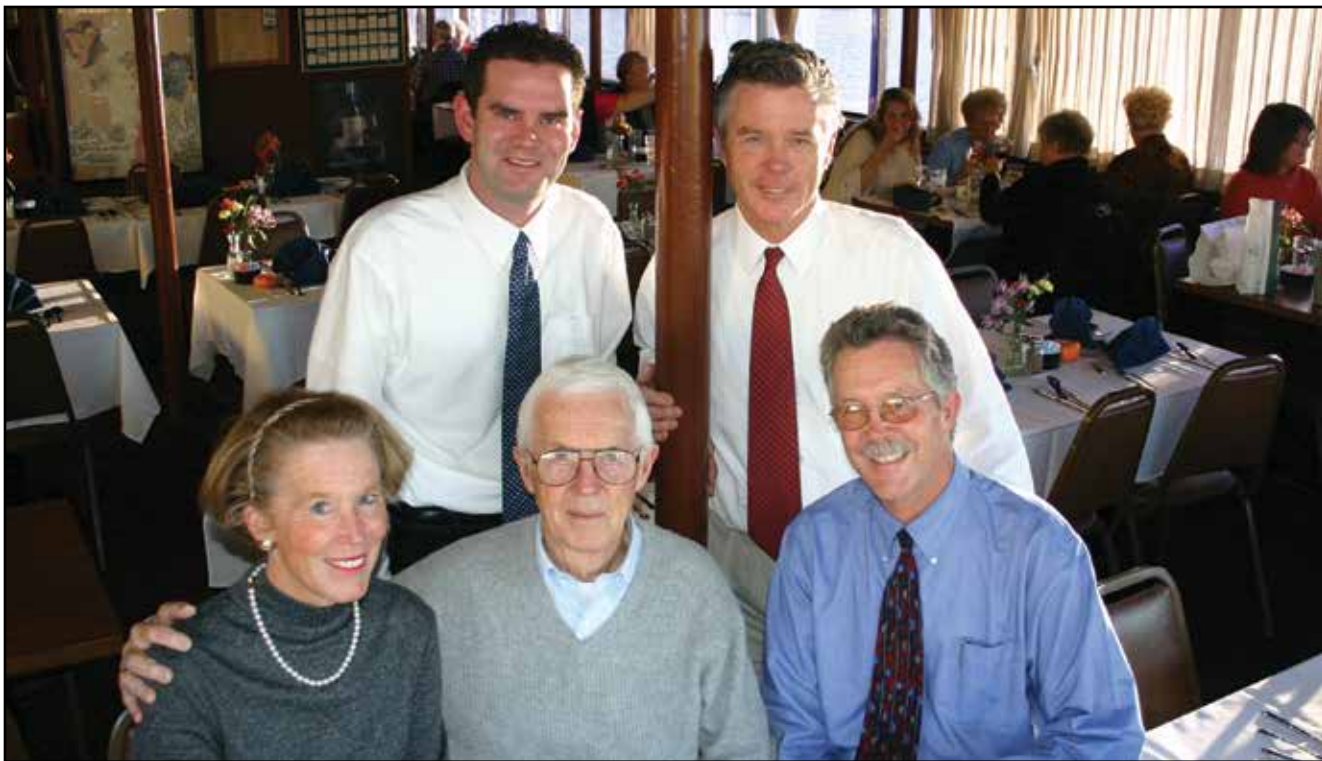


Anderson Family Says ‘Good-bye’ to Waterfront

By Neil Farrell



Three generations of Andersons posed in 2004 shortly before the closing of The Galley Restaurant and the rebuilding of their waterfront lease site. Pictured are back row: John (Rodger's son) and Jeff Anderson. Front row: Mollie Mason, Bud and Rodger Anderson. Archived photo

Since 1966, there's been a business on the Morro Bay waterfront owned by the Anderson Family; but no more.

In April, Bud and Rita Anderson's Family sold the master lease at 897 Embarcadero, the Anderson Inn, an 8-room boutique hotel with tenants By The Bay art gallery and The Galley Grill & Bar downstairs to Chris and Cyndi Kostecka, who also have the Estero Inn a few blocks south on the Embarcadero.

Bud, who died in 2018 and Rita, who died last year, raised their three kids — Rodger, Mollie (Mason), and Jeff — in and around The Galley Restaurant, which Bud purchased back in 1966 when it was little more than a shack that dated back to the 1940s.

Jeff and Mollie sat down with Estero Bay News to recount their decades on the Waterfront. Rodger was vacationing at the family's home in Hawaii.

Bud Anderson built what became The Galley Restaurant, turning it into a local favorite that served generations of loyal customers and hired and trained countless local young people,

earning a loyalty amongst its employees, some of whom worked there for decades.

In 2004, with a deteriorating, tired building, they embarked on what should have been a simple tear-down-rebuild project that dragged on for several years as it wound its way through the approval process.

And for the first time, the Andersons would be returning to the lodging industry, which brought them to SLO County. Their father's grandfather, Jefferson Lee Anderson, built the Anderson Hotel, which still stands tall on Monterey Street in Downtown San Luis Obispo. That hotel played a large part in why the family ended up here.

Their dad, Bud, was born in 1925 in San Luis Obispo, explained Mollie. His father died when he was 2-years old, she added, and Bud, his brother Jim, and mother all moved to Piedmont, Calif.

There, while in grammar school, Bud met Rita Blohm his future wife, and they followed each other through high school

Anderson Continued on page 14

Changes Across District for 2021-2022 School Year

By Theresa-Marie Wilson

Plans for the new school year starting in August are to resume as close to pre-pandemic normal as possible. There will, however, be big changes district-wide.

More than half of the principals in the San Luis Coastal Unified School District will be part of a new lineup that involves a shuffling of different schools, different districts, and for some, a return to the classroom.

"It's kind of historical in that usually we have very little change among our administration," said Director of Human Resources Christin Newlon, who is retiring herself in June. "This year, over 50 percent of our administrators are going to be new to the site or new to the district. And we're pretty excited about it."

For the two-pools of applicants for principal, one being dual-immersion where the applicant has to be fluent in Spanish and the other offering English only classrooms, Newlon said the district received about 50 applications.

"We got a really good pool," she said. "This district does a really good job. They train people really well and they provide a lot of mentoring and support. We didn't select any classroom teachers for administrative positions — all of them have administrative experience. We had that many quality people applying from other districts who want to come here."

Changes on the North Coast



Lisa Stephens, shown with her family, will return to the classroom after serving as principal at Baywood Elementary.

Lisa Stephens is stepping down from her role as principal at Baywood Elementary and will resume her teacher career.

"As you know, this year has been hard on us all," Stephens wrote in an email to the Baywood Elementary School community. We all have made so many sacrifices, been through so many changes and I am so proud of how our community has come together during difficult times. One thing that has come to the

Changes Continued on page 14

Moving Forward: Business Is Back - Employers Are Hiring

By Judy Salamacha



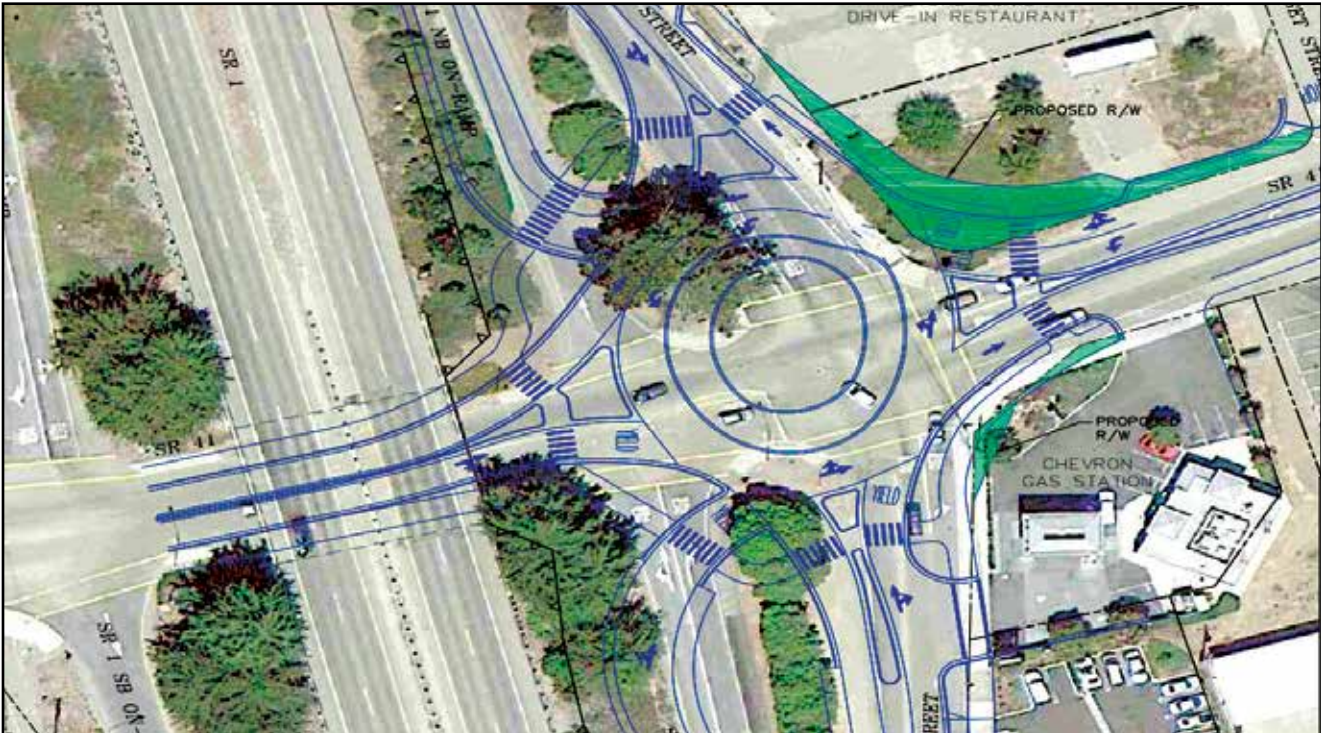
Nipomo's Josie Wellington is the newest Move Team Member while her dad, Paso Robles' Luke Davis shows off his well-worn t-shirt. One of the original Meatheads, he's been with the company since 1998.

What a difference a year makes! For example, Meathead Movers & Mini Storage not only moved forward, but raced through 2020. Now in May 2021 their priority issue, just as many San Luis Obispo County businesses, is finding enough employees ready, willing, and excited to rejoin the workforce. On Thursday, May 20 between 2-4 p.m. the Morro Bay Chamber of Commerce is creating a map of employees available at a table in front of their business ready to answer job opportunity questions for potential employees. Chamber Board Member, Allison Schiavo of Eckerd

Business is Back Continued on page 13

City Still Going ‘Round on Main/Hwy 41 Roundabout

By Neil Farrell



This image superimposes the proposed layout of a roundabout at the intersection of Main and Hwy 41 on a photo of the existing intersection. Photos courtesy City of Morro Bay

The City of Morro Bay continues to pursue a roundabout for the intersection of Hwy 41 and Main Street and recently extended a consultant's contract overseeing the red tape in the lead up to possibly actually building the over \$7 million project.

The City Council on April 13 approved a second amend-

ment of an existing contract with GHD Inc., (formerly Omni-Means), the consultant that was first brought on nearly 5-years ago to work on a project that has been hanging around for nearly 20 years.

According to a staff report by the City Engineer, the com-

Roundabout Continued on page 15



Events are
Happening
Again
Page 6

Police
Blotter
Page 8



Paul is
Back
Page 12



Donation Page Setup for Officer Killed in Line of Duty



San Luis Obispo Police Detective Luca Benedetti was shot and killed while serving a search warrant on May 10.

A GoFundMe Page has been established for a San Luis Police Department detective killed in the line of duty.

Det. Luca Benedetti, who at 37 was a 12-year law enforcement veteran, was shot and killed while attempting to serve a search warrant with five fellow officers on May 10. It was about 5 p.m. when officers responded to an address on Camellia Court to search for suspected stolen items from a string of commercial burglaries committed over the previous week, according to a news release by Christine Wallace, the department’s media coordinator.

“As the officers approached the apartment,” Wallace said, “they provided ‘knock and notice’ identifying themselves as law enforcement... After an extended period of time and having received no response, they forced open the front door.”

They walked into an apparent ambush. The suspect, “was laying in wait and began to fire shots at the officers from inside the apartment,” Wallace said.

Det. Benedetti leaves behind a wife and two young daughters. The San Luis Obispo Police Department Police Officer Association and the San Luis Obispo Regional SWAT team setup the donation page Det. Luca Benedetti Family Relief Fund for the sole purpose of providing financial assistance to the Benedetti family going forward in their time of need. As of May 18, it had already raised nearly \$553,000.

“Our community is heartbroken,” said Mayor Heidi Harmon in a news release following the incident. “Detective Benedetti loved this city and bravely gave his life so that we could live in peace and safety. Luca’s children have lost their father so we could be safe. We will hold Detective Benedetti and his family in our hearts forever.”

