

## Committee Formed to Help Repair Cayucos Vet's Hall

By Neil Farrell



A rendering of what the front of a rebuilt Cayucos Vets Hall would look like.

With the heart of its community closed indefinitely, Cayucos citizens are once again stepping up, as they did with the rebuilding of the iconic Cayucos Pier.

Local residents have formed the “Cayucos Vet’s Hall Committee” (see: [www.restorecayucosvetshall.org](http://www.restorecayucosvetshall.org)) “to help restore the iconic Cayucos venue,” according to a news release by the committee.

The Vet’s Hall has been closed since 2016, after the County discovered significant structural issues with the historic landmark. Among the issues was a rotted and sagging floor under the stage and issues with the rafters and their connection to the walls, among other issues.

The building was deemed unsafe fearing the roof might blow off in a windstorm, but it’s stood firm through a couple of nasty winters and endured dozens of storms. The County has been working on getting it repaired for years.

The current estimate is \$5.4 million to make the Vet’s Hall usable again. The County got a State grant for \$1.8

million in 2019, which is in danger of expiring soon. County Supervisors are slated to consider footing the repair bill at their Sept. 28 meeting, according to the Committee’s release.

“The closing of the building has been a huge burden to the community,” the Committee said. “Besides being a sell-out venue for weddings, anniversaries and other special occasions, the Hall is used by Cayucos community organizations for fundraising events supporting scholarships, seniors, fireworks, the arts and economic activity in the community. It is the only venue of its kind in the Cayucos.”

The County erected a large tent behind the hall in the picnic area and that has been used for some events, including the Sea Glass Festival, though nothing much has been going on there since the start of the coronavirus pandemic in April 2020.

The Committee launched a fund-raising campaign “to demonstrate to the County Board of Supervisors that the Vet’s Hall is a valuable economic resource because it will

**Vet’s Hall** Continued on page 17

## New Ordinance Could Impact Homeless Issue on Palisades

By Theresa-Marie Wilson



A map showing the no camping ordinance boundaries in Los Osos.

A proposed ordinance could prevent unhoused people from setting up camp in specified areas of the county including Palisades Avenue in Los Osos.

A no-camping ordinance was introduced at the San Luis Obispo County Board of Supervisors (BOS) meeting on Sept. 14. It would prohibit overnight parking throughout much of the towns of Los Osos, Avila Beach, Cayucos, Cambria and Oceano.

Part of Palisades Avenue has been an area of contention for more than a year. In March of 2020, the library parking lot became a county-sanctioned safe parking site with bathrooms, security and on-site staffing. That program ended on June 30 of that year.

A park, the South Bay Community Center and St. Elizabeth Ann Seton church are also on the street that is often lined with people living in vehicles. Some days there are up to 30 cars, trailers and RVs parked on the street with small tents and sometimes large amounts of belongings interspersed.

**New Ordinance** Continued on page 18

## Council Names Jen Ford to Fill Red Davis’ Seat

By Neil Farrell



Planning Commissioner Jen Ford was appointed to the Morro Bay City Council until a special election is held next summer.

As anticipated, the Morro Bay City Council appointed a political ally to its vacant council seat, after the death in office of Robert “Red” Davis in July.

The City got just two applications to fill the vacant seat — Sean Green and Jen Ford — naming Ford, a planning commissioner, to fill the chair until a special election is held next summer.

The Council set a special election for the seat, as prescribed by the Municipal Code, to be added to the regular

**Jen Ford** Continued on page 18

## Volunteers Wanted for Beautification Project

By Theresa-Marie Wilson



The current state of the median that will be overhauled on Los Osos Valley Road near South Bay Boulevard.

Green thumbs and garden enthusiasts are wanted to help create a landscape oasis at what is considered the entrance to Los Osos. The median on Los Osos Valley Road that starts by Ralph’s just past South Bay Boulevard is pretty dreary offering mostly dirt and a few scraggly plants as landscaping.

Celebrate Los Osos (CLO), a community benefit group, received grant funding that will allow them to complete extensive rejuvenation of the median utilizing sustainable, drought-tolerant and native plant materials, boulders and colored gravels all while featuring the existing oak trees. Additionally, the site will use the latest, most efficient, water-saving irrigation system using reclaimed water.

