

Bay Theater to Reopen

By Neil Farrell



Local moviegoers are breathing a sigh of relief after the marquee on The Bay Theater was changed, signaling a planned re-opening after nearly a full year.

The last storefront movie theater (sans parking lot) in SLO County, and the only movie theater on the North Coast was put up for sale in January by Mary Lou Jannopoulos, who's owned the theater for some 25 years.

This after the coronavirus pandemic response shut down all theaters in California in an attempt to stop the spread of the virus.

Built in 1942 by the Army Corps of Engineers for soldiers at the Morro Bay Naval Training Base (located on the power plant property). Those Marines were training for World War II's Pacific Theater. Mrs. Jannopoulos' late husband Jim bought the Bay back in 1973 from Ruth and Ted Morris.

She said the pandemic's shutdown meant she had to dig deep into her own savings to keep the theater going, as bills — for everything from utilities, to City business and County Health Department license fees — didn't stop with the forced closure of the theater.

And the movie business has changed because of the pandemic, as studios are now insisting on guaranteed longer runs for all movies, even the flops, a greater cut of the gate — now up to 65% — and the fact that major studios have begun simultaneously releasing major films directly to the public through online streaming services.

The Bay Theater is set to reopen tomorrow. Photo by Neil Farrell

Indeed, Disney Studios started its own streaming service and released Wonder Woman '84 online.

Such simultaneous releases means cutting the potential audience for theaters in half, especially with younger, tech-oriented people who don't mind watching a blockbuster film on a 5-inch cell phone screen.

Many residents sang the blues when word that the theater was for sale hit the streets in January, after the Estero Bay News first broke the story.

Shortly after that, the marquee was changed to simply say — "For Sale." She was asking \$1.5 million for what is essentially a "turn-key" operation.

But now the marquee reads, "Re-opening March 12, 2021 Anthony Hopkins in The Father PG-13."

"We got a picture, so I'm opening up," Mary Lou Jannopoulos told Estero Bay News.

She noted that the State's guidelines only allow her 25% capacity. The Bay Theater seats 314, so she'll be allowed to officially sell about 79 seats.

The re-opening of the Bay Theater comes after the California Department of Public Health up-graded SLO County into the "Red Tier" of the Governor's "Blueprint for a Safer Economy."

Red is a step up from the "Purple Tier," the strictest of the blueprint's 4-tiered grading system and lessens somewhat the

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Moving Forward: David Bradley Inspires Positive Posts on Nextdoor.com

By Judy Salamacha



Stuart Mason's painted animal portraits became his side hustle during the pandemic.

Authors note: Recently I was intrigued by a call-to-action post on Nextdoor.com. David Bradley had asked the right question to inspire others to share how they were "moving forward" financially during our worldwide pandemic. I was inspired to meet the man who cared enough about his Morro Bay neighbors to ask how they were doing and what they were producing. I'm pleased to introduce David Bradley and a few of his Nextdoor.com neighbors.

Mid-February Bradley posted, "What's everyone doing for extra cash?" He went on to state he personally understood many have had to "pivot" to survive during this time and none of us anticipated their mainstay income would be challenged by a virus call COVID. He offered up his example "side hustle" which was a book he had self-published in 2010, How to Stop Smoking Without Killing Anyone. Although it took him eight months during the lock-down to create the new sales tool, he now has an Audible.com version of his book on the market.

"The point I'm making here is that what happens to us doesn't define us. It's what we do about it - and with it - that will ultimately determine who we are. We are all unique and experts at something." Bradley then concluded we could find ways to make extra money doing something we love.

Bradley's career is in sales. For years he was in automobile sales in Southern California. Ten years ago he began his career

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Big Changes at Ariana's Downtown

By Neil Farrell



A local family has made a major investment in their Downtown Morro Bay business, bringing a little of the Mexican culture to what has to be the most colorful store in town.

Miriam Salgado, daughter of owner, Rafael Torres, said they've been remodeling the space at 515 Morro Bay Blvd., since about last July. What's resulted is a triple-space store with a Mexican food market, a traditional Mexican cuisine restaurant, and a gift shop filled with imported items from south of the border —

from toy dolls, to blankets, colorful dresses and leather sandals.

Before, she explained, her father subleased the restaurant space to another family but they left last November and have reopened in San Luis Obispo.

The space on the other side, was a meeting space and artist studio that shut down because of the pandemic. He was able to lease all three spaces from the single owner.

They took over the restaurant and opened

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Sports Springing Back to Life

By Neil Farrell

Like the life-giving spring sunshine, high school sports are getting the chance to blossom once again, after a year without competition due to the coronavirus pandemic.

Several "fall sports" will have greatly abbreviated seasons, and for now, none of the winter indoor sports can hit the courts. Spring sports will start on time later this month. It's all just a little chaotic, as was 2020, in the midst of a raging pandemic.

Morro Bay High Athletic Director, John Andree, will have his hands full. Coach Andree said the sports and teams that will compete are: Boys' and Girls' Cross Country; Boys' Golf (no junior varsity) and Girls' Golf (no JVs); Boys' Tennis (no JVs) and Girls' Tennis (JVs & V); Boys' and Girls' Swimming and Diving (JV & V); Boys' and Girls' Track and Field (JV & V); Baseball (JV & V); Softball (no JVs); Football (no JVs); Boys' and Girls' Water Polo (JV & V); Boys' Soccer (no JVs); and, Girls' Soccer (no JVs).

"We will have a total of 17 varsity teams and seven JV teams — 24 total — going at the same time," Andree told Estero Bay News. "Going to be crazy; our facilities are going to be well-used."

The winter sports — basketball, volleyball and wrestling — are not cleared yet under the California Department of Public Health's new guidelines for reopening sports on all levels.

The head of the CDPH, Dr. Tomás Aragón, said, "Youth sports are important to our children's physical and mental health, and our public health approach has worked to balance those benefits against COVID-19 risks. With case rates and hospitalizations declining across California, we are allowing outdoor competition to resume, with modifications and steps to reduce risk, in counties where case rates are lower."

So the indoor sports are still on hold but the kids are working out and hopeful. "Girls volleyball, boys volleyball, girls basketball, boys basketball and wrestling are also working out on campus in hopes their seasons will begin," Coach Andree added.

Also undecided is whether fans will be allowed. "We are still working out the spectator issue," Coach Andree said, "but if we allow spectators there will be a set number of 'immediate' family

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Former Supervisor Shirley Bianchi Dies



Former District 2 County Board Supervisor Shirley Bianchi died on Feb. 26, she was 91.

Bianchi served eight years on the County’s Planning Commission and the Board of Supervisors. She helped create Martha’s Place Children Center and the Hearst Ranch conservation project, which saved 82,000 acres of coastline from development, the County said.

“The Board of Supervisors and I received the sad news that former District 2 Supervisor Shirley Bianchi died today in San Luis Obispo,” said District 4 Supervisor and Board Chair Lynn Compton. “She leaves behind an incredible legacy, not just as a supervisor but also through her community advocacy and leadership in other roles. She was a true public servant and we are grateful for her service.”

Current District 2 Supervisor Bruce Gibson said, “Shirley was an inspiration to many in SLO County and especially those of us on the North Coast. Over her many years of public service, she contributed so much, from the establishment of crucial services for children at Martha’s Place to bringing the community together around the successful Hearst Ranch conservation project.”

In 2019, Gibson presented Bianchi with a Certificate of Appreciation for her outstanding contribution to the Fire Safe efforts in Cambria.

Bianchi died at a hospital in San Luis Obispo after facing a number of health challenges, according to the County.

She is survived by her husband of 57 years, soils physicist Bill Bianchi, and her children Catherine, Mary, Anne and Jan.

Proposal Would Turn Motel Into Drug/Alcohol Rehab Center

By Neil Farrell

A proposal to turn a North Morro Bay motel into a “supportive housing” facility has been appealed to the Planning Commission, with a hearing date expected to be scheduled for April.

Community Development Director, Scot Graham said a minor use permit for the project, located at 2460 N. Main St., to turn the Rodeway Inn (formerly the Twins Bay Inn and Best Western El Rancho) into a sober living and treatment facility, geared to help first responders, was approved over the counter Feb. 22.

“The supportive housing project was approved at staff level [as required by state law and city ordinance],” Graham told Estero Bay News in a March 3 email.

They received an appeal of the approval on March 2. “I haven’t had a chance to review the appeal,” Graham said, “but I think we are shooting for one of the April hearing dates (6th or 20th) for Planning Commission review.” (See the project documents at: www.morro-bay.ca.us/842/Current-Planning-Projects.)

The applicant is listed as Brian Der Vartanian, one of the principles of Morro Bay Recovery, Inc., a group that owns the motel. It has 27 rooms and according to a news story, the owners want to establish an “alcohol and drug rehab center” for special patients.

“Our objective is to provide help for first responders such as firefighters and police,” Der Vartanian told the Tribune in a Feb. 23 story, “as well as to anyone with unfortunate circumstances who has become addicted to alcohol and drugs.”

Senate Bill 2 (SB2), according to Graham, specifically allows changing uses on such properties. “These types of project are required to be approved administratively per California Government Code.”

With the exception of having to adhere to all the zoning standards of the property, there apparently isn’t much the City can do

to stop it, even if it wanted to.

City Zoning code No. 17.12.626 on supportive housing reads, “‘Supportive housing’ means housing with no limit on length of stay, that is occupied by a target population, and that is linked to an onsite or offsite service that assists the supportive housing resident in retaining the housing, improving his or her health status, and maximizing his or her ability to live, and, when possible, work in the community.”

Graham added that in the State Health and Safety Code (No. 53260) target populations are listed as “low-income person with mental disabilities, AIDS, substance abuse or chronic health conditions, or persons whose disabilities originated before the age of 18.”

The law also allows for supportive uses focusing on retaining housing, living and working in the community, and/or health improvement, which a sober living facility might provide.

“Transitional housing is defined in Health and Safety Code Section 50675.2 as buildings configured as rental housing developments, but operated under program requirements that call for the termination of assistance and recirculation of the assisted unit to another eligible program recipient at some predetermined future point in time, which shall be no less than six months. It may be designated for a homeless individual or family transitioning to permanent housing.”

Graham said SB2 “requires” that these projects be “processed as residential uses and subject only to those development standards and restrictions that apply to other residential uses of the same type in the same zone.”

Though the project has yet to be placed on a public agenda, word of it spread on the Morro Bay Next Door social media site and just about every comment of dozens posted was in opposition, claiming everything from a potential loss of property values, to creating a dangerous situation for children that walk past on their way to Del Mar Elementary over a mile away. And, somewhat oddly, numerous negative commenters acknowledged the need for a rehab facility.

There have been other sober living facilities in town, most notably one in a single family home in the Heights.

But a sober living home proposed several years ago on LaJolla Street that would have had up to 14 people living there, was met with fierce opposition by neighbors and dropped.

But with the law change, there may not be anything beyond setting certain special conditions on the project that the City can do about it. Even its own ordinances allow it.

“In 2014 the Morro Bay City Council adopted Ordinance No. 584,” Graham said, “which amends the Zoning Ordinance to add the current definition of transitional housing and supportive housing, and lists these as permitted uses in all zoning districts allowing residential uses.”

The initial plans say there could be from 27-40 people living there mostly in individual rooms, though some clients might share a room. Plus there’s a counseling center and a kitchen/dining area. The owners also want to put up a privacy fence around the sizable property.

Projects approved over the counter by the planning director are appealable to the Planning Commission. The PC’s decision is appealable to the City Council, but the appeals stop there.

The project is outside the Coastal Commission’s appeal jurisdiction, so if residents wanted to continue to fight against it, should the City Council approve it, they would have to sue.

Pandemic Restrictions Eased a Bit

By Neil Farrell



Coronavirus pandemic restrictions were lifted a bit for San Luis Obispo County, but the County Health Department isn’t stepping off the gas in the fight against the 21st Century’s first scourge.

With COVID case dropping and deaths from the virus slowing to a crawl, SLO County was dropped from the Governor’s “Purple Tier” to the “Red Tier” under the “Blueprint for a Safer Economy.”

“COVID-19 testing protects community members and their loved ones from unknowingly spreading the disease,” the County

Health Department said Feb. 23, “but local health officials say it also has another benefit — the more people get tested, the faster the State will ease pandemic-related restrictions locally.”

Testing is the Key

The County said the key to regaining freedoms is testing for the virus.

“Testing for COVID-19 is as important as ever,” said Dr. Penny Borenstein, the County Health Officer. “First and foremost, it helps you and your loved ones stay safe. But it also has an added benefit of allowing us to progress towards safely reopening our local businesses and schools.”

The more testing that’s done, the potential increases for this pandemic nightmare to be over.

“The State adjusts the county’s overall case rate based on testing volume,” according to the County. “As testing volume increases, the County’s adjusted case rate decreases. Likewise, as testing volume decreases, the County’s adjusted case rate can increase.”

