

## Moving Forward: Morro Bay Yacht Club

By Judy Salamacha



The Morro Bay Yacht Club will hold its annual Marine Swap Meet on June 26 from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Maritime Museum.

**A** Thank You from Judy: Morro Bay happenings are happening! My first clue was music bouncing inland from the Morro Bay Yacht Club. From my overlook I saw people in sports jackets on the deck and sailing crafts in various stages of preparation. MBYC's annual Opening Day festivities mark the 2021 sailing season is officially happening! Thanks to all who have vaccinated.

Morro Bay Yacht Club's Commodore is Dr. Chris Surfleet, a Cal Poly professor and sailing enthusiast. He was introduced to the club that he now leads only a few years ago when he signed his son up for summer sailing lessons. And while Joel is now focused on college life at Cuesta before earning his Cal Poly engineering degree, Dad is loving his acquired sailing habit.

"Many of our members prefer the social interaction of our club activities, but I'm here for the sailing. We were never restricted from water sports (during 2020.) We just couldn't have organized activities or people meeting in the building."

Operating dockside, MBYC, a private club, has had a lease agreement with the City of Morro Bay since 1964 providing host arrangements for transient yachts. These visitors are invited to use club moorings, docks, and have access to clubhouse bathrooms, showers and laundry facilities. "There were more transients in 2020 than typical," said Surfleet. People were out cruising on their own - going around the world or visiting Pacific Coast seaports."

The agreement also encourages public access to water safety and recreational activities on the bay. "We offer summer youth sailing lessons teaching the basics of sailing for members and non-members. Classes will start soon. Sign-ups have been active since classes were not allowed in 2020." Sign up at [www.mbyc.net](http://www.mbyc.net).

Not required in the lease, but offered anyway, Dr. Surfleet added, "Students taking the sailing lessons and transients are invited to Friday evening socials and Wednesday Hamburger Nights." He suggested providing the extra hospitality is likely, "... why we are well known as a friendly yacht club."

Since the beginning MBYC has always been involved in the community. During the 1950s it actively participated in the formation of the Harbor District, Coast Guard Auxiliary Flotilla and Chamber of Commerce. More recently, it is a MB Maritime Museum (MBMM) charter member, contributed to its historical displays and members have actively helped restore one of the featured fishing boats newly on public display.

Originally an exclusively produced event of MBYC to support scholarships for the MB Youth Sailing Foundation, the upcoming Marine Swap Meet, June 26, 8 a.m.-1p.m. is now a three-way collaboration adding MBMM and Friends of the Harbor Department. It will be held at the Maritime Museum. More local vendors selling marine related trinkets, equipment and even boats now participate and interested buyers have increased.

**Yacht Club** Continued on page 10

## Avalon Commander Recounts Sub's History

Story and Photos by Neil Farrell



Retired Navy Cmdr. Richard Taylor poses with his former ship, the DSRV Avalon, on display at the Morro Bay maritime Museum.

**T**he Morro Bay Maritime Museum recently hosted one of just a handful of men ever to command the museum's showcase exhibit — the Deep Submergence Rescue Vehicle Avalon — in the latest installment of a new outdoor speakers series.

Cmdr. Richard H. "Dick" Taylor (U.S. Navy-Ret.) was one of three commanders of the Avalon, and was also qualified to command a deep sea bathysphere, one of just two Navy men so qualified.

His career started in 1959 when he enlisted in the Navy right out of high school, Taylor

explained to the audience of about 40 museum volunteers and supporters. He went in figuring to get out after one hitch and go to college, but, "34 years later, I got out and then went to college," Taylor, 80, said.

In 1964, he said, he was a First Class Petty Officer and got assigned to the submariner program.

He was the 25th of the Navy's pilots of deep-submergence craft and in 1972 became the third commander of Avalon. But there was a lot of service in between. Taylor said he got

**Sub's History** Continued on page 10

## Cayucos Plant Dedication Set For June 25

Story and Photos by Neil Farrell



The Cayucos Water Resources Recovery Facility on Toro Creek Road is up and running. The project has been in the works since 2015.

**T**he Cayucos Sanitary District's new treatment plant is completed and already treating the town's sewage, and by the end of June, it will completely disconnect from the jointly owned plant with Morro Bay, severing almost all ties in a partnership that dates back to the early 1980s.

The \$28 million project involved building a "Membrane Bio Reactor" type of treatment plant on a roughly 4-acre agricultural parcel located on Toro Creek Road about a mile off Hwy 1.

It also included upgrading and expanding an existing lift station located on a County-owned parcel adjacent to Hwy 1 at Toro Creek Road; and connecting to one of the two undersea oil loading lines of the former Chevron Estero Marine Terminal to discharge its highly treated wastewater into Estero Bay.

It's not where they hope to eventually discharge the wastewater, said CSD Board Chairman Robert Enns, who has been on the elected CSD board for some 29 years and helped steer this project forward since 2015.

That's when Morro Bay, coming off the Coastal Commission's 2013 denial of their joint project proposed a project that Cayucos would have had to help pay for but would have zero ownership in, including the future uses of the

water.

That was when Cayucos declined to continue with Morro Bay and essentially dissolved their partnership with regards to building a new sewer plant project. It was the Regional Water Quality Control Board that in 2003 sent the agencies a letter asking them to upgrade their plant to full secondary treatment and get rid of a 301(h) permit under the Clean Water Act that began the sewer sagas for both agencies.

The two boards have not met in the same room since that 2015 divorce and were it not for the matter of the eventual disposition of the old treatment plant on Atascadero Road, might never meet in-person again.

**Plant Dedication** Continued on page 14



Wind Farm  
Update  
Page 2

Police  
Blotter  
Page 8



Speed  
Racer  
Page 12





# White House Unveils Offshore Wind Goals

By Neil Farrell

An announcement from the White House seemingly clearing the way for offshore wind farms off the Pacific Coast, appeared to fill the sails on an idea that’s languished for over half a decade, but is offshore wind ready to set sail, or, considering the huge investments needed to make it work, is it mostly a lot of hot air?

The Central Coast and in particular Morro Bay, made nationwide news in May when the Biden Administration announced “a set of bold actions that will catalyze offshore wind energy, strengthen the domestic supply chain, and create good-paying, union jobs.”

The White House said they convened leaders in the Departments of Interior, Commerce and Transportation plus state officials, industry executives and labor leaders to get the ball rolling on offshore wind farms, taking three definitive steps:

- Advance ambitious wind energy projects to create good-paying, union jobs;
- Investing in American infrastructure to strengthen the domestic supply chain and deploy offshore wind energy; and,
- Supporting critical research and development and data-sharing.

### Feds Reviewing Proposals

The Bureau of Ocean Energy Management or BOEM, which has been leading the review of offshore wind farms on the West Coast for over 5 years now, announced a new offshore wind area — The New York Bight — off New Jersey and New York’s Long Island in the Western Atlantic Ocean.

This new area, based on an economic study, is supposed to create up to 25,000 “development and construction jobs from 2022 to 2030, as well as an additional 7,000 jobs in communities supported by this development,” according to the release.

That area could also support 4,000 operations and maintenance jobs a year and some 2,000 more jobs in the local communities.

BOEM is supposed to put the N.Y. Bight up for lease sale in late 2021 or early 2022. If that happens it’ll be a great improvement over the time it’s taken to do the same thing on the left coast, which has been mired in red tape and hung up by the Navy’s wish to keep clear its flight training areas in the Pacific.

### Nationwide Wind Potential

The Commerce and Interior departments have issued a goal of deploying 30 gigawatts (1,000 megawatts = 1 GW) in offshore wind energy in the U.S. by 2030, “while protecting biodiversity and promoting ocean co-use.”

“Meeting this target,” the release claims, “will trigger more than \$12 billion per year in capital investment in projects on both U.S. coasts, create tens of thousands of good-paying, union jobs, with more than 44,000 workers employed in offshore wind by 2030 and nearly 33,000 additional jobs in communities supported by offshore wind activity.

“It will also generate enough power to meet the demand of more than 10 million American homes for a year, and avoid 78 million metric tons of CO2 emissions.”

Towards these ambitious 2030 goals, BOEM is supposed to complete review and lease sales of at least 16 construction plans by 2025, representing more than 19 GW of “clean energy for our nation.”

They’ve taken over 5 years and counting to review the 1,000 MW wind farm that’s been proposed off the Central Coast.

### Issues with Supply Chain

Currently, all wind turbine manufacturing is done in East



This tender ship at an offshore wind farm in Europe is estimated to be over 350-feet long, roughly a little larger than the dredge ship, Yaquina, that annually comes to Morro Bay to dredge the harbor entrance channel. Photo courtesy Castle Wind, LLC

Asia — South Korea and China — but the Biden Administration wants to change that.

“Meeting the 2030 target will catalyze significant supply chain benefits,” the White House said, “including new port upgrade investments totaling more than \$500 million; one to two new U.S. factories for each major wind farm component including wind turbine nacelles, blades, towers, foundations, and subsea cables; additional cumulative demand of more than 7 million tons of steel — equivalent to 4-years of output for a typical U.S. steel mill; and the construction of four to six specialized turbine installation vessels in U.S. shipyards, each representing an investment between \$250 and \$500 million.

The nation’s first tender ship designed to install and maintain these wind turbines is currently being built at a shipyard in Texas using steel produced in Alabama and West Virginia, according to the White House news release.

### Big Bucks Available

The Administration also announced a \$230 million Department of Transportation grant program — the Port Infrastructure Development Program — to pay for necessary port infrastructure improvements to support offshore wind, which on the Central Coast is a real sticking point, as none of the existing Central Coast ports is capable of handling the needs of this new industry.

The goals are on trend. “In addition to supporting our nation’s long-term economic vitality, DOT’s review process will consider how proposed projects can most effectively address climate change and environmental justice imperatives.”

There is also a lot of money being made available for research and development, some \$8 million has already been allocated to 15 East Coast projects.

More millions will be spent studying offshore wind’s impacts to the ocean environment especially fishing.

And the Department of Energy has \$3 billion in loans available through the “Title XVII Innovative Energy Loan Guarantee Program.”

### Morro Bay Targeted

The Morro Bay Call Area, located about 30 miles off the coast of San Simeon hugging the southwest corner of the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary, and covering some 339 square miles of open ocean, figures prominently in the President’s plans. And our local Congressman is touting the announcement.

“After years of negotiations between federal, state, and local partners,” Rep. Salud Carbajal (D-Santa Barbara) said, “I am thrilled to announce we have an agreement on the size and location of an offshore wind project that serves our environmental, energy, and national security interests.

“Offshore wind holds incredible promise as a means to tackle climate change while also creating economic opportunity, and the Central Coast is uniquely poised to reap the benefits.”

While BOEM and its working group made up of Federal and State officials, hasn’t seemed to have gotten much done, Carbajal formed his own “Offshore Wind Working Group,” with Monterey Congressman Leon Panetta, Jr., BOEM, NOAA the Department of Defense, and Navy, along with the California Energy Commission.

With the review on the Morro Bay Call Area stalled, Carbajal inserted an amendment in the 2021 National Defense Authorization Act, which funds the Defense Department, to get the ball rolling again on the Morro Bay site.

### Three Sites Eyed off California

There are actually three sites off California’s Coast — Humboldt Bay (Eureka), the Pecho Coast (off Point Buchon), and the Morro Bay Call Area off the coast of San Simeon. There are also two other sites under consideration that haven’t yet been identified publicly.

That area off San Simeon would first collect the power at a floating substation, then run power through cables on the ocean floor to Morro Rock, where they would run underground through the power plant’s unused outfall canal and connect to the State power grid at a PG&E switchyard on the power plant property.

Each of the three current sites present separate challenges, with Humboldt not having easy access to the power grid of high voltage lines, and Pecho Coast (off Diablo Canyon) being reserved by the Navy for its training grounds.



## Estero Bay News Staff

Dean Sullivan

Owner - Publisher  
dean@esterobaynews.com

Theresa-Marie Wilson

Editor  
editor@esterobaynews.com

Neil Farrell

Reporter  
neil@esterobaynews.com

Shari Sullivan

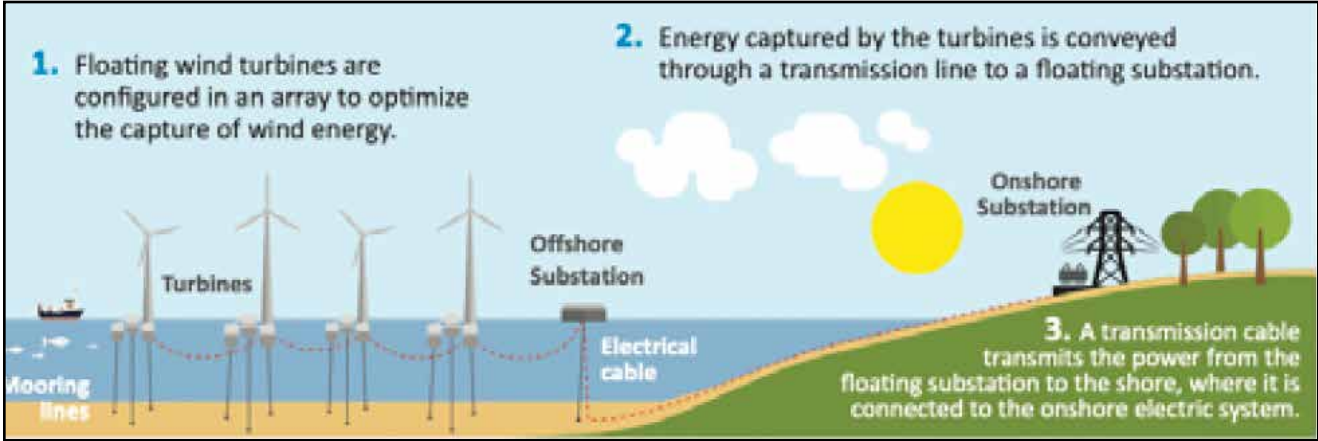
Marketing Director  
shari@esterobaynews.com

Joan Sullivan

Jill Turnbow

Ruth Ann Angus

Judy Salamacha



This simplified diagram from the Castle Wind website, shows how offshore wind farms would work. Photo courtesy Castle Wind, LLC

**Central Coast Hauling**



**Since 2002**

**Your Local Junk Removal Experts!**

**We Haul/Remove**

- Household Debris
- Furniture & Appliances
- Remodeling Debris
- Yard Waste
- Storage Unit Clear-Outs
- Garage/Attic Clear-Outs
- Dirt & Concrete
- And More!

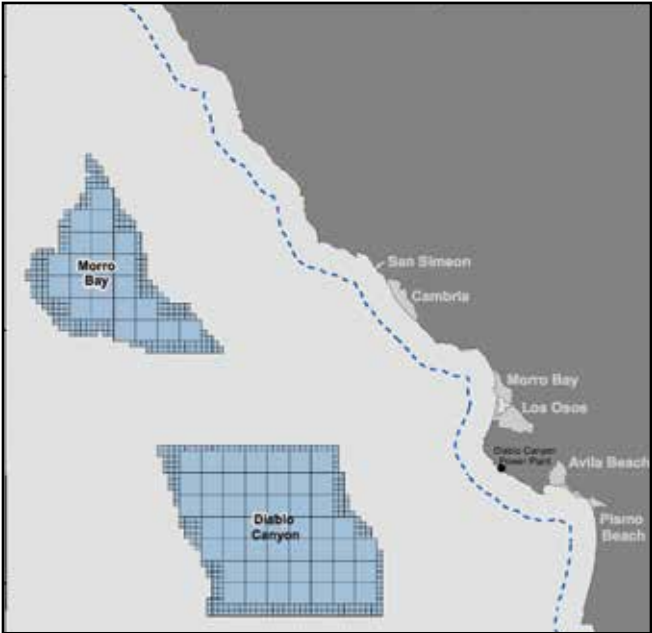
**Family Owned & Operated**  
**Licensed & Insured**  
**FREE Estimates/Rates**

**Miguel Gomez • 805.801.4887**  
**www.centralcoasthauling.com**

This is a publication of Estero Bay News LLC. Copyright 2019 all rights reserved. We are a bi-weekly publication with 10,000 copies distributed throughout Morro Bay, Los Osos, Cayucos and Cambria. Our website is EsteroBayNews.com. You can reach us through emails listed above, by phone at 805.528.6011 or by snail mail at: P.O. Box 6192, Los Osos, CA 93412.







