

Changes Coming to Local Business Community

Story & Photos by Neil Farrell



Several long-time Morro Bay businesses have closed or are closing with one couple planning to retire and another leaving the entire state, fed up with California's high costs and high taxes.

Tireworks, TnT Boot Repair, Cookie Crock Warehouse Market and TKD Surf are among the local businesses that have closed or will be closing.

TKD, located at the corner of Main and Harbor streets, was a long-time surf and clothing shop. Last year the building, one of

the more distinctive in the Downtown area, was sold along with a store full of merchandise.

A fire sale has been ongoing at the store for months with deep discounts on everything and sold on a cash-only basis.

Cookie Crock Market has been the subject of rumor of its closing for months and seeing barren shelves would attest to the rumors being true. An employee said the plan was to sell down the stock and whatever is left would be taken to the company's flagship store in Cambria.

The Clegg Family owns cookie Crock. They started the Morro Bay store in the 1990s after Vons closed and after the opening of Albertsons Market just up the street. Vons and Albertson's are part of the same company.

There has been a push by some in the community to lobby Trader Joe's to take over the space but no successor has been named.

Though no announcements have been made, a clearance sale has been in full swing and the end could come as soon as this weekend. The space is being advertised for lease online since last August at \$1.25 per square foot; so the 19,500 s.f. space would cost more than \$24,000 a month. And the lease term being advertised runs to 2030.

Mick and Michelle Thies, owners of Tireworks & Automotive on Quintana Road, closed their shop March 7 and are getting out of Dodge, literally.

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Big Moves Afoot at Market Avenue Property

By Neil Farrell

The Morro Bay Skateboard Museum has kick-flipped its way into new digs but there could be a buyer for the City-owned property.

Formerly located in Marina Square on the Embarcadero, the Skateboard Museum was recently moved up the hill to 783 Market Ave., in a city-owned building adjacent to the Centennial Parkway and overlooking the waterfront.

The new location comes after lengthy negotiations with the City, for the space that was most recently a wine tasting room but has been empty for several years. Also,

several months ago, the City leased the larger portion of the building to Ciano Real Estate for \$1,000 a month. The space had most recently housed DiStasio's Italian Restaurant.

(The building's bottom floor, which still has a long wooden bar from its days as a nightclub, remains vacant and in disrepair. It isn't likely to reopen again unless someone can make the space handicap accessible.)

The City has listed the building, plus a small parking lot at Market and Pacif-

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City Facing Budget Deficit for 2019-2020

By Neil Farrell

Morro Bay officials are weighing options to overcome a projected deficit for the next fiscal year and beyond.

Finance Director Jennifer Calloway explained that back in February they informed the City Council of the looming problem during an update of the City's 10-year budget forecast.

For FY 2019-2020, they are projecting a \$325,000 budget deficit "primarily due to PERS," she said. PERS is the Public

Employee Retirement System and the issue is once again poor performance of PERS' investments, and lowering of the so-called "discount rate."

She added that it isn't just the PERS problem that the City is facing. Everything — from the cost for electricity and fuel for the city's fleet, to payroll, office supplies, and costs for medical insurance and other benefits, even the minimum wage — go up

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Get Your Motor Running



Photo Dean Sullivan

Car enthusiasts mark your calendars for the Crusin' Morro Bay Car Show May 2 – May 5. This family friendly event is celebrating 23 years of chrome and engines roaring showcasing classic to rare to muscle cars.

The first Car Show was organized by Ron McIntosh, the late Steve Carnes and the late Dave Tope in 1997 with 125 registrants. All of the men were members of Rotary and utilized their guidance to launch the show and then created the non-profit organization that puts on the event every year. Today more than 500 people from

across the state and beyond participate with thousands of spectators.

Organizers say important elements to the show's success are the many volunteers, business owners, and the growing number of sponsors who help offset the expenses of the show from insurance, permits, art design, printing, and advertising to garbage removal and more.

From the beginning, it was the objective of the Cruisin' Morro Bay Car Show to support the community. In keeping with that, the following organizations serving Morro Bay were recent recipients of dona-

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Giving is Good for our Community

By Theresa-Marie Wilson

Two Los Osos women are launching an organization to help those in need throughout SLO County.

Kara Strauss and Rebecca Espy founded GIVESlo, a non-profit dedicated to building a community network to donate items, time, and money to meet essential need. Their efforts are a continuation and expansion of the work of Sandy Richardson who started SLO Womenade about 15 years ago and recently retired.

"We want to be broad spectrum, meaning we don't want to be pigeonholed into one thing," said Rebecca, co-founder of GIVESlo. "There is such a demand in the county for a variety of needs."

Those needs can be anything from helping to pay a utility bill, providing a child car seat for a new mother, or helping with medical expenses.

Need referrals will come from schools, medical professionals, county health departments, and social services.

"We want to build a very successful, sustainable and transparent non-profit that truly becomes a valued resource for the referring partners in this community," said Kara, founder of GIVESlo and owner of Bloom Microgreens.

Both women say giving to others is beneficial to their own lives.

"It's just in my heart," said Rebecca. "I've always had this desire to help. I think, innately, we all do. It brings me joy to know



Kara Strauss and Rebecca Espy founders of GIVESlo

that somebody is getting aid from the work that we are doing."

Kara echoed that sentiment.

"For the last 5 or so years, I have had the spark inside to do good work of this kind, to help others in need, to spread awareness about what the critical needs are in our community and to be of service," she said. "I am thrilled to carry on the mission of SLO Womenade with GIVESlo."

Kara and Rebecca are working to get all the paperwork and fees in order to officially become a non-profit and expect that to be complete by early May. A board of directors is in the process of forming and a website (GIVESlo.org) is in the works.

As far as sustaining GIVESlo, they hope to build on the list of donors Wome-

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Neighborhood Watch Meets May 9

Morro Bay residents concerned about the safety of themselves and their neighbors are encouraged to join the Neighborhood Watch organization and get informed and involved.

Begun in March 2001, Morro Bay Neighborhood Watch Association, Inc., meets monthly to discuss issues and volunteer opportunities, and more.

“Neighborhood Watch,” reads the group’s quarterly newsletter (April edition), “is homeland security at the most local level. It is an opportunity to volunteer and works towards increasing the safety and security of our homes and our homeland. NW empowers citizens and communities to become active to emergency preparedness, as well as their fight against crime and community disasters.”

Among the programs is Community Emergency Response Team training or CERT, designed to teach residents about disaster preparedness and disaster response, and increase the likelihood of someone surviving natural disasters. From fires to floods and earthquakes — CERT training will give you the skills you need to survive and to help others.

“By joining our organization,” MBNW President Carole Truesdale wrote, “people can discuss concerns with their local MBPD during the different meetings, participate in the fun events that we support with our local law enforcement personnel and become better neighbors to those that we may already know or meet new friends who have the same goal — keeping Morro Bay neighborhoods safe for generations.”

The next Neighborhood Watch meeting is set for 6-7 p.m. Thursday, May 9 at the Church of Christ, 1001 Las Tunas Ave., Morro Bay. The meeting is also a potluck supper, one more benefit of Neighborhood Watch.

Readers can also follow Morro Bay Neighborhood Watch on Facebook.

New V.P. for R & D at C.P.

Cal Poly has appointed Renee A. Reijo Pera, an internationally recognized stem cell biologist, as vice president for Research and Economic Development.

Dr. Pera brings to her new role a proven track record in economic development as well as a strong background in undergraduate and graduate research and commitment to supporting students in their research efforts.

For the past five years, Pera has served as vice president for Research and Economic Development at Montana State University, where she was also professor of cell biology and neurosciences and professor of chemistry and biochemistry.

Prior to her service at Montana State, she was a professor at Stanford University from 2007 to 2013, directing the Center for Human Pluripotent Stem Cell Research and Education and the Center for Reproductive and Stem Cell Biology, as well as the doctoral program in stem cell biology and regenerative medicine.

In her new role at Cal Poly, Pera will oversee the Grants Development and Sponsored Programs office, the Institutional Review Board, and other grant-related compliance bodies, as well as the Cal Poly Technology Park. She will lead university efforts in advocating for research and scholarship while promoting the value of a diverse range of scholarly and applied research activities and industry relationships for faculty, staff and students.

According to a news release, as a part of her role, Pera will foster an environment in which the research and creative accomplishments of faculty and students are encouraged and rewarded, identify and create opportunities for financial support, and promote the reputation of Cal Poly’s research and scholarship locally, nationally and beyond.

“In my meetings with Cal Poly faculty, staff, students, and administrators, every conversation clearly spoke to the university’s focus on combining the highest quality of education with research opportunities — no matter the academic discipline,” Pera said. “I am incredibly pleased to accept this new position, and I look forward to being a part of defining success in research at Cal Poly in a way that I believe will resonate throughout the university community, the Central Coast, California and beyond.

Pera has earned numerous honors and awards, including being named one of 20 Influential Women in America by Newsweek magazine in 2006. Her work in imaging algorithms was recognized as one of the top 10 biomedical breakthroughs by Time magazine in 2010.

She founded and served on the boards of several startup companies involved in research focusing on embryo diagnosis, predicting neural degeneration and cardiomyopathies, improved treatment for reproductive failure, and improvements in aging and women’s health. She has proven highly effective at bringing research discoveries into the field of medical applications.

Her research has garnered tens of millions of dollars in both public and private support, including a recent \$1.8 million grant from the National Institutes of Health to investigate human primordial germ cells.



Renee A. Reijo Pera, vice president for Research and Economic Development at Cal Poly.

Additional accomplishments include her service on the Executive Council of the Association of Public and Land Grant Universities’ Council on Research and as a Fellow of the National Academy of Inventors since 2015. At Stanford, she served as the George D. Smith Endowed Chair (2012-14) and as a President’s Office Faculty Fellow (2010-12). She also has received the International Award for Career Impact (2011, Valencia, Spain) and the Australian Society for Reproductive Biology Founder’s Award (2010, Sydney, Australia).