The County now has many more testing sites — in Nipomo, Grover Beach, Morro Bay (Vets Hall), Paso Robles and San Luis Obispo, with many sites now open until 7 p.m. and some offering Saturday testing. Walk-ups are now allowed, in addition to appointments, according to the County. See: www.EmergencySLO.org/testing for test site locations and to make appointments.

And apparently the tests themselves are better. “The test itself is much more comfortable, as health care workers at the sites now swab the ‘anterior nares,’ or the base of the nostril, instead of the upper cavity that was customary early in the pandemic. Turn-around times for tests have also decreased, with results delivered in one to three days.”

Schools to Open

Local schools were slated to reopen in March, with the elementary schools opening first and then the junior highs and eventually Morro Bay High School on March 15, under a plan adopted by the San Luis Coastal Unified School District Board.

And youth and adult sports are making a return with the new Red Tier status. “Organized youth and adult sports with modifications may resume in San Luis Obispo County starting Friday [Feb. 26],” the County announced, “with some modifications based on guidance from the California Public Health Department.”

So while the boys and girls can play again, it’s not normal and without fans for the most part. So don’t break out the wieners and chips just yet.

“The updated guidance includes requirements that must be observed by all sports, including use of face coverings by observers and coaches, distancing between non-household members, limitations on spectators, limitations on tournaments, and other requirements.”

County Jail has Relapse

Though it was able to declare a previous COVID-19 out-



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break to be over, the virus made another inroad at the County Jail.

“The Jail is currently dealing with a COVID-19 outbreak affecting five people — four sworn custody staff and one inmate,” Sheriff’s spokesman Tony Cipolla said on Feb. 19.

“The outbreak started on Saturday, Feb. 13,” Cipolla said, “when a newly arrested inmate had an event requiring custody staff to come to his aid, during which staff was wearing full personal protective equipment (PPE). Subsequently, the inmate went to the hospital where he was diagnosed with COVID-19.”

That inmate was released but soon after the deputies started getting sick.

“Public Health is guiding the Sheriff’s Office in identifying exposed individuals who need testing and quarantine. These cases bring the total number of inmates infected with COVID-19 since the beginning of the pandemic to 90. The number of sworn staff at the Sheriff’s Office infected with COVID-19 since March 2020 totals 48, with 21 Patrol Deputies and 27 sworn Correctional staff.”

County Starts Vaccine Lottery

The County started a vaccine lottery system for those who are eligible to get the shot, essentially anyone 65+ older.

“This is a fair and easy way to get your first-dose appointment if you are eligible,” Dr. Borenstein claimed. “We don’t want to leave anyone behind. We hope this new registry and lottery will reduce stress, as people will no longer need to rush to get an appointment. If you’re eligible, you only have to sign up once and don’t need to worry about checking back — you’ll hear from us each week whether you get an appointment or not.”

Those eligible can register for the lottery online at: www.RecoverSLO.org/VaccineAppointments and complete the registration form. You will be able to indicate your appointment preferences for clinic location, days, and times, but the County may not be able to accommodate all preferences.”

How it works is that every Thursday a computer will produce a randomly selected list for vaccination, so you must be registered prior to that.

“Anyone in the registry by Wednesday at 11:59 p.m.,” the County said, “will be included in the random selection of appointments assigned the following week. After the County assigns appointments each week, all registry participants will receive an update of their status stating that they have been provided an appointment or will remain on the registry for the following week.”

Those without Internet access or who have difficulty with the online form can call the assistance center at (805) 543-2444 or (805) 781-4280 for help.

For more information, see: www.ReadySLO.org or call (805) 788-2903. A staffed phone assistance center is available at (805) 543-2444 to assist with COVID-19 questions Mondays-Fridays, from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

City Seeking Consultants

By Neil Farrell

The City of Morro Bay is looking for a new auditing company, to complete financial reports for the next five years and someone to guide it through two State housing grant programs.

The City is seeking bids for “audit services and preparation of the comprehensive annual financial statement,” according to a request for proposals (RFP) posted on the City website.

The reports would be for the fiscal year ending June 31, 2021, and “2022, 2023, 2024, 2025 and two possible one-year extensions for fiscal years ending June 30, 2026 and 2027,” The RFP reads.

Companies have until 4 p.m. Friday, April 30 to submit hard copies and electronic copies of the applications to City Hall.

“The City shall determine the most responsive and qualified auditor [aka consultant] providing the best service at the most reasonable cost. Cost alone shall not be the determinative factor,” reads the RFP.

And, “The City wishes to negotiate a fixed price contract with a ‘not to exceed’ dollar total based on a clearly defined scope of work.”

The RFP comes as the City’s last 5-year contract is ending. “The last request for proposal for audit services was issued in 2015 for the five-year period ending June 30, 2020 with the possibility of two one-year extensions.”

According to the RFP the City’s got a spotless record in terms of financial audits. “The city has consistently received clean audit opinions and in the most recent three fiscal years has had no major audit adjustments proposed,” the RFP said. “Internal control recommendations for improvement starting in fiscal year 2016 had all been implemented by fiscal year 2019 and no new findings were identified in the most recent audit for fiscal year ending June 30, 2020.

“The city has applied for and received the Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting from the Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA) for fiscal years ending June 30, 2018 and 2019 and has submitted the financial statements for evaluation for the period ending June 30, 2020.”

Why do they need this? “The purpose of the requested services is to ensure the City maintains internal control procedures to protect from fraud or misappropriation and report accurately the financial position of the city’s funds.”

The City has also solicited consultants to help it with a couple of State housing programs and was to open those bids late last week.

The City on Jan. 12 issued a request for proposals to assist the Community Development Department with “SB2 and REAP Planning Grant Housing Element Implementation Programs.” Bids were to be opened March 2.

Senate Bill 2 or SB2 — the “Building Homes and Jobs Act” — was signed into law in 2017, by Gov. Jerry Brown, as part of a 15-bill housing package “aimed at addressing the state’s housing shortage and high housing costs,” reads an official description of the bill on the California.gov website.

SB2 set up a \$75 recording fee on real estate documents “to increase supply of affordable homes in California.”

It’s official purpose was to “provide funding and technical assistance to all local governments in California to help cities and counties prepare, adopt, and implement plans and process improvements that streamline housing approvals and accelerate housing production.”

SB2 was supposed to do several specific things: accelerate housing production; streamline the approval of housing development affordable to owner and renter households at all income levels; facilitate housing affordability, particularly for lower and moderate-income households; promote development consistent with the State Planning Priorities; ensure geographic equity in the

distribution and expenditure of the funds; and provide technical assistance.

REAP or the Regional Early Action Planning Grant Program is supposed to increase “the availability of affordable homes statewide is critical to bettering the quality of life of all Californians and to ending homelessness.”

Part of the 2019-20 State budget, Gov. Gavin Newsom put up \$250 million for all regions, cities and counties to “do their part by prioritizing planning activities that accelerate housing production to meet identified needs of every community.”

Some \$125 Million was made available for 1-time grants to regional governments and regional entities “for planning activities that will accelerate housing production and facilitate compliance,” the State website said.

The REAP gave birth to the “Local Early Action Planning” or LEAP grant program targeting cities and counties for funding.

“This program allows councils of governments and other regional entities to collaborate on projects that have a broader regional impact on housing,” according to the State website. “Grant funding is intended to help regional entities and governments facilitate local housing production that will assist local governments in meeting their Regional Housing Need Allocation (RHNA).”

So how does that help Morro Bay, which has never supported large, housing developments? Community Development Director Scot Graham said, “I think we received \$160,000 in SB2 funds and that is what we are using for the RFP items; \$73,000 in REAP, which we will be using to acquire a new software application to allow digital plan checks and digital submittal of plans.

“We are also looking at \$65,000 in LEAP funding,” Graham said, “that will be used to cover our Housing Element Update costs or most of the cost.”

Coastal Commission Expected to Oppose Oceano Dunes Plan

The California Coastal Commission will hold a virtual hearing on March 18 addressing the future of the Oceano Dunes State Vehicular Recreation Area and wants the public’s input.

The state agency, says it will likely oppose plans but forth by the State Park

The California Department of Parks and Recreation operates the State Park in in the Guadalupe-Nipomo dunes complex known as Oceano Dunes. The 3,500-acre Park extends along eight miles of beach, shoreline, and dunes, and some two miles inland.

The California Coastal Commission issued a coastal permit to State Parks in the 1980s for operations at Oceano Dunes. The Park currently provides a mix of uses including beach day use, birdwatching, horseback riding, fishing, and hiking, but the primary draw is driving cars, trucks and off-highway vehicles (OHVs) on the beach and in the dunes. It’s the only State Park in California that allows recreational driving on the beach and in the dunes.

The CCC periodically reviews and updates that permit and has determined that driving at the park has degraded dune habitats, harmed native species, caused air quality and public health

Oceano Dunes Continued on page 4



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Oceano Dunes From page 3

issues, and made it difficult for the public to walk, swim and enjoy other activities at the beach.

The CCC required State Parks to address these concerns when it last reviewed the permit in 2019. Among other things, the CCC directed State Parks to consider reducing driving activities that contribute to these problems, and to evaluate phasing out OHV use altogether.

In response, State Parks prepared a draft plan detailing how they would like to continue managing the Park. That plan proposes to maintain and even expand vehicular and OHV use, including new campgrounds, OHV related facilities and new OHV access to the Park near Oso Flaco Lake and at the Phillips 66 site.

The tentative CCC staff recommendation for the hearing is to phase out off-roading over five years and to expand different types of recreational uses that won't harm coastal resources at the Park. The staff recommendation will encourage car-camping on the beach between West Grand and Pier Avenues, as well as some remote hike-in/bike-in camping. Off-roading enthusiasts will continue to be able to ride at eight other inland State Parks as well as at nearly 70 other public OHV areas in California.

The recommendation would not close Oceano Dunes. "Rather, the recommendation would enable the Commission to partner with State Parks, the local community, and visitors to the area to reimagine the Park operating in a more environmentally sustainable and legally consistent way," the CCC said on their website. "The Park would continue to offer unique experiences such as car camping on the beach, and a range of other activities, from walking and swimming at the beach to horseback riding, birding, fishing and hiking the dunes."

Under CCC staff recommendation, the Park would:

- Provide a unique \$10 per campsite car camping experience and vehicular ADA access between West Grand and Pier Avenues
- Provide non-vehicular public recreational access south of Pier Avenue to allow for beach day use, equestrian use, biking, hiking, fishing, birdwatching and other activities. This would close Pier Avenue to vehicular entry, and provide some low-intensity hike-in/bike-in camping opportunities further south
- Implement enhanced habitat protection measures, including in the southern portion of the Park, and near Oso Flaco Lake.

The staff recommendation would initially increase beach/vehicular camping space, and then after the five year transition provide roughly the same amount of camping space currently available at the Park but move it further north. The camping would then be closer to Pismo Beach, Grover Beach, and Oceano businesses near West Grand and Pier Avenues, allowing campers to walk, visit, and shop in those areas. Closing the Pier Avenue vehicle ramp will enable the underserved community of Oceano to directly connect to its beach, which could bring with it the types of opportunities that help other California beach towns prosper. These changes are likely to impact existing businesses catering primarily to OHV uses, but there would also be expanded opportunities for businesses catering to lower-impact beach and dune uses, according to the CCC. Oceano Dunes would continue to be a Park that is attractive for visitors, particularly for families looking for unique lower-cost recreational and outdoor opportunities in the Five Cities area.

The public is encouraged to provide input by sending in comments in writing or by testifying at the virtual hearing on March 18th, or both.

Submit comments by email at OceanoDunesReview@coastal.ca.gov.

Submit comments by mail to 725 Front Street, Suite 300, Santa Cruz, CA 95060

Speak to the Coastal Commissioners at the hearing on March 18, 2021 using your telephone, cell phone, computer or tablet. Instructions to do so are on the Commission's webpage at www.coastal.ca.gov.

For any questions, contact Kevin Kahn, the Coastal Commission's Central Coast District Supervisor and its lead coastal planner on Oceano matters at 831-427-4863 or kevin.kahn@coastal.ca.gov.

To read the full 181-page report, go to <https://documents.coastal.ca.gov/assets/oceano-dunes/Report.pdf>.



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City Rec Sports Won't Return Until Fall

By Neil Farrell

Coronavirus is seemingly on the run with case counts in San Luis Obispo County falling steadily, and many school sports are now being allowed to take the field once again.

So when will recreation classes and youth sports in Morro Bay come back? Not anytime soon, according to a City official. Morro Bay Recreation Division Director, Kirk Carmichael, told Estero Bay News, "We are working towards bringing back outdoor activities — youth sports, classes, etc. We will need to start slow, as I have been without support staff for close to a year now, and gain momentum hopefully by fall."

