

## Donation Supplies New Books to School Library

By Theresa-Marie Wilson



Donations from the community helped fill the Los Osos Middle School Library with new books. Pictured: Karl Blum, principal of LOMS; Ellen Perryes from Volumes of Pleasure; Carroll Leslie, owner of Volumes of Pleasure; Marlene Owens, Quota education committee chair, and Patti James, education committee member for Quota; Lindsey Rapone, LOMS PTSA secretary; Nelly Ochoa-Lepe, LOMS PTSA president; and Cassandra Abercrombie, LOMS librarian.

The list of benefits children get from reading is an impressive one that includes improved focus, concentration, communication and social skills. Books also offer a new world to explore and understand as well as expands creative thinking and visualization.

When Los Osos Middle School students return to school on Aug. 19, the campus library will have enough new books to make the little bookworm in everyone happy. The new collection is thanks to a group of community members who collectively ensured that nearly 70 new hardback books could keep the kids turning pages rather than channels.

Last year campus was pretty quiet with classroom instruction taking place online, so school librarian, Cassandra Abercrombie, decided to tackle the job of organizing the stacks and noticed that many titles were in such terrible condition that they were barely readable. On top of that, some well-loved books had been lost.

The school's Parent, Teacher, Student Association, Volumes of Pleasure Book Shoppe and Quota International of Morro Bay jumped in to fill the need.

"I think that books are fundamental to children's education," said Lindsey Rapone, PTSA secretary. "If youth have access to

books they will go much further than those without access to books. I loved to read as a child and now my son, Colton, who is going into 7th grade at LOMS, loves to read. It gives youth the ability to escape into a whole other world and sparks their imagination."

Rapone spread the word on local social media sites and was met with an "overwhelming" response with people offering books from their own collections or wanting to give cash donations. One person suggested that Volumes of Pleasure be brought into the cause.

Carroll Leslie, the owner of the bookstore, and an employee, Ellen Perryess, were eager to help and already had a fund of about \$350 and a system in place.

"These kids are the next generation," said Leslie. "We need people to be thinkers and to ferret out what's opinion and what's fact. I think that's the thing that has driven us as a bookstore, and that's why we want to participate in providing thoughtful, interesting, helpful books."

Since each new, hardback book costs about \$17 to purchase, Volumes of Pleasure has a program where people can donate \$20 and schools will receive the new reading material that included a bookplate recognizing the donor or someone of their choice. Any

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## Coastal Commission to Hear Cayucos Motel Appeal

By Neil Farrell

The California Coastal Commission is expected in August to hear an appeal of the County's approval of a new motel in Cayucos, overlooking the beach at the mouth of Cayucos Creek.

Jay and Lisa Cobb are the applicants on the proposal to build a 17-unit, 3-story hotel/vacation rental project on the 1.1-acre parcel, one of the last vacant pieces of property in Cayucos' Downtown Area.

The motel building will sit back from the edge of the property and take up 0.7-acres of the site. The rest would be parking, a swimming pool and guest amenities, and a pedestrian trail overlooking the beach.

It would also have space for a retail business and a bar/restaurant on the bottom floor, features that drive up the required number of parking spaces under the County's rules.

The site is bordered by condominiums on the west, the beach to the south and creek on east, with Ocean Avenue on the north side.

According to the County's report, "One of the proposed units will be used as a manager's unit for overnight management staff. The proposed structure includes three stories with a total of 20,114 square feet of floor area.



Rendering shows the layout of the proposed Cobb Motel project, located on a 1.1-acre, vacant, bluff-top parcel on Ocean Avenue, just past Cayucos Creek.

The project also proposes a public scenic vista pathway and public recreation amenities. The proposed outdoor guest amenity area and the public scenic vista pathway will be physically separated by a retaining wall feature which will act as a border to the public pathway."

The apparent sticking point seems to be

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## LOCSD Asks for Conservation; Moves on Water Projects

By Neil Farrell

California is in the grip of another serious drought and the Los Osos Community Services District is asking residents to conserve as much water as possible.

Meanwhile, efforts continue on two new water well projects with one close to awarding a construction contract and the other months away from final approval.

The LOCSD's July newsletter notes that Los Osos has been under a water supply, Severity Level III, meaning it's using more groundwater than is being replenished by annual rainfall. Los Osos has held this designation since the mid-1990s, when the County first made the declaration on the water supply.

That mantra was taken up by the CSD in 2015, as part of its "Water Shortage Contingency Plan," and there are strict limits placed on usage.

LOCSD General manager Ron Munds said in the newsletter, "Stage III states our water usage allocation is 50-gallons per occupant, per day, based on a household of three occupants. So that equates to 150-gallons per household, per day. If you look at your water bill, one unit (100 cubic feet) of water is equal to 748 gallons."

At 150-gallons a day, that family of three



would use 4,500 gallons in a month and would get charged for just over 6 units. That 6 units would cost \$107.75, according to the LOCSD's current water rate schedule (approved in 2019). The LOCSD bills every 2 months, so that imaginary family of three would end up getting a bill of about \$215.

**The CSD issued a few tips on water conservation:**

- Take short showers instead of baths;
- Turn off the water to brush teeth, shave and soap up in the shower;
- Fill the sink to shave;

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Blotter  
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Takin' Care  
of Business  
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# Man Hit-Killed by Garbage Truck Had Only Just Arrived in California

By Neil Farrell



Police and a coroner's office investigator are at the scene of a July 15 pedestrian vs. garbage truck where a homeless man, Mark Evans, 69, came to rest at the Morro Bay Boulevard Roundabout.

A homeless man who was hit by a garbage truck and dragged to his death at Morro Bay's Roundabout, had just arrived in California the day before, after an extended stay in Hawaii, the Estero Bay News has learned.

The tragic case happened about 12:10 p.m. Thursday, July 15 when a Mission County Disposal garbage truck hit the victim, identified by police as Mark Richard Evans, 69, at the intersection of Bernardo Avenue and Morro Bay Boulevard as he was crossing the street.

Evans is believed to have been hung up on the truck's bumper or undercarriage and was dragged about two blocks to the Roundabout, where he became dislodged from the truck and came to rest on the sidewalk at the entrance to the Sinclair Gas Station. He died on the scene.

Reports from the public on the Internet gossip site, Morro Bay Next Door, indicated that a woman laid a blanket over Evans' body. Traffic was heavy at the time and when police got to the scene and closed off streets, it quickly backed up in all directions. Dozens of people witnessed the scene.



Morro Bay Police Cmdr. Amy Watkins, at right, briefs an unidentified Highway Patrol Officer at the scene of the July 15 pedestrian vs. garbage truck fatal accident at the Roundabout. Police Chief Jody Cox is at left in the photo.

MBPD Cmdr. Amy Watkins said in a news release that the driver of the truck "was contacted and is cooperating with the investigation. Drugs, alcohol, and/or speed are not believed to be a factor in this collision."

Evans had only been in California for a day, after spending about 19 months in Hawaii.

Matt Velzy, a native Californian who lives in Hawaii, told EBN that he and Evans grew up together in El Segundo, Calif., and went to high school together. He had been living with Velzy and his family in Maui, Hawaii for the past 19 months, helping out with the care of a member of Velzy's family.

Police said Evans was from Twain Harte, and Velzy said he did live up in the Northern California Sierra Foothills for a while and might have had a post office box there, "but basically, he was homeless."

Velzy said he felt terrible because he had given Evans money

for a plane ticket back to the mainland and he'd flown back shortly before his death.

Evans caught the red eye flight July 13, Velzy said. He was supposed to be taking the train north to Sonoma in Northern California, to take care of some business and then planned to settle on the Coast. But, "He made it one day," Velzy said with great sadness.

As for why Evans didn't see or hear the trash truck coming and avoid it, Velzy explained that some years ago, Evans was mugged and suffered an injury that affected his eyesight.

"He had bad eyesight," Velzy said, "and was forced to look down at his feet when he walked, so he wouldn't trip over anything."

He noted that Evans has a sister who had phoned him after learning of her brother's death. Velzy is cousins with a Morro Bay resident, who put him in contact with EBN.

MBPD is still investigating the accident and anyone with information is asked to call Ofc. Kevin McCool at 805-772-6225.

# M.B. Councilman Davis Passes Away



Councilmember Robert "Red" Davis passed away peacefully on Saturday, July 24 at his residence. Red is survived by his loving wife Gail Davis, and their daughter Catherine Sullivan, son-in-law Pat, and granddaughters Caitlyn and Sara. He was 76-years-old.

Red Davis began his service as Councilmember in 2017, and won a second four-year term in November 2020. Councilmember Davis was instrumental, along with his Council colleagues, in moving forward the Water Reclamation Facility, improving the city's financial condition, and enhancing communication with the community.

Prior to being elected to the Council, Red Davis served on a variety of city ad hoc committees, including the General Plan Advisory Committee, and volunteered for numerous community organizations including the Morro Bay Chamber of Commerce, Friends of the Morro Bay Library and Bike SLO County. Red retired from CalTrans in 1996 as a project manager, after 33 years of service, and proudly served his country in the U.S. Air Force from 1965 to 1998, retiring as Senior Master Sergeant.

"On behalf of the City Council, I want to offer my heartfelt condolences to Gail, Catherine and her husband and their children, and to Red's many friends in Morro Bay and beyond," said Mayor John Headding. "Red Davis was a wonderful leader and friend to so many. He was a servant leader who worked tirelessly to advance and improve the quality of life of our community as a whole. Red's strong work ethic, clear and concise communication style, and genuine care for our community members enabled him to make a huge impact on important city initiatives. Those included the WRF project, Embarcadero improvements, advancement of offshore wind energy, stabilization of city finances and the realization of several economic development projects. Red was truly one of a kind, and we are going to miss him greatly."

The city, along with Councilmember Davis' family, will host a public celebration of Red's life within the next couple weeks, most likely at the Morro Bay Community Center. Event details will be posted to the city website once they are finalized.

"We are grateful to have known and worked for Councilmember Davis as city staff," said City Manager Scott Collins. "I greatly appreciated his curiosity about how things worked and his kindness. He loved his job and connected so well with the community and city employees. We wish love to his family and friends during this tough time. We hope members of the community will join us in honoring Red's life and service."

# Former Coach, Teacher Sentenced to Jail for Tryst with Student

By Neil Farrell



A former Morro Bay High School teacher and swim coach has been sentenced to jail for having sex with an under-aged female student and for inappropriate messaging with another minor, female student.

San Luis Obispo County District Attorney's Office announced July 22 that former teacher and coach, Tyler Andree, 25, was sentenced to 120 days in the County Jail, was placed on felony probation for 2 years, and is required to register annually as a convicted sex offender for the next 20 years.

D.A. spokesman Eric Dobroth said Andree agreed to a plea agreement in June, after he was arrested by Morro Bay police last January, following a tip about the victim that came from someone in Washington State.

The case began last Jan. 11 when MBPD's school resources officer, Gene Stuart, got an anonymous tip from a woman in Washington State. "The investigation led detectives to identify a possible victim and suspect," Tyler Andree

MBPD Cmdr. Amy Watkins said at the time. "Detectives located and contacted the believed parties involved, which generated a more in-depth investigation into the misconduct by Andree."

The police and San Luis Coastal Unified School District apparently both were tipped off on the same day.

"SLCUSD received information on Monday, Jan. 11," the District said in a Feb. 8 news release, "informing us of allegations of potential misconduct indicating a teacher/coach had an inappropriate relationship with an unnamed student during his employment. SLCUSD commenced an internal investigation."

Police said their investigation included interviews with the victims and the serving of search warrants. Police legwork identified two victims, both were seniors and both girls. They arrested Andree on Feb. 8; but he had already resigned.

"On Monday, Jan. 18," the School District said, "Tyler Andree submitted his resignation effective immediately. Mr. Andree

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was employed with SLCUSD since Aug. 13, 2019.”

Dobroth said the tipster also said that the victim was now over 18 and had graduated from MBHS in 2020.

“The reporting party,” Dobroth said, “was not willing to identify the teacher or victim by name. This prompted an investigation that led to identifying teacher and swim coach Tyler Andree as the suspect.”

Andree reportedly had “an improper relationship that included sexual intercourse on at least one occasion sometime in 2020, with one of his female students who was in the last semester of her senior year in high school. The student turned 18 in April of 2020 before the semester ended.”