Det. Steve Orozco was injured in the incident, and was transported to Sierra Vista Hospital where he was treated and released that same night. He is expected to fully recover from his injuries, Wallace said.

The suspect, identified as Edward Zamora Giron, 37, was later found dead inside the apartment of an apparent self-inflicted gunshot wound. He was also reportedly hit by police with return fire, Wallace said.

As for the initial reason police knocked on Giron’s door — the burglaries — police reportedly found numerous items suspected of being stolen in those cases.

Why he decided to fire on police is unknown, but Sheriff Parkinson said at a news conference the next day that Giron had a criminal record of mostly minor offenses and property crimes. Sheriff Parkinson added that Giron did not have any guns registered in his name.

The San Luis Obispo County Sheriff’s Office and the San Luis Obispo County District Attorney’s Office are conducting an investigation into the incident.

“We appreciate their assistance through this difficult time,” said Acting Chief Brian Amoroso. “Having an outside agency conduct the investigation is a standard practice for officer involved shootings and we are cooperating fully with their investigation.”

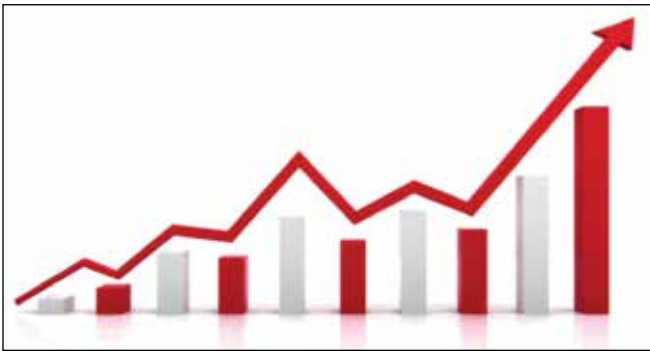
Det. Benedetti joined the San Luis Obispo Police Department in 2012 and before that served for four years with the Atascadero Police Department. He was a traffic investigator who’d worked several high profile pedestrian vs. vehicle accidents in recent years, as well as vehicle burglaries and catalytic converter thefts, among numerous other crimes.

He was also honored in 2017 as a “Top Cop” by Mothers Against Drunk Driving (MADD), for making 116 DUI arrests. The following year he was again honored when he made 48 DUI arrests.

The community was invited to attend funeral services, post press time, on the morning of May 20 at the Cal Poly Performing Arts Center, which was followed by a first responder procession to a private graveside service.

City Business Fees Going Up

By Neil Farrell



Another sign that the coronavirus pandemic is slowing down was recently approved by the Morro Bay City Council, which voted to increase City business license fees and its Master Fee Schedule across the board.

Interim Finance Director and City Treasurer, Katie Lichtig, proposed increasing the business license fees by the current rate of inflation, which is supposed to be looked at every year, but in the midst of the pandemic response’s business closures, was skipped last year.

“There is a natural increase in revenue from Business Taxes,” Lichtig’s report said, “that is assumed as the result of annual Consumer Price Index [inflation] increase, as provided by the municipal code as approved by the voters in 1988 [Measure A]. That increase has been included in the proposed FY 2021/22 budget submittal for Council consideration.”

But don’t call the business licenses “fees,” according to the City. It used to be that the business licenses were automatically increased every year for inflation and would not even be discussed by Council.

But in 2011/12 they were rolled into the City’s “Master Fee Schedule,” which sets the annual charges for things like planning and building impact fees, rental of public facilities and recreation classes, and is reviewed in a public process every year.

Then in 2014, Lichtig said, the City Attorney recommended the “Business Tax Rate Schedule” be separated from the Master Fee Schedule, “since the business tax assessments are not fees,” Lichtig said. “That correction was made in November 2014.”

The City bases its inflation calculations on the change in CPI for the Los Angeles-Riverside-Orange Counties region from March 2020 to March 2021, which Lichtig said came to 2.2%.

It’s the first time the Council raised the cost of doing business in town in two years, as they skipped an increase for the current fiscal year “due to the severe, unprecedented, and unpredictable impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on the local business community, thereby foregoing General Fund revenues that were replaced by the General Fund Emergency Reserves,” the report said. The new rates take effect July 1.

So how much are business licenses going up? Cost for a “basic business license for all undesignated professions” is going from \$151.34 to \$154.67. It’s the same increase for most of the various business categories’ basic charges.

For motels, hotels, multiple dwellings, rest homes, rooming houses, sanitariums and hospitals with more than four rooms the fees are going from \$151.34 plus \$6.01 per room, to \$154.67 plus \$6.14 per room.

For art, hobby or handicraft shows and exhibitions, farmers markets and special events, the fees are going from \$151.34 to \$154.67. For vendors the costs go from \$9.39 per day to \$9.60 per day and from \$15.43 to \$15.77 for a weekend. Or vendors that set up regularly can pay \$52.64 a year, up from \$51.51.

If you own vending machines around town, the City charges 1% of your gross income for each machine and you’ll have to show receipts, too.

Moneylenders and pawn shops will go from \$607.18 to \$620.54 but for public utilities the fee is going from just \$151.34 to \$154.67.

Want to put on a dinner dance? The City wants \$64.92 per day up from \$63.52, unless admission is free, then there’s no charge. Same charges apply for wrestling and boxing bouts, as well as for Merry-Go-Rounds, Revolving Wheel Chutes, toboggans, slides, mechanical riding contrivances (mechanical bulls) or pony rides.

And if you’re an “itinerant merchant” (pop-up store), the fees are now \$66.16 per day, \$130.07 a week, \$192.77 a month, \$253.02 per quarter (3 months), and for 180 days, it’s a whopping

\$316.93, making it far cheaper to simply pay for a regular, annual business license at \$154.

The City also approved a new “Master Fee Schedule” with the inflation rate (2.0%) or the Engineering News-Record (3.16%), which ever is called for as per the type of service being provided.

“Fee activities are services and functions provided by the City to individuals who receive some direct material benefit above and beyond services offered to residents at general taxpayer expense. Council has directed this annual process be revised to have one consolidated fee schedule brought forward in late Spring,” Lichtig’s report said.

These fees are supposed to only cover the City’s expenses to provide the services, and can’t be a “moneymaker” beyond that. But fee increases, traditionally lag behind cost increases — especially for employees — and so every few years they do a new study that determines the costs to provide a service and calculates the fees based on recovering all or most of the costs.

The last such study the City did found many fees were short. But the proposed huge increases on some fees were not well received by the public and so the Council chose to “phase-in” the increases over a couple of years.

The second of the phases for specific fees was supposed to kick in last January but were delayed until the start of the new fiscal year in response to the pandemic.

“Staff recommended, and the Council adopted a deferral of these phase-in’s to help support and provide some relief to City customers due to the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic. The Council also adopted deferred increases to the live aboard and commercial slip and pier fees [those fees went into effect on October 1, 2020],” Lichtig said.

All of the fees are being increased by either the CPI-inflation rate of 2.0% or the ENR rate of 3.16%, whichever applies to the type of fee involved.

Among the new fees are those involving the two cannabis dispensaries that are now opened in town, and a doubling — from \$5 a day to \$10 a day — of the parking fees for boat trailers at the public launch ramp.

And in keeping with past practices, the commercial fishing industry is getting a special discount in exchange for a big payoff to the harbor department to help with its future maintenance costs.

The commercial fishing boat slips owned and operated by the Harbor Department — at the two T-piers, the Beach, and Dunes Street docks and the launch ramp docks — were raised to \$7.10 per foot (boat length) per month and then to \$8.16 in 2021. (This includes a city policy of a 15% discount in fees paid by commercial fishers).

But after speaking with the Morro Bay Commercial Fisher-



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News

men’s Organization, which lobbied against the full \$8.16/ft., rate claiming it would hurt the local industry, the increase was delayed to October 2022 and will only be \$8 a foot.

In exchange, the MBCFO, according to the staff report, would apply for a \$100,000 grant from the “Central California Joint Cable Fisheries Liaison Committee,” and give it to the harbor department, “once a construction project on the docks and piers moves forward.”

That \$100,000 is far more than the City is losing from the discount and 1-year delay in implementing the fee hikes, according to Lichtig.

The Liaison Committee is a group of trawl fishermen that signed an agreement with undersea cable companies to compensate the fishermen for the loss of fishing grounds due to the cables’ routes. The Liaison Committee provides grants to fishing groups to support the industry and the fishermen agree not to drag nets over the undersea cables.

Lichtig said the MBCFO would obtain the grant monies to “reduce impact on the local industry, while also providing financial support for physical improvements to the City slips and piers they utilize,” Lichtig said.

But not all fees cover the costs, despite the City Council having this as a major city goal. For example, the amount for a “Refundable appeal fee for non-land use administrative decisions” is proposed to jump to \$306 each from \$300. But a footnote in the schedule notes that it costs the City \$3,565 to process an administrative permit appeal (made to the planning commission). That is just an 8.6% cost recovery rate but it is doubtful the residents would tolerate a \$3,600 fee for filing an appeal of a decision made by planning staff.

Development impact fees are all going up a little. For example the fee for residential single-family development is now \$4.63 per square foot; residential multi-family is \$7.43/s.f.; accessory dwelling units (granny units) are \$1.12/s.f.; commercial development is \$4.70 s.f.; commercial office is \$3.32 s.f.; and industrial is \$1.70 s.f.

The permit cost to remove a tree on private property is now \$581.50. And the fine for violating any planning and building codes is now twice the cost of the permit that you didn’t get first, plus \$51 a day for every day after the City red-tags the job.

And the economic windfall expected from the two cannabis dispensaries now open for business in town is: \$9,000 for a commercial cannabis operating permit; plus \$4,500 annual renewals. The police department charges \$470 to conduct background checks on every employee, which is a big jump from the initial \$165 fee.

From there, the police department wants \$235 per year for each employee to be checked again. They also charge \$580 to do a background check on dispensary owners.

This is on top of the \$475,000 a year the City hopes to get from the 5% sales tax the Council put on the cannabis products they sell.

And if your burglar alarm keeps going off the police department won’t charge anything the first two times it happens in a calendar year. But will charge you \$388 for the third false alarm and for every false alarm after that, making it potentially very expensive for a boy who who cries wolf.

Eagle Rock Preservation Completed



Eagle Rock as shown on Google Maps.

The Morro Bay Open Space Alliance (MBOSA) announced recently that its efforts to conserve a local promontory in open space is now official and the land protected forever.

MBOSA said its fund-raising campaign to raise \$265,000 and buy a conservation easement from the City of Morro Bay for “Eagle Rock” (a.k.a. Cerrito Peak) was reached in Spring 2020 and this past April, the easement was officially recorded on the deed.

The easement protects the top of Eagle Rock, which is a Native American sacred historic site, and offers a sweeping view of Morro Bay Harbor and Estuary — from Morro Rock to Los Osos.

“This conservation easement will ensure that no development occurs on this parcel and is binding on all owners, current and future,” MBOSA said in its news release. “Local Native American tribes visited the rock and used it in ceremonies eons before the current stands of eucalyptus appeared, and they still consider it sacred. Today those eucalyptus provide shelter to migrating monarch butterflies, as well as hawks, osprey and owls.”

MBOSA raised the money through some 175 donations both “large and small.”

Eagle Rock is part of the “Seven Sisters” chain of extinct volcanoes that runs from Morro Rock to Islay Hill in SLO. The volcanoes went extinct million of years ago. What’s left are barren granite domes like Morro Rock and majestic mountains like Holister Peak and Bishops Peak.

“MBOSA has ensured that current and future generations of Morro Bay residents will be free to climb and enjoy this unique formation in its undeveloped state,” the group said.

MBOSA is also involved in the mother of all conservation efforts in the Estero Bay Area — preserving Chevron’s extensive land holdings that hug the eastern side of North Morro Bay and its southern edge with the old marine terminal property.

Several conservation and government agencies, MBOSA and the Cayucos Land Conservancy are all working on the effort to keep Chevron’s hillside lands in open space, and preserve a valley that spans eastward from Del Mar Park.

Big Changes Coming to Vaccine Sites

By Neil Farrell



San Luis Obispo County has taken several steps towards a normal world again, opening up vaccinations to anyone 12-older, and making plans to close up their three vaccination sites, as the coronavirus pandemic’s era of woe begins to wind down.

Indeed, though the County continues to register new cases, the daily counts have been low, along with active cases now hovering around 100, and only a handful of people in the hospital, with zero in intensive care.

Big Changes With Vaccinations

The County Health Department has made several changes with regards to its three vaccination sites in Paso Robles, Arroyo Grand and Cuesta College, and who can get the vaccine and when.

On May 4, the County announced that its vaccine clinics would open to walk-in patients, after months of having to make appointments.

“I encourage everyone who hasn’t yet gotten the vaccine to take this opportunity to get the vaccine easily and at no cost,” Dr. Penny Borenstein, County Health Officer said, “while we are able to provide these large-scale community clinics across SLO County.”