The recreation staff, including numerous umpires, referees and rec class instructors were laid off last spring with the advent of the pandemic lockdowns and stay-at-home orders.

It was part of a cost-cutting program by the City to try and lessen an anticipated big drop in tax revenues.

City Manager, Scott Collins, said, "Due to the financial impacts of COVID-19, several departments, including Kirk's lost several staff. This impacts their ability to provide programming."

Collins said things are improving. "We are in the process with the financial condition improving to slowly bring people back," he said, "but it definitely takes some time to do that. I am proud of how hard the recreation team is working to make this happen, along with providing day care service to families in Morro Bay at Del Mar Elementary."

Carmichael hopes to get some sports programs restarted soon. "I'm trying to put something together now for girls softball and supporting Little League with field use," Carmichael said. "We are moving forward with our Junior Lifeguard program this summer as well."

News Briefs

By Theresa-Marie Wilson

LOCAC Seats Open For Election

The Los Osos Community Advisory Council will hold elections for four council seats, one from each district.

Elections will be held the beginning of May, the exact date to be determined. To apply sign the conditions of service, give them some information about yourself information why you want to serve. Maps of districts and the application can be found at <http://locac.info/2021-locac-election/>. Applications are due March 14.

Questions should be directed to Elections Chair Christine Womack at cwomack1968@gmail.com.

Colorectal Cancer Month

Dignity Health Central Coast hospitals recognize the significance of March as National Colorectal Cancer Awareness Month.

Both men and women are equally at risk for colon cancer and the risk of developing colorectal cancer increases with age. Screening tests for colorectal cancer should begin soon after turning 45 and continue at regular intervals or at the recommendation of a physician. Although colorectal cancer is most common among people age 50 and older, recent data shows that 10.5 percent of colorectal cancers occur in people between the ages of 45 and 49. The majority of colon cancers appear in individuals with no known risk factors, which is why regular screenings are so important.

County Libraries Poised to Open

Have you been wondering when your library will reopen? Reopening depends on staff returning from working at the County's vaccination clinics, call centers, and contact tracing teams. Right now, the County's priority is keeping the community healthy, and all departments are working together on this.

Collins pointed out that they are offering some classes for seniors in outdoor settings. They hold Tai Chi classes from 10:30-11:30 a.m. Tuesdays and Thursdays at Tidelands Park (masks required); walking excursions at 11 a.m. Wednesdays meeting at the Maritime Museum; a balance class at 10:30 a.m. Tuesdays and Thursdays in the parking lot at the Community Center (masks required); and they play bocce ball at 1 p.m. Thursdays at Tidelands Park.

Also, the City's pickle ball courts at Del Mar Park are open daily from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. and a local pickle ball group plays in the afternoons.

The City closed all of its buildings to the public last April with a few exceptions, for example the Food Bank still gives away foodstuffs every third Wednesday of the month at the Vet's Hall starting at 9:30 a.m. and the Monday Night Community Dinners at the Vets Hall continue as take-out affairs.

But the Community Center, which houses the Senior Center will have to wait until the County's COVID numbers get a lot better.

"As for City buildings," Carmichael said, "the latest consensus was the City will look at reopening facilities once the County reaches the Yellow Tier [in the Governor's "Blueprint for a Safer Economy"]. As for the seniors, it will be a challenge to gather volunteer staff to operate the center, as many do not feel ready or comfortable coming back just yet."

Collins added, "The Community Center cannot open to the general public at this time [its not a City decision], per the State and County guidelines. When we hit the 'Yellow Tier' we can open the Center. We hope to move toward the yellow tier soon, and that would likely coincide with greater interest for folks to participate and volunteer for programming."

The State's Yellow Tier in the "Blueprint for a Safer Economy" classifies the COVID pandemic as "Minimal" spread and is two tiers better than the "Red Tier," where SLO County is currently classified.

In the meantime, you can still get books, multimedia, and magazines at library Sidewalk Service locations, or use their downloadable collections 24/7. Place your holds at SLOLibrary.org by phone, or by Book Connection for pickup at the San Luis Obispo, Atascadero, Arroyo Grande, and Morro Bay libraries. They are open Tues–Sat, 9–5 (closed 1–2:15), no appointment necessary.

To keep up on when locations open, check SLOLibrary.org or follow County of San Luis Obispo Public Libraries on social media.

New California Business Relief Grants

California's Office of the Small Business Advocate (CalOSBA), part of the Governor's Office of Business and Economic Development (GO-Biz), recently announced four new funding rounds for the California Small Business COVID-19 Relief Grant Program following Governor Gavin Newsom signing into law a comprehensive package of immediate actions that speeds much-needed relief to individuals, families, and businesses suffering the most significant economic hardship due to COVID-19.

Guided by a principle of equity, the program provides a crucial financial lifeline to traditionally underserved small businesses and non-profits. In its first two funding rounds, just over 40,000 small businesses and non-profits were selected to receive approximately \$500 million in grant funding. More than 350,000 small businesses and non-profits applied in a competitive process, with funding requests totaling more than \$4.5 billion.

The recently signed package provides \$2.075 billion – a four-fold increase to that initial \$500 million – for grants up to \$25,000 for small businesses impacted by the pandemic. The new package also includes a \$50 million allocation for non-profit cultural institutions. Four competitive funding rounds will be conducted by CalOSBA's selected intermediary, Lendistry. Additional information can be found at CARElief-Grant.com.

Send your news, community and business briefs to Editor@EsteroBayNews.com. Be sure to include the who, what, why, where and when information along with a contact person.



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Cross Country Back on Course

Photos and Story by Neil Farrell

Morro Bay High's Cross Country Teams finally got the chance to run last week, hosting St. Joseph's in an Ocean League dual meet as the normally fall sport was given the go-ahead to compete in an abbreviated season.

The season will consist of a series of dual meets, explained Pirate's coach, Chuck Ogle. There will be no league championship meet, and no CIFG playoffs either. The high school's usual course, which includes a brutal trip through the loose sand down to the beach, was also changed, as the school's protocols wouldn't allow leaving campus.

That meant the course took a couple of laps around the campus perimeter and additional laps around the track as well.

Coach Ogle said they had a mostly good meet. "Diego Martinez [a junior] broke open a tight duel with a late surge to win the boys race," he said, "but the Knights won a close team battle 27-28."

For the Lady Pirates, "Olivia Fernflores [a senior] controlled the girls contest," he said. The girls won the meet 7-17 [lowest score wins].

The rosters for both schools were not complete, as not all athletes have returned to school, so they agreed to score just the top three runners (normally the top five are scored).

Martinez won the 2.5-mile race in 14 minutes and 10 seconds.

St. Joe's Kristiano Plata was second in 14:36; then Brenden Costa (MB 3rd 14:57) followed by Nicolas Naumescu, (4th, S.J. 15:02); Michael Carbajal (MB 5th 15:38); Giacomo Curti (SJ 6th 15:49); Scott Hartman (SJ 7th 16:14); Micah Brinez (SJ 8th 17:15); Jacob Rocha (MB 9th 17:22); and Eddie Sperber (MB 10th 17:25). Evan Rosenberg (13th 19:12) and Justin Minton (16th 22:05) also ran for the Pirates.

In the girls' race, Fernflores won in 16:42; followed by Annie Wieck (MB 2nd 17:17); Alexis Medina (SJ 3rd 17:42); Taylor Costa (MB 4th 17:58); Noleena Fahy (MB 5th 19:08); Paige Beal (SJ 6th 19:10); Reif Madrid (SJ 7th 19:32); Elizabeth Arias (SJ 8th 20:59); and Emily Dillard (SJ 9 23:39).

Martinez and Fernflores had good showing in a previous practice meet, too.

"Diego and Olivia also had strong showings in our non-scoring meet against Atascadero last week," Coach Ogle said. "These two are charging and as a result everyone else is bearing down. This is leadership by example."

The Pirates hosted Mission Prep last Friday and is schedule to host Templeton on March 19. They will also travel to Pioneer Valley on March 13 and Santa Maria March 26 in the abbreviated and delayed season.

County to Buy More Paper Lots

By Neil Farrell

San Luis Obispo County is buying up another slug of so-called "paper lots" on a Cayucos hillside, after the owners quit paying taxes on them years ago.

County Supervisors were asked March 2 to approve spending \$40,000 to purchase 18 of the infamous Cayucos paper lots, an old subdivision that was deemed unsuitable for development, mainly because of the steep slopes and unstable soils.

Over the past couple of decades and after the County deemed the lots "unbuildable," the owners have stopped paying property taxes and the County has on several occasions purchased lots through a tax forfeiture process that was put into place by Supervisors back in 1988.

The owners of these current lots haven't paid property taxes for at least 5 years, according to a report.

The 'Tax Deeded Property Acquisition Policy,' directed that tax-defaulted properties, which have been deemed sub-standard for development or are located in uneconomic subdivisions or paper subdivisions of land such as is found in Cayucos, La Grande Beach, and California Valley be considered for purchase," reads a staff report.

The County Central Services Department, which is buying the lots for "the purpose of public use," asked for \$40,000 to be transferred out of the County's General Fund Reserves. The purchase also included another parcel "the site of a former landfill" in Creston along with the Cayucos lots.

The deal isn't sealed just yet, however, the County must offer the lots for sale at an auction to be held in June. Assuming no one buys the lots they would go to the County for the price of the unpaid taxes.

Supervisor's approval of the sale/purchase must also be first approved by the State Controller's Office and then the owners of the lots must also be notified.

The owners would be given the chance to pay the back taxes and possibly keep their unusable property, but in the several times these lots were purchased for nonpayment of taxes, no one has tried to hang on to them.

If the lots were buildable, given the unblocked, panoramic views of Estero Bay, they could be worth millions.

Any owner of these lots has until 5 p.m. Friday, May 28 to pay the taxes and keep their property. On Tuesday, June 1 they go on the auction block.

The County is a so-called "Teeter County," and as such the vast majority of the proceeds from tax lien sales stays local. However, the State will get a cut, albeit a small one.

"This transaction is revenue neutral with the exception of \$1.50 per parcel to the State of California [a total of \$28.50], which is part of the sale process and is included in the \$40,000," the County report said.

Bringing all these paper lots into public ownership is among the top priorities for the Cayucos Land Conservancy, which wants them to be added to an open space, greenbelt around Cayucos on three sides.



Morro Bay senior Olivia Fernflores finishes first for the Lady Pirates at a dual meet with St. Josephs. Also in the photo are Coach Chuck Ogle and Roger "Doc" Ludin who assisted with timing at the meet.



Morro Bay's Brenden Costa grinds out a third place finish against St. Joe's.



Diego Martinez starts to pull away from St. Joseph's Kristiano Plata on way to a win in the boys' race.



Morro Bay's Noleena Fahy took fifth for the Lady Pirates using a strong kick at the end.



Diego Martinez kicks for the finish well ahead of the pack against St. Joe, with coach Chuck Ogle waiting at the finish line.



MBHS harrier, Taylor Costa, took fourth for the Lady Pirates against St. Joe's.



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Community

Beautifying Morro Bay for 40 Years

By Neil Farrell



One of Morro Bay Beautiful’s ‘Butt Buckets’ distributed along the Embarcadero for collecting cigarette butts. Submitted photo.

One of Morro Bay’s oldest non-profit groups is looking to make a comeback, expand membership and bolster the ongoing beautification projects they have, as approach a milestone anniversary.

Karen Aguilar, a Morro Bay Beautiful member who could become the group’s next president, said the organization will celebrate its 40th Anniversary on March 18.

Warren and Phyllis Dorn started Morro Bay Beautiful in 1981, she explained. Warren Dorn was famous in California politics having served as Mayor of Pasadena and was a Los Angeles County Supervisor for four terms. He once ran for the Republican nomination for Governor but lost to Ronald Reagan. He served for a time as Mayor of Morro Bay in the early 1980s.

He famously had Hollywood celebrities in for visits, friends from his Supervisor days, including Bob Hope and Jonathan Winters.

Phyllis Dorn was an accomplished painter and greatly admired philanthropist. Together, along with several others, they started MBB with the goal of keeping Morro Bay beautiful, i.e. free of clutter and trash.

According to a fact sheet provided by Aguilar, Morro Bay Beautiful’s mission is “to identify, research and promote non-political projects that contribute to and/or preserve the beauty of Morro Bay — and adds beauty to the lives of Morro Bay citizens and visitors through the involvement of all segments of our com-

munity.”

It’s a mission Aguilar said continues today.

“That’s kind of what we do,” she said. She and her husband moved here permanently 3-years ago from the Central Valley and soon after they met MBB President, Ann Reisner, “and started cleaning with them.”

Reisner has been the MBB president for many years steering the organization through several projects.

The group conducts regular cleanups at Morro Rock and they clean up the Sandspit twice a year, a task that Aguilar said she particularly enjoys.

Some 8-10 people took part in the last Sandspit cleanup. “That was a fun day,” she said.