Because the investigation didn’t start until January 2021, Dobroth said there was a lack of “forensic cyber evidence” that could pinpoint when the tryst occurred. In California, he explained, it is not illegal for a teacher or school official to have sex with someone who is over 18.

Later in 2020, Dobroth said, Andree “also engaged in sending inappropriate messages communicating explicit sexual intent with another 17-year-old female student. This conduct formed the basis for the felony conviction of communicating with a minor with the intent to commit a specified sexual crime.” Such messaging has been given the label, “sexting.”

Superior Court Judge, Michael Duffy, approved the plea agreement that was reached June 9 and handed down his sentence just last week.

“The terms of the agreement,” Dobroth said, “ensured that the defendant would be held accountable for his actions without subjecting the two young women to testifying in court and enduring the additional mental anguish of cross-examination by a defense attorney.”

In the U.S. an accused person is guaranteed the Right to a fair trial and to confront his accusers. By pleading guilty, Andree forfeited those Rights, and accepted punishment for what he did.

His sentence includes formal supervised probation, but for a limited time. “It is important to note,” Dobroth said, “that in 2020, the California Legislature passed Assembly Bill 1950 that limited the length of felony probation to a term of 2 years for these offenses.”

Though it is not a crime under California law for a teacher to have sex with a student who is over 18 and legally an adult, Dobroth said there have been efforts to change the law and further protect students.

“In 2012,” he said, “the California Legislature rejected Assembly Bill 1861, sponsored by Assemblywoman Kristin Olsen, representing Stanislaus County, that would have made it a felony crime for any teacher or employee of a public or private elementary or secondary school who engages in a sexual relationship or inappropriate communication with a pupil of any age.”

Dep. D.A. Danielle Baker, who is assigned to the Sexual Assault and Child Abuse prosecution unit, handled the case and was supervised by Chief Deputy District Attorney Lisa B. Muscari. The District Attorney said he would continue to try and protect young people of SLO County.

“There is no safe haven in San Luis Obispo County for people in positions of trust who take advantage of those who they are responsible to protect,” said D.A. Dan Dow. “This conviction will rightly ensure that Tyler Andree is never again allowed to coach, teach, or be in a position of care for children.”

City Taking Bids on Bus Stop Project



This photo taken from the City of Morro Bay’s transit hub study shows the bus stop in City Park as it currently exists. Photo by City of Morro Bay

The City of Morro Bay is asking for proposals from engineering firms for its project to redevelop the bus stop in City Park.

The City released its request for proposals (RFP) July 22 with a deadline of Aug. 19 for proposals to design improvements to the sole transit hub in town, where both the City’s and the County bus systems come together for transfers to SLO/Los Osos and north up Hwy 1. School buses also drop off and pick up school children at the same location.

“The public transit service is an important element of Morro Bay’s mobility network,” the RFP notice said.

The City conducted a study in early 2019 by LSC Transportation Consultants, Inc., and Auerbach Engineering, Inc., that came up with three options: move the bus stop from Harbor Street to Morro Bay Boulevard; build a new bus stop further up Harbor Street from the current location; and tear down and replace the bus stop where it now exists.

The City Council rejected moving to the Boulevard and settled on replacing the existing bus stop where it is.

That bus shelter art project was funded by the City, Regional Transit Authority, and several private doors, and facilitated by the Morro Bay Public Art Foundation, turning it into “Grandma’s Living Room,” a nearly \$10,000 redesign that made the interior resemble a living room, complete with a lumpy couch (made of concrete), and original artworks that include an old style radio, a phone booth and several original paintings done by local artists on the walls.

A staff report regarding the Transit Hub Study said, “The consultant has noted that while the existing stop is attractive and functions reasonably well, there are several deficiencies that could be addressed in an improved Transit Hub.”

Among the improvements is a desire for waiting passengers to be able to better see buses coming up the street and in turn drivers to see passengers; inadequate seating inside and out;

having just one area where the sidewalk is 8-feet wide for wheel-chairs; a lack of “real-time” transit displays; bad lighting; and it’s “located on a low-volume street with trees blocking the view from busy Morro Bay Boulevard, the existing site does not provide good visibility of the transit services to non-transit riders so as to alert the non-transit riders to the available service,” along with a couple of other minor points like adding bike racks and enough benches to accommodate up to 30 passengers at a time.

One of the features for a new bus stop would be a private area where bus drivers would be able to take breaks away from the public, and a small space for “public art.”

It also noted that there needs to be electrical service and Internet connection for a system that would allow people to track where buses are in real time.

The cost estimate back in 2019 was \$489,000, which the City was hoping to mainly get funded through a competitive State transportation grant and through it’s normal transit funding.

Whichever engineering firm gets the contract will have to create construction plans, specifications and a cost estimate, “in order to produce a ‘ready to list’ bid package for the final project installation,” the notice said.

As for how much the contract for professional services might cost, the City notice said it was negotiable.

Man Badly Injured by Exploding Firework

By Neil Farrell

Morro Bay Fire Department officials are pointing out the dangers of fireworks after what they said was a mortar-type firework blew up prematurely, and badly mangled a man’s hand.

At about 11:40 p.m. Thursday, July 8 police got a 9-1-1 call about a man on a commercial fishing boat tied up at the South T-pier suffering serious injuries. “It came in as a medical aid,” said Fire Chief Steve Knuckles.

The boat was a 60-foot commercial vessel and the injured 30-year-old man was a crewmember, but the Chief declined to name the man to protect his medical privacy. He also declined to name the boat, as that would in essence lead to the individual too.

He said the injury was caused by a mortar that’s designed to be launched high into the air and explode like the type seen in traditional fireworks displays.

Professional fireworks technicians would normally be the ones to fire off such a device and the chief said they are designed to be mounted on the ground, pointing straight up, and are wired to a triggering device and set off electronically.

Chief Knuckles said, “These are supposed to be used by someone with a pyro-technics license. You have to point them straight up and they’re ignited electronically, that’s the safest way to operate these.”

Such mortars are “Class C” fireworks, he said, and consist of ball filled with flammable chemicals, that fit snugly into their firing tubes. He said the injured man was holding the device in his hands when it burned through the side of the tube and exploded, causing a “partial hand amputation injury to the palm of his right

Firework Continued on page 4

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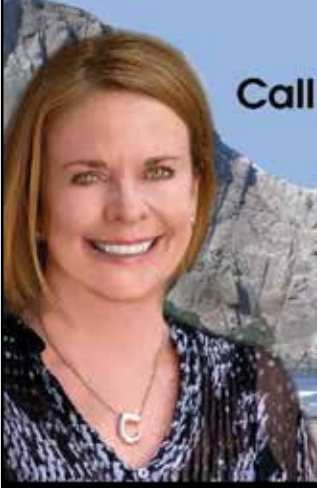
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**Firework** From page 3

hand. He will probably lose some fingers.”

The mortar ball has to fit right — not too lose or too tight — the Chief said, or it could go terribly wrong.

He said they hadn’t ascertained where he got the device, which the fire department apparently didn’t confiscate. He worries now that there may be more of these in town.

But there is some dispute as to what exactly blew up, as the man’s father told Estero Bay News that it was actually a large, signal flare not a firework.

Estero Bay News asked the father to arrange an interview with his injured son who was at an out-of-area hospital, but they decided not to. He did say that his son had lost one finger, but is determined to go back to fishing when he heals up.

“It’s foolish to have such a dangerous firework,” Chief Knuckles said, adding that since there was no control box to be found, it must have been lit with some kind of fuse. “With boats you have to be especially careful because they are flammable, and so is the dock.”

He recalled the 1988 South T-pier Fire that destroyed the pier, damaged or destroyed some 13 fishing boats and killed two people.

That fire, the worst in the history of the waterfront, was caused by a shore power extension cord to one of the boats that overheated and caught the underside of the creosote-treated wooden timbers on fire.

“The City can’t keep rebuilding that pier,” he said of the South T-pier, which is reserved exclusively for commercial fishing boats. “It would not only cost the City if it caught fire again, but the commercial fishing industry too. It would hurt so many people. They’re illegal for a reason.”

In Morro Bay, the Fire Department has been able to get the City Council to help them out with the issue of fireworks, by passing an ordinance that bans all fireworks in the City Limits, except those as part of a professional show.

The fire department had three engines patrolling town on 4th of July, with the chief and fire marshal out in a command vehicle. They also sent out some 750 flyers to every address and every motel in town warning of the ordinance and promising fines for anyone caught lighting them off.

“The visitors are the ones who usually bring in the illegal fireworks, not our citizens,” Chief Knuckles said.

And while this past 4th of July wasn’t much of a problem, Chief Knuckles said they did get some reports of fireworks down at the harbor, but didn’t catch anyone.

“There were less illegal fireworks this year than in years before,” he said. “And illegal fireworks off boats has diminished considerably. For 11 years we’ve had that ordinance. It’s been very successful. We did have some going off this year, but less than usual.”

There were also no fires reported caused by fireworks over the long holiday.

# City Seeks Bids on Signage Project

By Neil Farrell



The City of Morro Bay, in an apparent attempt to help lost tourists find their way around town, is seeking bids for a \$150,000 “wayfinding” signage project.

The City’s “request for proposals” or RFP is due back by 2 p.m. Thursday, Aug. 12 for the contract that entails manufacturing and installing the metal signs, which from the plans looks like there would be about 35 new signs installed across the city.

The project is being paid for out of monies the City Council approved for economic development, according to the City Man-

## News Briefs

By Theresa-Marie Wilson

### Opinions Needed

Los Osos residents, let your voice be heard on two issues that could impact your daily routine.

The draft CEQA document for the South Bay Bridge replacement project is online at [bit.ly/2V2zU5x](https://bit.ly/2V2zU5x). The 30-day review and comment period for the proposed Mitigated Negative Declaration began on July 7 and ends on August 6.

Written comments must be received by 5 p.m. on the last day of the review period and should be addressed to: Monica Stillman, Environmental Specialist, [mjstillman@co.slo.ca.us](mailto:mjstillman@co.slo.ca.us), County Government Center, Room 206, San Luis Obispo, CA 93408.

The San Luis Obispo Council of Governments is developing the 2023 Regional Transportation Plan (RTP).

The RTP provides a vision for the future growth and development of the SLO region through the year 2045, and they need our input to inform it!

This plan will help shape quality of life and the environment over decades to come.

Share your input on key regional transportation topics. For each survey you take, you'll be entered to win a \$50 Visa gift card! Take the surveys at <https://slocog.org/engage>

### Jimmy Paulding Meet and Greet

Local supporters of Jimmy Paulding, candidate for District 4 County Supervisor, are hosting a meet and greet in Los Osos on Monday, August 9 from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. at South Bay Community Center.

“I’m running for Supervisor to focus on South County needs, but right now our entire county suffers from a lack of vision and leadership on the Board of Supervisors,” Jimmy said in a news release. “I want to bring good governance to the whole county.”

The event gives North Coast residents a chance to meet Jimmy and share their ideas for the future of SLO County.

“Even though I live outside of Jimmy’s district, I’m eager to support his campaign since the decisions made by the Board of Supervisors affect everyone in our county,” said Pandora Nash-Karner, an organizer of the event. “Jimmy is a great listener, and he has so many great ideas. We need him on the Board of Supervisors.”

SLO County’s 4th Supervisorial District includes the South County communities of Arroyo Grande, Nipomo, and Oceano.

“We have a really fun evening lined up,” said Nash-Karner. “There will be refreshments, a raffle, and homemade beanies. Stop by and see why people across the county are excited to get Jimmy elected”

The South Bay Community Center is located at 2180 Palisades Ave. The event is free and open to the public.

### State Parks Association Needs Sales Clerk

Looking for a part-time job that’ll take you to some of the nicest spots in SLO County?

The Central Coast State Parks Association, the non-profit, educational group that works with and supports the local State Parks, has openings for a retail sales associate, to work at its five retail shops in the local State Park District.

“The ideal candidate will be creative, detail-oriented, tech-savvy, and have excellent interpersonal skills,” reads the online job notice. “You must be capable of effectively communicating with people of all ages and backgrounds, and highly motivated to find ways of increasing the profitability of our retail stores.”

The job is 16-32 hours a week and you’ll have to be able to bounce around between the various retail stores in SLO County.

