Ranch with the Thursday Location Painting Class. We were invited back several times by Joe and Margaret Turri. On one occasion Mr. Turri gave the class a tour of the adobe. It was called the Wilson Adobe because it was owned by John Wilson who bought 32,000 acres of the valley ( Rancho La Canada de Los Osos y Pecho Y Islay) in 1845 that included the adobe built by the missionaries in the early 1800s.

The Turri family moved from Cambria to the ranch in 1901, when Mr. Turri was six-years-old.

I made a recording of his tour and family history.

“Us kids slept here,” he said as he pointed to a room on the ground floor, as we both climbed the very steep wooden stairwell to the second story of the 90-foot long adobe. We walked from one end of the second story to the other end passing through three areas separated by two walls.

Mr. Torri said he worked the ranch from the time he was 8-years-old. At 15 he was a ‘sack sewer’ during harvesting. He went on to say that “20 men worked alongside the horse driven steam engine. There were two sack fillers and two sack sewers. One water bucket hauled for 18 horses

and an engine. The engine burned hay. One straw buck, bucked straw away from the separator. One cook in the cookhouse fed a crew of 18. Two sack tenders, one separator tender, one engineer; one fireman stoked and fed the fire. When the steam engine came down the valley drawn by 18 horses, all the kids got out of school to see it and follow it. It made so much noise and caused such a sight. It went through the valley to all the ranches. The header cut the hay and barley.”

Another Turri Road ranch my class visited was The Tonnini Ranch and the Gianoliin Ranch, just north of the Turri Ranch.

Those were the days that came to mind on my memory lane Turri Road drive on Mothers Day.

*Reference: “Rounding Up The Ranches”  
by Joan Sullivan 2015*

### Free Online Meditation

There will be a free Introduction to Meditation classes on the first four Mondays in June at 6 p.m. Each Session is approximately 90 minutes and uses Zoom Video

Learn the essential basics of how and why to meditate

- June 1 - Session One: Mindfulness of Body
- June 8 - Session Two: Mindfulness of Thoughts
- June 15 - Session Three: Mindfulness of Emotions
- June 22 - Session Four: Mindfulness of Heart

This program is presented by the Love Alive Mindfulness Meditation Group, LLC of Los Osos. To enroll or ask questions, send an email to Signup@LoveAliveLO.com. Learn more at [www.LoveAliveLO.com](http://www.LoveAliveLO.com).

### Virtual Meeting to Support Marine Sanctuary

People looking to help support the designation of the Chumash National Marine Sanctuary are asked to take part in a virtual meeting to let their voice be heard.

NOAA is looking for public comment orally on a May 27 webinar, or by written comments submitted by June 15. Interested parties must register for the webinar at <https://register.gotowebinar.com/register/4932780103863725068>

This designation would complete an ocean expanse to include the Monterey National Marine Sanctuary and the Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary to the south.

The sanctuary would help address a host of issues faced by the stretch of ocean off California’s Central Coast, serving to organize and stimulate marine research, education, stewardship, and recreation and tourism in and adjacent to the proposed sanctuary waters, according to event organizers.

On May 4, 2020, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration announced a 5-year review of the nomination of the CHNMS to assess whether conditions that warranted its inclusion in their inventory of nominated sites still apply, including the needs and interests of the local community and the nation.

Presented by The Morro Bay Chamber of Commerce

### Mike’s Barber Shop



Jon Elliott

The owner of Mike’s Barber Shop is a man of many names, but is mostly known as Barber Jon.

Jon Elliott started working at Mike’s in 2010 and bought the shop in 2012, where he now has ten barbers who lease chair space from him between his Morro Bay and San Luis Obispo locations. At one time, Jon owned four barber shops in the county and during that period accumulated a lot of gear.

When the County classified barbers and salons as non-essential businesses, Jon shuttered his doors and cancelled appointments. Within no time, he was contacted by desperate customers who needed haircuts. Abiding by the State and County health guidelines meant not being in contact with clients, even if that meant turning down exorbitant amounts of cash. He was offered anywhere from \$100 to \$1020 to perform a haircut during the quarantine!

Jon decided to take another approach to helping his customers. He gathered, fixed and sanitized his extra equipment so he could sell or lend kits to those in need. Clients text Barber Jon, who then assembles a kit based on their needs and sets it on the truck fender in his driveway to facilitate a contactless pick up. So far, he has provided over 20 kits at no charge to people willing to take a crack at

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**BREAKFAST SPECIAL** - 1 Egg, 2 pieces of bacon.  
Choice of home fries, sliced tomato or cottage cheese + toast.....\$9.00

**A LA CARTE** - 2 Eggs, choice of home fries, cottage cheese or Sliced tomatoes. Toast included.....\$9.50

**EGG SANDWICH** - English muffin toasted, topped with scrambled egg, slice tomato and Jack cheese, coleslaw, pickle & carrot.....\$9.50