A nautical chart of the ocean off the Central Coast shows the two areas where offshore wind farms might be built, however, only the northern Morro Bay Call Area is in play at this time. Photo courtesy Castle Wind, LLC

So with just the local area in play the Administration believes it would support 4 GW of generation in that 399 square mile area.

Castle Wind proposed a 1,000 MW (1 GW) offshore floating wind farm for that area using 10 MW floating turbines (still under development) that would rise about 600 feet above the surface. Water depth in that area is 800-1,000 feet and platforms would be anchored by chains to giant anchors on the seafloor.

But to get to 4 GW, you'd need four times as many turbines as the 100 Castle Wind has proposed. The Biden Administration thinks up to 7 GW of energy could be produced off California.

BOEM is pledging to finally put the Morro Bay Call Area up for lease auction sometime this summer, but that's a song that's been sung for several years now.

Rep. Carbajal is committed. "I remain committed to working with the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management and the Department of the Interior to make sure the voices of local fishermen and all Central Coast residents are heard, as this process moves forward," he said Carbajal.

Infrastructure Needs Are Many

Saying you want offshore wind and making it happen has a whole bunch of interim steps — involving engineering, manufacturing, facilities and logistics — and would seem to hinge on how close they can build a "Wind Port" facility. According to a Cal Poly economic study released in April, it's the key for this to be beneficial to SLO County.

Entitled, "Economic Impact of Offshore Wind Farm Development on the Central Coast," the Cal Poly study "analyzes the regional economic benefit to San Luis Obispo County for 3 to 7 GW of offshore wind (OSW) development along California's

Central Coast. The regional economic benefit considered in this report provides a dynamic summary of the green job opportunities, value added, and fiscal returns from the project over time as a result of recurring project spending to meet the needs of an emerging OSW industry in the county."

The wind farm will need a "Wind Port" that is a deep water port with room for the large work quays and about 50 acres total land area. Needless to say that isn't practical in Morro Bay or Port San Luis, SLO County's two developed ports.

There is however, a small manmade port at the Diablo Canyon Nuclear Power Plant that the study said could be rebuilt for the purpose. There's also space there for the maintenance yard. Beyond that, Pt. Hueneme, a Naval base in Santa Barbara County, is the next likeliest place.

"Given the massive size of OSW turbines, " the Cal Poly report said, "final assembly must take place in reinforced quays at a port, either at a waterfront manufacturing hub (likely in Asia) or at a specialized wind port that receives floating foundations, towers and turbines from the manufacturing center and assembles them locally."

The Wind Port is where most of the tens of thousands of union jobs the Biden Administration claims will be created would be realized.

"Developing a specialized wind port provides a foothold for regional economic values to be generated in California by providing assembly, maintenance and repair jobs for turbines that might otherwise be towed into federal waters off California's Coast from international manufacturing centers," the Cal Poly report said.

"Making economic benefits from OSW development a reality for San Luis Obispo County," the report continued, "will require developing a specialized wind port as a hub for OSW jobs and regional supply-chain development. An important next step to attaining the economic benefits detailed in this report is to conduct a feasibility study for developing a specialized wind port in San Luis Obispo."

Putting in floating towers, over 30 miles offshore might end up being the easy part of this equation to make offshore wind economical and profitable enough for private investment. It's a future goal that would seem imperative to get done ASAP.

"In-state production of the full range of OSW farm components, including turbines and floating foundations, is not a reality today, but is possible if State and Federal planners send clear signals to OSW developers that investing in OSW manufacturing capacity in California will be rewarded by long-term market development.

"If state planners fail to provide clear market signals on the outlook for OSW in California," the report added, "it is likely that much of the supply chain will continue to be outsourced to international manufacturing hubs in China and South Korea for turbines and floating foundations, reducing the potential for economic benefits to be realized over time in California."

Wind Blowing in Right Direction

Commercial wind farms offshore from California sound like a great idea; but the engineering challenges are immense. For example, the technology is still being developed, as there are currently zero "floating" wind turbines anywhere in the world. And the

largest turbines available now are 8 MW.

While wind power is extensive in Europe and beginning to be built on the U.S. East Coast, those are all anchored solidly to the seafloor in relatively shallow waters.

The Pacific Ocean gets deep very quickly and so the concept of floating platforms has been proposed here.

Also, California's Coast is dotted with various protected marine areas, and National Marine Sanctuaries, like the Monterey Bay NMS, which the Morro Bay Call Area actually straddles.

In the protected areas, it's prohibited to disturb the seafloor, so floating wind turbines is the only way it could happen.

Whether or not 600-foot tall floating towers can be installed and operate safely in the Pacific is an unproven proposition. Winds offshore are pretty constant but as any fisherman or boater can attest, have the potential to blow up a gale with giant wind waves sweeping across the sea, not to mention the occasional "sneaker wave" a massive wall of water coming seemingly from nowhere.

And then factor in fierce storms blowing down from Alaska or hurricanes blowing up from the Equator and the challenge to maintain the turbines is self-evident. Another idea in the study was that in order for wind turbines to work, they have to be on-line as much as possible.

Wind Port is Critical

Of course this all makes the maintenance aspects even more important, including the need for the maintenance yard to be within easy reach of a tender boat (300+ feet long).

And then there's the training aspect, as a representative of Castle Wind once told an audience in Morro Bay, they'd love to use the power plant stacks for training (they're about the right height, too).

In reality the only place in Morro Bay where a Wind Port is remotely possible is on the closed power plant's 107 acres. However, plant owner Vistra wants to build the world's largest "Battery Energy Storage System" (BESS), a 600 MW facility housed in three 35-foot tall buildings equipped with thousands of giant lithium-ion batteries. The BESS would take up much of the plant's available space, if it gets approved.

But that project would appear to be just the ticket for a wind farm, as it would be able to store the wind energy and release it into the power grid to help even out the peaks and valleys of supply and demand.

But even if the acreage existed here, the harbor is only about 12-15 feet deep and a large tender ship would draft much more than that.

Leases to be Auctioned Off

The BOEM has been promising to hold an auction for the Morro Bay Call Area for several years now and while Castle Wind (originally called Trident Wind) started all this by requesting a lease, and the City of Morro Bay has signed agreements with the company to support its application, several companies have since expressed interest and at this point, there's no guarantee Castle Wind will win the bid.

Still, the company is sticking to its project. "Castle Wind," Alla Weinstein, CEO of Castle Wind, LLC, said in a statement

Wind Goals Continued on page 4

# Bayside Cafe

Serving Morro Bay, Los Osos Area for over 30 years.

Just plain good food, generous portions

Casual atmosphere, patio and inside seating with views of the back bay.

Come experience what the locals love about this hidden gem.

Open daily at 11:00am, serving lunch until 3:00pm.  
Dinner available Thursday/Sunday until 8:30 and Friday/Saturday until 9:00pm.  
10 State Park Road, Morro Bay. Phone 805-772-1465  
for questions or "take out". • Visit our Menu at Baysidecafe.com

## HERE ARE JUST A FEW HOMES SOLD SO FAR IN 2021

<h3>Atascadero</h3> <p>Custom Home with wrap-around deck on an oak studded gorgeous acre. \$800,000</p>	<h3>San Luis Obispo</h3> <p>Historical 1900's - Three bedrooms on 5,000 sq ft lot in beautiful neighborhood. \$550,000</p>
<h3>Los Osos</h3> <p>Top of the hill Beauty - Seven bedrooms, five baths with views of Hollister Peak. \$1,300,000</p>	<h3>Nipomo</h3> <p>Two Homes on Quarter Acre mature fruit trees and room to grow. \$876,000</p>

## I Can Sell Yours Too!

Call the Broker with the **SOLD** signs!

### Kelly Vandenneuvel

Central Coast Property Sales  
Owner / Broker / GRI  
CalBRE# 01472453

I Can Sell Yours Too  
Call Me Today!

## 805-471-1046

www.centralcoastsales.com • kellyv@centralcoastsales.com





sent to EBN, “stands alongside our industry partners in applauding the Biden-Harris Administration and [Calif. Gov. Gavin] Newsom Administration for advancing a landmark agreement to support the development of offshore wind projects in the Pacific.

“California is poised to be a world leader in floating offshore wind technology and has a world-class offshore wind resource off its coast. Capturing this abundant renewable energy resource presents a generational opportunity to deliver significant economic benefits and a new source of reliable clean energy to families and businesses across the State.”

“This historic agreement will bolster Castle Wind’s specific mission of providing lasting economic, energy, and environmental benefits for California’s communities by developing a commercial scale floating offshore wind farm off the coast of Morro Bay in Central California. “

The company is off to a head start on its competitors. “Over 5-years ago,” Weinstein said, “Castle Wind began working directly with commercial fishermen and other stakeholders in Morro Bay. Those efforts resulted in a mutual benefits agreement with the commercial fishermen, which supports offshore wind development.

“We are pleased with today’s announcement and look forward to working together with other stakeholders to secure a lease and move forward with the necessary environmental reviews and state and federal permits to build the first floating offshore wind project in California.”

*The Estero Bay News will post the Cal Poly offshore wind economic study on its website for readers to download and read for themselves. See: [www.esterobaynews.com](http://www.esterobaynews.com).*

## Appeal Denied; Rehab Center Approved

By Neil Farrell

The Morro Bay City Council denied the appeal of a permit to convert a north Morro Bay motel into a residential drug and alcohol rehab center, finding that concerns raised by citizens weren’t enough to deny housing to a “protected class” of people.

The project would change the use of the Rodeway Inn, a 27-room, older motel on North Main Street. The project was issued an administrative “over-the-counter,” minor use permit (MUP) in February by the City Community Development director, in what was for the City a pretty routine matter.

But neighbors of the Inn, who were notified by the City of the project, as well a notice posted on the property, alerted res-

idents, who have responded negatively, questioning the wisdom and appropriateness of the change.

The admin permit was appealed to the Planning Commission, which last month also unanimously denied the appeal.

The project was then appealed to the City Council with one appellant, Ashley Smith, making numerous allegations involving the people who are proposing the project and those who will ultimately be running it, too. She pointed out a somewhat questionable history they have with a facility down in Pasadena several years ago.

Several other residents raised concerns about the location being too close to local schools, and urging the Council to deny the project outright.

The staff report, addressing the claims in turn, essentially said such concerns are not properly addressed as part of an MOU process, which is restricted to land use and cannot make judgments on an applicant’s fitness or past legal entanglements.

The City had two attorneys on the Zoom meeting — Chris Neumeyer and Elena Gerli — to explain what the City’s authority was in reviewing the proposal explaining that people seeking treatment for drug and alcohol addiction are considered “disabled” and are a protected class of people with regards to housing laws. Essentially, such residential facilities are allowed in all residential zones and denying one could end up in a lawsuit the City would likely lose.

Community Development Director, Scot Graham told Estero Bay News after the meeting, “Elena Gerli served as special counsel on the appeal, as she has quite a bit of expertise in the field of supportive housing. Both Elena and City Attorney, [Chris] Neumeyer, did a nice job of laying out the legal limitations we have in reviewing and approving/denying these types of uses.”

That didn’t set well with opponents, in particular Smith, who pointed out several instances where the applicants had “lied” about their past affiliations with the controversial facility in Southern California.

She also pointed out that the City does have the means to deny the project despite what State and Federal law says on the matter.

In her staff report, City Planner Nancy Hubbard wrote, “The facility will constitute supportive housing, as defined in the City’s code and in state law, and the applicant expects to provide housing and services for up to 26 individuals in recovery from alcohol and substance abuse, who are considered disabled under state and federal law. State law requires that supportive housing be permitted by right in zones where multi-family and mixed uses are allowed.”

None of the concerns amounted to actual evidence in the eyes of the City and the Council, who acknowledged the concerns but didn’t heed them.

Mayor John Headding in his motion to deny the appeal added two more conditions to the project. The two amendments by Headding were:

- Applicant will provide copies of any reporting required by the California Department of Health Care Services, provided that any information identifying residents of the facility, any private medical information, or information protected from disclosure by law shall be redacted; and,
- Applicant will provide City with notice of any findings of violation or disciplinary action taken by CDHS against the facility within 30 days of receiving a determination by the department.

The applicant’s agent, Brian Der Vartanian, agreed on the record to the two changes from Headding, which were added to the MUP’s numerous other, standard conditions inherent with that permit.

Graham, asked what further appeals might be made, said, “Only recourse for appellant at this point would be the courts.”

The motel’s general manager, Rich Donald, had told EBN previously that it would be some time, perhaps a couple of years, before the change over could be made as there are many steps involved before they can get the facility licensed by the State. In the meantime, plans are to continue to run the motel as is.

## County Clerk Resigns, Takes Job in Martinez

By Neil Farrell

San Luis Obispo County will need to elect a new county clerk-recorder, after current Clerk-Recorder Tommy Gong announced his resignation for a job in Contra Costa County.

Gong is originally from Riverbank in Stanislaus County, and just a few miles out of Modesto. His family had a grocery store while growing up. Gong left Riverbank to attend U.C. Berkeley and San Francisco State and returned to the family grocery business, though by then the family was now in Patterson, which is southwest from Riverbank on the Westside of the Central Valley.

In 2003, Gong was hired as Stanislaus County’s Elections Manager, and came to SLO County in 2005 under then Clerk-Re-

corder, Julie Rodewald. When she retired, Gong won the seat in 2014. He leaves a county of about 230,000 for Contra Costa County’s 1.1 million residents.

“This is an opportunity of a lifetime,” Gong said, “and extremely fortunate for me, as I have desired to be closer to my family.”

Like many today, Gong said he needs to care for his elderly parents.

“When I moved to SLO County,” he said, “I realized that I would be moving quite a distance from my family, but my focus was on raising our young family, but now that they are grown up, my focus has shifted to my elderly parents.”

The coronavirus pandemic has been personally difficult for Gong. He hasn’t seen his parents in 1-1/2 years. “Sixteen years ago, I didn’t feel the same level of responsibility I do now for my parents and family, but now I am 16-years older.”

Gong is the only son in his family and has three sisters. Their extended family mostly live in Northern California and the San Francisco Bay Area, he said. Contra Costa County is located in the northeastern portion of the greater San Francisco Bay Area. The County seat is Martinez and the county includes the cities of Concord and Antioch but is mostly a suburban area.

Gong said he is leaving the department in good hands having recently filled two vacant deputy clerk positions.

“We are at full capacity, staff-wise, and I know I am leaving the office in great hands with equally committed and dedicated staff through the transition.” His last day with SLO County is July 2.

SLO County Clerk-Recorder position is an elected office and Gong said the Supervisors could appoint someone. “Appointing the County Clerk-Recorder for the remainder of the term is an option, but the County will have to weigh its options and decide what steps to take,” he said.

“I am truly grateful to San Luis Obispo County,” Gong added, “for providing me the opportunity to serve the community and hone my craft in elections and Clerk-Recorder functions. I will carry fond memories of spending almost a third of my life here.”

EBN asked Supervisor’s Chairwoman, Dist. 4’s Lynn Compton, about when they would name an interim County Clerk-Recorder and her Legislative Assistant, Caleb Mott, replied. “Because we recently learned of this, it has not been agendized. The Board of Supervisors will vote on a replacement for Mr. Gong at a future meeting. I would anticipate an item introducing the topic at a Board meeting in the near future but it would not be decided upon introduction.”