The group only has a handful of active members who clean-up regularly and about 30 total.

“Tuesday mornings is when we do our work,” Aguilar said. She described their members as “quiet volunteers.” “We are very low-key,” she said, “working in the background. We like being under the radar. We’ve never been looking for the spotlight.”

The group has done several types of beautification projects, including supporting the City’s adopt-a-tree program.

They’ve started a “Butt Bucket” program, setting metal pails along Embarcadero filled with sand to collect cigarette butts. They clean out the Butt Buckets weekly.

“Before you had a lot of cigarette butts all over the place,” she said. The area is much freer of people’s butts now.

The group sponsored the “Art Cans” project years ago, that hired local artists to decorate trash cans in the Downtown and along the waterfront. The group washes them down a couple times a year, she said, and local graphic artist Gary Ryan will be re-doing one of his Art Cans at the foot of Beach Street.

She said the new design would be a tribute to the sea otters that congregate in the water in the arm of the South T-pier.

They’ve adopted a stretch of Hwy 1 from South Bay Boulevard through town, and three members regularly clear it of trash.

They award scholarships to high school graduates and periodically power wash City benches. They’ve adopted Anchor Memorial Park and organize a Rock-to-Pier cleanup on Morro Strand State Beach.

Though the Coronavirus Pandemic canceled it this past year, the group also sponsors the Christmas Lights Contest in December and anticipate bringing it back this year.

The group also founded the Annual Citywide Yard Sale that brings thousands of people to town to shop at over 100 yard sales, but handed it off to the City Tourism Department and the TBID a couple of years ago.

With the Tourism Department now eliminated and TBID slated to take over promotions once again in July, the future of the wildly popular Yard Sale Weekend is unclear.

Most recently, they cleaned up on the bike path that runs behind the power plant from Atascadero Road to Main Street. That’s where the City will be laying pipes as part of its Water Reclamation Facility project. “It was just incredible,” Aguilar said of the massive amount of garbage they hauled out.

Aguilar, who has been handling the group’s Facebook Page, said they’d like to bring in more members. Right now there aren’t any dues to join, but they may be talking about that when the group meets in April for their annual meeting, tentatively set for 10 a.m. Saturday, April 10 at Dorn’s Restaurant, where the group has been meeting since the beginning. The location depends on whether the COVID restrictions will allow them to gather at the restaurant, Aguilar cautioned.

Meanwhile, if readers would like to support the group, they have an ongoing license plate frame fundraiser, with two different

plate holders being sold at stores around town.

You can find them at Hinson’s Tire and Perry’s Parcel on Quintana Road; and on the Embarcadero at Under-the-Sea Gallery and at Coastal Treasures, located in Marina Square.

Readers can get more information on Morro Bay Beautiful on the website, see: www.MorroBayBEAUTIFUL.org or find them on Facebook.

Local Enlists in Army National Guard

By Theresa-Maria Wilson



Trevor Butler, of Los Osos, will ship off to Army National Guard boot camp later this month.

Los Osos resident Trevor Butler enlisted in the California Army National Guard last month, one of the reserve components of the United States Army.

The National Guard organizes, trains, equips, and resources community based land forces, and, on order, mobilizes to support state and/or federal authority.

“If I could make even the smallest difference to one person that would mean a lot to me,” the 23-year-old told Estero Bay News. “That would kind of make everything that I’m about to go through worth it. I wish I was leaving tomorrow, honestly. I’ve been working out every day, just getting ready, and I’m ready for anything that they could throw at me.”

Butler was born in Visalia, CA and was raised in Los Osos. He has worked in construction throughout SLO County since he was 16-years-old. He said he enlisted for the benefits and training he will get.

“I wanted to push myself to new limits; I just wasn’t getting that at work,” said the 2014 Morro Bay High School graduate. “I just wanted to see what else is out there for me. I’m taking a pay cut, compared to what I make in construction, but at the end of the day, I think I’m going to be a lot happier,”

He enlisted as an infantryman and hopes to do construction management for the Guard and get in good physical shape.

“Trevor is a go getter and is very eager to push the limits as far as his physical and mental strengths,” said recruiter Staff Sergeant Leo Castillo. “I feel like he sees this as a challenge that he’s been longing for. He shows up every time we meet up with a smile on his face, and a very positive attitude. It makes me very happy.

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Community

He is proud to serve his country, state, and community.” Butler aims to volunteer for a 3-year deployment with the Army and get as much active duty training as possible. He is hoping to be deployed to Poland in December, but is not sure if he will be released from his unit. Already, he has plans for a second enlistment.

On March 22, Butler leaves for 22 weeks of basic training at Fort Benning, Georgia. Currently, he is working with Castillo once a week doing drill to prepare for basic training.

“Whether it’s the working out stuff or just military jargon and military, customs and courtesies so that when they get to basic training, they have a leg up,” Castillo said. “They are kind of ahead of the power curve. The National Guard is the only component that does that.”

Butler’s parents are Jason Butler and Amanda Valena, and he has three siblings, all of whom he said are excited for him and supportive. He will miss the Central Coast, in particular the beach.

“Last night, I was running the Sand Spit toward The Rock watching the sunset over the ocean, and I just thought to myself ‘I’m really going to miss [this],’ he said. “I don’t think there’s another place in the world that’s quite like Los Osos and the Central Coast.”

Another county resident, Garrett Tice of Templeton, also joined the guard. Tice joined after serving four years in the United States Marines. His military occupation specialty will be a combat engineer.

Combat engineers help soldiers navigate combat missions by constructing bridges, clearing barriers with explosives, and detecting and avoiding mines and other environmental hazards. Tice’s rank will be E4, which is a specialist.

“Garrett has two supportive parents, David and Peggy Tice, who couldn’t be prouder of their son for continuing to serve his country and be a major contributor to civil support efforts within the California Army National Guard,” said Castillo.

Some locals might recognize Tice who works at First Defense Firearms in Morro Bay.

Castillo stressed that talking to him about recruitment is not a high-pressure pitch.

“I try to change the stigma of the negative connotation that recruiters have,” he said. “This is your career, this is your life. If you don’t want to join the National Guard, I’m not going to beg you, I have a roof over my head. But if you really, truly want to do something for the betterment of your life, then just hear it out. If it’s something you don’t want to walk away from it.”

Anyone interested in more information about joining the California Army National Guard may contact Staff Sergeant Castillo at (805) 538-8311, or follow him on Instagram.



Garrett Tice, of Templeton, is a former Marine who has enlisted in the Army National Guard.

Picture a Day in Cambria

By Jill Turnbow



“A Day in the Life of Cambria” is the latest community project organized by Cambria Center for the Arts. Photo by Helmut Kuhn

Saturday, March 20 marks the first day of spring and the Cambria Center for the Arts wants you to capture the day in photos. “A Day in the Life of Cambria” is the latest community project organized by CCA and invites locals and visitors alike to take photos anywhere from the Harmony Headlands to the Piedras Blancas Lighthouse to commemorate the Spring Equinox.

The rules are quite simple. Photos must be taken on March 20 and include a time/date stamp. Resolutions must be a minimum of 2400px on the shorter dimension. Photographers can submit up to four photos and each must have a caption. No Photoshop alterations are permitted. Photos will become part of a virtual exhibit on the new website, cambriaarts.org.

CCA Board member and Project Coordinator, Judith Pratt, talks about the idea for the project. “We were looking for ways to generate excitement in the community. One of CCA’s goals is to share the arts outside our doors and this seemed like a fun way to do it.”

Judith has a photographer friend involved with a larger project, “A Day in the Life of California”, and thought it was a great idea. With so many beautiful spots in and around Cambria the inspirations are endless. From tidepools, to elephant seals, to wineries, creeks, and trails, there are so many things that make Cambria special. And on the first day of spring, flowers will be blooming, colors will be changing, more people will be venturing out. Judith adds “We want people to show us why they come to Cambria, to visit or to live here, what makes this town special to them.”

“A Day in the Life of Cambria” is the second community outreach program offered by CCA since it had to close its doors due to the pandemic. Earlier in the fall they completed the new mural at the north end of town on the exterior wall of Cutruzzola Winery. Plans for future murals are also in the works.

“Everyone has a special memory of what fascinates them about Cambria, what makes Cambria a community like no other, Judith said. “Show us that — “Zebras, an olallieberry pie, egrets

on the ranch, so many unique things.” Photographers can shoot within the borders of the Harmony Headlands on the south, Piedras Blancas Lighthouse to the north, east to the Santa Rosa Creek Rd intersection with Hwy 41 and west to the Pacific. Amateurs and professional photographers alike are asked to participate. Submitted photos will be displayed in a virtual exhibit on the CCA website along with photographer’s name and photo captions. By submitting a photo, the photographer gives CCA permission to use the photo(s) for promotional purposes. For all the details, and for where you can upload your photos, see the new website at cambriaarts.org/march20/

Art Auction Benefits Harbor Friends



The painting “Dockside in Morro Bay” by the late-David Jones will be auctioned to raise funds benefiting Friends of the Morro Bay Harbor Department. Bidding closed March 13.

The Friends of the Morro Bay Harbor Department has a new fundraiser that’s a real masterpiece of local art and bids are being taken through March 13.

The Friends said Susan Jones has donated a watercolor painting by her artist husband, the late-David Jones, entitled, “Dockside in Morro Bay,” a colorful still-life depiction of commercial fishing boats docked at the pier.

David Jones attended the Art Center School and the Jepson Art Institute, and had a successful career in New York City as an illustrator, according to the Friends group.

Back in Los Angeles, Jones was a motion picture illustrator and animation storyboard artist for 10 years for Walt Disney Studio. He started doing freelance work as a storyboard artist and conceptual artist working for years for several large studios including Disney Animation. He also studied landscape and figurative painting.

Jones retired in 1989 from the film industry and began painting full time while studying and teaching at the California

Art Auction Continued on page 15

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Police Blotter



Morro Bay Police Logs

- **Feb. 21:** Someone found something somewhere in the 700 block of Morro Bay Blvd. and gave it to police.
- **Feb. 21:** Police responded at 6:46 p.m. to a disturbance in the 300 block of Surf. They contacted a 40-year-old Bacchanalian apparently going wooley-booger who also had a bench warrant, which is why you don't take a joint from a guy named Don.
- **Feb. 21:** At 1:13 p.m. police discovered a man lying in the roadway at an undisclosed location. They no doubt feared the guy was dead, and apparently he was — dead drunk, that is. He was arrested for suspicion of being too fit-shaced to care for himself and taken to the County sober living facility.
- **Feb. 19:** A woman told police that she received a summons “for a traffic collision that occurred in Morro Bay on January 1, 2019,” according to logs. Trouble was she was never in a traffic collision, but the summons claimed she was being sued for “in excess of \$100,000 for injuries and damages.”
- **Feb. 20:** Someone reported a case of domestic violence.
- **Feb. 20:** Someone reported a traffic collision at 2:41 p.m. in the 500 block of the Main Street Raceway.
- **Feb. 19:** Police contacted a 35-year-old scofflaw with multiple warrants at 8:30 a.m. in the 1700 block of Embarcadero. Logs indicated the felonious fellow was allegedly discovered with a stash of illegal drugs and paraphernalia adding considerably to his woes.
- **Feb. 18:** Police responded to a disorderly conduct at 8:42 p.m. in the 300 block of Atascadero Rd. They contacted a 46-year-old greased fellow and arrested him for getting oiled in public.
- **Feb. 18:** Police responded at 11:21 a.m. to Spencer's Market on North Main where some scruffy Philistine was acting up. The 39-year-old tankard was allegedly drunk and got hauled to the hoosegow.
- **Feb. 18:** Police contacted a familiar woman at 11:30 a.m. in the 2900 block of Alder who had a bench warrant. She was issued another disappearance ticket and released.
- **Feb. 17:** Police took a report of suspected child abuse.
- Feb. 18: Police contacted a suspicious fellow at 3:34 a.m. in Lila Keiser Park. The 50-year-old was cited for a probation violation — possession of the silly weed — and released, no doubt a real buzz kill.
- **Feb. 17:** Police responded at 7 p.m. to the 2600 block of Main for a disturbance. A 39-year-old fellow was a bit blindo and too drunk to be left in care for himself.
- **Feb. 17:** Police responded at 4:46 p.m. to a report of people doing drugs outside Albertson's on Quintana. Logs indicated the apparent husband was on parole and so police apprehended him with charges of allegedly being high on methamphetamine, and possession of meth. His apparent wife was nicked for suspicion of being UTI on meth and possession of a glass crack pipe.
- **Feb. 17:** Police responded at 3:25 p.m. to Lila Keiser Park for a suspicious activity call. They nabbed a model citizen for suspicion of possessing meth. He was bagged and tagged and released back into the wild.
- **Feb. 17:** Police responded to an illegal parking complaint on Alder Avenue. Logs indicated they tagged the offensive vehicle and had it towed to the impound yard.

