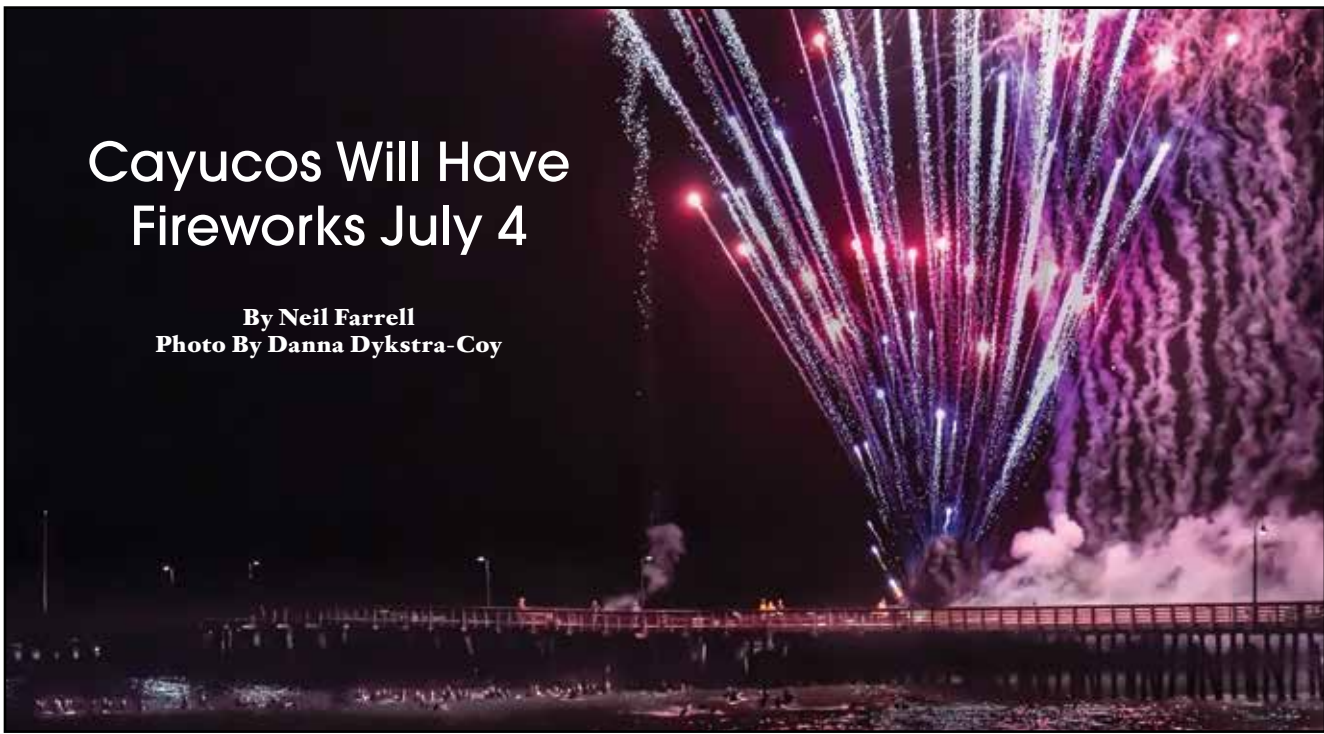


## Cayucos Will Have Fireworks July 4

By Neil Farrell  
Photo By Danna Dykstra-Coy



Like the Minutemen warriors who answered the Nation's call to arms in 1776, some folks in Cayucos have rode to the rescue of 4th of July in 2021, and there will be a fireworks show from the Cayucos Pier after nightfall on Independence Day.

The Chamber of Commerce has for several weeks been trying to pull together a limited public fireworks display for the first time since 2019, as the coronavirus pandemic prevented any celebration last summer and forced the cancellation of the official events organized by the Lions Club this year, too.

Brendan Fritzsche, owner of the Sand Castle Restaurant Group (Schooners), and the Chamber president, said they wouldn't know for sure if they've gotten the necessary permits for the fireworks show until Thursday, July 1, well after Estero Bay News' deadline for this issue. But on Monday, he said they were able to get past a paperwork logjam and all indications are that they will be able to put on a smaller than usual public display on the pier.

However, readers should be clear that as of our deadline, it wasn't a lock, and the Chamber said it wouldn't be doing a lot of advertising beforehand. The free show will fire off at 9 p.m. Sunday, July 4.

That could mean a seeing a show on a beach that's not overcrowded with as many visitors, as is normally the case every year.

Fritzsche added that there wasn't anywhere near enough time to organize a parade, as the parade takes a full year to prepare for, with the over 100 entries and crowds of over 20,000 people lining Ocean Avenue six deep.

And it is of course Cayucos, so don't be surprised if you see a few patriotic locals parading up and down Ocean Avenue in an impromptu parade, as happened last year.

And there won't be an official Sandcastle Sculpture Contest with prizes either, though Fritzsche said there are a few families planning to hit the beach at dawn and build sandcastles and sculptures, and do it just for fun.

And it is a free beach (and country), so if readers want to join in, they certainly can.

The Chamber will have its Front Street Fair from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., Fritzsche said, and folks are invited to come down, enjoy a bit of freedom, and see what's for sale. Fritzsche added that there should be a barbecue at the Vet's Hall, too.

And of course the Cayucos Beach and Pier are fully open.

On another note, there's been a concerted effort by officials and community groups to try and get people to stop shooting off fireworks on the beach.

"Cayucos is initiating an effort to eliminate illegal fireworks," reads a news release from Cal Fire, SLO County Sheriff's Department, California State Parks, the Cayucos Citizens' Advisory Council, and the Visitor Alliance Cayucos. "In recent years the increase in illegal fireworks has become both a nuisance and a safety concern."

They also put out a notice to visitors that will be handed out and posted around town advising of the crackdown on fireworks. Additionally, they sent out postcards to everyone in town,

**Fireworks** Continued on page 14

## Pacific Wildlife Care to Move

By Neil Farrell



This bobcat was one of three from Northern California that were rehabbed and released on a Cayucos ranch in conjunction with Pacific Wildlife Care.

For about 35 years, the volunteers with Pacific Wildlife Care in Morro Bay have come to the rescue of sick, injured and abandoned wildlife, nursing them back to health with the goal of returning them to the wild.

It's an organization that has hundreds of local volunteers and supporters but due to uncertainty over the future of its animal hospital and rehab center located on the Morro Bay Power Plant property, the non-profit organization is planning a major move to a new facility in SLO, lest it find itself abandoned.

Christine Johnson, a former Morro Bay City Councilwoman, was recently hired as PWC's first executive director and is taking on the monumental task of fundraising to build a new hospital. Fortunately, they have already gotten over one major hurdle — they have a piece of land to work with.

Johnson said she's been told that PWC started in the early 1980s, with people concerned about pelicans being caught in fishing line and then grew to be a certified organization to respond to oil spills and to rescue wildlife.

It's that hands-on work of the volunteers that's endeared the organization to local residents. "When we move," Johnson said, "we want to make sure we maintain that close relationship with Morro Bay and the rest of the community."

After several years of looking they found a 10-acre parcel on Buckley Road at Esperanza Road, which is off Hwy 227 (Broad Street) out by the County Airport. They had put a down payment on the property when someone donated the balance, some \$800,000.

**Move** Continued on page 14

## Swallowed by a Whale of a Tale

By Neil Farrell

It was Andy Warhol who predicted that everyone on earth would get at least 15 minutes of fame in his or her lifetime, owing to this modern, pop culture world. That prophetic prognostication came true recently for a former Morro Bay commercial fisherman.

Michael Packard, who fished salmon from here to Alaska and commercially dove for abalone and sea urchins off the Channel Islands but was based mainly in Morro Bay in the 1980s and for much of the 1990s, made worldwide news when he was engulfed by a humpback whale while diving off Cape Cod, Mass., and lived to tell the tale.

As "Pac-Man" (as many of his old friends, this reporter included, used to call him), explained it, during an appearance on the Jimmy Kimmel Show, he was descending in about 35-feet of water diving for lobsters, his new fishery of choice, when all of a sudden everything went black.

He told Kimmel that whatever hit him, hit him hard, "like a freight truck" and at first he thought he was in the mouth of a great white shark, which he's encountered plenty of times diving at the Channel Islands.

But, no, it was too big to be a shark and, he said, he didn't feel any teeth.

He realized he was in the mouth of a whale and thought OK, this is how it ends.

Kimmel, whose staff built a giant whale mouth and had Pac-Man sit inside it during the appearance, played coy and disbelieving, but Packard was matter-of-fact with his telling; plus he's a commercial fisherman, and making up a story this incredible isn't something he's inclined to do. (Fishermen would be the first ones to call B.S. on a story like this!)

He recounted moving fast through the water in pitch darkness, kicking and punching, and when the whale broke the surface, it spit him out. Pac-Man said he was inside the whale's mouth for 30-40 seconds.

To back up his story, his long-time deckhand and friend, Josiah Mayo, appeared with him to attest to the whale spitting his captain out when it broke the surfaced in a mass of boiling water. He pulled his captain into the boat and phoned his wife to tell her



Michael Packard, a former Morro Bay commercial fisherman, is all smiles in a Cape Cod hospital after surviving being inside the mouth of a humpback whale while diving for lobster off Cape Cod, Mass. Photo by Cape Cod Times

that he was OK and they were heading in and then going to the hospital. She called back to confirm the whale's tale that she'd been told.

Now, big as a humpback whale is, though this one was believed to be a juvenile, it eats the smallest of marine creatures — namely krill, baitfish and other planktonic critters. So while its mouth is huge, its actual throat is relatively small in diameter (no doubt to prevent the accidental inhalation of a 6-foot tall man in

**Swallowed** Continued on page 14

## Working Together to Alleviate the Homeless Crisis

By Theresa-Marie Wilson

The combination of the high cost of housing and low wages in SLO County creates economic insecurity and increasing rates of homelessness. The San Luis Obispo League of Women Voters recently held their final meeting in a series that discussed how to alleviate the issue.

The webinar, held June 21, was the fifth in the Lunch with the League series designed to provide an overview of the issue as well as talk about solutions to the growing problem with a panel of policymakers and service providers.

"Homelessness is a complex and critical issue for our community," said Ann Havlik, League co-president, during the meeting. "We have been focusing on education of this topic, to try to understand and learn about the challenges for understanding and addressing the problem and advocating for change."

The results of the 2019 Point in Time count, a measure of the number of sheltered and unsheltered homeless people on a specific day, recorded there were 1,483 individuals in San Luis Obispo County who met the HUD definition of homelessness. This represents an increase of 32% from 2017. Of those, 79 percent of the homeless were without shelter, 68 percent were men, 32 percent were women, and none identified as transgender.

Nearly 300 were considered chronically homeless and 144 were veterans. Of those veterans, 97 percent live without shelter. Ten percent of the total population is under 18 years of age, 11 percent are 18 to 24, and 79 percent are 25 or older.

The latest numbers show that 38% of the county population is at risk of being homeless.

**Working Together** Continued on page 14



Retiring from  
Chamber  
Page 6

Police  
Blotter  
Page 8



Local Author  
Remembered  
Page 13





# WRF Management Contract Amended Up

By Neil Farrell

Like most every other aspect of the City of Morro Bay's Water Reclamation Facility Project, the costs for managing the City's largest public works project ever, has jumped considerably from initial projections.

The City Council approved the fourth amendment to its contract with Carollo Engineers for program management services and like the other three amendments, the costs and services have greatly increased but still not high enough to force the City into another rate increase.

"When initially hired in April 2018," reads the June 22 Council staff report, "Carollo provided an estimate of \$7.64 Million for the entirety of the program management effort [anticipated end date in Fiscal Year 2022/23] for Carollo and their known sub-consultants and scope at that time.

"During the development of Amendment No. 2 in November 2019, Carollo revised the total program management projection to \$9.7 Million. During the Project budget reconciliation completed at the end of Quarter 3, FY 2019/20, the estimate at completion for Carollo was \$9.8 Million. It is now anticipated to be \$12.4 Million.

"None of those estimates would require an increase in the rates paid by the City's water and wastewater customers."

This fourth amendment of the contract actually brings the total to \$11.99 million, so there would seem to be an anticipated fifth amendment with next year's budget that would bring the contract up to the \$12.4M.

"Like Amendment No. 4," the report said, "all future amendments [budget allocations] will be developed with staff and brought to the City Council for review and approval through the annual budget process."