**LOS OSOS SCRAMBLE** - 2 Eggs scrambled with snow peas, chicken sausage, mushrooms & Jack cheese, home fries, cottage cheese or sliced tomato. Toast included.....\$14.50

**PORK CHOPS & EGGS** - 2 Chops breaded with 2 eggs, choice of home fries, sliced tomato or cottage cheese. Toast included.....\$15.00

**BREAKFAST BURRITO**  
Bacon, ham or sausage, also includes coleslaw, pickle & carrot.....\$11.75

**PANCAKES** - 3 Buttermilk cakes.....\$8.00

**BELGIAN WAFFLE**.....\$9.50  
Add: Bacon, ham or sausage.....\$13.50

**OATMEAL** - Cup.....\$5.50 Bowl.....\$7.00  
Add: Blueberries or strawberries.....+\$2.00 ea.

**CALIFORNIA BAGEL** - Toasted bagel layered with cream cheese, tomato cucumber, red onion, avocado, sprouts. Includes coleslaw, pickle & carrot.....\$10.50

**LOX & BAGEL**  
Toasted bagel with cream cheese, served with Norwegian smoked salmon, sliced tomato, red onion, capers. Includes coleslaw, pickle & carrot.....\$15.50

**BAGEL W/ CREAM CHEESE**.....\$3.75

**BLINTZES**  
Crepes filled with ricotta and cream cheese, topped with raspberry sauce and dusted with powdered sugar. Side of applesauce.....\$11.50

**HOMEMADE BISCUIT & GRAVY**.....\$8.00 OR ½ ORDER \$4.50

**HOMEMADE HASH** - 2 eggs, choice of home fries, cottage cheese or tomatoes, toast or muffin.....\$16.50

**12 OZ. NEW YORK STEAK & EGGS** - 2 eggs to order, home fries, tomato or cottage cheese and toast or muffin.....\$19.00

**BACON OMELETTE** - Bacon & tomatoes, with your choice of cheese, avocado.....\$13.50

**DENVER OMELETTE**  
Ham, bell peppers & grilled onions with cheddar cheese.....\$13.00

**FLORENTINE OMELETTE**  
Fresh spinach, mushrooms & your choice of cheese.....\$13.00

**MEXICAN OMELETTE**  
Chorizo sausage, tomato, black olives, mushrooms & cheddar.....\$13.50

**VEGETABLE OMELETTE**  
Egg whites only, fresh spinach, tomatoes & mushrooms. Topped with Jack cheese, avocado & sprouts.....\$15.00

**GARDEN OMELETTE** - Broccoli, carrots & cauliflower with Jack cheese.....\$13.00

**SMOKED SALMON OMELETTE** - Smoked Salmon, tomatoes & scallion. Topped with avocado, sour cream on the side.....\$17.00

**SEAFOOD OMELETTE** - Bay Shrimp, Crab, Green Onion, Mushrooms & Jack cheese topped with Hollandaise sauce.....\$17.50

**GREEK OMELETTE** - Sauteed spinach, tomato, black olives and Feta cheese.....\$14.00

**TRADITIONAL BENEDICT** - with ham.....\$13.50

**BENEDICT SUPREME** - with eggplant, asparagus, tomato.....\$14.50

**COUNTRY BENEDICT** - Patty sausage w/ country gravy.....\$15.00

**VEGETABLE BENEDICT** - Avocado & sliced tomato.....\$14.00

**BEEF BURGER** - all the fixin’s.....\$9.95

**MUSHROOM BURGER**  
Mushrooms, Jack cheese & the fixin’s.....\$11.95

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Chicken breast, Ortega chili, pepper Jack cheese & avocado.....\$11.95

**SOUSDOUGH MELT**  
Thin sliced roast beef, Ortega chili & Jack Cheese.....\$11.95

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Tuna served on Rye with grilled onions and cheddar cheese.....\$10.50

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**SAVORY RUBEN**  
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Whole wheat bread, mayo, hand carved turkey, lettuce, tomato and red onion.....\$12.95

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3 slices whole wheat bread, hand carved turkey, bacon, sliced tomato, lettuce and mayo.....\$12.95

**HOT TURKEY**  
with mashed potatoes, gravy & cranberry sauce.....\$12.95

**HEALTH NUT**  
Whole wheat bread, mayo, cucumbers, Jack cheese, tomato, sprouts and avocado.....\$10.50

**PHILLY CHEESE STEAK**  
Soft French roll filled w/beef steak topped with grilled onions and bell peppers.....\$11.95

**ORANGE SALAD**  
Mixed greens topped with chicken breast, sweet oranges, red onion, avocado in sweet soy dressing.....\$14.50

**COBB SALAD**  
Roasted turkey, tomato, onion & bacon, avocado w/blue cheese crumbles, hard boiled egg with homemade blue cheese dressing.....\$14.50