Pera earned her B.S. degree in biology from the University of Wisconsin at Superior in 1983 and M.S. in agriculture with a specialization in entomology from Kansas State University in 1987. She earned a doctorate in biochemistry, molecular and cell biology from Cornell University in 1993 and pursued post-doctoral work in human genetics with the Massachusetts Institute of Technology from 1993-97.

“I first visited San Luis Obispo and Cal Poly nearly two decades ago on a trip up the California coast,” Pera said, “and I thought how much I would love to live and work in this community and on this campus. My husband, Fred, and I are looking forward to this new chapter in our lives.”

Morro Bay Car Show May 2-5



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County Expanding ‘Restorative Justice’ Program

By Neil Farrell

The San Luis Obispo County Probation Department is applying for a State grant to expand a program designed to help families in crisis and maybe keep juveniles out of Juvenile Hall.

At the March 26 Board of Supervisors meeting, Chief Probation Officer Jim Salio sought permission to apply for a \$200,000 grant from the Board of State and Community Corrections or BSCC to be spent over 44 months (July 1, 2019 through Feb. 28, 2023), in order to expand into the greater community an existing program now exclusively run through the Probation Department.

The BSCC Youth Reinvestment Grant, Salio said in a staff report, will allow the County “to continue and expand upon these services to serve youth and families prior to involvement in the juvenile justice system by allowing referrals from many sources outside of the Probation Department including police departments, schools, multi-disciplinary teams such as Services Affirming Family Empowerment [SAFE] and School Attendance Review Board [SARB], and other County departments such as Social Services and the Sheriff’s Department.”

The County already has this program that was given greater emphasis a few years ago, after the County completed a major addition and remodel of the Juvenile Services Center (juvenile hall).

The remodel included an expanded new dormitory and cells, but also built recreation facilities, classrooms and ushered in a new approach to dealing with juvenile offenders, emphasizing education and counseling for the kids and, through this and other programs, their families, too, so-called “restorative justice.”

And, with the added money, a resource specialist would be available to lead families to other services available to them in SLO County.

If they get the money, Salio said, “Outreach efforts would be undertaken in the early stages of the grant period to insure these agencies would be familiar with the services and referral process for this restorative justice program.”

The program gets into the heart of family issues. “The program addresses intra-family conflict and conflict

between youth in the community,” Salio said. “It also addresses a service gap as victims of juvenile crime have little opportunity for meaningful interaction with youthful offenders.”

Salio told Estero Bay News on April 17 that he’d just heard the application passed BSCC’s initial review and was being recommended to a special steering committee for approval. Then it goes back to the BSCC and they should know if they got the money on June 13. HE anticipates the expanded program will be started in July.

It’s a way for them to expand a successful program, something they wanted to do, using an existing contractor and State monies instead of local funding.

“It was just easier for us to piggy back on the project with Creative Mediation,” he said. Back in 2012, the County contracted with Creative Mediation at Wilshire Community Services “to provide restorative justice programming for juvenile justice system-involved youth and families to reduce the likelihood of recidivism, encourage accountability for youthful offenders and restore relationships,” Salio said.

Salio said lots of parents struggle with a teenage child who is attempting to assert their independence. Often times police are called when things have gotten out of hand and turned physical, he explained. The parent will just say take them away, and police bring them to his department. This is a way to give them an option before that happens.

Locally, expansion of the restorative justice program is timely, as the San Luis Coastal Unified School District and City of Morro Bay in March brought back the school resources officer position at Morro Bay High School. The SRO started immediately and will be on hand from the start of the next school.

Having a cop on campus should lead to identification of more kids and families that in crisis who could benefit from the County’s program.

MBFD Snuffs Trash Fire

By Neil Farrell

Morro Bay firefighters recently battled a blaze that sure trashed up a street.

At 1:46 p.m. Tuesday, April 16, a 9-1-1 call came in about a garbage truck on fire at the intersection of Tide Avenue and Tahiti Street in North Morro Bay.

According to Fire Chief Steve Knuckles, the driver noticed his load was smoking and called 9-1-1. He then opened up the truck’s rear hatch and dumped the entirety of the trash load in the street.


“He dropped it in the best place possible, the intersection,” said Chief Knuckles. “That allowed access from four directions.”

He said they called in the City’s Water and Public Works Departments to help contain runoff from the potentially toxic fire. He said firefighters sprayed the burning trash and Public Works used a tractor to spread it out and keep the water from washing trash all over the street. They also used the sewer department’s pumper truck to suck up contaminated water and keep it out of the storm drains.

The garbage company also responded quickly, he said, bringing a roll off dumpster to the site so the trash could


Trash Fire Continued on page 5

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Flavors of SLO
The 11th Annual Flavors of SLO is on Saturday, May 4, from 12-4pm. At this all-inclusive event, you'll enjoy sampling some of the best food, wine and beer the Central Coast has to offer at the beautiful and historic Mission Plaza in San Luis Obispo! Entertainment includes live music from Zongo All-Stars and Cocktail Shorty, as well as a live Aztec dance performance by Iztak Cuauhtli Danza Azteca. Each year this event raises thousands of dollars to benefit United Way of San Luis Obispo County, which endeavors to safeguard the future of our community by creating lasting change that focuses on the building blocks for a good life: education, health, and financial stability. \$30 in advance at FlavorOfSLO.org at \$40 at the door.



Beer at the Pier Outdoor Season
It all kicks off on Monday, May 6 at the Blue Heron Restaurant in Baywood Park. These very popular concerts are going on their 5th year of consecutive Mondays. Enjoy the best of local talent by the bayside with fantastic food from the Blue Heron BBQ, outdoor bar with a great craft beer selection, dancing lawn, fire pit lounge, patio seating, and the Blue Heron Restaurant open for dinner. The May 6 concert features the Baywood debut of The Turkey Buzzards! Bar and grill both open at 4:00 and concerts run from 5:00 to 7:00. See you there!



Morropalooza
The first Morropalooza Music Festival will be happening on Friday, April 26 at the Morro Bay High School Football Stadium from 4:00 - 8:00pm. Presented by Morro Bay High School's ASB, you'll see live music performances from MBHS student bands, musicians, and dancers: Jenna & the Funky Fellas, Amalia Fleming, Rebecca Hunt, Jacob Lyons and Leah Howze, and MBHS Dance Fusion. Additional performances by alumni rockers Absolute Zero and local reggae band Oso Sol. There will also be food trucks, BBQ, and fun club booths. Tickets available at the door: \$5 General Admission / \$3 Student and under 18. All proceeds benefit Morro Bay High School ASB.

Sea Pines Barefoot Concerts on the Green

It's time once again for Sea Pines summer concerts, and they open this Saturday, April 27 with none other than local legend Damon Castillo. Special guest Jineanne Coderre will support the show with a great opening set. The shows run from 2:00 - 6:00 each Saturday, and the full lineup can be found at SeaPinesGolfResort.com. Free and family friendly! Photo: Sullivan Studios



