

Police to Restart Community Programs

Story & Photo By Neil Farrell



The Morro Bay Police Department is bringing back the 'National Night Out,' event set for 5-7 p.m. Tuesday, Aug. 3 at Cloisters Park. They'll have several public safety agencies on hand to meet with residents and discuss their concerns and ideas. They'll have free hot dogs and snacks, like the dog this youngster was scarfing on at the 2017 event.

After what has to be the longest 18 months in U.S. history, owing to the coronavirus pandemic response and the upending of most aspects of normal life, the local police department is eager to put at least a few things back on a familiar path.

Morro Bay Police Cmdr. Amy Watkins said the department is eager to get back to its community engagement programs and a re-launch of sorts of the "Neighborhood Cop" program begun last November, where two officers are assigned to one of five "sectors" in town, and become the contact person for concerns, crime trends, and incidents that might occur in their particular areas.

The program had been going great, she said, and they'd held a few Zoom meetings with neighbors in the different sectors, but they were disappointed, as the online meetings were "lightly attended."

"A lot of people want face-to-face meetings," Cmdr. Watkins said. But the State is still under an "emergency declaration" issued by Gov. Newsom, so the department has to be careful on

how it interacts with the public, especially with things like holding neighborhood meetings in people's homes.

The first big event they are planning, Cmdr. Watkins said, is to celebrate "National Night Out," a nationwide law enforcement event that is sort of an open house for public safety agencies.

Morro Bay's National Night Out is set for 5-7 p.m. Tuesday, Aug. 3 at Cloisters Park in North Morro Bay.

"Twenty-nineteen was the last time we had it," Cmdr. Watkins said. And while that is just 2-years ago, it seems like a lifetime given the way the nation has been locked down because of the coronavirus pandemic. "We would like to get as many as we can in the community out there and engage with each other."

She cautioned that they will have to ask that those who are not vaccinated for COVID-19 (or don't have natural immunity) to wear a mask, otherwise, all are welcome.

They'll have barbecue hot dogs with chips and sodas for everyone, maybe even snow cones, and it's free of charge. They are

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New Fire Chief Hired

By Neil Farrell



Daniel McCrain has been hired as Morro Bay's new fire chief, replacing the retiring Chief Steve Knuckles. A badge pinning ceremony and public reception for the new chief is set for 10 a.m. Friday, July 31 at the Harbor Street Firehouse. Submitted photo

Morro Bay's new fire chief comes to Rock City from Cambria, taking on a job that could soon become much broadened from the usual putting out fires and saving lives.

City Manager, Scott Collins, announced June 30 that he had appointed Daniel McCrain to be the City's new fire chief. Collins said he selected McCrain from some 20 applicants and put a few first-choice picks through the normal set of reviews and interviews, "with community members, Morro Bay Fire Department staff, and local fire and police chiefs," Collins said in a news release. He starts work in Morro Bay on July 31.

"I am excited to bring Daniel McCrain onboard at this key time in Morro Bay history," said Collins. "The City is going through some big changes and the fire department will play a key role in seeing these challenges and opportunities through successfully. Therefore, we need a strong leader and manager to guide these important efforts by working closely with our talented fire department staff. Daniel is the right person for the job, and I look forward to him joining my executive team and leading the fire department."

McCrain brings over 27 years experience in fire/paramedic and emergency management service, according to Collins. He was a captain with the Cambria Community Services District Fire Department, "where he oversees emergency response for his

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Moving Forward: Jim & Gloria Zion Re-Launch Wicked Harvest Spirits

Story & Photo By Judy Salamacha



Gloria and Jim Zion own Wicked Harvest Spirits featuring "nut-infused" Kentucky bourbons.

"nut-infused" Kentucky bourbons.

Gloria added, "With so many people hurting financially, I couldn't make myself try to influence new buyers to purchase our bourbons. It was not the best way to spend their limited resources so we decided to wait for things to open up again."

Last month Morro Bay's Chamber launched a new event, Shop, Sip & Stroll, teaming a retailer with a social beverage provider. Jim was pleased and excited people came out in force. "We did tastings at Jeff Eckles House of Jerky on the Embarcadero and downtown at Mike's Barbershop. I hope the Chamber continues

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City-Chamber Sign New Economic Development Contract

By Neil Farrell

The City of Morro Bay and Chamber of Commerce have inked a new, 3-year contract, and extended an increased scope of work they reached last spring just as the coronavirus pandemic response and business closures were getting started.

The new contract was approved June 22 by a unanimous council, and includes allowing the Chamber to continue to occupy the city-owned former visitor's center building, 695 Harbor St., with rent set at \$1 a year. The new pact also increases the annual stipend by \$12,000 to \$90,000 a year, up from the previous \$78,000.

It does have a stipulation — reimbursable expenses are to be capped at \$10,000 a year and subject to written approval by the city manager or the finance director. "Total cost for the three year contract," reads a staff report by City Manager Scott Collins, "is a total, not-to-exceed amount of \$300,000 for the full three years."

The new contract does not include having the Chamber run a Visitor's Center for the City, after the Chamber in April 2020 sent a letter to the City asking to end that arrangement.

The State's mass shutdown of "non-essential businesses" in March 2020 and the Governor's stay-at-home orders to residents, sent a shockwave through the local business sector and had the City scrambling to enact an emergency funding plan.

One of the first things the City did was to close the Visitor's Center and dissolve the City's Tourism Bureau, laying off the tourism director and one part-time employee, but keeping one staffer, who has been serving as the staff person for the Tourism Business Improvement District or TBID, even though it ceased all tourism promotions.

The City in its attempts to address the pandemic, went so far as to run advertisements in Central Valley media asking people not to come to Morro Bay, which didn't exactly work, as last summer's visitors were pretty close to normal in numbers, even

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Signs that the coronavirus pandemic is surely over continue to show up and the latest is an indication that the honeymoon is over in so far as discounts on sewer rates are concerned. County Supervisors voted June 22 to end a program that put off a scheduled 2020 sewer rate increase in Los Osos, in deference to the pandemic’s hit on workers and businesses.

But that’s now over and the County is making up for that loss of revenues and also instilling a second rate hike for 2021. Get ready Los Osos, your sewer bills are about to rise 12%.

In a report from the County Utilities and Finance Divisions, Supervisors were asked to end last year’s deferral of a 6% rate hike that had been set in motion with an ordinance approved in April 2020 (Ord. No. 3413) that increased sewer rates for the entire SLO County Wastewater Assessment District 1 (Los Osos Sewer Service Area). That increase should have kicked in July 1, 2020.

But Supervisors, in response to the pandemic’s closure of all “non-essential” businesses and stay-at-home orders from the Governor, put the increase off “until 30 days after the termination of the proclamation of local emergency,” the report said.

Gov. Gavin Newsom declared June 15 as the date when the State would drop most of its pandemic restrictions, so the County sees July 15 as the date to meet the Supervisors’ delay order.

“If approved today,” the report said, “Los Osos will have realized a one-year rate increase deferment.”

The County had gone to Supervisors for the new rates in 2019 and after a Proposition 218 protest vote failed, approved the new rates that are designed to cover actual expenses incurred by the sewer assessment district in April 2020.

The initial ordinance, passed when the new treatment plant and the community collection system was completed in 2016, predicted what the expenses and funding needs would be.

And the 2020 vote set the rates to match the expenses that were actually incurred during the first few years of operations. But COVID-19 screwed that all up.

“Over the last year the wastewater system has taken on more debt to cover the revenue shortfall,” the County report said. “Additional impacts from this delay have resulted in:

1. Inability to build financial reserves.
 2. Inability to implement planned capital improvements.”
- The County anticipated losing some \$842,000 with the rate hike delay, but the actual loss was \$774,000 (for FY 2020/21, which ended June 30). Delaying it another year would result in the loss of \$1.74 million, “which would put the system in further financial instability,” the report said.

For those who might not be able to absorb such a big rate hike, the County said there is federal funding available for eligible tenants and landlords “to assist with unpaid rent and utility bills between April 1, 2020 and March 31, 2021, through the CA COVID-19 Rent Relief Program.

For information on that and other COVID programs, see: www.recoverlo.org/en/rent-relief.aspx.

And while the new rates are essentially a done deal, the Supervisors will hear the matter once more at their Aug. 10 meeting when they will vote on officially adding the new charges to property tax bills. Ratepayers will have a chance to have their opinions heard.

County Seeks Bids for Road Repairs

San Luis Obispo County is now taking bids for this year’s slate of road management projects, with over \$2.7 million up for grabs.

The Fiscal Year 2020-21 surface treatment of county roads this year covers various roads in Supervisorial Districts 1, 2 and 5, and covers some 60 miles of County maintained roads with asphalt and concrete. It includes no road expansions but includes sidewalk repairs for handicap compliance.

Selected roads were done with on-site inspections and the County’s Pavement Management System, which grades the condition of roadways and addresses them accordingly.

The object is to maintain roads so they don’t deteriorate to

the point where they must be torn up and completely rebuilt. “The County has several cost-effective options to rehabilitate a road before it deteriorates to a point where complete reconstruction is required. Micro- and slurry surfacing is one of the most versatile tools used for road maintenance. It is a polymer modified, cold mix paving system that can remedy a broad range of problems on today’s roads,” reads the staff report from Project Manager, Evelyn Sanchez.

The County will use its own road crews to fill in potholes and make other repairs before the coating contractor comes along and paints over the entire roadway surface.

As to where roads will be resurfaced, “The area of work for this contract includes 18.5 miles in the Paso Robles area, 6.8 miles in the Templeton area, 0.4 miles in the Morro Bay area, and 34.4 miles in the Cayucos area,” reads Sanchez’ report. “The project also includes two additive bid items, the first to address the rumble strips on South Bay Boulevard in Los Osos and Union Road in Paso Robles. The second additive bid item is to cap seal or double micro-surface on Nacimiento Shores Road from Lakeview Road to Bee Rock Road.”

Supervisors passed a Resolution officially announcing the job, and that document becomes part of the County’s application to the State Transportation Commission for funding under Senate Bill 1. The County will also tap County Services Area 7B for money in the Templeton area.

The County’s total contract budget is \$2,735,000.

County to Buy New Elections System

The County Elections Office will upgrade its automated machinery, spending nearly half a million dollars for use in future elections, which are now overwhelmingly being done with mail-in balloting.

Out-going Clerk-Recorder Tommy Gong, in one of his final actions in that elected position, asked Supervisors for \$450,700 to buy a “Vote by Mail (VBM) envelope sorting and opening system.”

The system itself is \$399,000 of that total and the County will use “Voting System Replacement Contract” monies, via Assembly Bill 1824, to pay for it, according to a staff report.

The new system will greatly improve the Election’s Office’s current system. “The clerk-recorder currently uses five separate machines,” Gong’s report said, “to process incoming Vote by Mail ballot envelopes; two VBM verifiers to capture ballot issue IDs and signatures, and three envelope openers to expedite VBM opening and ballot extraction.”

“While this equipment has served this county well over the years,” Gong continued, “the significant increase in vote by mail voting in this county, as well as changes to election legislation requiring voter signature security, has necessitated a more streamlined approach, with automated tab removal capabilities.”

The new machines will help greatly with the upcoming recall election of Gov. Gavin Newsom. “Over 240,000 VBM ballots were received for the 2020 election cycle,” Gong said. “The upcoming statewide, special governor recall election will be conducted as a polling place election, but all registered voters will receive a VBM ballot per emergency legislation, which is in effect through Dec. 31, 2021.

“With over 80% of San Luis Obispo County voters registered as permanent vote by mail voters, automation is essential to completing mandated election duties within required deadlines.”

“The Fluence Criterion Elevate VBM envelope sorting and opening system,” Gong explained, “automates and streamlines many of the tasks involved in processing inbound mail ballots, such as imprinting date/time receipt endorsement, imaging voter’s signature for verification, streamlining the signature verification process and sorting based on signature challenge type [e.g. missing signature, ballot missing, or multiple ballots], precinct or ballot style. This ‘multi-pass’ system also opens only those envelopes where signatures have been accepted on the final pass.”

Fluence was one of three vendors that make this specialized machinery, and Gong picked them because it is the only one “that offers the laser tab removal and the only system that fits in the available physical space at the clerk-recorder office.”

The County is buying the new machine through a previous request for bids by the State of Arizona and under a special law through the National Association of State Procurement Officials.

The new system’s \$450,700 cost includes software licenses, installation, maintenance, taxes, and shipping. The annual maintenance cost is \$43,500 and will be offset “by the elimination of existing service contracts for the replaced VBM verifier system and envelope opening equipment. The net annual budgetary increase for this maintenance is approximately \$5,000.”

In other voting related news, the County will hold its first community engagement event with a public hearing on July 20 at 1:30 p.m. to solicit ideas on how to adjust the district boundaries for electing the Board of Supervisors for the next decade.

The public hearings will provide an opportunity for the

boundaries between the County’s five supervisorial districts to be reviewed to assure equal population distribution according to the 2020 U.S. Census data, as well as compliance with the Voting Rights Act and state requirements.

The public is invited to provide comments online, in-person, or on the phone. Submit testimony in the online at www.slocounty.ca.gov/redistricting and click on “Submit General Public Comment” or “Submit Community of Interest Public Comments.” Go to the same website for information on how to be a part of in-person comments or call 805-781-1085.

Cayucos Celebrates New Plant



The Cayucos community turned out June 25 to cut the ribbon and officially open its new ‘Water Resources Recovery Facility,’ with about 150 people, including many of the people that built the plant, out on a breezy sunny day at the plant site on Toro Creek Road. Cayucos Sanitary District Board President, Bob Enns, served emcee duty commenting that 22-months ago, when they broke ground, “nothing you see here today existed.”