State Parks has a training program you’ll have to take to familiarize yourself with all the local offerings so you can provide accurate information. They want you to be able to create displays and merchandising. You’ll have to be able to run a cash register and do basic record keeping, and be able to assist with the association’s special events and activities when needed. Reliable transportation is an apparent necessity.

The pay starts at \$13.50 an hour and you must be able to work 8-hour shifts from 9 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. weekdays, holidays and weekends. They offer 12 paid sick days a year and five, paid vacation days, which start to accrue after 90 days.

Email a cover letter and resume to: [ed@centralcoastparks.org](mailto:ed@centralcoastparks.org). Phone calls not accepted. Resumes will be reviewed on a rolling basis and the job is open until filled.

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

### Changes in Parking Fees in SLO

There is good news and bad news when it comes to parking fees in Downtown SLO.

Some rates are going up, but others are going down, said Parking Program Manager Gaven Hussey in a news release

- The maximum daily cost for parking in parking structures was cut in half, from about \$12 to \$6.
- The hourly rate for street parking metered areas has gone up by 25 cents an hour.
- Street parking enforcement hours are expanding on July 19. Rather than ending at 6 p.m., three hours have been tacked on and enforcement will end at 9 p.m.

Where does the money go? More parking related projects are in the works. There is a new parking structure planned for Palm and Nipomo streets and a new parking app to help folks find street parking on the books. Plans also include increasing the safety of the downtown parking programs and expand the presence of safety and enforcement personnel in and around the parking structures.

“The city gave up parking revenue during the COVID-19 pandemic to help support local businesses, operating at a loss for more than a year,” Hussey said. That revenue loss came in the form of two hours of free parking on Saturdays and Sundays, more than 100 spaces converted to outdoor parklets and curbside pick up for shops and restaurants and delaying the current new fees for a year.

ager, Scott Collins. No general fund tax monies are being used for the project, he added.

“The work shall include but is not limited to furnishing and installing custom roadway directional signs, poles, foundations, removing and/or relocating existing roadway signs, and patching sidewalk,” reads the City’s RFP.

The contractor will have to order the signs from a list of acceptable manufacturers and poles, and once delivered, will have 40 days to complete the work or face penalties of \$200 a day paid to the City for the delays.

The contractor will have to order the signs, which the specs spell out in some detail. They have to be aluminum, with a retro-reflective sheeting, in translucent ink, and have an anti-graffiti coating. The text on the signs must be white, and the background in blue, with a gold border. The back and sides must be painted blue and in a polyurethane paint made by Mathews Paint.

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COVID Cases Rising Again in SLO County

By Neil Farrell



San Luis Obispo County is seeing a resurgence of the coronavirus pandemic after dropping to near zero new cases in recent weeks, as the virus' more contagious cousin — the Delta Variant — has invaded the Central Coast.

But while the Delta variant is purported to be more easily transmissible than the original virus, it hasn't meant a run on hospitals or a big jump in reported deaths.

On July 20, SLO County Health Department announced that it had confirmed 129 new cases of COVID-19 over the prior week. That's including nine cases "caused by the highly-transmissible Delta variant," the County said in a news release. "Because not all cases are sequenced to determine their strain, officials say the actual number of Delta variant cases is likely considerably higher. The Delta variant now represents more than 49% of cases sequenced in California."

"The Delta variant," SLO County Health Officer Dr. Penny Borenstein said, "spreads more quickly and easily than other strains of COVID-19, but we each have the power to stop its spread here in SLO County. Get vaccinated, wash your hands often, and get tested if you experience symptoms of COVID-19. If you haven't been vaccinated yet, it's essential that you wear a mask indoors."

The County said anyone who isn't vaccinated "are at greater risk of contracting and facing serious illness from all strains of COVID-19, including the Delta variant." But the vaccine appears to be effective against this mutation of the original bug.

"The California Department of Public Health," the County said, "recently reported that out of more than 20.4 million fully vaccinated individuals, 99.95% have not become ill from COVID-19." This is also true in SLO County.

"More than ever, we have the tools to stop the spread, protect our loved ones, and put the pandemic behind us," said Dr. Borenstein. "If you haven't gotten the vaccine yet, today is the day to make your appointment or walk in to a local clinic or pharmacy. We can slow the spread of this variant here in SLO County."

To schedule a first or second dose of the COVID-19 vaccine at a public health clinic, see: myturn.ca.gov or call (833) 422-4255. To find other local vaccine providers, see: myturn.ca.gov or VaccineFinder.org. The vaccines continue to be free of charge and are also available at some pharmacies and doctor's offices.

Current Numbers

According to the County's statistics, there are now 134 active cases of COVID, including the latest 129 reported July 20, the latest update. Some 21,319 people have had the disease and recovered and 264 people have died of COVID since reporting first began in April 2020.

There are plenty of available ICU hospital beds at this time, as there are 13 of the total 38 beds in use but just one with a COVID patient. Three people were in the hospital with the virus.

As of July 20, the latest update, a total of 758 people in SLO County have been hospitalized with COVID since the start of the pandemic in March 2020. Some 127 went into the ICU and 264 have died.

Among the serious cases, 105 people 85-older have been hospitalized and 125 people have died, including a number of people over 100.

In the 65-84 age range, 289 have been hospitalized with 99 deaths. For 50-64, 191 hospitalizations and 32 deaths and those 30-49, there've been 128 hospitalized and eight deaths. There have been 35 people ages 18-29 hospitalized with no deaths and for those 17-under, 10 have been hospitalized with zero deaths.

Paso Robles has again overtaken the lead in total confirmed cases in SLO County with 4,254, with SLO second at 4,084. The California Men's Colony prison has had 2,383 cases and Atascadero is fourth at 2,126. Nipomo (1,609) and Arroyo Grande (1,543) are the only other towns that have topped 1,000 cases.

On the North Coast, Los Osos has had 521 cases, Morro Bay 451, and Cayucos 71.

Cambria has had 187 cases and San Simeon 21. Cal Poly has had 658 confirmed cases.

For the latest SLO County information on the pandemic, see: www.emergencyslo.org/en/index.aspx

Three Arrested on Drug; Theft Charges

Morro Bay Police arrested three people on various drug and theft charges after one of them brazenly stole the tip jar from a local takeout restaurant and took off to a waiting getaway car.

According to a new release, at 4:50 p.m. on Thursday, July 15, a woman allegedly stole the tip jar from Giovanni's Fish Market, 1001 Front St., and ran to a waiting car down the block.

Photos of the woman and the getaway car were shared on social media the following day, police said in a news release by Cmdr. Amy Watkins. Two days later, on July 17, Cmdr. Watkins said they got a tip from someone who'd seen the post that the wanted car was parked outside the El Chorlito Restaurant in San Simeon.

"MBPD officers arrived on scene," she said, "and contacted four subjects, which included the woman responsible for the theft."

The alleged thief was with three others, two men and an adult woman, and police said the two men took off running down the beach but were captured after a short foot chase.

"During the foot pursuit," Cmdr. Watkins said, "one of the suspects attempted to discard narcotics and paraphernalia into the ocean. All narcotics and paraphernalia were located and seized by officers. The tip jar stolen from Giovanni's was located inside the suspect vehicle."

That tip jar was actually a beer pitcher and while police did not say how much money was in it, Giovanni's is one of the busiest restaurants on the Embarcadero and by nearly 5 p.m. it could certainly have had a lot of money in it, which would ordinarily be shared among the staff.

Three of the four suspects were arrested but the fourth was not, as Cmdr. Watkins said she is not suspected of committing any crimes.

Arrested were: Brittany Renee Doyle, 21 of Tulare charged with suspicion of theft, being under the influence of drugs and possession of drug paraphernalia; Devon Louis Young, 23, suspicion of resisting arrest, being a parolee at large, possession of a controlled substance, and possession of drug paraphernalia; and, Brian Moscrop, 42, on suspicion of possession of drug paraphernalia, and being under the influence of a controlled substance.

All, including the woman not arrested, are from Tulare and according to police were visiting the Coast on holiday.

Police are asking for any information anyone might have on possible other crimes that this gang that couldn't shoot straight might have committed here while on vacation. Call the MBPD at (805) 772- 6225 or Crime Stoppers at (805) 549-STOP.



Brian Moscrop



Devon Louis Young



Brittany Renee Doyle

County to Bridge 'Blood Alley' Dead Zone

San Luis Obispo County will soon bridge a gap in its emergency radio communications and hopefully improve emergency vehicle response to Hwy 46's infamous "Blood Alley."

Supervisors recently approved a 30-year ground lease to install and maintain a radio communications tower near the Polonio Pass Water Treatment Facility, part of the Coastal Branch of the State Water Project, where several cell phone companies also have towers.

"The County currently lacks reliable public safety radio communications coverage for this area known more commonly as the Highway 41/46 corridor," reads a staff report. "San Luis Obispo County first responders have little to no radio coverage in this area due to many steep canyon areas and remote properties adjacent to the main highways."

That area was identified as the, "top communications deficiency by the Homeland Security Approval Authority, consisting of SLO County Sheriff, SLO County Fire, SLO County Office of Emergency Services (OES), SLO County Health Agency, and SLO County Probation (coordinated by the County OES)."

The Hwy 41/46 corridor, known as "Blood Alley" for its

numerous fatal accidents, especially at the area called "The Y" where the two highways diverge, is a major east-west truck route and is heavily traveled by Central Valley residents heading back and forth from the Coast.

"This area has a high incidence of severe vehicle accidents and associated hazardous spills. By execution of this ground lease, SLO County Sheriff, Medical, Fire, OES, Environmental Health and Haz-Mat teams will be ensured reliable communications along this corridor upon completion of the facility."

The remoteness of the area already hampers emergency response, as the nearest fire department is the Cal Fire/County Fire station at Shandon, and emergency response takes some time to arrive.

Eventually, plans are to put in a highway interchange to replace the dangerous left turn across traffic for those heading onto Hwy 41 at The Y.

The County's new radio facility will include standard communications equipment, a vault, HVAC, back-up generator and a communications tower that has space to lease out for agencies like Kern County and Caltrans.

It will be located along the northeastern section of SLO County Line near the Hwys 41 and 46 "Y" and adjacent to Hwy 46 at the Polonio Pass treatment plant.

The County IT Department will maintain the site expected to be completed in October. Treasure Way, LLC, owns the property and rent is a discounted rate of \$450 a month, for 30 years, with annual costs pegged at \$5,500 a year.

Money Awarded to Replace Old Creek Bridge

By Neil Farrell

The California Transportation Commission has allocated several million dollars towards the replacement of a busy Hwy 1 bridge in Cayucos, part of a more than \$1.18 billion award to transportation projects up and down the state.

The money is from Senate Bill 1 (SB-1) and the "Road Repair and Accountability Act of 2017," according to a Caltrans news release. These two sources account for over half the total, some \$630 million.

Among the numerous funding awards, \$12 million was allocated to replace the Hwy 1 Old Creek Bridge, located near the 24th Street Beach Access in Cayucos. "This project will also include improved bridge rails, guardrail, highway shoulders and rock slope protection," Caltrans said. That project isn't slated to begin until late 2022.

The State also allocated some \$1.9 million to install "Accessible Pedestrian Systems [push buttons], countdown pedestrian signals and crosswalk signs to improve pedestrian and bicycle safety in various locations on State Routes 135 and 246 and US 101 in San Luis Obispo and Santa Barbara Counties."

"California has the most heavily-traveled transportation system in the country," said Caltrans Director, Toms Omishakin. "Today's investment will allow Caltrans to make critical repairs and upgrades to our state's roads and bridges, increase options for transit, rail, walking and biking, and support thousands of jobs."

The Old Creek Bridge won't be the only major highway project through Cayucos, as Caltrans expects next spring to get started on replacing the Hwy 1 northbound bridge over Toro Creek.

Built in 1941 as part of the original, 2-lane Hwy 1, the northbound Toro Creek Bridge has been determined to be structurally deficient and it's also not wide enough to accommodate bike lanes, and so the plan is to replace the northbound bridge to match the southbound one, which was built in 1961 but does have the width

Old Creek Bridge Continued on page 6

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News

to allow for Class III bike lanes.

In the meantime, the contractor, Souza Const., will be moving utilities and get ready to reroute all the traffic onto the South-bound bridge this fall, in preparation for construction expected in the spring on a job that could take 2 years to complete.