**SPINACH SALAD**  
Fresh spinach w/red onion, tomato, toasted pine nuts, hard boiled egg, blue cheese crumbles with pomegranate dressing.....\$12.00

**CAESAR SALAD**  
Traditional with Parmesan cheese and croutons.....\$10.50

**CHICKEN CAESAR**  
Traditional with grilled chicken, tomato, Parmesan cheese and croutons.....\$13.50

**SEALED TUNA CAESAR** -  
Traditional topped with seared tuna, tomato and Parmesan cheese.....\$14.50

**SHRIMP LOUIS** - Bay shrimp on mixed greens w/tomato, hard boiled egg, cucumber, avocado & homemade 1000 island dressing.....\$14.50

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12 May 21, 2020 - June 3, 2020 • The Estero Bay News • Your Community, Your News



facilitating a home haircut.

How do the cuts turn out? Clients often send him before and after photos. He says most end up just shaving it all off. After all, cutting hair is an art and most people aren't both double jointed and ambidextrous.

As a business owner and landlord, he has waived booth rental fees for his barbers. He understands that they are hurting too. During the last month, Barber Jon has decided to make the best use of his empty shops and is focusing on getting them in tip-top shape for when they reopen.

"I normally work 80 hours a week. This is a good time to do all of those things that are on your list to be productive. I decided to detail and do the little repairs at the barbershop, which has been open since 1941," said Jon. "It's a good time to prioritize those other things now, such as cleaning, repairing and marketing. Everyone has a different list of things that are needed. As long as it doesn't involve contact with other people, my recommendation to other non-essential businesses is to be productive and use this time to get organized in order to benefit your business in the long run."

### She ROSE Journey



Audrie Marie

In times of crisis, there are people who rise to the top to take care of our wellbeing. Some are called into action to share with us new workouts and recipes to keep our body in shape and others are driven to support our mental wellbeing, with meditations and coaching. For some, these people have been literal lifesavers during this pandemic.

Audrie Marie is the website manager for Morro Bay Garden and a digital marketing consultant for Beads by the Bay, located in downtown Morro Bay. As non-essential businesses, the storefronts have been closed since mid-March and Audrie has therefore been out of work.

During this period Audrie Marie has been using her training as a certified holistic coach and healer to support the community by offering her favorite resources for managing high anxiety during these uncertain times. This includes conducting free daily Facebook Live sessions where she teaches viewers everything from EFT Tapping therapy to essential oils.

"We are in the middle of a collectively stressful time," said Audrie Marie. "If people find themselves struggling with high anxiety right now, that is a perfectly natural reaction to have when we're in a global crisis. There is nothing 'wrong' with them and there are many simple resources that can help, starting with being kind and gentle with themselves if they are going through it."

Audrie Marie has leveraged her downtime to continue building towards her dream of working for herself fulltime. Her company, she ROSE journey, is an online business where she takes the tech and stress out of helping women entrepreneurs pivot their business quickly to be able to serve their customers online. You could say she has combined her love for helping others and her talent for marketing into one platform.

For more information, go to <https://sherojourney.com/>.

*The Morro Bay Chamber of Commerce created Rock Solid Together, a continuing series of stories about people and businesses in the community going above and beyond during the coronavirus crisis. They can be reached via their website at [MorroChamber.org](http://MorroChamber.org).*



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# Letters to the Editor



## Keep the Police Blotter As Is

I hope you do not make any changes to the Police Blotter as a response to Janet Meza's letter (vol. 2, Issue 17). It is the best thing about this great little paper! If we eliminate any kind of humor that could offend someone there would be no humor at all. I've never seen the Police Blotter make light of suicide or death and it certainly did not in the instance referred to by Janet.

Depression, drug and alcohol addition are sad but there is a lot of help for these people. If they choose not to get help there are consequences. Drug and alcohol addition is not a free pass to commit crimes.

I wish the best to Janet and offer condolences for her loss. I have also lost someone to an accidental overdose but choose to find humorous references about alcohol or drug intake and the resulting behaviors as just a way to lighten up these dark parts of life.

Heidi Kausch  
Los Osos

## Sewer Plant Makes me Sick

Every time now that I leave my parents' home in Los Osos to return to mine in Morro Bay, I pull up onto Highway 1 off of South Bay Blvd. and immediately see the initial construction of the totally unaffordable sewer plant, and I literally get sick to my stomach. We all know how much financial harm it will do to the low-income citizens of Morro Bay, along with the elderly citizens on a fixed income.

We also know how it will financially harm the many small business owners like the restaurants and t-shirt shops because 100 million dollars in one time discretionary money will now have to be spent on the construction of the Water Reclamation Facility boondoggle—a new plant could have been built 8 years ago for a 100 million dollars less on the abandoned Hanson Concrete property.