He added that the new plant would, once they can be allowed to discharge their highly-treated wastewater into Whale Rock Reservoir, “ensure Cayucos has a sustainable water supply into the next century.”

Project manager and CSD G.M. Rick Koon, introduced his staff, and the team of contractors and engineers, including Dylan Wade of Water Systems Consulting the project engineer, awarding them commemorative plaques. And representatives of Congressman Salud Carbajal and State Sen. John Laird, as well as Dist. 2 County Supervisor Bruce Gibson spoke, and delivered official commemorative certificates, suitable for framing.

Indeed, Enns said they would be framed and proudly hang inside the plant’s administration building.



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News Briefs
By Theresa-Marie Wilson

Moon Jelly Washes up on Pismo Beach



Pismo State Beach posted an interesting find on their Instagram page. A moon jelly washed up along the shoreline on July 7, and it isn't the first one.

"Jellies are known as drifters of the sea and their bodies are designed to float along with the ocean currents," the post said. "When jellies wash up onshore, it may be from strong currents, high winds or high tides."

Their short clear tentacles are covered with stinging cells, called nematocysts, which help the animal capture their plankton prey.

While the moon jelly doesn't have a particularly strong sting compared to other jelly species, it's best to not touch any jellies because even after they wash up dead on the beach they can still sting humans!"

Watch where you are walking.

County Jail is ADA Compliant

San Luis Obispo County and the Department of Justice (DOJ) have reached an agreement regarding Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) improvements to the County Jail.

The DOJ found the jail was not in compliance with current ADA regulations. As a result the Sheriff's Office took immediate

action to remedy the situation. The County and the Sheriff's Office fully cooperated with the DOJ to ensure all inmates have equal access to accommodations, activities and programs. In fact, many of the improvements listed in the agreement have already been made to the jail or are in the process.

"The Sheriff's Office worked cooperatively with the Department of Justice to determine improvements needed to make sure our jail facility is accessible to all people," said Sheriff Parkinson. "We are pleased with our results so far with our goal to be in full compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act."

Climate Change Workshop in SLO

Community members are invited to provide input on the City of San Luis Obispo's strategies to adapt to an increasingly unpredictable climate.

The City will host a free community workshop online called Adapting to a Changing Climate – Strategies for a More Resilient SLO on Thursday, July 22 from 6 to 7:30 p.m. Anyone interested in attending can register at www.slocity.org.

"We are seeking community input on how we respond and build resilience to extreme weather events, such as last summer's record-breaking heat wave and wildfire smoke," said Teresa McClish, special projects manager with the City's Community Development Department. "Join us for this interactive webinar, which will include a short presentation on anticipated climate change impacts specific to San Luis Obispo, collaborative visioning for the community's future, and a community discussion of potential adaptation strategies to address risks."

This workshop is part of the Resilient SLO event series and will include updates on t project. Resilient SLO, an initiative to better prepare the community for the impacts of climate change, is funded through a Caltrans Adaptation Planning Grant and led by the City of San Luis Obispo, Ascent Environmental, and the Local Government Commission.

The project will assess the extent of potential physical hazards, such as floods, extreme heat, and wildfires that are made worse by climate change, identify the best ways to develop community resilience, and update the Safety Element of the General Plan.

"Community engagement and input is an integral part of the project, and the upcoming workshop will provide an opportunity for community members to become more involved," said McClish.

Community members can register in advance for this free virtual workshop at <https://bit.ly/2TiHKHs>, or by visiting the Resilient SLO website.

For more information on the project and/or upcoming workshop visit the project website <https://www.lgc.org/resil>

ient-slo/ or contact Special Projects Manager Teresa McClish at tmcclish@slocity.org.

Help for Rent

Following the State of California's extension of its COVID-19 eviction moratorium and rent relief program, the County of San Luis Obispo is encouraging tenants and landlords who have fallen behind on rent during the pandemic to apply for assistance.

The state's Rent Relief Program allows eligible tenants and landlords to now receive up to 100% of past due rent and utilities dating back to April 1, 2020. The online application process has been streamlined to encourage claims and local application assistance is now available through Five Cities Homeless Coalition, Salvation Army, and United Way.

"This assistance can help renters and landlords stay on top of their bills and in their homes as our community recovers from the pandemic," said Assistant County Administrative Officer Rebecca Campbell. "We have local organizations here in SLO County ready to help with the application process. If you or your renters have fallen behind on rent during the pandemic, now is the time to look into this program and apply if you are eligible."

Residents are eligible to receive assistance for current or past due rent and utilities if their annual 2020 income was less than 80% of SLO County's median income. Landlords may also apply for financial assistance to support income loss if their renters are income-eligible and payments are used toward payment relief dating back to April 1, 2020.

Eligible renters may also receive assistance for past due utilities even if they do not receive assistance for rent. This includes utilities and home energy costs that are billed separately (not included in rent) such as electricity, gas, water/sewer, trash removal, Internet service and fuel oil.

Currently, 38% of residents in SLO County rent their home (2020 American Community Census). While over \$8.4 million in federal financial assistance and another \$9.2 million in State financial assistance has been available for SLO County renters and landlords to claim since March 2021, only 242 applications have been submitted in SLO County, requesting just over \$4.5 million in rent and utility recovery.

Residents may apply for rent and/or utility relief online at housingiskey.com or schedule an application appointment by calling (833) 687-0967. Applications will be accepted on an on-going basis until September 30, 2021 and priority assistance will be given to income eligible households most at risk of eviction.

For information on the Rental Relief Program and COVID-19 assistance in SLO County, visit www.RecoverSLO.org/RentRelief. ###

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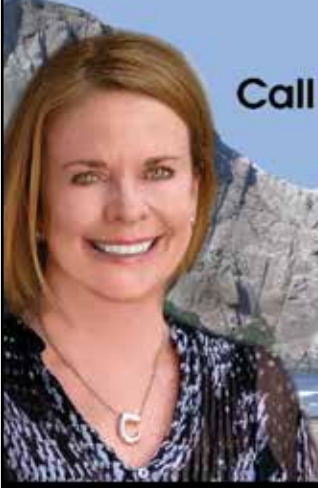
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Send your news, community and business briefs to Editor@Estero-BayNews.com. Be sure to include the who, what, why, where and when information along with a contact person.

County Hires New Assistant Administrator



Rebecca Campbell

San Luis Obispo County has a new Assistant County Administrative Officer after County Supervisors approved filling the position that just came open with the retirement of the former ACAO.

Guy Savage was the ACAO until his retirement June 30. He was replaced by Rebecca Campbell, who started work June 28, according to a staff report from the boss, CAO Wade Horton.

"This position is vital to the operation of the Administrative Office," Horton said, "because the Assistant County Administrative Officer assists the County Administrative Officer in the over-

all administration of County government, including the oversight of an \$808 million annual budget."

Campbell comes to SLO County from Kings County, where she's worked since 2005. She was the ACOA in Kings County and became the CAO there in 2017.

Campbell has a master's degree in business administration and served 10 years in the U.S. Navy as an electronics technician.

She comes in at Step 5 for the position, and will make \$17,265 a month or \$207,189 a year plus benefits that bring her total compensation to \$304,173 a year.

City Attorney Got a Raise, Too

Like all the City of Morro Bay's employees, its contracted law firm will be getting a modest raise in rates under the latest amendment of the firm's contract.

The City Council approved the fifth contract amendment for Aleshire & Wynder, LLP, the law firm the City hired on an interim basis in March 2014. By the end of that year, A&W had become the permanent city attorneys and has represented the City since then in all legal matters through a team of attorneys and office help.

The new contract is also a "Thank You" to the firm for cutting its rates last year to help the City with its coronavirus pandemic financial crisis.

"From March 2020 through December 2020," reads a report by City Manager Scott Collins, "understanding the impact of COVID-19 on the community and City and participating in the Rock Solid Together financial and economic recovery plan, the A&W volunteered a rate reduction and write-offs to City totaling a 10% discount on the invoices during that period of time, saving the City over \$60,000 in legal fees."

A&W hasn't gotten a rate increase since 2018, when the various rates were hiked \$10 an hour.

Collins proposed a \$5 an hour increase for A&W, plus "a limited travel reimbursement of no more than 3 hours," together they add up to about 7%. That's how much City employees had their salaries increased — 2% in 2019 and 5% with the latest budget.

The new rates are:

- First 50 hours of general services — \$180/hour;
- Hours over 50 for general services — \$200/hr.;
- Special services — \$220;
- Insurance defense — \$165;
- Private party reimbursement — \$265;
- Paralegals/law clerks — \$135; and,
- Document clerks — \$75.

Collins said the rates are comparable to what other firms charge their municipal clients, which can range from \$150-\$321 an hour for general legal services. In 2018, when the City put the contract out for bids, Collins said the average bid for a senior attorney doing general services was \$244 an hour, making A&W a real bargain.

In the Fiscal Year 2021/22 budget, Collins said, they budgeted for \$483,823 for general legal services and \$356,000 for the Water Reclamation Facility project. Costs can add up fast and sometimes seem to be wasted.

Indeed, the City spent some \$250,000 on a lawsuit against Vistra Energy, owners of the Morro Bay Power Plant, filing an eminent domain case for the first time in town history. The suit was seeking to force the company to grant two utility easements through the plant property as part of the WRF.

The City offered \$200,000 and Vistra wanted \$6 million. The case was eventually settled out of court for \$1.

Collins said the budgeted \$483,000 is enough. "Based on hours billed in FY 2020/21," he said, "the proposed FY 2021/22 budget would adequately fund the \$5 per hour addition and the proposed travel reimbursement."

Teen Arrested for Car Burglaries

By Neil Farrell

An off-duty Morro Bay police officer spotted a suspicious vehicle believed involved in a series of car break-ins at Montaña de Oro State Park, and resulting in the arrest of a teenage hooligan who was also wanted out of Lake County for the same type of crime.

According to an MBPD news release, beginning in mid May, State Park rangers saw a spike in vehicle burglary reports from visitors to Montaña de Oro. Park rangers began an investigation "to identify the vehicle associated to the burglaries and the subjects involved," reads the news release.

Rangers obtained surveillance video of the vehicle they sus-



Morro Bay Police officers and State Park Rangers pose with a cache of allegedly stolen items seized along with the arrest of a 14-year-old boy out of Lake County, who allegedly committed a string of vehicle burglaries in Morro Bay and Montaña de Oro State park. From left are: MBPD officers Daniel Palumbo and Art Vasquez; Rangers T. David and Kelly Hidle; and MBPD Ofc. Aaron Miller. Submitted photo

pected of being involved in the cases and shared that information with area law enforcement agencies, including Morro Bay Police.

"On June 17, 2021," reads the release, "an off-duty Morro Bay PD officer located the associated vehicle in Morro Bay and reported the finding to on-duty MBPD officers and State Park Rangers."

The next day they traced the vehicle to an RV park located on Atascadero Road near Ironwood Avenue where they contacted a potential suspect, which MBPD investigators identified as a guy they too were investigating for a series of burglary and credit card fraud cases.

"Several items of stolen property were recovered from the RV," according to police.

The suspect, a 14-year-old boy from Lake County, Calif., "had cut off his probation monitor and made his way to Morro Bay where he was staying with friends/relatives. The suspect was wanted out of Lake County on a no bail probation warrant," police said.

The apparent juvenile delinquent was arrested for suspicion of burglary, possession of stolen property, fraudulent use of credit/debit card, and the outstanding warrant out of Lake County." He was booked into the County Juvenile Hall.

Police said the investigation was ongoing to "identify other suspects involved with these crimes."

Anyone who has any information regarding this incident is asked to call MBPD at (805) 772-6225 or Crime Stoppers at (805) 549-STOP.

Hwy 1 at Bixby Bridge to Close Overnight

By Neil Farrell



Hwy 1 at the Bixby Bridge is being closed overnight to all through traffic, as inspections are done and repairs made on the historic bridge's supports.

The closures are from 9 p.m. to 5:30 a.m. starting this past Monday, July 12 and will end tonight, July 15.

Next week the highway will be closed from 10-5:30 Sunday, July 18, and Monday-Thursday, July 19-22 from 9-5:30.

Sunday, July 25 the road will be closed from 10-5:30 and Monday-Thursday, July 26-29 from 9-5:30. The roadway will remain open in both directions Friday and Saturday nights and during daylight hours all week.

There is no detour for this closure and motorists will be directed to return along Hwy 1 in the direction from which they came. Message and directional signs will alert motorists in advance of the closure area.

"In case of an emergency requiring travel across the Bixby Bridge during the hours of the closures," reads a news release from Caltrans, "residents and all travelers are advised to call 9-1-1."

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Due to the use of a large crane and other heavy equipment on the bridge during the closure, the roadway would take at least 30 minutes to reopen for emergency vehicles.”

The Highway Patrol will be on scene to make sure traffic controls are obeyed.

“These closures are necessary for contracted maintenance crews to perform repairs and inspections on the bridge support for the safety of all travelers,” Caltrans said.

Hwy 1 is also under construction with traffic controls in place at Coastlands Road [Post Mile 44.3. The job will replace an existing timber wall and install a “soil nail” wall to reinforce the roadway above.

The work began June 7 and is scheduled to end Aug. 16. Access Limited Construction of Oceano got the \$750,000 contract and Caltrans has put in 1-way reversing traffic controls and motorists can expect about a 15-minute delay.

Work will be done from 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. Mondays-Thursdays and they’ll knock off at 1 on Fridays.