After the new Toro Creek Bridge is done, the CSD has already hired Souza to hook up its pipes, hanging them on the bridge, and finally complete its water reclamation facility. The Toro Creek Bridge is a \$7.9 million project.

And some day the new bike lanes on the new bridge might be moot, as there is a plan awaiting funding to build a Class I separated bike and pedestrian path running along the bluff top between the highway fence and Dog Beach.

That so-called “Cayucos-Morro Bay Connector,” would provide a safe route for cyclists and walkers separated from traffic. Initial designs and environmental reviews are completed for that project but construction money has proven elusive thus far.

“SB 1 provides \$5 billion in transportation funding annually,” Caltrans said, “split between the state and local agencies. Road projects progress through construction phases more quickly based on the availability of SB 1 funds, including projects that are partially funded by SB 1.

For more information about other transportation projects funded by SB 1, see: rebuildingca.ca.gov.

Morro Bay Seagrass Loss Causes Shift in Fish Populations



The staghorn sculpin, a muddy-seafloor-loving flatfish, has increased in Morro Bay as eelgrass habitat has decreased. Numbers of some seagrass-specialist fish species, such as the bay pipefish, decreased. Photo by Iliana Arroyos

The loss of seagrass habitat caused a dramatic shift in fish species in Morro Bay, according to a recently published paper by Cal Poly researchers. Areas of the bay once covered with lush eelgrass meadows and unique fish species are now home to muddy-seafloor-loving flatfish.

Seagrass meadows were previously common throughout the Morro Bay estuary, according to the study, “Effects of Estuary-Wide Seagrass Loss on Fish Populations,” which was published this spring in the journal Estuaries and Coasts.



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“Seagrass, like the eelgrass in Morro Bay, is important because it supports a range of marine life,” said Jennifer O’Leary, who led the research as a California Sea Grant extension specialist based at Cal Poly. “It’s like the trees in a forest — these underwater plants provide food, structure and shelter to many of the marine animals that live in the bay.”

O’Leary is now the Western Indian Ocean coordinator for the Wildlife Conservation Society, a New York-based non-governmental organization working to conserve the world’s largest wild places in over a dozen priority regions.

Underwater seagrass meadows — one of the main habitats in coastal estuaries — represent one of the most biologically productive biomes on the planet. Yet seagrass habitats are being lost at an alarming rate, and their decline now rivals those reported for tropical rainforests, coral reefs and mangroves.

Loss is usually the symptom of a larger problem. Seagrasses are considered “coastal canaries,” and their decline signals important losses to biodiversity and often impacts the communities that depend on them.

Morro Bay estuary, one of 28 that the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency designated as critical to the economic and environmental health of the nation, has seen a dramatic loss in its seagrass habitat. Once dominated by a common California eelgrass (*Zostera marina*), seagrass at this site has declined by over 95 percent.

In 2007 the seagrass was found throughout the bay, with abundant underwater meadows on the western edge of the estuary, between the dredged harbor channel and the Sand Spit, stretching south from roughly Morro Bay State Park Marina to the back bay. Over the next 10 years it nearly disappeared, dropping from 344 acres to less than 15 acres in 2017.

Seagrass meadows are a multifaceted habitat that secure sediments with their root systems, while providing food, shelter and nurseries for many types of fish and invertebrates. When seagrass meadows are lost, they are often replaced with a less dynamic, muddy seafloor habitat.

O’Leary and colleagues in the new study found that seagrass loss did not result in fewer fish but rather led to changes in the types of fish that live in the bay. The research team saw decreasing numbers of some seagrass-specialist fish species, such as the bay pipefish (*Syngnathus leptorhynchus*). With long thin bodies and olive-green coloration, bay pipefish adapted to hide among the seagrass blades.

In contrast, researchers observed an increase in flatfishes like the speckled sanddab and staghorn sculpin. With flat bodies that are ideal for life on the muddy seafloor, they are common residents in California bays and estuaries. These species have moved into Morro Bay’s denuded eelgrass habitats and now make up the majority of fish species present there.

The loss of eelgrass habitat along the California coast presents a larger problem for species that depend on seagrass, like the bay pipefish. If seagrass doesn’t recover, then the surviving meadows will be further apart and have a more fragmented, or patchy, distribution. This distance and patchiness of habitat may impact specialists, like pipefish, by impairing their ability to move to new habitats in search of food or mates. Over time this community isolation may alter the genetic structure and diversity of the overall pipefish population.

“The relatively sudden and near complete collapse of eelgrass in Morro Bay has not only changed fish populations, but it has also resulted in substantial changes to estuary physics and geomorphology,” said study coauthor Ryan Walter, a Cal Poly physics professor who has been studying eelgrass loss through a California Sea Grant-funded research project that launched in 2018.

Walter, O’Leary and other Cal Poly researchers, in conjunction with the Morro Bay National Estuary Program, continue to study the cause and consequences of the eelgrass decline. In another study published last September, the team found that the loss of eelgrass in Morro Bay led to widespread erosion, or loss of sediment, throughout the estuary.

The new research published in March sheds additional light on changes within the estuary that may inform how scientists learn about seagrass communities throughout the Golden State. There has not been an eelgrass decline on the Pacific Coast of this magnitude, making Morro Bay a novel event that may help predict future estuarine change.

A multifaceted approach to protecting and enhancing the remaining seagrass will be essential, said the researchers.

Scientists remain hopeful as the remaining eelgrass is slowly expanding with protection and local planting initiatives, including successful transplant efforts led by the Morro Bay National Estuary Program. Walter and O’Leary have used drone-based surveys to document natural expansion and recovery of eelgrass in areas where it was lost. The mere 9.4 acres of seagrass left in Morro Bay in 2017 expanded to 36.7 acres by 2019. Researchers are still analyzing data from 2020 but are optimistic that the seagrass acreage continues to slowly increase.

Community

New Flippo’s a Batter’s Nirvana

Photos and Story by Neil Farrell



Kristopher East (LEFT) and Von Odermatt are two of the operators at Flippo’s Sports Arcade on Atascadero Road in Morro Bay.

Baseball and softball players, and sports fans now have a place of their own, after the recent opening of “Flippo’s Sports Arcade” on Morro Bay’s Atascadero Road.

Kristopher East and Von Odermatt, two of the new businesses’ operators, told Estero Bay News that their hope with the new Flippo’s was to provide a place for family-friendly activities, something the location was famous for as a roller skating rink, Flippo’s Skate Harbor, for generations.

The building is owned by Larry Guesno, who also owns the Morro Strand RV Parks adjacent to and across the street from Flippo’s. Guesno bought the properties from the former owner, the late-George Salwassar, who had filled the enormous building with a tremendous cache of antiques and rare items. All that was auctioned off as part of one of the largest bankruptcy cases in California history and included Flippo’s and the RV parks.

Odermatt explained that Guesno and East’s father, Kelly, spent the better part of three years remodeling the interior, transforming it from a lobby and a huge empty room with a hardwood floor for skating, into a café, a pool room, and batting cages for both baseball and fast pitch softball, taking up the former skating rink.

The batting cage room also has picnic tables and a number of giant TVs on the wall, each playing a different sporting event.

“They [Kelly East and Guesno] did most of the work themselves,” said Kristopher East. “We helped a little.”

Kristopher East, who said his family hails from the Lemoore/Hanford area, said they now live on site, in a residence attached to Flippo’s. That’s where the former owners Don and Mary Jane Puett lived for many years, raising a family and running the last skating rink in SLO County, before it closed in the late 1990s, much to the dismay of its numerous regular skaters.

That started an odyssey of the property changing hands, with the City of Morro Bay first buying the site for a teen center, only to turn around and sell it to Salwassar in 2006 in favor of buying out of bankruptcy, a former putt-putt golf business across the street and turning it into a teen center that it still runs today.


Odermatt said he grew up in Cayucos and Kristopher East said he came to SLO County 10-years ago to attend college, and returned to work on the remodel. His dad Kelly has lived here for many years, he explained.

Odermatt, who said he worked on the dinky golf facility when it was first built and opened as “The World’s Most Difficult Miniature Golf Course,” said he became involved in the new Flippo’s after he moved back to the area and into a home next door to Guesno.

When he was told about plans to remake Flippo’s, he said, “I was like ‘I want a piece of that.’” He is a retired marketing executive, Odermatt said. “I’m the numbers man and Larry is the idea man.”

Though they completed the project nearly 2-months ago, they’ve been undergoing a “soft opening” using social media to spread the word about the new business via word of mouth. And with over 1,000 followers already, he said it’s worked well. “People want to come in to check it out,” Odermatt said.

East said the project includes a solar energy array on the roof to make it more eco-friendly. “This is a karma project,” he said,



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Community



Colton Odermatt, 12, clubs a pitch from one of Flippo's Sports Arcade's pitching machines.

noting that the goal is to become members of the community and to give back to it, too.

The final design and offerings are the result of a number of iterations the idea for repurposing the building went through. One idea was to turn it into a classic car club, with stalls for working on cars with glass walls in a working museum of sorts. It would have had events like car-themed weddings and receptions.

Then they thought about putting in bumper cars, Odermatt said. In the end the batting cages with a café, which is run by Kelly East, won out. It's a niche they think the community will like a lot.

"It's the only place in town where you can lock your kid in a cage and go have a beer," Odermatt said with a laugh.

East said they are looking at adding a HitTrax system, a computerized batting simulator that uses high-speed cameras to determine batted ball speeds and calculate how far a hit ball might fly in places like Dodger Stadium.

"That's what the teams want," East said. They are looking at putting in a mini bowling system too.

Meanwhile, with the pool tables they are looking into doing leagues and possibly tournaments. "We're always looking for new ideas and groups that want to utilize our space."

As for the café, they are the only place on the North Coast serving Doc Bernstein's Ice Cream, Odermatt said, and East said they have dabbled in smoking tri-tips too. They change the menu regularly and will be offering gourmet sandwiches at \$7.50 that are "handmade with love." They have a kid's menu and just got a beer and wine license. "We want to make sure people leave here happy."

They will have several local brews on tap including Firestone and Liquid Gravity.

Another special feature is 805 bats, which Odermatt said are hand-turned by a local craftsman out of maple wood.

For a couple of extra dollars, Odermatt said, kids can try one of the 805 bats and if they like it, they can order one specially made.

The batting cages have five, hardball pitching machines and one hurling softballs. The pitches range from 35-70 mph, which is a pretty good fastball for a Little Leaguer.

Having batting cages available will also help save the arms of coaches, who normally would be chucking batting practice to their teams (the pitching machines no doubt throw a lot more strikes, too).

Flippo's Sports Arcade is located at 220 Atascadero Rd. Hours are Sundays-Thursdays, 7 a.m. to 6 p.m. and Fridays-Saturdays from 7-8. Admission is free and Odermatt and East said if someone just wants to come down, grab some food and a brew, and watch a game on the big screen TVs, they're OK with that too, as their lobby is a "community space."

"Our best customer is a 6-year-old who tells his friends and they all come in," said Odermatt.

They've had baseball teams in for batting practice, and have hosted a birthday party for an 11-year old. Already over half their customers are repeat customers.

"We sell a customer experience," East said.

Events and Activities

By Theresa-Marie Wilson

The Morro Bay Maritime Museum Association will debut a documentary about the local abalone industry and the important part it played in the development of Morro Bay as a commercial fishing hub on the Central Coast.

Titled, "Morro Bay (once) the Abalone Capital of the World," the documentary was produced by Lori Mather Video Service. Lori Mather is the wife of Museum Association President Scott Mather, and he said the film culls together home movies and photographs depicting the history of the local abalone, hard-hat

diving fishery.

After the show there will be a Q&A with some of the local fishers who participated in the abalone industry: Trudy O'Brien, Eddie Peirce, Dede Peirce, Steve Rebuck and possibly boat builder, Don Radon.

The film will be shown Sunday, Aug. 22 at the Bay Theater. Tickets will be available at the Museum at the north end of the Front Street parking lot on Morro Bay's Embarcadero (look for the big green submarine, Avalon) or through the association's website, see: <https://morrobaymaritime.org>.