What is sad is that the designer of the original plant

still has the blueprints in his garage, and he is still shocked that our previous mayor, Jamie Irons, purposely killed the project at a very clandestine California Coastal Commission meeting where he begged the CCC to NOT issue a permit for the then designed plant, repeatedly lying to them about the need to move it to pristine agricultural land behind an assisted living facility while lying about the true increase in cost.

There is no question in our minds that under-the-table payoffs occurred while back room deals were made with Tri-W Enterprises and Black & Veatch. It is now too late to stop the project, and save the many low-income people, some who may be forced to leave their homes. Oh what I wouldn't give to connect with a couple of whistle blowers from Tri-W or Black & Veatch, since whistle blowing is now in style and has become a badge of honor and courage.

Mark C. Hanson  
Morro Bay

## This is Why it Matters

President Cleveland declared in 1892 that the public office is a public trust: officers and employees must be accountable, serving with responsibility, integrity, and justice.

Enter Morro Bay City Council. The city manager blatantly misquotes the City's purchase price of Cerrito Peak (\$350,000) reducing it by \$85,000 for the benefit of the non-profit who volunteered to recoup the money for the City's emergency fund. When presented with documentation, prior to the meeting so a correction could be made, neither elected officials nor manager would address the price and accompanying details. In fact, the city attorney cloaked support for the manager's misdeed.

I have no issue with Council, through discussion, amending its previous stance (three of the five same members were present at both meetings). My issue is that they and city employees accepted misrepresentation to get the desired outcome they wanted at the expense of the public trust. What's wrong with correcting, apologizing? It's what we teach in school and church!

This is not Orwell's 1984: You don't get to rewrite history and get away with it. I condemn the City Council, manager, and attorney for violating the public trust. What else have you/will you misinformed the public about?

Betty Winboltz  
Morro Bay

*Please include your full name and town you live in on all letters sent. Although we do welcome longer opinion pieces, publishing is as space permits. Estero Bay News reserves the right to edit for length and clarity. Email letters to [editor@esterobaynews.com](mailto:editor@esterobaynews.com)*

## Correction



In last issue's (Vol. 2, Issue 7) photo spread about the Del Mar School's teachers' parade the cutline didn't match the photos. The correct photo is shown here, and from left are: Del Mar students Dean Thompson and Avila Haugen, mom Danelle Haugen, student Nora Haugen and in front is their future student, Liberty 'Libby' Haugen, who turned out to cheer on the caravan of vehicles. Sorry about the mix up.



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City Chamber From page 1

Before the pandemic, the City was looking into moving the center down to a storefront at 595 Embarcadero, in a spot vacated last year by The Paddleboard Company.

The City asked for a proposal from the Chamber to move the visitor’s center and the Chamber worked up designs and budgets. That all got put on hold when the virus hit but was already in trouble after the TBID Advisory Board gave it a lukewarm reception over the costs.

Over a 5-year contract, the Chamber’s proposal including some \$37,500 of remodeling costs, ran to an estimated \$157,000 the first year, with future years at \$121,000 for a total of \$664,000. The City would continue with its \$50,000 a year (\$250,000 over 5 years) with the TBID picking up the rest of the costs, some \$414,000.

Chamber CEO Erica Crawford told Estero Bay News, “The decision to terminate our agreement was not made lightly, and was not made without its own challenging consequences.

“With sensitivity to the economic damage that has been caused to our community’s businesses, with deep appreciation of the damage that this crisis is doing to the City’s finances and its organization, and because the center was closed due to the Governor’s shelter-at-home order, the Chamber terminated its contract to operate a Visitor Center for the City of Morro Bay.”

The handful of employees that manned the visitor’s center, some of whom have been with the center since it was down in the Boatyard Center, are now out of work.

“Our dedicated and brilliant staff working in the Visitor Center has been laid off and our existing Chamber staff has fielded hundreds of phone calls from future visitors over the last two months,” Crawford said. “It is clear that the demand to visit Morro Bay remains strong and will factor into our economy post-COVID, and that’s a good omen for Morro Bay’s economic future.”

In the Chamber’s proposal, Crawford noted that in 2019 the center recorded 5,072 total visitors, a decrease from 2016 by some 8,225. Crawford said the cost per inquiry was about \$10, which is too high.

The number of visitors coming in has slowed considerably since it moved to Harbor Street.

The City believes this may be a reflection of a change in how tourists gather information, turning instead to the many travel websites accessible online and via smart phone. That realization has led to questions about whether the old model is still relevant.

Crawford said, “Until just before this crisis we had been working collaboratively in pursuit of a new model to deliver our services more efficiently and effectively. We hope to pick up that mantle as soon as recovery allows.”

Meanwhile, the Chamber’s annual lease for space in the building at 695 Harbor was renewed for \$1 a year for two years. In exchange, the Chamber will continue with an economic development program it’s been running for the City since 2015. It includes increased services in terms of that economic development program in exchange for a raise in funding.