The County said more than 221,700 doses of vaccine had been administered since last December by County clinics, pharmacies and community vaccine providers, with 151,600 of them at the County sites.

The numbers were high enough that on May 7 the County announced that it was going to close its three clinics on June 4. “When we stood up these large, temporary clinics,” Dr. Borenstein said, “our goal was to administer vaccines as swiftly as possible to our residents, beginning with those most at risk for COVID-19.” That would be the elderly and medically frail people, who had the most severe cases of the virus and were the majority of those who died.

Some 221 people ages 65-older have died of COVID-19 in SLO County since the pandemic started in 2020. Some 260 total people in SLO County have died from the virus, according to County stats. No one under-30 has died of COVID in SLO County.

On May 12, the County lowered its age requirements to

Big Changes Continued on page 4

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receive the Pfizer vaccine from 16 to 12, after the CDC said it was OK.

“This safe, effective vaccine,” Dr. Borenstein said, “offers powerful protection from COVID-19 and, especially for young people, can help lift the weight of worrying about spreading the illness to others.” She added that getting the vaccine would make it safer for kids to enjoy their summer activities.

Dr. Borenstein said the vaccine was put to “a large-scale clinical trial with volunteers age 12 to 15, which demonstrated the two-shot vaccine is safe and effective in preventing COVID-19. Adolescents in the trial experienced the same mild side effects as many adults did during clinical trials: arm soreness, fatigue, fever, or chills, lasting a day or two, the County said.

And while the County is planning to close up shop with its clinics, if you got your first of two shots before May 14, you can still get the second one from the County. Otherwise, you’ll need to go to a pharmacy or local doctor’s office that’s using the same vaccine.

And, the County will continue to provide free vaccines at mobile clinics and the County’s Public Health clinics in San Luis Obispo, Paso Robles, and Grover Beach.

To schedule a COVID-19 vaccine appointment at any of the County’s community clinics, see: myturn.ca.gov or call (833) 422-4255.

County Offers Mobile Clinics

The County has put together a new program where it will bring the vaccine to you, offering to visit neighborhood groups, faith-based organizations, businesses, housing sites and other places where community groups congregate, and they’re able to vaccinate some 200 people with each event.

“With these mobile clinics,” Dr. Borenstein said, “we are better able to reach those who face barriers to getting to a large-scale clinic or pharmacy. It’s an important part of ensuring our community as a whole is protected and ready to move forward.”

Hosting groups are asked to provide a place for the vaccinations to be given and a shady place where folks can sit for a time afterwards to make sure there are no ill effects. They will also provide health educators with written materials and to answer questions.

There is no cost to the hosts nor for the vaccinations; and all you need is proof of age.

See: www.RecoverSLO.org/MobileVaccine for information and to apply.

J&J Vaccine Resumed

The County resumed administering the controversial, Johnson & Johnson COVID-19 vaccine after a nationwide “pause” in its use due to a serious side effect that caused blood clots in some patients.

The clotting, called “thrombocytopenia syndrome” or TTS, was observed in over a dozen cases out of some 7.9 million doses, according to the County. “Nearly all reports of TTS have been in adult women under-50, with symptoms occurring six to 13 days after vaccination,” the County said.

During the pause, multiple health agencies conducted a thorough safety review, according to the County, among them were the USDA, CDC, FDA and Western States Scientific Safety Review Working Group, which declared the J&J vaccine safe and effective on April 24, after it was paused on April 13.

The single dose J&J vaccine is different from the Pfizer and Moderna, 2-dose vaccines and overall is less effective, but still works well on COVID-19.

The County still issued a warning about the vaccine. “If you have received the Johnson & Johnson COVID-19 vaccine, and develop severe headache, abdominal pain, leg pain, or shortness of breath within three weeks after vaccination, contact your health-care provider, or seek medical care,” the County said.

The County has administered over 2,200 doses of the J&J vaccine through its three clinics.

Countywide Case Numbers Low

Countywide, the case numbers continue to be low with just 109 active cases as of the County’s May 14 stats (see: <https://www.emergencyslo.org/en/covid19.aspx>).

As for hospital beds, the County said 15 of the 38 available ICU beds were occupied but none of them with COVID patients. Two people were hospitalized with CIVID.

Since the pandemic started there have been 498 cases in Los Osos, 440 in Morro Bay, 183 in Cambria, 72 in Cayucos and 20 in San Simeon for a total of 1,213 cases in North Coast communities.

By comparison, San Luis Obispo has had 4,305 cases, Paso Robles 4,169, and CMC, a state prison had 2,384 inmates contract the virus.

For more information on the virus, and to apply for a mobile clinic, see: www.RecoverSLO.org. The SLO County Phone Assistance Center at (805) 543-2444 is open weekdays from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.



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News Briefs

By Theresa-Marie Wilson

LOCSD Water Report

The Los Osos Community Service District water system service area customers will receive the Consumer Confidence Report for the 2020 calendar year with their water bills in the months of May and June. The report provides information about water quality from laboratory analyses during the year. The agency tests the drinking water quality for many constituents as required by state and federal regulations.

Los Osos relies on groundwater wells for drinking water. Some of the characteristics of groundwater is that it has naturally occurring hardness, higher concentrations of dissolved solids, and dissolved gasses. The state refers to constituents in water as contaminants. This doesn’t mean your water poses a health risk. The State sets maximum contaminant levels for different constituents in drinking water. There are primary and secondary constituents. The primary constituents address public health and the secondary constituents address aesthetics like odor, taste, and appearance.

View the report online at <https://www.losososcsd.org/2020-consumer-confidence-report>. Readers with questions are asked to contact Margaret Falkner at 805-528-9376.

Senior Meals Program Needs Volunteers

Volunteers are needed for the “Meals that Connect” program that distributes food to homebound seniors and others in Morro Bay and Cayucos.

Volunteer kitchen help is needed from 8:30-10 a.m. weekdays to help package meals for delivery. Delivery drivers are also needed and they work from 10-noon weekdays.

The program normally helps seniors and the disabled in need, but during the coronavirus pandemic includes many more seniors who can’t venture out for fear of contracting the virus, which has been especially hard on the elderly and the medically frail.

If you’d like to help out, call Kat Cater at (805) 772-4422.

Diablo Canyon Decommissioning Public Meeting

The Diablo Canyon Decommissioning Engagement Panel (DCDEP) will hold a virtual public meeting via Zoom on Wednesday, May 26, at 6 p.m. The group is slated to discuss spent nuclear fuel management, PG&E’s application to obtain a Coastal Development Permit (CDP), which is required to perform decommissioning activities in a coastal zone, and receive an update on decommissioning planning. The meeting will also include introductions of two new panel members.

Dr. Peter Lam, administrative judge emeritus of the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission and member of the Diablo Canyon Independent Safety Committee, will participate in the

discussion on spent fuel management.

PG&E representatives will give an overview of the CDP application submitted to the County of San Luis Obispo on March 24. SLO County representatives will also discuss the CDP application and California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) process that are required for the decommissioning of Diablo Canyon.

Readers can directly submit questions to the panel and offer live public comment and input on decommissioning planning, including future plans for the DCP site and surrounding lands. In addition to the live webinar, the meeting will be broadcast on SLOSPAN and local access Channel 21. The public can register to attend the meeting here: <https://diablo-canyonpanel.org/>.

History Center Seeking New Board Members



The History Center of San Luis Obispo County will hold its annual board of directors’ election this month to fill a few vacant seats. Anyone with an interest in local history and the available time to join the 15-member board is invited to inquire about the position. Successful candidates will be seated prior to their annual meeting in late June.

“Over nearly seven decades as an organization, we’ve been very fortunate in having talented individuals step up to volunteer for board service,” said John Ashbaugh, board president for the History Center. “We’re seeking new people with a variety of skills and stations in life, from all over the County, who share an interest in learning and talking about local history.”

Ashbaugh added that the organization is also seeking members to join the organization, which is easily done through the website www.historycenterslo.org. As a membership-based non-profit, the broad base of members and volunteers work together to achieve the organizations mission: To promote the understanding and appreciation of San Luis Obispo County’s historical and cultural heritage.

For more information, prospective board members should contact Ashbaugh at 805-550-7713, or email him at johnashbaugh@historycenterslo.org.

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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4

Dredge Ship in Port



Morro Bay Harbor has an enormous visitor right now, the Army Corps of Engineers’ dredge ship, Yaquina, sailed into port last week for its annual dredging of the harbor entrance. The City said the Yaquina would be here through June 1, working to deepen the harbor mouth and navigation channel down to about Coleman Park. The annual work is to ensure the harbor mouth stays deep enough to tame large breaking waves that tend to happen in the winter months that gave Morro Bay a reputation as one of the most hazardous harbor mouths on the U.S. West Coast. As part of the work, the interior, red and green channel marker buoys have been removed from the harbor entrance to the North T-pier. The harbor department advises boaters to be careful traversing that area and to stay well clear of the dredge ship. Yaquina is a hopper-style dredge, meaning it extends long digger arms into the water, sucking up silt from the sea floor into a large hopper in its belly. When full, the ship travels offshore from the Sandspit, and a mile or so south of the harbor entrance, opens its hopper doors in the bottom of the ship and dumps the spoils in a designated, approved area.

Harbor Budget Discussed

By Neil Farrell

After perhaps the most uncertain year in history, with the coronavirus pandemic literally affecting every business, citizen and visitor, and every City department in town, the fist indication of how the City is faring financially was recently discussed by the Harbor Advisory Board in the run-up to the Fiscal Year 2021/22 budget slated to be released next month and take effect July 1. In his staff report, Harbor Director Eric Endersby gave the HAB members a simplified layout of his next budget. Under “Revenues” the report lists a total of \$2.15 million. Broken down that’s \$1.644M from waterfront leases and licenses; \$194,000 from City controlled slip fees (the Harbor Department controls both T-piers and the Beach and Dunes Streets docks, as well as the launch ramp docks and numerous offshore moorings. Also, all City slips are reserved for commercial fishing boats.); \$54,000 in fees from the T-piers; \$103,000 in (offshore) mooring fees; \$40,000 in day use parking fees from the launch ramp parking lot; \$44,000 in RV camping fees; and \$70,000 to capitol projects. On the expenses side, Endersby lists \$2.05M, consisting of \$1.105M in personnel costs (salaries and benefits); \$61,400 in supplies; \$337,500 for “services;” \$135,000 in loan service; \$16,000 miscellaneous; and, \$399,000 in “cost allocation and other transfers.” This last expense is paid to City Hall for services rendered, like administration, attorney services, payroll and HR, among others. The City under State law is allowed to charge so-called “enterprise funds,” which in Morro Bay consist of the harbor, water and sewer funds, and public transportation. Enterprise funds are allowed to operate much like businesses and can have surpluses that are accumulated in reserve funds and used for future capital projects or equipment needs. Over the past year during the coronavirus pandemic response the Governor shut down all “non-essential” businesses in California in March 2020, reportedly to help stop the spread of the virus, in a controversial move that devastated a large swath of the State’s economy — tourism. That sent the Harbor Fund into a brief tailspin as motels and restaurants on the waterfront closed for a couple of months and have slowly reopened to takeout and outdoor dining, but remain

partially closed indoors. The Council delayed rent payments to the Harbor Department for several months, too. The City’s general fund also took a hit as motels were initially ordered closed for a couple of months, cutting off the City’s second biggest source of taxes — transient occupancy taxes — raised from a 10% tax on a room night. And when that was eased, they were limited in capacity. The city released online its draft 2021/22 budget, which the City Council will go over in June and takes effect July 1.

District Attorneys Challenge Early Release



San Luis Obispo County District Attorney Dan Dow has joined 40 other elected district attorneys across California in filing a petition with the Secretary of the Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR) requesting the repeal of temporary emergency regulations awarding additional credits toward the sentences of more than 76,000 state prison inmates. These additional credits would allow serious, violent, and sex offenders in prison to parole earlier, said a news release from the SLO DA Office. The regulations were passed under a claim of an emergency and first made public on Friday April 30, 2021. Adopting these regulations, and claiming an emergency, the CDCR Secretary stated it was necessary to comply with “the direction outlined in the Governor’s Budget Summary” presented a year ago on May 14, 2020. “By invoking an emergency, the traditional regulatory scheme and transparent public comment period was bypassed,” the DA’s Office said in a news release. The administrative law petition is often the first step in seeking a formal court order declaring the regulations unlawful. If the emergency regulations are nullified by a court, CDCR would be forced to pass the regulations in the traditional manner, requiring the State’s Office of Administrative Law to provide greater transparency and public input. “The time is now to consider the impact on victims of crime when making decisions to release serious, violent, and sex offenders from prison early,” said Dow. “This early release program for serious and violent offenders was created under the guise of a non-existent emergency and is a prime example of how we have neglected survivors of crime when reforming our criminal and victim justice system. The people deserve much better.”