Carollo's management contract also includes overseeing the public outreach efforts, done through a sub-contractor, that are especially important now with the traffic controls on the Quintana Road business district, where the conveyance system is under construction.

They also oversee the archeological monitoring work, done by another consultant, as part of their management contract. This could also prove problematic as the project is going to trench right through known Native American archeological areas.

The project is supposed to be 90% complete by the end of the current fiscal year (June 30, 2022) with Carollo "supporting stakeholder meetings, project controls, public outreach, and permitting support. Construction of the Conveyance Facilities commenced in Q3 FY 2020/21 and the program manager is providing construction management services for that element of the project as well as archeological investigations and oversight for compliance with cultural resource monitoring requirements."

The City anticipates the conveyance system, which includes four new pipes being installed to bring the sewage to the new treatment plant off South Bay Boulevard, some 3.5 miles, and back again.

The bundle of pipes include two raw sewage main lines; a water return line to the old plant on Atascadero Road for discharging unusable wastewater into Estero Bay; and, a water line that will carry the highly treated wastewater back to a site on the power plant property where it will be injected into the ground for reuse and as a buffer to prevent seawater intrusion in the Morro Creek drinking water aquifer.

"The program manager," the City report continued, "has continued hydrogeological analyses, design, and permitting responsibilities related to the potable reuse system [injection wells]. These efforts as well as the installation of the pilot injection and monitoring well system will continue through FY 2021/22. Lastly, the program manager will execute a number of tasks related to the City's potable reuse and pretreatment ordinance requirements."

So the program management contract has now jumped from the initial \$7.6M to \$12.4M, just as the contract with Filanc/Black and Veatch, to construct the treatment plant jumped some several million after a landslide at the plant site in May 2020, plus delays dealing with federal red tape; and the conveyance system contract, initially estimated at \$26M by the City, was awarded to Anvil Const., for \$31M.

The City also spent some \$250,000 in attorney fees on a lawsuit against Vistra, which owns the power plant, in an eminent domain action seeking to force the company to grant utility easements for the WRF. Vistra had claimed the easements were worth \$6 million.

A judge was to essentially set the price but the two sides settled for \$1, with the City relinquishing a claim that it could buy

the plant property for \$1 in 2033 if it wasn't producing energy. Vistra committed to tearing down the old power plant by 2028, or pay the City \$3 million.

The City also agreed to cooperate with Vistra's efforts to build the world's largest lithium-ion battery storage facility at the power plant, another highly controversial project.

The City made no promises to approve the battery project, the application for which is now being reviewed by the planning department for completeness. It must undergo a full environmental impact review plus numerous public hearings that are likely to end up at the Coastal Commission in any event.

As part of a complex financing scheme, the City received a "Water Infrastructure & Funding Innovation Act" (WIFIA) loan from the Federal Environmental Protection Agency for \$62M at 0.85% interest, and so far, the savings in interest payments, some \$29M over the loan's lifetime, is such that despite the cost increases, the City has not had to ask water-sewer customers for a rate increase.

And the overall project costs now top \$144 million.

In July 2018, when ratepayers were asked to approve rate hikes that added a \$41 a month surcharge to their bills (which had already been raised to pay for a previous, abandoned project), the total costs were listed at \$126M.

City Manager Scott Collins said the \$144 million figure, "is based on updated projections for the conveyance system — more monitoring and dealing with delays from outside agencies. That number also includes several million in contingencies."

The City also has millions in cash available for the project, as the rates were set anticipating the City having to dole out over \$25 million to cover any gaps in the loan financing.

The City has been covering previous cost increases by biting into the healthy contingency that was built into the rate hikes. That coupled with the interest savings, has allowed the City to absorb increases without another rate hike.

Such rate increases are subject to a protest vote process under the State's Proposition 218. If over 50% of the property owners (or whomever pays the water/sewer bills), votes "No" to a proposed rate hike, the City cannot enact it.

This rarely happens with Prop. 218 votes, however, significant displeasure with the project among residents has grown greatly since construction started, and getting another rate hike for this project could prove difficult.

# City-Employee Unions Reach Deals

By Neil Farrell



There is peace in Morro Bay-land today, after the City and all of its employee unions reached salary contract agreements and all at the same time, eliminating the normal dance of each union coming to agreements in turn, and with none holding out for a better deal.

City Manager Scott Collins' staff report covers agreements with the Morro Bay Peace Officers Association; the Service Employees International Union Local 620 (SEIU); the Morro Bay Firefighters Association IAFF Local 3725; the unrepresented, Confidential Employees of the City of Morro Bay; the unrepresented Management Employees; and the various Department Heads. Even the City Manager has a new contract.

Everyone will get a 5% cost of living adjustment (COLA) and be reimbursed for some of the 5% pay cuts they all took last May (through Dec. 31, 2020) to help the City through the dark COVID budget days, when the shuttering of much of the economy to fight the spread of the coronavirus, put the City's revenues in serious doubt.

But last fiscal year wasn't so bad, as that summer's tourism

was actually pretty good despite the Governor's orders to stay home. And this next budget is balanced with a small surplus, and with relief monies expected to come from the federal government of nearly \$1 million this year and next the reserves should be replenished without trouble.

The voters, last November, also passed Measure E-20, a 1% local sales tax that should bring in \$2 million more a year; and there are also now two marijuana stores open and collection of a 5% cannabis tax has begun that could bring in nearly \$500,000 more a year.

So these modest raises wouldn't seem to put much of a drag on the City's finances.

"Total cost to the City in the Fiscal Year 2021/22 (FY 2021/22)," Collins said, "is approximately \$660,460, with \$520,565 in salaries and benefits, plus \$78,000 for potential lump sum payments, contingent upon the City meeting specified financial terms and conditions as defined in the agreements. These amounts have already been included in the proposed FY 2021/22 budget."

That budget, the largest in town history, has also now been approved.

Individually, the SEIU got the biggest amount at \$184,000 in the 5% COLA, and would also split \$41,000 lump sum (between 41 employees), for a total of \$252,000. (This total includes a special \$26,000 lump sum payment to members of the harbor department.)

Next highest was the police department at \$99,000 in salary and benefits, and \$15,000 lump sum (split 15 ways) for a total of \$149,000.

Managers and confidential employees were third at \$88,000 salaries and \$10,000 lump sum (10 ways), for a total of \$98,000.

The fire department was fourth with \$78,000 in pay and \$6,000 lump sum (split 12 ways — \$500 each), for a total of \$84,000.

The fire department's lump sums are lower because they were late to the pandemic cuts, as they didn't have a contract for much of the year and so didn't give up as much pay as others. The

## Correction

Last issue's story about the completion of the new Cayucos "Water Resources Recovery Facility," we incorrectly listed the name of the general contractor — the Cushman Contracting Corporation. Also, Rick Koon, is the Cayucos Sanitary District's general manager. We used a "C" in his last name.

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firefighters cut their pay 5% from October 2020 to Dec. 31, 2020. Firefighters and police were also essential workers and didn't lose any people to budget cuts either. Indeed, the City Council spent \$1 million of reserves to ensure the fire and police departments were fully funded.

Directors, of which there are five, got \$56,000 in salary/benefits and will split \$5,000 for a total of \$61,000. And the city manager is in a category by himself; getting \$12,000 COLA and \$1,000.

A 2016-17 City Council goal said the public is best served by, "attracting and retaining experienced, talented, and well-trained staff," Collins' report said, and minimizing turnover, "to the greatest extent possible."

The City hired a salary and benefits consultant who presented his report in December 2016 and concluded that in the jobs that were easily compared to those in other cities, Morro Bay was from 5% to 25% below the median.

"As a result," Collins said, "the Council at the time expressed a desire to compensate employees in a manner that attracts and retains high quality staff within the financial means of the City."

The City has reportedly addressed many of these short-pays but has not gotten to others, which have in turn fallen further behind, especially in the harbor department.

The SEIU's old contract called for "negotiations to discuss an equity adjustment of job classifications including Harbor Patrol Officer, Harbor Patrol Supervisor and Harbor Business Coordinator. While difficult to find comparable agencies in terms of both duties and the agency's ability to pay, an internal salary comparison conducted in 2019 showed Morro Bay to be 18%-21% below other harbors."

So in the SEIU contract there's an additional \$26,000 in "5% Harbor Equity Adjustments" bringing the SEIU's overall total of \$225,000 for every SEIU member, to \$252,000 including the harbor department's back pay.

And while the City employees usually get a COLA every year, they got none in 2020 and from 2017-2019 got 2% each year; coupled with the 5% now, the overall COLA increases have been 11% since 2017.

The lump sum payments come with a catch — two conditions must be met:

- The three major tax revenues — property, sales and bed taxes — must "meet or exceed the combined Fiscal Year 2020/21 forecasted amount of \$7,757,301 adopted by Council on June 23, 2020" (this doesn't count Measure Q, M-E or the cannabis tax); and,

- The City doesn't get any state or federal — or from any other external sources — unfunded mandates "that require significant unplanned and/or un-forecasted General Fund expenditure(s) of more than \$125,000 above the projected use of General Fund unassigned reserves equal to \$1,248,000 in the Adopted FY 2020-21 budget."

The new employee contracts are for just one year, expiring on June 30, 2022. This is normal as the City has only once reached a multi-year contract with its employees and that was over 10 years ago.

RTA Fares Return to Regular Rates



The almost free ride is over for bus riders. On July 1, the San Luis Obispo Regional Transit Authority (RTA) returned to collecting regular, pre-pandemic bus fares. During COVID-19 lockdowns, all of the bus pass sales outlets in the county were closed. In response, the RTA removed the need for a rider to purchase a bus pass, and reduced fares to 50¢ for general public riders and 25¢ for seniors, disabled and youth riders. Now, as the County's vaccination levels have increased, the bus pass sales offices are opening to the public and are able to sell bus passes again.

Also, due to social distancing mandates from the CDC and the Department of Transportation during the COVID 19 restrictions, the RTA reduced the number of riders that a bus could carry. These restrictions are now lifted and we have returned to the full capacity each vehicle is able to carry. Masks are still mandatory.

In response to rider's health concerns about riding a bus as the COVID-19 pandemic abates, the RTA has installed CARB certified dual polarity ion air enrichment emitters in all of their transit vehicles. The virus is an airborne contagion and the ion emitters clean the air of viruses and reduce the risk of exposure to them.

RTA says the ionization process has been proven to remove COVID-19 and other viruses, including H1N1, MRSA, and Staphylococcus. All transit vehicles also have added sanitizing gel dispensers to help keep surfaces germ free.

"Transit is an essential service that brings people to their jobs, schools, medical services and more," said RTA Executive Director Geoff Straw. "During the pandemic, we removed the need for bus passes to keep our services as accessible as possible and lowered capacity levels to keep everyone safe and healthy. We are glad that the impact of COVID-19 is declining and that we can return to pre-pandemic fares and capacity levels. The air ionizers are an amazing addition to our transit vehicles. Safety is always our highest priority and that doesn't just pertain to keeping our riders and employees safe on the road, it also means keeping them safe when they are riding inside our vehicles."

The RTA is currently running on an hourly bus schedule

Monday through Friday with additional Route 9 and Route 10 commuter express trips. Weekend schedules have not been changed. For detailed information about RTA's routes, schedules, bus pass sales outlets and fares, go to [www.slorta.org](http://www.slorta.org).

Pipeline Work Progressing



Workers on Quintana Road on the job at conveyance system for Morro Bay's Water Reclamation Facility

Work on the conveyance system for Morro Bay's Water Reclamation Facility project continues on Quintana Road and at four other sites in town, in 'Phase 2' of the now, \$144 million project. The pipes shown here were being installed on Quintana from Main Street to the first shopping center.

Traffic has been mostly one-way on Quintana with flagmen controlling the flow. The contractor, Anvil of San Francisco should now be wrapping up the relocation of a water main at the intersection of Kennedy Way and Quintana that closed that intersection completely for the past couple of weeks, and reopen it within the next few days.

Anvil also has a major construction site at the other end of Quintana from LaLoma to South Bay Boulevard and has taken over a property at the Roundabout, displacing the U-Haul Store that was there. U-Haul is supposed to move to the corner of Main and Hwy 41 at an old Shell gas station site.

The Roundabout site and another on Las Tunas consist of huge holes in the ground to allow the four pipelines of the project to be installed via horizontal drilling underneath the Roundabout.