**After a long, unexpected "intermission,"** By the Sea Productions is back on stage with two single-weekend plays in August. First up is "Shirley Valentine," a one-woman show starring Morro Bay actress Sharyn Young, as a bored British housewife driven to having conversations with her kitchen wall. When a friend wins a trip to the Greek Islands and invites her along, Shirley's world opens up with new adventures. This heartwarming play, which was also a popular movie, performs August 13-15.

The second show is "Visiting Mr. Green," about an elderly man and a young corporate executive assigned to visit him as community service. They start out as adversaries and slowly develop a warm friendship. 'Visiting Mr. Green' will be a staged reading running August 27-29.

Performances are Friday and Saturday evenings at 7 p.m. and Sunday matinees at 3 p.m. at 545 Shasta Ave. in Morro Bay. Tickets for "Shirley Valentine" are \$20. Tickets for "Visiting Mr. Green" readers theatre shows are \$10. Reservations for both shows are required and tickets may be purchased online at [bytheseaproductions.org](http://bytheseaproductions.org).

Seating is limited to ensure social distancing and the audience is requested to wear masks. The venue will be sanitized before performances. For questions or further information, call 805-776-3287.

...

**Cambria Center for the Arts** announced a call for artists for it's next show, Art & Liz Sherwyn, on September 4 – October 31. It is open to all artists. Membership with Cambria Center for the Arts is not required, but encouraged.

Register/submit art online August 20 through 30. Drop off your artwork at the gallery at 1350 Main St in Cambria on August 31. For more information, go to [cambriaarts.org/call-artists](http://cambriaarts.org/call-artists).



**The 12th Annual Zongo Yachting Cup** is planned for august 14. Are you in for this super fun ocean race/cruise from Morro Bay to Avila beach? If so, organizers want to hear from you. They are looking to see if there's enough interest to run the race this year. If you want to participate, let them know at [www.bigbigslo.com/cup](http://www.bigbigslo.com/cup).

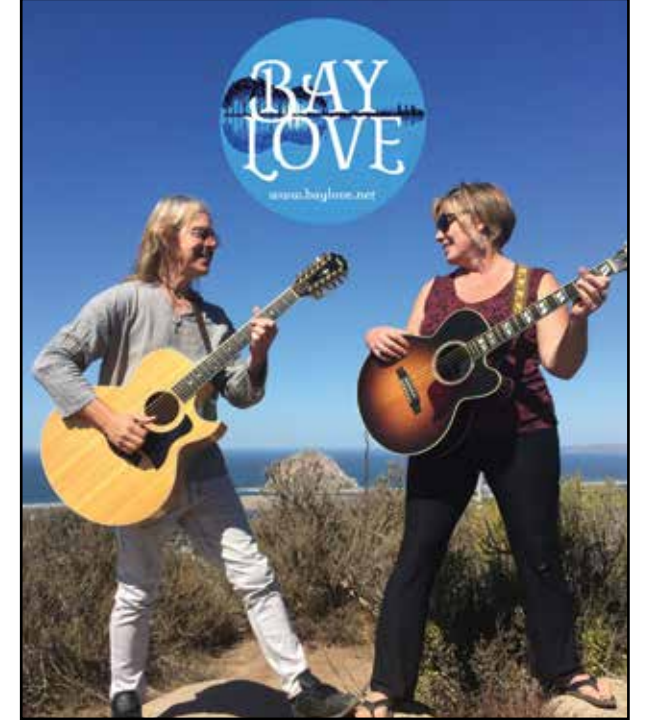
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**Take an online class** through County of San Luis Obispo Public Libraries to prepare for back to school The first day of school can be difficult for children of all ages. The transition from summer to school can be rough for both parent and child, but

some strategies and tips can help. Parents will also learn the developmental milestones of children, positive discipline techniques, increase their knowledge on social & emotional competencies, and have a live Q&A with Stormy Capalare.

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- Register at [slolibrary.org](http://slolibrary.org) on Event Calendar.



**Bay Love will play their songs** about peace, hope, love and social consciousness as well as some fun sing-a-longs at two shows. The first is Saturday August 7 from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. at The Clubhouse Grill at Sea Pines Golf Resort, 1945 Solano St. in Los Osos. The second show is Monday August 23 from 5:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m. at Rock-N-Osos Pizza, 1236 Los Osos Valley Road Suite A. For more information, go to [baylove.net](http://baylove.net).

...

**People Helping People of Los Osos** will hold a gigantic rummage sale with tons of household items, small furniture, tools, sporting goods, collectibles, electronics and something for everyone. They have been collecting treasures for a year and can, at last, hold a sale on Friday, Aug. 6 from 12 p.m. to 4 p.m. and Saturday, Aug. 7 from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the South Bay Community Center, 2180 Palisades, Los Osos. COVID-19 rules will be in place.

People Helping people is a non profit organization that distributes food to the needy every Wednesday morning from 9:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. and loans out medical equipment, too. The proceeds from this sale will be distributed at follows: 1/3 to the Community Center, 1/3 to People Helping People and 1/3 to Needs and Wishes, which provides funds for the SLO Noor Clinic, and the 40 Prado Homeless Services Center.

For more information call the PHP office at 805 528 2626.

Events Continued on page 9

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Shirley Valentine

Written by Willy Russell  
Directed by Sandy Bosworth  
Starring Sharyn Young  
August 13-15

Visiting Mr. Green

Written by Jeff Baron  
Directed by Kelli M. Poward  
November 5-7

84 Charing Cross Road

Written by Helene Hanff  
Directed by Anita Schwaber

Live Theatre in Morro Bay

Curtain Up!  
Light the Lights!  
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Our 2021 Season!

The Psychic

Written by Sam Bobrick  
Directed by Sheridan Cole  
November 19 - December 12

Suite Surrender

Written by Michael McKeever  
Directed by Kelli M. Poward

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Police Blotter



Morro Bay Police Logs

• **July 18:** Police caught up to a suspicious woman and fellow at 5:30 p.m. in the 1300 block of Main. Logs indicated the lady, 45, was nicked for suspicion of possessing drug paraphernalia, her stash apparently already up in smoke. The man, 29, was taken to the hoosegow for allegedly being tore up from the floor up. It was this shining example’s second clash with Johnny Law in the same day, as at 2:34 a.m. (July 18) he was arrested for suspicion of being under the influence (of drugs) and possession of said drugs. His compadre, 38, had two bench warrants but he was simply given a third disappearance ticket and released, ‘cause the road goes on forever and the party never ends.

• **July 18:** A citizen in the 1100 block of Market called 9-1-1 to report a strange bicycle was trespassing on his property. Police stormed the castle and took away the renegade.

• **July 18:** Police responded at 11 a.m. to a disturbance in the 2600 block of Coral. Logs indicated a 57-year-old ruffian was arrested for suspicion of exhibiting an undisclosed deadly weapon, possession of drugs, drug paraphernalia and “possession of a stun gun while addicted to a narcotic,” which pretty much says it all.

• **July 17:** Police contacted a tipsy fellow at 9:30 p.m. at Morro Bay Boulevard and Hwy 1 and arrested the apparent swagman, 69, who chilled in the cooler for suspicion of being stoned on drugs.

• **July 17:** Police stopped a vehicle at 6:50 p.m. in the 2900 block of Elm and arrested a 45-year-old bloomin’ dingus for suspicion of drunk driving after a hit-n-split crash.

• **July 17:** Police contacted a swizzle stick at 12:45 a.m. in the 400 block of Shasta. Logs indicated the 34-year-old borracho was arrested for suspicion of being schwacked in public.

• **July 16:** Police documented a car crash on South Bay Boulevard for the lawsuit to follow.

• July 16: Police reported that a car parked too long in the 300 block of Surf was given a 72-hour, move-it or lose-it ticket on July 12, and when they came back on the 26th, the interloper was deported from the neighborhood.

• **July 16:** Police sent a disturbed 62-year-old man to French Hospital for a 72-hour timeout.

• **July 15:** Police documented a slip and fall with injury in the 200 block of MBB, for when the claim gets filed against the City.

• **July 15:** Police were called at 5:55 p.m. to Giovanni’s Fish Market and Galley in the 1000 block of Front St., after some master criminal ran off with their tip jar, a full-sized beer pitcher. The woman and her fellow scamboogahs — all from Tulare — were tracked the next day to a restaurant in San Simeon where police arrested the woman alleged thief, 21, for suspicion of burglary and being stoned on drugs.

Two men tried to fugitate from police down the beach but were quickly captured after one was seen allegedly trying to throw drugs into the sea but police were reportedly able to retrieve the stash. Those ninnies were nicked for the drugs and a fourth member of the gang that couldn’t shoot straight committed no crimes and wasn’t arrested.

• **July 15:** Police contacted a suspicious man at the suspect time

of 2:06 a.m. at Bernardo and MBB and cited and released the apparent pistolero for possession of a loaded firearm.

• **July 14:** Police contacted a much too familiar face at 9:30 p.m. at Quintana Place and Main. The 29-year-old scofflaw had three bench warrants and police just gave him a fourth one and let him go (he had two run-ins with police on July 18, see above).

• **July 14:** A citizen came to the police station to report a Craig’s List rental scam, and you thought you’d found an affordable apartment...

• **July 14:** Someone turned in a bunch of ammo to police to destroy, exercising his or her Second Amendment Rights not to bare arms.

• **July 14:** Police responded to the 700 block of Quintana Pl., to arrest a 56-year-old boorish fellow for allegedly making criminal threats against someone in the 900 block of MBB.

• **July 14:** Police arrested a 60-year-old local yokel at 8:08 a.m. in the 700 block of MBB on suspicion of felony evading arrest, obstructing a peace officer, carrying a concealed dirk or dagger and “operating a motor vehicle in unsafe conditions.”

• **July 13:** Police stopped a suspicious vehicle at 11:30 p.m. at Monterey and Dunes. Logs indicated the driver, 24, was nicked for suspicion of driving ripped but was let off easy with a citation.

• **July 13:** Someone reported a car crack-up at 2:21 p.m. at Main and Pacific, where the citizens once dreamed of a 4-way stop, but alas, the bureaucracy overrode the will of the people, again.

• **July 13:** Police contacted a model citizen, 30, at 9 a.m. at the police station who had a failure to appear warrant and was issued another citation and released back into the wild.

• **July 12:** Someone turned in a cell phone they found at Morro Rock, and Homeland Security was no doubt called in.

• **July 12:** Police stopped a suspicious car at 9:07 p.m. at Main and Surf and the 62-year-old woman driver was cited and released for suspicion of driving poo-pooed.

• **July 12:** Police were called by a man in the 1700 block of Embarcadero who said his wallet, phone and other items were stolen from out of his locked vehicle, as the tourist tax is once again levied on the unsuspecting.

• **July 11:** Police responded at 8:51 p.m. to a disturbance in the 1200 block of Scott. A 48-year-old chap was pipped at the post for piflicated deportment in public.

• **July 11:** Police responded at 6:48 p.m. to a traffic collision in the 700 block of MBB. No injuries reported.

• **July 11:** Police stopped a suspicious vehicle at 2:44 p.m. in the 500 block of Atascadero Road. Logs indicated the driver, 35, was arrested for suspicion of possessing drug paraphernalia, and a controlled substance, and being stoned on drugs. His passenger, 33, was arrested for suspicion of possessing drug paraphernalia and being stoned on drugs. The infamous couple was tossed into the clink.

• **July 11:** Police responded at 2:42 p.m. to the Morro Rock parking lot where a juvenile delinquent and an adult ruffian reportedly got into an altercation. No word on who they’re pinning it on, but a report was sent to the District Attorney.

• **July 10:** Police contacted two women at 10 p.m. at Lila Keiser Park. Logs indicated the belles of the ball, ages 42 and 53, were nicked for suspicion of possessing drugs, paraphernalia, and being UTI.

• **July 10:** Police responded at 8:21 p.m. to a crash-n-dash in the 800 block of Main.

• **July 10:** At 2 p.m. there was another car crash at the blind intersection of Main and Surf.

• **July 10:** Police responded at 1 p.m. to Rite Aid for a shoplifting report, which they’ll likely never solve, but hey at least they responded, which is more than what you’ll get in Mean Ol’ Frisco.

• **July 10:** Police are investigating a petty theft in the 200 block of Main and a task force will no doubt be formed, soon as they get a clue.

• **July 10:** Police responded at 2:18 a.m. to a domestic dispute in the 400 block of Napa. They documented the incident for next time.