CLO President Pandora Nash-Karner, describes the

design as a “continuous stylized serpentine shape made up of color and dotted with groupings of small boulders and plants. As motorists drive by at 35+ mph they will experience a smooth continuous narrative. By utilizing a consistent design approach to the median rather than multiple clusters of unrelated design elements, the motorists will be able to sense the whole rather than seeing disjointed fragments of shapes and colors. The use of three different plant materials and decorative gravel will create a long ribbon of color and texture, and the interspersed small boulders with additional colorful plants will add visual interest.”

The non-profit, with help from Earthscapes, a Los Osos residential and commercial landscape design firm, has

**Beautification** Continued on page 19

Police  
Blotter  
Page 8



Morro Bay  
Has a Puzzle  
Page 7

Invitational  
Returns  
Page 14





Tunneling Job Hit a Snag

By Neil Farrell



A massive tunneling job to route the pipes underneath the roundabout in Morro Bay as part of the Water Reclamation Facility project has a new problem to deal with.

As it would seem that Mr. Murphy isn't done with the Morro Bay Water Reclamation Facility project. Work on laying the 3.5 miles of conveyance pipelines started out with a classic Murphy's Law situation, i.e. anything that can go wrong will go wrong, after the contractor, Anvil of San Francisco, burst a water main on their first day of excavating at Quintana Road and La Loma Street, followed that same day by a break in a by-pass sewer main they'd installed aboveground, along Quintana Road through their construction zone.

Now, the massive tunneling job to route the pipes underneath the roundabout has hit a unforeseen snag. "The micro-tunnel boring machine [MTBM] is currently stopped just short of the community garden," said Paul Amico, the project manager for Carollo Engineers on the pipe portion of the WRF. "During the first week of August," Amico explained, "the contractor encountered ground conditions that greatly slowed forward movement of the MTBM and were unlike any condition they had experienced up to that point. They attempted to advance the MTBM, but determined that continuing to move it forward could risk damaging it, which as you can imagine is a very undesirable and unacceptable situation for everyone."

That subcontractor, Vadrnais Trenchless, was hired by Anvil to complete the 5-foot diameter tunnel being bored under the roundabout from the site of a former U-Haul store to Las Tunas Avenue on the other side of the Morro Bay Coffee Co. The boring machine they brought in is the largest they have and sits at the bottom of a 35-foot deep hole. The plan is to bore the tunnel and simultaneously push a 5-foot diameter steel piping — in 20-foot segments that are welded together — into the tunnel as the boring machine grinds up and removes the soil, thereby laying the casing as you go. Another hole, 30-feet deep on Las Tunas, is where the tunnel will eventually break through to re-connect the sewer pipes running out Quintana to the new treatment plant above South Bay Boulevard and Hwy 1. The conveyance system is a \$31 million contract.

The tunneling method was chosen in order to minimize traffic flow at one of the town's busiest intersections that traditional trenching would require and because the roundabout has a "spider web" of utilities that run underneath it, according to Amico, who gave a reporter a tour of the operation for a story in EBN's last issue. Anvil and Vadrnais have been trying to figure out what's

hindering the tunneling operation. "Anvil excavated a shaft in front of the machine," Amico said, "to determine what condition might be stopping forward progress, and that process took about 4 weeks due to the depth of the MTBM and the soil conditions where it was located. "They were able to get the MTBM moving again on August 30," Amico added, "and on September 1 they began observing a similar condition as before, so tunneling operations were again stopped." The companies have submitted a "contingency plan" of attack. "Since that time," Amico said, "Anvil has excavated another shaft in front of the MTBM, and they are in the process of determining what might be stopping forward progress and to also inspect the cutting head to determine if there may be a mechanical issue with the MTBM." Amico said on Sept. 14 that the second discovery hole had been dug and Anvil was putting in shoring to stabilize the sides, so they can safely go down and scope out the problem. "We hope that they will wrap this up this week," Amico said, "and get moving again, but the exact timing will depend on what they find when they are able to put eyes on the cutting head." As for what's all this going to cost? City Manager Scott Collins said, "At this point, it's still under investigation as to cause. I anticipate it will be a large cost, but who will bear that cost is not yet determined." So what is blocking the boring machine's progress? Amico said they didn't encounter any big rocks or a layer of granite, which could have been possible given that the area is on the flanks of Black Mountain, an extinct volcano. So whatever is slowing down the tunneling awaits discovery and potentially Mr. Murphy's continued involvement. If readers have questions about the WRF project, they can email or call Carollo's PR team at: wrfinfo@morrobayca.gov or 877-MORROBAYH2O and a team member will get back to you within one business day, according to Carollo's pronouncements to the public.