Sheriffs Arrest Cambria Rapist

By Neil Farrell

Sheriff’s Deputies have arrested as Cambria man they say sexually assaulted a woman who was walking on a public hiking trail, and used a new law enforcement tool for the first time to identify the man.

According to Sheriff’s spokesman, Tony Cipolla, at about noon, Sunday, June 27, a woman was hiking on the Santa Rosa Creek Hiking Trail, south of Windsor Boulevard in Cambria, when she was attacked from behind.

“The victim was dragged off the trail by a male suspect who was unknown to her,” Cipolla said in a news release. “The suspect held the victim against her will and sexually assaulted the victim over the next several hours before leaving her and fleeing the area.”

The woman, who was not identified, called the Sheriff’s Office the next morning, June 28.

“Detectives immediately began an investigation,” Cipolla said, “and were able to collect DNA evidence, which was processed using the ANDE Rapid DNA instrument to develop a DNA profile of the suspect.”

Cipolla said this was the first time the department has used the Rapid DNA instrument.

Investigators were able to identify a likely suspect and according to Cipolla, the victim identified him in a photo lineup, which set off a manhunt throughout Cambria for Jesus Barajas Valdovinos, 31 of Cambria.

“The Sheriff’s Office saturated the Cambria area with both marked and unmarked patrol units,” Cipolla said, “while Detectives continued their investigation and attempted to locate Barajas Valdovinos.”

They caught up to the alleged rapist on July 2 at about noon in the 4000 block of Burton Dr. Barajas Valdovinos was arrested and transported to County Jail where he was booked on suspicion of sexual assault.

Such ambush-style sexual assaults are rare in San Luis Obispo County but have happened. For example, several years ago, San Luis Obispo and Cal Poly Police had numerous cases of college co-eds being assaulted at night while mostly walking alone in the neighborhoods around the Cal Poly Campus.

SLO Man Arrested on Drugs, Weapons Charges

A team of law enforcement officers from several agencies recently dropped the hammer on a San Luis Obispo man suspected of running a veritable pharmacy of illegal drugs selling them via social media.

According to Sheriff’s spokesman, Tony Cipolla, the case began last February when officers with the Sheriff’s Office Operations Unit (SOU), Federal Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA), SLO County Probation Department, and the SLO Police Department began a joint investigation of a SLO man “who was using the social media app, Snapchat, to advertise the sales of multiple types of narcotics and to facilitate



Jesus Barajas Valdovinos

narcotic transactions,” Cipolla said in a news release.

On June 15 officers served a search warrant on the man’s home in the 1500 block of Madonna Rd., SLO. The search revealed a cache of suspected drugs, guns and money.

“The search warrant resulted in the seizure of multiple narcotics,” Cipolla said, “two non-serialized handguns and approximately \$14,000 in cash.” Non-serialized handguns or so-called “ghost guns” are assembled from a kit and have no serial numbers, and thus cannot be registered with the State.

Cipolla added, the confiscated suspected narcotics included: 23 grams of MDMA/Ecstasy tablets; 33 grams of counterfeit Oxycodone Hydrochloride 30mg tablets containing Fentanyl and Acetaminophen; 1.95 grams of counterfeit Acetaminophen and Oxycodone Hydrochloride pills containing Fentanyl; and 2 grams of counterfeit Alprazolam (Xanax) pills containing Etizolam.

Estimated value of the narcotics seized was approximately \$5,000.

Josue Eliel Cambray Lopez, 19, was arrested for suspicion of possession of a narcotic controlled substance for sale, and being armed while committing a felony, Cipolla said.

A screen shot of the Snapchat web page Lopez was allegedly using, literally lists various types of drugs in an actual “menu” and invites people to “chat” if they want to place an order. It would seem a rather brazen and oddly public way to deal drugs, which would normally garner more secrecy and discretion, considering these are potential felonies.

Morro Bay Company Wins Cayucos Creek Road Repair Job

By Neil Farrell

A Morro Bay man’s contracting company has landed another County contract to fix an eroding roadway located east of Cayucos.

David Crye General Engineering Contractor, Inc., was the lowest bidder at \$439,000 for the job to repair Cayucos Creek Road at mile marker 1.3, located east of Cayucos on the road out past Hardie Park.

A March 2019 inspection report noted significant embankment erosion from high creek flows, and undermining of Cayucos Creek Road. The undermining has resulted “in narrowing of the travelled way down to single lane traffic. Temporary slope stabilization measures were implemented by the County as an interim measure,” reads a staff report.

That road is the only way in and out of the valley and must remain passable. “It is critical that Cayucos Creek Road remain passable,” the County report said, “given that past the project site, the road provides the only access to more than two dozen residences. This project will repair the roadway and the associated embankment that is damaged and will re-establish the facility to pre-erosion conditions.”

The erosion goes back to the bad winter of 2017. “At the January 23, 2018 Board meeting,” the report said, “the Board of Supervisors approved the 2017 Storm Damage Emergency Road Repair Projects — North Coast and adopted the Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND) pursuant to Section 21000 et seq. of the California Public Resources Code (CEQA).

“That MND evaluated a proposal to permanently resolve damage to County roads at seven North Coast Region locations that occurred as a result of severe winter storms. Two sites evaluated in the MND were located on Cayucos Creek Road, at MP 1.2 and 2.8.” The county concluded that since this newest site is just a short distance from the previously studied sites, no new environmental review was needed.

Crye Contracting’s bid was actually well under the engineer’s estimate of \$589,000 and was better than four other bidders. The losing bidders were: Hartzell General Engineering Contractor, Inc., at \$493,000; S. Chavez Construction, Inc., at \$552,000; Souza Engineering Contracting (dba Souza Construction) at \$582,000; and, AAAA Engineering Contracting, Inc., at \$631,000.

The award of this latest bid continues a hot streak by Crye Contracting winning County roads contracts. As Estero Bay News reported in a feature story about Morro Bay native son, David Crye, he has an advantage over other contractors in SLO County, as Crye also owns several gravel pits, which means he can severely undercut other contractors because he provides his own materials, while others must factor in those costs in their bids.

And if he doesn’t win a bid, chances are very good whoever does get the job, will buy materials from his rock mines.

Cal Fire Contract Amended Up \$20M

San Luis Obispo County has amended its contract for fire services with Cal Fire, adding over \$20 million and extending the contract by one year. But it still might not be enough, depending on the outcome of the State’s contract negotiations with its firefighter’s union.

County Supervisors approved the contract amendments with Cal Fire in June, adding \$20.84M to the existing \$82.22M contract that was signed in January 2018, covering Fiscal Years 2017/18 through 2020/21, according to a staff report. The new amendment and cost increase brings the contract total to over \$103M. It also extends the contract through June 2022 and the start of the next fiscal year.

SLO County has contracted with the State’s fire service since 1930 through yearly agreements. The services provided include emergency medical response, structural and vehicle fire suppression, hazardous materials spill mitigation, aircraft rescue and firefighting, and technical and confined space rescue.

“County Fire Department operates out of 16 stations,” reads the staff report, “providing service to an area of over 3,200 square miles. Fourteen of the stations included in the agreement are staffed 7-days-per-week with full-time staff. Morro-Toro Station 14 [located on Hwy 41] and Oak Shores Station 34 remain volunteer stations, with Paid Call Firefighters (PCFs) responding to incidents, supported by full-time staff from other stations.”

County Fire also contracts with Cal Fire for fire service in Los Osos, Cayucos, Avila Beach, and the San Luis Obispo Regional Airport. It also provides fire dispatch services to Cambria, San Miguel, Santa Margarita, Morro Bay, C Templeton, Atascadero and the Five Cities Fire Authority in South County.

Those services are paid for through separate contracts with the cities and community services districts, and totaling some \$4.17M annually.

But the amended contract might not still be enough and depends on the outcome of the State’s salary negotiations with Cal Fire’s union.

“The contract amount for FY 2021-22 is \$2,270,379 [9.8%] less than the budgeted amount for the contract in FY 2021-22 due to a significant reduction in the current benefit rates; however, labor rates could increase pending state labor negotiations. If costs increase above what is included in the amendment for the 1-year extension, the County would still be required to pay actuals, as the contract is an amount not to exceed the new total contract amount of \$103,072,946. “



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CCAT Opens its Doors With a Night of Flamenco, July 17

By Jill Turnbow



Cambria Center for the Arts Theatre is excited to be opening its doors for the first time since March of 2020. And, they are doing it in a big way. CCAT presents guest artist, Savannah Fuentes and her tour of “Flores de Verano, Flamenco en Vivo.” Joining Savannah will be flamenco guitarist and singer, Diego Amador, Jr. This vibrant, exuberant evening begins at 7 p.m. on July 17. Savannah is touring this show along the entire Pacific Coast and making this one-night stop in Cambria. Hailing from Seattle, Savannah has produced over 300 performances since being exposed to flamenco on television as a child. “I took to it immediately,” said Savannah. “It has been my lifelong study and passion.” Providing the music and vocals is Diego Amador, Jr., a flamenco guitarist and son of the world-renowned pianist, Diego Amador. The elder Amador, from Seville, formed the popular band, Pata Negra with his family. In Spain, the Amador family is considered “royalty.” Diego is also an accomplished percussionist and pianist as well. He just released his first album in June of this year, “Presente en el Tiempo.” Tickets for this one-night only performance are selling quickly. They are \$25 and available at the CCAT website, Cambriaarts.

org. Seats are reserved and limited due to social distancing. Tickets will only be available at the door, if there is space, so order now. CCAT requests that you purchase tickets online, prior to the performance. The show begins at 7 p.m. The staff and volunteers at CCAT will maintain strict protocols, will remain masked, and all have been vaccinated. Masking for audience will be voluntary, yet they encourage guests to do what makes them comfortable. This night of flamenco is the first in a series of concerts at CCAT. August 14, they will present an evening with Brynn Albanese along with Jody Mulgrew. And on September 12, they welcome Dirty Cello. Details and tickets are on the website. Tickets for both of these events are \$25 and are on sale now. In October, CCAT presents their first full production of the year, “Cambria the Musical,” opening October 8. This show was just weeks from opening when the pandemic shut down the theatre. It is an original work, written by local Cambrian, Ed Hughes, and is based on a true story about the town’s history. Cambria Center for the Arts Theatre is located at 1350 Main St in Cambria. There is plenty of parking available. Don’t miss a night of flamenco music and dance with “Flores de Verano Flamenco en Vivo.”

Events and Activities

By Theresa-Marie Wilson

Don’t miss the next Central Coast State Parks Association Mindwalks on Friday July 16 at 1 p.m. Join Call Poly professor Scott Johnston to discuss how geologists study the formation of volcanic rocks, when and how the local volcanic formations formed and how their formation has helped geologists to better understand the evolution of recent tectonic events in the region. The virtual mindwalk will look at the Morro-Island Volcanic Chain that make up the iconoclastic peaks that define the San Luis Obispo area and provide spectacular hiking and climbing opportunities for inhabitants and visitors, but their formation is commonly misrepresented. Register at https://ports-ca.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_B1tmJXQCRLbXef7H9osS



R.A.C.E. Matters presents the second iteration of their Belonging series — a multi- location, multimedia event that centers

and amplifies Black voices. R.A.C.E. Matters is a San Luis Obispo-based, Black-led organization that creates artistic, cultural, educational, and social experiences that amplify Black voices and matters of racial justice. Supported by funding from the City of San Luis Obispo for programs that foster diversity, equity, and inclusion, Belonging was produced in collaboration with several local creatives. Belonging includes the photographic and video installation We Are Here, musical celebration Rhythms in Black, and live storytelling event Stories Matter. We Are Here showcases local Black residents; and includes an unprecedented display of portrait photography on city pedestrian banners in the hub of Downtown San Luis Obispo. The community can view We Are Here and listen to Rhythms in Black around Downtown SLO and via R.A.C.E. Matters’ website (racematterslo.org/belonging) Rhythms in Black is also available for streaming on the SoundCloud.com/racematterslo platform, accessible to anyone with a computer or phone. Tickets for Stories Matter, a live and in-person event at Bang The Drum Brewery, are now on sale at racematterslo.org along with more information about our Belonging programs and events.

Key Dates:

July through August: View and listen to We Are Here and Rhythms in Black around Downtown San Luis Obispo and on racematterslo.org Thursday, July 15th, 6-9 p.m.: Belonging Block Party at Farmer’s Market: music, Black-owned business vendors, art, and more! Morro Street between Higuera and Monterey streets. Sunday, August 1st, 4-6 p.m.: Stories Matter at Bang the Drum Brewery. Tickets are \$5 online at Event Brite and \$7 at the door. Photo caption: San Luis Obispo resident Josephine Agoruah photo shoot for Behind the Scenes with photographer Stephen Herald of Community Roots Project. Photo by Eric Deshawn Lerma.



Pi Jacobs plays what has been called “an Americana bluesy rock thing”. Pi will be coming to the central coast on July 17 to play Morro Bay’s Libertine Brewing with her one-woman show that includes the obvious: powerful singing, and rootsy guitar work, alongside the not so obvious “Stomp Box” that she plays with her feet creating impeccable grooves. The result is a high energy, captivating affair that will be certain to entertain. Pi’s music



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has been heard on NPR, DittyTV, Austin Music TV, The Alternate Root Magazine, Americana Highways, American Songwriter Magazine, and regularly on Radio Tastemakers, KCSN (LA), and WFUV (NYC), as well as stations across the nation, Live from Memphis her upcoming Blackbird Record Label release, comes out August 13, 2021.

...

Cambria Center for the Arts' Gallery will open it's doors on July 24. The Rosemary Pisciotto Retropective will be available to view on line July 3 - August 29, in the virtual gallery, and from July 24 - August 29 in the gallery on Main St. in Cambria. For more information, go to cambriaarts.org. A closing reception will take place in August.