- **Feb. 17:** And in another case of getting DMV'd, someone stole the license plate off a GMC Yukon parked at the high school.
- **Feb. 16:** A local bounder had a pair of run-ins with the law on the same day. According to logs, police responded at 9:21 a.m. to an assault report in the 1200 block of Main. A 34-year-old man was arrested for suspicion of petty theft, battery and obstructing police. However, “The jail would not accept [suspect] for booking despite the PC 148 charge,” logs said. So the ruffian was cited and released. Naturally, his ordeal wasn't much of a discouragement, as at 8:10 p.m. the same ne'er-do-well was back. This time he was arrested for suspicion of burglary, elder abuse and stalking. Logs indicated he was taken to the hospital for treatment and then to County Jail where they took him in this time.
- **Feb. 16:** A catalytic converter was reportedly stolen off a parked car in the 500 block of Monterey.
- **Feb. 16:** Police responded at 9:05 p.m. to a reported assault in the 2600 block of Main. A woman told police that her louse boyfriend “punched her in the face and head.”
- **Feb. 16:** Police responded to a reported assault at 8 p.m. in the 700 block of Butte. A 62-year-old battleaxe was arrested for suspicion of domestic violence — corporal injury to a spouse or cohabitant.
- **Feb. 16:** Someone broke into an apartment building's laundry room in the 3200 block of Main. The master criminal damaged a coin-operated washer and no doubt stole a virtual fortune — all in quarters.
- **Feb. 16:** Police responded at 12:20 p.m. to a trespassing call in the 400 block of Shasta. Police discovered a guy passed out drunk and allegedly schwacked on drugs with a crack pipe in his pocket. The apparent squatter was arrested.
- **Feb. 15:** Police stopped a suspicious vehicle at 8:35 p.m. on Main at Surf. A 23-year-old woman was nicked for suspicion of driving with beer goggles on.
- **Feb. 15:** Someone at the high school reported damage to a fence and items being stolen and, “Thunderation!” police have no clues in the case.
- **Feb. 15:** The first of what promises to be many vehicles was towed from the posted construction site in the 900 block of Quintana.
- **Feb. 13:** Police responded at 9:49 p.m. to the 400 block of Ren-nel St., for a report of someone shooting at an inhabited dwelling, in what police said was an actual drive-by shooting. A day later, they tracked the scoundrel down in Atascadero where the maniac, who recently moved to A-town from Arizona, was arrested.
- **Feb. 13:** Police stopped a suspicious vehicle at 4:55 p.m. on Hwy 1 at Morro Bay Boulevard for some no doubt trumped-up charge. The driver, 37, had a felony warrant out of Tulare County and became the latest visitor to arrive on vacation and leave on probation.
- **Feb. 13:** Police responded to the 600 block of Shasta where some daring rapscaillon stole the catalytic converter off a Honda Element, stealing the car itself apparently not worth the effort. Another citizen in the 2700 block of Greenwood said the catalytic converter off his or her car was also stolen.
- **Feb. 13:** Police contacted a familiar fellow, 28, in City Park at 1:45 p.m. and arrested the snot waffle for suspicion of possessing illegal drugs and a crack pipe.
- **Feb. 13:** Police stopped a suspicious car at the suspect time of 2:31 a.m. on the Embarcadero. The driver, 23, had a suspended license and four bench warrants. Naturally, he was cited and released but his car was impounded, no doubt ensuring the vehicle shows up for court.
- **Feb. 12:** Police stopped a suspicious vehicle at 9:47 p.m. on Atascadero Road. Logs indicated the lady driver, 26, was nicked for driving bombed. She was taken to the stationhouse, cited and

- released and could no doubt use a cocktail right about now.
- **Feb. 12:** A citizen in the 500 block of Avalon said some thievin' bilge rat stole the catalytic converter off their Toyota Prius. Another Prius owner, in the 600 block of Estero, had their catalytic converter (CC for short), stolen too.
- **Feb. 11:** Police stopped a suspicious fellow at 9:30 p.m. in the 200 block of Morro Bay Blvd. At about the same time, police responded to a motel in the 600 block of Main where some freeloader defrauded an innkeeper. The suspicious fellow was determined to have a felony warrant out of Shasta County and then was also fingered as the same swamp donkey that skipped out on his motel bill, a hanging offense in some tourist towns.
- **Feb. 11:** Police took a shoplifting report at Albertson's, no word on if it was from the liquor department, located right by the exit.
- **Feb. 11:** The assault on innocent cars continued with stolen CCs reported in the 100 block of Bradley, 400 block of Fresno, 900 block of Marina, and the foiled attempt at stealing another CC in the 400 block of Luzon. The car on Fresno was another Prius, but logs didn't list the makers or models of the others, but a Prius no doubt seems the way to bet.
- **Feb. 11:** Police responded to the 700 block of Quintana for a woman causing a disturbance. The hellcat, 56, had a warrant. She was cited and released with her next one.
- **Feb. 11:** A citizen in the 300 block of Kodiak said items had been stolen from Unit 12 at Coastal Storage. No word on when they last saw the items.
- **Feb. 10:** A citizen in the 500 block of LaJolla said some sneak thief got into her unlocked vehicle and stole her keys including a special, large, “L-shaped,” key. No word on what it unlocks; may-be it's the key to her heart.
- **Feb. 10:** Police contacted a 48-year-old woman at 11:48 a.m. in the 600 block of Main. Logs indicated the all star was allegedly in possession of heroin, fentanyl, methamphetamine and drug paraphernalia. She also had a felony arrest warrant and got nicked like quick.
- **Feb. 10:** Police contacted a 60-year-old woman at 10:15 a.m. in the 800 block of Quintana for violating a stay-the-hell-away order and vandalism.
- **Feb. 9:** Police contacted a suspicious hombre at 10:23 p.m. in the 200 block of Atascadero Rd. The 50-year-old mulish fellow was in violation of probation and was cited and let go, no doubt under the new socialist catch-and-release policy.
- **Feb. 9:** Police stopped a suspicious vehicle at 5:18 p.m. in the 900 block of MBB. Logs indicated the stop led to the identification of some suspects in an assault with a deadly weapon case — involving a paintball gun — and vandalism. No word on whether the misbegotten knaves were nicked.
- **Feb. 9:** Police took a report of someone getting bitten by some miserable mongrel in the 1700 block of Embarcadero, no doubt a case to sink your teeth into.
- **Feb. 9:** A citizen in the 3100 block of Tide said their handgun was stolen.
- **Feb. 9:** A woman on Ponderosa told police that she'd fallen for the 'ol “your-son's-been-arrested-and-needs-bail-money” trick, and got bilked out of \$9,000, a scam whose days seem numbered with the no-cash bail movement.
- **Feb. 9:** A citizen in the 300 block of Jamaica said someone stole one of their checks and used it to make a bunch of fake checks.
- **Feb. 9:** A citizen turned in a black wallet they'd found on the beach below the North Point Natural Area at the end of Toro Lane.
- **Feb. 8:** Someone sent police a ransom note and some un-described image via facsimile machine. Logs didn't give any further details, nor say why they still have a fax machine.

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Events and Activities

By Theresa-Marie Wilson



Cambria Center for the Arts Virtual Gallery has a new show running through April 25, 2021 via cambriacenterfort- hearts.org. The exhibit is “Its About Time” by featured artists Cambria Vineyard Church Creative Community.

The Central Coast Astronomical Society presents a free Virtual Stargazing on YouTube on March 13 at 7 p.m. The event link is <https://youtu.be/ayB4Sl15L2k>. CCAS astronomers Kent Wallace and Brian P. Cox, together with president Aurora Lipper will take viewers on a tour of the night sky, so they can star gaze right from home!

They’ll also show you how to use star charts to help navigate and find objects. You can download your sky map free at <http://www.skymaps.com/downloads.html>.

During the even, folks will be able to interact with the team, ask questions, and gain insight on objects to search for as they take your star gazing to the next level. It will be like watching a plane- tarium star show only from your computer screen!

Don’t forget to watch for the downloadable handout, which is released about one week prior to the show. This free, printable handout will have tips on getting ready for the session, handy facts about the topics we’ll cover, and more!

The Diversity Coalition San Luis Obispo County will hold a Zoom presentation “How Can We Unite? A Psychological Perspective” as part of their Fostering Understanding in Our Community Outreach. The virtual event takes place March 25 from 6 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. The speaker is Dr. Justin A. Frank M.D., author of the best-selling books “Trump on the Couch,” “Obama on the Couch,” and “Bush on the Couch,” and recent guest on the national television shows for Thom Hartmann and Joy Reid. Dr. Frank is a highly regarded psychoanalyst and teacher. A clinician with more than thirty years experience, Dr. Frank used the principles of applied psychoanalysis to assemble comprehensive psy- chological profiles of our last three presidents. Dr. Frank currently writes a biweekly column for Time.com. He also contributes to HuffingtonPost.com, DailyBeast.com and Salon.com, and is a frequent writer and speaker on topics as diverse as politics, film, and theater. He is a former clinical professor in the Department of Psychiatry at George Washington University Medical Center, and the co-director of the Metropolitan Center for Object Relations in New York. Register at diversityslo.org/fosteringunderstanding.



Call for artists. Art Center Morro Bay, 835 Main St, will present the exhibit “Broken Nature” April 8 - May 24, 2021. People are experiencing a worldwide pandemic; divisions; hidden agendas; and distorted realities. The effects of global warming are causing climate change; drought; melting of polar ice caps; fire;

extinction of species; and polluted oceans and are, undeniably, on the rise.

The exhibits asks, will we find holistic approaches to restore this broken world and be good ancestors for generations to come? Can we mend the divides in our broken society or find strategies to unbreak the cycle, to heal ourselves and the planet? Can we un- break and re-wild nature and ourselves?

Art is a mirror of our own making, raw and true. It poses questions and encourages interactive conversations. Artists are called upon to courageously expose greed, brutality, neglect of na- ture and each other. This exhibit challenges artists to find ways of addressing the consequences of our choices and the urgent need to live sustainably within Earth’s finite resources.

The exhibit is open to all visual media: 2D & 3D, jewelry, pottery, glass and wood. Artists may submit up to three 2D and up to three 3D entries. Take in is Tuesday, April 6, 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. Art will be informally juried at time of entry. See the art submis- sion form and entry fee information at www.artcentermorrobay.org or contact Barbara Sitar, gallery director at bsitar66@gmail.com.

Dive into the bountiful world of succulent plants, taking a virtual walk through garden imagery. The San Luis Obispo Botanical Garden will host landscaper Gabriel Frank, founder of Gardens By Gabriel, Inc, for an afternoon of learning about essen- tial succulent families and how to showcase them in your own gar- den. On Saturday, March 20 from 1 pm – 2pm, Gabriel will lead a Zoom talk about design principles, materials, and techniques to help gardeners with plots of any size succeed in working with these water-wise allies. Then, from 3 pm – 4 pm, join Gabriel at the Garden for an in-person demonstration of how to assemble a striking succulent arrangement in your own container. Plants and soil will be provided.

Tickets are \$10 public/ \$5 SLOBG members for the talk alone and \$55 public/ \$45 SLOBG members for the talk and planting class. Class size is limited. Sign up for one or both! De- tails at SLOBG.ORG.

Frank is the a landscape design + build firm based in Morro Bay known for its distinctive water-wise landscapes. A gradu- ate of the School of Professional Horticulture at the New York Botanical Garden, he has been honored by America in Bloom, Better Homes and Gardens, and the Obispo Beautiful organiza- tion. Gabriel is the author of Striking Succulent Gardens, a book about succulent landscaping from the five Mediterranean climate regions.



The Morro Coast Audubon Society presents Birds of SLO, 2020, Part 1, the Zoom Edition on Monday, March 15 at 7 p.m. Last year was a remarkable year for birding in SLO, with a num- ber of rare vagrants. It could be called the year of the grebe; with a breeding plumage Horned Grebe and a Red-necked Grebe, and the breeding Clark’s and Western Grebes at Santa Margarita Lake.

Birds of SLO – 2020 Part 1 is a two-part slide show featuring out- standing images of over 200 species of birds taken during the first half of last year by seventeen nature photographers in San Luis Obispo County, with a special section highlighting the grebes. The photos are heightened by the live piano accompaniment provided by Oliver Glynn. If you enjoy birds and birding, you’ll enjoy the evening. It will be great entertainment and motivation to get out and bird more often in our county. All MCAS Zoom Community Programs are free and open to the public. As always, all ages are welcome. To participate, go to morrocoastaudubon.org and check out the event calendar for Zoom login information. This virtual program is presented by David Keeling with music by RD Clark and Jack Collins. (Photo by Dave Lawrence)



Jim White waxes poetic on 97.3/107.9 FM The Rock Community Radio in an exclusive interview on Tuesday March 16th, from 7-10 p.m. When he’s not releasing his own critically acclaimed solo albums White splits his time producing records for other artists, exhibiting his visual art in galleries and museums across the US and Europe, and publishing award winning fiction.