• **July 10:** Police contacted a suspicious hombre at 12:22 a.m. at Kern and Pacific. They violated the 50-year-old parolee and issued a summons that he’ll probably never answer.

• **July 9:** Police stopped a suspicious vehicle at 11:36 p.m. at Beach and Front. The driver, 30, was allegedly driving plastered, but police cited and released him, as the world flies into the Land of Idiocracy.

• **July 9:** Police stopped a suspicious vehicle at 8:10 p.m. in the 2800 block of Main. A 43-year-old driver was cited for a suspended license and released to go forth and sin no more.

• **July 9:** Police contacted a suspicious man at 9 p.m. at Rite Aid. The Moonraker, 27, had an out-of-county warrant, and was cited and released.

• **July 9:** Police responded at 4:10 p.m. to State Park Road for a report of someone making criminal threats. Logs indicated a

24-year-old Piojo was arrested for allegedly making threats and battering his non-cohabitant soon-to-be ex-girlfriend of four years.

• **July 9:** Police responded at 10:15 p.m. to the 500 block of MBB where they arrested a 52-year-old man for suspicion of financial elder abuse, identity theft, fraud, forgery and narcotics violations, but at least we know where the money probably went.

• **July 9:** Police responded to the 2900 block of Beachcomber for a reported theft from a garage. No word on what treasures were stolen, but it proves once again that people will steal anything.

• **July 8:** At 11:21 p.m. police were called to the South T-pier where fire paramedics had a rather gruesome call. According to police logs, the man “dismembered his right hand with a mortar.” And while there is some dispute whether it was an illegal firework, which fire department claims, or a signal flare that malfunctioned, which the poor man’s family has said, he will likely lose some fingers. He has along road to recovery ahead, in this cautionary tale.

• **July 8:** Police responded at 6 p.m. to a disturbance in the 1200 block of Embarcadero. They arrested a man, 52 and woman 28 for suspicion of disorderly conduct, ending this naughty business.

• **July 7:** Police responded to a disturbance at nearly midnight in the 1700 block of Embarcadero. The 49-year-old fellow was nicked for suspicion of possessing paraphernalia and being UTI.

• **July 7:** Police stopped a suspicious vehicle at 7:10 p.m. in the 800 block of MBB. The tomato driving, 69, was nicked for suspicion of being stewed.

• **July 7:** Police responded at 3:30 p.m. to a disturbance in the 300 block of Main. Logs indicated a 35-year-old battleaxe was arrested for suspicion of domestic violence and tossed into the dungeon.

• **July 7:** Someone at Morro Strand RV Park in the 200 block of Atascadero Road reported a petty theft, and they apparently weren’t referring to the space rate.

• **July 6:** Police responded at 9:35 p.m. to a report of an assault with a deadly weapon at Morro Rock. But nothing came of it.

• **July 6:** Someone reported suspected child abuse in the 2700 block of Alder Avenue.

• **July 6:** Someone vandalized a vehicle in the 1300 block of Bolton Dr.

• **July 5:** Police stopped a suspicious vehicle at 11:18 p.m. and arrested the driver, 32, for suspicion of driving stoned on drugs. His passenger, 27, got nicked for two, felony warrants, a misdemeanor warrant, and possession of paraphernalia.

• **July 5:** A woman at a motel in the 2400 block of Main told police that items were stolen from her room while it was unlocked and the door left open by housekeeping.

• **July 5:** Police stopped a suspicious vehicle at 1:23 a.m. on Main at Errol. A 62-year-old woman driver was arrested for suspicion of driving sauced.

• **July 5:** Police stopped another suspicious vehicle at 12:37 a.m. on Main at Atascadero Road. A 25-year-old driver was nicked for suspicion of driving stinky.

Laurie Lackland

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Every Color Deserves a Forever Home

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## Events From page 7



In addition to clay, students will use a variety of other materials to create art inspired by Native American cultures. The clay will be sealed by the instructor and ready for pick up after 8/14 during normal Art Center gallery hours.



**Brynn Albanese and Jody Mulgrew** have joined forces to create a diverse collaboration of soulful almost meditative selections that they will perform at 7 p.m. on Aug. 14 at the Cambria Center for the Arts Theater. The combination of Jody's beautiful tenor voice, superb song writing mixed with Brynn's soaring and soothing sounds from her violin offer audiences a very unique and emotional experience that is a gift that keeps on giving long after the concert is over. Tickets are \$25 and can be purchased at <https://ccat.eventive.org/>.



The volleyball camp takes place Aug. 2 – 9 from 1 to 3 p.m. for \$160. Attendees will learn the basics and rules of play, foundational team building (including roles and positions), and hone new and developing skills (through drills, conditioning, and game play). On a typical day, students will warm up, participate in drills, receive coaching on specific plays and finally play small team scrimmages and skills competitions.

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

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By Theresa-Marie Wilson

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**Takin' Care of Business** Continued on page 10



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# Music

## Central Coast Guitar Show



The Central Coast Guitar Show is Saturday August 7 at 10 a.m. 4 p.m. at the SLO Guild Hall, 2880 Grand Avenue, San Luis Obispo.

This show is all about the most popular musical instrument in the world- the guitar. Manufacturers, dealers, collectors, and local musicians will be displaying, selling, and trading their new, used, and vintage guitars and guitar-related products, as well as other musical instruments and services. There will also be local musicians walking-in instruments and related items they want to sell or trade to dealers and collectors.

This unique Central Coast event, the kind of which otherwise only occurs in Los Angeles and San Francisco, is newsworthy for the exceptional visuals and the hundreds of local guitar enthusiasts who attend the show.

Day of show admission is \$10, and those who “walk-in” an instrument or amp to sell or trade get \$1 off admission. Discounted advance sale admission tickets available at [www.My805Tix.com](http://www.My805Tix.com).

For more info, call or text (805) 431-3067.

**Thu., Jul. 29 • 5:00pm**  
Avila Beach: Kevin Graybill  
Avila Beach Golf Resort  
6464 Ana Bay Road,  
Avila Beach

**Thu., Jul. 29 • 7:00pm**  
Kash'd Out w/ Bikini Trill,  
Cydeways, Bonzai  
SLO Brew Rock  
855 Aerovista Place,  
San Luis Obispo

**Thu., Jul. 29 • 6:00pm**  
Molly Ringwald Project  
Paso Robles Concerts  
in the Park  
12th and Spring Street,  
Paso Robles

**Thu., Jul. 29 • 7:30pm**  
Festival Mozaic: Gaby Moreno  
Dana Adobe and  
Cultural Center  
671 S. Oakglen Ave, Nipomo

**Thu., Jul. 29 • 7:00pm**  
Robert Alberts Quintet  
The Madonna Inn  
100 Madonna Road, San Luis  
Obispo

**Fri., Jul. 30 • 5:30pm**  
Back Bay Betty  
BarrelHouse Brewing  
3055 Limestone Way,  
Paso Robles

**Fri., Jul. 30 • 5:00pm**  
The Boondock Boys  
Tooth & Nail Winery  
3090 Anderson Rd,  
Paso Robles

**Fri., Jul. 30 • 5:00pm**  
The Cliffs: Music on the Patio  
The Cliffs Hotel & Spa  
2757 Shell Beach Road,  
Pismo Beach

**Fri., Jul. 30 • 4:00pm**  
Festival Mozaic: Schubert, Mozart,  
& Clara Schumann  
SLO Brew Rock  
855 Aerovista Place,  
San Luis Obispo

**Fri., Jul. 30 • 7:30pm**  
Mid-State Fair: Little Big Town  
Paso Robles Event Center  
Paso Robles

**Fri., Jul. 30 • 8:00pm**  
One Drop Redemption (Bob  
Marley Tribute)  
The Siren  
900 Main St, Morro Bay

**Fri., Jul. 30 • 6:00pm**  
Soleffect  
Cal Coast Beer Company  
1346 Railroad St, Paso Robles

**Fri., Jul. 30 • 7:00pm**  
THE VIBE SETTERS  
The Pour House  
525 Pine Street, Paso Robles

**Sat., Jul. 31 • 6:30pm**  
Dulcie Taylor  
Atascadero Lake Park  
Concerts  
9305 Pismo Ave, Atascadero

**Sat., Jul. 31 • 8:00pm**  
Joe Bonamassa  
Vina Robles Ampitheatre  
3800 Mill Road, Paso Robles

**Sat., Jul. 31 • 7:30pm**  
Patrick Contreras - Violin  
On Fire  
The Siren  
900 Main St, Morro Bay

**Sat., Jul. 31 • 1:00pm**  
Ras Danny & the Reggae  
All Stars  
Broken Earth Winery  
1650 Ramada Dr, Paso Robles

**Sat., Jul. 31 • 2:00pm**  
Charlie Baker  
Sea Pines Golf Resort  
1945 Solano St, Los Osos

**Sat., Jul. 31 • 7:00pm**  
Truth About Seafood  
The Pour House  
525 Pine Street, Paso Robles

**Sun., Aug. 1 • 8:00pm**  
Banda MS De Sergio Lizárraga  
Vina Robles Ampitheatre  
3800 Mill Road, Paso Robles

**Sun., Aug. 1 • 3:00pm**  
Burning James & PoHo Blues  
All-Stars  
The Pour House  
525 Pine Street, Paso Robles

**Sun., Aug. 1 • 3:00pm**  
Careless Whisper  
Grover Beach Sizzlin Summer  
Concert  
993 Ramona Ave, Grover Beach

**Sun., Aug. 1 • 1:00pm**  
Jump Jax  
Arroyo Grande Summer Concerts  
201 Nelson St, Arroyo Grande

## Fremont Theater reopens with Jade Jackson



Mark your calendars and grab some tickets to celebrate the grand reopening of the historic Fremont Theater in Downtown SLO on August 7! This will be the first time the theater opened its doors in over 17 months, and headlining this show will be Jade Jackson, the Santa Margarita native who has gone on to set the world ablaze with her original roots music.

The Fremont is the perfect venue for this concert, as it was used to film her latest music video for her latest single: “6FT Changes.” “Dancing with

strangers and holding up beers/tapping on shoulders and whispering in ears/was taken for granted all these years,” Jackson sings in this song, her first new music since 2019 when she released her full album Wilderness. The video shows Jade on an empty stage and an empty venue, lamenting the lack of human contact we’ve all had throughout the pandemic. Now we get to fill the venue and see the story come full circle. Grab your tickets and stay tuned for an announcement for a very special guest at [FremontSLO.com](http://FremontSLO.com).