Gong was central in a “clerical error” in the 2018 Los Osos Community Services District election when he mistakenly misclassified one of the three Los Osos CSD’s seats as a 2-year term, when it should have been classified as a 4-year term.

“I recognize the impact and gravity of the mistake and deeply regret it,” he said at the time. Advertising the seat as a 2-year term during the nomination period, rather than a 4-year term, meant the appointed incumbent was unopposed and was not even listed on the ballot.

The race should have been “Top-3 win,” and the mistake deprived voters from being able to choose someone for that seat.

The Supervisors voted to implement Gong’s solution, namely to throw out that portion of the election, and the LOCSD Board appointed the candidate, Christine Womack, to the seat.

In 2020, she had to run again for a 2-year term but was unopposed and so didn’t appear on the ballot.

And now she’ll have to run again in 2022, but for a 4-year term, to finally get the CSD board’s election schedule back on the right track, in a solution reached between Gong and current CSD General Manager Ron Munds.

Gong and his crew at the Election’s Office faced several challenges with the 2020 Presidential Election due to the pandemic, as many of the volunteers he relies on to staff elections declined to work in November, which was also changed to 3 days of in-person voting. He also lost many of the local precinct locations that canceled their participation because of the virus restrictions.

They also saw record turnout of some 83% and record mail-in balloting but they pulled it off without any major glitches.

Still, at a recent Supervisor’s meeting Gong was harangued by numerous citizens over perceived problems with the election and according to an article in the June 10 Tribune, that public flogging played a part in his decision to leave.



SLO County Clerk-Recorder, Tommy Gong, has resigned his elected position and taken a job with Contra Costa County.

Since 1971

# HOFBRAU

Hand Carved Roast Beef

It just doesn't get any better than this!

805-772-2411  
901 Embarcadero, Morro Bay  
Open 7 days a week.

## SAN LUIS SOILS & SOD FARM

805-528-SOIL (7645)

SOD • Rock • Bark • Planter Mix  
Borders • DG • Base • Rock

FREE Delivery with most orders

Since 1981 and Still Farming

## GELLERMAN CONSTRUCTION

Phone (805) 439-4950  
Fax (805) 439-4955  
gcbuilt@yahoo.com

License #832059



# Merced Man Gives Cavalry the Slip

The Sheriff’s Department is asking for help finding a Merced man who led them on a car chase down Hwy 46 East before crashing his car giving a cavalry of officers, including police dogs and a helicopter, the slip.

According to a news release, at about 2:15 p.m. Saturday, May 29, the Highway Patrol asked Sheriffs help with a report of a red, VW coupe driving recklessly eastbound on Hwy 46 out by Shandon. A Sheriff’s deputy pulled the VW over a short time later.

The driver was reportedly “uncooperative and confrontational with the deputy.” The driver took off in his vehicle and the deputy pursued, but soon called it off “due to unsafe conditions.”

A CHP helicopter was called in and soon spotted the car and was following it when he crashed the car, and started to run away, but then got back in the car and fed at a “high rate of speed” on Hwy 41 North. He reportedly drove off the road, through a fence and crashed again.

The suspect ran off and disappeared. The cavalry was called in to search for him.

“Sheriff deputies, Sheriff K-9s, CHP air and ground units, as well as Kern County Deputies assisted in the search,” the Sheriff’s Department said. “Hwy 41 between the Hwy 46/41 interchange and the summit at Hwy 41 North was closed for a period of time due to the search.”

The suspect, who was identified as Dylan Keanu Wilson, 19 of Merced, Calif., escaped arrest but probably won’t escape justice. Deputies towed his car and sent a crime report to the District Attorney’s Office to charge Wilson with “felony fleeing with willful or wanton disregard for safety of persons or property,” according to the news release.

Wilson is described as a white, adult, male, 6-foot 1-inches tall, 180 pounds and wearing a white shirt and khaki pants.

If anyone encounters Wilson, call the Sheriff’s Office at 805-781-4550. He does not represent a danger to the public at this time, the Sheriff’s Office said.

# COVID on the Run — Reopening Has Begun

By Neil Farrell



The coronavirus pandemic is clearly on the run in San Luis Obispo County and life is returning to near normal, though some restrictions remain in effect.

As of June 15, California officially lifted the statewide tier system and moved Beyond the Blueprint. What that means:

- California’s mask mandate is lifted in all public areas for fully vaccinated individuals although they are still required in certain settings such as public transit, K-12 schools, healthcare facilities, state and local correctional facilities and detention centers, homeless shelters, emergency shelters and cooling centers
- Businesses may ask patrons to show proof of vaccination status or ask them to wear a mask
- All capacity restrictions will be lifted except for those conducting “mega events” which are characterized by large crowds greater than 5,000 (indoors) and 10,000 (outdoors)

To keep up on current guidelines, which could be somewhat fluid until things play out, go to <https://www.emergencyslo.org/en/currentrestrictions.aspx>.

Governor Gavin Newsom stated at a June 8 news conference that he would not lift the state of emergency he declared in March 2020.

He said it was because the virus had not been entirely eradicated in California, even though the numbers of new infections have seemingly dropped off a cliff. His declaration would also seem to fly in the face of new CDC guidelines that call for reopening the country.

## We Were Yellow

For several weeks SLO County had been counted in the Governor’s “Orange Tier,” in the blueprint matrix, which allowed

most businesses to further open up and in the case of restaurants, make more use of their indoor dining rooms.

On June 9, the County moved down to the least restrictive “Yellow Tier.”

According to the County Health Department Yellow, allowed “expanded capacity at gyms, movie theaters, indoor businesses, wineries, breweries and distilleries, and a host of other operations. Bars that do not serve food can reopen indoors with a maximum capacity of 25 percent or 100 people, whichever is fewer.”

“We have come so far as a community,” County Health Officer, Dr. Penny Borenstein, said, “from facing widespread transmission of COVID-19 that kept us in the most restrictive Purple Tier, to slowing the spread of disease to reach the least restrictive

Yellow Tier.

“I commend everyone who has worked hard to help us reach this milestone, and I encourage everyone who is eligible to get vaccinated so we can put this pandemic fully in the past.”

## County Still Vaccinating

The County’s three vaccination clinics — in Paso Robles, Arroyo Grande and Cuesta College — were all shutdown in early June by the County, which administered some 165,000 shots to some 87,000 people in just the 6 months they were open (since December 2020).

Dr. Borenstein said, “This has been truly historic work and I extend my sincerest gratitude to the volunteers and staff who have

COVID Continued on page 6

## News Briefs

By Theresa-Marie Wilson

### Supervisors Re-Appoint Tourism Board Members

County Supervisors re-appointed three people to the Los Osos tourism advisory board, which decides how to spend special assessments on lodging properties.

May 18, Supervisors approved re-appointing Alex Benson, Pandora Nash-Karner and Jamie Wallace to the Los Osos/Morro Bay (unincorporated) Local Area Advisory Board.

The board is funded through the County Business Improvement District (CBID), which imposes a 2% tax on the cost of a room night at motels, hotels, B&Bs and vacation rentals in the unincorporated areas of SLO County — mainly Cayucos, Cambria and San Simeon, which have the most lodging properties.

Half of the money raised in each town goes back to the local advisory board to fund localized promotions and support special events that bring visitors to town. The other half is used by the County CBID board to promote tourism in the unincorporated areas.

Of note, each city in the county also has its own BID to promote tourism in their jurisdictions.

There is also a countywide “Tourism Marketing District” (TMD) at 1.5% that includes the properties within incorporated cities and in the unincorporated towns and promotes the county as a whole, though active promotions by any of these bodies have been petty much on hiatus since last spring (2020) due to the Coronavirus Pandemic.

The appointees’ new terms will expire July 1, 2023.

### July 4th Events Canceled in Cayucos

The annual 4th of July Cayucos Pier Fireworks and events have been canceled this year despite the State reopening on June 15.

The Cayucos Chamber of Commerce, host of the pier event, posted information on their website stating that although the event would be “great for town morale,” the logistics of putting everything together couldn’t happen.

“July 4th festivities are a group effort,” the Chamber’s website said. “The Chamber manages the fireworks, parade balloon arches, and Front Street Faire, and supports town infrastructure needs, like street barriers, waste management, extra portable toilets, etc. Each group has made independent decisions to cancel based on COVID impacts and restrictions, but we’re all largely facing the same issues.”

Those issues include permits, required from county, state, and federal agencies, not being issued at this time; fundraisers that normally help pay the nearly \$30,000 price tag were not held this year or last year; and gathering the large number of volunteers needed to put on an event of this scale was hindered by COVID-19.

“There may be some smaller-scale activities we can pull together for the day to help celebrate across town,” the Chamber said. “If so, stay tuned to our news sites for updates. We know this is frustrating and we join those who are disappointed. We thank everyone for their patience and understanding as we navigate this challenging situation.”

Folks with questions can reach out to Lori Stone, Cayucos Chamber community manager at [cayucoschamber@gmail.com](mailto:cayucoschamber@gmail.com) or leave a voicemail at (805) 995-1200.

### Save Water

The Los Osos Community Services District reminds everyone that their service area has been under a Stage III Emergency of the District’s Water Shortage Contingency Plan since 2015.

Stage III states that water usage allocation is 50 gallons per occupant per day based on a household of 3 occupants. So that equates to 150 gallons per household per day. If you look at your water bill, one unit (100 cubic feet) of water is equal to 748 gallons.

#### Here are some ways residents can conserve water:

- Take short showers instead of baths.
- Turn off the water to brush teeth, shave and soap up in the shower.
- Fill the sink to shave.
- Repair leaky toilets, or replace with a dual flush or low flow toilet.
- Only run the washing machine and dishwasher when you have a full load.
- Use a low flow showerhead and faucet aerators.
- Fix leaks.
- Don’t overwater your lawn or water during peak periods.
- Monitor your landscape irrigation system
- Monitor your water usage on your water bill.



### Cal Poly Receives Gift to Fund Homelessness Initiative

The estate of the late Carole Tanklage donated a revenue-generating commercial real estate property that will fund a Cal Poly initiative aimed at ending student homelessness.

The real estate gift will fund the Tanklage Family Initiative to End Homelessness, which Mrs. Tanklage initially established with a three-year gift totaling \$150,000 in 2018. Mrs. Tanklage, who passed away in 2020, originally created the initiative in 2018 in honor of her late husband, Cal Poly alumnus Donald Tanklage (Architectural Engineering, ’57), to assist Cal Poly students struggling with Since its inception, the fund has provided more than 100 struggling students with on- and off-campus housing support. The real estate property gifted by the Tanklage estate, which houses a KFC restaurant will provide a yearly stream of rental proceeds to support the initiative well into the future.

Since its inception in 2018, the homelessness initiative has been administered through the Cal Poly Cares program, which provides one-time emergency grants to students unable to afford housing, tuition and other expenses essential to their success and wellbeing. Overall, Cal Poly Cares has provided more than \$1.4 million in emergency grants since its creation in 2015.

In addition to its homelessness initiative, the Tanklage family has supported more than 50 Cal Poly students since 2006 through the Donald Tanklage Scholarship for Construction Management and Architecture students in the College of Architecture and Environmental Design.

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



**OPEN FOR BUSINESS!**  
Curbside service available.

**Morro Bay**  
510 Quintana Road  
805-772-1265

**Paso Robles**  
1171 Creston Rd. # 109  
805-369-2811

**San Luis Obispo**  
1336 Madonna Road  
805-544-5400



**Home Theater & Observation Systems**  
Components furnished & installed by Coast Electronics

**coastelectronic.com**

Need to know who's knocking?  
Traveling? FREE quote for observation systems for peace of mind.

**KENWOOD**  
Car Stereos

**AT&T**

**JBL**

**Monitors**  
Cameras

**LG**

**Computers**  
Modems

**SONY**

**ring**

**RadioShack**  
COAST ELECTRONICS

Expert Consultation • Professional Installation • Computer Tutors  
On-Site Service • Wi-Fi • TV Mounts • Universal Remotes • Smartphones

Follow Us On







made it possible. In the face of this tremendous challenge, I'm proud to say our community acted swiftly to provide this life-saving vaccine on a large scale as quickly as we received it."

County Administrative Officer Wade Horton, who is also the County Emergency Services Director, echoed her praises. "The impact of this work is monumental. We've gone from facing thousands of active cases at a time to a few dozen, from planning for a surge that might overwhelm our hospitals to now seeing steady health care capacity. The results of this vaccination effort have been swift and dramatic, and we have many incredible men and women in our community to thank for that."

Some 612 "Medical Reserve Corps" volunteers — mainly retired doctors, nurses and pharmacists, and fire department paramedics — contributed over 28,000 hours to the clinics.

There were also "Disaster Service Workers" most from different County departments, and State-funded traveling medical volunteers also helped with the County's vaccination efforts.

The SLO County Incident Management Team set the clinics up, as well as an overflow emergency field hospital that was set up at the Cal Poly Rec Center at a cost of several million dollars but was never put into service, as the pandemic never stretched local hospital capacities over their limits.

By June 4, the County was touting that some 60% of the County's adult population had been vaccinated.

The County continues to provide COVID-19 vaccination at its local County Health Clinics in SLO, Paso Robles and Grover Beach. Vaccines are also available through local pharmacies, with the costs being billed to insurance carriers.

To schedule a first or second dose of the COVID-19 vaccine at a Public Health Clinic, see: [myturn.ca.gov](https://myturn.ca.gov) or call (833) 422-4255. To find other local vaccine providers, see: [myturn.ca.gov](https://myturn.ca.gov) or [VaccineFinder.org](https://VaccineFinder.org).

For updates on COVID-19 in SLO County, visit [ReadySLO.org](https://ReadySLO.org) or call the recorded Public Health Information Line at (805) 788-2903. A phone assistance center is at (805) 781-5500 and available Mondays-Fridays, from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. to assist with COVID-19 questions.

Drug Bust Nets 1-1/2 Pounds of Cocaine



Cocaine found in a home in San Miguel with an estimated value of \$30,000.

Sheriff's investigators busted a suspected cocaine dealer in San Miguel, confiscating over a pound of cocaine that investigators said appeared to have been broken off a much larger brick of the illicit drug.

According to Sheriff's spokesman Tony Cipolla, at about 6:30 p.m. Monday, June 7, Sheriff's Special Operations Unit, County Probation officers and agents with Homeland Security served a search warrant on a home in the 300 block of 10th St., San Miguel.

"Detectives discovered in the closet of a back bedroom," Cipolla said in a news release, "a large sweatshirt wrapped around a clear plastic bag containing a large amount of cocaine. Additionally, several separate bags containing cocaine were also located within the sweatshirt including a digital scale."

The cocaine itself brought further suspicions. "The cocaine appeared to be in large chunks," Cipolla said, "which is consistent with being cut directly from a kilo or brick of cocaine, and is associated with large scale cocaine dealers."

The raid ended up discovering approximately 1-1/2 pounds of cocaine "with an estimated value of \$30,000."

Investigators arrested the resident, identified as Ramiro Alcazar-Barajas, 42 of San Miguel for alleged "possession of a narcotic controlled substance for sale," and he and was booked into County Jail.



Ramiro Alcazar-Barajas

County to Buy \$79,000 Solar Generator

By Neil Farrell



SLO County will buy a new solar-powered portable generator for emergency use during public safety blackouts and to charge up its electric vehicle fleet to keep them running.

County Supervisors agreed to spend \$79,300 for a solar powered electric generator using special grant monies that came through the County Office of Emergency Services via the Governor's Office of Emergency Services (Cal-OES), according to a May 18 report on the matter by County Central Services Director, Chris Lopez.