“Approval of the proposed modifications to the economic development services contract with the Chamber,” Collins’ report said, “ will result in annual increase of \$16,000 per year, to account for the expanded scope of services being provided by the Chamber. The current annual expense for that contract is \$62,000. This proposal would increase that contract to \$78,000 per year [\$6,500 a month].”

The contract changes, “include the Chamber providing additional services to our local business community,” Collins said, “partnering at the regional level for state and federal assistance and assisting the City and business community in the long-term recovery efforts, in addition to the services provided to the City prior to COVID-19.”

But the Chamber hasn’t waited for a new contract before helping local businesses survive the pandemic and what’s expected to be a terrible summer for business in town. Crawford said they’ve been helping local businesses in conjunction with others.

“As the COVID-19 outbreak continues to evolve,” Crawford said, “we recognize the pandemic will have lasting economic effects on our regional business community. The Central Coast Coalition of Chambers, of which the MB Chamber is a part, has sent a survey to the region’s business community so we can better understand how COVID-19 is affecting business, and how each Chamber in the Coalition can best support and advocate for their members in the coming weeks and months.

“Questions about EIDL and PPP are included in the survey. Anecdotally, there are local businesses whose federal assistance has landed but we do not yet have a complete nor accurate accounting of how many.”

Asked if she had any good news for EBN’s readers, Crawford said, “The Chamber has been sharing ‘Rock Solid Stories’ of resilience and adaptation in our local business community. These stories are written by Chamber staff, shared a few times a week via social media, and can be found on the Chamber’s website at: [www.morrochamber.org/rock-solid-stories](http://www.morrochamber.org/rock-solid-stories).”

And they of course look forward to when the pandem-

ic ends and the world returns to somewhat normal. “The Chamber looks forward to working again in partnership with the City to engage visitors at some future date uncertain,” Crawford said.

Editors Note:  
*In addition to social media and the Chamber’s website, Estero Bay News will share some of the articles in the Rock Solid Stories series. See story page 12.*

Lost Summer From page 1

postponed until sometime in the fall.

Of note: this list doesn’t include the many classes and programs put on by local churches and public libraries, or the many school events like concerts, sports and plays, that while not integral to tourism, are part of what makes living here great.

The Art Association’s Plein Art Festival was to have been the inaugural event and Art in the Park is practically an institution.

Patricia Newton, President of the Art Association said, “Art in the Park, is canceled for May 2020. We’re still hopeful for July and September. While we are deeply saddened by this decision, we are adapting to changes consistent with policies mandated by state and local officials.”

Proceeds from the County’s largest outdoor art sale (happening three times a year), support scholarships for art students — high school, community college and university — as well as the Association’s Art Gallery on Main Street and it’s many educational programs.

“We’re going through a challenging time right now,” Newton said, “however, we continue to look toward the future. With the support and generosity of volunteers, donors and businesses like Art Central, Morro Bay Art Association is proud to award \$10,500 in scholarships this year, to help deserving students continue their educational endeavors.”

The Cayucos Lost at Sea Memorial annually draws 250-300 people for the solemn ceremony dedicated to the memory of all persons lost at sea.

“The Lost at Sea committee,” committee member Trudy O’Brien said in an email to Estero Bay News, “has decided with very heavy hearts to cancel the Lost at Sea ceremony this year.”

It had been slated for Memorial Day, Monday, May 25, at the Cayucos Pier Plaza. But while the plaza is open, the pier has been closed for about 2 months after the County barricaded the parking spaces along Front Street and the parking lot at the Vet’s Hall.

Keeping social distancing at this well-attended ceremony would frankly be impossible. “So many people who attend Lost at Sea are in the older age range, too,” O’Brien added, “so it’s probably for the best.”

Her attitude is still positive. “Yes, it is very sad,” she said, “but just think about how special it is going to be when we have these events again. That’s the way I’m looking at it.”

Newton has a similar outlook. “Covid-19 has taken many by surprise,” Newton said. “While we’ve sheltered

in place and our economy sits in some form of medically induced coma, we’re reminded how essential many workers are, not only to the economy, but to our community. A heartfelt appreciation to those who work on the frontline!”

In Los Osos, all the wonderful free concerts and dance parties — from Baywood’s Beer at the Pier to Sea Pines’ barefoot dance parties — have been canceled.

St. Benedict’s Hollister Institute’s classes and study groups now meet via Zoom, the Internet video service. See: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81626646241> or call (669) 900-6833 meeting ID 816 2664 6241. Call St. Bene’s at (805) 528-0654 if you need help navigating Zoom.

In Cambria, the 4th of July is canceled but Pinedorado Days is still on the schedule for Sept. 5-7. The Annual Pinedorado Parade is right now scheduled for 10 a.m. Saturday, Sept. 5. The Pinedorado Fairgrounds will have live music, great food, kiddie rides and a car show on Sunday. Unless it gets canceled too.