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



By Theresa-Marie Wilson

Morro Bay Job Fair Today

Looking for work? Eckerd Connects, operator of America’s Job Center of California, and the Morro Bay Chamber of Commerce are teaming up to help job seekers and employers today, May 20, from 2 to 4 p.m. More than 30 local businesses were slated to participate in an event meant to combat what’s become a nationwide phenomenon — millions of open jobs, millions of unemployed workers (due to the pandemic) but businesses being unable to fill openings. Participating businesses, located on the Embarcadero, in Downtown, on Quintana Road, and in North Morro Bay will have a ‘We’re Hiring’ sign in their window and will be ready to provide on-the-spot interviews to job seekers. Allison Schiavo, area manager of Eckerd Connects, saw a similar program executed in another California city and initiated contact with the Chamber on the idea. The two organizations have partnered on workforce development issues for years. “With our vast database of job seekers and knowledge of Morro Bay employers’ issues with hiring, this felt like the right fit to prototype this program in SLO County,” said Schiavo. Erica Crawford, president/CEO of the Chamber, jumped at the opportunity to solve a problem that is being felt on the ground in Morro Bay. “Lack of local labor is the number one issue that our members are reporting as a barrier from fully reopening.” People of all ages and backgrounds who are seeking employment should come prepared with resumes, dressed professionally, and be ready for a possible on-the-spot interview. Job seekers needing support to prepare for the job fair can access resume writing and printing support, interviewing assistance, and guidance on how to make great first impressions during COVID-19 at America’s Job Center located at 3450 Broad Street, Suite 103 in San Luis Obispo.

Perfect Union Helps Food Bank




In March 2021, Perfect Union staff helped the SLO Food Bank prep bags of fresh produce that was distributed to different organizations in the community, as well as prepared orders for local nonprofits that cook and serve food to those in need. Additionally, Perfect Union, located at 1000 Quintana road suite A, Morro Bay presented a check for \$1,789 collected from in store donations from the Morro Bay community. That donation covered the cost to feed 12,523 people in the surrounding area. Photo by Perfect Union

San Luis Obispo Writers’ Room

The San Luis Obispo Writers’ Room (SLOWR) is a new organization dedicated to fostering a vibrant, engaged, and diverse literary community on the Central Coast. It will provide to workshops, writers’ groups, readings, community gatherings,

Takin’ Care Continued on page 6



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Takin' Care From page 5

and educational events for emerging and established writers in SLO County.

Right now, they are at the start-up stage and gathering community input into design before launching, so that SLOWR is responsive to the needs of members. They are looking to partner on this journey with local writers and arts' organizations.

SLOWR says they will transcend the local support and critique groups through a centralized, nonprofit platform. This includes affordable, safe, and productive workspace for emerging and established writers.

Writers of all genres are welcome: prose, poetry, screen and stage, graphic novels, fiction and non-fiction. The voices of historically marginalized writers, such as people of color, people with disabilities, LGBTQ individuals, and newcomers to the United States, are essential to our mission.

If you are a writer in SLO County, they would love your input via a survey that can be found at www.slowr.org/survey. You can learn more about SLOWR, sign up for our newsletter, or contact them at www.slowr.org.

Are you or a neighbor Taking Care of Business? Submit your awesome local efforts for publication here. Is your business supporting our community? Maybe you're launching a new business, or you're making updates to your current business model, or re-opening. Or perhaps you have a job opportunity, or have been doing some volunteer work, or are collaborating with another business or a non-profit. Or maybe you know someone who is. Fill out our online form at EsteroBayNews.com

Rock Espresso Owner Celebrates First Year



Melissa Catalli's gamble to buy a struggling espresso bar in Downtown Morro Bay and return to a place where she worked as a teenager, has turned out well despite taking over the Rock Espresso Bar in the midst of the Coronavirus Pandemic.

Catalli celebrated her One Year Anniversary on May 14, cutting the ribbon with the Chamber of Commerce and hosting a party that also celebrated her 29th birthday.

By all accounts business has been good if a little weird trying to keep up with health guidelines, business limitations, and making sure her customers and employees stay safe from this evil virus.

Dancing and Live Music Brings Barefoot Fans



Sea Pines Golf Resort was bumping with the return of the "Barefoot Concerts on the Green" after being shutdown in March of 2020 due to the coronavirus pandemic.

The Spring Series kicked off with Cuesta Ridge Band and more than a few people kicked of their shoes and danced on the practice green.

Shows are free admission and food and drinks are available at the Clubhouse Grill, the golf course's bar and restaurant. Shows run from 2-6 p.m. For a schedule of upcoming shows, go to seapinesgolfresort.com/live-music.

Photos by Dean Sullivan



Axes Were Flying



Los Osos based companies SLO Axe Co and The Olde Ale House joined forces for an afternoon of barbecue, beer and axe throwing on Sunday.

The competition between local lumberjacks was fierce and the food and beer was fantastic.

Both businesses are run by husband and wife teams. Matt and Jen Corning own SLO Axe Co and Bill Marvin and Chris Stratford, along with her sister, Cathy Stratford own The Olde Ale House.

Readers can check out either company on Facebook at [sloaxe](https://www.facebook.com/sloaxe) and [theoldealehouse945](https://www.facebook.com/theoldealehouse945).

Lumberjack leader board winners today!! Thank you Los Osos for coming out to support us @ The Olde Alehouse. We definitely met some local lumberjacks legends.

Catalli is in the process of redoing her backyard garden and seating areas and putting her special touch on one of the oldest coffeehouses in town. After graduation from high school in 2010, Catalli worked at the Rock for 3 years for former owners Jason and Amanda Birdsong, the same people who she bought the business from one year ago.

In just one year, she has turned the little espresso bar around

and become a beloved part of the neighborhood.

In the photo, Catalli, center with the big scissors cuts the ribbon with friends and employees who helped celebrate her 1-year anniversary and her birthday.

Estero Bay News congratulates Melissa Catalli and the crew at Rock Espresso Bar for a successful first year and many good wishes for the future.

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Detective Luca Benedetti
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How You Can Help



San Luis Obispo, California Police Detective Luca Benedetti was tragically killed in the line of duty on May 10, 2021. His loss has left a massive void in the hearts of his family, fellow officers, friends, and members of the community.

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All (100%) **Proceeds** from the sale of this tee will be donated to Detective Benedetti's Family. Please support Luca's family, and proudly show your support for law enforcement officers throughout your community.

www.patriotprovisionsco.com/collections/detective-luca-benedetti-memorial-tee

DONATE

The San Luis Obispo Police Department Police Officer Association and the San Luis Obispo Regional SWAT team setup this GoFundMe page for the sole purpose of providing financial assistance to the Benedetti family going forward in their time of need.

All generously donated funds will go directly to Luca's family as they navigate this very difficult time.
www.gofund.me/280ffaab

Det. Luca Benedetti Family Relief Fund



Police Blotter



Morro Bay Police Logs

- **May 9:** Police contacted a foolish man at 11:09 p.m. being a pest at Albertson’s. The scofflaw, 43, had a warrant, which led to a search, which resulted in his arrest for the unholy trinity — suspicion of being stoned, possessing drugs and dug paraphernalia.
- **May 9:** Police contacted a wanted man, 49, at 10:25 p.m. at Lila Keiser Park. He was imprisoned for a felony warrant.
- **May 9:** Police responded at 1:48 p.m. to a car crash in the 2700 block of Main. No apparent injuries were reported but the cars will never be the same.
- **May 9:** Police were called at 8:15 a.m. to the 800 block of Napa where a citizen told them he or she had scared off a would-be thief trying to break into their truck. The rascal left behind his bicycle when he fled, like the scoundrel he must surely be.
- **May 9:** Police stopped a suspicious vehicle at 12:32 a.m. at Main and Beach, the very heart of the danger zone. The 23-year-old lady driver was nicked for suspicion of driving tight.
- **May 8:** Police stopped a vehicle at 9:36 p.m. at Main and Quintana for some code violation. The driver, 29, reportedly admitted to police that his license was suspended for a prior DUI, so they took him downtown where they cited and then released him, but at least he was apparently sober, this time.
- **May 8:** Police stopped a suspicious vehicle at 8:30 p.m. at Main and Atascadero Road. The driver, 50, was taken to the woodshed for suspicion of driving swilled.
- **May 8:** Police no doubt thought they had another live one at 7 p.m. at Main and Bonita, but they could only cite the driver, 56, for a suspended license, good for about 10 days in the pokey before the COVID early release program.
- **May 8:** Police at the stationhouse arrested a 50-year-old apparent ruffian for suspicion of assault with a deadly weapon, domestic violence and possession of methamphetamine, which explains a lot but excuses nothing.
- **May 8:** Police responded at 9:45 a.m. to the storage yard in the 1600 block of Embarcadero where two different people said tools had been stolen out of their sheds. According to logs, all the missing tools were later located somewhere on the property, which seems damned peculiar.
- **May 7:** Police responded to a disturbance call at 10:05 p.m. in the 1200 block of Embarcadero. Logs indicated a 36-year-old raucous juice weasel had a few too many and allegedly committed assault with a deadly weapon; vandalism with over \$400 in damages; and drunk and disorderly conduct. He was taken to County Jail to sit for a portrait.
- **May 7:** The carousel stopped at City Park at 4:30 p.m. where a 33-year-old lady scofflaw with five bench warrants was given her sixth.
- **May 7:** Two cars went boom at 1:17 p.m. at Piney Way and Harbor, a dastardly 4-way stop intersection. No word on the carnage done.
- **May 7:** A citizen in the 800 block of Monterey said some brazen porch pirate stole a package right off his doorstep.
- **May 7:** Two more cars collided, this time at 1:17 p.m. in the 900 block of Embarcadero, as safe driving is apparently the latest victim of COVID.
- **May 7:** Police contacted a suspicious fellow at 10:52 a.m. by

- the beach in the 1700 block of Embarcadero. Logs indicated the 54-year-old model citizen was nicked for suspicion of possessing meth. He got cited and released to go replenish his stash.
- **May 6:** At 11:09 p.m. police contacted another regular customer at Lila Keiser Park who had a warrant. The rube, 51, was cited for a bench warrant and released with a solemn promise to appear next time.
 - **May 6:** At 5 p.m. police contacted two likely suspects at Albertson’s regarding vandalism at McDonald’s. The shinning examples were determined to be plastered and had arrest warrants, too , and so were treated to a night in the County B&B.
 - **May 6:** A citizen in the 500 block of San Joaquin showed police where someone had smashed the window of his car and stole \$85 in cash. Police don’t have any leads, but it’s good to call, because you should never bow before hyenas.
 - **May 5:** Police contacted a suspicious man at 9 p.m. in the 200 block of beach. The slapdash fellow, 50, was cited for suspicion of possessing illegal drugs.
 - **May 5:** Police contacted some bonehead, 51, at 8:30 p.m. in the 1700 block of Main who had a felony invitation from a judge. He was skipped off to ma-loo.
 - **May 5:** Police responded at 9:30 p.m. to a disturbance in the 400 block of Embarcadero. A 57-year-old buttered fellow was arrested for being toasted.
 - **May 5:** Police contacted a man at 2:30 p.m. in the 500 block of Quintana. Logs indicated the 46-year-old master criminal was arrested for suspicion of being high on drugs, possessing drugs and drug paraphernalia and also for nine outstanding warrants, as ol’ Lady Justice finally cast off the blindfold with this guy.
 - **May 5:** Police responded to a reported burglary in the 1000 block of Front St.
 - **May 4:** Police documented a report of suspected child abuse in the 900 block of Pacific Street.
 - **May 4:** Police responded to the 400 block of Quintana where someone found a syringe loaded with a clear substance that tested positive for methamphetamine. The poison was booked for destruction. As for the junkie that fixed it, no arrests were made.
 - **May 4:** Someone in the 1500 block of Main reported a vehicle theft, but it turned out to apparently just be late getting home.
 - **May 4:** Police were called at 10:10 a.m. to City Park where a fellow said some scoundrel stole his electric bike. Police located the e-bike and the e-thief a short distance away at Piney and Harbor. The alleged thief was arrested and the e-bike returned to the victim, and the caze is sol-ved!
 - **May 4:** Police at 8:36 a.m. served a wake-up call at Lila Keiser Park where they roused one 28-year-old slugabed who was allegedly already stoned on drugs and for having an illegal dirk or dagger (knife). A 62-year man was also arrested for several outstanding warrants. They shared a cab to the hoosegow.
 - **May 3:** Police responded to Lila Keiser Park at 6:24 p.m. where a 21-year-old disturbed woman was creating a disturbance. Logs indicated she was given a 72-hour timeout at French Hospital.
 - **May 3:** Police were no doubt surprised when a 30-year-old woman walked into the police station and confessed to a car-jacking in Santa Maria. Officers called Santa Maria Police who confirmed her story and asked that she be arrested and turned over to them. Logs indicated they drove her to the Five Cities area where a prisoner exchange was made and she went home to face the music.
 - **May 3:** Someone in the 1700 block of Embarcadero reported a theft. Logs indicated there was insufficient evidence, which doesn’t mean it didn’t happen.
 - **May 3:** A citizen in the 2500 block of Juniper Ave., said some swine stole a letter and package out of his or her mailbox.
 - **May 3:** Police took a report of attempted burglary in the 900 block of Main and sent the report to the district attorney’s office for potential prosecution.
 - **May 3:** Police responded to a trespasser call at 10:24 a.m. at the nhc cannabis store in the 400 block of Morro Bay Blvd. Logs indicated a 53-year-old man was refusing to leave the store and threatening the security guards and the budtenders. He allegedly threatened to kill them, police said, and wound up allegedly assaulting a security guard, which is never a good idea. He was subdued and arrested on suspicion of making criminal threats, assault, and trespassing and booked into the cooler to chill, another apparent casualty of the war on drugs.
 - **May 3:** Someone broke into a car parked at the Inn at Morro Bay and extracted the local tourist tax.
 - **May 3:** Petty larceny was reported in the 1200 block of Embarcadero. Police have no clues in this bit of pettifoggery.
 - **May 2:** Police contacted an apparent Duke of Haphazard acting a fool at 9:15 p.m. at Albertson’s Market on Quintana Rd. The 28-year-old Mamaluke was cited and released for allegedly being high on illegal drugs.
 - **May 2:** Police responded to a disturbance at 1:16 a.m. in the 800 block of Main. A 32-year-old bent fellow was arrested for suspicion of resisting arrest and drunk in public and suffered