Looking for a new place to sit and enjoy your surroundings? The Cal Poly Construction Management Team led by Professors Jeong Woo and Daniel Knight designed, constructed, and installed ten cast concrete benches in The San Luis Obispo Botanical Garden, in early June 2021. The new benches provide comfortable, study, and stylish outdoor seating.

While you are there, take in the Birds and Botany Monthly Walk on July 22, from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. and August 26 from 8 a.m. to 10 a.m.

Join birding enthusiasts for a walk through the Garden. Discover relationships between bird and plant species. What birds are drawn to which plants? What do they get out of the relationship? This understanding can shape landscaping efforts to the benefit of fauna and flora. Visit slobg.org for tickets and info!

Cost is \$10 for Garden members, \$20 for the general public, free for children. Tickets include entry to SLO Botanical Garden. Learn more about the non-profit San Luis Obispo Botanical Garden and purchase your ticket at slobg.org.

...

Brunch in the Garden is back every Sunday this summer at 11 a.m. at the Cambria Pines Lodge. Enjoy the Cambria sunshine, delicious brunch items, and good company in their beautiful garden. Non-alcoholic beverages are included with the menu prices and a full bar will be available for adult beverage purchases.

Reservations: Groups under 8 can call (805) 927-4747 or visit their OpenTable page; Groups with 8+ guests please call (805) 927-4747 to reserve your table. To see a menu, go to cambriapineslodge.com.

...

As part of Festival Mosaic there is a Chamber music series featuring the work of Schubert, Mozart, & Clara Schumann on July 30 starting at 8 p.m. at SLO Brew Rock, 855 Aerovista Lane. Listen to Schubert - String Trio in B-flat, D. 581 Steven Copes, violin, Jessica Oudin, viola, Dariusz Skoraczewski, cello. Mozart - Quintet for Piano and Winds in E-flat K. 452 John Novacek, piano, Elizabeth Koch Tiscione, oboe, Burt Hara, clarinet, Conrad Cornelison, bassoon, Kaitlyn Resler, horn, Clara Schumann - Piano Trio in g, op. 17 Scott Yoo, violin, Sophie Shao, cello, Ieva Jokubaviciute, piano

Premium seating is in the front section of the venue, closer to the stage. General seating seats in the middle to rear of the venue.

Single ticket prices start at \$60. Save when you package 3 or more events. Purchase tickets at <https://www.festivalmozaic.org/event-detail.php?id=68>. The 4 p.m. show is sold out.

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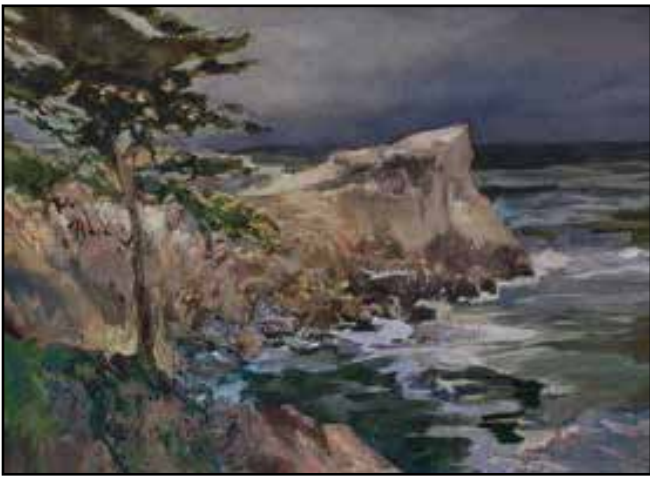
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Morro Bay Art Association presents The Great Outdoors through September 6 at Art Center Morro Bay 835 Main St. After months of sheltering in place and staying close to home, there may be no better cleanse for the human spirit than art.

Artists create en plein air or artworks inspired by the beautiful scenery and colorful wildlife found in San Luis Obispo county from their respective studios. Local backyards provide creative inspiration for many novices and seasoned artists alike. View nature inspired scenes imbued with romance, desire and dramatic light in all media.

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.

With special social distancing measures in place, Art Center Morro Bay remains open to visitors seeking to leave behind the dust of everyday life, even if just for a few hours. For more information, go to artcentermorrobay.com. Painting Dog Beach Cayucos by Harwood Benton

...

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.



By Theresa-Marie Wilson

Estero Bay Kindness Coalition



The Estero Bay Kindness Coalition's mission is to partner with for-profits, nonprofits, churches and schools to benefit the greater good and those living on the margins in the Estero Bay community. To further that goal, the group will hold a benefit dance concert featuring the Zongo All-Stars, Aug. 27 at SLO Brew.

Estero Bay Kindness Coalition started in December 2017, when founder Bobby deLancellotti met with the principal at Del Mar Elementary school in Morro Bay to inquire about how he could serve the most vulnerable students during the holidays. She informed him that 64 percent of the students at Del Mar were living at or below the poverty line. This broke Bobby's heart, so

he decided to do something about it, organizers said. In March 2018, he started Got Your Back, a program that helped feed kids over the weekend. The kids in this program rely on reduced lunch at school to eat during the week and would often go hungry on the weekends.

By June 2018, Estero Bay Kindness Coalition was providing backpacks full of healthy food for 48 students through the Got Your Back program. The following school year, the program jumped to 8 schools and over 200 students in the San Luis Coastal Unified School District. During this time, the organization became a non-profit 501 C-3.

When the COVID-19 pandemic hit and schools closed their doors in March 2020, Bobby met with local principals to get connected with some of the most vulnerable, food-insecure families in the District.

Estero Bay Kindness Coalition went from feeding school kids on the weekends to feeding whole families, for the week, virtually overnight.

To meet the needs of the families referred to them by one of the eight partnered schools, they created Bags of Love, a program that delivers three bags of groceries per week to over 90 families in the greater Estero Bay area. The bags of groceries consist of healthy, protein-rich breakfasts, lunches, dinners, snacks, juice, milk, and fresh, local produce.

Bobby has built a team of over 50 volunteers, four team leaders, and four food pantries. The organization currently partners with eight schools, 27 for-profits, 17 nonprofits, and 10 churches.

Tickets for the benefit concert are \$15 in advance and can be purchased at my805tix.com/e/every-day-kindness/tickets. This is an all ages, mostly standing room show with very limited seating. Doors open at 6:30 p.m. and the show starts at 7:30 p.m. For more information or to make a donation, see esterobaykindnesscoalition.org.

Takin Care of Business Continued on page 9



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Police Blotter



Morro Bay Police Logs

- **July 4:** Police responded at 9:35 p.m. to Hwy 41 south of Atascadero Road for a traffic collision. No gossip details were released, but no injuries were reported either.
- **July 4:** Police responded at 7:40 p.m. to the 2000 block of Palisades where they arrested a 56-year-old fellow for failing to register as a convicted sex offender.
- **July 4:** Police stopped a suspicious vehicle at 2:11 p.m. on Atascadero Road at Ironwood. Logs indicated the 48-year-old borracho was allegedly driving legless, cited and released, and no doubt could really use a beer about now.
- **July 4:** Police responded at 10 a.m. to a home in the 2200 block of Greenwood where they arrested some scamboogah for suspicion of elder abuse, which though breaks God’s Commandment, is just a misdemeanor in Califreakornia.
- **July 3:** Police responded to a reported assault at 8:55 p.m. in the 400 block of Embarcadero. A 46-year-old man was arrested for suspicion of “assault causing great bodily injury.” The ruffian was tossed into the dungeon.
- **July 3:** Police responded to an apartment in the 500 block of Main where a citizen said her friend told her someone had threatened her on Facebook Messenger, reason 1,212 for canceling Facebook.
- **July 3:** A woman came to the police station and said she’d lost her purse, no word on the contents, which could be anything and everything.
- **July 3:** Police responded at 2:15 p.m. to Embarcadero and Beach for a fender-denter. No injuries.
- **July 2:** Police stopped a suspicious vehicle at 11:05 p.m. in the 1300 block of Main. Logs indicated the 65-year-old driver was

- arrested for suspicion of driving lubricated.
- **July 2:** Police responded at 7 p.m. to the 500 block of Dunes where a local resident caught the celestial bus to Paradise.
 - **July 2:** Police stopped a suspicious vehicle at 5:46 p.m. at Dunes and Main. The driver, 68, was nicked for suspicion of driving deep in his cups.
 - **July 2:** A citizen in the 900 block of Mesa told police his or her checkbook was stolen and the rapsCALLION has already forged some checks.
 - **July 2:** A woman in the 2200 block of Greenwood said some porch pirate stole a package from her house.
 - **July 2:** A citizen in the 400 block of Main found a bag of illegal fireworks near his property and handed them over to police, who will now have all the fun.
 - **July 1:** Police responded to the 600 block of Main where they took a juvenile apparently in crisis into custody for being a danger to himself.
 - **July 1:** Police identified the driver in a crash-n-dash in the 300 block of Quintana but apparently haven’t yet cited the fiend.
 - **July 1:** Police responded at 4 p.m. to Morro Rock where the town tourist tax was deducted from someone’s unlocked car.
 - **July 1:** Someone burglarized a home in the 2000 block of Bay-view and police have no clue who.
 - **July 1:** A citizen came to the station to report a check fraud case.
 - **July 1:** Police responded at 7:30 a.m. to a home on Ironwood after receiving multiple disturbance complaints. All were no doubt advised to cease and de-shut-up.
 - **June 30:** Police responded at 7:40 p.m. to a disturbance in the 500 block of Morro Ave. Logs indicated a 43-year-old fellow was tossed to the clink for suspicion of being stinky where the tourist can see you.
 - **June 30:** Police contacted a popular fellow, 29, in City Park whom the judge wanted to have a word with. They issued him another disappearance ticket and released him to find again another day.
 - **June 30:** At 12:14 p.m. police responded to Main and Morro Bay Boulevard for a minor car crash. Then at 12:30 p.m. someone reported a car crash somewhere on South Bay Boulevard, as the hits just keep on coming.
 - **June 29:** Police contacted a suspicious fellow at 8:40 p.m. at Main and Atascadero Road. The 39-year-old scofflaw had a warrant from another county and was written one for this county and released.
 - **June 29:** At 8:39 p.m. in the 900 block of MBB two cars collided, as the Roundabout — look left, turn right — proves too tough to navigate once again.
 - **June 29:** A citizen in the 500 block of Kings told police that he was scammed out of \$2,550 by the ol’ threaten-to-turn-off-the-electricity-if-you-don’t-pay-outstanding-fees trick.
 - **June 29:** Police responded to a bank in the 200 block of Harbor where a suspect entered the business and provided a fraudulent, altered check, and took them for \$271.50. Police suspect this same master criminal has done this at other businesses in town.
 - **June 29:** Police responded to the 500 block of Fresno where someone stole a car cover.
 - **June 29:** Police responded to the 900 block of Main where some graffidiot left his mark.
 - **June 28:** Police contacted a familiar fellow, 58, at 2:30 p.m. on Park Street and of course he had a warrant and of course he was just cited and released to catch again in a month, part of the ol’ job security program.
 - **June 28:** Police got a report of someone getting cash in Oceano using a Morro Bay citizen’s debit card, as the scourge of the 21st Century continues.
 - **June 28:** Police responded at 7:47 a.m. to the 400 block of Crest where they arrested a 42-year-old bounder for allegedly making criminal threats and possession of drug paraphernalia, which explains a lot.
 - **June 28:** Police stopped a suspicious vehicle at Quintana and South Bay at 12:47 a.m., a time when no one is safe. The driver, 49, had a suspended license and that’s all police could pin on him, this time.
 - **June 27:** Police responded to the 700 block of Quintana at 3 p.m. for a reported crash-n-dash accident, though by fleeing one would tend to implicate themselves.
 - **June 27:** A boat on a trailer on Olive Street apparently outstayed its welcome and was sailed off by a tow truck for expired registration, as the pirate failed to pay the DMV ransom.
 - **June 27:** Police responded at 6:40 a.m. to Hwy1 at Morro Bay Boulevard for a reported car accident. There were apparently no injuries, though it’s doubtful anyone asked the vehicles how they felt.
 - **June 27:** Police responded at 1:10 a.m. to a reported assault in the 1100 block of Embarcadero. A 33-year-old woman said her 27-year-old sister had assaulted her. Police were to follow

- up, though it’s even money no charges get filed, for what’s a little battery between sisters...
- **June 26:** Police arrested a 28-year-old apparently sticky-fingered woman in the 200 block of Main St., for suspicion of burglary.
 - **June 26:** Police at 4 p.m. contacted a familiar fiend in City Park. The lady scofflaw, 28, had four bench warrants for her arrest, but was cited and released with her fifth FTA soon to follow.
 - **June 26:** Police stopped a suspicious vehicle at 1:10 a.m. at MBB and Shasta. The driver, 23, was nicked for suspicion of driving stuck like chuck.
 - **June 25:** Police stopped a suspicious vehicle at 11:30 p.m. at Main and Beach. Naturally, the driver, 50, was arrested for suspicion of driving roasted.
 - **June 25:** Police stopped a suspicious vehicle at 6:49 a.m. on Hwy 1 at Yerba Buena. The Fruit-loop dingus driver, 39, was arrested for suspicion of DUI, possession of methamphetamine and two bench warrants. Say ‘Good-night Gracie...’
 - **June 23:** Police responded at 8:20 p.m. to a car crash in the 1300 block of Embarcadero. Sorry, no juicy details were available.
 - **June 23:** Police responded at 5:32 p.m. to the 400 block of Trinidad where they cited a 60-year-old shining example for two outstanding warrants. At the same bat time and same bat place, police took a report of possible elder abuse and filed it with County Adult Protective Services.
 - **June 23:** Brazen, and yet industrious, slime ball thieves stole catalytic converters off five cars — one each in the 400 blocks of Napa and Monterey and 500 Kern, and two in the 500 block of Bernardo, oh the humanity — the crime wave continues unabated!
 - **June 23:** Police paid an early morning visit to an old friend at 7 a.m. in the 300 block of Surf. Logs indicated the 45-year-old scofflaw had a bench warrant. She was given another citation and allowed to continue flaunting the law.
 - **June 22:** Someone found something somewhere in the 300 block of Quintana and now police have it.
 - **June 22:** Police responded at 5:45 a.m. to the 700 block of Quintana for some bounder causing a ruckus. Logs indicated the 22-year-old fellow was nicked for suspicion of being over-stimulated on stimulants, possession of drugs and of course, resisting arrest. The Jackanapes went along quietly to the hoosegow.
 - **June 21:** Police at 9 p.m. towed away a vehicle form the area of Kern and Pacific for an expired registration, about the only tax not forgiven in the name of COVID-19 relief.
 - **June 21:** Police responded at 4 p.m. to yet another fender-bender at Atascadero Road and Main Street. No injuries were reported.
 - **June 21:** Police responded to a report of someone having a bag lady moment in the 2400 block of Main. Logs indicated a 25-year-old fellow was tossed into the clink for suspicion of being stoned on drugs.
 - **June 21:** Police responded to a disturbance at 6:51 a.m. in the 400 block of Crest St. Logs indicated they arrested a 42-year-old chap for suspicion of being high on drugs and checked him into the County B&B for three hots and a cot.