Americana music fans may recognize White as the narrator and de facto tour guide for the award winning BBC documentary “Searching for the Wrong Eyed Jesus,” a road movie set in the rural South which the LA Times described as “decidedly strange, delightfully demented”.

During his interview on The Rock, White reveals that prior to becoming a musician, he led an aimless, diverse life working countless menial jobs. It was at the end of that thirteen yearlong gig that White crossed paths with David Byrne, who promptly signed to a record deal. Over the ensuing twenty years there fol- lowed a succession of critically acclaimed solo records, appearanc- es on network and various off beat side projects releases.

Recently White completed his latest LP “Misfits Jubilee” and also his first novel “Incidental Contact - A Magical Realism Memoir,” both to critical acclaim, with Jim being awarded the prestigious Pushcart Prize for short fiction.

White was a pro surfer, has been a literary commentator for the National Endowment of the Arts, and was a European fashion model. Samuel Beckett once played a practical joke on him. All revealed during this exclusive interview.

The interview will also stream online at CentralCoastRadio.org and The Rock Community Radio app.

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

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Now Showing: Flower Power



Experience the hope and joy of the “Flower Power” exhibit featuring artwork by Central Coast artists in a gallery display that feels like walk through a fantasy garden.

The show is open through April 5 at Morro Bay Art Association Art Center located at 835 Main Street where community, culture and art appreciation meet in support of local artists. (Pictured are glass flowers by Janine Stillman)



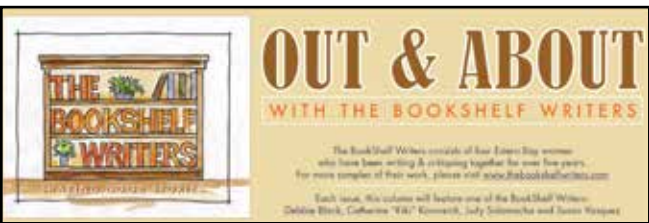
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Whatever Happened to the Cayucos Cemetery Cat?

By Debbie Black



Tom is safely put inside for the night at the Cayucos Cemetery. Photo by David Black

For many years, a cat lived at the Cayucos Cemetery. A gray and white cat. The two groundsmen, who’d taken him in as a stray, called him Tom.

Each night and over the weekend, they locked Tom in the maintenance building — safe from coyotes and highway traffic. He sat on his bed in the window watching people pass by on the bike path. Those who wandered over to say ‘hi’ were treated to Tom’s complete repertoire: paw curling, cheek-rubs against the window bars, front leg stretches, kneading, and silent meows that couldn’t be heard through the glass.

During the workweek, Tom strutted around outside — even joining graveside funerals where he’d weave between legs, bringing smiles to the mourners. He avoided bike riders, but enthusiastically greeted mail carriers, walkers, or moms with strollers, provided they didn’t have a dog. The maintenance guys did say, however, that Tom was quite fond of three different dogs and their owners. I was lucky enough to be one of those (owners, not dogs).

My dog had never been around cats. So, the first time Tom trotted right up to Mia, I held my breath and her leash. Tom rubbed against her chest, then walked underneath her. Mia froze and looked at me, as if for advice.

“Kitty!” I said. Mia could probably tell from my tone that ‘Kitty’ was a positive thing. That was all it took.

From then on, Mia looked for “Kitty” whenever we walked by the cemetery. At my whistle, Tom would come running out of the creek and Mia would run toward him — like a slow-motion scene with violins playing.

I began to time my walks to coincide with Tom’s schedule. Jason and Michael, the good-hearted aforementioned groundsmen, would tuck him safely inside each afternoon at 4:30. I’d race down to the cemetery just in time to pet Tom before his curfew.

So, whatever became of Tom? Suddenly, he was gone. His cat

bed in the windowsill was replaced with a potted plant. There was no longer a gray and white greeter for walkers or the mail carrier. There was no longer a goodwill ambassador at funeral services. Some folks in Cayucos began to ask, “What happened to that cat at the cemetery?”

Despair not, kind reader, our feline hero did not meet a horrific fate, quite the contrary. As I write, he’s lolling in the sun on his favorite chair on our deck. For you see, the story took a turn one afternoon when Jason asked if I’d like to adopt Tom. He knew that Mia and Tom were friends, and that the gray and white cat had captured my heart.

I’ve never owned a cat — never even lived with a cat. I’ve forever been a true-blue dog person. People are either dog people or cat people, right? You can’t be both. That would be like...like mixing oil and water...or matter and anti-matter.

But before my rational mind could say, “Thanks Jason, but no,” my excited heart made me blurt, “Yes! Yes!” And so began the next chapter of Tom’s life, and ours. My husband and I are now happily bilingual, speaking both cat and dog.

Given that my last name is Black, this next part will make more sense. When Lesa at Unleashed Pet Grooming returned my call verifying Tom’s initial bath, she called him “Tom Black the Tom Cat.” I laughed, and then realized that we already had a very fine Tom Black in the family — my first husband. Within a day, we changed Tom’s name (the cat’s, not my first husband’s) to Jack. Now he’s officially known as Jack Black the Cemetery Cat.

Jack no longer spends his time consoling mourners. His job is to keep us in stitches with his antics around the house: careening up and down the stairs, playing like a kitten with his fuzzy toys, bopping the dog, and greeting every visitor with cheek-rubbing attention. I’ve become a head-over-heels cat lover thanks to this sweet gray and white kitty who once peered out the window at the Cayucos Cemetery. Now, when we’re away for the day, he watches out our window for us to return home — his home.

Debbie Black is a member of The BookShelf Writers. To see more of her work, please visit <http://www.thebookshelfwriters.com>

A Dose of Good Dogma



R-E-S-P-E-C-T

You know when your kids have a babysitter or are staying with your friends, and they tell you how well behaved and cooperative your kids are, but you can’t understand why they’re saying that? Well, I’ve found that the same is true with dogs.

I have an activity in my classes that involves passing your dog to several different people. I do this for a couple reasons. First, it’s important that your dog (especially if shy or under socialized) be exposed to strangers who will pet them and give them treats. Second, you want your dog to be comfortable being handled by as many people as possible, so that going to the vet or groomer might be a less traumatic experience. It turns out that most dogs, when engaged with someone else will respond quite efficiently to

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commands, with no problem, causing much shock and awe to the owners.

I use the analogy of children because people can relate to it. I mention the class activity because what I see in class is often the dog's lack of cooperation with the owner, but quite a good response with another person. This brings me to the crux of this article — does your dog respect you? Clearly, if your dog is not responding to you, the answer is no.

Why wouldn't your dog respect you? Several reasons come to mind. You're not seen as the pack leader, you're inconsistent with commands, there are too many people trying to train and the dog is confused or your dog has access to food all day long so you become less of a provider, less important.

Respect from your dog is something that is earned by providing what your pack animal needs, a pack with a leader. Maybe more than one, if you have kids! All humans in the home should be seen as pack leaders by earning the dog's respect. In order to earn the respect there must be rules and boundaries that keep the dog's life structured and provide regular routines such as training time, feeding time, walk time, play time. These are activities the dog can depend on and expect. But there's another side of the acquired status; in order to earn respect, you must show respect. Physical threats, punishment or continual yelling at your dog are not conducive to establishing trust or respect, especially if your dog has come from a shelter or rescue organization. These behaviors may frighten them away from you. Respect your dog by providing patience, exercise, positive reinforcement and fairness. You will be amazed to discover how much this mutual respect establishes a more trusting, focused, obedient canine companion. If your dog sees you, the human, as someone to be trusted and respected, the training process will flow smoother and the relationship will blossom. Of course, your dog's temperament, stage of maturity and early socialization skills, learned from its mom and siblings, also come into play.

I try to encourage my human students to look at the big picture of life with their dog, as opposed to compartmentalizing each command or behavior when training. Everyday, all day long, is an opportunity to train, formally and informally. Exude the energy and confidence of a leader, use your voice and body to communicate with your dog. Be consistent, firm and fair, play! Spoil them but set boundaries.

Good Dogma has been training humans and their dogs since 1996. Readers are invited to submit questions to gooddogma@hotmail.com. Contact information for all offered services can be found on our website www.GoodDogma.net

MB Drug & Gift Has COVID Vaccine



Morro Bay resident Nina Tillett was the first person to be vaccinated for COVID-19 at Morro Bay Drug & Gift, and administered by Dr. Sumanta Paul (at right). And despite the pained look in her eyes, she said it didn't hurt at all. Photo by Neil Farrell

Morro Bay residents who want to get a COVID-19 vaccination now have a shot at getting one at a local pharmacy. Dr. Sumanta Paul at Morro Bay Drug & Gift, 600 Morro Bay Blvd., Ste. B, has gotten a supply of the Moderna COVID vaccine and is inviting residents to make an appointment and get vaccinated.

Dr. Paul said, "We strongly encourage people over 65 to get the vaccine as soon as possible."

The Moderna vaccine is two shots taken a month apart and anyone who gets the first inoculation at the drug store will automatically be scheduled for the second one. The staff will remind folks of that second appointment, too.

And, it's free of charge as Dr. Paul said the federal government is supplying the serum.

Morro Bay Drug & Gift is open weekdays from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. and Saturdays 9-2, closed Sundays. They also have the regular flu shots.

Call (805) 771-9988 for an appointment.



A 1957 Telegram-Tribune photo of Baywood Park dredging. Richard Otto looks on from the bank.

It's difficult to imagine boats being tied to the Baywood pier in the 1950s, but I can't imagine what it was like when efforts were made to have the bay dredged.

Richard Otto, real estate developer and founder of Baywood Park Estates, had many plans for the area. He was very talented. He was an artist and a writer. He was an ordained minister and could marry people. Dredging the Bay was on his list of endeavors.

Joe Sheridan, who worked for Otto said, "Dredging Baywood Park coastline wouldn't have been an impossible task to dredge," Joe said. "The whole bay is changed and right now I'm convinced we're getting a subsidence here. Down below where Santa Ysabel enters into the bay, that was mud clear up to your waist and now it's sandy beach clear out to the inlet. Now I think we're taking so much water out of the basin; the ground is settling and the bay is coming up along with fill from the sand dunes. Another 20 years, if nobody dredges, I think

Coffee with Joan Continued on page 12

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11

Obituaries
Gary E. Karner
1936 - 2020



Gary Karner, a licensed landscape architect for over 60 years, long-time member of LOCAC, the Bay Foundation and involved in many Los Osos community projects and advisory groups in San Luis Obispo County, died at his waterfront home in Los Osos on November 23, 2020.

A passionate, studied man known to be gracious and kind, he worked quietly, mostly in the background, to help San Luis Obispo county be all it could be. He was a visionary who cared deeply about the quality of life and sense of place. He was a loving husband, father and a professor whose students say he was greatly admired for his teaching and critical abilities as well as his multi-disciplinary approach to project design and risk management. His list of things still left to do was impressive, he wasn't done.

Bruce Gibson described Gary best by saying he was a "man of quiet dignity and intelligence. He wasn't going to be the person who spoke first, or longest, or most loudly, but what he had to say revealed a clear understanding of whatever situation was at hand, no matter how complex or controversial." When he spoke, people listened.

People admired Gary because of his clear idea of how the future should look and his strategies on how to get there. He was known for breaking away from what was expected. He looked for new ways of solving problems. He wasn't afraid to ask "what if," and instilled a love for that question in those around him. He was courageously tough. He wasn't afraid of failure, only of not trying.

He was resilient and resolute and would never give up, even when things got difficult. His persistency often paid off and his legacy will endure, standing the test of time. He was inherently positive and saw the future as bright and problems as temporary. Those around him drew strength from his steadfast optimism. He drew people toward him and brought out their best qualities.

Gary was born February 22, 1936 in Los Angeles, California at Cedars of Lebanon Hospital to loving parents, Dr. Earl and Edith Karner, and his childhood was idyllic. He lived, for a while during WWII, on a ranch in Indian Valley, north of Bradley, California. Then the family moved to China Lake Naval Weapons Station, adjacent to Ridgecrest, California in 1946, where he went to grammar school and high-school at Burroughs High School, graduating in 1953. He attended Pomona College in Pomona, California, studying various disciplines. He became captivated with the land and land use and design. He transferred to UC Berkeley, and obtained a Bachelor of Science in landscape architecture, in 1958.

He married Judith Ann Loewy in 1959 and moved to Wattertown, Massachusetts to attend the Harvard Graduate School of

Design, graduating in 1961 with a master's in landscape architecture. They had three sons: David Scott Karner, Mark Christopher Karner, and Daniel Brook Karner. Gary and Judy divorced in 1978.