Fri., Apr. 26 • 7:00pm Brian Jeffrey & Bart Gardner Puffers of Pismo 781 Price Street, Pismo Beach	Bogeys, Hot Tina, Brass Mash: Rise Up & Rock SLO Brew Rock 855 Aerovista Pl., San Luis Obispo	Nicole Stromsøe D'Anbino Tasting Room 710 Pine Street, Paso Robles	Tooth & Nail Winery 3090 Anderson Rd, Paso Robles	1301 2nd Street, Los Osos	Beyond Pismo Pier Pismo Beach
Fri., Apr. 26 • 6:00pm Gypsy All Stars 7 Sisters Brewing 181 Tank Farm Rd Suite 110, San Luis Obispo	Sat., Apr. 27 • 2:00pm Damon Castillo - Sea Pines Concerts Sea Pines Golf Resort 1945 Solano St, Los Osos	Sat., Apr. 27 • 3:00pm Royal Garden Swing Orchestra Branch Street Deli 203 East Branch Street, Arroyo Grande	Sun., Apr. 28 • 5:00pm Susan Krebs - Jazz Vocalist Puffers of Pismo 781 Price Street, Pismo Beach	Thu., May. 2 • 7:00pm Gungor The Fremont Theater 1035 Monterey St, San Luis Obispo	Sat., May. 4 • 7:00pm The Palms SLO Brew Rock Event Center 855 Aerovista Pl., San Luis Obispo
Fri., Apr. 26 • 6:00pm Mark Adams Band 15C Wine Bar and Shop 624 South Main Street, Tem- pleton	Sat., Apr. 27 • 12:00pm Dante Marsh: Earth Day Celebration Castoro Cellars Winery 1315 N Bethel Rd, Templeton	Sat., Apr. 27 • 8:00pm Shallou & Slow Magic: Into the Wild Tour The Fremont Theater 1035 Monterey St, San Luis Obispo	Mon., Apr. 29 • 4:00pm Beer at the Pier: Back Bay Betty La Palapa, 1346 2nd Street, Baywood Park	Thu., May. 2 • 6:30pm Real Blues Jam (North) D'Anbino Tasting Room 710 Pine Street, Paso Robles	Sat., May. 4 • 7:30pm Quattrosound: SLOfolks presents Castoro Cellars Winery 1315 N Bethel Rd, Templeton
Fri., Apr. 26 • 8:30pm Lu Lu and The Cowtippers The Pour House 525 Pine Street, Paso Robles	Sat., Apr. 27 • 11:00am Earth Day Fair & Music Festival Laguna Lake Park Madonna Rd, San Luis Obispo	Sat., Apr. 27 • 7:00pm Starlight Dreamband - Big Band Jazz The Madonna Inn 100 Madonna Road, San Luis Obispo	Mon., Apr. 29 • 6:30pm Folk-rockers Dirk Hamilton Morro Bay Wine Seller 601 Embarcadero Suite 5/6, Morro Bay	Fri., May. 3 • 5:30pm AJM Band BarrelHouse 1033 Chorro Street, San Luis Obispo	Sat., May. 4 • 9:00pm Rocken B'S Cambria Pines Lodge 2905 Burton Dr, Cambria
Fri., Apr. 26 • 8:00pm Party Favor The Fremont Theater 1035 Monterey St, San Luis Obispo	Sat., Apr. 27 • 2:00pm Greening Los Osos Earth Day Event Sea Pines Golf Resort 1945 Solano St, Los Osos	Sat., Apr. 27 • 8:00pm Wild Child - A Jim Morrison Celebration The Siren 900 Main St, Morro Bay	Mon., Apr. 29 • 9:30pm Toan's Open Jam Frog & Peach Pub 728 Higuera St, San Luis Obispo	Fri., May. 3 • 5:00pm Lulu and the Cowtippers Wine, Waves & Beyond 2019 Pismo Pier, Pismo Beach	Sat., May. 4 • 12:00pm Shabang Reborn: Live Music and Arts Festival Laguna Lake Park San Luis Obispo
Fri., Apr. 26 • 6:00pm Ras Danny - Authentic Jamai- can Reggae Baywood Tavern 690 Santa Maria Ave, Baywood Park	Sat., Apr. 27 • 7:00pm Easton Everett STAX Wine Bar and Bistro 1099 Embarcadero, Morro Bay	Sun., Apr. 28 • 7:00pm Chicano Batman The Fremont Theater 1035 Monterey St, S an Luis Obispo	Tue., Apr. 30 • 6:00pm Beach House The Madonna Inn Expo Center 100 Madonna Road, San Luis Obispo	Fri., May. 3 • 6:00pm Sound Investment First Friday at Fin's Fin's Restaurant 25 W Grand Ave, Grover Beach	Sat., May. 4 • 2:00pm Unfinished Business Sea Pines Golf Resort 1945 Solano St, Los Osos
Fri., Apr. 26 • 5:30pm Terry Lawless Branch Street Deli 203 East Branch Street, Ar- royo Grande	Sat., Apr. 27 • 6:00pm Matthias & the Soul Poets 7 Sisters Brewing 181 Tank Farm Rd Suite 110, San Luis Obispo	Sun., Apr. 28 • 4:00pm The Siren Sunday Jazz Jam The Siren 900 Main St, Morro Bay	Tue., Apr. 30 • 7:30pm Polyrhythmics The Siren 900 Main St, Morro Bay	Sat., May. 4 • 12:00pm 11th Annual Flavors of SLO: Zongo All-Stars Mission Plaza 989 Chorro Street, San Luis Obispo	Sun., May. 5 • 1:00pm Lulu and the Cowtippers: Wine, Waves & Beyond The Cliffs Resort 2757 Shell Beach Rd., Pismo Beach
Sat., Apr. 27 • 2:00pm	Sat., Apr. 27 • 7:30pm	Sun., Apr. 28 • 1:00pm Sunday Music -Dan Curcio	Wed., May. 1 • 8:00pm Blues Asylum Blues Jam Merrimaker, Baywood Park	Sat., May. 4 • 5:00pm Crisptones: Wine, Waves &	Mon., May. 6 • 4:00pm Outdoor Beer at the Pier: Turkey Buzzards Blue Heron 1365 2nd Street, Baywood Park

Trash Fire From page 3



be scooped up and hauled away. The whole incident took a couple of hours to clean up. No one was injured nor was the garbage truck damaged.

Such fires are a rarity, however. Chief Knuckles recalled two other times it's happened in the many years he's been with MBFD, including once right in front of Morro Bay High School.

The cause of the fire was undetermined and the truck was filled with "typical household materials but on fire," he said.

Also, on Thursday, April 11, MBFD responded at 5:29 p.m. to a structure fire in the 400 block of Little Morro Creek Rd. Upon arrival, they found an outbuilding of a small cluster of homes fully involved in fire.

He said the crew attacked the fire from the interior and kept it from spreading to any of the three nearby homes. No one was inside the workshop at the time of the fire and he said the cause was electrical in nature.

He said while the workshop was in an old building it had newer, properly installed wiring and was used by the owner, who has a handyman business.

The fire caused an estimated \$30,000 damage to the structure and another \$30,000 in tools was lost. But firefighters estimated they saved some \$50,000 in tools and \$680,000 in property by keeping the fire from spreading to any of the three homes on the property.

They had two MBFD engines and a truck on scene and got assistance from Cal Fire in Cayucos, which just happened to be returning from a medical aid call on Hwy 41 when the fire alarm went out. They arrived on scene at the same time as Morro Bay.

It's spring and that means sport and commercial fishers have been turned loose again and the chase for rock cod and other ocean critters is afoot.

Capt. Brad Leage, owner/operator of the sport fishing boat, Endeavor, said fishing season, which opened April 1, is great so far; also that he and the rest of Morro Bay's for-hire fishing fleet is up and ready to go.

Leage is celebrating the recent completion of the public docks in the 1100-1200 blocks of the Embarcadero, behind the Harbor Hut and Great American Fish Co., (GAFCo.) restaurants. He ties up the Endeavor in the area between the two restaurants near the Papagallo II dinner cruise party boat.

Indeed, several marine-dependent businesses run out of that new landing — the Chablis, Captain Stew's and Patriot Sportfishing, plus kayak and paddleboard rentals and other for-hire vessels.

Built mostly by Bob Fowler of Morro Bay Landing, along with Harbor Hut, the floating docks between the two T-piers have now been totally replaced and greatly expanded into what Fowler said looks and feels a lot like a true marina.

And one that's able to accommodate some of the largest boats in Morro Bay Harbor. It's the completion of a project that's been in the works for more than a decade.

Fowler is also in the midst of Phase 2 of another project to rebuild the land portion of his lease site into a 2-story building with retail spaces on the ground floor and a restaurant on top.

He's putting the Morro Bay Landing tackle shop in one space, Grassy Bar Oyster Co., in another and has two open for lease, as well as the large restaurant space upstairs, though he did say he's got someone who's interested.

He hopes to be done with construction sometime this summer, after being delayed for a month due to bad



Capt. Brad Leage stands at the bow of his 55-foot sport fishing boat, Endeavor, tied up at a newly completed marina adjacent to the Harbor Hut on Morro Bay's Embarcadero.

weather.

To inquire about leasing space at the new Morro Bay Landing, call: (805) 701-5702.

Brad Leage said he's had the 55-foot Endeavor, manufactured in Depot Bay, Ore., for 4 years and has been out on his own after running boats for Virg's Landing for many years.

He books trips through Morro Bay Landing, which remains open for business operating out of a small trailer at the construction site (see: www.morrobaylanding.com or phone (805) 771-5500).

Leage said his specialty is long-range fishing trips to Big Sur. The Endeavor, which can cruise at 15 knots, has a hot galley, Leage said, offers fish filleting and has "a very experienced crew."

As for salmon — the fish everyone hopes will be plentiful every year — Leage said the early season out of Morro Bay has been slow, but he hears they have been catching some fish down out of Port San Luis.

"I think it'll be a good salmon season," said the ever-optimistic boat captain.

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Steve Auslender, Owner DRE # 01068681

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Police Continued on page 9

News

Local Women Receive SBA Award

The U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) named Andrea Wasko and Meaghan Gilbert, owners of Los Osos based Connoisseur Creations, Inc., as the 2019 Small Business Persons of the Year for the SBA's San Joaquin Valley and Central Coast region, which includes 15 counties.

The SBA will present Andrea and Meaghan with their Small Business Persons of the Year award at 1:30 p.m. on Monday, May 6 at Whole Foods Market's Community Room 1531 Froom Ranch Way in San Luis Obispo.

Established in 1996, Connoisseur Creations' flagship product, the Quick Pickle Kit, uses recipes handed down through Andrea's family and is sold on Amazon and at local retailers. It is safe, quick, simple and natural and consumers can use the kit to pickle any vegetable. QuickPickleKit.com promotes health and reduces food waste. Connoisseur Creations donates part of the Kit's sales to local nonprofit agencies, and their products are assembled by disabled adults.

"Meaghan and I are grateful to the SBA, and Mission Community Services Corporation's Women's Business Center for their support of Connoisseur Creations," said Andrea in a news release. "We are honored to be recognized as the SBA's 2019 Small Business Persons of the Year, and appreciate the opportunity to advocate for other women owned businesses."

Connoisseur Creations used assistance from SBA funded Mission Community Services Corporation's Women's Business Center to make critical decisions about their company's operations, which allowed the business to run more effectively and efficiently.

"The SBA is proud to recognize Andrea and Meaghan as our 2019 Small Business Persons of the Year," said Fresno District Director Dawn Golik. "Connoisseur Creations is a great success story about how SBA programs including

Women Business Centers, provide free assistance to help woman owned companies start up, scale up, and succeed."

National Small Business Week will be observed May 5-11, 2019, with events in Washington, D.C., around the country and online.

Tobacco Sting Nets Nine

A 6-month sting operation by the County Health Department and Sheriff's Office has been completed and nine businesses in the unincorporated areas of SLO County were busted for allegedly selling tobacco to minors, one for the fifth time, according to a news release.

The SLO County Tobacco Control Program or TCP and Sheriff's Office had been checking compliance with tobacco sales laws beginning last October and wrapping up the sting operation April 9, according to a news release.

"The enforcement activity utilized underage decoys to regulate illegal sales of tobacco products to minors," Sheriff's spokesman Tony Cipolla said, "and resulted in nine businesses selling to a decoy in the unincorporated areas of the county." That translates to a 15.5% illegal sales rate, Cipolla added, which is higher than the previous sting's rate of 14%. The agencies have been doing these compliance check programs since 2012.

Cipolla said as a comparison, the highest ever failure rate was 25.9% and the low was 5.17%.

This latest result comes after the State of California in June 2016 raised the legal age to buy and use tobacco from 18 to 21, and California Penal Code Section 308, makes it a misdemeanor to sell tobacco products to anyone under the age of 21.

According to the Sheriff's Office the change in law hasn't changed behavior very much.