Photo courtesy of Jade Jackson



## Paul's Picks

**Sun., Aug. 1 • 1:00pm**  
Patrick Contreras - Jill Knight  
Castoro Cellars Winery  
1315 N Bethel Rd, Templeton

**Sun., Aug. 1 • 6:00pm**  
Live Outside Concert: The Bogeys  
Schooners  
171 N Ocean Ave., Cayucos

**Sun., Aug. 1 • 12:00pm**  
Natalie Haskins  
Sextant  
2324 West Highway 46, Paso  
Robles

**Sun., Aug. 1 • 1:00pm**  
Rockin' The Ranch:  
The JD Project  
Filipponi Ranch  
1850 Calle Joaquin,  
San Luis Obispo

**Wed., Aug. 4 • 7:00pm**  
Mystic Braves  
SLO Brew Rock  
855 Aerovista Place,  
San Luis Obispo

**Wed., Aug. 4 • 6:00pm**  
Rockin' B's Band  
Templeton Park Summer Concerts  
550 Crocker St, Templeton

**Thu., Aug. 5 • 7:00pm**  
The B-Side Players  
The Siren  
900 Main St, Morro Bay

**Thu., Aug. 5 • 7:00pm**  
Robert Alberts Quintet  
The Madonna Inn  
100 Madonna Road,  
San Luis Obispo

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

**Fri., Aug. 6 • 5:00pm**  
The Cliffs: Music on the Patio  
The Cliffs Hotel & Spa  
2757 Shell Beach Road,  
Pismo Beach

**Fri., Aug. 6 • 5:00pm**  
Concerts in the Plaza: Damon  
Castillo Band  
Mission Plaza  
989 Chorro St, San Luis Obispo

**Fri., Aug. 6 • 7:00pm**  
The Mothers Hips  
SLO Brew Rock  
855 Aerovista Place,  
San Luis Obispo

**Fri., Aug. 6 • 8:00pm**  
The Purple Ones (Tribute To  
Prince)  
The Siren  
900 Main St, Morro Bay

**Sat., Aug. 7 • 6:30pm**  
Jump Jax  
Atascadero Lake Park Concerts  
9305 Pismo Ave, Atascadero

**Sat., Aug. 7 • 2:30pm**  
Next Life  
The Siren  
900 Main St, Morro Bay

**Sat., Aug. 7 • 8:30pm**  
Orphaned Jon & the Abandoned  
The Siren  
900 Main St, Morro Bay

**Sat., Aug. 7 • 2:00pm**  
Truth About Seafood  
Sea Pines Golf Resort  
1945 Solano St, Los Osos

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

**Sat., Aug. 7 • 6:00pm**  
Tyler Braden  
BarrelHouse Brewing  
3055 Limestone Way, Paso Robles

**Sun., Aug. 8 • 3:00pm**  
Scratch  
Grover Beach Sizzlin  
Summer Concert  
993 Ramona Ave, Grover Beach

**Sun., Aug. 8 • 1:00pm**  
Lazy Locals- Earls of Tuesday  
Castoro Cellars  
1315 North Bethel Road,  
Templeton

**Sun., Aug. 8 • 6:00pm**  
Live Outside Concert: Lauren Hill  
Schooners  
171 N Ocean Ave., Cayucos

**Sun., Aug. 8 • 1:00pm**  
The Molly Ringwald Project  
Concert  
Dinosaur Caves Park  
2701 Price Street, Pismo Beach

**Sun., Aug. 8 • 1:00pm**  
Rockin' The Ranch: Erin & the  
Earthquakes  
Filipponi Ranch  
1850 Calle Joaquin,  
San Luis Obispo

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Obituaries

Marcia Munson  
1927- 2021



On February 22, 2021 our precious loved one Marcia Munson was welcomed home into the loving arms of the Lord. Marcia lived a full and eventful life, full of loving family and friends, a successful career and service to her Los Osos Community and beyond. Grassroots support and dedication to make positive change for people and the environment was her legacy. Marcia was the seventh of eight children. Her siblings were much older, apart from her baby brother David Crane. We like to think of her and Dave dancing on together as they loved to do. She saw a lot of change in her 93 years and had an incredible positive spirit and belief in goodness and justice. Born in Costa Mesa, Ca. to a hardworking farming family, country life did not suit her. She preferred more lively venues such as swing dancing to the big band orchestras of Tommy Dorsey and Benny Goodman, on Coronado Island and USO dances around Southern California. Several magic summers in Tahoe, in her teens, made Lake Tahoe a favorite place. Her love of music was celebrated in her 26 years participating in the Sacramento Jazz Jubilee, rain or shine. Marcia attended Pismo Jazz events, live music with friends at Dockside and taught her girls to dance in the kitchen. She was a dedicated wife of 35 years to Jene Douglas Munson a commercial fisherman and diver. They moved up the California coast with their boat “following the fish.” Jene and Marcia purchased their home in Los Osos and with their daughter Marcia Ann put down roots. The El Moro Democratic Club was soon established and continues to this day. Grassroots organizing and helping create an informed constituency, along with voter registration at farmers market and the county fair, has been her focus. Marcia was introduced to politics at an early age by her politically active mother, Ruby Crane who also lived in Los Osos. At the age of seven, Marcia helped campaign, with her mother, for Upton Sinclair in 1934,

over the decades and including Salud Carbajal in 2017. She lived the truism “Democracy is not a Spectator Sport”. Marcia was the last of the founding members of the Trinity United Methodist Church in Los Osos. She was an active member for 63 years attending and participating regularly up to the beginning of the COVID pandemic. She was active in every facet of the church’s function and fellowship. Cherished beyond words were her friendships. She was one of the first to welcome and include a new visitor often leaving her regular pew to walk across the sanctuary to welcome the newcomer and introduce herself. She would also be ready following the service to greet all with a cookie, hot cup of coffee and some good conversation. The Village Children’s Center, Day Care and Preschool was established at the church and gave Marcia her first teaching opportunities. Marcia volunteered and participated as a girl scout leader with her girls for 25 years. Camaraderie and campouts were her specialty. The early years of Cuesta College saw Marcia as a student. Studying in the original army barrack buildings of Camp San Luis without any frills. As the college grew and the need arose for a study center for student tutoring, Marcia was recruited to develop and facilitate the program. Her fulfilling career lasted 25 years, helping and supporting the success of thousands of students. This commute resulted in the longest running carpool with Los Osos, Church and Cuesta pals: Joe Asire and Bill Fairbanks.

Marcia’s focus over the decades was to help make sure some of the least fortunate had a warm meal. This was achieved through monthly meal prep and serving the homeless through the People’s Kitchen program. In collaboration with many area churches, this long running program has served tens of thousands over its 33 years. That is a lot of tuna casserole! When asked whether there were many Iraq war veterans in attendance Marcia’s reply was: “Not too many, not like during the Korean War.” Marcia will be particularly missed by her family including daughters: Marcia Ann Larsen, Paula Munson-Bice, Pam and Steve Montgomery, grandchildren John Larsen, Sarah, Christopher and Caddell Bice, Ryan and Kristen Montgomery and great grandson Cedar Larsen. Victor and Linette Supertino, Jeanie Marie Lambert and Guida Grositi, Dee and Linda Shreiber, Chad, Tom, John, Rob, Mary, Sylvia, Stan and Wyman Crane families along with cousins, nieces, and nephews. Marcia Ann Larsen has been a supporting companion and willing scrabble player with her mother for many years and they have come to be known as the Marcia’s. Hold her in your hearts and prayers. Mom will be so very missed, but the joy and gratitude of having such a mother pushes back on the sorrow. We will be trying to live up to Marcia’s example and follow her advice: “If you can change something for the better, than you better get up and do something about it, if not, give it to God,” We will be having a celebration of Marcia and her life well lived. Saturday August 7, 2021 at 12 p.m. at Trinity United Methodist Church in Los Osos, 490 Los Osos Valley Road. Due to restrictions, no refreshments will be served. There will be a sharing table of mementos or photos, please feel free to bring an addition. If you have questions, call 916 505-3920. All are welcome

Harrison Mueller  
1994-2021



On Tuesday, July 13, 2021, Harrison Mueller, loving son and brother, passed away at the age of 26. Harrison was born on July 29, 1994 in Flagstaff, AZ to Annie and Bill Mueller and graduated from Morro Bay High School class of 2012. He was a wonderful artist who painted beautiful portraits and created intricate jewelry with stones and metal. He enjoyed music and found such beauty in the depth of lyrics. He was a great friend, a joy to be around, and brought his fun spirit with him everywhere. Harrison was always ready to have an adventure and bring you along. Harrison is survived by his mom Annie Noone, his dad Bill Mueller, his sister Jasmin Wilson, wonderful friends, and all of the loving people reading this now. A memorial will be held on his birthday, July 29 in Sacramento, CA. The service will be available on YouTube and Facebook for those who are unable to attend. Please reach out to Jasmin Wilson at jasminwilson100@gmail.com for details, and the location to send flowers or donations.

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Library From page 1

residual money or smaller donations are held until there is enough to purchase more titles of books. So far the store works with both San Luis Coastal and Lucia Mar school districts.

Quota Club members Patti James, scholarship committee chair, and Marlene Owens, education chair, saw the post about the need for new books and were ready to jump on board keeping in line with the service club’s goal to empower at risk women and children on the North Coast and beyond. They donated \$500.

Coupled with donations from community members, about \$1100 was raised, almost fulfilling most of the librarians list. Abercrombie is on maternity leave, but when she comes back, the library is bound to be filled with kids looking to spark their imagination and escape to new adventures.

“I am overwhelmed by the generosity of our community,” Rapone said. “Thank you to everyone who helped us. Books are the most important thing a student should have, and now LOMS will have tons of new titles to fall in love with.”

To make a donation for school library books, go to Volumes of Pleasure located at 1016 Los Osos Valley Rd., Los Osos. Checks can also be sent to Los Osos Middle School, 1555 El Moro Ave, Los Osos, CA 93402. Be sure to indicate that the money is for the library.

Parents or guardians interested in joining the PTSA can contact President Nelly Ochoa-Lepe at nocholepe@slcsud.org. The group will focus on fundraising early in the 2021-22 school year to ensure adequate funds are available for events. Readers are encouraged to keep an eye out for the first fundraiser, which will most likely be an opportunity to lend support by purchasing Krispy Kreme donuts.

Dell From page 1

saying “Thou Shalt Not Kill” with a picture of a Bible.” Franklin has never shied away from controversy. Warde now publishes while Franklin contributes.

Like his career, his writing life has been prolific— rich with adventures only he can translate to prose. At seventy-plus, he has ten manuscripts waiting for the self-acclaimed “best writer you’ve never heard of” to be discovered and published.

Dell grew up in Compton, CA. “A good place to grow up. Good hard working folks,” he said from his balcony overlooking what he calls “the shabbiest house in Cayucos.” He was able to purchase it seventeen years ago with “a little inheritance.” He found his paradise with a forever view of the Pacific Ocean. He walks daily to the Cayucos Pier with Wilbur, his rescue dog every-one knows and greets.

His dad was Murray Franklin, a pro baseball player. “At 9-years-old, Dad starting taking me inside the locker room. Old school ballplayers cut me no slack.” He was groomed by the best of them. “I had a powerful relationship with my dad. Adversarial, but we were close. Baseball took over my life. I got offers to play pro ball but I couldn’t get along with the coaches. Didn’t have the discipline.

“In school I was told, ‘You have a voice, you can write.’ I knew I wanted to write. So at 19, I threw it (baseball) all away and went into the Army. I thought I was a failure. It took years to overcome.”

Today Franklin believes his best writing is in “A Ballplayer’s Son, A Memoir,” chapters of which can be read on his website. “I know baseball,” he said.

His grandfather and mother raised him since his dad traveled. “My mother inspired me. She was a nurse — should have been a doctor. She was artistic and literate beyond her education.” While he was writing “Life on the Mississippi, 1969,” she said she wanted to do something for him. “I asked her to paint the Delta



Dell Franklin once published The Rogue Voice, a local literary tabloid. This cover features his father, a pro baseball player.

Queen for the cover of the book.”

In 1969 Franklin hitchhiked across America ending up in New Orleans. Broke after partying his last dollar away with some Vietnam veteran survivors, he was told the Delta Queen was hiring. He talked his way onto the crew convincing the captain he had the skills to run their store. He and Chef Henry Joyner, Sr. bonded instantly.

He had learned stocking inventory at his dad’s store. When his dad couldn’t play ball anymore he opened a wholesale/retail shoe repair shop. “I liked stocking,” he said having learned the skill in his dad’s store. “When I work I work hard — give it all I have.”

It would become the experience that would make him realize he had stories to tell starting with the respect he had for Chef Joyner and the men on the Delta Queen. “I knew it was a good story,” he said. “Chef Joyner made me feel alive and respected. I made Chef’s life easier.

Jerome Davis was his roommate and was guarded at first. The waiters, like Davis, were from the Pullman Train era and were elegant men. “He instinctively knew I was a ballplayer. He was 50. I was 25. He eventually mentored me.”

With the rest of the crew it took weeks of working alone and then a brawl to earn their respect and acceptance.

Writers are typically not great at promoting their own work. Franklin is no exception. His friend, John Willingham, became his angel. “He loved the book and literally took it from me, transcribed it and got it published. It would never have happened without him.”

After his year cruising on the Delta Queen, Franklin had found his life’s passion. He hitched back to the West Coast and took any job that would earn him enough money and time to write. He ran his dad’s shoe repair shop in Los Angeles and bartended in Manhattan Beach. He knew he was partying too much and visits to the Central Coast had introduced him to a slower lifestyle. He decided to make a change when he found the right house, one he could afford.

Only hours away, he’s stayed close to his sister Susie (Heron) and her two boys Mark and Adam. “She got me my first cell phone a few weeks ago when I went to emergency for high blood pressure. She made me promise to take it everywhere I go.”

For years the people of the Central Coast have been Franklin’s muse. He’s met some interesting characters in Morro Bay bartending at Happy Jacks and Circle Inn before it was renamed Legends. Driving a cab in SLO was an even richer research assignment. But even Franklin can be surprised by the humans he has met on his life’s journey. Check out his series The Cabbie’s Life, in particular “Hanging Out with the Dogman,” at www.dellfranklin.com. Wilbur really like this one!