The company is also building lift stations on Atascadero Road at the City Maintenance Yard, and on Main Street next to the Lemos Ranch Pet Store. It is slated to start work soon on a pipeline that will run from Lift Station No. 2, located deep below the Front Street parking lot near the Maritime Museum, through the power plant to Main Street to connect with the new lift station at Lemos Ranch.

Anvil's contract for the conveyance system was \$31 million but subject to change orders as the work progresses should unforeseen complications be dug up.

Readers are advised to be alert for construction-related traffic — trucks, excavators, heavy equipment — going through construction zones, be mindful of detours and obey the flagmen. Photo courtesy City of Morro Bay.

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New Officer, a Homecoming

By Neil Farrell



Ofc. Kevin McCool is the newest police officer to join the ranks at the Morro Bay Police Department.

Morro Bay’s newest police officer is a local boy who left for the big city and has now returned home to help keep his hometown safe.

MBPD recently welcomed Ofc. Kevin McCool to the force, filling a vacant spot on the team. Ofc. McCool was born in Northern California, said Cmdr. Amy Watkins. He attended Morro Bay High School and graduated with the class of 2007 (the “Double-07” Class). He played football and was on the track team, “So this is somewhat of a homecoming for Kevin.”

After high school, he worked for 6 years in the private sector and “was able to pursue his dream of serving in law enforcement and joined the California Highway Patrol,” Cmdr. Watkins said, “where he spent seven years working in Southern California.”

He recently moved back to the Central Coast and was able to return to Morro Bay as its newest police officer.

As is custom with a big agency like the CHP, he’s had a variety of duty assignments. “While serving with CHP,” Cmdr. Watkins said, “Kevin worked as a patrol officer, court officer, public information officer and in the training division.”

His hiring fills a position that’s been vacant for some time as the City has navigated some rocky seas with regards to its revenues amid the Coronavirus Pandemic response. But the City prioritized keeping its public safety departments funded, even as it made deep cuts elsewhere.

“We are excited about the level of experience and professionalism that Kevin brings to our team,” Cmdr. Watkins said. “Kevin has expressed his excitement about returning to work in Morro Bay and we look forward to having him.”

He will now undergo an extensive training period under the tutelage of training officers, to familiarize him with MBPD’s policies and procedures, and the town, though he should know his way around pretty well.



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News Briefs

By Theresa-Marie Wilson

Land Use Meeting Changed

The Los Osos Community Advisory Land Use Committee’s Zoom meeting has been rescheduled to Tuesday, July 6 at 7 p.m. in observance of July 4.

On the agenda: The CSD will make formal statements as to their concerns regarding the Los Osos water supply and further development. In support, the committee should consider making a statement to send to all relevant entities regarding concerns for the sustainability of the basin. LUC will discuss and vote whether or not to support the CSD and the other water purveyors in their efforts. If the vote is to support, the committee will compose a letter for LOCAC approval.

To get the Zoom access information, go to <http://locac.info/meetings/land-use-committee>.

Mask Update

Following recent Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) guidance related to masking for fully vaccinated people, the County of San Luis Obispo wants to remind people that the State’s updated Guidance for the Use of Face Coverings remains in effect. This guidance mandates face masks in indoor settings, with few exceptions.

“While we anticipate that state masking guidelines may change in the weeks ahead, they are currently still in effect, including in workplaces,” said Dr. Penny Borenstein, county health officer. “Many local businesses also have masking requirements in place, and I encourage everyone to respect and support these local business rules.”

Masks are not required for fully vaccinated individuals, except in the following settings where masks are required for everyone, regardless of vaccination status:

- On public transit
- Indoors in K-12 schools, childcare and other youth settings. This may change as updated K-12 schools guidance is forthcoming, pending updates for K-12 operational guidance from the CDC.
- Healthcare settings (including long term care facilities)
- State and local correctional facilities and detention centers
- Homeless shelters, emergency shelters and cooling centers

Additionally, masks are required for unvaccinated individuals in indoor public settings and businesses

The CDC’s updated recommendations for fully vaccinated people do not apply in situations covered by other federal, state, or local laws, including local business and workplace guidance. State rules, including those from the California Department of Public Health and Cal/OSHA, have not changed.

“The most powerful tool we have to protect our community’s health while moving beyond pandemic-related restrictions like masking is the safe, effective COVID-19 vaccine,” said Dr. Borenstein. “Now is the time to get vaccinated and put this pandemic behind us.”

Small Business Grant Program Successfully Closes

The County of San Luis Obispo Board of Supervisors officially announced the successful completion of the Small Business Grant Program. The program is part of the Road to Recovery initiative aimed at helping local businesses mitigate the harmful economic impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic.

**Small Business Grant Program Highlights**

- Originally earmarked \$50,000 in micro-grants for small businesses in unincorporated areas. Due to demand, this was extended to \$82,000.
- 30 businesses have been awarded with the initial \$50,000.
- Remaining 20 businesses will be funded with the additional \$32,000.

The number of businesses to be awarded at each tier are 44

at \$1,500 (1-10 employees), five at \$2,500 (11-25 employees) and one at \$3,500 (26-50 employees).

“As we await further funding for businesses from the American Rescue Plan, the Board of Supervisors was elated to bring financial support to the small business community that has been negatively impacted by COVID-19,” said Supervisor John Peschong in a press release. “This first round of funding helped us establish the infrastructure needed to support grants. As more relief monies become available, we will be able to act quickly and efficiently.”

Officials said the key strategic partner for the Small Business Grant Program was the Workforce Development Board who administered funds through the Department of Social Services.

“The County Board of Supervisors could not have executed this effort without the tremendous help from the Workforce Development staff,” said Supervisor Dawn Ortiz-Legg. “They provided the needed resources to create, review and authenticate all the applications.”

And Now for Something Completely Different



Researchers from Cal Poly are among a multi-university team that launched a community science project seeking to understand rattlesnake behavior by using cameras to view the snakes in their natural habitat.

Project RattleCam, which is hosted on the Zooniverse ([zooniverse.org/projects/projectrattlecam/project-rattlecam](https://zooniverse.org/projects/projectrattlecam/project-rattlecam)) community science website, gives members of the public the chance to analyze thousands of time-lapse images taken at rattlesnake dens near Steamboat Springs, Colorado.

Members of the public can register for a free Zooniverse account and immediately begin assisting with research by answering questions about the photos, including counting the number of adult and baby snakes in each photo, identifying predators, and more.

“Community science is a way of bringing the process of discovery to people from all walks of life, improving the accessibility of science,” said Emily Taylor, Cal Poly biology professor, project co-lead, and a nationally recognized expert on reptiles and amphibians. “We are really excited to work with community scientists to discover the secrets of rattlesnake behavior. There’s so much we don’t know yet about these fascinating creatures.”

Scientists estimate that the den of prairie rattlesnakes, located on a private ranch, has at least 1,500 snakes. The photos will allow researchers to: characterize rattlesnake maternal care; learn how they obtain water in this extremely dry habitat; examine whether the rattlesnakes preferentially spend time with certain individuals (a behavior similar to humans having friends); and determine which predators eat the rattlesnakes.

Often portrayed as vicious and scary, rattlesnakes are actually secretive creatures that do not want to bite people. Project RattleCam allows people to see the rattlesnakes behaving naturally, in a virtual setting.

“If people could just see the rattlesnakes in person, they would realize how gentle they are — and people might not be so likely to kill rattlesnakes,” said Taylor.

In the future, the research team will add cameras that livestream to YouTube. “Soon you all can tune in to watch rattlesnakes sunning themselves live from your own desk,” Taylor said.

The Project RattleCam website is at [centralcoastsnakeservices.com/projectrattlecam.html](https://centralcoastsnakeservices.com/projectrattlecam.html)

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

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## City Finals \$62M State Loan

By Neil Farrell

One of the last pieces of the financing puzzle for the Morro Bay sewer project has been finalized and the City is poised to fund the project through to the finish line, almost.

The Council approved borrowing up to \$85 million from the State Water Resources Control Board’s State Revolving Fund (SRF) loan program. The City would also roll into the new loan a previous \$10 million planning loan it got from the state water board several years ago, also for the WRF Project.

City Manager Scott Collins told Estero Bay News that they anticipate borrowing \$61-\$62 million more from the SRF program, on top of the previous \$10 million leaving some wiggle room. The interest rate with the SRF loan is pegged at 0.9%.

The City also borrowed \$62 million from the Federal EPA’s “Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act” or WIFIA, which came in at 0.83% interest. So for the second time, the City has borrowed money at extremely low interest rates saving millions in interest costs on the eventual payoff.

Under the SRF loan, the project funding amount is listed at \$66 million, and the City also got a \$5 million grant from the State water board it doesn’t have to pay back.

The SRF documents list the “Estimated Reasonable Project Costs” at over \$138.6 million. However, the City’s latest cost estimate is \$144 million.

Back in Summer 2018 when the ratepayers voted on new water-sewer rate hikes, the project costs were at \$126 million, a figure that didn’t hold up for long, once contracts started being let.

All the loans and grants total up to \$139 million, so the City at this point, would seem to be \$5 million short with its financing.

However, the original financing scheme anticipated using over \$20 million in “cash” raised through the City water and sewer rates, so that shortfall is already built into the rates.

Collins said if they do come up short, they can use the cash or go back to the water board and amend the loan amount at the same low interest rate.

Either way “Savings would hold up in that scenario,” he said.

The anticipated completion date is listed as Aug. 31, 2023 and the water board expects to get the final disbursement request from the City in March 2024. The loan is a reimbursement-type of loan, meaning the City has to cover construction costs and then bill the SRF program, a procedure that always has some lag time.

The City will work with Bartle Wells Assoc., the consultant that put together the original financing scheme “to explore a cost-effective means of managing cash flow for the remainder of this project’s construction,” Collins’ report said.

The SRF documents peg the final deadline to pay off the loan as Aug. 31, 2053.

## County Signs New \$1M Software Contract

Think your business software is expensive? San Luis Obispo County will spend more than a million dollars over three years to update its software programs and user licenses, picking a resale company from among bidders for similar services in Riverside County.

Supervisors agreed to a 3-year contract with Dell Marketing, LP for \$1.34 million over 3 years “to renew the Microsoft Enterprise Agreement for all Microsoft software and subscription services used by the County from Fiscal Year 2021-22 through FY 2023-24,” reads a staff report from the County’s head of IT, Daniel Milei.

The agreement with Microsoft sets prices and user entitlements for the various software used by all County departments including the Social Services Department, Health Agency, and the Assessor’s Office, which used to have their own agreements until last summer, when they were all brought under one.

Milei said that led to “reducing overhead by having a single countywide contract to renew and manage, eliminating unnecessary duplication of licenses, and enabling immediate access into the total investment in Microsoft products and services.”

The County picked Dell Marketing from 10 companies that answered a request for bidders process in Riverside County and was able to do so through an authorized, Licensing Solution Provider (LSP). The bids were based on a percentage mark-up or mark down from resellers of the software.

“Out of the rates offered by the resellers,” Milei said, “Dell Marketing, LP was the lowest and most competitively priced. Use of the Riverside County contract for the County’s Enterprise

Agreement renewal has and will provide a much larger volume discount and lower overall cost to the County for Microsoft products over the level that could be achieved negotiating the County’s own Enterprise Agreement.”

The County dealt with a bombshell from Microsoft. “Once Microsoft announced that it would discontinue support for Windows 7 desktop operating systems,” Milei said, “over 90 percent of all desktop machines at the County became obsolete.”

That led to a shift to a new program, Microsoft 365 from Office 365, he explained, which came bundled with Windows 10 and enhanced security features.

“Licensing the required Windows 10 operating system as part of a bundle provided savings of over \$57,000 annually as opposed to purchasing the licenses separately.”

Milei added that the new contract with Dell Marketing would save some \$72,500 over the 3-years compared with its former agreement with CDW Government, LLC.

## Sheriff Seeks Man-Woman Assailants

Sheriff’s deputies are looking for the man and woman that reportedly assaulted a juvenile boy inside his house in Cambria, forced entry under false pretenses, and then fled the scene.

According to Sheriff’s spokesman, Tony Cipolla, at about 2:30 p.m. Tuesday, June 15, a strange woman knocked on a door in the 1600 block of Richard Ave., Cambria.

“A male juvenile was inside his home when a woman came to their front door to complain about their dog being loose in the neighborhood,” Cipolla said. “The male juvenile exchanged words with the woman. The woman left but a few minutes later returned with a man who entered the home and physically assaulted the male juvenile.”