- intoxifornication.
- **May 2:** Police contacted a suspicious woman at 12:33 a.m. in the 200 block of Atascadero Rd. The 60-year-old scofflaw had four bench warrants and was also nicked for alleged possession of drugs and a crack pipe.
 - **May 1:** Police contacted a suspicious woman at 7 p.m. in City Park on Harbor Street. Logs indicated the apparent street yob, 29, had a bench warrant and was cited and released with another disappearance ticket.
 - **May 1:** Police responded at 5:33 p.m. to the 200 block of Morro Bay Blvd., for a public accident report. A big branch fell off a City street tree outside Mike’s Barbershop hitting some poor guy’s parked car and damaging it. Police documented the arboreal assault for the insurance claim to come.
 - **May 1:** Police responded to a car crash at 1:04 p.m. at Pacific and Main, where the City staff refused to install a 4-way stop, not that it would prevent poor decisions behind the wheel.
 - **May 1:** Police towed off a vehicle at Panay and Main because the registration expired in January 2018, making the world safe once again for Democracy.
 - **May 1:** Police stopped a suspicious vehicle at 3 a.m. on Hwy 1 at South Bay Boulevard. Logs indicated the woman driver, 52, could only be cited for a bench warrant.
 - **May 1:** Police stopped a suspicious vehicle at midnight in the 1300 block of Main that wasn’t so lucky. Logs indicated the 30-year-old fellow driving was arrested for suspicion of driving juiced.
 - **April 30:** Police contacted a suspicious man and woman, ages 44 and 35 respectively, at 8:40 p.m. in the 300 block of Atascadero Rd. He had 12 bench warrants but was just cited and released with lucky No. 13. She had just one warrant and was given her future second.
 - **April 29:** At 11:35 p.m. police spotted a reckless driver in the 900 block of Balboa. Logs indicated they stopped the vehicle and the driver, 49, was nicked for allegedly driving forshnicked.
 - **April 29:** Police contacted a suspicious fellow at 7:51 p.m. in Lila Keiser Park. The apparent swagman, 39, had three bench warrants. He was issued a fourth and released back into the wild.
 - **April 29:** Police stopped a suspicious vehicle at 2:47 p.m. in the 700 block of Quintana. The 61-year-old borracho was arrested for suspicion of driving kootered and was booked into the carcel.
 - **April 29:** Police contacted yet another wanderer in the 300 block of Atascadero Rd. The 36-year-old fellow had a bench warrant and was cited and released with a new court date, which he will no doubt ignore.
 - **April 29:** Police contacted a suspicious man at 12:44 a.m. in the 1500 block of Main. Logs indicated he had four bench warrants, and was given a fifth one for his trouble.
 - **April 28:** Police recovered a plastic baggie with a “white crystal-like substance” that someone apparently lost in the 200 block of Harbor. Tests showed the substance was methamphetamine and they booked it for destruction, unless the dingus that lost it tries to reclaim it, then it’ll be evidence.
 - **April 28:** Police responded at 11:10 a.m. to a disturbance in Lila Keiser Park where a 32-year-old man was pipped at the post for suspicion of being UTI, possession of drugs and drug paraphernalia.
 - **April 28:** Police stopped a suspicious vehicle at the suspect time of 12:45 a.m. in the 300 block of Quintana. Logs indicated police noticed suspicious items in the car that turned out be stolen from a storage unit in town. The woman driver, 52 was arrested for suspicion of burglary.
 - **April 27:** At 8:40 p.m. police contacted a suspicious woman, 47, at Lila Keiser Park for allegedly violating a City municipal code, a hanging offense in these parts. Logs indicated she had an out-of-county warrant and was taken into custody. Police reportedly found suspected drugs on her along with a crack pipe.
 - **April 27:** Police responded at 4:22 p.m. to a disturbance on Napa Avenue. A 27-year-old fellow was apparently havin’ a bit of a breakdown and was taken to the hospital for a mental health evaluation.
 - **April 27:** Police responded to the 200 block of Surf where a citizen reported that a stolen check was forged and cashed by “an unauthorized individual” a.k.a. a dang thief!
 - **April 27:** Police contacted another regular customer at 10:18 a.m. in the 1200 block of Main. Logs indicated the 28-year-old snot waffle was allegedly in possession of illegal drugs and drug paraphernalia, and of course he had two bench warrants. Still, he was cited and released back into decent society.
 - **April 26:** Police caught another of the caravan of fools at 8:45 p.m. at Lila Keiser Park. The man, 34, had a warrant and was cited and released once again, part of the California catch-and-release, full-employment program.
 - **April 26:** Police contacted another model citizen at 3:24 p.m. in the 700 block of Morro Bay Blvd. The fellow, 52, had a bench warrant and was cited again and released.

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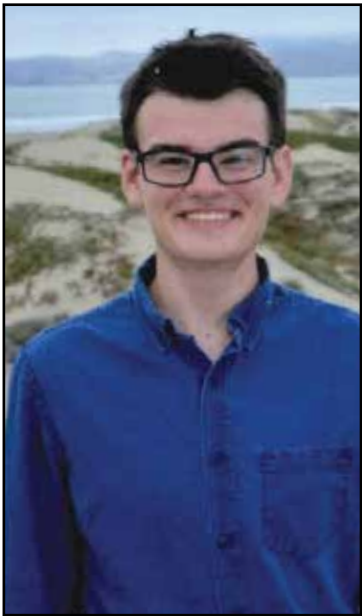
By Theresa-Marie Wilson

Most elementary school students don't know what their academic pursuits will be beyond book reports and fractions after recess, but Adam Rainbolt of Los Osos had a pretty clear idea that his future would involve the past.

"I've been interested in history for the past probably 10 years, so almost all of my life," the 18-year-old said.

After graduating from Morro Bay High School in June, Rainbolt will head to Ireland where he will attend Trinity College of Dublin with plans to earn a Bachelor of Arts in medieval history.

Although Adam was accepted to some prominent American universities, including UCLA, UC Berkeley, UC Santa Barbara and the University of Wisconsin-Madison, he chose one of Ireland's highest ranked universities home to 17,000 undergraduate and postgraduate students, nearly a third of whom are international students.



Adam Rainbolt will attend Trinity College of Dublin in Ireland to study medieval history.

"Having the opportunity to be in Europe and to study medieval history was just an excellent opportunity, especially since I'm hoping to eventually become a professor who can teach history," Rainbolt said. "It just felt like being there, being able to study the exact era of history that I like, especially medieval history, would give me an opportunity that I couldn't get anywhere else."

Rainbolt has a weighted-GPA of 4.5, which includes extra points for honors or Advanced Placement courses and is the editor of the school's student-led news site, The Spyglass. He worked with MBHS teacher Ryan Mammarella in 2018 to transition from a monthly printed newspaper to a website that allows student reporters, photographers and graphic artists to post daily about issues that affect the MBHS student body.

The choice to uproot his life for the next four years or more came about when he visited his sister in Ireland in 2019 for nearly a month.

"I was in that part of my life where I was looking at universities, and I happened to be in Dublin, so I stopped by and was amazed at how incredible it was. I'm really excited to be in an environment where I feel like I could really thrive academically, where I'm surrounded by people who are excited to learn. I think that being in a whole new country will allow me to really get to know a place that I haven't really experienced before and to grow as a person."

The Trinity College of Dublin dates back to 1592 when Queen Elizabeth I established it. It has the largest library in Ireland, the university's website states, with over 6 million printed volumes with extensive collections of journals, manuscripts, maps and music reflecting over 400 years of academic development.

The library is where one of Ireland's most treasured cultural relics resides. The Book of Kells, believed to have been written around 800 AD, is on display and draws more than a million visitors in non-COVID-19 years. This renowned, intricately-decorated tome is has been kept at the college since the 1600s.

The history of the school is only part of the equation for Rainbolt, who plans to ultimately earn a doctorate in history and pursue a teaching and research position.

"I think that one of the main things that pushed me in that direction was the ability to have a more hands on experience,"

he said. "If I'm in Europe, if I'm in Ireland, I can participate in archaeological digs. I can work directly with museums and things like that. Even though I love California, and I think that the institutions that it offers are extremely good, I just felt like being able to be in a place where I can have that more personal experience, I can live where the history I'm studying has actually happened and that I can more easily travel throughout Europe, throughout the country, really pulled me to want to be in Ireland."

As exciting as he is about his upcoming academic adventure, Rainbolt says he will miss his family and the warm weather. At the time of writing this story it is raining and 48 degrees in Dublin at 7 p.m.

'Lost at Sea' Lost Again



Air Force veteran, Dan Costley, addresses the audience at the 2018 Lost at Sea Memorial Ceremony. Photo by Neil Farrell

Though the coronavirus pandemic restrictions in California could be lifted by mid-June, it's not soon enough to save a Memorial Day ceremony.

The "Lost at Sea" ceremony held annually on Memorial Day at the Cayucos Pier Plaza will not be held again this year, said Trudy O'Brien, one of the committee members that put on the ceremony.

"The 'Lost at Sea' committee has decided to not do the Lost at Sea ceremony this year in an abundance of caution," O'Brien told Estero Bay News in an email. "Just too soon to know if we would be able to have a gathering of that size."

Last year, when they also canceled the ceremony due to the pandemic, it was noted that many of the folks who attend are elderly and COVID-19 has been especially hard on them.

Normally blessed with clear sunny weather, the ceremony brings together anyone who has lost a loved one at sea — military, merchant marines and pleasure boaters.

Prayers are read, and speeches given along with a solemn ceremony commemorating the POW/MIA. A choir, bagpiper and trumpeter perform during the ceremony to a crowd of over 300 gathered at the Pier Plaza and spilling over along the pier, onto the beach and into the street.

Coast Guard Morro Bay's color guard, and the Sea Cadets in their dress uniforms lead the procession down the pier where a wreath of flowers is cast into the sea. The Morro Bay Harbor Patrol and USCG patrol boats sit offshore, water canons spraying a

Lost Continued on page 10



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Community

musicians from throughout the US to present a wide-ranging program to delight many musical tastes.

The Festival begins with Baroque in the Vines at Serra Chapel in Shandon with musical selections from J.S. Bach, Handel, Vivaldi, and Telemann. Notable Dinners feature Scott Yoo's insider's perspective on what makes compositions for piano, strings, and winds work. The Chamber Series includes pieces from the Notable Dinners plus music by Mozart, Schubert, Robert Schumann, Ravel, and Frank Bridge. And the Mozaic Series features unique takes on pop with a quartet led by Festival Mozaic bassist Susan Cahill and a solo performance by Gaby Moreno, one of the most distinctive young voices in Latin music.

"A year ago this time, we had just canceled our 50th Anniversary Gala Celebration. To say we're excited about resuming FMOZ, so special and so beloved by both musicians and patrons, would be an understatement. Gathering and connecting once again through unparalleled performances in unforgettable places and the exchange of energy between live musicians and live audiences is something we've all been craving. It's time to make music with applause at the end!"

Tickets for all Festival Mozaic performances are on sale now and can be purchased online at www.festivalmozaic.org.



Tickets are now available for Woods Humane Society's June 12 virtual fundraising event and live auction. "There's No Place Like SLOme." The Wizard of Oz-themed event, scheduled

for 5 p.m., and will feature a raffle and live auction in addition to special, behind-the-scenes glimpses of the shelter's dogs and cats, and of their proverbial journey down the "yellow brick road" through Woods Humane Society, and on to their adoptive homes.

The event will feature a short, Oz-themed original film, with a Woods-alumnus dog, playing "Toto," followed by live cameos by Woods staff and animals. In solidarity with San Luis Obispo businesses affected by the pandemic, the evening's raffle and live auction will highlight local, SLO County services and goods.