Water From page 1

- Repair leaky toilets, or replace with a dual flush or low flow toilet;
  - Only run the washing machine and dishwasher when you have a full load;
  - Use a low flow showerhead and faucet aerators;
  - Fix leaks;
  - Don’t over-water your lawn or water during peak periods;
  - Monitor your landscape irrigation system; and,
  - Monitor your water usage on your water bill.
- There could soon be some supply relief on the way, as the

CSD on July 13 opened bids to drill a new drinking water well at its maintenance yard, located at the corner of 8th Street and El Moro Avenue.

The bid packages were approved by the CSD Board at its June meeting, after a delay of a couple of months to update the engineer’s estimate of costs for the project, which has been in the works since 2016.

The design work was declared 80% done in 2018, when the whole enchilada ground to a halt, as the CSD went looking for grant monies to help pay for it.

The CSD applied for and is all but assured of getting a \$240,000 grant towards the project from the State Department of Water Resources, which is coming via the County’s Integrated Regional Water Management Program.

Back in May, the staff assured the Board that while the grant papers hadn’t been signed yet, the County had given the go-ahead to start the project and the grant would be used to reimburse the agency.

Back in 2018, the engineer’s estimate was \$315,000 but that didn’t include all the extras that go along with government projects — construction management and other project management costs.

In June’s board action, the new cost estimates were: \$310,000 for construction, plus \$24,000 to MNS Engineering, the design firm that will now act as project managers. There’s also some \$16,000 in contingency funds and \$12,500 for CSD engineering support and \$3,000 for permitting. That brings the total budget for the new 8th Street well to some \$366,441, according to the staff report.

That work entails all the equipment for a new well and the pipes and pumps necessary to blend that new well’s output with the existing 8th Street well’s water.

“The work includes furnishing and installing a new well pump, pump control valve, above grade and below grade valves, piping and appurtenances, sodium hypochlorite dosing equipment, static mixer vault, concrete well pedestal, concrete slab, miscellaneous concrete, well protection cage, electrical, controls, communications and instrumentation improvements, and all other work required to create a complete and functional potable water production system,” according to the CSD’s notice on the bidding.

The CSD Board should be ready to award a contract at the August meeting, but that agenda hadn’t been released before deadline.

Once awarded, the winning bidder will have a series of performance goals and under the bidding documents, has 210 calendar days to complete the project or face severe penalties.

Much of the underground investigative work has already been done, but that doesn’t mean they won’t hit an unforeseen snag, which could have to be handled through change orders, and potentially blow up the budget.

And on another CSD water well front, efforts continue to establish another new well, as part of its responsibilities under the Basin Plan, a document in conjunction with Golden State Water (a private firm), to manage the underground water basin, which is the town’s sole source of drinking water.

Among the numerous projects called for in the Basin Plan, is a goal of moving water wells easterly, away from seawater intrusion that is invading the lower aquifer up the LOVR corridor on the west end of town.

The plan also includes drilling new wells in the so-called “upper aquifer,” the first 100-feet or so under the surface where for 50-plus years the town’s septic tank effluent was deposited.

The new 8th Street well is also part of that effort, as will be the “Expansion Well 2,” on Bay Oaks Drive.

But the EW-2 will have to include a good deal of piping be installed to bring that well’s output into the CSD’s service lines.

That has of course meant added concerns regarding Native American archaeological impacts, and the CSD has said it will probably mean stepped up monitoring by Native American groups when the digging actually starts.

Meanwhile, the CSD in March awarded Cleath-Harris Geologists a \$47,500 contract to refine the well specifications and manage the construction and testing that must be done before a new well can be added to the water supply.

The EW-2 has also been undergoing a “negative declaration” process with regards to the environmental review.

In other District news, the District is looking for two qualified volunteers to serve on its Utilities Advisory Committee. “If you have experience in the water and/or drainage field,” reads the notice, “and want to join a dynamic committee, which is working on important issues facing our community, please consider submitting an application for consideration by the Board.”

Interested readers can get an application at the LOCSD Office, 2122 9th St., Ste. 110 in Los Osos. Email to: ldurban@lososocsd.org or send a request via mail to: LOCSD, P.O. Box 6064, Los Osos, CA 93412.

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Kevin says,  
“Look for the ANT on the Door”



parking, which was the main concern from those who sent in comments to the County Planning Commission for its April 22, 2021 hearing on the project's coastal development permit.

The developers asked the County for a "modification" to the standards in the Local Coastal Program, and reduce the required number of spaces from 77 to just 21. Zoning on their property falls under the County's "recreation land use category," according to the County staff report from April.

Among the conclusions the County planners reached was that the proposal didn't raise any substantial evidence that it would produce a significant impact on the environment, and thus didn't require a full environmental impact report. Other studies were conducted on the geology, archaeologically sensitive areas, environmental habitats, parking, loading, coastal access, flood hazards, sea level rise and wetlands. None of which raised red flags at the County.

The County sent the project to the Cayucos Citizen's Advisory Council (CCAC), which after asking for design changes to better match the town's Old West architectural style, was unanimously approved on March 4, 2020.

Though the project has permits issued by the County it was almost certainly slated to be appealed to the Coastal Commission, as it lies between the high tide line and the first public road, the area where the Commission has jurisdiction under the Coastal Act.

And that's what's happened, as an email from Susan Craig, the Commission's Central Coast Division Manager in Santa Cruz that was posted on Next Door Cayucos, an Internet gossip site.

"We plan on bringing the appeal forward to the August Coastal Commission hearing," Craig said. The first step is to ask commissioners if there is "substantial issue" with the County's approval of the project, she added, in a so-called "de novo" hearing.

If no substantial issue were determined, the project approval would stand as is. If the Commissioners take issue with some aspect — like the parking exception — it would then take over the permitting process from the County and another hearing on the project would come at a future date, which could be a few months or year. In any event, the project would almost certainly have additional conditions placed on it by the Coastal Commission.

The public will have a chance to chime in on the project for the Commission's review.

In letters sent to the County Planning Commission, Steve Rarig, who said he has lived down the street on Lucerne Avenue since 1975, said his main concern was the parking.

"Please accept this letter in opposition to this project," he wrote, "as I feel the parking exception request from 77 to 21 is going to have a negative impact on myself and other local residences that live on Lucerne Road."

Michael Tivnon, who also lives on Lucerne, said, "The area around Lucerne Road and Ocean [Avenue] is already highly congested by parking and additional proposed parking for a new hotel would make this much worse. During holidays, the cars are parked passed our house, which is half up Lucerne. This makes trash pickup and other activities very difficult. The proposed hotel will decrease property values and add further congestion to the area."

And a Bakersfield man, Dante Borradori, said the lot was "virtually all fill material from the building of Hwy 1 [now Ocean Avenue], the Bella Vista Mobile Home Park and Cayucos Highway 1 bypass," and thus was unstable land.

He argued that the "natural grade," by which the County measures building heights, "would be 15 to 20 feet below the current surface of the lot."

He also forwarded a series of historical photos that show the "deterioration of the property due to the convergence of Cayucos Creek and the Pacific Ocean during tidal storm surges."

Marshall Lewis, a doctor from Bakersfield who also owns property on Lucerne, said that the reduction in required parking means, "These additional 56 cars will be wandering around the Downtown area of Cayucos looking for additional parking. It is clearly noted that the risks to children, grandchildren and adults from vehicular accidents would increase substantially."

On the other side, Greg Bettencourt, a member of CCAC, wrote in favor of the project. "It is very worth noting that the Advisory Council heard and discussed the project in very considerable detail. At the end of our deliberation we voted unanimously to support the project."

He said there were three main reasons why the CCAC supported the project — the proposal was consistent with the community's vision of development on that parcel; it is not out of proportion with the neighborhood; and, CCAC members "were particularly impressed with the effort the Cobbs made to listen to Council comment, tour Cayucos with Council members looking at examples of things which the community prefers and then make substantial modifications to their plans reflecting those preferences. We've found that willingness to change plans [without being forced to] is a rare thing."

## Poly Names New Dean of Orfalea College of Business



Damon Fleming, dean and professor of accounting of the Fогelman College of Business and Economics at the University of Memphis, has been named as the new dean of the Orfalea College of Business at Cal Poly. Fleming will begin in this role on Aug. 2, 2021.

"I look forward to welcoming Dr. Fleming to our campus and working with him to support the students, faculty and staff of the Orfalea College of Business," said Cynthia Jackson-Elmoore, Cal Poly's provost and executive vice president for Academic Affairs. "He brings a wealth of experience in both higher education and industry and a strong commitment to the success of the college and the university as a whole."

Prior to his current role, Fleming spent nearly 13 years on the faculty of the Fowler College of Business at San Diego State University where he was professor of accounting, Ernst & Young Faculty Fellow, and William E. Cole Director of the Charles W. Lamden School of Accountancy.

"I am honored to be the next dean of the Orfalea College of Business, which is well positioned to lead the future of business education with its focus on student success through career-ready experiential learning," said Fleming. "The powerful combination of exceptional students, highly collaborative faculty and staff, and engaged business community offers the opportunity to ingrain the application of theory to practice and advance the California and global economies."

Fleming's teaching areas include financial reporting, financial statement analysis, accounting research, management accounting, and accounting judgment and decision-making. Fleming was selected as the Most Influential Faculty Member four times by the annual Outstanding Student graduating from the SDSU Master of Science in Accountancy program and earned two Fowler College of Business Outstanding Faculty Contribution awards from his colleagues for teaching innovation and effectiveness.

His research uses theories from psychology and behavioral decision research to investigate accounting issues (including cross-cultural contexts) in the areas of auditing, ethics, financial reporting, and taxation. Fleming has 29 publications in accounting journals including: "Accounting Horizons," "Behavioral Research in Accounting," "Journal of the American Taxation Association," "The International Journal of Accounting," "Issues in Accounting Education," "Journal of Business Ethics," "Journal of Accountancy," and "Strategic Finance."

Fleming earned his doctorate in business (accounting) from Virginia Tech and his bachelor's and master's degrees in accounting from San Diego State University. Prior to entering academia, Fleming worked in venture capital focusing on due diligence and valuation. Fleming is a CFA charterholder and certified management accountant.

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## Letters to The Editor

### Age of Morro Rock and the Bible

In regards to Jim Dunlap's letter in the recent Estero Bay News (July 15, 2021) about Morro Rock being 23 millions old, or 26 million years old at the Morro Bay Natural History Museum, is to me complete nonsense in geological history, according to plate tectonics and earthquakes and volcanoes.

I believe the age of the Earth is only 6,000 years old according to when God created our planet in six days, and rested on the seventh day. Although the formation of how California's geologic history is fascinating, I really don't believe in the theory of evolution by Charles Darwin, which is a lie that has been taught in our high schools and community colleges in California, and the United States.

I have always been fascinated by earth science, since I was a teenager and have opened a weather station office and service for meteorology from the time I lived in Visalia, California to moving to Morro Bay, California. In closing, I believe that these mountains will be shaken according to the book of Revelation, when Bible prophecy [says] that they may not exist during the time of the seven year Tribulation period, before Jesus sets up his eternal kingdom.

Scott C. Presnal  
Morro Bay

## Use Adults for Dispensary Ads

Note the full page Natural Health Center ad on the back page of the current (July, 15, 2021) Estero Bay News edition. I have no objections to the dispensary, or the dispensary advertising its wares. However, the use of what appears to be a teenage girl in the ad is inappropriate and offensive. Natural Health Center, and by extension the Estero Bay News, are advised to picture adults in such ads.

Ron Reisner  
Morro Bay

## Keep the Stacks

I was born and raised in Atascadero in 1954. Whenever mom and dad would take us kids to eat fish and chips in Morro Bay, the smokestacks along with the rock and the ocean were always there. Many times over the years I would gaze up at the top of those stacks from across the street at Harbor Hut, and I would marvel at how those guys built those two towering structures.

Those two structures are a testament to the ingenuity of its design, and the required labor needed to put it together. Do they have to go? Times change — different uses for different properties. I posses original photos of the two smokestacks, I will never forget.

Gene Scovell  
Los Osos

*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*



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