The couple fled the scene and the young man called 9-1-1. Deputies searched the area but were unable to locate them.

“Detectives are asking for the public’s help in identifying the suspects,” he said. The man was described as white, approximately 40-60-years old, 5-feet 9-inches tall, thin build, with short greyish colored hair, and wearing a grey shirt.

The woman was described as white, approximately 50-60-years old, 5’4” tall with shoulder length blond hair, glasses, wearing a blue and white striped shirt.

They need the neighbors’ help with tracking the couple. Detectives are looking for any home surveillance video from residences in the area with a time frame 1:30-3:30 p.m. June 15 that might have captured images of the suspect(s) leaving on foot in the area of Richard Avenue, Stuart Avenue or Bradford Road.

If readers have information regarding this case, contact the Sheriff’s Detective Division at 805-781-4500. Information can also be reported anonymously through Crime Stoppers at (805) 549-STOP (7867) or through the website: [www.slotips.org](http://www.slotips.org).

## Deputies, Paramedics Save Oceano Man’s Life

Emergency responders including two sheriff’s deputies are being credited with saving the life of a man who crashed his car in Oceano while having a medical emergency.

According to Sheriff’s spokesman, Tony Cipolla, at about 1:20 p.m., Monday, June 4, dispatch got a 9-1-1 call of an explosion heard and a vehicle possibly on fire in the 1900 block of Ocean St., Oceano.

“Deputies, fire and ambulance were dispatched to the scene,” Cipolla said in a news release. “Deputies from the Sheriff’s South Station in Oceano arrived within minutes of the initial call. They discovered a 69-year-old man was unconscious in a vehicle that appeared to have struck a parked car.”

Cipolla said they believe the man was having a medical emergency and that’s why he crashed. He was not breathing and had a faint pulse when deputies pulled him from the wreck and started to administer CPR.

The Five-Cities Fire Department and San Luis Ambulance soon arrived and took over CPR.

“After about 10-15 minutes of CPR and the use of a defibrillator,” Cipolla said, “paramedics located a pulse and observed the man breathing on his own, however shallow. The victim was transported to a local hospital for further treatment where he is said to be in stable condition.”

Cipolla credited the swift action of responders for saving the man’s life. “If not for the quick action of Sheriff’s personnel, San Luis Ambulance and Five-Cities Fire, the victim may not have survived the event,” he said.

The man’s name was not released by the Sheriff’s Department, as he’s not under arrest and to safeguard his medical privacy.

## Cal Poly Engineering Labs Receive \$350,000



Mitchell Berger works on a lathe in the Material Removal Lab in this 2018 photo. The lab is one of two being renamed to recognize Haas Automation and its nonprofit organization, the Gene Haas Foundation.

Two manufacturing labs at Cal Poly will be renamed in honor of a \$350,000 donation from the Gene Haas Foundation, which will help the labs remain up-to-date and safe for the hundreds of engineering students who use them every year.

“The new gift for the Gene Haas labs pairs two successful organizations, Cal Poly and the Gene Haas Foundation, and links together our interests toward graduating top-notch engineers and making sure our labs are state-of-the-art and in excellent condition,” said Dan Waldorf, chair of Cal Poly’s Industrial and Manufacturing Engineering Department.

To recognize Haas’ commitment, the material removal lab and the advanced machining lab, will be called the Gene Haas Material Removal Lab and the Gene Haas Advanced Machining Lab for the next 10 years.

Each facility will feature prominent signage with the Haas name and logo. Meanwhile, the donation will create an endowment for the lab to fund yearly technology, tooling and equipment upgrades. (The money cannot be used to purchase new or upgrade existing Haas equipment.)

“We should be on the cutting edge when teaching manufacturing engineering,” said Trian Georgeou, a lecturer in the industrial and manufacturing engineering department, who brought this opportunity to Haas. “In order to stay on the cutting edge, we have to continuously upgrade curriculum and equipment.”

The Oxnard, California-based Gene Haas Foundation partners with schools and organizations to expose students to careers in manufacturing and to provide scholarships to the students who choose a career in CNC machining and/or manufacturing engineering. When the foundation sought to boost its presence on college campuses, Georgeou responded with an in-depth proposal to support the labs.

The foundation was launched in 1999 by Gene Haas, founder of Haas Automation and a key figure in NASCAR and Formula One Racing. Haas Automation is the largest machine tool builder in the Western world, manufacturing a complete line of CNC vertical machining centers, horizontal machining centers, lathes and multi-axis machining products.

“Gene Haas believes that a strong manufacturing economy is vital to the strength of a nation,” said the Haas Foundation’s Kathy

CAL POLY Continued on page 6



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CAL POLY From page 5

Looman, director of education and Gene Haas Centers naming rights.

The foundation had previously sponsored labs at Cal Poly — including \$40,000 annually for student lab techs.

“The Engineering methodology at Cal Poly is completely aligned with the manufacturing industry as a whole as well as Haas and their customers,” Looman said. “In manufacturing, specifically in machining, the phrase ‘design for manufacturability’ is frequently used and extremely relevant.”

Many engineering programs, she added, have gravitated toward the theoretical side of teaching, losing sight of the manufacturing aspect of design.

Cal Poly students, Georgeou said, are first exposed to the design for manufacturability concept their freshman year. “So, when they get out to industry, they’re not going to design something that can’t be made,” he said. “They’re going to understand what can and can’t be done with these machine tools, and they’re going to get the projects done.”

The material removal lab is especially prominent in the college. Each year, some 700 students — typically freshmen, from numerous engineering programs — learn to use the machine tools there.

“We’re running four three-hour lab shifts a day in there,” Georgeou said. “We start basically at 8 in the morning, and we end at 9 at night.”

In the advanced lab, roughly 200 students — typically mechanical and manufacturing engineering majors — produce more-complex parts, molds and fixtures of their own design.

Both labs contain Haas machines that were offered to the college at educational-discounted prices. Those machines, Georgeou said, help students to be prepared for careers on day one.

“Most engineering students don’t get the opportunity to use CNC machines until maybe their junior or senior year,” he said. “And they’re not actually programming them or setting them up themselves — they’re just introduced to them. So, they’re not actually hands-on working on them like our engineering students do at Cal Poly.”

## Cambria Chamber Executive Director Retires

By Jill Turnbow

Wednesday, June 30 marked the end of an era at the Cambria Chamber of Commerce as Executive Director Mary Ann Carson, stepped down.

“After 24 years, I’m ready for a break,” said Mary Ann.

Mary Ann and her husband, William, found Cambria on a road trip and moved in 1997 after he was offered ownership in a real estate company. Having spent several years running her own medical transcription business in Montana, Mary Ann’s business skills adapted easily to the job of managing the Chamber. “Besides,” she said, “I’ll never have to drive in snow or ice again!” She had only been in town about three weeks when she took the job.

“It really doesn’t seem like 24 years,” said Mary Ann. “The job constantly changes and every day there is a new challenge. It’s

## Islay Campground Set to Open



Camping fans that like to enjoy our local natural beauty can soon return to the Islay Creek Campground at Montaña de Oro, which was scheduled to reopen, post deadline on July 1.

The campground was closed in March 2020 due to the pandemic.

Los Osos reader Petra Clayton was in the area recently and took this photo of State Parks maintenance staff vigorously weed whacking and mowing to prepare the area for campers.

Although camping was not permitted during the closure, nature enthusiast had plenty of reasons to frequent the site.

“During the 15 months of closure SLO County birders and out-of-county visitors alike, enjoyed roaming the campground loops in search of avian activity,” Clayton said. “They delighted in spotting rarities, such as red-eyed vireo, Baltimore oriole, plumbeous vireo, black-throated sparrow and streak-backed Oriole. During the closure wild turkeys and white-tailed deer were frequently seen quietly foraging and resting in the campground.”

For more information about camping or to make a reservation, call 805-772-6101.

never dull.”

When Mary Ann first took the job, there was no internet, no QuickBooks, no website. She brought the Chamber into the digital world and continued to update their online presence. Just recently she helped develop the new website.

Oz Barron, Chamber vice-president and owner of the Ball & Skein, says “It’s astonishing what Mary Ann has accomplished over the years. She has done an incredible job and is just a delight to work with. This is a huge loss for the Chamber.”

When asked what Mary Ann enjoyed most about heading up the chamber, she credits the many volunteers that have passed through the doors over the years. “It’s been great getting to see these people every day. And to meet all the different people who stop in.”

The Cambria Chamber of Commerce is the information center for the entire community. Tourists as well as locals know they can stop in to find out everything they need to know.

“It’s a small town,” Mary Ann said. “One time we helped connect a visitor with someone they once knew, could only describe them, couldn’t remember their name, but we figured it out.



Mary Ann Carson stepped down as the Cambria Chamber of Commerce Executive Director after nearly a quarter of a century. Photo by Jill Turnbow

Director Retires Continued on page 13

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# Community

## Events and Activities

By Theresa-Marie Wilson



**Enjoy a family-friendly yoga class** at the San Luis Obispo Botanical Garden this summer on Mondays in July from 12:30 to 1:30 p.m. This is an anatomy focused, gentle yoga class at the Botanical Garden’s beautiful indoor and outdoor venues. Meet new, garden-loving friends as you stretch, relax, and connect with your breath. This class is great for kids, seniors, and everyone in between. Arrive at the Garden’s Gift Shop a few minutes prior to class, bring your own mat, water and desired props.

Admission to the Garden Yoga class includes all-day access to the Botanical Garden grounds. Classes are \$15 for public, and \$5 for Garden Members and kids under 13.

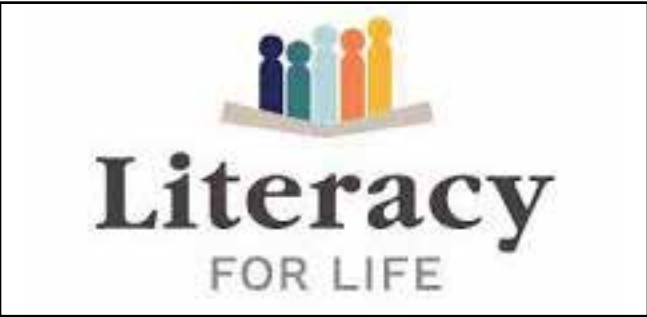
About the Presenter: Lindsey is a nature-loving yoga teacher, Reiki Master and new mom. She began teaching youth environmental education classes at the San Luis Obispo Botanical Garden in 2010. She received her masters in teaching biological studies in 2016 from Miami University. And became a certified yoga teacher in 2018. Photo by Lindsey Morgan

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**If your young performer is interested** in a remote summer program this year, have them check out the Opera San Luis Obispo Opera Camp that takes place July 12-23 from 9 a.m. -12 p.m.

Each singer will perform two virtual chorus pieces, one solo, and a monologue. Guest instructors will join in from all over the U.S. to discuss monologue work, acting technique, posture, vocal health, the history of the American Songbook, and more. All classes and coaching occur via Zoom and will culminate in a final “Watch Party” performance of “For The Love of Music: A Journey Through the American Songbook” on Friday, July 23 at

6 p.m.  
The cost is \$275. For more information and an application, contact [marissa@marissabloom.com](mailto:marissa@marissabloom.com).



**Literacy For Life has a San Luis Obispo** countywide need for tutors. Work one-on-one with non-literate adults learning to read, write, and speak English. This tutor training will be held virtually. As they slowly transition to in-person tutoring, this training will focus on hybrid models of tutoring, including how to tutor both virtually and in-person.

Tutor Training Workshops take place via Zoom on Saturday, August 14 and Saturday, August 21. If you are interested in attending the training but need help with using zoom, email [assistant@literacyforlifeflo.org](mailto:assistant@literacyforlifeflo.org).

Tutors must attend both Zoom training sessions. Training sessions are free of charge. Both sessions are from 10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. with a 10-minute break and the last half hour for questions. Additional training components are required and will be available as webinars to accommodate attendee’s independent participation. For more information or to sign up, call 805-541-4219, email [assistant@literacyforlifeflo.org](mailto:assistant@literacyforlifeflo.org), or visit their website at [www.literacyforlifeflo.org](http://www.literacyforlifeflo.org).