And as of now, the Cambria Scarecrow Festival, which runs throughout the month of October, is also still on, otherwise the Cambria calendar of events for May-August is blank.

Paul Irving, publisher of Big, Big SLO a music and special event promoter in SLO County as well as a contributor to Estero Bay News, saw his business drop off a cliff when literally all the music venues in SLO County and beyond canceled all their shows.

“It’s a big old punch in the gut for everybody,” Irving said.

A professional trumpet player himself, Irving organizes the weekly Beer at the Pier free music shows at the Blue Heron on 2nd Street in Baywood Park. May was to be the start of the outdoor shows.

He’s had to adapt. “I’ve built my whole life around live music and special events,” said Irving, a trumpeter with Zongo All Stars and other groups. “I asked myself ‘What do I do?’”

He decided to move online and is organizing regular virtual concerts including a relaunch of Beer at the Pier last Monday, organizing and assisting musicians with the quality of what they’ve already been putting out on their own. “I wanted to provide an actual, focused event with high quality audio and visual.”

He’s working with SLO Brew and has a stage in SLO where bands can play for the online streaming events — sans a crowd. See: [www.bigbigslo.com/houseparty](http://www.bigbigslo.com/houseparty) to enjoy the music. And see: [www.bigbigslo.com/events](http://www.bigbigslo.com/events) when live music is resurrected.

At Los Osos’ Sea Pines Golf Resort, the popular Barefoot Concerts on the Green have been put on hold “Until further guidance is given from the State,” reads a notice on the resort’s website.

Owner Gary Setting said they “are taking it week by week. We’re at the mercy of the local public health officials, the Governor, whenever they decide” to allow reopening.

He said they’ve thought about how they might hold the Saturday outdoor concerts, have been speaking with the bands, and could possibly limit the crowd size by requiring reservations in advance to attend, even though the

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shows are free admission.  
Setting added, “Obviously there’s a pent up demand,” for live music and fun events like the Concerts on the Green.

They’ve made adjustments in all areas of their business — motel, golf course and clubhouse/restaurant. The clubhouse is open for takeout, Setting said, the golf course is open for play, and the motel has been available mainly for local folks who need emergency accommodations.

“We’re grateful to all the locals who’ve kept us open,” Setting said.

Festival Mozaic, the annual summer celebration of classical music that holds concerts all across SLO County, announced that its 50th Anniversary season, originally scheduled for July 18-Aug. 1, has been moved to July 17-31, 2021.

The Avila Beach Blues Festival, originally scheduled for this month has been postponed too. “The 27th Annual Avila Beach Blues Festival, featuring George Thorogood & the Destroyers, the band WAR and Christone “Kingfish” Ingram, originally scheduled for Sunday, May 24, 2020 has been rescheduled to Sunday, May 30, 2021.

“George Thorogood & the Destroyers and the band WAR have confirmed the new date. Opening act TBA.”

Those who have tickets for this year’s show can use them for the show next year. Email to: info@otterproductionsinc.com for information on that.

Big annual events that are still to be decided on include the biggest of them all — the Mid State Fair. “As of today the California Mid State Fair will take place, as scheduled July 22 to Aug. 2,” reads an announcement on the Fair’s website.

Exactly what that would look like remains to be seen, as social distancing could prove difficult for the over 100,000 people who normally attend the fair over its 2-week run.

They’ve announced several headliner acts — Carrie Underwood, Pentatonix, Eric Church, Dan + Shay, and Ann Wilson of Heart, but the majority of dates remain open.

Free shows announced so far are Blue Oyster Cult, A Thousand Horses, Uncle Kracker, LeAnn Rimes and Banda Machos.

There’s still a glimmer of hope for Morro Bay Chamber of Commerce’s Avocado-Margarita Festival, slated for Saturday, Sept. 12 on the Embarcadero. “We are closely monitoring State and County mandates on events in our region with regard to COVID-19,” Chamber CEO Erica Crawford said, “and will move forward with next steps as information and recommendations become available to us.”

So while the coronavirus shutdown of the economy has hit most businesses hard, and devastated government budgets, it’s also eaten away at the myriad of special events, and music festivals that are an integral part of life on the Central Coast. This will indeed be a lost summer.

City ChamberPower Plant

hydrocarbons (TPH), polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs), metals, pesticides and volatile organic compounds (VOCs) in soil and groundwater that are greater than residential levels,” according to the DTSC.

But they don’t plan to clean it up. “The Statement of Basis proposes managing impacts in place by implementing a land use covenant [LUC] that restricts areas of the site to future commercial/industrial uses and restricts the use of groundwater across the site.”

This could prove problematic for the City of Morro Bay as parts of its plans for a new sewer treatment plant and water recycling facility include use of some areas of the power plant.

For example, the preferred project plans include running a raw sewage line from the City’s underground lift station in the parking lot on Front Street (lift station No. 2), through the power plant to connect with a new lift station under a property on Main Street next to Lemos Pet Supply store.