"Toto's Adventure" general admission tickets to the event (\$25 each) include a raffle ticket, while a limited number of VIP "We're Off to See the Wizard" tickets (\$150) include a Dorothy's Basket of themed and locally-sourced event goodies.

Woods Humane Society spends an average of \$800 per animal on the more than 3,000 animals they care for each year to provide shelter, veterinary care, training, and adoption services at its facilities in San Luis Obispo and Atascadero. Working closely with overcrowded partner shelters across the state, and with individuals who are no longer able to care for their pets, the organization has helped more than 1,900 animals so far in 2021 alone. As part of its commitment to managing homeless pet populations, its medical team also performs 4,000 spay/neuter surgeries each year, for animals in their care as well as for partner rescue organizations and for publicly owned pets. To watch the There's No Place Like Home event trailer, learn more about the event, buy tickets, or donate, visit www.WoodsHumane.org/SLOME.



San Luis Obispo Botanical Garden Presents: Family Fun: The Mystery of Trees with Peace Academy of the Sciences and Arts. Bring the family for a morning of nature exploration at SLO

Botanical Garden on Saturday, May 22 from 9 a.m. until noon. Learn about the mystery of trees, take a guided hike, snack on food given to us by trees, plants seeds and more.

"Learn how we connect with trees - as food, fiber, and building material - and how this relates to our connection to the environment, our home, and planet earth," Peace Academy of the Sciences and Arts said. "There's no well-being without nature's well-being - it's a reciprocal relationship and web. Just as seeds are planted in the soil around us, the seeds of wisdom, understanding, and compassion are planted in our minds and hearts. And it is our hope that children will answer the call to take responsibility as stewards and caretakers for protecting one another, the trees, and our home, Earth as we plant acorns to grow into mighty oaks at the SLO Botanical Garden."

This family event is geared towards children in elementary school, however those with younger and older children will benefit from discussions about the cycles of plant growth, reproduction, and ethnobotanical history, emphasizing the mighty oaks. Tickets for one adult and one child are \$35 for Garden members and \$40 for the general public. To add an extra child is \$10, and to add an extra adult is \$25. For tickets, visit slobg.org.

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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Music



Próxima Parada / Dante Marsh / Arthur watershed: Hunger Awareness Day Concert at SLO Brew Rock:

Come enjoy a day of live music, food, drinks and fun while supporting the SLO Food Bank during Hunger Awareness Day. This event takes place from 1pm - 7pm on the SLO Brew Rock Main Stage and will feature a headlining set of music with Proxima Parada with support sets from Dante Marsh & The Vibe setters as well as Arthur Watership. These are some of the finest local bands, and we're lucky to catch Próxima Parada fresh back from their COVID comeback tour all the way to the East Coast.

Tickets are being sold and 2 and 4 top tables and include food and drinks throughout the event. There are no single tickets available for this event. 100% of all ticket revenue will go directly to the SLO Food Bank to help provide nutritious and wholesome meals to neighbors in need. Tickets are \$100 each and are sold in pairs and sets of 4 only.

This is a limited capacity, socially distant concert pod event and all COVID-19 precautions will be enforced.



Wine Fest Weekend: Paso Robles

Paso Robles is the place to be this weekend for all you wine lovers. The 38th Annual Paso Robles Wine Festival kicks off Thursday, May 20. Explore Paso Robles Wine Country with four days of wine tastings, winemaker dinners, exclusive outdoor excursions, and more! This year's Wine Festival will not feature our traditional wine tastings in the downtown park, but will focus on individual experiences at Paso Robles wineries throughout the weekend. Enjoy activities at 150+ wineries, including barrel tastings, artisanal food pairings, BBQs, vineyard tours, live music, and more.

Some of the music you'll find around Paso this weekend for Wine Fest: Robi Duganne and Michael Melchione on Saturday at 7 Angels Cellars, Erin and the Earthquakes at Broken Earth Winery, Zzah at Castoro Cellars, Soul 4 II Duo at Dark Star, Burning Bad & Cool at Derby Wine Estates, The Belmores and Rowdy Yates at Graveyard Vineyard, Tim Jackson and Kevin Graybill at Midnight Cellars, Check out all the details on the freshly revamped online music calendar at BigBigSLO.com.

Paul's Picks



Live events return to the Vina Robles Amphitheatre!

The venue has already announced multiple shows for the 2021 season, offering a mix of great music from classic rock and reggae to Latin and pop, plus much more to come.

The season kicks off on Saturday, July 31, with guitar virtuoso singer-songwriter Joe Bonamassa. Grammy Award winners The Mavericks and Los Lobos will co-headline on August 14th, and the "Funniest Show in Town at the Moment," with Steve Martin and Martin Short, will play on August 22nd. Rock legends Pat Benatar and Neil Giraldo perform on September 9th, Ziggy Marley pays tribute to his father on September 11th, and indie pop band Fitz & The Tantrums make their Vina Robles debut on October 22nd. Additional shows are listed below, with more to be added.

To ensure the health and well-being of patrons, artists, and staff, enhanced health and safety measures will be implemented at the venue. The Vina Robles Amphitheatre is certified with the GBAC STAR™ rating, which is the cleaning industry's only outbreak prevention, response, and recovery accreditation for facilities. Additionally, the venue's team continually monitors state and CDC guidelines and will comply with all necessary protocols to responsibly provide an enjoyable live event experience. For additional information, visit VinaRoblesAmphitheatre.com.

Fri., May. 21 • 7:00pm

Bear Market Riot
The Pour House
525 Pine Street, Paso Robles

Fri., May. 21 • 6:00pm

Burning Bad & Cool
Derby Wine Estates
525 Riverside Ave, Paso Robles

Fri., May. 21 • On Demand

CP Theatre Dance - Affinity
Spring Dance Concert
Virtual Event - Performing Arts Center

Fri., May. 21 • 5:00pm

Monotones
Branch Street Deli
203 E Branch Street, Arroyo Grande

Fri., May. 21 • 6:00pm

Rava on the Rocks: Allie Colleen
Rava Wines + Events
6785 Creston Rd, Paso Robles

Fri., May. 21 • 5:00pm

Wine Down Friday: Kenny Taylor
Baileyana Winery
5828 Orcutt Road, San Luis Obispo

Sat., May. 22 • 4:00pm

Forever Green
The Savory Pallette
601 Embarcadero # 5, Morro Bay

Sat., May. 22 • 2:00pm

Stellar Band - Barefoot Concerts on the Green
Sea Pines
1945 Solano Street, Los Osos

Sat., May. 22 • 1:00pm

Zzah - Wine Festival Weekend
Castoro Cellars
1315 North Bethel Road, Templeton

Sun., May. 23 • 1:00pm

Blue Moon Gypsy Duo
Blacklake Golf Resort
1490 Golf Course Ln, Nipomo

Sun., May. 23 • 5:00pm

Ritchie & Ricard
Puffers of Pismo
781 Price Street, Pismo Beach

Sun., May. 23 • 1:00pm

Zzah - Wine Festival Weekend
Castoro Cellars
1315 North Bethel Road, Templeton

Thu., May. 27 • 7:00pm

Devin Welsh
Puffers of Pismo
781 Price Street, Pismo Beach

Fri., May. 28 • 5:30pm

AC Myles
BarrelHouse
3055 Limestone Way, Paso Robles

Fri., May. 28 • 7:00pm

Jerry's Middle Finger
SLO Brew Rock
855 Aerovista Place, San Luis Obispo

Fri., May. 28 • 5:00pm

The Regulars Duo
Branch Street Deli
203 East Branch Street, Arroyo Grande

Fri., May. 28 • 7:00pm

The Sense Trails
The Pour House
525 Pine Street, Paso Robles

Sat., May. 29 • 7:30pm

Cal Poly Virtual Electronic Music Showcase
California Polytechnic State University
Virtual Event

Sat., May. 29 • 7:00pm

Sensi Trails
SLO Brew Rock
855 Aerovista Place, San Luis Obispo

Sat., May. 29 • 1:00pm

Surfeza
Blacklake Golf Resort
1490 Golf Course Ln, Nipomo

Sat., May. 29 • 2:00pm

Unfinished Business - Barefoot Concerts on the Green
Sea Pines
1945 Solano Street, Los Osos

Sun., May. 30 • 1:00pm

Proxima Parada / Dante Marsh / Arthur Watership
Hunger Awareness Day Benefit Concert
SLO Brew Rock
855 Aerovista Place, San Luis Obispo

Sun., May. 30 • 1:00pm

Lazy Locals- Earls of Tuesday
Castoro Cellars
1315 North Bethel Road, Templeton

Sun., May. 30 • 11:30am

Live Music with Julie Beaver
Parrish Family Vineyard
3590 Adelaida Road, Paso Robles

Sun., May. 30 • 6:00pm

LuLu & the Cowtipers
California Coast Beer Co.
1346 Railroad St., Paso Robles

Mon., May. 31 • 1:00pm

Surfeza
The Cliffs
2757 Shell Beach Road, Pismo Beach

Wed., Jun. 2 • 5:00pm

Backyard Jam Benefit for Paso Robles Youth Arts Center
The Backyard
1300 Railroad Street, Paso Robles

Thu., Jun. 3 • 7:00pm

Movie Night ~ Stop Making Sense
SLO Brew Rock
855 Aerovista Place, San Luis Obispo

Fri., Jun. 4 • 6:00pm

Brass Mash - First Fridays
Liquid Gravity
675 Clarion Court, San Luis



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12

Community

Business is Back From page 1

Connects Workforce Development is coordinating the Merchant Job Fair.

Flashback to SLO life and business last May, 2020: students were distraught at the loss of league sports activities, prom night and graduation; nonprofits wondered how they would survive without their scheduled annual fundraisers; Zoom technology became the go-to option for group meetings, conferences, and conventions; and technology previously available, but not widely used, enabled students and employees to study and work from home or any remote location.

Essential workers, health-care, food suppliers, and designated industries offering services deemed necessary, such as Meathead Movers, were working harder than ever. Others laid employees off or slashed hours, making unemployment attractive. If a business planned to stay in business, it needed new protective equipment installed to transact business. Masks were required for employees and patrons. Limited access allowed shoppers to shop. Garden dining could qualify with social distanced seating while other eateries needed to invest in outdoor seating to serve customers. Many had to exist on take-out service. Life as we knew it was questioned and a “new normal” was expected - someday.

Dawn Ventura is the director of communication for Meathead Movers & Mini Storage, headquartered in San Luis Obispo. She confirmed summertime is typically prime time for their business, however, 2020 was anything but typical. In March, thirty percent of their scheduled moves were canceled, but by late April bookings mushroomed. The company retooled its safety protocols and were ready to accept new business.

“In 2020, we completed roughly 3,000 moves out of our SLO branch and 500 of those were moves to/from locations in Morro Bay, Los Osos, Cayucos and Cambria,” Ventura reported. “Families typically want to settle into their next home or community before the next school year begins, but interstate moves grew by 150 percent. People were fleeing California for various states like Tennessee, Texas and South Dakota. With employees working remotely, they realized they could live anywhere. They wanted out of big cities.”

Not only had Meathead Movers convinced customers they could handle their move, but with school athletics on-hold their potential Move-Team employee pool expanded. New hires were made and kept busy on-and-off-season, 2020-21. In fact, Ventura’s family decided to move closer to the San Luis Obispo headquarters.

In 2015 Meathead Movers became Ventura’s priority client while working for an outside public relations agency. The account provided the opportunity for her to promote the company’s advocacy program — free moves for domestic violence victims.

“With positive results the company wanted to expand its community outreach,” Ventura said. “I was hired as the director of communications in 2019. I was operating remotely from our Orange County branch. After my husband and I found out that we would be adding another addition to our growing family in 2020, we realized it was time to move into a larger home. With the insane housing market, it was nearly impossible to find anything in our price range in Orange County.” They found a home in Paso Robles that was “...twice the size for half the price as OC” and her husband turned a lifetime crisis, the trauma of a company layoff, into a lifelong dream opportunity. “He is working his way through the process of becoming a firefighter here in San Luis County.”

However, as Meathead Movers anticipates 2021 summertime moves, projections are trending towards an all time high, but with school sports activities re-starting the challenge will be hiring enough ‘Meatheads,’ student athletes or former athletes in good



Meathead Movers encourages Meatheads to stay in shape with gyms at each branch. (From left to right) Victoria Ketchum, Richard Palmer, John O’Brian. Photo submitted

shape looking for work and a chance to stay in shape during the off season.

Ventura said Meathead Movers has moves scheduled, but to accept more business the company realized their advertising priorities needed to pivot to let the public know it was hiring. “We’re looking for student athletes or former athletes who have stayed in shape. We pay \$15 to \$17 per hour and offer a signing bonus.”

Meathead Movers is the largest privately owned moving company in California with five branches in San Luis Obispo, Oxnard, Santa Ana, Fresno and Bakersfield. Their website www.meatheadmovers.com includes a Hall of Fame - ‘Meatheads’ who have moved on to other careers. Ventura said mentoring employees is part of their corporate culture. “We see our Move Team jobs as stepping stones to move up within the company or we help prepare and refer employees to other careers.”