**Sponsors are needed for year’s Butterfly Ball event,** the Monarch Masquerade put on by the Central Coast State Parks Association on Oct. 23 at the Octagon Barn in SLO. This year’s event will feature mixology, a silent auction, performances by the Civic Ballet and other special guests, a guided art experience, delectable dining, informative speakers, and dancing to local Americana band The Mother Corn Shuckers. Most importantly, funds from this event will support the preservation of the Western Monarch butterfly, an iconic and beloved species on the brink of extinction that overwinters in our local State Parks.

The goal of the Butterfly Ball is to raise funds for a program they are launching called the Western Monarch Trail. The pur-

pose of this effort is to shine a light on the plight of the Western Monarch population, which has declined more than 90% since the 1990s. This campaign will provide resources and educational materials that focus on preservation in locations where Western monarchs overwinter, including the Pismo State Beach Monarch Butterfly Grove and other local sites. CCSA will collaborate with other organizations and overwintering sites, such as Natural Bridges State Beach in Santa Cruz, the Xerces Society, the California Department of Fish and Wildlife, and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, with the hope of rebuilding the population of this valuable species.

Anyone interested in being a sponsor should contact Event Coordinator Monica Rutherford with any questions at [programs@centralcoastparks.org](mailto:programs@centralcoastparks.org). Photo by Brian Baer

...

**As part of the 2021 Summer Reading Program** “Tails and Tales.” SLO County Libraries will premier a story time from around the USA, each recorded in a different state each Friday throughout the summer. Travel to a different state each week, sing songs, hear stories, and view the beautiful landscape that makes that state unique. Each story time was made just for you and your children to have a quick trip around the country without ever leaving home. Go to [slolibrary.org](http://slolibrary.org) and find the event on the Event Calendar tab.



**Rosemary Pisciotto, a friend of Cambria Center** for the Arts and a very prolific life-drawing artist, passed away in 2020. The CCA Gallery will honor her and her art with a virtual retrospective in hopes that everyone can enjoy the beauty that was expressed in her paintings. This virtual show will be available on the website [CambriaArts.org](http://CambriaArts.org) 24/7 from July 3 – August 29, in addition to past virtual shows for your viewing pleasure. There are also links, dates and details regarding a closing reception for this show in late August.

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**Don’t miss the San Luis Obispo Sportsmen’s** Association annual Fish Fry Dinner on July 25. The planned menu starts with BBQ oysters for an appetizer. For dinner, there will be homemade New England clam chowder, grilled and fried fish, deep fried calamari, hush puppies, french fries, and coleslaw. A beverage is included with each meal and save room for a root beer float for dessert. Appetizers are served at 5:30 p.m. and the main course at 6. The price is \$18 for adults and \$12 for kids under 12. They appreciate reservations in advance to help them plan and also guarantee your place, so RSVP by July 14 by email to [julia@slosamgr@gmail.com](mailto:julia@slosamgr@gmail.com). Note, there is no need to pay in advance. All payments are cash or check “at the door”.

As always, the dinner will be served in the SLOSA education building. If you are new to SLOSA, the education building is the large meeting hall just past the rifle-pistol range and in front of the trap & skeet ranges.

Events Continued on page 9

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Police Blotter



Morro Bay Police Logs

- **June 20:** Police responded to a reported assault at 9:44 p.m. in the 400 block of Rennel. Logs indicated a 23-year-old woman was allegedly assaulted by a 29-year-old apparent battleaxe, “causing serious bodily injury,” according to the logs. The victim reportedly made “criminal threats” to her alleged assailant after being assaulted.
- **June 20:** Police responded to the 400 block of Napa where a woman said some thief apparently stole her credit card out of her car and later used it in Paso Robles.
- **June 20:** Police arrested a 31-year-old mulish man for violation of a domestic violence restraining order.
- **June 19:** Police responded at 8:30 p.m. to a disturbance in the 1100 block of Market. A 31-year-old woman and a 29-year-old man were nicked for suspicion of being forshnicked in public.
- **June 19:** A woman in the 800 block of Napa was a victim of check fraud, and the task force was no doubt alerted.
- **June 18:** Police stopped a suspicious vehicle at 11:16 p.m. in the 1300 block of Main. A 53-year-old saucy lady was nabbed for suspicion of driving on the sauce.
- **June 18:** Police called the Coroner’s Office to the 2900 block of Cedar for a citizen who slipped out of Paradise for Heaven.
- **June 19:** Police reported the arrest of a 14-year-old juvenile for suspicion of possessing stolen property that police allege connects him to several vehicle burglaries in Los Osos and Morro Bay. The hooligan was booked into the SLO County Juvenile Hall Detention Facility and no doubt soon released.
- **June 18:** Someone turned in a handgun at the police station that they were no doubt aiming to get rid of.
- **June 18:** Police responded at 2:37 p.m. to a disturbing fellow scarin’ the straights in the 500 block of Quintana. A 40-year-old suffered intoxicifornication and slept it off in the hoosegow.
- **June 17:** Police responded at 9 p.m. to the 400 block of Kodiak where they arrested a 47-year-old woman for suspicion of child abuse.

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- **June 17:** Police responded at 8:23 p.m. to Rite Aid where some squeaky wheel, 47, was well oiled. He was put out of our misery in the lockup.
- **June 17:** Police responded at 5:44 p.m. to the 1800 block of Main for a man raising a ruckus. The 62-year-old buttery fellow was arrested for being toasted and violating parole.
- **June 17:** Police contacted 14-year-old boy at 12:15 p.m. in the 1100 block of Front St. He was cited for alleged possession of pepper spray, as apparently a non-lethal self-defense weapon is illegal for teenagers.
- **June 17:** Police responded to the 700 block of Quintana at 10:48 a.m. for a disturbance. A 38-year-old woman was nicked for alleged possession of inhalants and being groovy in public, plus a probation violation.
- **June 16:** Police opened an investigation to suspected “lewd and lascivious acts with a minor” that detectives will follow up on.
- **June 16:** Police caught up to a 28-year-old woman somewhere in town and cited the scofflaw for a bench warrant, as her trip aboard the groove train leaves the station.
- **June 16:** Police recovered a stolen vehicle in the 400 block of Atascadero Road and arrested a 47-year-old man for suspicion of auto theft and possession of paraphernalia plus a few other charges that logs didn’t mention.
- **June 15:** Police responded to a disturbance at 11:38 p.m. in the 1200 block of Main. They arrested a 37-year-old raucous fellow for allegedly being juiced in public.
- **June 15:** Police contacted another repeat customer at 8 p.m. in the 600 block of Quintana. The 29-year-old gent had a bench warrant and was cited and let loose to catch another day.
- **June 15:** Police stumbled upon another recycler at 4:51 p.m. in the 300 block of Quintana. The 40-year-old skipjack had a bench warrant and got a second one for our trouble.
- **June 15:** Mechanics Bank in the 200 block of Harbor reported getting two fraudulent checks totaling \$689, which won’t exactly break the bank.
- **June 15:** Police responded at 6:36 a.m. to a home on Main Street where a 25-year-old man died of an apparent overdose at his father’s house.
- **June 14:** Police responded at 9:10 p.m. to a home in the 700 block of Pacific for a restraining order violation. A report was sent to the D.A. for possible action, this time.
- **June 14:** Police responded to a fender-bender at 6:53 p.m. at an undisclosed location. A 39-year-old woman involved in the crash was arrested for suspicion of driving stoned and possession of drugs and paraphernalia. She went to the gaol without a fuss.
- **June 14:** Police contacted a Yo-Yo offender at 5:52 p.m. in the 300 block of Quintana who had eight bench warrants. Make that nine...
- **June 14:** Police responded at 4 p.m. to Market and Pacific for a report of a man who did not want to live anymore. He apparently changed his mind when police arrived.
- **June 14:** Police responded at 12:41 p.m. to a disturbance in the 1000 block of Main. Secret agent Double-O I.Q., 47, was taken to the County home for wayward folks to sleep it off.
- **June 14:** Police contacted a suspicious woman, 63, at 9:47 a.m. in the 900 block of Piney Way who had a bench warrant. She was cited and released on her solemn promise to appear next time.
- **June 13:** Police responded at 6:34 p.m. to the 3400 block of Toro Lane where a woman said some suspected nodcock smashed her car window and stole her purse. Police decided they had insufficient evidence to proceed. The day before at 5:19 p.m. police got a call in the same vicinity of another car burglary, but no broken window that time, as some territorial moonraker is apparently at work.
- **June 13:** Police contacted a repeat customer at 11:23 a.m. in the 900 block of Main. The 44-year-old apparent swagman was cited and released on a warrant with a new ticket for suspicion of possessing illegal drugs and a crack pipe, so he’s double-gob-smacked.
- **June 12:** Police contacted a walkin’ dude at 11:50 p.m. at Radcliff and Little Morro Creek Road. The 48-year-old fellow was cited for alleged possession of a hookah pipe, his stash no doubt gone up in smoke.
- **June 12:** Police stopped a suspicious vehicle at 10:13 p.m. on Hwy 1 North at Morro Bay Boulevard. Logs indicated the 29-year-old chap was arrested for suspicion of DWS (driving while stoned) and possessing paraphernalia.
- **June 12:** Police responded at 7:47 p.m. to a home in the 400 block of Tulare. Logs indicated someone burgled the home and made off with \$15,328.00 worth of valuables, the biggest home burglary in quite some time.
- **June 12:** Police contacted a suspicious woman at 4:30 p.m. in the 500 block of Piney Way. Logs indicated the 28-year-old woman was arrested for suspicion of committing a residential burglary at that same address, as her getaway scheme apparently needs work.
- **June 11:** Police contacted a suspicious woman at 9:35 p.m. at an undisclosed location. The 40-year-old swizzle stick was arrested for suspicion of being under the influence and of course

- resisting arrest. She crashed at the Iron Bar Hotel.
- **June 11:** Police contacted a familiar face at 7:41 p.m. some-where by the roundabout. The 63-year-old scofflaw had a warrant and was cited and released, a case of getting stuck on the criminal justice roundabout.
- **June 11:** Police responded at 9 p.m. to the 3000 block of Toro Lane (sound familiar?) where citizens reported a vehicle burglary and “attempts by the suspect to obtain money from the ATM machines from two different locations,” as this fellow apparently moves fast.
- **June 11:** A business in the 500 block of MBB reported getting a bogus check.
- **June 11:** Police contacted a family in the 100 block of Mindoro regarding one of their relatives having an episode of mental break-down.
- **June 11:** Police stopped a suspicious vehicle at 11:47 p.m. at Mobil Gas Station in the 900 block of MBB. Logs said the 50-year-old driver was nicked for suspicion of driving stoned and a female passenger, 40, was arrested on “multiple drug charges.”
- **June 10:** Police responded at 6:41 p.m. to South Bay Boulevard and State Park Road for another car burglary report. Again, the phantom scamboogah left behind no clues to follow.
- **June 10:** Police spotted a suspicious vehicle at 2:37 a.m. driving on the wrong side of the road down Quintana from the 300 block to Main Street, where they pulled the driver over. Logs indicated the 31-year-old wasn’t drunk but was cited for lousy driving.
- **June 9:** Police contacted a suspicious fellow at 12:30 p.m. in the 300 block of Quintana Pl. Logs indicated the 34-year-old miscreant was cited for suspicion of possessing a crack pipe, his stash no doubt hidden where the sun don’t shine and the cops won’t search.
- **June 9:** Police responded at 10:20 a.m. to the 500 block of Quintana where they arrested an apparent vandal that was going all woolly-booger. Logs indicated they had the misbegotten knave on security video vandalizing the place. Still, they cited and released him.
- **June 9:** Someone found something that some unknown citizen lost somewhere in Tideland’s Park and for some reason gave it to police, as it apparently wasn’t a finder’s keepers kind of thing.
- **June 9:** At 2:32 a.m., on what must have been a slow night, police towed a car out of the 400 block of Quintana for an expired registration.
- **June 9:** Police contacted a suspicious fellow, 35, at 2 a.m. in the 400 block of Quintana. He had two bench warrants out of Tulare County and was given a third out of SLO County and released, ‘cause these days they throw back the little ones.
- **June 7:** Police responded to yet another car burglary on Toro Lane. At least this one was locked and no doubt took some effort.
- **June 7:** Doing laundry sucks and that was illustrated when some crankypated fool vandalized a washing machine at a Laundromat in the 500 block of Quintana.
- **June 7:** Police contacted a suspicious man at 11 a.m. in the 300 block of Quintana. Logs indicated the 49-year-old idler was cited for having a suspected crack pipe, but alas no drugs, but circle back in about 30.
- **June 7:** Someone found some undisclosed nasty thing behind Albertson’s and police took it away to be destroyed.
- **June 7:** An apparent homeless fellow had the first of several run-ins with Johnny Law when he was found schnockered at 4:37 a.m. in the 700 block of Quintana. His match was struck on suspicion of being blotto and arson.
- **June 7:** Police contacted another apparent Scruffy Philistine at 4:13 a.m. sneaking around Albertson’s Market in the 700 block of Quintana. The 47-year-old fellow had two bench warrants, was written a third and released back into the wild.