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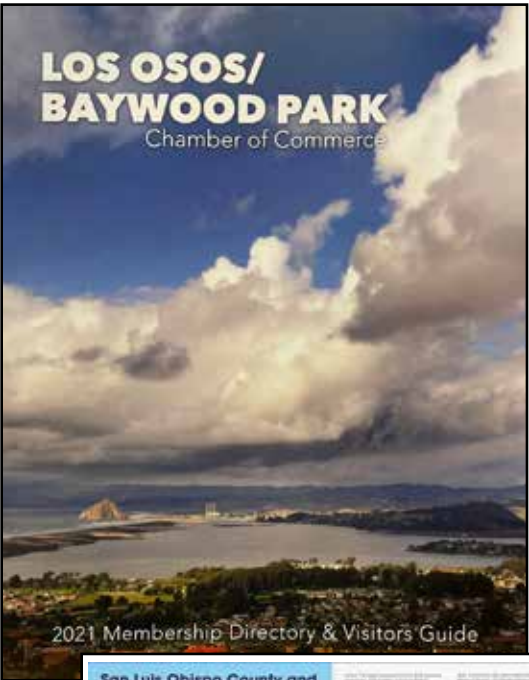
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The 2021 LOBP Directory Is Here



Every year, Los Osos/Baywood Park Chamber of Commerce publishes a new directory with information on local parks, points of interest, community organizations, and much more. This full-color 40-page book features information from our local businesses — from where to eat, where to stay and where to get things done. The photographs were contributed by local photographers who captured scenes that many of us miss. Visitors and residents alike will appreciate the 2-page map in the middle.

The Chamber office is now open and hope folks will stop in and pick up a copy for yourself, and one to share. The hours are Monday through Friday, 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. at 781 Los Osos Valley Road at the corner of Palisades Avenue. Readers can reach them by phone at (805) 528-4884.

Get Nourished by Nature

Are you looking for ways to stay cool, calm, and connected this summer? All are welcomed to attend Nourished by Nature mindfulness “mini-retreats.”

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down in the company of others, while diving deeply into yourself to experience how nature-based mindfulness can be the foundation for greater strength, peace, resilience, health, and happiness.

By deepening your connection with nature, enhance your personal wellbeing and psychological resilience, like tiny seeds planted in the soil awaiting the right conditions to emerge. Make this the year your well of wellbeing remains full. Teens are welcome to share the experience with a parent or guardian to learn simple ways to reduce stress.

Advance registration is required for upcoming mini-retreats: July 17 from 8-10 a.m. “Nourished by “Vitamin Sea” at Montana do Oro State Park
July 31 from 6:30–8:30 p.m. “Nourished by Sunset” in Morro Bay.

For more information or to register, go to mindfulkindfullyouniversity.com/retreats/
To host a mini-retreat at your workplace, contact Dee Di-Gioia at 805-270-5523 or mindfulkindfullyou@gmail.com.

City Needs Volunteers

The City of Morro Bay is looking for volunteers to sit on the Planning Commission and the Public Works Advisory Board and deadline to apply is 5 p.m. Friday, July 30.

The applications are available on the City Clerk’s webpage (see: <http://ca-morrobay.civicplus.com/DocumentCenter/View/8320/Advisory-Board-Application>).

PWAB advises the City on matters dealing with infrastructure, water and sewer including the Water Reclamation Facility Project.

The Planning Commission makes decisions regarding land use and development. This function is likely to be very important in the near future as the City will sometime soon start the review of 600 megawatt “Battery Energy Storage System,” (BESS) Project that Vistra has proposed for the Power Plant property.

Learn more about Morro Bay’s citizen boards, see: www.morrobayca.gov/268/Boards-Committees-Commissions.

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

OUT & ABOUT

WITH THE BOOKSHELF WRITERS

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

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

Piece of Paradise

Catherine “Kiki” Kornreich

Looking out over the Pacific, from my lanai, I inhaled a deep breath and took in all of the wonder and beauty of the Oahu coastline. Ahhhh, this was paradise.

I was astonished at how many surfers were huddled around a dark reef, each waiting for their turn. I tried to count them, but like fish in a pond, they kept moving.

The cluster in front of me had at least 150 sitting or lying on



their longboards and looking out to sea, awaiting the perfect wave. Or maybe gazing at the beautiful dark-skinned buns perched on the neighboring board (if it weren’t for the little tortilla chip patch of fabric on their lower back, you’d swear the ladies were naked).

Below me were three surfboard kiosks, each with 25-50 boards for rent. As the day progressed, the stacks of boards diminished, and the number of beginners increased.

The warm tropical water whispered my name, so I joined the other folks bobbing in the shallow surf. I kept finding myself in the direct path of those beginning surfers who had no control of their boards. Fearing decapitation, I wandered back to my room, head safely perched atop my shoulders.

I was in Waikiki, nestled between all of the other high-rise hotels that dot the shore.

The tourism has gotten crazier than ever in Hawaii, kinda like we’ve been experiencing on the Estero Bay. And I couldn’t help but wonder how the locals felt.

Commiserating with a few shop owners in Hawaii, I found that they were thrilled the tourists were back, and that the economy took a terrifying hit during the international quarantines. The bed taxes help pay for their infrastructure and without it, state employees were getting laid off and businesses where shuttering, like every other community on the planet.

“We love having you guys here,” one shop owner told me. “We’ve missed you.” I told her about one of my earlier trips here, when a kama’aina (local) yelled at me, “Haole (visitor), go home!” She said, “Oh, that won’t happen anymore! Those boys who wanted their beaches to themselves? They’ve realized they suddenly had all of the beaches to themselves ...and were very unemployed.”

Here in Morro Bay, I have friends who sit out on their boards, having to jockey for the killer wave, and then get cut off by some kid who’s visiting with his family.

We’ve all watched as our quaint little beaches have been overtaken by families trying to escape the Virus, break out of their quarantines and escape the heat. We’ve bashed them on the Nextdoor app: their trash, their unmasked faces, their radical driving habits. And now that there’s more freedom to get out, not being able to get tables at our favorite restaurants.

I don’t have a retail business in Morro Bay, but I have many friends who do and their struggles were palpable.

It used to be the weekends, holidays and summer that brought the influx, now it’s pretty constant. But we’re adapting. We’re learning to open our arms to visitors, and to be grateful for their contributions to our economy. To maybe drive a little farther for a parking space, to walk the beach earlier in the morning. Maybe to help that kid on a surfboard...remembering that we were once beginners.

Out & About Continued on page 10

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Community

Out & About From page 9

We all enjoy getting away and visiting other towns, states, countries. And then we are the tourists. Hopefully we're wearing our masks, picking up our trash, and doing our best to be conscientious drivers.

I empathize with those little Hawaiian businesses, and do my best to be kind and thoughtful when I'm in their backyard. And I see plenty of people visit the Estero Bay who treat it with kindness and respect.

We may not be Hawaii, but like it or not we live in a county that people love to visit.

We are blessed to live in paradise. And paradise belongs to everyone.

Aloha.

Catherine "Kiki" Kornreich is a member of The BookShelf Writers. To see more of her work, please visit www.thebookshelfwriters.com

Morro Bay Rotary Names New President



Tim Olivas, shown here with his wife Sue, is the new president of Rotary Club of Morro Bay.

Rotary Club of Morro Bay members are celebrating their designation as a Gold Club and Peace Builder Club by District 5240 for the 2020-21 year led by President Jeff Jones. After a successful year of supporting local businesses and citywide projects that provided help during shutdown; giving funds and delivering locally-caught fish to the Food Bank and homeless shelters; and awarding grants to local non-profits that serve our community, Jones is turning over the club leadership to 2021-22

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Club President Tim Olivas.

Tim is well known in Morro Bay, first serving as a police officer and then becoming police chief in 2009.


"It was a very proud moment for me" Olivas said. "I have always held Morro Bay near and dear. I was not looking at leaving and saw my career remaining as police chief until retirement, when Sheriff Ian Parkinson took me to coffee one day." So, in 2011 Chief Olivas joined the Sheriff's Office team serving as Undersheriff until his 2018 retirement.

The Club will continue their "Help Us Help Others" campaign started by Jones to provide continued support for community well-being projects. Activities and fundraisers planned by Olivas include a Top Tracer Golf Tournament at Dairy Creek. This event gives golfers the opportunity to virtually play the famous Pebble Beach course using the Top Tracer technology that tracks real time and scores as the ball is hit onto a live range. The 2nd Annual Ducky Derby will be held on the Bay in October and the Lighted Boat Parade will be held December 4 along with the opening of Santa's House on the Embarcadero. The next Drive-Through Tri-Tip BBQ is September 15 at Carla's Country Kitchen.

In-person meetings are starting Tuesday, July 20 from Noon to 1 p.m. Upcoming speakers include Chendra Lor of the SLO Botanical Garden, Sheriff Ian Parkinson, City Councilman Jeff Heller, Morro Bay Police Chief Jody Cox and a series on economic development co-hosted by the Morro Bay Chamber of Commerce.

Rotary meets every Tuesday with each 3rd Tuesday being a Social Night with Rotarians supporting a different local eatery each month. If you are interested in Rotary, go to morrobayrotary.org and contact the membership chair.

A Dose of Good Dogma



Human Training 101: Crash Course

Yes, I know, this column is supposed to be about dogs, their training and behavior, but in order to productively and successfully work with your dog, to get the greatest results, the humans must be trained first. I've previously written about getting to know your dog, their temperament and any idiosyncrasies or quirks they may have, and learning to read their body language. Here I will provide principle guidelines to assist you in achieving your training goals.

First and foremost is ensuring that all of your dog's basic needs are being met. This includes addressing both the physical and psychological needs: exercise, food, shelter, mental stimula-

tion and leadership. The human must remember to remain in the "leadership" zone at all times, to prevent the dog from usurping that position. The balance and dynamic of the relationship with your dog should always place you in command of the relationship. Being in the leadership zone involves modeling calm, assertive behavior to keep your dog under control, calmly.

Your dog is constantly keeping tabs on your "energy" and reacting to that energy. This means that they can sense any fear, anxiety, stress or excitement coming from you. It happens because when your body chemistry changes in response to a situation they pick up on the chemical changes. This is where the phrase "dogs can smell fear" comes from. It's also why there are dogs that are now being used to sniff out cancer, alert for changes in blood sugar or anticipate seizures in people. Amazing animals!

Remember that a "purebred" dog is still a dog. It helps to see them as dogs, not as breeds. However, you must consider any "special needs" of the breed. For example, make sure that your herding dog gets appropriate, adequate mental and physical stimulation. Or that your Lab/golden has opportunities to chase and retrieve, etc.

"Training" per se is superficial. The goal is to have your dog respond to you as a leader, using your energy, vocalization/inflexion, and body language as opposed to the sound of a verbal command. Alpha animals "train" their pack this way, since they cannot speak. Focus on your goals, the end result. Don't get distracted, or frustrated, by right now.

Conversely, pay attention to your dog's body language so it's easier for you to anticipate inappropriate behavior. This way you may be able to prevent it, or distract them before the fact.

It's critically important to understand the way dogs think. Their brains work differently than ours, When you say, "We've tried everything," were you using human psychology or dog psychology? The dog fails when the human fails. Instead of making excuses for your dog's behavior, develop new, alternative, positive behaviors for them.


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



On the subject of old ranch barns, I've seen and painted quite a few. There is one in particular I recall with fondness, the Froom Ranch round barn. The Madonna family currently owns the ranch.

According to William 'Bill' Froom, who I befriended in the early 1970s, his ranch had the only round barn in San Luis Obispo County. On one of the Thursday Painters visits to the ranch, Mr. Froom related to me how his barn (that can still be seen from Los Osos Valley Road) came about, how it was built and how it was used.