"The minimum purchase age increase to age 21 has been determined to have minimal impact on the violations that occurred," Cipolla said.

The compliance check focused on the towns of San Miguel, Santa Margarita, Cambria, Cayucos, Los Osos, Avila Beach, Oceano and Nipomo, as well as other unincorporated areas of the county.



Using three, under-21 "decoys," a total of 58 stores that sell tobacco products — cigarettes, cigars, vaping gizmos, e-cigarettes, and chewing tobacco — were visited by law enforcement over the course of the operation.

Breaking down the citations list, stores getting cited for the first time (since 2012) were: Dollar General, 972 "K" St, San Miguel; Oak Hill Market, 2150 Heritage Loop Dr., Paso Robles; and the Creston Market, 6330 Webster Rd., Creston.

Repeat violators were: Ragged Point Inn, 19019 Hwy 1, San Simeon; Von's Gas, 550 W. Tefft St., Nipomo; and Kachi Smoke Shop, 538 W Tefft St, Nipomo.

Third violation stores were: San Miguel Market, 1299 Mission St., No. 2, San Miguel; and Central Market, 2061 Cienega St., Oceano. The 5-time alleged violator was Bob & Jan's Bottle Shop, 2292 Main St., Cambria.

None of the names of the store clerks who were cited were released.

TPC enforcement action was also taken against one store "for failure to pay their fine by using a non-sufficient funds check. The NSF payment subsequently resulted in another TCP violation and an expired business license citation," Cipolla's news release said. He did not release the name of the alleged check kiter either.

Retail clerks caught allegedly selling to the decoys are cited by Sheriff's deputies and prosecuted through Superior Court. "By county ordinance," Cipolla said, "any business responsible for the violation is subject to administrative penalties including suspension of their ability to retail tobacco and a \$1,000 fine for each offense."

Like with first-time drug offenders, there's a chance to get out of punishment. "First and second offender businesses may elect to participate in a diversion program," Cipolla said, "aimed at reducing licensing suspensions in exchange for onsite employee education and point-of-sale upgrades that use electronic technology to prevent future sales."

The TPC also offers stores training on how to refuse a sale; methods to identify an underage buyer; and "instruction on properly reading an identification card or driver's license." TPC offers stop-smoking programs, as well.

Police From page 8

had in a while at the Fireside Inn.

- **April 2:** Police contacted a 32-year-old usual suspect at 8:38 p.m. in the 1600 block of Embarcadero. The forked tongue fellow was arrested for allegedly giving police a fake ID and also had a warrant, so one can see how this went.
- **April 2:** Police and fire responded at 3 p.m. to a 2-car crash at Hwy 1 and Hill Plant Road.
- **April 2:** Police responded at 10:23 a.m. to a business in the 600 block of MBB. Logs indicated they cited and released a 35-year-old man for suspicion of taking the 5-fingered discount.
- **April 1:** Police contacted a 55-year-old apparent April

fool at 10:35 p.m. in the 800 block of Monterey and arrested her for suspicion of being under the influence of a stimulant. She spent a no doubt stimulating night in the pokey. At 7:30, in the 700 block of Quintana, they arrested a 49-year-old hombre for alleged UTI, possessing paraphernalia and of course a probation violation.

- **April 1:** Police responded at 11:51 a.m. to the 500 block of MBB where a woman said her car was stolen by some thief in the night.
- **April 1:** Some citizen turned in firearms aiming for police to destroy them.



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Community

Avocado & Margarita Fest Needs Volunteers



Damon Castillo

The Morro Bay Chamber of Commerce is inviting San Luis Obispo County non-profit organizations to sign up to help with the 2019 Avocado & Margarita Street Festival and earn their organizations some cash.

Nonprofits can submit beneficiary applications for the festival until 5 p.m. Monday, April 29 at the Chamber Office 695 Harbor St., or online at: www.morrochamber.org.

The Avocado-Margarita Festival is set for 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 7 on the Embarcadero.

Prior year beneficiaries include the Rotary Club of Morro Bay, the Estero Bay Newcomers Club, Morro Bay High School Cheerleaders and Music Boosters, and Morro Bay Aquatics.

The 2018 festival was attended by 10,000 people and paid out over \$12,000 to beneficiary groups. Nonprofits from anywhere in SLO County are welcome to apply.

Applicants who apply before the April 29 deadline are invited to present to the Festival’s organizing committee in May, with selected beneficiaries named in June.

The Avocado & Margarita Street Festival is a family-friendly culinary celebration. Some 1-1/2 tons of locally grown avocados are hand picked especially for this event by farmers in the Morro Bay area. These local avocados are featured in specialty dishes ranging from deep fried avocados to avocado fudge pops.

Hand crafted and premium blended Margaritas are also on sale for those 21-older, as well as beer and wine.

Volunteers work in many areas of the festival including ticket and merchandise sales, menu distribution and bars, and are asked to support the pre-event promotional effort.

Not only are beneficiary groups paid for their efforts, they are also featured in pre-event press and on the event website, see: avomargfest.com. Beneficiary packages range



from \$500 to \$5,000.

The Avocado & Margarita Street Festival is a celebration featuring the California Central Coast’s love for wonderful flavors and tasty culinary dishes.

The goal is to shine a spotlight on the region’s fresh-off-the-tree variety of delicious Morro Bay avocados, while providing high-quality premium Margaritas, street faire vendors and entertainment, live music, and specialty foods.

Buzzfeed Writer Coming to Cal Poly



Cal Poly will host author and BuzzFeed senior culture writer Anne Helen Petersen at 6 p.m. Wednesday, May 8, in the Science Building (No. 52), Room E27.

Petersen’s “Too Fat, Too Slutty, Too Loud: The Rise and Reign of the Unruly Woman” (Plume, 2017) is an analytical look at how female celebrities are pushing the boundaries of what it means to be an “acceptable” woman. The book includes 10 essays, each focusing on a famous woman — in one case, a pair of women — whose behavior provokes public outrage. The subjects include Hillary Clinton, Melissa McCarthy, Kim Kardashian, Nicki Minaj, Caitlyn Jenner, Serena Williams and Lena Dunham.

“Every few decades, an unruly female celebrity inflames the popular consciousness,” writes Petersen, who earned acclaim for her first book, 2014’s “Scandals of

Classic Hollywood: Sex, Deviance, and Drama From the Golden Age of American Cinema.” “What distinguishes our current cultural moment, then, is how thoroughly ‘unruly’ women have come to dominate the zeitgeist.”

The conversation-starting book was named one of NPR’s Best Books of 2017 and one of Cosmopolitan’s “Books You Won’t Be Able to Put Down This Summer.”

This event is free and open to the public. Tickets are not required, and seating is open.

By the Sea Productions’ ‘Silent Sky’




Astronomer Henrietta Leavitt (Ali Abdul Rahim) studies a star plate in By the Sea Productions’ “Silent Sky.” Photo by Iain MacAdam

By the Sea Productions’ third show this season is “Silent Sky” by Lauren Gunderson. The play is based on the true story of Henrietta Leavitt, hired by Harvard University in the early 1900s as a ‘human computer.’ Along with two other women, she is tasked with mapping the stars, but without access to the telescopes. Instead, they worked with photos taken by the male astronomers and still succeeded brilliantly. However, Henrietta’s dedication took a toll on her family and personal relationships. Like the book and film “Hidden Figures,” this play sheds light on another unsung group of accomplished women, offering a slice of history while tugging at your heartstrings.

Directed by Kelli M. Poward, the cast includes Ali Abdul Rahim as Henrietta; Sarah Ruth Smith as her sister; Cathe Fein Olson and Rhonda Crowfoot as her co-workers; and Tim Linzey as her neglected suitor.

“Silent Sky” plays May 3 through May 26, with performances Friday and Saturday evenings at 7 p.m. and Sunday matinees at 3 p.m., at 545 Shasta Ave. in Morro Bay. Ticket reservations can be made online at bytheseaproductions.org or by calling 805-776-3287.



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Community

Best in Show Named in Art Constest

The Estero Bay Women’s Club recently hosted its Annual Student Art Contest naming a painting by Nel Anthony Aldea of Morro Bay High School as the Best in Show.

The annual contest is open to K-12 students from participating schools in Cayucos, Cambria, Los Osos and Morro Bay.

Students submitted artwork in various media such as mixed, oil, watercolor, pottery, 3-D and photography. Entries were judged by a panel of three professional artists: Jeff O’Dell, Marilyn Wammack and Hank Eismann.



The Best in Show Award went to Nel Anthony Aldea of Morro Bay High School. Photo submitted



April is Library Appreciation month. In recognition of readers that still read hard copies of books, I give credit to Cambria writer and author Debbie Soto, who gave a talk about her books at the March program meeting of the Montana de Oro History Group held at the Morro Bay Natural History Museum. Debbie’s book, “Glimpses of a Bygone Era” (2011) is about the one-room schools along the Hearst Ranch. “Living in Harmony” (2015) is about the school, the creamery and the town of Harmony.

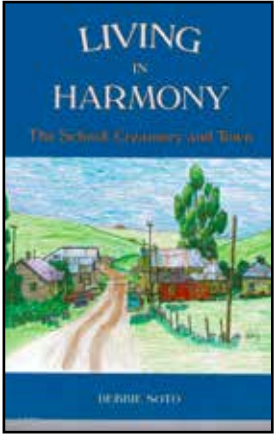
Debbie is to be commended for the research she did on the numerous schools along the Central Coast. Although Debbie was not educated in a one-room school, she always wanted to know how they started and their history. Many of her relatives attended the rural schools she mentions in her books.

Debbie is a descendant of the Fiscalini family. Her great grandfather, Carlo Fiscalini, arrived in Cambria in 1887.

Her new book that should be available this summer is titled: “Let The School Bells Ring.”

“I’m very excited about it,” Debbie related in a recent interview. “I have personal stories in it from the 30s, 40s and even earlier from students that attended the Santa Rosa School.”