Care to explain why my ball was hidden under the covers?



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**Events** From page 7



Suggested donation for the presentation is \$5 for Garden members / \$10 for public. No pre-registration required, pay at the Garden. For more information, contact [education@slobg.org](mailto:education@slobg.org).  
Photo by Stuart Palley

In addition to this exhibit, Art Center Morro Bay will feature beautiful wood turned vessels, bowls and other three-dimensional artworks by special guest artist, Larry Truesdale!

A watercolor illustration of various insects. In the upper center is a large, pale moth with black markings on its wings. To its left is a butterfly with vibrant orange and red wings. Below the butterfly is a yellow and black caterpillar. To the right of the caterpillar is a cluster of small, green, round objects, possibly eggs or a small plant. The background is a soft, blended wash of colors, including shades of orange, yellow, and green.

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



For the full list of contest winners and more information, visit [centralcoastfilmsociety.org](http://centralcoastfilmsociety.org).



The flyer features a background of the American flag, with the stars and stripes visible. At the top, the NHC logo is centered, with the text 'nhc' in a script font and 'NATURAL HEALING CENTER' in a smaller, sans-serif font below it. Below the logo, the text 'LOCALLY OWNED | CENTRALLY GROWN' is displayed. The main headline reads 'SLO COUNTY'S PREMIERE Cannabis Dispensary!' in a large, bold, sans-serif font, with 'Cannabis Dispensary!' in a script font. Below this, three bullet points are listed: 'EXPERT 1-ON-1 SERVICE', 'CBD & MEDICALLY FOCUSED PRODUCTS', and 'SENIOR & VETERAN DISCOUNTS'. The central part of the flyer features the text 'INDEPENDANCE DAY DEALS' in a small, sans-serif font, followed by '15% OFF' in a very large, bold, sans-serif font, and 'STOREWIDE' in a large, bold, sans-serif font. Below this, the text 'NHC MORRO BAY' is displayed. A horizontal line separates this from the text '7/4 only'. Below another horizontal line, three locations are listed: 'GROVER BEACH 998 Huston St.', 'MORRO BAY 495 Morro Bay Blvd.', and 'SAN LUIS OBISPO 2640 Broad St.'. At the bottom, the text 'More great deals going on now thru 7/15' is displayed, followed by the website 'NHCDISPENSARIES.COM' in a large, bold, sans-serif font. The text 'C10-0000797-LIC' is visible in the bottom right corner.

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Community

Live at the Lighthouse -  
Mother Corn  
Shuckers - July 10



Unquestionably one of the most breathtaking venues for live music is the historic Point San Luis Lighthouse, perched high atop the the ocean just past Avila Beach. Local favorites, The Mother Corn Shuckers, kick off the 2021 concert series on Saturday, July 10 from 3:00 to 7:00. Since the road out to the lighthouse is not open to the public, you’ve got couple of ways to get there. Depending on the type of ticket you buy, you can get a round trip shuttle from Port San Luis or you can paddle out to Lighthouse Beach if you’d prefer. This is a bucket list concert experience and the Mother Corn Shuckers always sell out and serve up a ton of fun. Other concerts on this series: The FRENZ, featuring Kenny Lee Lewis of the Steve Miller Band, Zongo All-Stars, Carbon City Lights, Back Pages Band, 41k featuring Damon Castillo and Dave Becker, and the Tippy Gypsies. Tickets are limited and are on sale now at PointSanLuisLighthouse.org.

- Fri., Jul. 2 • 6:00pm**  
Brass Mash - First Fridays  
Liquid Gravity  
675 Clarion Court,  
San Luis Obispo

**Fri., Jul. 2 • 5:00pm**  
The Cliffs: Will Bremen  
The Cliffs Hotel & Spa  
2757 Shell Beach Road,  
Pismo Beach

**Fri., Jul. 2 • 4:30pm**  
Crimsom Skye  
Puffers of Pismo  
781 Price Street, Pismo Beach

**Fri., Jul. 2 • 7:00pm**  
Cuesta Virtual Faculty Con-  
cert, Summer 2021  
cuesta.universitytickets.com  
Highway 1, San Luis Obispo

**Fri., Jul. 2 • 8:00pm**  
Flannel 101~ The Ultimate  
90’s party rock band!  
The Siren  
900 Main St, Morro Bay

- Fri., Jul. 2 • 7:00pm**  
The Ragged Jubilee /  
Pancho & The Wizards  
SLO Brew Rock  
855 Aerovista Place,  
San Luis Obispo

**Fri., Jul. 2 • 12:00pm**  
Ras Danny  
Cape Cod Eatery  
1127 Shell Beach Road,  
Pismo Beach

**Fri., Jul. 2 • 5:00pm**  
Terry Lawless  
Cape Cod Eatery  
1127 Shell Beach Road,  
Pismo Beach

**Sat., Jul. 3 • 6:30pm**  
Cubensis (A Grateful Dead  
Tribute) SLO Brew Rock  
855 Aerovista Place,  
San Luis Obispo

Sat., Jul. 3 • 7:30pm  
Molly Ringwald Project  
The Siren  
900 Main St, Morro Bay

Schooners launches Live  
Outside Concert Series -  
July 4



Everyone knows that Cayucos is THE place to be for the 4th of July, and that’s when Schooners kicks off their weekly concert series for an unforgettable experience with live music right at the beach. This party goes all day and all night - starting at 12:30. Live bands include Vantablack, Porcelain Hill, and headliners Dead Poet Society. There are DJs to fill in the vibe between bands as well. This is free and open to all ages, and no ticket is necessary. Then every Sunday through October you’ll find great live music at Schooners, including Robert John & the Wreck, Wordsauce, Cloudship, The Bogeys, Lauren Hall, True Zion, and more. Check out the full lineup on the event page at BigBig SLO.com.

- Sat., Jul. 3 • 2:00pm**  
Will Bremen  
Sea Pines Golf Resort  
1945 Solano St, Los Osos

Sun., Jul. 4  
Atascadero 4th of July Blue-  
grass Freedom Festival  
Atascadero Lake Park  
Atascadero

**Sun., Jul. 4 • 3:00pm**  
Unfinished Business”Sizzlin  
Summer Concerts  
Ramona Garden Park Center  
993 Ramona Ave,  
Grover Beach

**Sun., Jul. 4 • 8:30pm**  
Legends Rock ’n Roll Revue  
The Siren  
900 Main St, Morro Bay

**Sun., Jul. 4 • 12:30pm**  
Live Outside: Dead Poet  
Society  
Schooners  
171 N Ocean Ave., Cayucos

- Sun., Jul. 4 • 8:00pm**  
London Dave and the Fog  
The Siren  
900 Main St, Morro Bay

**Thu., Jul. 8 • 5:00pm**  
Kevin Graybill  
The Cliffs Hotel & Spa  
2757 Shell Beach Road,  
Pismo Beach

**Thu., Jul. 8 • 6:00pm**  
Live Music on 4 Stages  
Downtown SLO Thursday  
Farmers’ Market  
Higuera Street,  
San Luis Obispo\*\*

**Fri., Jul. 9 • 5:00pm**  
Surfeza  
The Cliffs Hotel & Spa  
2757 Shell Beach Road,  
Pismo Beach

**Fri., Jul. 9 • 8:00pm**  
Fan Halen  
The Siren  
900 Main St, Morro Bay

Paul’s  
Picks



The Siren has reopened its stage and is running on all cylinders to bring great concerts to the North Coast. They’re offering a good mix of free and ticketed shows, and you’ll want to check out their website to grab tickets for some shows. The Siren is a small, state of the art venue, and we’re lucky to have such a great resource right here in Morro Bay. Upcoming shows include: Molly Ringwald Project, The B-Side Players, The Purple Ones (Prince Tribute), Patrick Contreras (Violin on Fire), One Drop Redemption, Electric Six, Hooobastank, Surfer Blood, Yachtley Crew, and much more. They’ve even brought back the Tuesday Night Blues Jam! Head on over to The Siren and enjoy some shows.  
Full lineup can be found at TheSirenMorroBay.com

- Fri., Jul. 9 • 5:30pm**  
Flavor Packet  
Rava Wines  
6785 Creston Road,  
Paso Robles

**Fri., Jul. 9 • 7:00pm**  
Wolf Jett w/ Balto  
SLO Brew Rock  
855 Aerovista Place,  
San Luis Obispo

**Sat., Jul. 10 • 2:00pm**  
DV8 Band\*\*  
Sea Pines Golf Resort  
1945 Solano St, Los Osos

**Sat., Jul. 10 • 7:30pm**  
Stevie Nicks Illusion  
Rava Wines + Events  
6785 Creston Road,  
Paso Robles

**Sat., Jul. 10 • 12:00pm**  
Terry Lawless  
Cape Cod Eatery  
1127 Shell Beach Road,  
Pismo Beach

- Sun., Jul. 11 • 1:00pm**  
Lazy Locals- Dante Marsh and  
the Vibesetters  
Castoro Cellars  
1315 North Bethel Road,  
Templeton

**Sun., Jul. 11 • 12:30pm**  
Live Outside: Robert Jon &  
the Wreck  
Schooners  
171 N Ocean Ave., Cayucos

**Thu., Jul. 15 • 5:00pm**  
Noach Tangeras  
The Cliffs Hotel & Spa  
2757 Shell Beach Road,  
Pismo Beach



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**Happy Independence Day**  
Wishing you and your family a safe and festive July Fourth holiday.

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10

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# 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

What Sprang Up in Our Neighborhood?

By Debbie Black



What the heck is that? What will the next blob blow up to be at the Happy Little Holiday House? Photo by Debbie Black

Our neighborhood in Cayucos is probably just like yours if you have the good fortune to live here on the coast — it’s wonderfully organic.

Being a retired landscape architect, organic suits me just fine. Tiny bungalows, new crispy contemporary houses and everything in between — all different colors, no two houses alike. No sidewalks. Even the horrible mess of overhead wires has a somewhat slap-dash, organic nature.

Are there lots of trashcans and a few weedy yards? Sure, but I now prefer that to a tightly regulated, uniform neighborhood. I’ll take the organic, eclectic, and relaxed and all that comes with it.

We’re a neighborhood of walkers. We stroll with our dogs down the middle of the street. The lack of sidewalks is okay with us. Drivers wave and ease past as we scuttle to the side.

A chalkboard by the front door of one house offers wise words like, “Every day may not be a good day, but every day has some good in it.” At another house, a small umbrella shades a basket offering good avocados for \$1.25. We’ve had a neighborhood

iguana, various macaws and exotic birds, as well as all manner of wildlife. We have singles, couples, families, babies, nonagenarians as well as a myriad livelihoods and professions, active and retired.

As varied as we are, the one thing we have in common is our love of the bay. Beautiful, dynamic Estero Bay. The Great Unifier that brought us all to this place and gives us cause to appreciate every foggy, sunny, windy, calm, crowded, or quiet day.

So, our neighborhood probably sounds just like yours. We do, however, have something uniquely ours—the Happy Little Holiday House. That’s what I call the sweet turquoise cottage on Orville Avenue that I walk by every day with my dog, Chase.

A few years ago, the little cottage was purchased by Nelson and Erin who lovingly reroofed it, painted it a happy turquoise with festive awning and installed new landscaping, a tiny front yard sitting area with striped umbrella and new white picket fence. But wait! This cheerful addition to the neighborhood gets better.

Enter the ideal renters, Marcia and Tawnya, who moved into the little cottage in December 2019 and immediately began adding fanciful garden decorations. Every day, I noticed something new: hearts, stars, a red glass ball, stacked stones...

Then one day in October 2020 (deep into the bleak pandemic), a curious blob materialized in one of their planters. What the heck was that? Neighborhood anticipation didn’t last long. A few days later, right before Halloween, up popped a 10’ tall ghost—much to the delight of all of us, from toddlers to seniors.