After graduating from Harvard, Gary worked as associate executive director with Sasaki, Dawson, DeMay Associates in Watertown, Massachusetts, later to be known as Sasaki, Walker and Associates (SWA). He returned to the West Coast in 1966, joining Peter Walker (famous for his 911 Memorial in NYC) at SWA in San Francisco. In 1969 he became a principal in SWA. In 1972, SWA became the SWA Group and Gary was a co-managing principal in the SWA Group, Sausalito office until 1976.

In 1976, he resigned from the SWA Group and moved to San Luis Obispo and entered real estate brokerage as president of Central Coast Investments, Inc., specializing in tax-deferred IRS Code 1031 exchanges of real properties and serving as vice-president of the National Council of Exchangers in 1980.

In 1980, he married Pandora Nash and they returned to Marin County, California where Gary rejoined SWA Group, Sausalito to co-manage that office until 1987 when his son, Mark, died from Hodgkins Disease. Gary left SWA Group in 1987 to join the faculty of the Department of Landscape Architecture at Cal Poly San Luis Obispo, where he taught from 1987 to 2000 as a lecturer and as associate department head from 1989-1999. During that time, he authored "Contracting Design Services" a much-needed professional resource published by the American Society of Landscape Architects (ASLA).

Working from his Los Osos home, in 1987 Gary became a consulting principal with SWA Group, specializing in contract review and risk management for their seven offices located in California, Texas, New York and Shanghai.

He continued in that role with SWA until 2017.

Gary was a life-long member of the American Society of Landscape Architects (ASLA) and a member in the Northern California and Southern California Chapters. He was elected to Fellow of the Society in 1991, the fellowship being awarded for executed projects and professional writing. Gary served on a number of national and California committees of the ASLA and served as chair and president on several.

Through direct involvement with a wide range of design work, he developed special expertise in innovative managerial and professional practices for successful operation of design firms. He brought that expertise to Cal Poly and taught landscape architecture at Cal Poly, San Luis Obispo from 1987-2000.

Gary was honored with numerous awards during his career including the Distinguished Service Award and the Certificate of Merit for Excellence in the Study of Landscape Architecture, from the ASLA. A number of his projects received awards including Weyerhaeuser Company Corporate Headquarters, in Tacoma, Washington; the Stanford Graduate Student Housing project in Palo Alto, California; Hewlett Packard Facility, Rohnert Park, California and MacArthur Court, in Irving, California. Some of his personal favorite projects include the Concord Pavilion, Concord, California; the IBM Almaden Research Laboratory, San Jose; Cosumnes River College, Sacramento, California; Contemporary Hotel, Walt Disney World, Florida; and San Jose State University's Tower Hall Court, Business Building and major malls, San Jose, California.

Putting his expertise to work locally he volunteered and created the site analysis for three potential sites for the San Luis Obispo Botanical Garden; site analysis for Santa Margarita Lake and Nipomo Regional parks; and the site analysis for a portion of the Cal Poly campus for a sustainable community on campus and reclamation of Brizzolari Creek and student housing. He worked with a team to create a master plan for Sinsheimer Park and for the Almaden Winery Historic Park in San Jose. He supervised and worked with a group of upper division landscape architect students on the environmental constraints analysis for the West

Ranch of the the East/West Ranch in Cambria.

Locally he was the 1999 Los Osos Co-Citizen of the Year with Pandora Nash-Karner; Coordinator for the Solution Group (looking for an environmentally-friendly, less expensive wastewater design solution) and developed the Los Osos Comprehensive Resource Management Plan in 1997; served as a Director for the Bay Foundation of Morro Bay from 1995-2013; served as a member of the Los Osos Community Advisory Council, 1992-2004 and served as chair from 1993-1995. There he was instrumental in developing the Los Osos Vision Statement which is still in use today, and helped to write the original Los Osos Community Plan for land use and transportation in Los Osos. This document, now available for public review, determines how the community will grow and develop over the next 20 years and focuses on protecting resources and providing adequate infrastructure.

After retiring from Cal Poly in 2000, he focused his attention on a new business in investing family resources in the stock market and developed his own method of "beating the market" (beating the S&P 500) each year in which he was successful over many years.

Gary leaves his loving wife, Pandora, of 40 years and sons David Scott Karner, Daniel B. Karner Karner, and Eriel Shayne Nash, and grandchildren Claire, Calvin and Camille Karner, and his beloved yellow lab, "Keesha."

His last words were: "I've tried in this life to keep my shit in one neat pile and not step in it too often."

Coffee with Joan From page 11

you're going to see a lot of land out there.

"Originally Ernie Vollmer took out patents on this land. Everybody figured there was a lot of oil on it. This was before Otto came here. And it wound up in a law suit. We dredged where the hotel is. We dredged a lot of that property and that was what gripped people. We were making land for Otto to sell. We dredged about 3 or 4 months. We had plans to build a larger one and put a diesel pump on it to go on out the channel, because we had to go out 1000 to 1200 feet to hit a channel that was always open.

"This was pumping up towards where the business women had a little park right where the pier was, where they 'gunited' and cemented the bank. We were pumping that way, then we turned around and started out and where that dock is now we had 6 feet of water at low tide. It stayed open for a long time, and when we turned around and got past the motel, Vollmer took out a Cease and Desist Order. The District Attorney was Otto's lawyer. Otto said we can beat him. He didn't own anything, he only had mineral rights. It involved one certain thing, oil and then we quit."

A Telegram-Tribune article, January 1957 reported, "Baywood Park volunteers build dredge." Plans were to dredge approximately four feet of mud and sand along the corridor, and connect with the main Morro Bay channel. Otto, who was president of the chamber at that time, stated, "It is hoped that the enthusiastic efforts of the volunteers will bring increased assistance from community, county and state. The chamber is working along lines laid out by the county planning commission's proposed plan for development of small boat harbors."

Joe concluded, "We probably fooled around six to eight months building the dredge. We had \$3,000 in the whole outfit. Art Druit and Captain 'Cap' Ralph McCoy built the barge and I did all the installing of the engine and cutting the heads. I had welder snips and machine tools. I installed the engine and the pump on the dredge, since I had welders and machine tools to make cutting heads and other steel work. I also built the first steel tank for the water district."

Otto made many enemies when he created the water district – The Water Works, he called it.

Reference: All About Baywood Park by Joan Sullivan; pg.24

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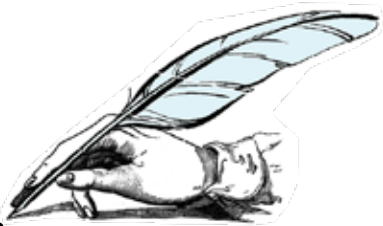
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Letters
To
The Editor



Assemblyman
Cunningham to the
Rescue

The Employment Development Department (EDD) remains a mess and needs a complete overhaul. While we have proposed legislative fixes that could help reform the department, moving through the legislative process takes time.

Our office has helped thousands of Central Coast residents solve their problems with EDD and get their unemployment benefits. If you are running into problems with EDD or any other state agency, please contact my district office at 805.549.3381 or Assemblymember.Cunningham@assembly.ca.gov.

We are here to help. If you need assistance, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Connect with me on social media to learn more about how we're serving the Central Coast.

Assemblyman
Jordon Cunningham

Motel Conversion to
Rehab Needs Thought

We have had many serious problems with rehab treatment centers in Orange County. They have even set up in residential neighborhoods in large homes. I don't know if you will really have 27 to 40 "professional people" or first responders needing rehab at a time to keep this facility running.

Our problem is that the local addicts/intoxicated WERE recruited to come for treatment, then when the Medicare reimbursement for care ran out, they were released out onto the streets again. People from other cities and even states were brought here, signed up for Medicare then also released back onto the streets with no way to get back home.

Please think carefully about adding to your homelessness and addiction problems and the crime that comes with it as has happened here. You have such a beautiful little city. My husband and I spend time at Morro Dunes several times a year.

Please plan carefully and don't allow this project to ruin it.

Mary Muat
Huntington Beach CA

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

Chamber of Commerce
Highlights



Los Osos
Baywood Park

2020 Business of the Year - QuickTech
2020 Volunteer of the Year - Christina Grimm
2020 Citizen of the Year - Jim Quesenberry

Our 2020 installation video is coming soon!
Check our Facebook @lobpchamber for the release this upcoming week!

We want to thank our renewing members
for their continued support:

- Placer Title
- Van Beurden Insurance Services
- The Frame Shop
- Sea Horse Ranch
- Paul Irving
- Los Osos Valley Mortuary
- Golden State Water
- Central Coast Polo
- Friends of Los Osos Library
- First American Title
- Community Foundation of Estero Bay
- SLO Roasted Coffee
- Back Bay Inn
- Debbie Crossland Century 21 Real Estate
- Pacific Capital Mortgage
- Valley Liquor and Deli
- Steve Vinson
- Vintage Cheese Company
- Friends of Estero Elfin Forest
- Keller Williams Realty
- Mikes Home Improvement Services
- Molly Lear
- Wishing Well School

We would like to give a warm welcome to our
new members:

- SLO AXE CO
- Wendy Langston Real Estate
- Gypsy Womens Clothing Boutique
- Costa Gallery



Morro Bay

New Members, January and February 2021

- The Marine Mammal Center
- Pacific Wildlife Care
- Inn at Rose's Landing
- Heading Homes, LLC
- The Rock Espresso Bar
- Greg Bistline
- Estero Bay Kindness Coalition

Renewals, January and February 2021

- Estero Bay Community Radio (97.3 The Rock)
- Placer Title Company
- Engle & Associates Insurance Brokers
- Woods Humane Society
- Cambria Chamber of Commerce
- Morro Bay Friends of the Library
- On the Beach Bed & Breakfast
- Susan K. Boyd MS LMFT
- D and D Floral
- The Good Flea
- Pacific Premier Bank
- Perry's Parcel & Gifts
- DiStasio's on the Bay
- Quota International of Morro Bay
- Smoobage
- George G Ross CPA PFS CFP
- Friends of San Luis Obispo Botanical Gardens
- Inn at Morro Bay
- Carolla Engineers
- Pacific Heating & Sheet Metal
- Rotary Club of Morro Bay
- Calvary Evangelical Lutheran Church
- Garden House
- Harvey's Honey Huts
- Perfect Union
- Hofbrau
- Santan Wealth Management of Raymond James
- Natural Healing Center
- SLO Chamber of Commerce
- By The Sea Productions
- HB Design
- Morro Bay Appliance
- SCORE San Luis Obispo
- SLO County Farmers Market Association
- Morro Bay Commercial Fishermen's Organization
- Morro Bay Open Space Alliance
- Ciano Real Estate Group
- Coalesce Bookstore
- Rock Harbor Christian Fellowship
- Rancho Olivos
- Better Homes and Gardens Real Estate Haven Properties
- Movement for Life Physical Therapy
- The Tribune
- Waste Connections, Inc.

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Moving Forward From page 1

climb to become a Sales Training Facilitator and Coach for Cardone Training Technologies, www.cardoneuniversity.com. Get-aways for Bradley and his wife were to Shell Beach. One day he realized he could telecommute his workshops from anywhere.

“It became our dream to move to the coast,” said Bradley having grown frustrated with LA traffic. “Every where we wanted to go was 90-minutes away. So on my 40th birthday, we said ‘we’re out of here.’ We rented until we found our home in Morro Bay.”

Bradley spends most of his day online providing sales tools for his current 37 global clients. “I work with any number of companies that have a sales force or entrepreneurs working by themselves - auto, solar, insurance, water treatment, web design, even a forestry company in Canada with lumber to sell.”

In 2010 he was smoking a pack and a half of cigarettes a day so decided to sell himself on quitting. Taking advantage of a brisk marketplace for self-published how-to books, he shared his journey. In 2015 he revised and expanded the book.

“When the pandemic hit last March I didn’t know how things would go with sales training so created the audible version of my book. I figured others might be creating extra income opportunities so decided to tell my story and asked others to share their side-hustles.”

Some postings included photos of their products. They continue to come in. Here are a few samples. Individuals indicated they could be messaged at [Nextdoor.com/Side-Hustle](https://www.nextdoor.com/Side-Hustle) for contact information or questions:

Trista Smith is selling crystals and metaphysical items. In March 2020, Stuart Mason’s musical career and professional work at a folk museum was interrupted. He’s hoping to augment his lost income with another of his creative talents. He posted a sample of one of his animal portraits.



Denise and Joey make and sell succulents planted in hand-made planters.

Freelance journalist, Neil Farrell, who writes for Estero Bay News, showed photos of the cast iron garden benches he has restored noting he’d sold one and had a children’s sized bench. He hopes folks will contact him if they have cast iron benches they



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want to get rid or would like to have him refurbish it. Stephanie Raser sells her ceramics at Morro Bay’s Saturday market “right across from Central Coast Music,” she posted. Lindsey Rapone said to keep sane, she and her husband bought a cutting machine to create decals, t-shirts, and other goods. They call their side-hustle company Specks on the Beach in memory of a dog they loved.