The Cambria Historical Society is in the process of restoring the Santa Rosa school. The Society is looking for one room school items. If anyone has an old school desk or other school furniture, please contact the Cambria Historical Society at 805 927-2891 and leave a message for Debbie Soto.



Living In Harmony Sketch by Warren Talcott Hand colored by Debbie Soto Compliments of the author, Debbie Soto

Obituaries

In Memory

Patrick William O’Neal 1958 – 2019



After a two-year battle with cancer, Patrick William O’Neal, age 60, died at his home in Morro Bay, California of stage 4 melanoma, on April 19th, Good Friday.

Born in Hanford, Patrick graduated from Hanford High School in 1977, then attended College of the Sequoias, Visalia, before transferring to Fresno State. He began his independent insurance agency at age 23, running a very successful business for the next thirty years, retiring at age 55 in 2012. His great success as an agent was largely due to the personal service and thoughtful attention given to his clients, befriending many of them outside his duties as their agent and making life-long friends.

Moving from Fresno to Morro Bay, Patrick continued to make a name for himself as an engaging and caring Morro Bay local with a quick wit, appealing personality, and clever sense of humor. All who met Patrick a first time gladly remembered him the second time.

He is survived by his Mother, Marlene Butler of Hanford, brother Mike O’Neal of Seattle, Sister-in-Law, Marla Womack, niece Kelsey O’Neal and her husband Jon VanNatta, nephew Jake O’Neal of Colorado, numerous loving cousins, Valeria Bahr and Donna Badasci among them, and many ‘favorite’ best friends.

Graveside services will be held at the Cayucos Cemetery on April 29th, in Morro Bay, at one o’clock.

Follow Cat Noir CC on Facebook for daily photos and read the blog at CatNoirCC.com. Every Color Deserves a Forever Home

In Memory

Mary Elizabeth “Beth” Cook 1921 – 2019



Mary Elizabeth “Beth” Cook passed away peacefully in her home on April 4, 2019. Beth was born on December 13, 1921 in Center City, Texas. She resided in her home in Morro Bay, for almost 60 years and her kindness extended out to all. She was very active in her community and the Estero Bay United Methodist Church.

Beth was inspiring in so many ways with her hobbies such as history, genealogy, sewing, quilting, arts & crafts, baking, traveling, writing, and much more.

She is survived by her grandchildren Michele, Donny, John, Jill, Roxanne, daughter-in-laws Vivian and Renee, and her great-grandchildren Alissa, Jonathan, Corrienne, Shelby, Amy Lynn, Ariel, Gage, Reagan, and Dash.

We will always cherish and forever miss your love, kindness, humor, wit, dedication, and strength. Our little spitfire Grandma Beth, left her mark on this world.

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May 3-26

Silent Sky

Written by LAUREN GUNDERSON Directed by Kelli M. POWARD

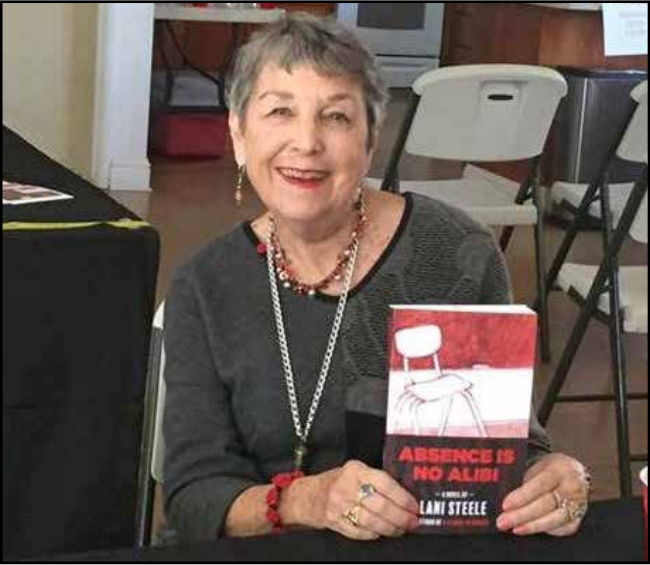
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Events and Activities



Los Osos resident Lani Steele, poet and mystery writer, will be at the Grover Beach Community Library on May 1 from 7 - 9 p.m. Steel has short mystery stories in Red Herring, Mystery Magazine, Sisters in Crime Anthology Deadlines, and a forthcoming holiday murder anthology as well as published her novel, "Absence Is No Alibi." Steele also writes and shares poetry through readings, and publication. Her poetry books include "Crowded With Ghosts" and "A Plague Of Angels." Steele is happy to be a supporter of the Poetry in the Schools program. She will read from her work, sign books and answer questions. Wine and refreshments will be served. The library is located at 240 N 9th St. in Grover Beach.

AAUW/Morro Bay's 33rd annual Garden Tour is this coming Sunday, April 28. Tickets are \$15 and can be purchased at Volumes of Pleasure Bookstore in Los Osos, Coalesce Bookstore in Morro Bay, and Farm Supply in San Luis Obispo, Arroyo Grande, and Paso Robles or from any AAUW/Morro Bay member. For Garden Tour information, call 805-772-1364 or see morrobayaaauw.org.

Join the SWAP Weed Warriors on Saturday, May 4 from 9 a.m. to noon to do weeding, trail trimming and erosion control in the Elfin Forest. Other tasks are performed as needed. Weed Warriors will be served home-baked cookies after the work party and new Weed Warriors will receive a Weed Warrior badge. SWAP First Saturday work parties are held from 9 a.m. to noon on the first Saturday of each month. Dress for wind, fog, or sun. Layers work well. Wear sturdy shoes, long pants and sleeves and bring work gloves. Meet at the north end of 15th Street at the Elfin Forest entrance. Don't block driveways or mail-

boxes when you park. For more information call 528-0392. Event is canceled if there is significant rain.



The 24-member Cal Poly Chamber Choir will present a concert of two requiems at 8 p.m. Saturday, May 11, in the historic Mission San Luis Obispo de Tolosa. The concert will open with the spectacular and rarely performed "Musikalische Exequien" ("Funeral Music") by Heinrich Schütz. Composed in 1636, the piece is a three-movement monument of the early Baroque Period. Through various scriptural passages and choral texts, the work was composed for the funeral service of Prince Heinrich II "Posthumous" von Reuss, a friend and benefactor of Schütz. "Listeners will be treated to a variety of choral textures in this hauntingly beautiful work," said Scott Glysson, Cal Poly director of choral activities. "The requiem mass, or funeral mass, of the Roman Catholic Church has been a text set to music since the 15th century," he added. "As the genre has grown and evolved through the years, composers have used this model to branch out and incorporate other texts into works intended to remember or honor those who have passed on." The second half of the concert will feature John Rutter's "Requiem." Completed in 1985, it's one of Rutter's most well-known works. It combines elements from the traditional Latin text of the requiem service with modern English. The performance will feature a seven-piece chamber orchestra of Cal Poly students and professional musicians, including music faculty member Samuel Shalhoub, lute. Paul Woodring is the accompanist for the choirs and will play organ for the concert. Glysson, the concert's conductor, will travel to New York with 34 Cal Poly students — including five from the Chamber Choir — to perform at Carnegie Hall on May 25 as part of MidAmerica Productions' 36th concert season. The Cal Poly Choir members and the Vancouver Bach Choir of British Columbia will collaborate on performances of Joseph Haydn's "Te Deum (for Empress Marie Therese)" and

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart's "Sparrow Mass," (Missa brevis in C major). Glysson will conduct the Haydn piece. Tickets are \$14 for the public and \$9 for students. Tickets are sold at the Cal Poly Ticket Office between noon and 6 p.m. on Monday through Saturday. To order by phone, call SLO-4TIX (756-4849). Tickets will also be sold at the door the night of the concert.



The California Sculptors Symposium (April 21-28,) presents its 17th California Sculptors Symposium exhibition on Saturday, April 27 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. at Camp Ocean Pines, 1473 Randall Drive in Cambria. Participants show their artwork in an outdoor and indoor show open to the public. The first symposium in 2003 introduced a program that welcomed educators, artists and students to an energetic, creative environment overlooking the Pacific Ocean. California Sculptors Symposium (CSS) continues to feature lectures and demonstrations by premier sculptors. Artists of all levels are welcome. Whether they are seasoned professionals or novices, attendees enjoy the camaraderie of creating art among like-minded people. There is a barbecue available for \$15 from Noon to 1:30 p.m.

Be still and Know: A Course for Strengthening Your Meditation Practice will be offered by Rev. Devin Kent Sodt from 1 to 4 p.m. Saturday, May 4, at Awakening in Los Osos. The course is for those who are new to meditation or who meditate and want to deepen their practice. The teachings are based on The Yoga Sutras of Patanjali and the principles of Kriya Yoga. The skills for meditation include the role of breath, mantra, prayer, and other methods of interiorization. Free will donation. Awakening Interfaith Spiritual Community is located at 1310 Van Beurden Drive, Ste. 12, Los Osos. Contact: 805-772-0306, email: awakening2theone@gmail.com.

Pianist and Cal Poly Music Department Chair W. Terrence Spiller will give an all-Beethoven recital at 7:30 p.m. Friday, May 17, in the Pavilion of the Performing Arts Center. The recital is the fourth in his survey of the

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A black and white photograph of a man with thinning hair, wearing a dark suit and a white shirt, playing a piano. He is shown from the side, looking down at his hands on the keyboard. The lighting is dramatic, with the background being dark and the piano keys and his hands highlighted.