“We got so much positive feedback and the neighbors all made a point of letting us know how much they loved and enjoyed it, that we decided to do it for every holiday—becoming our holiday tradition,” Tawnya and Marcia shared with me.

They said the kids in the neighborhood have a contest to guess what will be next. The favorite, so far, popped up for St. Patrick’s Day — a leprechaun riding a unicorn that the kids named “Sparky” and “Sparkles,” respectively.

So far, the two women have added Thanksgiving, Christmas, Valentine’s Day, Easter and Memorial Day. In addition to the inflatables, they’ve put up holiday-specific lights, flags and house decorations. Now you can see why I named it the Happy Little Holiday House. We get to celebrate holidays all year ‘round!

Tawnya and Marcia have given this neighborhood a little pocket of happiness. You can’t walk by or drive by without smiling. Like everyone else, Chase and I are anxious to see what pops up for the Fourth of July! There’s already a blob there.

At this point in my life, I have the time to stop and savor the things that make my neighborhood colorful and unique. Things like the HLHH.

More than anywhere else I’ve lived, there’s a feeling of togetherness here. Maybe it’s the relaxed coastal attitude. Maybe it’s that shared appreciation for the ocean and Estero Bay. Maybe it’s the “negative ions” coming off the water. Maybe it’s all of that. Without a doubt, it’s organic, and it’s part of what we share, from point to point, on Estero Bay.

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

Girl Scouts Celebrate Earth Day



Members of the Daisies Girl Scout Troop No. 45127 assisted City staff in planting four street trees in the sidewalk along Quintana Road in celebration of Earth Day. The City maintenance staff also planted four Monterey cypress trees — two at the Giannini Family Dog Park in Del Mar Park and two in Del Mar’s parking lot, according to a monthly activity report presented at the Public Works Advisory Board May 19.

The City crew dug the holes, installed root barriers and watering tubes in preparation for the Girl Scout’s plantings, and then came back to install tree stakes and bands to help the young trees stay upright in their formative years.

Arbor Day has been celebrated in Morro Bay for decades, and the City is an official ‘Tree City USA.’  
Photo courtesy Damaris Hansen.



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Community

Moving Forward: Remembering Susan Tuttle, Author, Editor & Writers' Friend

Commentary Compiled by Judy Salamacha

Science fiction and fantasy author Leonard Carpenter summed up the SLO writing community's heartfelt shock as Susan Tuttle transcends onto her next, but untimely, spiritual journey to the other side. He wrote: "What a loss to literature, to SLO NightWriters, and to feisty gal yarns! I admire Susan's success in tutoring with her Write It Right! series. We sparred deliciously in groups. I'm glad I gave early praise to her masterful first novel, 'Tangled Webs.'"

Briefly, but a bit of "An Elegy for Susan Tuttle" by SLO NightWriters President, Janice Konstantinidis: "A thousand pens stopped writing. No words were written, or pages turned, but a sense of deep uniting, came over all who'd heard the news that Susan had stopped fighting. Her body worn with time's cruel hand had given hope a slighting...A thousand edits called your name, remembering you forever. Your gifted touch for shaping words, you were so very clever." (Find complete Elegy at www.SLONightWriters.com)

A native of Buffalo, NY, Susan moved to the Central Coast in 2004, however, classmate Lillian Luraschi treasures her times spent and stories shared at Holy Cross Academy reunions. Susan returned as she could afford to visit her son, Aaron.

Susan's first published suspense novel, "Tangled Webs," was only the start of her prolific award-winning literary contributions, particularly in short stories, novels, and creative non-fiction. Her passion was creating memorable characters in her suspense novels. Her dedication and advocacy guided untold writers to publication. Her true joy was announcing the cover art for her newest book designed by her son, Aaron.

Holding several executive board positions, Susan was SLO NightWriters longest serving board member. For years she was education coordinator offering clinics and round table critique groups before each general meeting.

Many thanks to Susan's fellow writers for contributing the following memories:

Suspense author and award-winning blogger Anne Allen: "Susan had an infectious sense of fun. She and I had a blast writing skits for our Christmas parties. Her ideas were always funny and spot-on. She was a trained actress, so her performances were great too."

At her recent services conducted by Father Daniel of the Monastery of the Risen Christ in San Luis Obispo, Susan's writing community friends learned about her spiritual life. She served selflessly at both the monastery as bookkeeper and retreat scheduler and for decades at St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Catholic Church in Los Osos as musical director. She would tease her employers with, "I'm not here for the money. I'm here for the benefits," but



Los Osos resident and author Susan Tuttle is remembered by the SLO County writing community.

all appreciated it was Susan that generously shared her talents, always presenting her best self. Tina Clark, a friend, mentored writer, and SLO NightWriter board member: "I will forever cherish the memory of Susan's excited smile when she shared a new piece of writing, a book cover created by her son, or received an award. Her incredible writing, critiquing, editing, and teaching skills mirrored her drive and passion to fill the world with strong writing."

Past President of Sisters in Crime and fellow award-winning author Tony Piazza: "I was stunned...She was so full of life and brought so much enthusiasm to all of us. Whenever there was a period that I considered throwing in the towel, Susan would come along, and I was re-energized to start writing. She was generous with her knowledge and her time."

Prolific suspense author and creator of her podcast featuring local authors, Barbara M. Hodges reminded us of Susan's devious, yet smiling, quick wit, a hallmark of her writer's persona: "Susan and I were members of Public Safety Writers Association. Carpooling to writers' conferences in Las Vegas, we talked, plotted and discussed the most original ways to murder our characters. The first time we stopped at Starbucks, Susan ordered a hot tea and a breakfast sandwich, ending her order with, 'And please get it right. Or I'll put you in a book and kill you.' Susan enjoyed saying that. People loved it. In fact, I know she placed one or two of those folks in some of her books. They always wanted to be one of the bad guys."

Award-winning author Mara Purl: "Susan Tuttle's smile, and its accompanying laugh, made a first impression on me. The smile and the laugh were particularly noticeable because they occurred in the context of a discussion about the dark matters taken up in her genre of writing. To listen to her wisdom was to resonate with that sense of writtenness we writers seek and crave."

Current Central Coast Sisters in Crime president and former SLO NightWriters president Dennis Eamon Young: "SAD! Great friend, writer, teacher, presenter, singer, mentor, Susan Tuttle has died leaving big holes in our hearts. She will be sorely missed from so many writing classes, critique sessions and by writers like me, who depended on her to edit our books."

Susan was an active presenter at the Central Coast Writers Conference at Cuesta College. Director Teri Bayus: "She taught, mentored, inspired, elevated, and shared. She turned scared creators into writers. She equipped the beginning writer to be resilient in a function that would forever change them. She was a rare soul, who always gave more than she took."

Nancy Ragsdale: "Susan helped me survive the 'author wannabe' struggle to become a real author. She has been an inspiration to me in so many ways." Dennis Schwab: "Always encouraging, Susan pointed out what readers want to read and how not to bury my dialogue."

Jody Julhowski Nelson: "Once retired, I jumped at the chance to learn. She became a good friend, a marvelous mentor and an editor for my recently published first book about my teaching life with Susan's help, of course!"

A new member of SLO NightWriters, Greg Koby: "Our personalities clashed, it just happens. Despite that, I respected Susan as an accomplished fiction writer. I was impressed at how she could zero in on the source of a problem with a writer's work. She would output works at a pace I couldn't even imagine. I understand the creative magic that comes with writing fiction. When writing my works of fiction, I hope I can get to Susan's level of creative magic."

After three years mentoring Mary Silberstein, Susan edited Mary's first book: "She always said, 'Show don't tell.' Well Susan, you showed all right. You showed your caring and devotion to your fellow man in your writing, singing, spiritual devotion, and

service to others." RIP Susan Tuttle, June 11, 2021. However, Susan composed a final song and blessing for those of us she left behind. A verse from her song: "Live in trust and faith and wonder, Learn to laugh at yourself. We are all in this life together, Set your ego on the shelf." And Susan would insist she had the last word. From her favorite Irish Blessing: "May the road rise up to meet you...till we meet again."

Lions Give Away 33rd Car



The Morro Bay Lion's Club gave away its 33rd free car to a deserving local resident on June 19, in a program begun in 2014 by a local shop owner and his son.

Malia Neves (shown here at the head of the line up), who has been in Morro Bay for 25 years and works with the senior nutrition program, got the keys to a 2000 Pontiac Vibe from Lion's member, Bill Todd, who with his son, Mike Todd, began the program in conjunction with the Community Resource Connections.

The Lion's Club became involved in 2017 and Lion's President Chuck Stoll, said they've now given away over \$100,000 worth of vehicles to qualifying people who needed reliable transportation. The Club gives away a car every 3 months and accepts donations of vehicles, money and services to aid in the program. If readers find themselves with an extra vehicle, they can donate it, and receive full Blue Book value as a tax, write off. Call Bill Todd at Todd's Garage, 805-772-1985.

If you need a car or know a worthy person who needs reliable transportation, they should contact the Community Resource Connections at 805-225-1991 or via email at: cmbcrc225@gmail.com. Photo by Neil Farrell

Director Retires From page 6

"Each year it seems the Chamber has new challenges to focus on. I have been here through floods, Hwy 1 closures, earthquakes, the water situation, and now a pandemic. You learn to roll with it."

Businesses in Cambria are reassured that the Chamber continues to always work in their best interest. Mary Ann has been able to keep the doors open through the past year and a half, with no volunteers and no assistant. "It was a little easier because all of our events were cancelled. But the phone still rang, and people popped in."

Mary Ann has a lot of pride in the events that the Chamber has organized over the many years. "We started the Cambria Art & Wine Festival, and everyone loves the Chili Cook Off and Car Show," she said. "And I have just loved meeting and talking with the hundreds of people I have met in this job, from all over the world. This job requires you to constantly innovate and grow. It's been great. But I'm ready to do a few things I'd like to do like travel, take a yoga class, maybe volunteer."

She has done her fair share of travel, both personally and as part of the Chamber tours. "We were scheduled to go to Greece when the pandemic hit. Maybe I'll still do that."

Businesses and residents will miss her ready smile, her calm demeanor, and her enthusiasm for Cambria. Perhaps you can join her in a yoga class.

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Move From page 1

The lot is zoned agriculture and Johnson said the use they intend, a wildlife rehab center, must go into that land use zoning. She said the group had been looking around for property for 5 years and faced a looming deadline, as the lease on the current site has now expired.

“They always knew they had a timeline for how long they could stay at the power plant,” Johnson said. “We knew we were at risk of having to vacate with 90 days notice and return the land to the original condition.”

The group has been trying to negotiate a new lease for some time, but Vistra, the current power plant owner, has been unresponsive. Johnson explained that PWC actually subleases its location from the Marine Mammal Center, which has a triage facility next door.

All their attempts to negotiate led them to believe there was little interest in having them stay. “We had this ticking time bomb to move in 2021,” Johnson said. “We need a permanent home on property that we own.”

The group includes just a handful of paid positions including a veterinarian, and six full time staff and four are entry-level rehab technicians. They have a lot of turnover with the help but on the other hand, “We get a lot of enthusiastic college students.”

Their facility in Morro Bay is a patchwork of out buildings with the vet care and main intake building in a portable building, like one might see at a school.

They’ve added several cages to isolate animals that come in according to the care they need. They also have a large flight cage that’s equipped for water birds, which are the majority of their patients. “Two hundred different species can come in in a year,” Johnson said. They cared for 2,600 animals in 2020.

They also have several dedicated volunteers that have built flight cages at their homes and take mainly birds of prey to rehab them. Their success stories over the years have been countless.

Their plans to move recently got another shot in the arm when County Supervisors agreed to waive all planning and building fees for their project, which is now turning towards the design phase.

According to the County staff report on the fee waiver, Supervisors agreed to waive fees up to \$207,295 for the minor use permit (MUP) and subsequent building fees.

“It’s great to have the support from the County Supervisors,” Johnson said. “They’ve been great, very helpful.” She added that a wildlife rehabilitation facility is a novel idea for County planners to decipher, as to the rules that apply.

She said they hope to be all moved in by the end of 2023. But they have a long ways to go to turn what used to be a hay field into a wildlife rescue hospital, but they’ll also get to work with a blank canvas and instead of a pieced-together facility, everything will be brand new, and they’ll have a proper facility for the volunteers to work their magic.

Johnson said they were not yet ready to launch a fund-raising campaign for the new facility, as they’ve hired a consultant, Netzel-Gregsby out of Santa Barbara, to fashion a strategy for the campaign.