The grants are to mitigate the effects of so-called "Public Safety Power Shutoffs" or PSPS, the practice by utility companies of cutting power to certain areas threatened by weather phenomena like high winds that can lead to downed power lines that spark wildfires.

The shutdowns come with some advanced warnings and last until the danger has subsided, which could be several hours or days. The County has many portable gas generators but they can add to the fire danger.

"Currently," Lopez wrote, "fossil fuel powered portable generators are used by several departments to mitigate the detrimental effects of power loss in their respective areas. Due to the growing wildfire concern in California, the need for portable, reliable generators has never been as important as it is now. With the advancement of new technologies in the field of solar power, a better alternative has been created."

The generator he wants to buy is much advanced. "The EV Arc by Beam is a complete solar powered generator," Lopez said, "that can be transported by trailer and quickly deployed anywhere in the County to meet critical needs. The EV Arc requires no existing infrastructure to function and requires no permits to operate. The EV Arc also has its own electrical storage, allowing it to function day or night through grid failures and extreme weather."

This model can also charge the County's electrical vehicle fleet when not in emergency use, he added. "This unit will allow for greater electric vehicle infrastructure for day-to-day oper-

MORRO BAY

Marine SWAP MEET

Saturday  
June 26, 2021  
8am-1pm

at the Morro Bay  
Maritime Museum

1210 Embarcadero  
Morro Bay

FREE ADMISSION

Boats  
Surf Boards  
Marine Supplies  
Marine Hardware  
Fishing Gear  
Nautical Antiques  
Maritime Art & Collectables  
Dive and Scuba

BUY & SELL

Vendor spaces available!  
Purchase a vendor's space  
online or in person at the  
Morro Bay Harbor Dept:  
1275 Embarcadero Road

EVENT PROCEEDS TO GO TO THESE NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATIONS

Questions? - (805) 772-6254

www.friendsofthembhd.org

Quicktech Computers

NOW OFFERING \$50 Flat-Rate Tuneups for any Mac or PC

LOCAL TECH HELP!

Meet us at our store, or we can come to you!

Affordable Too!

We offer FREE quick consultation and inexpensive one on one tech lessons for people of all ages!

Quick Tech Computers is located in Los Osos, Providing service, consultation, and installation for any and all Technology related affairs within the San Luis Obispo county.

Our storefront is located at 2121 10th Street Suite #A in Los Osos

(805)806-0165 Quicktechcomputers.com



News

ations, while being a portable emergency power source when needed.”

He lists the ongoing maintenance costs at \$500 a year and will be included in Fleet Services’ annual budget.

The portable generator is at least the second County project designed to address the PSPS’s, as Supervisors approved a project last September to install Tesla battery back-up systems at key County water infrastructure locations — the Lake Nacimiento Intake Pump Station, the Rocky Canyon Pump Station, and the Lopez Water Treatment Plant.

Those systems cost \$4.7 million combined and the County got them free through the California Public Utilities Commission’s “California Self-Generation Incentive Program,” or SGIP, which was seeded with \$1 billion and designed to provide energy to key infrastructure facilities during PSPS targeted blackouts and power outages due to wildfires. At least two other County water facilities are being looked at for the Tesla batteries.

Estero Bay News asked Lopez last week when he expected to get the new generator and he said the County was in the middle of its budget process and he would order it sometime after that is done.

And the new generator is also part of a larger County effort to go solar at various facilities to cut costs and address climate change.

The Social Services Office on Higuera Street in SLO, and Dairy Creek Golf Course had solar carports installed, and battery systems were put in at the Health Agency campus on Johnson Avenue and across the street at the Public Health Building.

The County also recently completed a 1.2-megawatt solar farm off Oklahoma Avenue (parallel to Hwy 1) that will provide power to the County’s various jails and emergency services and maintenance buildings on Oklahoma and Kansas Avenues. It’ll also help power the new Department of Animal Services shelter being built now adjacent to the solar farm on Oklahoma Avenue.

These projects were all grant funded or done through public-private partnerships that ended up costing SLO County little to nothing. And in the case of the Tesla “Power Pack Systems” batteries, the County will own them after 20 years.

Still to come is a planned floating solar farm on a wastewater pond at the Los Osos Wastewater Treatment Plant off Los Osos Valley Road. That plant will provide electricity to the sewer treatment process.

County Energy and Water Coordinator, Annie Secrest, who has been the lead on most of the solar/battery projects previously said, “Battery energy storage systems provide resiliency to facilities by providing them with a power source during an electrical disruption. In the case of a PSPS or other outage event, backup power is essential for critical County services to continue to be provided to residents.”

Downtown Traffic Sting



Morro Bay Police issued over two dozen citations in a Downtown traffic enforcement checking drivers for various attention-related violations.

In a news release, MBPD said that on Thursday, June 10 from 8 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. the department’s traffic division “conducted a Traffic Enforcement Detail located in the areas of Morro Bay Boulevard and Kern Avenue, Shasta Avenue and Harbor Street, and Main Street at Surf Street. The enforcement was primarily focused on patrolling for distracted driving, crosswalk, and stop sign violations.”

There were two officers in uniform, one sergeant, a plain clothed undercover officer, and two civilians.

“A total of 3,212 vehicles were observed,” the department release said, “resulting in 45 traffic enforcement stops, 28 citations issued, and 17 warnings.”

The department had a warning for drivers. “The Morro Bay Police Department would like to take a moment to remind the community, of which we serve, to please drive responsibly and distraction free, obey all traffic signs and regulations, and always be on the lookout for pedestrians within or about to enter our city’s crosswalks.”

How Is YOUR bank doing for your savings?

Get guaranteed rates»

**2.95%**

APY - 5 year annuity

Rates valid through June 25

For details, call Paul Irving:



(805) 441-3344

baysidelife.com

paul@baysidelife.com

CA Lic. 0D05840



Community

All County Libraries to Open

By Theresa-Marie Wilson



The children’s section at the Morro Bay Library is ready for youngsters to start their adventures in reading.

Albert Einstein said, “The only thing that you absolutely have to know, is the location of the library.” The San Luis Obispo County Library system covers 3,000 square miles and has 14 locations to keep close at hand, and, as of June 22, they will all be open for the first time following the pandemic.

As a reminder, all libraries were closed from March 2020 to July 2020 after which doors were opened for browsing at Arroyo Grande, Atascadero, Cambria, Los Osos, Morro Bay, Nipomo, and San Luis Obispo libraries.

As public servants, librarians took a disaster service worker oath promising to respond in times of need thus, by January 2021, most of the staff had been assigned to work for the County, so book access switched to sidewalk service at most of those locations while Cambria, Los Osos, and Nipomo temporarily closed.

Throughout the pandemic there was a push to make people aware of the opportunity to dive into the digital book and program world available at OverDrive/Libby, cloudLibrary, Hoopla,

increased.

“We expect to continue meeting people where they are with online programs, but we’d like to know more about what folks are interested in,” Thatcher said. “We’ll be looking for more feedback when we find out from the State and County what we are allowed to offer in-person.”

Considering 2020 was a blur for many book fans, there are likely quite a few who want to catch up on what they missed in the publishing world and the library system has them covered.

“We continued to order books during all of the closures and service changes, said Thatcher. “It was a weird time for publishing, though: A lot of books’ release dates got changed, so book availability was inconsistent. But during sidewalk service, folks were able to discover new titles in our online catalog at SLOLibrary.org and place holds on them for pickup. Now that our doors

Libraries to Open Continued on page 9



Part of a display at the Los Osos Library for the County’s summer reading program Tails and Tales that encourages kids 17 and younger to spend time absorbed in books during the break.

Kanopy, and Enki.

“We generally see a steady 20 percent increase in digital use annually,” said Erica Thatcher, library engagement and marketing coordinator. “But, we did see a big spike in e-book checkouts between March and July of 2020 when we were closed. It seems to be leveling off, though. A lot of people are still using eBooks, but we find that folks like to use both print and digital.”

Attendance for the library’s online book discussion groups, author talks, and parenting classes really exceeded expectations during the pandemic and online homework help sessions



**FLOORING DISCOUNT CENTER**

**Waterproof, Hardwood, Carpet & Vinyl Flooring**

For the Quality you want and the Experience you Need.

787 HARBOR ST. MORRO BAY, CA 93442  
PHONE 772-2211 FAX 772-7747  
Monday 9-4 • Thurs - Fri 9-5 • Saturday - 10-3

2450 Main St Suite A, Cambria, CA 93428  
(805) 203-5544  
Monday - Friday 10-4  
www.fdcmb.com

**WORKING FROM HOME? TOO MANY DISTRACTIONS?**

**We have the perfect solution! These brand new, contemporary, air conditioned, secure, private offices come with all utilities and high speed internet included in the rent.**

**Multiple offices starting at just**

**\$350 a Month**

**950 Los Osos Valley Rd.**

Please contact  
**Horizon Realty & Property Management**  
for more information on this great opportunity!



**HORIZON**  
realty & property management

WWW.HORIZONCENTRALCOAST.COM  
**(805) 772-5657**  
Lic #00648760



Police Blotter



Morro Bay Police Logs

• **June 6:** Police stopped a suspicious vehicle at 11:10 p.m. on Hwy 1 at Main Street. Logs indicated they arrested a 62-year-old devil that had skipped a previous court appearance. He was taken to prep for his audience with the Queen.

• **June 6:** Police stopped a suspicious vehicle at the suspect time of 1 a.m. in the 1400 block of Main, like a sitting duck. Police gave the 22-year-old drake the usual demeaning sobriety tests, which he apparently failed miserably, as he was hooked up and checked into the Parkinson Plaza for suspicion of driving quacked.

• **June 5:** At 8:49 a.m. a family member told police that his or her relative had been missing since June 3. Logs indicated police soon found the missing mister, who was no longer AWOL.

• **June 5:** Police responded at 2:45 a.m. to an apparent burglar alarm at Del Mar Liquors, 2864 Main. Logs indicated the gang that couldn't shoot straight couldn't manage to get past the front door and enter the building, though they apparently did manage to mangle the door.

• **June 5:** Police responded at 12:06 a.m. to a disturbance in the 900 block of Main. Logs indicated a 62-year-old lass was drunk off her a\*\* and no doubt making a spectacle of herself. She was given a timeout in the County quiet room.

• **June 4:** Police contacted a suspicious fellow at 10 p.m. at Quintana and Main. The 50-year-old scofflaw had a bench warrant. He was issued another and released to catch again some day.

• **June 4:** Police responded at 6:34 p.m. to Toro Creek Road and Hwy 1 where some delinquent busted into a car apparently parked at Dog Beach and rifled through the vehicle. Logs indicated items were stolen but didn't say what they were, so forget about ever recovering them.

• **June 4:** Police contacted a citizen in the 200 block of Dunes about some harasstard who violated a stay-the-hell-away order, proving once again the power of the pen don't mean crap to a swamp donkey.

• **June 4:** Someone stole a beach cruiser bike from the front yard of a citizen in the 500 block of Atascadero Rd.

• **June 3:** Police were called to a disturbance at a motel in the 200 block of Harbor where a man and woman were refusing to leave. Logs indicated the Bay View Lodge asked police for help in escorting the squatters off the property. Logs indicated the woman, 33, was allegedly high on stimulants and in possession of a crack pipe. The man, 45, also allegedly had a crack pipe on him and was cited and released. The woman was not so lucky, as she was nicked and slept it off in lockup.

• **June 2:** Someone found a cell phone and gave it to police to rundown the owner. Someone else found a wallet and gave it to police, too.

• **June 2:** A citizen in the 400 block of Bernardo had his or her identity stolen and we now have no idea who they are.

• **June 1:** Police were called to a disturbance at 7 p.m. at a motel in the 2600 block of Main. Two men, ages 65 and 57 were arrested for suspicion of being high on drugs and a search of their room allegedly uncovered suspected methamphetamine and paraphernalia. They're roomin' in the County bunkhouse now.

• **June 1:** police contacted a suspicious man at 6:41 p.m. in City Park, whom police suspected was stoned on drugs. According to logs, the man was taken to headquarters to pee in a cup for a chemical test, which came up negative for drugs, so they were forced to release him, no doubt with sincerest apologies, too.

• **June 1:** police responded at 4:35 p.m. to the 600 block of Monterey where a woman made a late report regarding a sexual assault that happened in SLO.

• **June 1:** Police responded at 4:33 p.m. to Lila Keiser Park where a man told police a group of 16 juvenile hooligans attacked him and stole his wallet. During the investigation, police discovered that their victim in the case had been allegedly selling drugs to juveniles in the park, which no doubt considerably reprioritized his assault claims.

• **June 1:** Police took a report of a stolen vehicle in the 3000 block of Main.

• **May 31:** Police contacted a suspicious man and woman at 7 p.m. at Morro Bay Boulevard and Napa. Logs indicated he, 39, and she, 46, were nicked for the big three — alleged possession and UTI of illegal drugs and possession of paraphernalia. Both got booked into the hoosegow.

• **May 31:** Police stopped a suspicious vehicle at 3:25 p.m. in the 1700 block of embarcadero. The driver, 20, was clipped for a felony warrant, which led to discovery of a firearm, ammunition and possession of drugs and paraphernalia, a classic case of cranial-rectal inversion disorder.

• **May 31:** Police were called at 8:42 a.m. to the 2100 block of Main where they encountered a 56-year-old apparent swagman whom they cited for suspicion of trespassing.

• **May 30:** Someone skated off with a skateboard from a home in the 400 block of Napa.

• **May 30:** Some rapscaillon sailed off with a boat from the 200 block of Main.

• **May 30:** At 12:43 p.m. two cars tried to occupy the same space at the same time with predictable results in the 600 block of Morro Bay Blvd. No deathly details to report.

• **May 30:** Police contacted a regular customer at 11:12 a.m. in the 1100 block of Embarcadero. Logs indicated the 47-year-old scofflaw had four misdemeanor warrants and was cited and released, as apparently four FTAs doesn't mean he won't show up next time.

• **May 30:** A tourist at a motel in the 200 block of Harbor told police that he left a suitcase sitting outside his motel room door and someone apparently invoked the tourist tax.

• **May 30:** Police responded to a disturbance at 5:41 a.m. somewhere on Sunset Ct. logs indicated contacted a man, 35, and woman, 33 and then arrested them on suspicion of possession of narcotics and paraphernalia, a case of getting pipped at the post.

• **May 29:** Police responded at 10:19 p.m. to a disturbance in the 900 block of Main. Logs indicated a 23-year-old apparent borracho was nicked for suspicion of being drunk and acting stupid.

• **May 29:** Someone got into a parked car in the 200 block of Morro Bay Blvd., and rifled through the interior, and stole some baseball cards and various odds and ends.

• **May 29:** Police stopped a suspicious vehicle at 1:06 a.m. heading north on Hwy 1 at MBB. Logs said the driver, 19, was arrested for driving on a suspended license and "failure to display current registration tags," a hanging offense in Califreakornia.

• **May 29:** Police got an incomplete 9-1-1 call at 12:17 a.m. from a girl out by Quintana and South Bay Boulevard. Logs indicated police responded and located an "extremely intoxicated juvenile female walking alone down South Bay Boulevard." Police called an ambulance for the belle of the ball and they took her away, no doubt calling her proud parents as well. No indications were given that this was a criminal matter beyond the apparent delinquency of a minor.

• **May 28:** Police stopped a suspicious vehicle at 8:48 p.m. in the 400 block of Quintana. The 32-year-old driver was cited for driving on a suspended license, which used to be good for 10 days in stir.

• **May 28:** Police were called at 7:19 p.m. to a disturbance in the 600 block of Olive. A 27-year-old miserable boor was arrested for suspicion of disturbing the peace and uncivilized conduct.

• **May 28:** A woman in the 900 block of Main told police that a maintenance employee at her complex damaged her car and wanted police to document it for the insurance claim she'll no doubt be making.