It all started in 1997 when Aaron and Evan Steed were fifteen and seventeen. While at SLO High School one brother played football and the other wrestled. Hoping to make some money during the off season they offered to help a friend’s family move. They accepted \$20 and a pizza for doing the job. As they earned their way, other athlete friends wanted to join their team. The company grew from a U-Haul to today’s fleet, including cross-country semis. All the while, their core hiring remains student athletes.

Ventura says May 2021 will mark the month employees will return to work at the South Higuera facility. And she also wanted to remind San Luis Obispo County nonprofits that as county-wide fund raising activities become part of the new normal, Meathead Movers is still invested in its community advocacy. “The company wants to help out. Our ‘Meatheads’ will set up chairs and tables for events or we can offer a basket for silent auctions.”

Need a job? Want to be a Meathead? Check out the Morro Bay Merchant Job Fair today in Morro Bay.

OUT & ABOUT

WITH THE BOOKSHELF WRITERS



The BookShelf Writers consist of four Estero Bay women who have been writing & critiquing together for over five years. For more samples of their work, please visit www.thebookshelfwriters.com

Each issue, this column will feature one of the BookShelf Writers:
Debbie Black, Catherine “Kiki” Kornreich, Judy Salamacha and Susan Vasquez

Looking for Love in Lockdown

By Catherine “Kiki” Kornreich

Aaah, the single life. Right?

Your married friends remind you: you’re lucky! You can come and go when you want, for as long as you want. You have complete ownership of the remote...and all that entails. You can cook when and what you want.

But those same married friends have companionship. And friendship. And love.

But how to find love? Even before the quarantine, it was difficult to find suitable dates. With the quarantine? Impossible.

Many friends push online dating. “It’s a great time to date online...everyone is home with nothing to do!” “You’ll find tons of great guys!” And “Sooooooo many people find love on dating sites!”

So you begrudgingly sign up on one of the popular sites, answer all of the questions, and drop in a photo.

Now you get to see your “matches!” Hey! He looks promising! You open his profile and find that his primary photo is 20 years old. The other photos show that he’s aged in those 20 years. (Quite a bit.)

A number of men reach out and want to connect (you’d never go out with such a fossil!). But when you look at his age — he’s two years younger than you (how did you get this old?).

These guys all say the same thing! They are monogamous and affectionate, looking for a best friend (and maybe more, wink, wink), they love their “Hogs” and will play romantic songs on their guitar for you. They are all “athletically” built, they go to the gym every day, love quiet walks on the beach, their glass is always half full, and they have climbed Mt Everest (and want that special someone to join them on Kilimanjaro).

Dang! No one mentions that now, in their sixties, they’re not getting around quite like they used to. Or that their once-perfect body is showing some signs of aging. And they’re all so sunny and happy and positive and optimistic (it’s staggering to think they’re still alone).

EW. This one’s lying in bed half naked! More Harley riders. Guitars. And then it happens. An interesting fellow sends you a message. You respond. He writes again. And off you go! The texts are flying like flags on a used car lot.

Just like that...bam! It’s zero to sixty in two clicks. After a few days of getting to know each other, a little flirting, a lot of laughs, you decide to talk on the phone. Then FaceTime. You spend a couple of weeks fully engaged, bonding and chatting constantly.

This is “it” (you both agree). You appear to be compatible on every level!!!

How to take the next step? It’s a quarantine! But you know this is the most crucial step, for chemistry can only be discovered in person.

You’ve each been quarantined, yet agree to shower, put on clean clothes and a mask (STD 2020...Socially Transmitted Diseases), and meet at an outdoor café for lunch.

No hugging, but furious grinning from six feet away (you can tell by his twinkly eyes).

“Here we are. Finally. You’re just as lovely in person.” Then he looks over his shoulder, and yells at the waitress, “Yo! What’s a guy gotta do to get a drink?”

“As I was saying,” he reaches to take your hands. “You’re everything I expected. See? You wasted all that time worrying about chemistry. We HAVE it, baby.”

Baby? You regain possession of your hands, smile fading behind the mask.

Oblivious, his head swivels on his neck, surveying the crowd. “Friggin’ tourists. They’re everywhere. ‘Go home,’ “ he says loudly, winking at you.

Maybe he’s just nervous? “Jesus effing Christ,” he yells, jumping up. “Does anyone work here?”

You stand up, too. “Thank you for meeting me. I’m sorry, I just don’t feel the chemistry.”

Hmmm. “He was perfect on paper,” you think. Some things just don’t show up on paper.

Arriving home, your dog bounds over to kiss you, thrilled that you’re back after an excruciating 30 minutes.

You grab a blanket and book, and sit on the lawn with your furry pal.

Companionship. Friendship. Love. You’ve had it all along. Catherine “Kiki” Kornreich is a member of The BookShelf Writers. To see more of her work, visit www.thebookshelfwriters.com



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News

Anderson From page 1

and then to U.C. Berkeley.

Shortly after they married, their grandfather said he needed them in San Luis Obispo to run the hotel, and the brothers — both newlyweds — packed up and moved south.

Eventually, Bud got out but had a non-competition clause in the sale agreement, so he bought the Osos Liquor Store on Osos Street, Jeff said, and in 1966, he bought The Galley from Bill and Florence Wilson.

The kids went out to Morro Bay every single day to work. Mollie said she and Jeff ran the fish market. “We were 12 and 14,” she said. Rodger is oldest, Mollie’s the middle child and Jeff is the youngest. Only Rodger has children, and his son, John Anderson is a partner in the new Galley, majority owned by David Peter, who worked at The Galley bussing tables at 14.

Each Anderson child went away to college, and Mollie played on the LPGA Tour for 5 years. But they all returned and when the original restaurant closed for good all three were working there.

Rodger has also distinguished himself serving a term on the City Council in the early 1980s and returning in the 1990s to the Council and three terms as mayor. He also served on the Harbor Advisory Board from 2004-07, and was vice chairman for a few of those years.

In 2007, the Chamber of Commerce honored Bud and Rita as Morro Bay “Living Treasures” with all five family members posing on stage with the honor.

They’ve all also worked off and on at the family’s other restaurant, The Kona Galley in Hawaii. Over the years, some of their young employees working in the Morro Bay restaurant got to go to Hawaii and work for a summer, recalled Jeff.

But by the early 2000s, the writing was on the wall as to the future of their business. Jeff said they’d all been stewing over the condition of the building, which was, well, tired.

“Rodger and dad were on their way to Portland,” Jeff said, “and Rodger got the idea to turn it into a motel.” The three kids would form a partnership and rebuild the lease site. They’d already built The Anderson Building in the mid-1990s, which sits across the street from the Inn. It was designed to look like a lighthouse and they sold it too a few years ago.

(Bud Anderson once told this reporter that he’d spoken with the former owners of Gray’s Inn about their small, boutique motel and was confident they could keep their rooms filled and if they did, it would be a success.)

There were some concerns over the whole remodel idea. Mollie said she’s always been fearful of the Coastal Commission and what it can do to well-laid plans.

They hired local architect Steve Puglisi to design the project and closed at the end of 2004, expecting to be under construction by March.

They ran into Commission trouble early but Jeff said Rodger, ever the diplomat, knew what to do.

“We wanted to build clear out to the edge of the lease site,” Jeff explained. Each City-controlled lease site has both a land and water area. Many have built small boat docks and for over 20 years, the City has insisted on installing the Harbor Walk, a pedestrian pathway that traverses along the west side of the buildings at the water’s edge.

“The Coastal Commission said we couldn’t build over the water,” said Jeff. The old building cantilevered over the water, so why not the new one?

Rodger, he said, told them they would just do a remodel. That bluff apparently did the trick. “Rodger got them to keep us out over the water,” Jeff said. “It took over 2 years, closer to three,



The Chamber of Commerce named Rita and Bud Anderson ‘Morro Bay Living Treasures’ in 2007. Pictured accepting the award are from left: Mollie, Rita, Bud, Jeff and Rodger. Archived photo

but it could have been another 2 months or years. Rodger was able to communicate with the Coastal Commission because he knew who to talk to.”

But, as with most dealings with the Coastal Commission, there was a trade off.

Mollie said the Commission demanded they leave a breezeway along the north side of the lease site open for a view corridor. “We lost a lot of space,” she said.

But the last laugh was perhaps theirs, as with the COVID-19 restrictions on indoor dining, the breezeway made a convenient place to put up tables, allowing the Galley to remain open.

David Peter, their former busboy who’d gone on to do very well in the software industry, was looking at buying the Coffee Pot Restaurant, Jeff said. His dad told him to tell David not to buy that restaurant, because they would build a new restaurant for him. “He was right once again,” Jeff said of dad’s advice.

Their other tenant, By the Bay Gallery, owned by Ray and Becky Knox, moved over from the Anderson Building across the street, and was another good decision. “We handed the keys to the front of the building to them,” Jeff said. “It’s been wonderful to have them there.”

But this generation of Andersons didn’t know much about the hotel business. They did know, Mollie said, that with so few rooms they had to charge more for them, “but we only had eight to fill.”

“I wanted it to be like a guest room in your home,” she added. Jeff explained that wealthy people want upscale places where they can sort of separate themselves. “The Southern California traffic was very good to us,” he said. They also discovered something called an “American Express Black Card,” the holders of which are very wealthy.

“To get a Black Card,” Jeff said, “you have to spend over a half million dollars a year on that card, so you’re entitled to special services.”

He recalled that one day he was helping out in the Galley and a famous rock star came in. “He had one of those cards,” Jeff said, declining to name the person.

And they were contacted by Scott Gun Travel of London, England who was looking for high end places to send his wealthy clients. “We took care of the black card holders from London,” Jeff said. “There is room for this in Morro Bay.”

Harbor Director Eric Endersby, asked to comment on losing one of his best tenants, said, “When the Andersons were courting a couple different buyers over the past year, I jokingly told Mollie they better pick a good one because the Anderson file is the thinnest file we have, meaning we have not accumulated any amount of complaints, enforcement letters or other issues.”

He added, “They have been delightful tenants over the decades, diligent, professional owners and business folks and wonderful community members. We will miss them dearly on the waterfront. Theirs was one of the top-grossing sites on the Embarcadero under their watch. So, yeah, in short a ‘thin file’ means you have been a trouble-free and issue-free tenant.”

Asked about the future, Jeff said he’s building a chicken coop in his yard and was expecting a delivery of a dozen chickens soon. His wife, Shelly, who is a world-class stunt skydiver and a flying-suit or wingsuits pilot, is retiring from that activity, much to his relief, so they’ll have more time together.

Mollie said, “We’re all going to stay here, we love this town.”

Jeff added “We have always wanted everybody to do well in Morro Bay. Everybody has been really good to us. We want to thank the City of Morro Bay and the Harbor Department for making our life on the waterfront pleasant.”

Mollie reflected, “It’s kind of the end of an era to not have the Andersons on the waterfront.”

ChangesFrom page 1

forefront of my mind is the importance of family and the precious time that I have with them right now. This year, seeing my oldest son start high school and my youngest son finishing elementary school, has made me pause to realize how quickly time is going. Along with that, finally spending time with my 87-year-old dad this spring, after being apart for a year due to COVID, made me realize how I need to honor this time with my family by being more fully present and being there to support them. It is with that in mind, that I have made a very difficult decision to step away from being principal of Baywood for next school year and have requested the opportunity to return to work closer with students once again and to continue to support our dual immersion programs in our district.”

Scott Schalde is heading to Morro Bay High School to serve as principal next year. He has been an assistant principal at Laguna Middle School for the last 8 years. Prior to that he was an assistant principal at San Luis Obispo High School and was a teacher at MBHS among other schools.

As reported in Estero Bay News in April, Schalde, said, “It is my goal, my passion to lead our staff in making Morro Bay High School a great school. From the start, the central focus will be a simple, specific and unyielding core value — we are about kids.”

The priority, Schalde said, is clear. “If ever the question is asked, what comes first at Morro Bay High School, the answer is clear. It is the relationships we create and cultivate with our students.”

Former MBHS principal Dr. Kyle Pruitt, who resigned from the position in 2020, will join the district’s new independent study program as a teacher.

Lara Storm will move from principal of Monarch Grove, a role she has been in for seven years, to become the principal on special assignment for Multi-Tiered Systems of Support (MTSS) full-time next year. She had been partially in the role while at Monarch.



Scott Schalde is Morro Bay High School’s new principal.



Bernardo and Kati Salcido, shown with their family, will join the North Coast area schools.

The husband and wife team of **Bernardo and Katie Salcido** are leaving the Lucia Mar Unified School District and coming SLCUSD.

Berbardo is the new principal at Baywood Elementary and will continue the expansion of the Dual Immersion program.

Prior to the move, he was as the principal of Paulding Middle School and previously worked as a teacher and administrator at Arroyo Grande High School. He started his career as a science teacher and cross country coach at the high school and middle school levels in Bakersfield.