Jim Aiken built the round barn in 1913 for \$1,800, which





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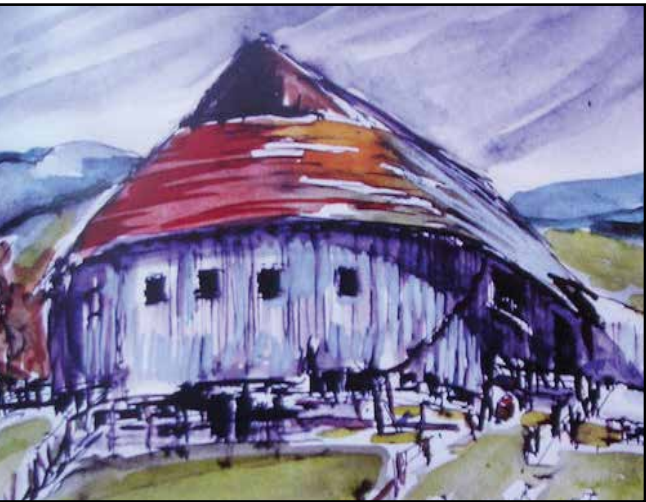
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The Froom Ranch round barn. Watercolor by Joan Sullivan 1976

included materials and labor for the barn, the granary and the horse barn. Jim lived in a tent by the creek and came up to work each day. Bill told us that many ranch hands lived on ranches and even worked for no pay just to be there when work became available. They saved their pay of \$30 a month with room and board — there was nowhere to go and spend it — then they leased or bought their own ranches, Bill said.

The round barn is 80 feet long by 60 feet wide and was designed to hold 10 cows in stalls at either end and 20 cows on each side. The original wood, including a four-inch carrier track that was used to fill the barn with hay, was still in good condition. Bill pointed out that 80 foot of short sheeting was used to round the corner of the roof. The volume of air and steepness of the roof kept it from leaking, he said.

Spreading the hay kept it flat and hollow in the center. If you let it pile up in the middle, then it falls down on the sides spreading around the barn. Pack the sides higher and let it fall down toward middle. This will keep the barn from sagging, Bill’s father told him. It took wagons two weeks to fill the barn and only three days with trucks and bales. The milk holding tank held 100 gallons. Cows were milked and gave 100 gallons twice a day.

Mr. Froom explained how he shortened the Jackson Fork to pick up a bale of hay. It would hold two or three bails with one on each prong. Bill paid \$2 to cut it short. He bought it from Mr. Gamboni when the Gambonis had an antique shop in San Luis Obispo.

Bill had instant recall, which he readily shared with everyone. He told us (laughingly) about the difficult time he had learning to use the milking machine when it was first installed. It took him ten hours to milk because the noise of the machine and the nervousness of the cows were quite overwhelming. The second day the cows were ready to be milked. They were leaking and seemed to like the massaging of the machine, noise and all, he chuckled.

Reference: Rounding Up The Ranches by Joan Sullivan, 2015, p.85

Surf Camp Barbecue a Big Hit

Photo by Neil Farrell



From left: former Morro Bay Councilman and Project Surf Camp volunteer, Matt Makowetski, Project Surf Camp founder, John Taylor, Fr. Ed Holterhoff of St. Timothy’s Church, and Movement for Life therapy clinic owner, Michael Williams, pose at the start of the June 25 barbecue fundraiser that Williams hosted for Project Surf Camp. Photo courtesy Michael Williams

The June 25 benefit for Project Surf Camp, organized by Michael Williams of Movement for Life therapy clinic in Morro Bay, again set a record in both donations and attendance, according to Williams.

“I want to give my sincere, heartfelt appreciation to everyone who came out,” Williams said. It was a record amount and record turnout. Our parking lot was full.”

Williams reported that his annual pre-4th of July benefit raised \$14,000 for Project Surf Camp. They had to skip the fundraiser last year due to the coronavirus pandemic, and were eager to bring it back and help out Surf Camp’s mission of “Changing Lives” for children and adults with autism and other developmental disabilities.

Williams related a couple of stories from that day. One involved a semi-homeless man who often visits the clinic and whom Williams said was enthusiastic about their bringing the barbecue back.

He wanted to donate and buy some raffle tickets, Williams said, but didn’t have any money. So Williams fronted him \$20 and bought five tickets for the man.

“And he wins a motel stay at Harbor House,” Williams said, “and wins a \$100 gift certificate to the Hut.”

“It was like God was looking out for him,” Williams added. “It made me cry.”

Another raffle winner was an 18-year patient at the clinic who won a night’s stay at the Madonna Inn and \$150 gift certificate. And, Williams said, she won the prize on her birthday.

Surf Camp starts this month on Morro Strand Beach. For more information, see: www.projectsurfcamp.com



Former Morro Bay City Councilman and Project Surf Camp volunteer, Matt Makowetski, sits on a donated, refurbished wrought iron garden bench that was also raffled off. A Cayucos man won the bench and Williams said he personally delivered it to him, and all his family was there, too.

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Music

Every Day Kindness: Zongo All-Stars



Get your tickets now for an electric evening of dance and fundraising as Zongo All-Stars teams up with the Estero Bay Kindness Coalition at SLO Brew Rock on August 27. Zongo All-Stars has been on hiatus for the past 19 months throughout the pandemic, and this is your chance to let loose on the dance floor for their infectious, high energy Afro-Latin beats. The Estero Bay Kindness Coalition, spearheaded by Bobby deLancellotti, has been doing a tremendous job serving those living on the margins from Los Osos to Cambria. Through free food delivery, children’s clothing program, and more, these efforts are making a huge difference locally. Tickets are \$15 each and proceeds go to the Estero Bay Kindness Coalition. Doors open at 6:30 at the show starts at 7:30. Tickets at bigbigslo.com/kindness. Photo by Dean Sullivan.

Thu., Jul. 15 • 7:00pm
Lewis & Rose
Puffers of Pismo
781 Price Street,
Pismo Beach

Thu., Jul. 15 • 7:00pm
Robert Alberts Quintet
The Madonna Inn
100 Madonna Road,
San Luis Obispo

Fri., Jul. 16 • 5:00pm
Stellar Band
Tooth & Nail Winery
3090 Anderson Road,
Paso Robles

Fri., Jul. 16 • 5:00pm
Tim Jackson
Branch Street Deli
203 East Branch Street, Arroyo Grande

Sat., Jul. 17 • 7:00pm
LE VENT DU NORD
Castoro Cellars
1315 N Bethel Rd,
Templeton

Sat., Jul. 17 • 2:00pm
Vibe Setters
Sea Pines Golf Resort
1945 Solano St, Los Osos

Sun., Jul. 18 • 2:00pm
Ku-Dog & Friends
Avila Beach Golf Resort
6464 Ana Bay Road,
Avila Beach

Sun., Jul. 18 • 1:00pm
Lazy Locals Concert -
Dan Curcio Duo
Castoro Cellars Winery
1315 N Bethel Rd,
Templeton

Sun., Jul. 18 • 12:30pm
Live Outside Concert
Schooners
171 N Ocean Ave., Cayucos

Sun., Jul. 18 • 1:00pm
Resination Concert
Dinosaur Caves Park
2701 Price Street,
Pismo Beach

Sun., Jul. 18 • 1:00pm
Rockin’ The Ranch:
The Paisley Brothers
Filipponi Ranch
1850 Calle Joaquin,
San Luis Obispo

Sun., Jul. 18 • 1:00pm
Shane Stoneman
Sextant
1653 Maxwellton Street, Edna

Tue., Jul. 20 • 7:00pm
(((folkYEAH!))) x SLO Brew
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SLO Brew Rock
855 Aerovista Place,
San Luis Obispo

Wed., Jul. 21 • 6:00pm
Joy Bonner Band
Templeton Concerts
in the Park
550 Crocker St, Templeton

Thu., Jul. 22 • 6:00pm
JD Project
Paso Robles Concerts
in the Park
12th and Spring Street,
Paso Robles

Thu., Jul. 22 • 6:00pm
Dwight Yoakam

Paul’s Picks



Sea Pines presents Dante Marsh & the Vibe Setters



Without question, Sea Pines Golf Resort in Los Osos is the place to be on Saturday afternoons. The Barefoot Concerts on the Green series continues to attract a large crowd each week, offering top local talent, great food, cold drinks, and great place to meet with friends and family. Coming to the green on Saturday, July 17 is local legend Dante Marsh and the Vibe Setters, who have packing venues all over the Central Coast with their fun, upbeat music. This show starts at 2:00 with Mike Butler, and you can stay late with an authentic Jamaican reggae show in the Clubhouse by Ras Danny. The show is free, family friendly, and a sure bet!

Mid-State Fair Paso Robles

Thu., Jul. 22 •
Robert Alberts Quintet
The Madonna Inn
100 Madonna Road,
San Luis Obispo

Fri., Jul. 23 • 6:00pm
Five Parts Devil
Derby Wine Estates
525 Riverside Ave, Paso Robles
Fri., Jul. 23 • 5:00pm
Happy Together Ukulele Club
Branch Street Deli
203 East Branch Street,
Arroyo Grande

Sat., Jul. 24 • 5:00pm
The Vibe Setters
Avila Beach Golf Resort
6464 Ana Bay Road,
Avila Beach

Sat., Jul. 24 • 3:00pm
Live at the Lighthouse:
The FrenZ
Point San Luis Lighthouse
1 Lighthouse Rd, Avila Beach

Sat., Jul. 24 • 2:00pm
Midnight Run
Sea Pines Golf Resort
1945 Solano St, Los Osos

Sat., Jul. 24 • 7:00pm
Starlight Dreamband
The Madonna Inn
100 Madonna Road,
San Luis Obispo

Sun., Jul. 25 • 2:00pm
Festival Mozaic Grande Orquestra
Navarre
See Canyon Fruit Ranch

2345 See Canyon Road,
San Luis Obispo

Sun., Jul. 25 • 3:00pm
Dark Desert Highway
Grover Beach Sizzlin Summer
Concert Series
993 Ramona Ave, Grover Beach

Sun., Jul. 25 • 1:00pm
Lazy Locals- Bear Market Riot
Castoro Cellars Winery
1315 N Bethel Rd, Templeton

Sun., Jul. 25 • 6:00pm
Live Outside Concert:
Cloudship
Schooners
171 N Ocean Ave., Cayucos
Sun., Jul. 25 • 2:00pm
Matthias & the Soul Poets
The Olde Alehouse
945 Los Osos Valley Rd,
Los Osos

Sun., Jul. 25 • 1:00pm
Rockin’ The Ranch: Dante Marsh
& the Vibe Setters
Filipponi Ranch
1850 Calle Joaquin,
San Luis Obispo

Sun., Jul. 25 • 5:30pm
Symphony of the Vines Fundrais-
ing Event
Pear Valley Vineyards
4900 Union Rd, Paso Robles

Tue., Jul. 27 • 4:00pm
Festival Mozaic Chamber Concert
(2 Seatings)
SLO Brew Rock
855 Aerovista Place,
San Luis Obispo

Multi Use-Path Ready to Use

By Theresa-Marie Wilson
Photo courtesy of Wallace Group



A dirt road in Los Osos was given an asphalt makeover. Walkers, cyclists and neighbors in the 7th St. & Ferrell Ave. area are enjoying a new multiuse path thanks to funding and direction from the Los Osos Community Services District.

The path connects the two streets and creates a safer environment for those not driving cars.

The project had been under consideration by the Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee (PRAC) since late 2019.

“The project planning, design and permitting process began in earnest June 2020,” said Los Osos Community Services District General Manager Ron Munds. “A biological assessment discovered evidence of Morro Shoulderband Snails at the site, which added a layer of complexity for permitting approvals. Because of the permitting delays and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service construction window from June 1 to October 15, the construction did not begin until June 7, 2021.

The total price tag for the pathway was just under \$80,000 which included permitting, biological monitoring, design, construction management and construction.

“This project was completely funded from the CSD parks and recreation fund,” Matthew Fourcroy, Los Osos Community Services District Parks and Rec committee chair. “This is money that had been collected from the entire community in the past for use only on parks and rec.”

The engineering firm Wallace Group prepared the construction documents and oversaw the construction that was completed by R. Burke Corporation in a little over two weeks.

So why this particular project?

“Because of the limiting funding that the CSD has to allocate to parks & recreation type projects, the PRAC spent a fair amount of time evaluating all CSD owned properties to see if there were any opportunities to better utilizes any of these properties for a greater public benefit,” Munds said. “This particular property had an unimproved (sand) pathway connecting Ferrell Avenue and 7th Street that was already being used by the community, so we knew there was a need for the pathway. After talking with area residents and support from Bike SLO County, it was evident that improving the trail would provide for safe access between the north and south parts of town for both bicycles and pedestrians. The pathway is also ADA compliant, which is an added bonus.”

In addition to providing a safer route to the north and south parts of town, it will take people through areas of low traffic to either get to the park and library areas or down to Baywood part of town.

“The sand pathway was difficult for many residents to navigate especially with strollers, bikes, and wheelchairs,” Fourcroy added.

Another advantage of the new smooth ride is that it won’t take a lot of maintenance, which was one of the primary financial considerations. Munds said

Dirt pathways are not uncommon in Los Osos, but for now plans don’t include paving them, mostly due to financial concerns, but they still want input.

“The Parks and Recreation Committee would like to hear from residents about other opportunities in town,” Fourcroy said.

The committee meets the third Tuesday of each month. Schedules and agendas can be found on the CSD website: www.lososcsd.org

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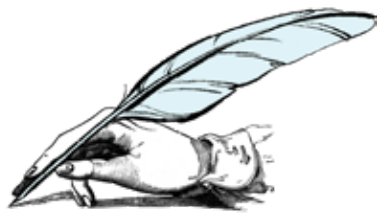
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Letters To The Editor

Future of Morro Bay Power Plant and Stacks



I have hesitated, until now, in voicing an opinion about the stacks, and by inference, the power plant itself. It is a subject that has come to the forefront of late, as talk of plans to remove them and the plant and replace them with a battery farm have begun to dominate conversations in social as well as traditional media.