• **May 28:** Police responded at 12:25 p.m. to the 800 block of Embarcadero where a man said some maniac brandished a knife on him during a verbal dispute, further proof that people just can't take a joke anymore.

• **May 28:** Police responded at noon to an RV park in the 1700 block of Embarcadero where a guy said he found two squatters living in his travel trailer, the apparent unexpected consequence of running them out of the woods.

• **May 28:** Police responded at 8:09 a.m. to a business in the 2400 block of Main where the owner said he'd gotten "indirect threats" by some unknown phonus balonus towards the business. Police documented it and will no doubt get right on it after the fire is out.

• **May 28:** Some graffidiot left his marks at the high school and on a City bridge.

• **May 27:** Police stopped a suspicious vehicle at 7:37 p.m. at Harbor and Main. The 58-year-old woman driver had a suspended license and was then given a sobriety test and determined to allegedly be stoned on illegal drugs. She was taken to French Hospital for a bloodletting and then crashed in the hoosegow.

• **May 27:** Police took a report of suspected child abuse at a home in the 900 block of Atascadero Rd.

• **May 26:** Police contacted an apparent urban camper at 2:25 p.m. in Lila Keiser Park. The 36-year-old mulish fellow had four bench warrants. Police gave him his fifth and released him, once again defining "insanity" for us all.

• **May 26:** Police took a report of suspected child abuse in the 400 block of Kern.

• **May 25:** Police responded at 8 p.m. to a disturbance in the 400 block of Luzon. Logs indicated they broke up a domestic dispute with no arrests, until next time.

• **May 25:** Police at 12:52 p.m. at Lila Keiser Park contacted a 50-year-old fellow with a bench warrant and of course cited him again and let the squit go.

• **May 24:** Police at 5:49 p.m. in the 1200 block of Embarcadero came across a suspicious fellow, 49, with a bench warrant. Police cited the fool and released him no doubt with a dismissive pshaw!

• **May 24:** Police contacted a suspicious man at 3:15 p.m. on Quintana Place. The nodcock, 32, had a felony warrant and got nicked into the Parkinson Plaza.

• **May 24:** A traffic cop stopped a suspicious vehicle at 11:33 a.m. in the 600 block of Harbor. Logs indicated a 69-year-old woman was cited for a suspended license and various other misdemeanor offenses punishable by death at the DMV.

the leather shop

MORRO BAY CA

Open Tuesday- Saturday 9-5

Like us on Facebook

Hand Made Gifts for Dad, Made right here in Morro Bay

880 Morro Bay Blvd., Morro Bay • (805) 772-0255 www.finnsleathershop.com

Cat Senior Portraits

Photo by CatNoirCC.com

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

BURCH CONCRETE SOLUTIONS • (805) 748-4289

Locally Owned & Operated Since 2004

• Benches

• Fire Pits

• Concrete Resurfacing

• Stained Concrete

• Patios

• Sidewalks

• Exposed Aggregate

• Retaining Walls

• Driveways

• Foundations

• Stamped Concrete

State Lic# 816944

burchconcretesolutions@yahoo.com

www.burchconcretesolutions.com

8 June 17, 2021 - June 30, 2021 • The Estero Bay News • Your Community, Your News



Honor From page 7



Librarian Diana Hammerlund is part of the crew at the Los Osos Library welcoming the community back to the books.

are open, patrons can discover books from 2020 and 2021 on our ‘New’ shelves.”

Reading tastes did change a bit over the last year-plus. Thatcher said that the cookery category, mostly cookbooks, used to be at the top of the adult, nonfiction list of material checked out.

“Now medicine (health) is number one, United States (politics) is number two, and cookery is number three, according to our collections statistics software,” she said. “Sociology and psychology seem to be more popular, too.”

On June 22, the seven smallest branches, Creston, Cayucos, Oceano, San Miguel, Santa Margarita, Shandon and Shell Beach, which have been closed since early 2020, will open their doors.

Not everything will be as it was — the plethora of programs offered to patrons have not yet returned.

“We’re still waiting for guidance from the State and County on inside and outside gatherings,” Thatcher said. To find out what programs are available, check out the SLOLibrary.org events calendar.

There are still two ways to get lost in the pages of a book. To check out digital and physical versions of reading material requires a library card. An e-card allows patrons to access all downloadable services, including ebooks, digital magazines, music, movie/TV services, and digital services like CreativeBug and LinkedIn Learning. A classic card allows patrons to check out books at the physical library.

To get a permanent library card, visit any of the 14 libraries in-person. To get a temporary E-card number, go to SLOLibrary.org and look for the Library Card button under the “About” tab.

Thatcher said that there wouldn’t be any shindigs signaling the big reopening because there wasn’t time to plan with most of the staff just returning to the stacks. They do have some mobile learning and library beautification projects planned toward toward the end of the year.

Events and Activities

By Theresa-Marie Wilson



**See how a living wall is made.** Join Gage Willey, curator of Cal Poly’s Plant Conservatory, for a live demonstration and talk about the construction of Cal Poly’s new living plant wall on Saturday, June 19th from 1 -2 p.m. Learn how living walls are constructed and maintained, and get a peek at what the new facility plans to offer to the Cal Poly campus and greater San Luis Obispo community. This program is in-person at the SLO Botanical Garden. Tickets are \$5 SLOBG members/\$10 for the public. There are a limited number of free student tickets available. Tickets include entry to the SLO Botanical Garden. For more information and to get your tickets, visit slobg.org.

**Project Surf Camp’s 19th Annual Pre 4th of July BBQ, Blood Drive, & Raffle** takes place Friday, June 25 from 12 – 4 p.m. in the Movement for Life clinic parking lot at 890 Shasta Ave. in Morro Bay where you can also pre-purchase raffle tickets. The event is a potluck, Williams said, and members of the community are welcomed to bring their favorite dish to share. Among the items in the raffle are a 43-inch TV set from Coast Electronics, a day of bass fishing and an ocean fishing trip on the Black Pearl. They are accepting donations for the raffle and monetary donations for Project Surf Camp at the clinic. All proceeds go directly to Project Surf Camp. New/used wetsuit donations are welcome.



**Join Expanding Light: Celebrating Summer Solstice,** a virtual evening of celebration with Kirtan Saraswati, with the Rev. Julie Darshini Hitchcock and the Rev. Nita Shankari Kenyon, from

6 to 7:10 p.m. Saturday, June 19. The event includes chanting, meditation, readings, and teachings. This is a Zoom online event and is offered on a donation basis. For more information send an email to Awakening2theone@gmail.com or call 805-772-0306. To join the service or make a donation, go to: awakeninginterfaith.org.

**Music fans don’t miss this.** The Wax & Wares Music & Street fair takes place June 20 in the large parking lot behind Traffic Records along the 5800 block of Traffic Way in the heart of Downtown Atascadero. Think of this more of like a rock & roll flea Market. The event takes place the third Sunday of each month from 8 a.m. to noon. Live band Ducky’s Revenge will perform while live DJs spin your favorite tunes and Taqueria La Parrilla will be on site serving up breakfast burritos and tacos!

This event is hosted by Traffic Records, and The SLO Record Swap.



**Don’t miss the Morro Bay Art Association Salon 2021** exhibit celebrating 70 years of MBAA. The show runs through July 12, and features MBAA Member Artists and their choice of artwork that best represents their personal artistic journey. Artwork will be accompanied by the artist’s photo and brief bio. All art media and artistic approaches will be represented.

The Salon Wall concept, large groupings of art hung at different heights, allows us to honor great tradition and display a lot of pieces in the celebration of the rich, creative genius of our art community. The exhibit will be installed in the traditional French Salon format, in alphabetical order.

Art Center Morro Bay is located at 835 Main St. They are opened daily from 12 p.m. – 4 p.m. daily and can be reached at 805-772-2504 or artcenter.morrobay@gmail.com. Check out their website at artcentermorrobay.com.

**Each Tuesday through July 27 meet a different animal** through Zoom, and learn about the people who work with them. This is part of the SLO County Libraries Summer Reading Program.

- 6/22 - Incredible Invertebrates
- 6/29 - Falconry 101
- 7/13 - Animals of the Rainforest
- 7/20 - What’s Up with Your Animal Tail?

Events Continued on page 10

LOS OSOS/BAYWOOD PARK CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

**PASSPORT LOCAL FOOD**

**Festival of FLAVOR!**

2021

THERE IS NO LIVE EVENT FOR 2021 BUT YOU CAN STILL ENJOY LOCAL RESTAURANTS IN LOS OSOS & BAYWOOD PARK

VISIT 12 PARTICIPATING RESTAURANTS WITH YOUR PASSPORT AND PAY ONLY \$35 FOR DELICIOUS FOOD.

**PURCHASE A \$35 PASSPORT**

FOR FULL DETAILS AND PURCHASE LOCATIONS VISIT [WWW.LOBPCHAMBER.ORG](http://WWW.LOBPCHAMBER.ORG) OR CALL 805.528.4884

Los Osos/Baywood Park Chamber of Commerce  
info@lobpchamber.org

**DUTCHMAN'S SEAFOOD HOUSE**

BEERS ON TAP

WINE LIST

FULL BAR

APPETIZERS

BEAUTIFUL MORRO BAY

FRESH SEAFOOD

We follow all State Guidelines to keep you and our staff safe.

**It's the only way to live. It's the only way to eat.**

701 Embarcadero, Morro Bay  
Call: (805) 772-2269 • [www.dutchmansseafoodhouse.com](http://www.dutchmansseafoodhouse.com)



Community

Yacht Club From page 1



MBYC Board of Directors picture, Left to Right: Tara Hanlon, Laura McCarron, Chris Surfleet, Troy Wieck, Judi Glover, and Greg Barker. Not shown Todd Hansen. Pictures property of MBYC - supplied by Commodore Chris Surfleet

Vendor sign up is at [www.morrobaymaritime.org](http://www.morrobaymaritime.org). In 2021 Bonnie Jones, MBMM’s board member, reported, “The Yacht Club’s Youth Sailing will have a booth and whatever they make goes to their program, and because they help set up and clean up, they don’t pay for the booth. This year the three of us agreed that the profits from selling the booth spaces will go to the Harbor Department for their new harbor patrol boat instead of splitting the proceeds three ways.” Fund-raising is currently over 53% of goal. To make a donation, go to [www.friendsofthemhbd.org](http://www.friendsofthemhbd.org).

Commodore Surfleet’s ‘Welcome Message,’MBYC’s comprehensive history, schedule of activities, and membership information, are available on the website.

However, MBYC has a storied history worth retelling. When MBYC was first created in 1956 “...time was spent helping to improve harbor and boating conditions...” Members also formed sailing regattas, power boat races and seasonal parties on the sand spit. Summer sailing classes were held in conjunction with the recreation department and visiting yachts were welcomed.

In 1960 a used houseboat purchased for \$500 became the clubhouse. Members moved it to five locations — the favorite and last being near the south boat ramp. Alas, March 28, 1964 the tsunami from the Great Alaskan Earthquake sank it and temporarily shuttered operations. The City of Morro Bay incorporated that year and determined waterfront property would not be privately owned. This triggered a lease offer on a small waterfront home at the club’s current location, 541 Embarcadero, owned by Morro Bay businessman, Charles Berkemeyer. MBYC purchased it in 1966. By 1971 when the City granted a permanent lease, major improvements to the clubhouse, docks and grounds as well as the acquired boat yard across the street had been done by the all-volunteer membership.

By 1979 the volunteers designed and built a new clubhouse, which stands today. Updated improvements were done during 2020. Besides upwards of 200 members, MBYC serves visiting transients, Coast Guard Auxiliary meetings, Junior Yacht Club, Morro Bay Youth Sailing Foundation, and Cal Poly Sailors.

Covid-19 managed to postpone their largest event of the year, the Rock Regatta. Youth sailors come from all over California with their coaches and their parents to enjoy living our Morro Bay lifestyle for a weekend. Check the website for bay and ocean weekend sailing races.

Membership consideration is for those “who own or plan to buy a boat...Boat size ranges from kayaks to ocean cruisers, and just about everything in between.” Commodore Surfleet invites potential members to check out the group. “We’re looking for people who want to be involved in sailing or boating. All operations are done by volunteers, which creates a sense of ownership.”

Potential members are invited to visit during a Friday evening social or ask a member to host them during a summertime Wednesday evening Hamburger Night, now in full swing. Indeed, the Morro Bay Yacht Club is moving forward.

Sub’s History From page 1



Retired Navy Cmdr. Rickard “Dick” Taylor speaks at the Morro Bay Maritime Museum about his experiences commanding the Deep Submergence Rescue Vehicle, Avalon, which is on display at the museum on the Embarcadero.

assigned to submarine surveillance stations and served in places like Big Sur, the Channel Islands and Washington State, a program that got decommissioned. After 20 years in the Navy he was reassigned to a surface ship

and told his commander he wanted to go overseas. “I’ll send you to Turkey,” he said to me. And I said, ‘Where’s Turkey?’” He got sent to the Defense Language Institute in Montana to learn the language and it was “the hardest thing I’ve ever done in my life,” he laughed. There were 30 in the class, “All young guys from the Air Force, the Army. They were bright as hell.” He eventually became the U.S. National Representative to the Commander and Chief of the Turkish Navy. He said it was appropriate his speaking event was on Memorial Day Weekend, as the Avalon and the DSRV program was born in response to the Thresher Tragedy of 1963. Thresher was one of the finest attack submarines in the world at the time, Taylor said. She was undergoing sea trials and had 112 sailors and 17 civilians onboard when she went down. “The end of the story,” Taylor said, “is it flooded and sank in 8,000 feet of water.” It brought to light that the Navy had no capability to respond to submarines that sink. In bathyspheres they dove down to the Thresher’s wreckage to determine what happened. But there was no way to rescue anyone.

The Navy in 1964 formed the Deep Sea Submergence Project (DSSP), Taylor said, and began designing and building a rescue submarine. “There were originally supposed to be 12 built,” Taylor said. But the cost to build the first two was 30 times more than budgeted, so the Navy ended up building the Mystic and the Avalon at Lockheed’s facility in Sunnyvale. The Avalon and Mystic, which is on display at a maritime museum in Mystic, Conn., are 50-feet long, 8-feet in diameter and weighed 36 tons, and Taylor said they could make 1-2 knots and a maximum 5 knots.

Their maximum depth to dive was 5,000 feet. “These have been down to 5,000 feet,” he said. But the deepest they were able to open the bottom hatch was 1,000 feet. The DSRVs were designed to dive to the seafloor where a crippled submarine would be lying possibly at a 45-degree angle, making “mating” the two subs together difficult. Once the Avalon’s “transfer skirt” — looking “Like a big upside down coffee cup” — was over the sunken sub’s hatch it sealed itself and then water was pumped out to allow the hatches to open, theoretically. Taylor said in their training, done mostly off San Clemente Island, the deepest they were able to go down and open a hatch was 800 feet.

The Avalon’s crew was a pilot, co-pilot and four crewmen, Taylor explained. They could fit a lot of rescued sailors inside. “Twenty-four people per load is about what you can take,” Taylor said. The Avalon and Mystic were “four spheres welded together.” They were designed to fit inside a C-41 cargo plane, and be launched from a submarine or a ship. It took four, C-41s to carry the DSRV and all of its equipment, Taylor said. They were stationed at Lockheed’s Ocean Laboratory in San Diego for many years. During a 1979 exercise with the British Navy, Taylor said they were able to mate with a British diesel submarine “on the bottom of the Irish Sea. It took us 48 hours to respond [from San Diego] and we proved it could be done. We had the capability and could do that. It was a wonder to see for me.”

In the Avalon’s 37-years of service, Taylor said they never had to rescue anybody, but, within the program’s first 5 years, they proved it could be done. “Thank God we didn’t have to use it,” Taylor said, “but it was there if we needed it.” He said it all boiled down to one thing — rescuing people.