Also, the City’s investigations into the water recycling portion of its plans has been looking into possibly using an area of the power plant across from Lila Keiser Park for recycled water extraction wells, though that site would not appear to be a strong contender for the final plans.

According to a May 6 City report, “Overall, it is important to note the City’s existing wells on the MBPP site and the components of Water Reclamation Facility project that will run through that site (i) will not be impacted by this effort, (ii) is not impacted by the chemicals of concern and (iii) do not impact the concerns DTSC has raised.

“The wells and WRF components (pipeline and injection sites) are not located in any of the AOCs (areas of concern). That was verified with staff at DTSC. Conversely, the WRF project and City wells will not impact the Statement of Basis for the Morro Bay Power Plant.”

And Dynegy has submitted plans for a 200-megawatt, lithium battery facility to be built directly behind the main power plant building in an area marked AOC No. 4 on a DTSC map.

That 45,000 square foot, 2-story structure would house over 60,000 enormous batteries to store energy from sustainable sources.

That 450-foot long building will need some 720 to

1,000 piles driven 50-feet into the ground to anchor the foundation for earthquake safety, in a process that’s sure to upset the soil. But those potential impacts will be looked at as part of Vistra’s application.

Allowing PG&E to essentially leave contaminants in place, would mean the 117-acres of prime waterfront land couldn’t be used for residential use, unless fully cleaned up first.

According to DTSC, “A Soil Management Plan would also be established that describes the safe handling and disposal of contaminated soil should it be disturbed during any future earthmoving work.”

DTSC will require Dynegy to inspect and issue annual reports “to ensure the land use remains compliant with the LUC and that the site use remains protective over time. This proposed remedy would offer long-term protection of human health and the environment under approved land uses without causing any disruption to the community.”

As for environmental reviews, the DTSC said it’s not required. “The remedy will not require construction or implementation of a physical remedy; thus this activity is not a ‘project’ within the definition of CEQA [California Environmental Quality Act]. Therefore, this project is exempt from CEQA.”

Over the years DTSC has often handled contamination cases at the plant, most memorable being oil spilled underneath a fuel oil tank farm (AOC No. 1), and in the removal of thousands of pounds of asbestos wrapped around outdoor oil pipes at the tank farm.

Also, a chemical holding pond on site that was used to cool and store corrosive chemicals used in scouring the plant’s boilers has been the subject of past scrutiny by DTSC, is listed as AOC No. 8.

Over the years, various exercises have been undertaken on future uses of the power plant, and it along with the current sewer plant site on Atascadero Road figure prominently in the City’s future economic dreams.

Does DTSC’s actions and the fact that PG&E will not be cleaning up known contamination hurt future redevelopment? The City doesn’t think so.

“The proposed remedies outlined by DTSC,” the City report said, “does not mean no future residential or mixed-use development can occur on that site. It does mean, however, any residential or mixed-use project could be developed on the MBPP site, as long as the developer mitigated the contamination sufficiently for DTSC to approve uses beyond commercial/industrial, which would be allowed by the proposed LUC.

“The DTSC serves as the gatekeeper to ensure the use of the MBPP site is commensurate with the contamination on that site,” the City continued. “Further, the DTSC is not positioned to require the immediate removal of the contamination. That being said, the City does have some leverage with any current or future owners of the MBPP site, as the City can take possession of that site for \$1, because the MBPP has not provided at least 876,000 megawatts of power after September 30, 2013, and if the MBPP infrastructure is not fully demolished on or before March 31, 2034. That may incentivize the current or any future owner to demolish the plant and address contamination in order to make a profitable commercial, industrial, residential or mixed-use development possible. The City also retains its land use entitlement regulatory control of the MBPP site.”

In the early 2000s, as part of Duke Energy’s failed plan to replace the plant with a modern, fuel efficient power plant, estimated it would cost \$80 million to remove the 165-foot tall, 14-acre power plant building and its three, 450-foot tall smoke stacks.

That figure today would almost certainly be millions higher, and likely be even millions more expensive in 2034, when the City claims it could buy the property for \$1. This expense is perhaps why Dynegy has been unable to sell the property since it was shuttered in 2014.

Readers can access the DTSC’s reports online at: www.envirostor.dtsc.ca.gov/public/profile\_report?global\_id=80001832.

The extended comment period expires Friday, May 22. Email comments to DTSC Project Manager John Bystra at: John.Bystra@dtsc.ca.gov.

Check Out From page 1

and Kindle tablets. McMunn said most services should work on a computer on a computer as well.

The most popular online resources are Overdrive (home to over 1,000 titles available in eBook or audiobook format for use with an internet-capable computer or mobile device.), CloudLibrary (download bestsellers, classics, and more with an easy one-time login, one-click app), Kanopy (on-demand film streaming service), Hoopla (stream movies, music, television and more), and RBDigital (featuring digital magazines). The online Homework Help and Lynda.com classes are also highly successful.