Behind the Ides shows Friday, May 3 - Sunday, May 12 at Cuesta College. RSVP is requested. On the heels of winning 10 national KCACTF awards for Ghost Ship, Cuesta Drama is now producing the world premiere of a new docu-style play, *Behind the Ides* from May 3-12. When NYC's The Public Theatre produced *Julius Caesar* in 2017 with a Trump-like title character, a firestorm of negative callers and right-wing threats sparked heated conversation about the role and responsibility of art in politics. After corporations like Delta and Bank of America (which make or break public art projects like Shakespeare in the Park) pulled funding, theatre artists were forced to remind us that Shakespeare doesn't advocate killing a leader, but exposes

The Los Osos Library, 2075 Palisades Ave, has two events this weekend. Earth Day takes place Sat. Apr 27 from 11:30 a.m. – 1 p.m. Learn about the importance of trees. And do your part by taking home an acorn to plant. Free. Also that day Pacific Wildlife Care will be on hand at Noon to introduce people to wildlife and how they can help out the wildlife in our area. Also free.

The fun doesn't stop there. More events are set for May.

Paws to Read - Every Wed. at 3 p.m.

Berkeley the dog is waiting at the library. She is all ears. Come read to her on Wednesdays. For school age children. Free.

- **Preschool Storytime** - Every Thu. and Fri. from 10:30–11 a.m.
- **Story time with Ms. Kaela** is more than stories, we have songs, shakers and fingerplay. For preschool and toddler. Free.
- **Pygmalion** – Thu., May 2 at 6:30 p.m.

All voices welcome to a community theater reading of G.B.

- **Shaw's Pygmalion.** Can a street vendor be taught to pass as a duchess? Find out who wins the bet. This is a group reading with no auditions required. For seniors and other adults. Free.
- **Derby Day** – Sat., May 4, at 3 p.m.

The first Saturday in May is a tradition at the Los Osos Library - Kentucky Derby Day! Post time is 3 p.m. Come early, dress the part, enjoy the thrill of the most exciting two minutes in sports. All Ages. Free.

- **Hula Storytime** - Thu May 9 at 10:30 a.m.

In honor of Asian Pacific Heritage month, we will celebrate with a themed story time. Experience hula and even learn a little bit from Victoria, who is our special storytime host. Free. For preschool and toddler.

- **Paws to Read** – Fri., May 10 at 3 p.m.

Come read to Carly! An additional day for youngsters to

Send your event listing at least two weeks in advance to Editor@EsteroBayNews.com. Make sure to include the who, what, why, where and when of the event and contact information. As a reminder, type out in paragraph form rather than attaching flyers.

April 25, - May 8, 2019 • The Estero Bay News • Your Community, Your News 13

Kiwanis Easter Egg Hunt

Photos by Dean Sullivan

Kids scrambled for brightly colored treat-filled eggs in the 30th annual Easter Egg Hunt held at the South Bay Community Center in Los Osos on Saturday, May 20. Sponsored by the Kiwanis Club of Bay-Osos, the traditional event is free to local children and their parents as a community service project. Club members were assisted by students from Los Osos Middle School's Leadership and Kiwanis' Builders clubs and scouts from Troop 214. Local businesses and individuals contributed in support of the family-oriented

gathering. Activities included face painting, bounce houses, a balloon artist, Story Time hosted by the Los Osos Library staff and a 4-H petting zoo. Kiwanis meets Wednesdays at noon for lunch at Jimmy Bump's Pasta House in Los Osos. Those interested in finding out more about Kiwanis are welcome to attend a meeting.



Letters to the Editor

Fact-Checking Local Officials

Mayor Headding stated at the March 26 council meeting regarding the proposed sewer plant (WRF)--

1. The WRF is an "opportunity to provide about 80% of our water needs in the future." The initial study was borderline on whether there was sufficient time for ground-injected water to get clean. Also, it's questionable how much and how frequently water can be injected into the clay of the Morro Basin.

2. Ratepayers get a WRF "all for a mere \$41 per month for the average user." This is \$41 in addition to the rate increases begun in 2015, which more than doubled rates, have increased every year, and will increase again in July 2019 along with the \$41.

3. Former councils "did not raise water rates from 1994 to 2015...I don't know why." He wasn't listening to public comment the several times I stated why: fees were doubled in the 1990s to pay for state water. A public utility cannot raise rates if they can't justify it. Our water fund was flush and could not justify an increase. Sewer fees have periodically increased since the early 2000s.

4. There have been "at least 10 WRFCAC meetings in the last 1 1/2 years." In 2019, all 5 scheduled meetings canceled. In 2018, 8 of 15 scheduled meetings canceled. In the second half of 2017, 3 of 5 scheduled meetings canceled.

5. There were "public hearings in the last two years both regarding the EIR and Prop 218." A hearing for Proposition 218 is a separate law from a Coastal Development Permit (CDP) hearing. An EIR and CDP are suppose to be held together. However, the City did not follow the law; only the EIR had a hearing. There has been no CDP hearing. In fact, the council directed staff to not have a CDP

hearing, rather let the CCC do it.

6. It will cost "\$80 million to build on the current site." This is a number out of thin air, related to no particular project or proposal.

7. His grandchildren will experience "injustice" because they will pay if the WRF is delayed. The loans he promotes are for 30 years; his grandchildren will be paying regardless.

Betty Winholtz,
Morro Bay

Prepare Students for Testing

On May 1, Morro Bay High School seniors will begin the California Assessment of Student Performance and Progress (CAASPP) to complete the California Science Test (CAST). This assessment is an indicator of your student's college and career readiness and provide an opportunity to measure the skills of all students against the same academic standards. Given online, the assessment is computer-adaptive, allowing a more precise measurement of individual skills.

The CAST takes approximately two hours and will be administered in your student's history class on either Wednesday, May 1 or Thursday, May 2. If your student does not have a history class, they will be notified of their testing location and testing date.

Students at Morro Bay High School have always given maximum effort and performed well on these types of assessments. The community often sees our students shine in athletics, music performances, and various competitions. This is an opportunity for them to spotlight their hard work and aptitude in academics.

Please help prepare your student for the CAST by ensuring they get a good night's sleep and are present and on time to their testing location. Also, please encourage your students to do their best! They have been preparing for the CAST for years and are fully prepared to rock it!

Heather Contreras,
Assistant Principal

Letters Policy

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



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5.25 Dirty Cello	7.13 The Mother Cornshuckers
6.1 Bear Market Riot	7.20 Back Bay Betty
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Events and Activities

Cayucos Dog Parade

Photos by Dean Sullivan

Dogs were the stars of the show at the pier on Saturday during the annual Cayucos Dog Parade. The event is sponsored by the Cayucos Lioness Club to raise money for its Mutt Mitts program that helps keep the beaches free of dog eggs.



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Sheriff's Office Names Suspect in Crime After 41 Years

The San Luis Obispo County Sheriff's Office has identified a suspect in two 41-year-old homicide cases from Atascadero.

"We are extremely proud of Detective Clint Cole and his efforts to solve this 41-year-old murder mystery," said Sheriff Ian Parkinson in a news release. "Our hearts go out to the families of the victims and are hopeful the resolution to these cases brings them some closure. The Sheriff's Office is grateful for the support of the Board of Supervisors who approved this important position. With the advancements in DNA technology and having an investigative focus solely on these types of cases, this case proves the value of having this important position."

The two cases from 1977 and 1978 were re-investigated by the Sheriff's Office Cold Case/ Unsolved Unit starting in June of 2017 after detectives received a lead in the case from the Department of Justice's Familial DNA Search team in Richmond, CA.

"This lead was generated by getting a DNA profile comparison and other evidence," said Sheriff's spokesperson Tony Cipolla. "The DNA profile was a close match to an inmate serving time for unrelated charges. Through investigative means, it was determined that inmate had a relative who was living in Atascadero at the time of both murders."

Detectives were able to identify Arthur Rudy Martinez (06/26/1948) who is deceased, as the suspect in these murders. Detectives were able to locate a DNA source from Arthur Martinez and compare it to the suspect DNA left at both scenes and confirmed Martinez killed both victims. Most likely this case would never have been solved if the initial investigators did not collect the valuable biological DNA evidence that was used to compare, Cipolla said.

On November 18, 1977, at approximately 2 p.m. the body of Jane Morton Antunez (1-19-47) was found in the back seat of her car on a dirt road off Santa Barbara Road in Atascadero. Antunez's throat had been cut and she had been sexually assaulted. Antunez lived on the south side of Atascadero near where her body was found. Antunez was supposed to be going to her best friend's house on the day

prior but never made it. Witnesses had reported she picked up a man in her car but that was never confirmed.

On January 11, 1978 at approximately 3:45 p.m. the body of Patricia Dwyer (11-13-49) was found on the floor of her home on the 5000 block of Del Rio Road in Atascadero. Dwyer was stabbed in the chest with a knife from her kitchen drawer and had been sexually assaulted. Dwyer told her friend the day before that she was going to the grocery store and then staying home to clean. It's reported she would not have allowed a stranger in her home but had a key under her mat. Dwyer worked at the Atascadero State Hospital at the time of her murder. Detectives say both victims would frequent the Tally Ho Bar in Atascadero and had some mutual friends but did not know each other. Both victim's arms were bound behind their backs by different bindings that were found at each scene.

Detectives were able to place Martinez in Atascadero at the time of these crimes. Martinez was paroled to Atascadero in May of 1977 until he left in January of 1978 after the Dwyer homicide, Cipolla said. Martinez worked at a local North County welding shop while he was in San Luis Obispo County. He then moved to Spokane, Washington where

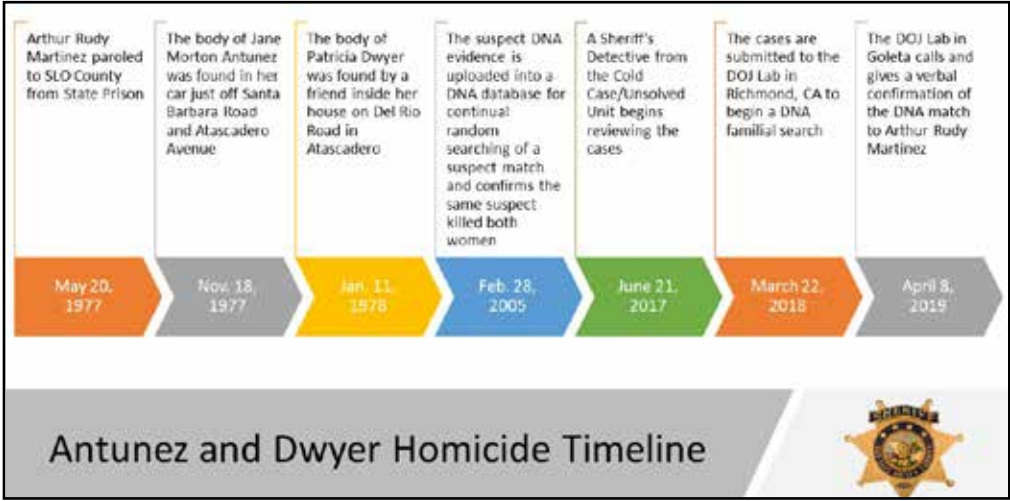
was convicted of committing numerous robberies and two rapes. Martinez was given a life sentence and began serving that sentence in November 1978.