Events From page 7  
7/27 - Amazing Aussie Animals  
To register go to the Event Calendar at [slolibrary.org](http://slolibrary.org)



**The Spooner Ranch House**, located in Montano de Oro, opens on July 1. A visit to the Spooner house provides a glimpse into what life was like for the family in the early 1900’s with period furnishings and the opportunity to interact with living history docents as members of the Spooner family. The Ranch House serves as a visitor’s center for the park with trail maps and park information. The Spooner Ranch House also includes a gift shop, with a variety of park-related merchandise available for purchase. State Parks continues to follow guidance provided by the California Department of Public Health.

LIVE OAK  
MUSIC FESTIVAL

On the Radio II

June 18-20, 2021

A Benefit for KCBX

**The KCBX Live Oak Music Festival** on the Radio performance schedule for Father’s Day weekend takes place June 18-20, 2021 on the dial at 90.1. More than 15 bands are scheduled to perform during the virtual event, nine of which will perform live on stage from Castoro Cellars, which will be available to stream online for free and broadcast on KCBX FM. In addition to the performances, KCBX will play a collection of archive recordings from past Live Oak Music Festivals on the station’s FM frequencies as well as its live online stream at [KCBX.org](http://KCBX.org). The weekend will also include a collection of newly recorded video performances filmed locally and specifically for the event. These videos are a new component since the first Live Oak on the Radio, which took place in 2020 in a more limited scope. Live Oak on the Radio II is welcoming a wide variety of local and national touring artists to the stage for the live performances taking place at Castoro Cellars nightly from 5 until 10 p.m. Friday

Living in the Now,  
Preparing for  
the Future

Learn how you can redefine  
your savings approach toward  
education and retirement.  
To learn more, call my  
office today.

Los Osos

Deanna Richards, AAMS®  
Financial Advisor

1236 LOVR, Suite J  
Los Osos, CA 93402  
(805) 534-1070

Morro Bay

Nelson Pamplona  
Financial Advisor

501 Harbor Street  
Morro Bay, CA 93442  
(805) 772-6188

Jennifer L. Redman  
Financial Advisor

1085 Kennedy Way  
Morro Bay, CA 93442  
(805) 772-7938

Edward Jones

MAKING SENSE OF INVESTING

Member SIPC

10 June 17, 2021 - June 30, 2021 • The Estero Bay News • Your Community, Your News



Community

evening’s headliner is The White Buffalo. Supporting artists on Friday are the Cosmo Alleycats and Chris Beland & Harmony. The band Soul Scratch headlines the event on Saturday night, with support from Sunny War and B-Side Players. Dustbowl Revival will close out Sunday’s event, following performances by Doc Oliver and SambaDá. Emcee Joe Craven will host all three nights of the event.

In addition to a diverse array of musical performances, the public will have the opportunity to submit home videos for a virtual talent show competition with winners to be selected by the community through online voting. Local yoga instructors Tim Costa, Jessica Rose, and Jon and Natalie of Let’s Get Tuned will offer in-person and virtual yoga classes. For the kids, local authors Jasmine Pickett and Karen Winnick will read their children’s books during a virtual storytelling session, and there will be several fun art and craft projects available for download on the Live Oak website. There will also be an online auction featuring items donated to help raise money to support KCBX, including the 2021 Live Oak quilt made by Dorothy Deis, art from local artists, and items from local businesses.



**The Morro Bay Art Center Summer Kids Art Program** has started and offers 7 weeks of fun for kids 6 -12. Classes are Tuesdays & Thursdays, each week. Morning sessions are 9 – 12 p.m. for ages 6 - 8 years, and afternoon sessions are 1 - 4pm for ages 9 - 12 years. The cost is \$40 per week (2 sessions per week). All Supplies Included! Sign up for the weeks you want.

Each week offers students a process art experience with experienced instructors, using a wide variety of art materials including painting, drawing, sculpture, collage and more. All instructors have been vaccinated and will wear masks. All artists are required to wear masks in class. Each session is limited to 12 artists, so sign up soon!

For more information on each week’s curriculum details and how to register, go to [www.artcentermorrobay.org](http://www.artcentermorrobay.org).

Send your event listing at least three weeks in advance to [Editor@EsteroBayNews.com](mailto: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.

Takin’ Care of BUSINESS

By Theresa-Marie Wilson



The Morro Bay Chamber of Commerce will hold its second “Shop, Sip and Stroll” event on Wednesday, June 30 at 5:30 p.m. in Downtown Morro Bay as part of the “Morro Bay is back in 2021, and better than ever” campaign.

Chamber Membership Director, Lynsey Hansen, “has organized an event designed to bring residents of Estero Bay and SLO County together to reconnect with one another and with business owners who have worked so hard to keep their doors open throughout the pandemic,” reads a news release from the Chamber.

Hansen said, “Our community did such a great job supporting local businesses over the last 15 months. We want to make sure that ‘Shop Local’ support is here to stay.”

The event is an open house where participating businesses will have goodies available as people stroll through Morro Bay’s quaint, frozen-in-time, Downtown.

Participating businesses will have beer, wine and spirits and musicians will perform throughout the route. Some vacant storefronts will be open “to invite aspiring entrepreneurs to explore the business opportunities Morro Bay has to offer.” The event is free and open to the public.

A list of Shop, Sip & Stroll participants is available on the Chamber’s Facebook page at [facebook.com/morro.chamber/](https://facebook.com/morro.chamber/) events or check the Chamber website, [mbchamber.org](http://mbchamber.org) for the complete details

The Chamber is also working on some special events for July for the North Morro Bay and Quintana Road business districts, which looks a bit under siege with the City’s Water Reclamation Facility trenching work diverting traffic around on Quintana.

Another new program, the “Property Walk and Talks” series the Chamber launched during the pandemic via Facebook Live, will also “continue to highlight the many unique small businesses within the Morro Bay community.

“The series will place focus through the early summer on the Quintana area during construction of the new water pipeline; businesses are open and ready to deliver the same exceptional service they always have. Property Walks are hosted live by Chamber CEO, Erica Crawford, and can be viewed, along with previous walks, on the Chamber Facebook page at [facebook.com/morro.chamber/videos](https://facebook.com/morro.chamber/videos).

Scout Coffee Co. to Open on Poly Campus

San Luis based Scout Coffee Co. will bring its scratch-made pastries and craft-roasted coffee to the yak it ut u neighborhood on Cal Poly’s campus for the opening of the 2021-22 academic year.

The locally owned coffee company recently agreed to partner with the Cal Poly Corporation and open its third San Luis Obispo location next to the Cal Poly Welcome Center in yak it ut u.

“We are so excited to have this opportunity to be a part of the campus experience,” said Scout Coffee Co. Owner Sara Peterson. “We feel honored to represent the family run, local businesses of SLO and to bring that bit of hometown feel directly outside the door of so many students.

Scout will offer their signature HoneyCo Coffee Roasters coffee, a brew that Alton Brown of the Food Network called “scientifically perfect.” Owners Jon and Sara Peterson opened HoneyCo Coffee Roasters in January 2015 and have since been featured in The New York Times, Sunset Magazine, The Guardian, The Venue Report, AAA Westways Magazine, Sweet Paul and more.

Alongside the award-winning coffee, Scout will offer an extensive menu of fresh baked goods including morning buns, muffins and scones as well as an almond blackberry jam croissant, ham and cheese croissant, giant cookies and multiple short bread options will be available. For those looking for something more substantial, Scout has many other options including avocado toast, fruit and yogurt parfait, chia pudding, Liege waffles, and a butter-milk biscuit with salted honey butter and jam.

In addition to its coffee, teas and delicious food, Scout Coffee Co. is known for its inspiring spaces that locals have come to love since they opened their first Garden Street location in 2014.

“The inviting spaces that Sara and Jon are able to create are exactly what our students have been asking for — that and the coffee of course,” said Corporation CEO Cody VanDorn. “We’re happy to bring them to campus and take another step towards enhancing the student experience.”

Cal Poly Corporation is funding the buildout of the space, with total capital expected to exceed \$1 million. The investment is one of many, including the \$28 million renovation of Building 19, in the Corporation’s 10-year commercial services plan.

Senior Transportation in LO is Back

The Los Osos Cars and Ride-on program have brought back the Transportation for Seniors service on Tuesdays and Wednesdays from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Folks can go one-way (\$2) or round-trip (\$4) to anywhere in Los Osos. Be sure to call 805-541-8747at least one day in advance to schedule your ride.

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](http://EsteroBayNews.com)

Obituary

David Alan Rodgers 1954-2021



David Alan Rodgers passed away on May 26, 2021 at the age of 67. He was born in Avenal, California in 1954 to Ben and Lavonne Rodgers. The family moved to Morro Bay in the late 60’s and Dave graduated Morro Bay High School in 1972, where he met the love of his life, Sue. They married that year and soon welcomed two children, a daughter Michele and a son Justin.

Dave spent 36 years at PG&E and after working his way up through the ranks, eventually retiring as a foreman. Dave and Sue lived an inseparable and adventurous life together and took full advantage of their passion for family and nature by splitting time between their home on the Central Coast and their summer home in Alaska.

His greatest passion was always his family, most importantly his wife; they could always be found together riding bikes, camping or fishing- they are soulmates. Dave was a devoted Papa to his six grandchildren, who will miss him dearly.

He is survived by his wife, Sue; daughter, Michele (Curt); son, Justin (Diana); grandchildren, Sierra, Nolan, Zane, Bella, Shae, Ben; mother, Lavonne; sister, Cathy (Domingues); and many nieces and nephews. He is preceded in death by his father, Ben and brother, Danny.

Friends and Family are invited to celebrate Dave’s life on Sunday June 20 at 3 p.m. at Sea Pines Golf Resort in Los Osos. In lieu of flowers the family requests a donation be made to Central Coast youth baseball.

10 WAYS  
SOLARPONICS CAN HELP REDUCE  
YOUR ENERGY BILL, ADD COMFORT, and  
SAVE MONEY

3

5

#3: WATER RECIRCULATION PUMP

#5: SOLAR ELECTRIC

Save 10,000 gals. of water per year + save \$1,000's on your energy bill.

SOLARPONICS

See all ten at [solarponics.com](http://solarponics.com) • (805) 466-5595 • CSLB# 391670 • SINCE 1975

June 17, 2021 - June 30, 2021 • The Estero Bay News • Your Community, Your News 11



# Cambria's Graduation - 2021



## That's A Wrap

The 2020-21 school year has come to an end, with a celebration to wrap it up. On June 3rd, 2021 at 6 p.m., 32 Coast Union High School graduates participated in a graduation ceremony on the football field.

Our co-Valedictorian's were Viviana Nunez and Jonathan Jewel and our Salutatorian was Jasmine Pena. Thirty-one of the graduates will continue their education at a four-year college or they will attend a community college, with one graduate joining the workforce.

With graduates planning to go all over the nation, whether to a technical school in Texas, Cal State Fullerton, Cal Poly, Cal State Chico, UC Berkeley, Arizona State or Notre Dame, they have shown success and will continue to represent our special community. We want to say a special thanks to the staff that worked so hard during this challenging year to support our students. Also, I would like to thank the local community for handing out more than 141 total local scholarships, totalling more than \$117,000 to these great students. What a blessing to live in such a generous community. Way to go Coast Union High School Broncos!!! You are remarkable and I wish you the best in your future.

Blessings,  
Scott Ferguson  
CUHS Principal



## Around the Track and Then Some

By Jill Turnbow

No matter the crowd size at any social gathering, when Mike Griffin enters and says "Hey, how ya doin?" your ears perk right up.

Mike has the unmistakable voice of a radio mega-personality. Deep, rich, and resonant, you just know his voice kept radio listeners tuned in for decades.

Before retiring and moving to Cambria with his wife, Jacque, in 2009, "Griff" spent years behind the microphone, first in student radio while attending Notre Dame, then in South Bend at WJVA, and then helming the morning show at WNAP in Indianapolis. He was on the ground floor of that start-up station in the late 60s, that hit #1 in the market in just two years with a Top 40 Album Cuts format. By the end of '72 Mike was recruited to Cleveland and WMMS, and a station called Q95, but eventually he was lured back to WNAP.

Griff's work in radio didn't stop at the microphone. He also worked in concert promotions. For a while he left radio and be-



Mike Griffin and his wife, Jacque, at the Indianapolis Motor Speedway during the Panther Racing Team days in 2006.

gan doing advance work from some of the biggest touring musical groups in the country. And at one time he and his wife also ran a publication called the Hot Potato. It was a paper not unlike our local New Times. Jacque had worked for the Business Journal and, between the two of them, they had amassed business connections in Indiana as well as neighboring states.

But even with all of the work coming Griff's way in media

### Sellers Needed!!

3 Bed | 3 Bath | 2216 SqFt  
Morro Bay  
\$809,500

24 Acres | Build-Ready | RR Zoning  
West Templeton  
\$679,000

Joel will put a **SOLD** sign in front of **YOUR** home

**(805) 703-0778**

**JOEL PACE**  
Real Estate Services

Brokered by **BIGBLOCK REALTY**  
CalBRE# 01885775

Joel Pace, Broker-Associate | CalBRE #01946105

### Morro Bay Upholstery

Furniture • Boats • Autos • Commercial

**805-225-5252**  
**805-538-0543 - cell**

**2602 Main St. Morro Bay**  
mbupholstery1@gmail.com

### PCM PACIFIC CAPITAL MORTGAGE

**805-528-5353**  
**www.pacificcapital.biz**

1352 Los Osos Valley Rd., Ste - C  
Los Osos  
Across from Ralph's

Pac Cap Mortgage, Inc dba - Pacific Capital Mortgage  
NMLS #273846  
Ca Bureau of Real Estate License #01195922

### Jim Marshall INSURANCE INC.

- AUTO
- HOME/RENTERS
- BUSINESS
- HEALTH
- LIFE

**(805) 528-4739**

2141 10th St., #A • Los Osos  
**www.jimmarshallinsurance.com**



# Morro Bay's Graduation - 2021



Mike and Jacque at the Indianapolis Motor Speedway in 1981.

and voice work, nothing could keep him from his life-long passion, Indy racing. "On the weekends, I would head to the track and 'push and polish' for friends. Anything they needed me to do," said Mike.

Being a huge racing fan as well as a known personality in Indianapolis it wasn't long before he was doing much of the voice-over work connected to the Indianapolis Motor Speedway

as well. And in 1997, Griff fulfilled his dream by joining forces with five other prominent racing friends to form their own Indy Series Team, the Panther Racing Team. The founders were Jim Harbaugh, a onetime quarterback for the Indianapolis Colts; Gary Pedigo, a partner in the Indy Auto Auction; Terry Lingner who owned a production company, John Barnes, and Doug Boles who owned the Speedway.

The Panther team dominated the Indy series for years, winning several championships and came in 2nd at the Indy500 four years in a row. That kept sponsors like Pennzoil and the National Guard on board. Mike says, "Speed costs money, just depends on how fast you want to go. It can cost anywhere from \$5 to \$20 million a year to run a car."

Mike left the team in 2009 to retire to Cambria and Panther Racing ended in 2013. These days you can find Griff relaxing by the beach and enjoying the local wine scene and live music. "I never had an ocean before. It's the best." And each year, when Cambria celebrates the end of summer with its Pinedorado parade, you can hear Mike's baritone voice in the West Village announcing each arrival to the crowd. By his side will be his constant companion, Tashi, his dog that he and Jacque rescued in Morro Bay. "Tashi is a Tibetan word for good fortune. That about says it all."