Readers should know that number of titles that can be checked out vary from service to service. Further, there is a limit as to how many people can check out a particular item at a time.

“For the books, the limit is just one person at a time can check out each title,” McMunn said. “So we might have

several copies of a title, but each copy can only be checked out once at the same time. So you may have to wait. If there’s a really popular title, there might be a little bit of a wait on that.”

As for the future of digital libraries, they are here to stay.

“We anticipate investing more in digital materials,” McMunn said. “In the coming year, we will also continue to buy physical books and other AV (audiovisual) materials. But, we anticipate putting even more into digital because we think, for the time being, that’s still going to remain a really popular option, even when we’re able to open up and offer those traditional materials.”

People needing a little help with setting up and e-card or using online resources can call 805-781-5991 from 9 a.m.-1 p.m. or 805-461-6161 from or 1 p.m.-5 p.m. Monday through Friday.

“We were having some patrons that were, understandably, a little uncomfortable with digital materials and needed some guidance with some of these new things,” McMunn said. “In some cases, people’s families were able to help set them up. But we wanted to be there to walk people through the process.”

The following is a recent list of the 15 most popular eBooks people are downloading from the library’s CloudLibrary app:

- “Where the Crawdads Sing” by Delia Owens
- “The Giver of Stars” by Jojo Moyes
- “Harry Potter and the Sorcerer’s Stone” by J.K Rowling
- “Little Fires Everywhere” by Celeste Ng
- “The Boy from the Woods” by Harlan Coben
- “American Dirt” (Oprah’s Book Club) by Jeanine Cummins
- “Such a Fun Age” by Kiley Reid
- “Blue Moon” by Lee Child
- “The Dutch House” by Ann Patchett
- “Educated” by Tara Westover
- “Long Range” by C.J. Box
- “Becoming” by Michelle Obama
- “A Minute to Midnight” by David Baldacci
- “The Silent Patient” by Alex Michaelides
- “Before We Were Yours” by Lisa Wingate

“We also have a lot of really cool digital programs that we are getting ready to launch, including a series that highlights local farmers and food production, as well as mindfulness, online storytime, and so much more,” said Margaret Kensinger-Klopper, coordinating librarian, youth services County of San Luis Obispo Public Libraries.

For more information and to keep up to date on programs, check out the County of SLO Public Libraries social media pages on Facebook, Youtube, and Instagram.

Sheriff Investigates Cambria Burglary

Sheriff’s Department investigators are looking for the apparent swine who burglarized Cambria’s Sow’s Ear Restaurant.

According to Sheriff’s spokesman Tony Cipolla, on Wednesday, May 13, investigators responded to the Sow’s Ear, 2248 Main St., Cambria for a reported burglary.

“It’s believed the suspect(s) forced entry into the rear of the restaurant sometime between 1 a.m. and 6 a.m.,” Cipolla said in a news release, “and took a small safe, which contained cash and miscellaneous items.”

The Sheriff’s Office is asking anyone with information that could lead to the apprehension and conviction of the suspects and the recovery of the stolen safe to contact the Sheriff’s Office Detective Division at (805) 781-4500 or remain anonymous by calling Crime Stoppers at (805) 549-STOP (549-7867).

Submit tips to Crime Stoppers by downloading the free mobile app at P3TIPS.COM or submit tips through their website: www.slotips.org.

High Speed Chase From page 3

other man multiple times.

“The victim was able to flee the scene, and transport himself to a local hospital with non-life-threatening wounds,” said Sheriff’s spokesperson Tony Cipolla in a news release.

Deputies put out a “be on the lookout” bulletin for the suspect who fled the scene.

CHP soon located the vehicle and its driver in San Luis Obispo where a pursuit began. The chase ended at the intersection of Yerba Buena Street and Highway One in Morro Bay when the suspect’s car collided with another. Salazar rolled his vehicle and it came to rest on the passenger side.

“The suspect was able to extricate himself from the vehicle where he was arrested,” Cipolla said. “The suspect was taken to the hospital where he was medically cleared and then booked into custody.

Salazar was booked in San Luis Obispo County Jail on a charge of attempted murder. Salazar remains in custody with his bail set at \$500,000.

An investigation into the incident is ongoing.





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## For Sale

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### - Cambria -



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Priced to sell at \$ 695,000.00

### - Los Osos -

## For Rent

### - San Luis Obispo -



1250 2nd St.  
1/1 - \$1,200



651 Los Osos Valley Rd  
1/1 - \$1,300



1920 8th  
2/1 - \$1,600



640 Johnson  
1/1 - \$1,150



1101 Nipomo  
2/1 w/Garage- \$1,650



1908 7th  
2/2 - \$2,150



1409 Longbranch  
2/2 - \$1,645

### - Arroyo Grande -



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