I am amazed and somewhat taken aback at some of the opinions expressed, both in favor of removing them and letting them stay. While there seems to be some middle ground, a certain appreciation or fondness for them, yet an acceptance that they should go, the majority of the opinions seem to be rather polarized and hardlined; i.e. They are as iconic as the rock itself and should stand in perpetuity, or they symbolize an attack on the ecology of nature in general and the bay and city in particular and should never have been built, let alone be taken down at this juncture. Certainly, there are valid arguments to be made on both sides of the debate. Indeed, most of them have been presented in the comments of social media threads already. Sadly, the strong opinions on both sides have generated no small amount of divisiveness, and I suspect some hard feelings as well.

Part of the price we pay for social media, I'm afraid. One can see this sort of thing happening at some level in just about any group you choose to join on Facebook.

So, here is my take on the entire debate about the stacks and the plant. I'll begin with asking the reader to consider how long the stacks and plant have stood. As of this writing, roughly fifty-nine to sixty-eight years, depending on where you choose to begin the evolution of the site, either from the groundbreaking in 1953 or up to the completion of the third stack in 1962.

In human terms, that is fairly close to a lifetime. For many of us who grew up in Morro Bay, or moved here as children or young adults, they have, like the rock itself, always been there. Some of our best, or worst, memories of Morro Bay are attached to the presence of the plant and stacks, not unlike the attachment to a treasured pet, or perhaps a first car. Some of that same group may also associate them with terrible memories or trauma the rest of us cannot imagine, and seeing them gone would relieve them of the daily reminder of that hurt.

Some others, either those who have come to Morro Bay more recently, or even lived here several decades and view the stacks and plant as a man-made eyesore in paradise, cannot wait until they are gone.

To both sides, I would ask all to consider a few points. First, is that sixty-nine years is not even an eye-blink in the history of Morro Bay. The rock itself is said to be about twenty-three million years old, and the bay itself maybe roughly the same, but who knows for sure. Both are ancient beyond comprehension. Second, consider the land the plant and stacks stand on, and the changes it has gone through over just the past four or five hundred years. The Chumash, and probably other indigenous peoples occupied the area during that time (indeed, they go back much further, thousands of years no doubt.) Later, Spanish and Northern European settlers moved in, pushing the Chumash out and using the surrounding land for their own purposes. The actual land the plant sits on was nothing more than a marshy bog known locally as The Willows, that would flood during storms and exceptionally high tides, and had little value as real estate until just after the start of WWII. That was when the Army Corp of Engineers began improvements to the harbor, dredging it to a depth that was navigable for small craft year-round and building the embarcadero as we know it today. The dredge tailings and earth from nearby locations raised the land roughly ten feet where the plant stands now, and became the location of the Navy's amphibious training base until the end of the war.

Following the war, California experienced an unprecedented boom in population and business, creating a demand for electricity equally unprecedented. When viewed through the lens of the time period and the available technology, right or wrong, Morro Bay was as perfect a location to build a steam powered power plant as any engineer could ever hope to find. Solid level ground, a source for cooling sea water protected from high seas by the rock and breakwater, and a nearby discharge point that kept the warmed water from being reintroduced into the cooling system.

Certainly, there must have been some locals who could see

the ecological and aesthetic price to be paid and they likely voiced their objections at whatever hearings may have been held prior to the plant being built, but their voices were no doubt lost in the shouts of "Build it!" Again, right or wrong, this was the Fifties. America had exited WWII as the most powerful nation the world had ever seen. Anything was seen as possible and if more electricity was needed to do it, then nothing was going to stand in the way of a power plant next to a sleepy little fishing village that was already beginning to grow and promote itself, and the plant was seen as a windfall tax base. While hindsight may be twenty-twenty, it just cannot be used to view the reasons for the existence of the stacks and the plant.

By now, you can probably guess my thoughts on the subject. I am part of that middle ground. The entire reason that I came to Morro Bay as a five-year-old in nineteen fifty-three was the building of the plant. My father was employed as a painter by Bechtel Corporation and our family, like many others, stayed on after the plant was finished. As others have stated, the stacks were, and still are, a homing beacon for me whenever I return to Morro Bay for a visit. While businesses and buildings and, sadly, my friends depart, the stacks have remained unchanged through almost all of my life, and if they come down in my lifetime, they will be sorely missed. But I also understand the long view. They will come down eventually. Even the finest examples of architecture eventually crumble and utilitarian buildings such as the power plant were never meant to last beyond their planned service life, and that service life has been reached. It is time for the stacks and the plant to go. How and when that will happen has yet to be determined. For certain, just bringing down the stacks will be incredibly expensive, not to mention very disruptive to the businesses and tourism along the waterfront. I am no engineer, but I suspect they will have to come down in small increments, and not dropped in one measure as we have seen in so many other places. They would seem to be just way too close to the waterfront businesses and the piers to risk a complete implosion, not to mention the health risks to both residents and the bay itself from the concrete dust that may likely contain asbestos as well as other toxic substances. Add to that the hundreds of miles of steel reinforcement bar embedded in the stacks from base to top, and the difficulty in deconstructing them becomes readily apparent.

In closing, I would return to the point I made earlier. The plant, and those of us on either side of the debate, are but the first twitch of an eye blink in time compared to the rock and the bay. Eventually, the plant will be just a footnote in history, pictures in a book or on a computer screen, and no doubt, those who see them will look on them and say, "What were they thinking?" Hopefully they will read the history that accompanies the pictures and think, "Ahh, now I understand."

Joe Dunlap
Hillsboro, Oregon

Mourning Bill Lee

This is to the Lee family, Bill Lee's descendants. We are heartbroken by his passing April 5th 2021. We mourn his loss to his family and friends.

We here in Baywood / Los Osos feel his loss. The revitalization and beautification of Baywood. The Pier Walk the gardens in the front and back of the Blue Heron. The music venues that these places turned into.

The Junefest and Bayfest in the back gardens and Monday at the pier starting at Coffee Shop at the Baywood Pier then moving in front of the Blue Heron. The Community Garden that helped many people in our community, especially for the last 18 months, have fresh vegetables and fruit.

Since I came to Los Osos/Baywood Park in 1992 the Coffee Shop at the Baywood pier has been the place to be in the mornings. I personally have met many of my current friends at The Coffee Shop at the pier.

The members of The Baywood Navy "where we do not sail in water we can't stand in" started with Tim at the Coffee Shop at the Baywood Pier.

Your father kept this Coffee Shop at the Baywood Pier tradition alive. The Merrimaker or marriagebreaker as the locals called it has been a part of this community since the 1940's. Probably met more people here than at the coffee shop.

Whether stopping in for one after work for happy hour, or later dancing to the best local bands. It was where the locals went.

We laughed and cried at the events of the world together at the Merrimaker. We tried to fix the local ones. We all had our opinions over the years but we are still friends, many to this day. The upgrade that your father brought was long needed (esp. the bathrooms). It continued to be the place to be in Baywood after dark.

We mourn the passing of Bill Lee, why do you ask?
The Coffee Shop at the Baywood Pier (Baywood Cafe) is not

the same, not even close – we were friends with the baristas, we would walk in and they knew what kind of Cuppa Joe we wanted. The breakfasts, burritos, and muffins all made in front of us. Gone. We don't even know if you'll be open from day-to-day. The grounds are not swept, the tables on the sidewalk still piled up. No walk up counter, no friendly faces greeting us even before our first cup of coffee. No music playing. No Baywood Navy—most got a little older, but we can't pass our knowledge on to those young sailors who needed to build a cardboard boat.

Gone is the Blue Heron. It has been many restaurants over the years. The Blue Heron transformation into a fine dining place was a work of art (I know it never made a dime) but other choices await.

Gone is the music, the many festivals, parties, special occasions. Zongo playing out in the back garden got all the locals dancing.

Gone is the Monday Beer at the Pier — just WOW. Seems like everyone came out to socialize with their neighbors and do a little dancing. It was a local gathering like no other around here. Music made Baywood go around. Gone

Gone is the Merrimaker with all its history, The laughs and cries of the years past – the memories. The music. If those jukeboxes could talk, of all the songs played! The friendships lost, the ones that could have been.

Shuttered since the pandemic but still closed. Why we ask? All his work in our little community that he loved, and the thought process that went into all his work, from his picks of flowers and bushes, his thoughts of the community garden.

Your dad did something to this little hamlet of Baywood. Not everyone was in sync with his way of thinking, the Coastal Commission for one, but he loved this community.

It brings tears to my eyes writing this for the memories I've had here, and the ones we are missing now because of your dad passing.

We wish you the best. He left you well off due to his hard work. His retirement just gave him more time to do his work here, in little Baywood, which he loved.

Only saw him in a suit a few times — a jeans and sneaker type of guy. Never passed any of us without saying hi and asking about us.

We need our coffee shop back, we need another choice of restaurants, we need to have a cocktail with our friend after a hard day or just to shoot the breeze for us retirees.

Please bring our little piece of this world back. We don't

Letters Continued on page 15

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Community From page 1

hoping to also have a dunk tank on hand, so the public can soak it to their favorite — or least favorite — officer. They'll also take volunteers for a turn in the tank, if anyone's willing to brave what promises to be mighty cold water.

She said in addition to the police department, the Morro Bay Fire Department, Harbor Patrol, Coast Guard and others will be on hand with informational booths. It should be another chance for the public to meet its new fire chief too, as newly-hired Fire Chief, Daniel McCrain, is to be sworn in at a ceremony July 30 and start work the following day.

She said they will hoist large, colorful banners around town announcing the event.

Among the organizations that will be at National Night Out, is the Morro Bay Neighborhood Watch, which is another program the police department wants to give a boost.

Calling the Neighborhood Watch group a "local partner," Cmdr. Watkins said they can be invaluable to police, and give citizens a chance to become involved, especially in light of the past year and what seems to be a surge in property crimes — from car break-ins, to commercial burglaries and lots of catalytic converter thefts, which Cmdr. Watkins said has become a nationwide problem.

Indeed, on June 18, police arrested a teenager from Lake County, Calif., for a string of vehicle burglaries both in Morro By and Montaña de Oro State Park. That 14-year-old boy had cut off a probation ankle monitor and fled home, eventually landing with a relative in Morro Bay, where the crime spree took off.

They also want to step up efforts with their bike registration program, she said. That program would have bicycle owners fill out registration cards including serial numbers on bikes, so if yours gets stolen, they'll have a record to consult and see if they can identify the rightful owners of the many abandoned bikes they recover all the time.

And the department is also looking at restarting its "Coffee with a Cop" program, wherein officers hold office hours at a local coffee shop and make themselves available to hear concerns, crime tips, or if they'd like some advise on home security, and more.

They are also working with local businesses to see if they can come up with variants on this theme, like "pizza with a cop" at a local pizza parlor, or "ice cream with a cop," something along those lines.

"We look forward to expanding the event and reaching people at more convenient times," she said. Coffees with a cop are naturally held in the mornings when many people have to work.

"We really want to get our community programs back out there," Cmdr. Watkins said. "With the understanding of the requirements with COVID-19." They will for now, focus on events that are outdoors, which could end up being the model for the Neighborhood Cops program as well.

Cmdr. Watkins said, "The old Neighborhood Watch days, they met in living rooms." They hope scheduling meetings in public parks will ease people's lingering fears about the virus and lead to greater participation.

They also want to get the Citizen's Police Academy restarted, probably sometime next spring. "It's a great way for people to see what we do and why we do it," she said.

And while last year's Downtown Halloween Trick-or-Treat, wherein the stationhouse gets turned into a haunted house open to public, one of the most popular aspects to the event, was canceled along with the trick-or-treating, they will probably opt for an open house in 2021.

This is because in 2019, the P.D.'s haunted house was a spoof on a haunted insane asylum, and someone took offense, writing letters that claimed it falsely stereotyped the mentally ill and was

thus offensive.

And while they think that's a false analogy, they decided not to do a hunted house at all this Halloween, even if the City brings back the Downtown event.

They are also going to use these occasions to promote their app which has loads of information including an interactive crime map, wherein people can pull it up and check on reported crimes anywhere in the city. The MBPD app is free and available at the Apple and Google app stores.

The department recently celebrated the hiring of Ofc. Kevin McCool, which filled their last remaining vacancy and brought them back up to their budgeted 18 sworn officers, they'll soon lose another veteran cop to retirement.

Cmdr. Watkins said Sgt. Dale Cullum is slated to retire Aug. 2. Acting Sgt. Gene Stuart, who has been filling in for another sergeant who has been off a couple of months now, nursing a knee injury, will be promoted to fill Sgt. Cullum's position full time.

So that means they'll soon have another officer position to fill. "We will loose a lot of institutional knowledge, when Dale retires," Cmdr. Watkins said, "We will miss him."

Fire Chief From page 1

shift and the agency's fire prevention, community education and commercial business inspection programs," Collins said.

Before that, he was the operations director/paramedic for the Cambria Community Healthcare District, which provides ambulance service for Cambria, where he managed paramedic and EMT staff, training, and records.

McCrain has also served in several fire management roles for other agencies and taught paramedic and EMT courses at Cuesta College. Chief McCrain earned a bachelor's degree in Emergency Management from Waldorf University, and an associate's degree in Fire Technologies from Allan Hancock College.