**PAUL'S PRECISION PAINTING**  
**Central Coast**  
(Painting Houses on the Central Coast Since 1994)  
**805.464.9805**  
Licensed & Insured  
Lic.# 1035020  
**www.paulsprecisionpaintingcc.com**

**Sea Shanty**  
**RESTAURANT & CATERING**  
*Always in Perfect Taste!*  
**805-995-3272**  
296 South Ocean Avenue • Cayucos, CA 93430

## Corrections

**Kori Peck**, we are so sorry we left out of the Morro Bay seniors issue. Congratulations. We also would like to give credit to the photographers. Special thanks to Ginger Dinunzio from Sandprints Photography and Mark Nakamura from Nakamura Photography.

## Schedule a consultation!

### Sign up for a class!

Due to COVID-19 and restrictions, ALL sessions – private and class – are conducted with masks, being aware of social distancing and making everyone's health and safety a priority!

Private Training Sessions

Dog Walking

Group Classes

House Sitting

\*Contact: Mike Nelson  
\*Website: [www.second-chance-dog-training.com](http://www.second-chance-dog-training.com)  
\*Email: [secondchancedogtraining805@gmail.com](mailto:secondchancedogtraining805@gmail.com)  
\*Text: (415) 590-9972



structures, and opens the door for future redevelopment of this key site in our community. We look forward to working closely with the community on reviewing these opportunities.”

The settlement changed a fundamental caveat in the power plant property’s ownership. The City has claimed that as per its “Outfall Lease Agreement” from the early 2000s, reached when Duke Energy was trying to replace the plant that said the City could buy the entire 117-acre property for \$1 so many years after it ceased operations.

The City has claimed that would be 2033 and the settlement gives Vistra until the end of 2028 to tear down the old plant or pay the City \$3 million.

Vistra had hinted at a Zoom forum organized by Councilwoman Dawn Addis last month, that they’d determined the 165-foot tall power plant building was too deteriorated and couldn’t be reused, and the smoke stacks had no purpose for them in the future.

That off hand comment, led Estero Bay News to ask Vistra’s spokeswoman directly if they been considering tearing down the old plant? The Settlement estimates that to cost over \$30 million. (Duke Energy had pegged the removal cost at \$80 million in 2004-05.)

Vistra spokeswoman Meranda Cohn, who had been radio silent on EBN’s questions said she’d held back to let the City make its announcement before answering.

She said from their perspective, the agreement would:

- Vistra commits to demolish, at its expense, the former generation building and three emission stacks by Dec. 31, 2027. However, should the City desire to preserve the stacks, it must notify Vistra by Dec. 31, 2022, and the stacks will not be demolished.

- The City will remove, in the existing lease and modernization agreement, the option for the City to purchase the property for \$1 if demolition of the generation building and stacks did not occur by Oct. 1, 2033.

- Vistra will continue to pursue the proposed Morro Bay Energy Storage Facility, a utility-scale 600-megawatt battery energy storage project on the site.

- Vistra and the City shall negotiate in good faith to reach a development agreement for the battery project.

- Vistra would grant easements sought by the City for the Water Reclamation Facility.

- The City would dismiss pending eminent domain litigation filed to acquire the easements.

The lawsuit was believed to be the first time the City of Morro Bay has ever used eminent domain powers.

Vistra’s Senior Vice President of Corporate Development, Claudia Morrow, said, “We appreciate the care and effort by the City in negotiating this MOU. A special thanks to the City Council’s Power Plant Subcommittee of Mayor John Headding and Councilmember Dawn Addis for their leadership. We also recognize City Manager Scott Collins and his team for their hard work in wrapping up what we view as a strong settlement.

“Should the full City Council approve the MOU, Vistra looks forward to continuing the work to build the battery project and the coming discussion with the City and residents of Morro Bay about the future of the rest of the plant site.”

That BESS Project application is currently being reviewed for completeness by the City Community Development Department. At some point, the Planning Commission, then the City Council will hear it, and eventually, the Coastal Commission is

likely to hear it too, as it’s in the appeal zone.

The BESS will also require a full environmental impact study under State law, so even if it could be “fast-tracked,” it’ll probably be under review and debate for 2-3 years. Construction would take a couple of years as well, making Vistra’s project goal of having it ready to go online in 2025 already a challenge.

The company chose 2025 because that’s when the Diablo Canyon Nuclear Power Plant will cease operations, freeing up the high voltage transmission lines that currently carry Diablo’s power, for Vistra’s use.

The plant started energy production in the 1950s with the first two units and a single stack. In the early 1960s, two more units and two more smokestacks were added and PG&E, which built the plant, ran it for decades until 1999 when it sold the plant to Duke Energy North America, as part of the State’s attempt to de-regulate the energy industry.

Duke tried to replace the plant with a modern combined-cycle plant but met fierce opposition and eventually dropped the project when the State Department of Water Resources Control Board banned its use of seawater for cooling steam.

That killed the replacement project and led to Duke selling all of its California assets and pulling out of California.

A hedge fund, LS Power, bought Duke’s plants and Dynegy, a Texas energy company absorbed LS Power. Dynegy was itself consumed by Vistra, which took ownership of the Morro Bay property.

The plant was shuttered for good in 2014 after being placed in cold storage for a couple of years. It hasn’t produced energy in over 7 years.

According to the City’s June 9 staff report, “To date, the site has been partially used in the following ways — Lila Keiser Park, triangle parking lot, harbor and commercial fishing [storage] facilities, bike path and other easements provided to the City, and the Marine Mammal Center and the Pacific Wildlife Care have leases on the power plant site to conduct their operations. In addition, there are several environmentally sensitive habitat areas (ESHA’s).

“Beyond those areas, the rest of the site has sat unused since the power plant shuttered in 2013. From the outside looking in, the remaining portion of the site that includes the old turbine building, the three 450-foot tall exhaust stacks (stacks), the area surrounding those facilities and the old tank farm site seem to hold much promise for reuse that could benefit the Morro Bay community.”

The report continues, “The site in theory has many advantages. It is located near the ocean and Morro Bay waterfront, which are visited by hundreds of thousands of people each year. The remaining structures, in particular the turbine building, seemingly present a blank canvas for incredible redevelopment ideas.

“It is no surprise then, that over the past 20 years many repurposing ideas for the remaining plant structures and surrounding area have been proposed. Those ideas included converting the turbine building into a museum, art piece, conference center, aquarium, alternative energy hub, university, hotel or scrapping the buildings all together for a park or mixed-use/housing development.”

The City acknowledges that its old lease agreement and the claim to purchase it in 2033 for \$1 has scared off potential redevelopment.

“Potential investors and redevelopers have passed over the Morro Bay Power Plant site in part, according to analysis done by City staff, because: it has limited reuse options given a PG&E deed restriction; of the significant cleanup costs to make the site useable for non-industrial uses; the cost to purchase the land; the existing structures which have attracted redevelopment interest are seemingly not reusable without massive investment; and, a \$1 option encumbrance reasonably leaves investors concerned that whatever they may build there could be taken by the City in 2033 with a \$1 purchase of the power plant site.”

PG&E recorded a deed restriction when Duke bought the plant in 1998, that prohibits the plant from being developed for lodging — hotels and motels — hospitals, or other health care facilities, day care center, park, playground or other recreational use, according to the City report.

This could be because the State Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) has identified several areas where the soil and groundwater are contaminated.

DTSC’s ongoing case at the plant is now recommending the contamination be left where it is and if there were to be any redevelopment it would have to be cleaned up as part of it.

As a former plant owner, PG&E could be on the hook for some of those cleanup costs.

“While precise numbers aren’t available,” the City said, “it is believed that remediation costs necessary to remediate the site to

the level where non-industrial uses could be considered are in the multi-million dollar range.”

If Vistra does end up removing the plant and stacks, they’ll have this issue to contend with, as well as the many tons of asbestos that wrap every steam pipe and boiler part in the plant, possibly a hundred tons or more of the cancer-causing mineral. The plant building and stacks cover about 14 acres.

“The clean up needed,” the report said, “to repurpose the building would likely exceed the value that could be gained from repurposing the facility. It’s unclear even if significant funds were invested in the cleanup of the building if it could ever be reused.

“The same is true for the stacks. They have contamination issues like the turbine building and pose future liability concerns for the power plant site owner. According to Vistra, total demolition of the facilities is much less costly than restoration of the building.”

With the Council’s approval of the settlement agreement, a 90-day escrow period opens before the transaction and the MOU are final.

The MOU is posted on the City’s website ([www.morro-bay.ca.us](http://www.morro-bay.ca.us)) with the June 9 staff report and is readers want to learn more and track the BESS project, see: <https://www.morro-bay.ca.us/842/Current-Planning-Projects>.

*For frequently asked questions about the Vistra settlement and a history of the Morro Bay Power Plant, go to our website: [esterobaynews.com](http://esterobaynews.com)*

Plant Dedication From page 1

Enns said the CSD’s stance at this point is that Morro Bay will be “operating a plant that we own 40% of.” How the final disposition of the jointly owned property goes is frankly undecided. “There’s still some work to be done,” Enns said. “We’d not like to see it in the courts.”

And there’s still some work to be done with the CSD’s new plant, as General Manager Rick Coon said they are now beginning work on a 1-megawatt solar electric plant on another 4-acre parcel adjacent to the treatment plant. So far they’ve graded the site.

REC Solar and the CSD have an agreement wherein the company will build and own the solar plant and sell the CSD electricity at a fixed rate. Coon said they will buy electricity at 0.8¢ per kilowatt for 25 years. By comparison, he said he pays 24¢ to 26¢ a kilowatt now and in 25 years, the rates could be double.

“This is how you handle costs,” Coon said. “Our electric bill will drop from \$11,000 a month down to \$4,000 a month.”

For now, and since the plant went online for testing in early April, they will pipe their discharge water through the old pipes to the plant in Morro Bay and discharge to the ocean.

That’s because they still have to tie-in their new discharge system to the oil terminal’s loading lines, a process made a bit more complicated because Caltrans plans to tear down and rebuild the northbound Hwy 1 bridge at Toro Creek, starting this fall but truly getting underway next spring.

So the CSD has to put in a temporary line to connect with the undersea discharge line and when the highway bridge is completed, a project likely to take 2 years, they will reroute the pipe and hang it on the new bridge.

The CSD hired Sousa Const., for the discharge pipeline work. It’s the same company that got Caltrans’ bridge contract.

Coon and Enns took Estero Bay News on a tour of the new Cayucos Water Resources Recovery Facility, as it’s officially called, starting at the headquarters building, which doesn’t look like an industrial facility.

Indeed, all the buildings are red with white trim and designed to look like a farm with a ranch house, barns and outbuildings. That’s how it was designed in order to be mindful of the neighbors, of which there are few given the rural location.

Inside the main administration building, Coon opens a door into a roomy control office, where the plant’s three full time employees monitor the different systems, and can diagnose and isolate any problems that the computerized plant might have.

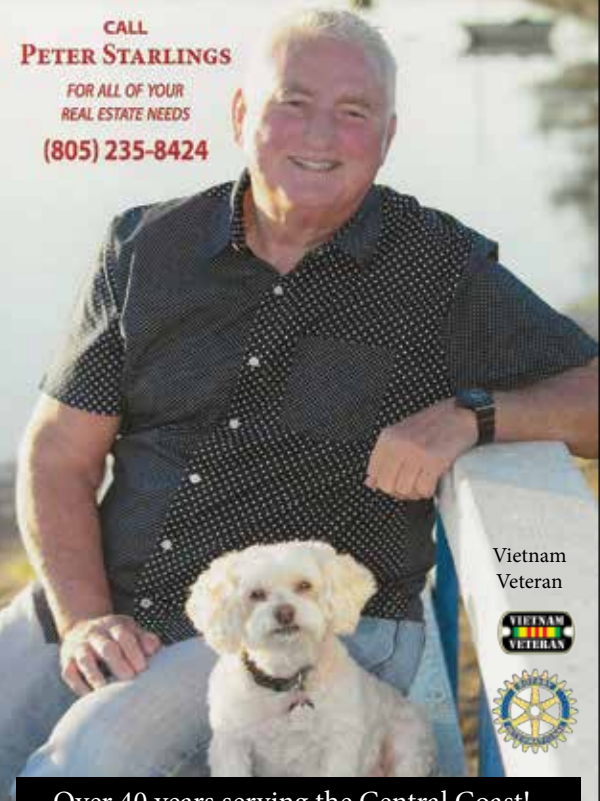
They can also monitor the plant on a tablet device, he said, and every night someone will take the portable monitor home with them and be on call. And should anything unusual be detected, they can analyze what it is and respond if needed.

The plant’s permitted capacity is 350,000 gallons a day, Coon said. The normal flow is between 220,000-250,000 gallons a day, but the plant is designed to be able to handle up to 1.2 million gallons a day. Its first real test will come with 4th of July.

They completed the plant and started testing the systems April 1, Coon said. They already have over 30 days of testing under their belts and last week were testing the ultra-violet disinfection system, a final stage of the treatment process to produce tertiary treated and disinfected wastewater, able to be used for irrigation of farm crops.

They are leaving some open space at the plant for the future, Enns said, as they eventually want to store the treated wastewater in Whale Rock Reservoir, and complete the project’s overarching

CALL  
**PETER STARLINGS**  
FOR ALL OF YOUR  
REAL ESTATE NEEDS  
**(805) 235-8424**




Vietnam  
Veteran

Over 40 years serving the Central Coast!

**PETER STARLINGS**  
BROKER/OWNER

**805.235.8424**  
[peterstarlings@yahoo.com](mailto:peterstarlings@yahoo.com)

 BRE# 00692586



**O'Connor  
Pest Control**  
"Family Owned and Operated Since 1952"

**SPECIAL**  
**\$49 MONTHLY SERVICE**  
General Pest Service Only. Gophers & Rodents Not Included.  
One Year Term Minimum. Homes up to 3,000 sq. ft.

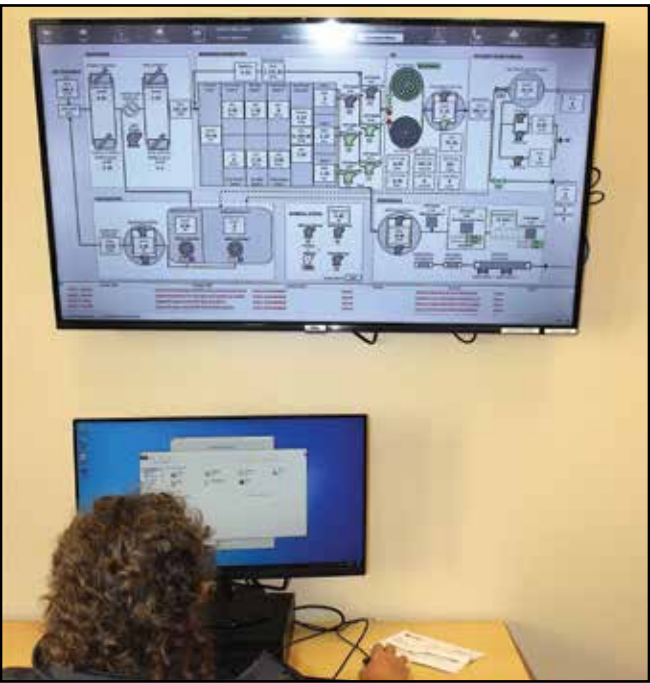
**Free Gopher & Rodent Estimates**  
Same Day Service M-F  
**ECO SMART PRODUCTS**  
**805-544-1170**  
[www.oconnorcentralcoast.com](http://www.oconnorcentralcoast.com)

Kevin says,  
"Look  
for the  
**ANT**  
on the  
Door"



KEVIN O'CONNOR, President





concept of providing water security for Cayucos.

To do this will require adding a reverse osmosis system to further treat the wastewater.

Cayucos actually has three water purveyors — two private and the County — and all three get their drinking water from Whale Rock Reservoir via the County’s CSA-10 water treatment plant.