In 1994 Martinez escaped from prison. For the next 20 years he lived in the areas of Fresno and Carruthers, CA. Finally, on April 30, 2014 he turned himself in because he had terminal cancer. Martinez died in a Washington State Prison in June of that year.

Detectives do not know if Martinez knew these victims prior to the murders and are asking for anyone who has any information about Arthur Martinez to call Detective Clint Cole at 805-788-2157.

The Sheriff's Office was aided by the DOJ Forensic Laboratories in Richmond and Goleta, and the California Department of Justice Bureau of Investigation – Fresno for their assistance in the case.

"We are grateful that through this joint effort between scientists and investigators at the California Department of Justice and the San Luis Obispo County Sheriff's Office we were able to bring a measure of justice to the families of the victims in these horrific decades-old crimes," said Attorney General Becerra. "Here in California we have the technology, we have the know-how, and we have the will to work together to take on criminals operating in our state."



Car Show From page 1



tions: Morro Bay High School, Morro Bay Police Department Explorers, Rotary Club of Morro Bay, Womenade and the SLO NOOR Foundation.

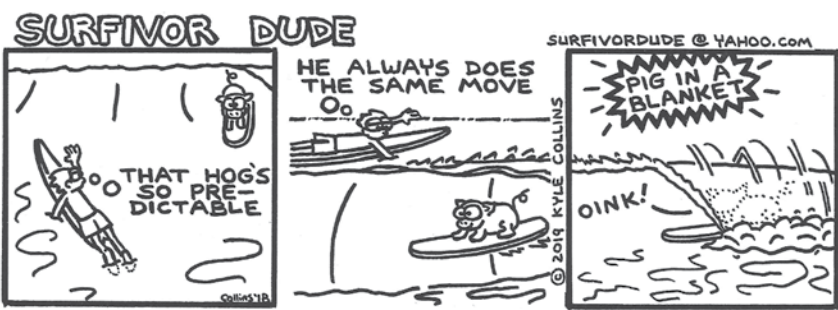
Schedule of Events

Thursday, May 2

5-8 p.m. Registration
Ocean View Garage • 936 Main Street

Friday, May 3

- 10-5:30 p.m. Registration
- 11 a.m. Cruise up Coast for Lunch
- 10 a.m. - 3 p.m. MBHS Auto Shop
- Open House & Car Show, 235 Atascadero Rd.
- 2 - 8 p.m. Bear Metal Kustoms, Open House • 1147 Scott St.
- 6 - 7:30 p.m. Cruise



- Registrants only staging begins at 5 p.m.
- Saturday, May 4**
- 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. Show & Shine Downtown
- 11:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. BBQ
- Registrants/sponsors only
- 12 - 2 p.m. Old Soul Speed and Custom, Open House • 339 Quintana Rd.
- 4 p.m. Trophy Presentations

Sunday, May 5

- 9 a.m. - 1 p.m. Show & Shine
- 1 p.m. Trophy Presentations

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Big Moves From page 1

“We’ve been thinking about it a long time,” said Michelle Thies. “This place, Morro Bay, has been great, fabulous. I’m just done with the State. I’m so done with California.”

She explained that they are moving to Twin Falls, Idaho. They tried to sell the business and Michelle said they had a buyer interested but, “He didn’t like the high rent.”

They will put their home up for sale too and literally have tons of stuff to move including vehicles, boat and a whole auto shop of tools and equipment. She said Mick has made several trips to Idaho loaded with their belongings.

She said they were lucky to find a large storage unit in Idaho to pack it all away. She didn’t rule out starting another business. “Mick loves transmissions,” she laughed. “I told him I’d do one more [business] with him.” But, the 65-year old said she’s done working full time and would only promise four days of work a week.

She noted that the pair had two businesses in Morro Bay — Tireworks and Glassworks, which manufactured and installed vinyl windows. They did fine with their two businesses and will still be clearing out the auto shop probably until the end of May, if any friends want to stop in and say good-bye. Both were active in the community and Mick once ran for City Council.

“Mick and I are both sad,” she said. “We love this place and the people but we’re just done with the State.”

It’s a similar story with Dayna and Tony Mininni, owners of TnT Boot Repair in North Morro Bay. The Mininnis have owned the little cobbler’s shop for some 32 years and are the fourth owners of the business, which dates back to the 1960s. Dayna said a cobbler named Bob Harper was the original owner of Coast Boot and Shoe Repair. It was sold and renamed Boothill Shoe Repair. Then it became Coast Boot and Shoe Repair with the third cobbler to purchase it.

“Every time it sold,” Dayna said, “they just handed over the keys. From the ‘60s until now, Morro Bay has had a shoe repair shop.”

In 2015, they moved from Morro Bay Boulevard out to what used to be a coin-op laundry because a lack of available parking was hurting their business.

Tony Mininni explained that one day he drove past the old laundry, where he used to do his wash in college, and saw a “For Sale” sign and decided to buy it. At the time his son, Dolin, had been apprenticing with him and the plan was for Dolin to take over the family business.

“I was three-quarters out the door,” he said. But SLO County started taking applications for six spots on the road crew. “I had to advise Dolin to put his application in,” Tony said. Some 165 people applied and “He got one of them.”

The move to North Main Street was good for the business, as both Tony and Dayna said business has been good since the move, which Tony attributed to the higher profile



Dayna and Tony Mininni, owners of TnT Boot Repair.

the new store has, especially with people on the highway. And since word has spread of the impending closure, they’ve been absolutely swamped.

It was a hard decision to put the building up for sale and close. “We will stay open until we sell the building,” Dayna said. “We’re prepared to man the fort until it sells, or we could lease it out.”

Tony said they were hoping to sell the business intact, too, and while several cobblers from the Central Valley took a look at it, the high cost of living here proved to be too much. And if anyone thinks they could step right in, Tony said it takes a lot of training. “It takes four years minimum to learn this trade,” he said. “We were hoping to sell the business but unfortunately, there aren’t a lot of cobblers left.”

Indeed, when they bought the repair shop more than three decades ago there were five shoe repair shops in SLO County. Now TnT is the last one and when they close, the nearest repair shop will be Central Coast and Valley Shoe and Boot Repair in Santa Maria.

So where does the “TnT” come from? When they bought the business, Tony said, his brother-in-law Trevor was a partner, thus the TnT moniker was added to the store name. “It was either ‘Tony and Trevor’ or ‘Trevor and Tony’ depending on which of us you asked,” he laughed.

But in today’s disposable world, is there a place for an old-fashioned cobbler? The Mininnis would say there is.

“We’ve raised our two children and lived here for 40 years,” Tony said, as Dayna agrees with him. “It’s been a blessing.”

“It is definitely a doable business,” she added. Tony’s brother, Michael Mininni, is the listing agent for the property, call (805) 235-2852 if interested.

He won’t give up the craft entirely. Tony said he plans to move some of his equipment to their home in Cayucos to start an in-home business, and continue to make orthotic shoes to supplement their retirement.

Both said their customer base has been loyal partly as a way of “Keeping it local,” he said, “supporting the little guy and appreciating the customer service.”

The pair will miss their customers, many of whom have become close friends. “It’s sad in a way,” Tony said, “because I do love it. But you’ve got to call it at some point.”

Budget From page 1

every year. “Our costs are out-pacing our revenues,” Calloway said. “It’s something every city is experiencing.”

The \$325,000 projected deficit is about 2-percent of the general fund budget, which now tops \$14.7 million.

“In and of itself,” Calloway said, “it doesn’t seem impactful but because it’s a structural issue, it grows unless we make changes to our revenues or expenses.” She noted that they will present a balanced budget to the City Council, with portions of the draft budget slated for release as soon as April 24 and other fund budgets trickling out from then. The City by law is supposed to have an approved budget by July 1, the start of the next fiscal year.

She added that while the deficit seems small now, it could get much bigger fast, which is why they are acting now, to stave off a worse problem in the future and in perpetuity.

“For 2019 and 2020,” she said, “we’re going to have a

balanced budget, but in future years it’s concerning. In a few years it could well be into the multi-millions of dollars.”

She said there are several things on the revenue side they are looking at to bridge the coming gap. They are updating now the City’s fee schedule, which covers the various fees the City charges the public — from planning and building fees, to facility use fees, business licenses, and more.

That new schedule should go to the Council at the end of May, she said, so they are not yet counting the new fees with the 2019-20 budget. And, “Potentially,” she added, “we have a cannabis tax when the two dispensaries open.”

The City is slated to award two licenses for pot stores, but at this time they will only be able to sell “medical marijuana” under the City ordinance. Calloway, along with the police and fire chiefs sit on a screening committee that will interview the six applicants, conduct background checks, and review business plans. She pointed to a 10-inch high stack of papers on her desk at City Hall, explaining that those are the applications, each hundreds of pages long.

The committee is slated to eventually make a recommendation to City Manager Scott Collins, whom the City Council tasked with making the final determination, on who would get the potentially very lucrative license to open pot stores. The City is poised to collect a 10-percent sales tax from those stores, potentially generating thousands of dollars a year.