McCrain said, "I am honored to be selected as the new fire chief for the City of Morro Bay. This is a great responsibility, and I am very humbled that the City has put their trust in me to guide the department into the future.

"The members of the Morro Bay Fire Department are an incredibly talented, and dedicated group of people that care for the community. I am so grateful for the love and support from my family, which has been instrumental in my growth and progression throughout my career. I thank the City for giving me the opportunity to work with this outstanding department."

McCrain takes over for the retiring Chief Steve Knuckles who had been with MBFD since 1999, when he was hired away from Atascadero Fire as a captain. He became fire chief in 2013, replacing the retiring Mike Pond. McCrain will be the first fire chief who comes from outside the department, as the past several chiefs were promoted from within the department, drawing from the fire captains to fill the top spot.

McCrain will oversee a department of 13, full-time employees and several part-timers. He comes in with the department is looking pretty set for the time being, in so far as large equipment and proper crew quarters are concerned.

The MBFD has a relatively new firehouse built in 2012, a ladder truck, engines and paramedic squad that are all less than a decade old. And he comes at a time when the City has tax monies to fund the fire department, including Measure Q, a special sales tax that is reserved for the police, fire, streets and storm drain needs.

Collins said McCrain takes over at a time when the fire department's role in local affairs is going to change.

"Key upcoming Fire Department initiatives," Collins said, "include reviewing the potential world's largest lithium battery storage project, concluding public health emergency activities related to the COVID-19 pandemic, and updating the fire department Strategic Plan. Daniel will oversee the department with the help of recently promoted Division Chief/Fire Marshal Matt Vierra."

That Battery Energy Storage System or BESS project is being proposed by Vistra Energy, owners of the power plant property. Vistra's BESS project is a 600-megawatt facility, that would be housed in three, 91,000 square foot, 40-foot tall buildings (some 273,000 s.f.), each housing 2,400 lithium-ion battery packs. It would be the largest BESS in the world.

It is being proposed for a 22-acre site on the power plant that used to have huge fuel tanks. The BESS is a \$500 million to \$600 million project and a huge concern with regards to potential fire.

Vistra said in a recent presentation to the City Council, that it's fire suppression systems would be designed in consultation with the fire department. Vistra hopes to have it ready to go online by 2024, when the first unit at the Diablo Canyon Power Plant is slated to shutdown permanently.

The City is planning to hold a ceremony welcoming the new fire chief at 10 a.m. Friday, June 30 at the Harbor Street firehouse, followed by a reception where the public will get a chance to meet the new fire chief.

Wicked From page 1

these events. It supported local businesses and helped us reintroduce Wicked Harvest."

The Zions had other business to conduct while they enjoyed settling into their new community. They officially made the permanent move to Morro Bay three years ago although they had a vacation home in the community for eleven years. Once they found their dream home overlooking the bay, it was a choice to live here and commute to the Fresno area where they went to school, met, and Jim still has responsibilities as managing partner for Meridian Growers. Their blended family has four children and four grandchildren that they visit frequently.

Additionally, they wanted to become more active in their new community. Gloria has joined Newcomers and Jim serves on the Chamber's Governmental Advisory Committee while continuing to serve on an advisory council at Cal Poly.

Jim has enjoyed a career in the "tree nut" industry since graduating from Cal Poly. It was while serving on Cal Poly's Food Science & Nutrition Advisory group he met a fellow graduate, Steve Thompson, who is the master distiller at Kentucky Artisan Distillery. Jim was always looking for new ways to use pistachios. Thompson suggested they combine products to create a craft nut-flavored bourbon. Jim was in, but they had to convince Gloria.

"I like wine," Gloria said. Her teaching career had evolved to training teachers productive ways to teach their students. She never dreamed someday she would join a burgeoning craft spirits industry and enjoy teaching the art of tasting whiskeys by showcasing a product she would help develop. For example, she loves sharing the story of Wicked Harvest Hazel Nut which is sourced from nuts from Gloria's childhood home on Oregon's north coast. The bourbon is finished in pinot noir barrels.

"Spirits are not typically a woman's social drink," said Gloria. "I wasn't on board when we first went back to Kentucky, but then Steve suggested we finish our product in a wine barrel to pick up the fruit flavors." It was a worthy "trifecta" suggestion. "Now I was interested." They combined smooth Kentucky bourbon with California Central Coast, Central Valley and Arizona pistachios then finished the blend in wine barrels. "Our first barrels were a Merlot."

Jim admits Gloria is their best salesperson. "I believe our bourbons are for someone who doesn't drink bourbon yet," she added. "They are best when sipped over dessert preferably in front of a fire to feel a Kentucky hug." One can easily picture her vision of sipping Wicked Harvest while relaxing with friends, or after a day at the links or slopes, or winding down after a busy day at work.

Jim lights up talking about the California tree nut industry. "California growers are the safest in the world," he said. He noted the United States hired researchers to explore worldwide for new agriculture products. The pistachio was discovered in Persia and the one tree was brought to America, the 'Mother Tree,' was planted in Chico, CA. It spawned a growing market that is drought tolerant. It uses less water than other nut trees and bears fruit again when water is more plentiful.

Besides an advocate for the small grower, Jim hopes to link with youth groups to inspire careers in agriculture. "There is so much more to do in this business than drive a tractor."

If your group, restaurant or retail shop is interested in learning more about Wicked Harvest bourbons, contact them at www.wickedharvestspirits.com.

City - Chamber From page 1

though the motels were restricted to renting just a percentage of rooms and restaurants had to close their dinning rooms.

"In the past," Collins report to the council said, "the City would typically budget \$50,000 annually for the Chamber to provide Visitor Center services. Staff does not recommend entering into a new contract for Visitor Center services until we have a better handle on how Visitor Center services fit into the overall needs and priorities of the City and the tourism industry."

TBID is in the process of taking back tourism promotions from the City and will form a non-profit, hire its own staff and consultants.

Back in Fiscal Year 2019/20, the City and Chamber signed a 1-year deal for economic development services. In March 2020, the Council wanted to expand the contract "to account for additional services needed to support our business community resulting from the significant economic fallout from the pandemic."

In May 2020 the new contract "proposed expanded services to our local business community, partnering at the regional level for state and federal assistance and assisting the City and business community in the long-term recovery efforts, and continuity of existing economic development services provided to the City prior to COVID-19," according to the report.

That amendment upped the Chamber's contracted amount from \$62,000 to \$78,000 a year.



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KEVIN O'CONNOR, President

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“The Chamber was instrumental in helping the local Morro Bay business community weather a very challenging year,” Collins said. “They provided the business community with regular informational updates, connected businesses to funding opportunities, and served/continues to serve on the City’s Emergency Operation Center (EOC) team.

“While carrying out these new functions, the Chamber developed stronger regional connections by serving on various REACH committees and helping launch REACH’s Practitioner Network, which serves to connect interested businesses and developers to cities within the SLO County and Santa Barbara County region and learn best practices from each other.

The Chamber also put together a “robust” stakeholder’s report on the City’s land use/planning review process, which Collins said was “the catalyst to jump starting the City’s efforts to review and improve this key process for bringing new business to community.”

Collins said the City administration is happy with the Chamber’s efforts. “City staff are very satisfied with the economic development services provided by the Chamber,” he said.

In this fiscal year (2020/21) the Chamber has proposed to:

- Supporting and developing local business through their “Roadmap to Success” program;

- Enhancing local and regional coordination with partners such as REACH, Cal Poly, SLO County, cities within the SLO region, and the newly revised Morro Bay Tourism Business Improvement District, which will be overseen by a non-profit board beginning in July 2021;

- Showcasing the City’s various opportunity sites, and,
- Continued support for the City to review and improve the planning review process.

The City added to the list of duties for the Chamber’s new contract, which now expires at the end of FY 2023/24 (June 30, 2024). They are:

- Execute creative place making initiatives to benefit economic centers citywide. Initiatives to include a flagpole banner program in the Downtown Waterfront Strategic Plan area and future projects as identified. External cost (sic);
- Monitor and assist with completion of citywide way finding signage; and,
- Assess need and feasibility of the formation of a Business

Improvement District in the Downtown Waterfront Strategic Plan Area. Serve as project manager to oversee stakeholder engagement and production of a Feasibility Study with a professional consultancy firm.

The Chamber will host its first Business Mixer in over a year from 5:30-7 p.m. Wednesday, July 21 at The Avocado Shack, 2190 N. Main St. Food provided by Milanés Cuban Cuisine.

Letters From page 13

know all the in’s and out’s of what your dad left you – but we see what he did for us in Baywood. Please, you have the resources to help your dad’s vision for this community, or know someone who will.

Please don’t let it slip away — everyday is a lost memory, lost meeting someone new, lost the smiles that we know and love.

Larry Sullivan
Los Osos

Keep the Stacks

This is in regards to Armand Bayer’s letter about Take Down the Stacks, of the old PG&E power plant (July 1, 2021). As a weather observer of my own weather station office and service, I use the old power plant stacks for measuring ceiling and visibility for hourly observations. For example, if the cloud ceiling is 600 feet, the top of the smoke stacks would be 450 feet. The measuring of visibility is determined how far away the power plant is in miles, as well as the surrounding hills and mountains like for dense fog, and fog through stratus clouds.

In closing it would be a loss if this landmark were to be removed for meteorological reasons.

Scott C. Presnal
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

Obituaries

George “Boomer”
Kolaczyk
1952 - 2021



Morro Bay lost one of its beloved local characters with the death of George “Boomer” Kolaczyk.

Boomer was bon in 1952 in Alhambra, Calif., and moved to Morro Bay at the tender age of 8. Boomer was a Navy veteran and was a popular figure among Morro Bay’s sports enthusiasts, both youth and adult.

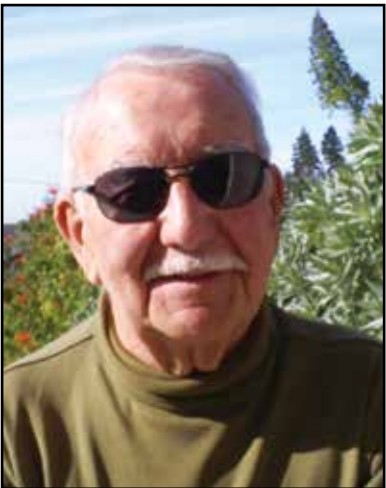
He was the City’s chief official for many years, calling balls and strikes on the softball diamond, and whistling fouls on the court.

He was a long time City employee in the recreation department and the head groundskeeper for the Lila Keiser Park ball fields before retiring in 2011.

Boomer had many friends and was a loving father and grandfather.

A celebration of Boomer’s life is slated for noon to 3 p.m. Saturday, June 24 at the Morro Bay Vet’s Hall. All are welcome.

Robert L. Hyde
1934 - 2021



It is with great sadness that we share the passing of Robert L. Hyde on Thursday, July 8, 2021 peacefully at his home. He is survived by his loving wife, Josie Hyde; his daughters Jennifer Hyde, Justeen Hyde, and Janille Bohren; his sons-in-law Matthew Marinovich, Eric Gordon, and Jamie Bohren; nine grandchildren; three great-grandchildren; and two step-children, Robert Glenn and Laurie Espinoza.

Robert was born in Arizona on September 11,1934 and later moved to Alhambra, CA. After graduating from high school in Alhambra, Robert enlisted in the Army and served in Korea from March 1953 until February 1956. He was a long-time small business owner in Columbia, CA, and lived his later years happily in Morro Bay. A graveside service with military honors will be held at the Los Osos Valley Cemetery at a later date.

Robert will be greatly missed by his family.

Local Chamber News

Scholarships Awarded to MBHS Students!

Each year the Chamber is honored to recognize outstanding young people getting ready to make their way in the world as young adults, 2021 was no different. Thanks to the work of Scholarship Committee members Jayne Engle Allen, Judy Mahan and Sophia Tolle, the Chamber’s full board of directors awarded three scholarships to three truly deserving bright stars at Morro Bay High School. Congratulations Joshua-Rene Mamaradlo Estrada, Patience Beauchemin, and Bohden Pace. A special thank you goes to Poppy Boutique that generously sponsored one of these scholarship awards completely.

The Morro Bay Chamber is proud to welcome these new businesses as members:

Bay Cruisers
Toast the Coast
The Boat Yard Marketplace

The Chamber cannot forget to acknowledge the continued support of these businesses:

Promotions Plus
Best Western Tradewinds
Morro Bay Maritime Museum
Giovanni’s Fish Market & Galley
Lolo’s Mexican Market
Real World Globes
The Villages of SLO
Hay Printing
Blue Sail Inn

Morro Bay Chamber, 695 Harbor St, can be reached at (805) 772 - 4467 or info@morrochamber.org.

The Savory Palette Ribbon Cutting

The Chamber was excited to be a part of The Savory Palette’s Grand Re-Opening. The Savory Palette is a lovely wine bar that can be found on the Embarcadero in Marina Square, 601 Embarcadero #5, Morro Bay, CA 93442.

Photo by David A. Gates

First LOBP Chamber Mixer in More Than a Year

Los Osos-Baywood Park Chamber of Commerce mixers are back in action! One of our newest chamber members and local businesses in town The Gypsy Boutique kicked us off on July 9.

Owner and longtime community member Andrea Hughes offered complimentary champagne and charcuterie. With the help of The Los Osos Chamber and Grocery Outlet’s generous sponsorship, the event went off without a hitch!

“It has always been my dream to help make people

feel as beautiful as I see them,” said Hughes. “This is my community and these are my people. I could not imagine doing this anywhere else.”

Please contact Kailey Breazeale to book your Chamber mixer. 805-235-4868

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