The new sewer treatment facility will produce some 365-acre feet of water a year. The town holds title to some 800 acre-feet a year out of Whale Rock. The State Legislature must first pass a law allowing for treated effluent to be stored in drinking water reservoirs. Under State law, all surface waters from lakes, reservoirs, rivers and creeks must be fully treated before being sold to customers.

Coon added that whenever the State takes up that issue, they’ll have lots of data on the quality of the wastewater coming out of the CSD’s plant to make their case.

The project was marred by a fatal accident last year when a worker on a drilling rig at the lift station site was killed when the drill rig broke. Beyond that, they had no other mishaps to report.

The coronavirus pandemic did cause a few minor headaches. “It was a little slow getting products out of the vendors,” Coon said. “Manufacturing, availability and shipping — the whole supply chain — was disrupted last year.”

So they compensated by ordering equipment well in advance to make sure it was here when it needed to be.

Right now, the only reclamation water is used for the plant’s needs including the landscaping. The plant has a groundwater well for all its potable water needs, Coon said.

On the tour, we stop first at the two bioreactors, essentially 25-foot deep basins where microbes digest the solids in the raw sewage, after it’s first gritted — a process that removes all the solid things that people flush down their toilets.

The reactors are filled with “Mixed Liquor,” a stinky, brown colored water where the microbes do their magic.

“This is where all the biological treatment takes place,” Coon said. The microbes break down nitrates and ammonia in the two tanks — one of which is pre-anoxic (meaning no air) and the other, larger tanks are aerobic (aerated by big blowers).

Once the biological process, which recirculates a portion of the wastewater back through the tanks to ensure enough flow, is completed, the wastewater is forced through a series of membranes that filter down to 0.8 microns, producing pretty clear water.

Picture long thin hollow strings that the plant sucks the wastewater through, filtering the water of just about everything else.

The water then goes through an ultraviolet disinfection process and is stored in a 130,000-gallon tank ready for discharge or reuse. And while this so-called “Title 22” water is by no means drinkable, it can be used in agriculture.

The membranes must periodically be washed out using a mix of chlorine and citric acid — which Coon said is lemon juice.

The sludge that is produced goes to another building where a screw press squeezes about 80 percent of the remaining water out. The sludge is then dumped in a roll off dumpster that will be taken to Cold Canyon Landfill to cover the trash brought in daily.

It has an earthy smell to it but doesn’t stink like poo.

The filter system has 6,800 membranes in every “module” and there are 16 modules per “rack,” and four racks per tank (two tanks), Coon explained.

That may sound like a lot of maintenance but about every 3 months, they’ll just shut down one side and run the chlorine-cit-

ric acid mixture through, leaving them in place.

The CSD got a low interest loan from the U.S. Department of Agriculture in a program designed for rural communities of less than 10,000 populations. Enns said they got a 1.75% interest rate on a \$24.2 million loan. Coon added that they also got some \$4.5 million in grants making up the project’s total of over \$28 million.

Compared to paying 40% of Morro Bay’s now \$134 million project — some \$53 million — it would appear the CSD made the right move when it chose break with Morro Bay and build its own plant.

The USDA loan came with some “buy American” requirements, Coon said, like the loan required using American iron and steel, so about 75% of the whole plant was made in the USA. It was mostly with the electronics in the plant that they had to buy from foreign sources and some equipment came from Australia, too.

Coon was proud of the fact that the only chemicals being used through their entire plant is for cleaning the membranes, and



CSD Board President Robert Enns at the plant that is designed to be able to handle up to 1.2 million gallons a day,

no chemicals are used in the treatment process itself.

The main contractor on the project was Kushman Contracting out of Goleta. David Crye Construction of Morro Bay got the contract for the lift station expansion and pipeline up to the new plant.

Former Morro Bay Special Projects Manager, Dylan Wade, now with Water Systems Consulting, was the project manager and handled the day-to-day construction. Dylan, Enns said during the tour, was on a well-earned, 2-month family vacation.

Enns said the board had essentially three hard decisions to make: First, he said, they wanted to be sensitive to the rural, farming neighborhood and chose colors for the buildings and designs that make it look like a ranch.

Second, they decided to bury the 25-foot deep membrane tanks to reduce their visual impacts; and third, they decided to use ultraviolet light instead of chlorine for disinfection.

With chlorine the wastewater is treated with a 12% chlorine solution and then must be “de-chlorinated” before being discharged. (For comparison, Clorox Bleach is a 1% chlorine solution.)

The plant is electricity-intensive, but Coon noted that when the solar plant goes online, those costs would be greatly cut.

Enns said they are talking with Cal Poly about leasing the CSD’s extra farmland across the street to the Ag program to do experiments with what types of crops can be grown with reclaimed wastewater, but nothing has been decided yet.

One of the USDA requirements is to learn what to do with the water, Coon said.

And their groundwater drinking well produces 16-acre feet a year and that water could be blended with the wastewater if in the future the requirements for reuse change.

Enns noted that it was 2015 when they cut ties with the City’s plans for a new treatment plant, and they broke ground on this plant in August 2018. It was largely completed by the end of 2020, and now is online as of April 2021. And at the end of June, they expect to cut off delivery to the Morro Bay plant entirely.

They’ve also for many years been replacing the sewer system’s pumps and facilities and will replace lines as needed, Enns said. They’re to the point where now they have mostly a brand new sewer system, he added.

The CSD is hosting a dedication ceremony for the community to have a chance to come tour the plant. The event is set for 2 p.m. Friday, June 25.

To get there, go down Hwy 1 to the Toro Creek Road intersection and turn east. The plant is at 800 Toro Creek Rd., and about a mile off the highway on the right hand side.

# 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](http://www.thebookshelfwriters.com)

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

## Writing for Change: A Timely Salute to Author Bruce Bradigian

By Judy Salamacha

April 24, 2021 President Joe Biden fully acknowledged “genocide” occurred between 1915-23 with the “...systematic killings and deportations of hundreds of thousands of Armenians by Ottoman Empire forces...not to cast blame but to ensure that what happened is never repeated.”

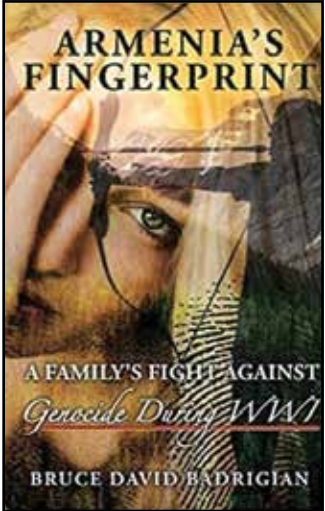
The long awaited announcement was a magical moment for Bruce Badrigian, a Cuesta College and retired Morro Bay High School English teacher and reading specialist. In 2016, he self-published an historical novel “Armenia’s Fingerprint: A Family’s Fight Against Genocide in WWI.”

Badrigian’s book launch included an open letter he posted on Facebook. The author said he wrote the book “...because in my heart I knew that my family would lose its origins after I am gone.”

Although he chose the historical novel genre, ninety percent of the content is documented after years of research with “first-person accounts of survivors and witnesses,” including his surviving grandparents.

Morro Bay’s Coalesce Book Store’s owner, Linna Thomas recalled, “I’ve known Bruce for three or four decades. For many years he was the heart-throb English teacher at Morro Bay High! When his book came out we were deluged with requests!”

KVEC-NewsTalk host Dave Congalton hosted Badrigian in December 2020. The compelling interview is still available by podcast. Producer Craig Hill was once his student and believed he could remember every word his teacher had said, especially about his family’s story. Hill had questions about the Armenian “death march” on April 24, 1915, when seventy-five percent of Badrigian’s Armenian ancestry — men, women and children — were forced to leave their homeland with only the clothes on their backs by Shotas, prisoners released and consigned to “escort”



Out & About Continued on page 16

### Award winning Pharmacy and Gift Store

## “Special thanks to our loyal customers for 40 years”

Rated one of the TOP 100 gift stores in the USA –Present Magazine

# 805-528-1017

989 Los osos Valley Rd Los Osos,  
Mon. - Fri. 9:00-6:00 • Sat. 10:00-5:00

## WE DO DRYER VENT CLEANING!

# Morro Bay Appliance

# 805-772-2755

## Sales - New & Reconditioned Service & Repairs On All Major Brands

**Freezers • Refridgerators • Washers • Dryers • Microwaves Dishwashers • Ranges • Cooktops • Wall Ovens • Hoods**

**Serving Los Osos, Morro Bay, Cayucos, Cambria & San Simeon Since 1971**

**935 Main Street, Morro Bay**



them out of their country. Brutality was rampant, including denying them food and water along the way. Ultimately, 3.5M were slaughtered — Armenian, Greek and Syrian Christians.

“My Cuesta students say it is a hard read, but they can’t put it down,” said Badrigian to Congalton.

Why didn’t we know?” asked Congalton. “This was not in my history books.”

“It was ignored because it was during World War I.”

Badrigian’s response begs the question why post-war attempts continue to ignore its teaching and why Nuremberg-style trials never punished the leadership that perpetrated the World War I pre-Hitler genocide. In 2020 Badrigian was hopeful President Biden would make good on his campaign promise. Meanwhile, it was his mission in life to research and publish the real story.

As a genre, historical fiction introduces readers to our history while entertaining with a compelling story. The author’s underlying motivation is to make sure our history is documented somewhere so generations ultimately understand and are inspired by a human’s humanity or never forget atrocities some humans are capable of doing to other humans.

It was good news to Congalton when Badrigian told him a revival in sales of his book had happened since July 2019 when it was published by XanEdu Publishing. The publisher contacted Badrigian saying, “This story needs to be told. We don’t have a book like this to tell this story. We want it published in all the libraries in America.”

Badrigian visited Armenia to observe the 104th Anniversary. “I learned how strong my father was.” He was asked to tell his grandmother’s horrific survival story on international television. Badrigian was particularly moved by the huge archived white flag the women on the death march had sewn by hand. Noticed by a French battleship, 5,000 were saved. Their message, “Please, save us. We are Christians. We will be slaughtered.”

When Congalton asked where the book was available, Badrigian quickly responded, “I hope people will buy it locally from the owners who have supported me from the beginning -- Coales Book Store and Volumes of Pleasure.”

Judy Salamacha is a member of The BookShelf Writers. To see more of her work, please visit [www.thebookshelfwriters.com](http://www.thebookshelfwriters.com).

A  
Dose  
of Good  
Dogma



Match.dog

By Lisa Ellman

I often see the unfortunate result of people getting a dog based on emotion instead of reason. Why is it that we can spend weeks researching appliances or cars, but often pick a dog (that may spend 15 years with us) spontaneously? Remember the box of puppies outside the supermarket?

Deciding what type of dog to bring into the family should require prudent consideration. Research and education are important ingredients to ensure successful integration. To help you, consult a vet or reputable dog trainer, peruse various dog books, talk to people you know that have, or have had, a certain breed you’re considering, look into, and join, discussions on social media about having a dog.

If you have kids that are old enough to communicate thoughts and ideas, have a family meeting (or 3) to discuss what kind of responsibilities are involved (feeding, training, walking, poop patrol, etc.) and who will be able and willing to take them on.

If your kids are toddlers, or you have a full time job, consider time constraints and how much attention you’ll be able to give the dog. If you’re thinking about getting a puppy, consider this: taking care of another baby 24/7, with needle sharp teeth to boot! The energy requirements are immense! Puppies require a lot of attention, and can sometimes injure young children by jumping and biting while playing.

Families with young children should be aware that many breeds, or mixes, are “prewired” for certain activities. Example: border collies and heelers are herding dogs. This behavior can manifest with kids out in the yard running around; the dog attempts to nip at the feet and legs of the “herd,” your kids. Their shrieking and squealing initiates an instinctual reaction from the dog: biting or jumping on the child. The child’s reaction to this, unfortunately, is usually more shrieking and squealing, resulting in a terrified child and an isolated dog.

If someone is an apartment dweller, it might seem logical to have a small dog. But there are some larger dogs that are couch potatoes and a long daily walk or two will satisfy their activity requirements. Conversely, there are small dogs, some terriers, that are like energizer bunnies! These dogs thrive in large yards, where they can chase balls and dig for gophers all day long.

If a person has limited movement or serious health issues, selecting a dog that already has some training is a wise choice. I’ve seen the regrettable consequences that result when people are not physically able to handle their dog, small or large. Example: the frail cancer survivor whose adorable Boston terrier puppy ripped her thin skin to shreds and walked all over her – literally and figuratively. She (and I) tried for several exhausting months to make it work. Sadly, she ended up rehoming him.

Adult children sometimes decide, with the best intentions, to get their lonely parent(s) a dog. An excellent idea! But be conscious of any limitations the parents may have, for instance bending over or down. A small dog may not be a good match. Additionally, older people who have not had a puppy in many years forget how much work they are.

Canine companionship can be an extraordinarily fulfilling

relationship when one makes prudent, sensible choices. Please, avoid “surprising” someone with a puppy or adult dog, especially if you have no way of knowing how prepared the recipient(s) might be. If you are considering getting a companion for your family, your parents or your kids, do some research. Investigate which dog will match the lifestyle and activity level of the household. In doing so, your odds of ensuring happy, healthy, respectful relationships increase immeasurably.

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



I am pleased to know the Thursday Painters continue to paint on location around the County. The ongoing Thursday Painters art class, also known as Plein Air Artists, set up at various locations to paint on Thursdays.

I created the classes through the San Luis Obispo and Morro Bay Recreation departments in 1973 to gather and paint on ranches throughout the county. Over the years the art class painted on over 50 ranches and coastal sites of interest. Several ranches were visited numerous times. The Froom Ranch on Los Osos Valley Road in San Luis Obispo was one of the most popular because Bill Froom, the rancher, enjoyed having the artists on his ranch. He was very proud of the ranch his father bought in the 1800s, and gave tours to Poly students for many years.



The Location Painting Class was a six weeks long sign-up. Students, mostly seniors, were handed a map with locations and dates for each class. I chose the locations by contacting the ranch ahead of time and setting up the class in compliance with the ranchers’ request. Initially I would help students set up and critique their work as time allowed. The class met at 10 a.m. We stopped for lunch and shared the work in progress. At 1 p.m. We returned to work finishing up at 4 p.m.

At home in the evening I made notes of the day’s experience that included interviewing the rancher and touring the ranch that day. My book Rounding Up The Ranches was published in 2015 after I assembled the notes I kept over the years.

If you are a plein air artist and would like to join the Thursday Painters, meet at 9 a.m. to paint and noon for lunch critique. Bring a folding chair to sit on, water and food. For details call or email Joan Faubert-Suttle at [joan.faubertsuttle@gmail.com](mailto:joan.faubertsuttle@gmail.com) or Debby Veldkamp 801-3617 [artmom5@gmail.com](mailto:artmom5@gmail.com) or Mike Grahek [slo\\_artist@yhoo.com](mailto:slo_artist@yhoo.com) (805) 481-8621.

*For Rent, Painted on location in Pismo with the Thursday Painters 2017 Watercolor by Joan Sullivan*

nhc

NATURAL HEALING CENTER

LOCALLY OWNED | CENTRALLY GROWN

SLO COUNTY’S PREMIERE

Cannabis Dispensary!

EXPERT 1-ON-1 SERVICE

CBD & MEDICALLY FOCUSED PRODUCTS

SENIOR & VETERAN DISCOUNTS



FATHER’S DAY SPECIALS

BUY ANY EMERALD SKY PRODUCT,

GET A PACK OF PEANUT BUTTER CUPS FOR \$1

BUY 1 GET 1 FOR \$1 ON WYLD GUMMIES

Valid 6/20 only

GROVER BEACH

998 Huston St.

MORRO BAY

495 Morro Bay Blvd.

OPENING SOON

SAN LUIS OBISPO

2640 Broad St.

More great deals going on now thru 6/30

NHCDISPENSARIES.COM

C10-0000797-LIC