They want to nail down the new facility’s costs and develop a budget, Johnson said, “and then move from there.” She added that 95% of PWC’s funding comes from donations. The group became a non-profit in 1987.

The Coronavirus Pandemic severely affected their work but now, with the virus on the run and it being baby season, the volunteers are coming back. “Last year,” Johnson said, “they went through spring and summer without volunteers.”

The rescue center isn’t open to the public at this time, but they are open 7-days a week if someone should find a sick or



Pacific Wildlife Care Executive Director Christine Johnson taking a shift in the baby bird room feeding the organizations most fragile patients.

injured animal. Call the PWC hotline at: (805) 543- WILD (9453) and leave a detailed message and someone will call you back.

In the meantime, Johnson said her board president, Kimberly Perez, is working on a history project. They want to document the origins of the group and are asking anyone who did rescue work with them way back when to send an email to: president@pacificwildlifecare.org. They are interested in stories and photos of those early days when all the rehabbing was done in people’s homes.

Johnson reflected on the work that the organization does for the community and the wildlife that so many who live here cherish. She hates to think what would happen if Pacific Wildlife Care weren’t here. “No organization does what we do.”

For more information on Pacific Wildlife Care, to donate and to volunteer, see the website at: [www.pacificwildlifecare.org](http://www.pacificwildlifecare.org).

Swallowed From page 1



From left, deckhand, Josiah Mayo, and former Morro Bay commercial fisherman, Michael Packard, sitting inside a whale’s mouth, talk with TV host, Jimmy Kimmel about Packard’s adventure being swallowed by a whale off Cape Cod.

scuba gear), and so ol’ Moby Dick lacked the ability to gulp him down.

Pac-Man had to go to the hospital for serious wounds to his legs, apparently caused when the whale tried to squeeze him through its baleen teeth comb.

Pac-Man, with a serious look on his face, told Kimmel that he just wanted to tell the whale that he was sorry for getting in its way and it will never happen again. Then, as any good fisherman would, he urged everyone to go buy his lobsters from his buyer in Cape Cod if they wanted to support him.

The Pac-Man has a history of death-defying experiences, as in 2001 a commuter plane he was flying in crashed landed killing the pilot, co-pilot and a passenger. Pac-Man was one of five people to survive the crash and they were rescued the next day.

He suffered serious injuries then as well. A documentary film was actually made about the ordeal.

Maybe Warhol wasn’t entirely right, some people get more than just 15-minutes of fame.

Working Together From page 1

“When we look at the scope of the challenge ahead of us,” said Carolyn Berg with County Social Services, “I think we all understand that we can’t possibly do this alone. A big focus this year is how can all the various partners and communities really come together to make the biggest impact. That’s going to take deep partnerships across all those agencies but also community members.”

Those partnerships provide a safety net for the county population through social and behavioral health services, which includes mental health and substance abuse treatment, “that often includes unhoused residents,” Berg said.

Other partners are the community-based organizations that provide food and shelter as well as guidance to services for those in need.

Cities throughout the county are an important part of the plan as well. Local governments develop affordable housing and implement initiatives such as Safe Parking, which allows individuals and families with vehicles a safe place to temporarily park overnight, in designated areas, while they transition to permanent housing.

Public spaces that become homeless communities of sorts, such as Palisades Avenue near the library in Los Osos, are a common concern that panelists said the right resources in the right places could alleviate.

“These are human beings, they have rights in our society to occupy space,” said Atascadero City Councilwoman Susan Funk. “If we’re going to be successful, we have to have more frontline resources in every community that people can get housing and shelter so that they’re not dependent on living in Mitchell park, or Atascadero’s Sunken Gardens, or the Bob Jones trail or whatever space it is that we’re wanting to be able to share.”

Housing and the stability that comes with that is the first objective, said Janna Nichols, executive director of the 5 Cities Homeless Coalition.

“Our priority may be to help them deal with any number of other issues, but it starts with housing. Once we have someone housed, then we can continue to work on other issues. The issue around health, the issue around longevity, the issue of all the social complexities, the burden to the community, everything becomes less when someone is housed.”

Nichols said that the problem is getting worse despite countywide efforts to implement programs and services.

“When you have more than a third of your income being spent on housing and life support,” Nichols said, “you are at risk of homelessness. In a community where you have more than 32% of your people at risk, you have an exponential increase in the frequency of homelessness. In San Luis Obispo County we are at 38%. There is a spectrum of services that are needed from housing to what are you going to do today, because that housing isn’t going to come tomorrow. So whether it’s tiny homes, whether it’s sanction camps, the spectrum of services, starts with housing, because that’s ultimately what we want people to do, but, we have to be prepared and respond proactively along the continuum of services that are needed, and that, I think, is something that we’re challenged by.”

The expectation of the webinar was not to produce an immediate list of solutions but to have a focused dialogue. The overall consensus was that governing bodies, social services, and community organizations play a vital part in ending homelessness.

“We as a community need to come together on this, and we each have a role that we can play,” said Nichols. “Let’s all decide that we’re going to do something, but let’s do it together because it’s going to take some systemic change. We need to keep this conversation going.”

To watch the webinar, go to <https://my.lwv.org/california/league-women-voters-san-luis-obispo-county/event/homelessness-how-can-we-alleviate-crisis>.

Fireworks From page 1

including vacation rentals advising that the only legal fireworks are the public display set off from the Pier, which it looks like might happen, if the Chamber is successful.

The postcard in part reads, “Personal fireworks displays have become a major problem for our community. They frighten people and pets, are noisy, leave mounds of trash and toxins on our beaches, and are a serious safety hazard. Fireworks of any kind, except those from a licensed show, are illegal. For these reasons and more, the community needs your help and cooperation.”

The effort includes asking people to report anyone shooting off illegal fireworks, which in Cayucos runs from Roman candles that soar into the sky and explode, to Black Cat firecrackers, sparklers, and every kind of fireworks including the so-called safe and sane ones are banned in Cayucos.

Law enforcement will reportedly be out patrolling town and the beach and citations for illegal fireworks could run \$2,000 or more and if you start a fire or someone gets hurt, the penalties could grow exponentially.

“Cayucos is a wonderful place to spend a holiday,” reads the

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

KEVIN O'CONNOR, President



News

news release. “To help keep it that way, visitors are asked to leave their fireworks at home or in their car, vacation rental, or motel room. The community’s goal is to have everyone enjoy July 4th in Cayucos without endangering the health and safety of others.”



By Theresa-Marie Wilson

COVID Business Survey

With the June 15 lifting of coronavirus pandemic response’s business restrictions, the local chambers of commerce are asking businesses for input as to how this is affecting them. The Central Coast Coalition of Chambers is sending out bi-monthly surveys “to help better understand and measure both the current and long-term regional impacts of COVID-19,” a notice reads. “Your input is invaluable as we continue to advocate for business at the local, regional and statewide level.” The survey is posted online at: [www.surveymonkey.com/r/June2021BizImpactSurvey](http://www.surveymonkey.com/r/June2021BizImpactSurvey), and businesses have until Wednesday, July 7 to participate. It takes about 4 minutes to fill out.

Spotlight Award



The Morro Bay Chamber of Commerce gave a Spotlight Award to Daisy’s Organic Coffee and Tea after being nominated by a community member. “Their always organic coffee and selection of loose teas are killer! Stop in today,” said the Chamber. “Grab a scone and a cup tea. Did I mention they are dog friendly?” Daisy’s, 845 Embarcadero Suite 1, is a local, family-owned and operated coffee and tea shop catering to both locals and visitors. Currently, they are open for take-out where you can sit out the outside tables and listen to the sounds of the ocean.

Poly Named Promising Places to Work

For the third straight year — and fourth year since 2017 — Cal Poly was named one of the Most Promising Places to Work in Student Affairs by ACPA-College Student Educators International and Diverse: Issues in Higher Education. The university previously earned the distinction in 2017, 2019 and 2020. “I’m honored to receive this award once again, because it speaks to the continued dedication of our division to create an atmosphere where everyone is valued for who they are and what they bring to the table,” said Keith Humphrey, vice president for Student Affairs. “When we create healthy working conditions for our staff, they can focus on promoting student success. This award only strengthens my resolve to continually implement improvements that establish a workplace that supports, appreciates and recognizes the unique talents and contributions of our amazing staff.” Cal Poly’s Student Affairs division is among 30 throughout the U.S. recognized in 2021 for its commitment toward workplace and staffing practices that promote diversity, equity and inclusion; for providing professional development opportunities and family-friendly practices and policies for staff; and other attributes. All told, Cal Poly is one of four California State University (CSU) campuses to receive the distinction this year, alongside CSU Channel Islands, Humboldt State University and Sonoma

Obituary

Rebecca Agnes Roquet 1948 – 2021



On June 22, 2021, the Roquet family, friends, and the town of Cayucos lost the most wonderful woman and our matriarch, Rebecca Roquet (Party, Becky, Beck). Alongside her husband, Rick, her life’s work was owning and loving the Seaside Motel for 40 years. She adored her family more than life itself and we adored her even more. Rick, her boys (Rusty and Rocky), daughters-in-law (Renée and Ali), grandbabies, as she called them, (Rooney + Henley, Reese + Ryan), brothers and sister, the Brezden family, and extended family (she always said, if you’re friends, you’re family) will forever miss her larger-than-life personality, laughter, and her heart of gold. She would do anything for anyone, at any time. She spent her life taking care of her family, entertaining thousands of guests, and she loved herself a good margarita on the patio. Her happy place was tending to her garden and clipping the grass by hand with scissors while listening to talk radio and chatting with guests. We find comfort in imagining her wandering and admiring the flawless gardens where she is now. She enjoyed seashell hunting with her grandbabies and nothing was better than dancing with friends and family to the live band on the 4th of July. We promise to continue her legacy by planting flowers, drinking margaritas, and laughing with guests on the patio. Services will be held at St. Joseph’s Catholic Church in Cayucos on July 9 at 11 a.m., followed by a reception at the Sea Shanty shortly thereafter. We would love to celebrate her life with all who loved her. In lieu of flowers, please consider making a donation to the Cask Gene Foundation ([caskgene.org](http://caskgene.org)) in honor of her granddaughter, Rooney.

State University. Six California universities were honored overall. “We continue to find innovative ways to help our staff feel like they belong and have a voice,” added Jamie S. Patton, assistant vice president for Student Affairs, diversity and inclusion. “We strive for continuous improvement to ensure that our staff has the opportunities to thrive in their profession, and I believe this recognition affirms our efforts.”

Woods Receives Pawsome Grant

Woods Humane Society has reason to purr and wag their tales after receiving a \$14,000 grant investment from the newly named nonprofit Petco Love to support their lifesaving work for animals on the Central Coast. Petco Love is a nonprofit leading change for pets nationally by “harnessing the power of love to make communities and pet families closer, stronger, and healthier,” the company said. Since their founding in 1999 as the Petco Foundation, they’ve empowered organizations by investing \$300 million to date in adoption and other lifesaving efforts. They’ve helped find loving homes for more than 6.5 million pets in partnership with Petco and more than 4,000 organizations, like



Letter To The Editor



Take Down the Stacks Now

As a kid from Paso Robles, we would come to the ocean at Morro Bay to play on the beach and have fish & chips, and sometimes even abalone & chips. We did not come to see the one tall smokestack, or even the incredible Rock. We came here to be at the ocean! If the Rock or the stacks were never here, we would all still be here for the beauty of the ocean. Life is continuously changing. So let’s enjoy the stacks while they are here, knowing that someday they will be gone. We can photograph or enjoy the painted images of the stacks for nostalgia. Nature or man will take them down eventually. My vote is to take the down now! Clean up the hazardous industrial site, then we can dream of what to replace it with. Armand Boyer Morro Bay

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

Woods Humane Society, nationwide. “We are immensely grateful for the generous support and partnership of Petco Lov,” Neil Trent, CEO of Woods Humane Society in a press release. “In an incredibly challenging fiscal year, and at a time when pets have needed us the most, we have been able to place 1,902 dogs and cats in loving homes. It is with the help of generous grants like these and the steadfast support of the local community that we continue to be able to go the extra mile, offering the behavior and veterinary resources to save animals in need.” For more information about Woods Humane Society, visit [www.WoodsHumane.org](http://www.WoodsHumane.org). To learn more about Petco Love, visit [petcolove.org](http://petcolove.org).

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