Katie will take on the role of principal at Monarch Grove Elementary. She was the director of curriculum projects for the past 5 years at LMUSD and has been an assistant principal, dean, assistant dean, and testing coordinator at a variety of levels but started her career in education teaching English and reading to at-risk youth.

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Kevin says,
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for the
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on the
Door"

KEVIN O'CONNOR, President

News

Michael Wood is joining SLCUSD as principal of Del Mar Elementary. He most recently served as a middle school principal at a double Gold Ribbon winning school committed to reflective practice and continual improvement.

Diana Jones is moving from her assistant principal position at Los Osos Middle School to serve as the principal at Bishop’s Peak Elementary School.

Changes Within the District at Large

Newlon will be replaced by Dan Block, who is moving from his position as principal at Bishop’s Peak.

Chris Jones will head back to the classroom at Laguna Middle School as a bilingual history teacher after his latest role as



Michael Wood is the new principal of Del Mar Elementary

principal at Pacheco Elementary. Rollin Dickinson is new to the district and will be the principal at San Luis Obispo High School after serving as a high school principal and assistant principal in Lake Oswego, OR. Jessica Miller is moving from her assistant principal position at San Luis Obispo High School to serve as the principal at Sinsheimer Elementary School. Jeff Martin is moving from his principal position at Sinsheimer to be a principal for Innovate, Summer Experience, and Leadership Development. Carmen Wood is joining SLCUSD this year as principal at Pacheco Elementary after more than 27 years as a bilingual educator in California. Brittany Tricamo will be the new principal at Hawthorne Elementary. She has worked in SLCUSD for the past 11 years, where she has held many roles the most recent as interim principal at Sinsheimer Elementary School. James McMillen will be transitioning from his role as principal of Hawthorne to become principal of Los Ranchos. In addition to Newlon, retirees include Marlie Schmidt, the principal at Los Ranchos for the last seven years and Sally Ames, the coordinator of San Luis Coastal Adult School. The new roles are slated to begin on July 1.

With Kids in School, Dogs Not Welcome

With kids back in school after a year of online learning, a local principal is reminding everyone that the campus is closed to the public while school is in session, and dogs are not allowed. In a letter to the community printed in the Los Osos Community Services District’s newsletter, Los Osos Middle School Principal, Karl Blum, said, “I am very well aware that a big part of the culture in Los Osos is that the LOMS fields can often double as a great place for community members to come and workout, take a walk, and for some, bring their dogs to the LOMS lower field. “Since last March, when we locked down and didn’t have students on campus at all, this culture has grown significantly.” Blum goes on to note that while many residents have taken to bringing their dogs along to exercise them at the school’s playing fields and track, it’s really not legal to do so. “Education Code, District regulations, and County ordinances specify that no dogs are allowed on school campuses at all,” Blum explained, “for obvious safety and health reasons. I will say that in my 10 years here, there has never been much of an issue with dog droppings, which is a testament to the community for

being responsible dog owners.” School is now back in session at LOMS and the principal said they’ve got to enforce the rules for when kids are on campus. “It is paramount that community members not be on our campus from 7:15-4:30 and we follow the ‘No dogs on campus’ policy,” he said. “This includes spectators who bring their dogs while watching their kids participate in LOMS or Youth Sports.” He emphasized the main purpose of schools is education. “It is very important to remember that the main purpose of our schools is to provide a safe and secure environment for our kids learning and extracurricular activities,” Blum said. “We will be reminding our community members about the regulations and hope that you will also spread the word that school is back in session and we have kids on campus, which we celebrate each and every day.”



Roundabout From page 1 pany’s initial contract was inked in September 2016 for \$236,500 and involved preparing needed documents for the “Project Authorization” and “Environmental Determination” (PA & ED) phases of the project. The first amendment came in October 2019 and simply involved the company’s name change on work documents. This newest contract amendment adds \$87,900 to the contract bringing the total up to \$324,500. The added scope of work includes additional archeological pre-construction investigations and mitigation services and additional preliminary design for the PA & ED phases, according to the report. At just over \$324,000, the City’s apparently getting a bargain for this work. City Engineer Rob Livick’s report said typical costs for this type of work runs from 15% to 25% of total project costs, and with the latest estimate sitting at \$7.5 million, the “Preliminary Engineering” (PE) phases should cost between \$1.25M and \$1.875M. The City’s initial estimate for the PE work was \$650,000. “The estimated fee proposed by Omni-Means [now GHD Inc.] is below the typical range for the PE costs,” Livick said. “Staff and the consultant were able to achieve these savings by leveraging previous work completed in 2001 and the detailed work completed during the Intersection Control Evaluation [ICE] phase.” The San Luis Obispo Council of Governments, the agency that hands out roads monies for SLO County, has earmarked \$4.1M to the project and is short in fully funding it. Last August, the City applied for \$3.75M through the State’s “Active Transportation Program” or ATP, Cycle 5, created by Senate Bill 99 “to encourage increased use of active modes of transportation, such as walking and biking.” That money, if the City gets it, should just about cover the costs of the roundabout. The City first decided there was a problem at Main and Hwy 41 about 20 years ago when it asked a traffic expert to evaluate how to improve three troublesome intersection — Main/Hwy 41, Morro Bay Boulevard/Quintana Road, and Hwy 1/Main/San Jacinto Avenue. All three were recommended for roundabouts but so far, only the MBB/Quintana one has gotten built. That was around 2006 and though it’s had fender-benders and rubber tire marks often mar the walkway in the center island, it has worked well to alleviate what used to be a pretty significant

traffic snarl. The roundabout at Hwy 41 and Main had faded until 2014, when the City sought to revive it and SLOCOG was reawakened to the project, then Caltrans stepped in. The State required ‘Intersection Control Evaluation’ [ICE] 2-step process that Livick said was completed by GHD in 2016 and approved by Caltrans in 2020. The ICE process recommended two design alternatives — a traffic signal or a roundabout — be considered during the environmental evaluation, Livick said. The City also consulted with the nearby high school. “Initial meetings with Morro Bay High School and Coastal San Luis Unified School District officials,” Livick said, “have indicated their strong support for the roundabout alternative.” One of the many concerns with roundabouts has been pedestrian safety, which is why the “modern” roundabout design includes such things as traffic islands where pedestrians can safely wait for traffic to clear. It’s not so much of an issue at MBB and Quintana, as the area doesn’t have too many pedestrians. However, with the High School so close by, the safety of the students especially at lunchtime at Main/Hwy 41 is a big concern. However, part of the Measure D upgrade at MBHS includes an iron fence around the entire campus designed to control who comes and goes on school grounds. Also part of this, the school is slated to become a “closed campus,” meaning kids will no longer be allowed to leave school at lunch, walking to one of the nearby food places on foot or driving into town to eat. The school district’s plan was for all food service to be available on campus, which had been awaiting erection of the fence, which is now done. But while kids’ safety might have become less of a concern at the intersection, which also has on and off ramps for each direction of the highway making for a sometimes very congested and confusing stretch of road. “Issues with the current intersection configuration,” Livick’s report said, “include the State Route 41/Main intersection and the SR1/SR41 intersection are about 75-feet apart. Due to the close intersection spacing and the existing control, the two intersections operate as one un-signalized intersection with five approaches and exits.” The improvement project “would upgrade capacity and

Obituary

Claire C. Resecker
May, 1922 - May, 2021



Claire C. Resecker passed away at the incredible age of 98 - just a few days shy of 99. She was preceded in death by her parents, Louis and Augusta Chais, her brother Louis Jr. and husband of 52 years, Logan Resecker. She then reunited with her grammar school sweetheart J.C. Keith. With that reunion, she gained a daughter, granddaughter, and three great granddaughters. Claire was a beautiful, witty, and an absolutely wonderful lady. She enjoyed life to the fullest, she was always there to listen, and to share her wisdom. A special thanks to Kalene, Malcolm, and Alice for their great care and many laughs. Most importantly, Kalene for being Claire’s wonderful and loving friend and to Bonnie, for all the seasonal decorations and plants throughout the years. Another special thanks to the staff at Arcadia house, for all the tender moments and Hoffman Hospice for making her final days peaceful. Claire is survived by Jeanne Malm, Tangi Malm, and the three little ladies, Ireland, Maraea, and Paris. Farewell our dear Claire.

intersection control for the existing, closely spaced, intersections on SR41 and SR1 northbound ramps and Main Street. “Intersection currently experiences congested conditions, and project would improve overall operational level-of-service, and safety conditions, while reducing congestion and collisions at the intersection.” And if readers are picturing the intersection in their minds and question how it’s supposed to work, from the preliminary designs, the intersection as it exists now will be completely rebuilt. The vacant lot at one corner will have a significant portion of its corner frontage sliced off to make way for a traffic lane, as well as numerous other realignments and additions that will be done. As for the potential roundabout at the City’s other main troublesome intersection — Main/Hwy 1/San Jacinto — the City Council rejected a roundabout at that location from the beginning of all this and no other solutions have been proposed. The City did make some improvements with an added stop sign on San Jacinto, green bike lanes, and signage to keep Main Street clear at all times for traffic going straight.

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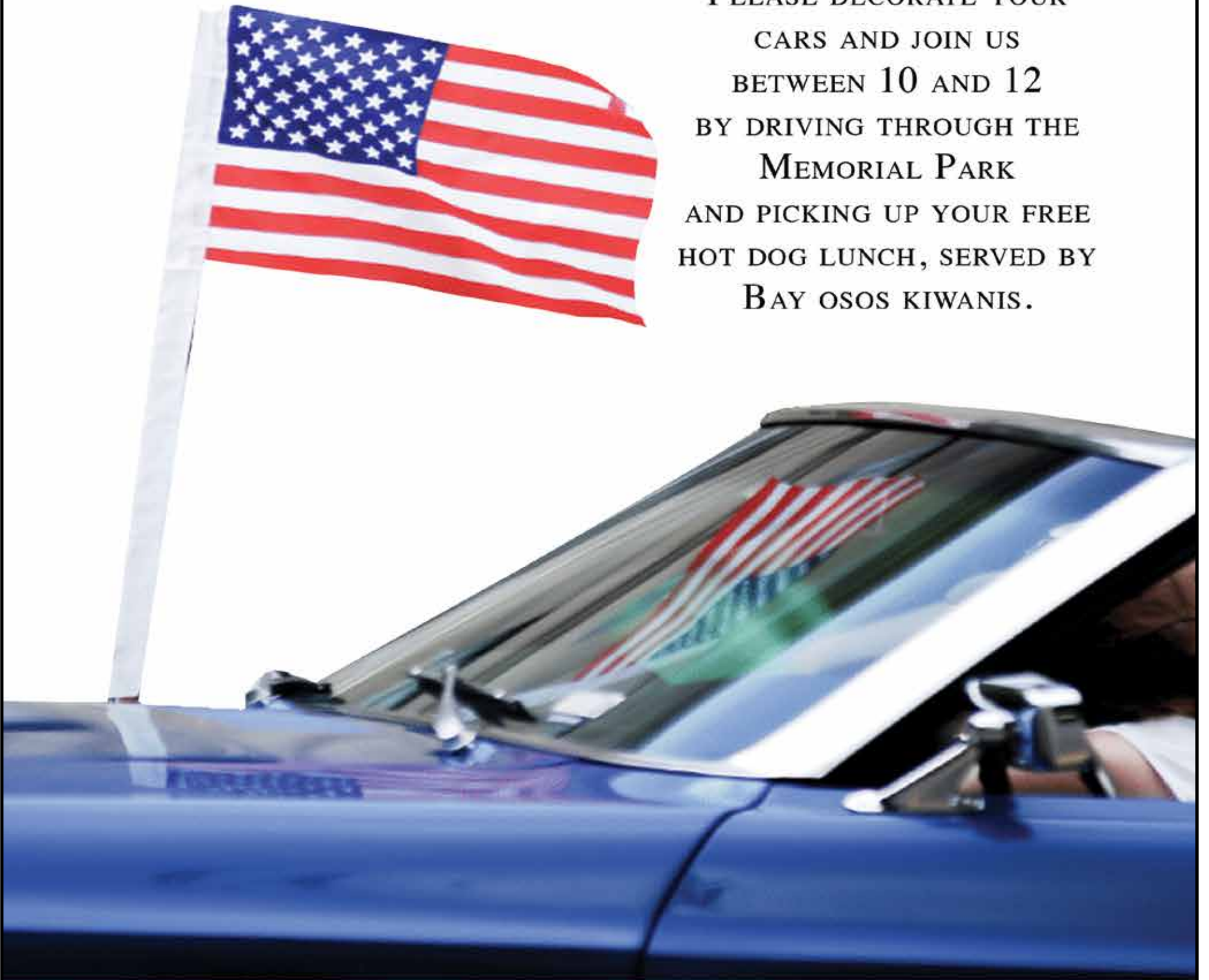
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The Estero Bay News, Los Osos Rotary, SLO County Band and Rich Rolson