Another potentially controversial action that has been proposed is to cut the amount of support the City gives to the Tourism Bureau, an added money source above the Tourism Business Improvement District or TBID’s 3% per room night assessments.

Now standing at about \$150,000, the City’s contribution for tourism promotions is mostly used to support special events and now beautification projects. The recent installation of new lights in Downtown city trees is an example of this.

But the Council put off discussing the City’s share of the promotions budget, choosing instead to toss it back to the TBID Advisory Board for their input. Several years ago, when the City took over the visitor’s center, and the TBID budget expenditures and marketing campaign, one of the things the TBID members stressed was that the City had to continue to put some money into the pot.

The Council also recently agreed to change its reserve fund policy. Calloway explained that currently they have some \$3.3 million in the general fund reserves and they also have “fund balances” or reserves in several other separate funds, like water and sewer.

Several years ago, the City changed its policy to name the reserves as the source for covering future deficits and Calloway said they changed it again and set a 25% to 28% of the overall general fund as a goal for the reserves, and, “We didn’t outline how to use that fund,” she said. “We made it less prescriptive.”

And 25 to 28 percent is much higher of a reserve than most cities have, so there would appear to be some wiggle room there as well.

If they do have to make cuts, Calloway said they would likely be to specific funds like the vehicle replacement fund or the facility maintenance fund. “We’re not likely going to see staffing cuts or cuts to services,” she said, adding that the City’s workforce is already about as thin as can be.

Having to lay people off is a last resort and in Morro Bay hasn’t been proposed since 2005, when the Council laid off its code enforcement officer, a part time mechanic and eliminated a couple of vacant police officer positions to cover a more than \$1 million deficit.

With the general fund as the source of money that pays for services like police and fire protection — the two largest departments within the general fund — Calloway said the City Council can direct monies be spent however they wish.

But, for now, “We’re working with our known revenues and expenditures, to try and fit the budget within that,” Calloway said.



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Sports

Coast Little League Highlights

Taylor's Big Day Leads D-Backs to Lopsided Win Over Angels

The Angels Intermediate watched the game slip away early and couldn't recover in a 15-0 loss to the Diamondbacks on Thursday April 18. The Angels struggled to put the bat on the ball and had a tough time defensively giving up 10 unearned runs.

In the first inning, the Diamondbacks got their offense started when Timmy Taylor singled on a 1-0 count, scoring one run. Taylor was dominant on both sides of the ball for the Diamondbacks. He had a no hitter through 4 innings before the bullpen took over. Taylor looked sharp only walking 2 and striking out 9 batters.

Ben Cervantes was on the hill for Angels After a rocky first inning he settled in but didnt get the help he needed on defense. He went 4 innings, giving up seven hits and striking out four. Joe Skaggs and Ryder Busch entered the game from the bullpen, throwing two-thirds of an inning and one-third of an inning.

Jesiah Aguilar broke up the no hitter in the 5th inning and had the lone hit for the Angels.

The Diamondbacks scattered nine hits in the game. Taylor and Tristan Farelas each racked up multiple hits. Taylor went full beast mode, going 4-for-4 at the plate with a single, two doubles, a homerun and 7 RBI's to lead the team.

Franklins Walk-Off Single In The 7th Gives D-Backs 2nd Victory

It came down to the wire on April 13 with Diamondbacks Intermediate taking the win on a dramatic walk-off single in the late innings that sealed their victory over the Angels. The game was tied at six with Diamondbacks batting in the bottom of the seventh when Colton Franklin singled on a 0-1 count, scoring Timmy Taylor from second base.

The Diamondbacks built a four-run lead in the fifth inning. The Angels were quiet until the top of the 7th when they put up five unanswered runs and took a 1 run lead going into the bottom half. The comeback was lead by a 2 RBI single by Aidan Hunt and a single by Ben Cervantes.

The Diamondbacks offense was led by Timmy Taylor, Chaz Belt and Frank Ainley, all sending runners across the plate with RBIs.

Taylor led things off on the hill for Diamondbacks. He went three and two-thirds innings, allowing one run on two hits and striking out eight.

Case Christiansen led things off on the pitcher's mound for Angels. He surrendered four runs on five hits over four and a third innings, striking out nine. Joseph Skaggs made his debut on the mound and pitched a scoreless inning out of the bullpen.

Diamondbacks Break Out Of Slump, Take Down Brewers 6-4

The Diamondbacks Intermediate team was all smiles on April 9 as they earned their first win of the season, breaking a 4 game losing streak.

Chaz Belt came out of the bullpen and kept the Brewers offense quiet long enough for his offense to get the lead and pick up the W.

Eli Brown started the game for Brewers. He allowed one hit and two runs over two innings, striking out two and walking one. Colton White and Emmett Wilson entered the game as relief, throwing two and two-thirds innings and one and one-third innings.

Colton Franklin went 2-for-3 at the plate to lead Diamondbacks offense. The Brewers started their comeback late in the game but Cody Waldon was able to shut the door and earn the save.



Timmy Taylor was all smiles after launching his 2nd home run of the season

Giving From page 1

nade had established as well as get additional local businesses to become involved along with applying for grants. Kara said they would hold multiple fundraisers such as community potlucks throughout the year and individual donations are certainly welcome as well.

"Even a tiny bit of giving really helps a lot," Kara said. "You can donate time, items and dollars."

Community members are invited to a GIVESlo fundraising party on April 27 at Baywood Tavern, 690 Santa Maria in Los Osos. Twenty percent of proceeds for the

day will be donated by Baywood Tavern towards GIVESlo non-profit startup costs, which are about \$3,000. There is a meet and greet from Noon - 5 p.m. with Kara and Rebecca, live music and raffles at \$5 per ticket or 3 for \$10. Prizes include: Rexall Pharmacy & Gift Store item, a 1-week Spark Yoga pass, Mother's Day bouquet, a Women's haircut at H&CO Hair Lounge, a facial and more! Folks don't have to be present to win.

For more information or to make a donation, contact Kara at 303- 908-4498.

Big Moves From page 1

ic, and a large parking lot at 714 Embarcadero bundled together for some \$2.5 million and made it clear they want a motel-retail project done there, something to generate as much tax monies as possible.

And despite going through several real estate firms to market the properties, no one's been able to get it sold, at least until now.

The City Council was slated to meet in closed session at 3 p.m. on Tuesday, April 23 at the Harbor Street Fire Station Training Room. According to the meeting notice, the City is negotiating with King Ventures of San Luis Obispo, a company founded by motelier and developer John King, who owned the Inn at Morro Bay for many years before losing the property to bankruptcy.

He's most recently been in the news for a project to restore the historic Fremont Theater in San Luis Obispo, and according o the company website (see: www.kingventures.net) King Ventures is also proposing something called "Morro Bay RV Park" with "150 units."

King's name also surfaced as part of a proposal to take over both the Libertine and Off the Hook Embarcadero lease sites, combine them and build one big motel but that proposal was rejected by the council in favor of separate redevelopment projects.

The agenda also lists "Ram Krupa Real Estate, LLC" as a property negotiator. Previously, the Council had scheduled a special closed session meeting for Thursday, April 18 but that meeting was canceled due to a lack of quorum. With that agenda notice the City had listed "Grupe Commercial Company" as the negotiating party and the purpose was to discuss "price and terms of payment."

City Manager, Scott Collins, said he was unable to discuss the closed session items beyond the description in the meeting notice. He did say that the brokers had fielded interest in the property. "Which is a good thing," he said.

The mention of King Ventures is the first time an actual development company has been mentioned with regards to the property.

Collins added that he was very happy to see the Skateboard Museum get up and running so quickly.

The concept that the City has been pursuing is to redevelop them into one large, motel and conference center with retail spaces, spanning from the Embarcadero to the top of the bluff and across Market Avenue at the corner.

the three properties are part of a conceptual plan that encompasses the

The three properties have been marketed together and dubbed "Market Plaza."

In 2018 the concept was named a so-called, "catalyst site" ripe for redevelopment in the City's "Economic Development Strategic Plan." (Other catalyst sites were the defunct power plant and the soon-to-be defunct sewer treatment plant on Atascadero Road.)

That Embarcadero parking lot is where the Harbor Festival and Avocado-Margarita Festivals are currently held, and where other special events like the defunct Music Festival and a hip hop music show, have been held in the past.

A source briefed on what's going on, said the City is actually entertaining four possible offers on the properties and will be reviewing each in closed session meetings over the next several weeks.

To find past issues of the newspaper, go to:
www.esterobaynews.com

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Homes for Sale



Arroyo Grande - Private 6.5 acres Edna Valley Estate single level home. Three bedrooms, three baths, 2,957 sq. ft., light open and airy with many customs features: Vaulted ceilings, sky lights, three fireplaces, wet bar, large open kitchen with pantry, center island, breakfast bar and french doors leading into a tiled back patio. Separate master suite/sitting room/walk-in closet/large jacuzzi tub and a three car garage! Priced at \$1,050,000.00



Morro Palisades; Highly desired Los Osos Heights location featuring wide 80 x 100 ft lots. Come discover this single level; 3 bedroom, 2 bathroom, 2 car garage home boasting a cozy brick fireplace, dinning area and a galley style kitchen. Enjoy a Peek of the rock in the large back yard perfect for BBQ's and family gatherings. Priced at \$545,000.



This custom Craftsman Home is located on a private, gated, 1/2 acre lot with bay/rock views. The main level has a large living room with vaulted, open-beamed ceilings, cozy fireplace, custom built-in book shelves and a chef's kitchen featuring a double oven, beautiful granite counter tops and high-end appliances. This beautiful 3,267sf, 3 BD, 3 1/2 BA home has an 800sf loft/family room, creating approx 4000sf of living space. The master bedroom features vaulted ceilings, and the master bath features a tub plus a separate shower, large walk-in closet and double sinks. Additional features include a four-car garage and RV parking.

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1170 1st. Los Osos
2 db, 2ba.
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