Denise and Joey make and sell succulents planted in custom hand-made planters from re-purposed wood. The Succulent Dish will even deliver locally. Michael Applegate loves to build PCs, especially for gaming, and pitches he doesn’t charge much to research and build. Rustic Diamond in Morro Bay carries Helen Beard’s woven baskets. Husband Matt artistically crafts each interior basket bottom.

Bradley added. “Everything in life is a choice. We can be the cause of our own change.”

And like his boss, Grant Cardone, he believes ‘Creativity Follows Commitment.’ Both men thrive on coaching others how to monetize what they love -- and one can love producing even a side-hustle.

Back to Life From page 1

members allowed depending on the facility size. They will need to wear masks at all times and will need to socially distance in family pods.”

So it appears having a packed stadium for Friday Night football games is still possible, though there’s a rather slim chance. “The updated guidance,” the County Health Department said, “includes requirements that must be observed by all sports, including use of face coverings by observers and coaches, distancing between non-household members, limitations on spectators, limitations on tournaments, and other requirements.”

What’s required depends on the State’s COVID-19 restrictions listed under the “Blueprint for a Safer Economy,” which ranks counties by a color-coded scale with “Purple Tier” (“wide-spread” virus cases), being the most restrictive.

SLO County was recently upgraded from Purple to the “Red Tier,” which is allowing the loosening of restrictions for businesses, reopening of schools (MBHS is scheduled to resume classes March 15) and others.

For sports, the lessening of restrictions “also includes requirements that must be followed when sports under the Orange Tier and Red Tier lists are played in counties in a more restrictive tier,” SLO County said. “This includes weekly testing for players and coaches in certain high-risk sports — like football, rugby and water polo — where players are likely to be unmasked, with close, face-to-face contact over a long period of time.

“Outdoor moderate-contact sports, such as baseball, cheer-leading, volleyball, gymnastics and badminton, can be played without the testing requirement, but require informed consent.” (See: <https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CID/DCDC/Pages/COVID-19/outdoor-indoor-recreational-sports.aspx> if readers want to read the entire CDPH’s sports guidelines.)

Fans or no fans, the Pirates’ football season opens March 19 hosting Santa Maria High School. Game kicks off at 7 p.m. They play away games for the following three weeks and then finish off the short season hosting Mission Prep, Friday, April 16. If any of the games have to be rescheduled, the make-up date is April 23.

Boys’ soccer hosts Atascadero Thursday, March 25 and Mission Prep April 13. Girls’ soccer hosts Orcutt Academy Tuesday, March 23 and Nipomo High on Tuesday, March 30. The girls and boys will play a 12-match schedule.

Boys’ water polo hosts Paso Robles on Wednesday, March 17 in the first of a 5-game season. The Pirates also host Righetti (March 24) and Atascadero (March 31).

Girls’ water polo also hosts Paso Robles on March 17 and hosts Nipomo on March 31 in just a 4-game season.

Softball is slated to start Saturday, March 20 when the Lady Pirates host Atascadero. The girls will host Righetti on March 27. Softball is set for a 25-game season including six double-headers on Saturdays, with Ocean League foes.

Baseball is slated for a 27-game schedule with eight double headers scheduled, also on Saturdays. Baseball’s schedule includes dates for the CIF playoffs. MBHS competes in the Central Valley Section of CIF.

Track & Field starts March 20 with a meet in Atascadero. The Pirates host SLO High on April 24. And they host Mission Prep on Saturday, May 1. MBHS has a new all-weather artificial track and field events areas.

Though the sports seasons are shorter than usual and they’re going to play football in late winter, the kids and coaches are no doubt happy to be able to compete.

“All the student-athletes and coaches are very eager to get back out onto the field,” coach Andree said. “We have not had any games or contests for over a year, so everyone is excited to compete. We all are in agreement that the wins and losses are secondary to just getting out and playing, but we will play to win!”

Caltrans to Reopen Hwy 1 by Summer

By Neil Farrell



Caltrans plans to fill in the landslide at Rat Creek on Hwy 1, in a project that promises to fully reopen the scenic highway to through traffic sometime by early summer.

The late-January storm that hit the Big Sur area with up to 12 inches of rain over 3-days caused over 60 landslides along Hwy 1 through the area of the Dolan Fire that burn over 100,000 acres in Summer 2020.

The largest of the slides was at Rat Creek where 150-feet of roadway was obliterated and washed down to the sea.

The resultant chasm in the roadway was feared to be leading to another prolonged closure of the highway, as happened in 2017, when the Mud Creek and Paul’s Slides had the highway close for over a year.

But after analyzing the damage, the agency has come up with a plan of attack.

“After assessing the damage, removing debris and making minor repairs,” spokesman Kevin Drabinski said in a Feb. 25 news release, “Caltrans will reconnect the roadway at Rat Creek with an enhanced fill option. Caltrans will fill the canyon with dirt in a large V-shape and construct a new road on top of the fill.” Work on the fix was to begin March 1, he added.

Caltrans Director, Toks Omishakin, said, “Caltrans crews have been onsite since this highway section washed out in the recent storms to assess the damage, and we’re pleased to announce emergency construction begins next week to repair and reconnect the highway.

“Highway 1 is an iconic roadway that connects travelers with small businesses on the Central Coast, and we’re focused on restoring travel on this section by early summer.”

The fix will also replace the main drainage system of Rat Creek, installing an “oversized main culvert and smaller overflow culverts closer to the highway grade.”

That will “increase the capacity of the drainage system, add redundancies designed to withstand future debris flows and enhance the resiliency and sustainability of the highway against rising sea level and coastal erosion,” Drabinski said.

The estimated cost of the repairs stands at \$11.5 million, according to Caltrans. That includes \$5 million in emergency repairs north of Rat Creek.

The contractor for the repair job is Papich Const. of Arroyo Grande.

Currently, some 5 miles of the highway is closed, with the southern turnaround at the Big Creek Vista Point at Post Marker 27.3.

The northern turnaround is 2 miles north of Rat Creek at the Lime Creek Bridge at PM 32.1.

The repair will bring in tens of thousands of cubic yards of materials, with work continuing 7-days a week during daylight hours. As the days lengthen, longer shifts could be possible. Rain could of course cause delays and heavy rain could spell further disaster through the burn scar area.

Drabinski added, “All businesses and activities south of Rat Creek in communities including Lucia, Gorda, Treebones, Ragged Point, San Simeon and Cambria will continue to remain accessible from the south on Highway 1.

“Similarly, the entire stretch of Highway 1 north of the closure, from Monterey and Carmel to the businesses and recreational facilities of the greater Big Sur Area will be open for business and unaffected by the closure. Only through traffic on Highway 1 is affected by the washout at Rat Creek.”

In a normal year, up to 5 million people annually travel Hwy 1 through Big Sur, with vacationers and tour buses fueling tourism in Monterey and SLO Counties.

The 2017 Mud Creek Slide, the largest in California history, had a severe negative affect on tourism and in turn the economies of North Coast communities.

But with the coronavirus pandemic, traffic on Hwy 1 has not been normal since April 2020.

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Big Changes From page 1



up the interior wall (a carpentry job Salgado’s husband Jose did) and created a nicely flowing floor plan with a specialty in each space.

They even fixed up the sizable rear yard into a spacious, landscaped outdoor patio, which comes in handy with the coronavirus pandemic’s restrictions on restaurants.

Salgado said her father took out a loan to finance the expansion, something she feels strongly enough about to go all in with him, including a first time venture in the restaurant business.

Theirs is the storybook version of modern immigrants. Salgado said her father brought their family to the U.S. in the 1990s. The family had seven kids (four boys and three girls).

“I grew up in Cambria,” she said, sitting at a table in the restaurant dinning room. They bought a house in 1997 and her dad started an import business, of sorts.

“He would bring things up from L.A.,” she explained. “Things you couldn’t get around here; anything the people needed.”

At 9-years old, she became the door-to-door salesgirl, she laughed, knocking on doors and asking if the people needed anything, from clothing to foodstuffs? “That’s how he got started in business.”

The family was in Cambria for seven years, she explained, and then they moved to Los Osos, where they still live.

The little store on the Boulevard was opened in 2002, Salgado said. It had been Mr. Torres’ dream to open a store and he soon built up a loyal clientele. He had a steady supply of employees too. “We all helped him at the store,” Salgado laughed.

Now, with Salgado working in the business with her dad, her own 10-year-old daughter comes in to help out a few times a week. “She works for tips,” Salgado said. “She got \$30 in tips one day. So she was happy.”

She told mom that she only wanted to work 3-days a week, “Because she needs her rest,” Salgado laughed.

The remodeling began in earnest last July, Salgado said, when she committed to helping her dad expand the business. They knew the restaurant lease was coming up and the space was going to be vacated.

First they moved the store to the new space and put in the gift shop, she said.

Fixing up the rear yard was quite a chore. They’ve been cleaning it up for the past 3 months, taking about four truckloads to the dump.

She’s been working every day from 8 a.m. to 10 p.m. since July, she said. Her routine is to get up and go to work, go home and sleep and do it all again the next day. But the work’s really paid off. “That’s why it went so fast, getting the place ready to open.”

It wasn’t always easy, as her dad was sometimes a tough sell. “He doesn’t like change,” she said. “But he sees there’s a lot more people coming in now. I think he’s happy with the results.”

Like many family businesses, the whole family pitches in. Salgado said her husband built the new interior passageway, and her brother put up the woodwork decorating the restaurant walls. Her mother makes custom piñatas that they sell in the store, including a green-blob piñata that she said was a “coronavirus” (something everyone would no doubt like to whack with a hard stick).

“Someone ordered a rocket piñata for a kid’s birthday party,” Salgado said. Mom would soon get working on it, to meet the party deadline.

The rear yard is nicely done, with spaced out iron metal patio tables with umbrellas sitting on 10-foot squares of pavers with crushed granite lining the walkways.



The chairs are painted in bright colors and the whole area has a feeling of privacy. It’s a very different feeling out back than you’d have sitting at a table set up on the front sidewalk. “You want to have a belonging space,” she said.

She’s had times when she’s been tending to the planters out front of the store and people offer to bring her succulents from their gardens, she said.

She’s gone outside and found that someone has left a cutting for her and someone even gave them some outdoor lights they weren’t using, after they saw her husband putting them up out front.

Anyone who appreciates a “family-owned” business would probably appreciate Salgado who wears many hats.

“I’m the bookkeeper,” she said. “I do the banking, the cleaning, the cooking, the prep work. I’m the dishwasher and I do construction,” she said through a wide smile. “And I’m doing the gardening.” It’s also the first time she’s ever worked in a restaurant. But, “It’s been really welcoming and nice to help my dad out every day.”

Ariana’s is open Mondays-Saturdays, from 8 a.m. to 7 p.m. and Sundays from 9-5:30. Phone number is (805) 771-0229 and see the website at: www.arianasmorrobbay.com

Reopen From page 1

restrictions on businesses.

Jannopoulos and her daughters-in-law who help her run the theater, had already laid out the seating to achieve social distancing, so they have been ready to reopen for months.

She’s excited that the show will go on. “We’ll see how it goes,” she said, “and whether we can get movies.” Studios, “are not even servicing the theaters,” she added.

Is it still for sale? She said that lots of people have shown interest and her real estate agent has shown it to a bunch of potential buyers. Someone was supposed to make her an offer over the weekend, she said. But that’s not where her heart is.

“I don’t want to sell it,” Jannopoulos said. “I think maybe I’ll take it off the market.”

The excitement of reopening was evident in her voice. “I’m happy to be going back to work and to see all my customers again.”

As for the movie, Rotten Tomatoes said, “The Father warmly embraces real life, through loving reflection upon the vibrant human condition; heart-breaking and uncompromisingly poignant — a movie that nestles in the truth of our own lives.”

Critics gave it a 99% positive rating and RT’s audience survey was at 88% positive.

Art Auction From page 7

Art Institute in Thousand Oaks.

The Jones’ moved to Los Osos in 1999. His work is in many private collections, museums and art galleries such as the Carnegie Art Museum in Oxnard, the Natural History Museum in Los Angeles, the Fredrick Weisman Museum in Malibu, and the Pippin Museum Prescott, Ariz.

His film work is represented at the Walt Disney Museum in San Francisco. He was last represented by the Mayr Gallery during its tenure in San Luis Obispo and was a Morro Bay Art Association member.

The painting, valued at \$1,600, is being displayed in the office window at the Harbor Department, 1275 Embarcadero on Fridays-Sundays.

Proceeds from the auction will support the organization’s efforts to help fill the Harbor Department’s unmet needs.

Currently, they are also raising money to help pay for repowering and overhauling of a Radon patrol boat the City purchased from Port San Luis. The boat needs new engines and a pump for the water cannon.

For information on the auction and the other offerings from the Friends of the Harbor Department, see the website at: <https://friendsofthemhbd.org>



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