Diablo Canyon Closure to Cost \$3.9 Billion

By Neil Farrell



Pacific gas & Electric's plan for decommissioning the Diablo Canyon Nuclear Power Plant was approved by a state agency, and perhaps not surprising, ratepayers will pay a sizable share of the multiple billions it will cost. On Sept. 9, PG&E announced that the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) approved the company's cost estimate of \$3.9 billion for the decommissioning of the state's last operating nuclear plant, which is slated to be shut down completely in 2024 and 2025. That's when the plant's two nuclear reactors' licenses are due to expire (Unit 1 in 2024 and Unit 2 in 2025), after PG&E reached a settlement agreement with environmental groups effectively ending the company's efforts to renew its two licenses with the Federal Atomic Energy Commission. "Diablo Canyon," Jim Welsch, Senior Vice President, Generation and Chief Nuclear Officer said, "continues to be an important resource for California in achieving our

clean energy goals. At the end of the operating licenses, we are committed to safely decommissioning Diablo Canyon in a fashion that is consistent not only with all laws and regulations, but also is respectful of the environment and reflects the input of our neighboring communities. Today's decision will help us achieve those goals and deliver on PG&E's purpose of serving our planet and delivering for our hometowns." The CPU's vote was part of the triennial "Nuclear Decommissioning Cost Triennial Proceeding" [NDCTP] filing designed to "evaluate the adequacy of funding for the future decommissioning," PG&E said in the news release. The CPUC's decision "authorizes the collection of approximately \$900 million in customer contributions to fully fund the project," PG&E said. "As a result of this decision, customers can expect to see a monthly bill increase for a period of 8 years starting in January of 2022." The company said that for an average residential customer, using about 500 kilowatts a month, their bills would go up 59¢ a month per year. According to a Wikipedia page on Diablo Canyon, building the plant, which was proposed in 1968 and opened in 1984, cost \$11.556 billion in 2007 dollars (\$14 billion in 2019 dollars). The plant sits on a roughly 12,000-acre coastal property with the plant itself using some 750 acres. What is to become of the property on Point Buchon, north of Avila Beach, with its oak woodlands, coastal bluffs and numerous Native American archaeological sites, is under discussion by a citizen's oversight committee. According to PG&E, "The \$3.9 billion cost estimate is based on a comprehensive, site-specific decommissioning analysis and reflects input from interested parties and stakeholders including the Utility Reform Network, the Public Advocate's Office of the California Public Utilities Commission, Alliance for Nuclear Responsibility, the County of San Luis Obispo, Women's Energy Matters, and yak tit u tit u yak tilhini Northern Chumash Cultural Preservation Kinship." Despite the plant's apparent fate, there is a movement trying to reverse the decision to close the 2,200 megawatt plant, citing the need for the emissions-free power source, as the State focuses on fighting climate change and greenhouse gas emissions. The State in large part prompted the move to close the



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1662	<a href="#">4th ST</a>	OSOS	\$149,000↓
0	<a href="#">Vista Del Osos</a>	OSOS	\$389,000↑
438	<a href="#">Mitchell DR</a>	OSOS	\$289,500
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# Bombshell Dropped in Meeting on Stacks

By Neil Farrell



This photo of Morro Bay shows what the City would look like without the power plant and trio of smokestacks. The original hangs in Mechanic's Bank on Harbor Street.

Will the Morro Bay smokestacks be torn down as an industrial eyesore or left up as a nostalgic landmark?

The Morro Bay City Council began exploring that question at a recent online meeting that featured a near bombshell revelation — if they stay, the City will be 100-percent responsible for their upkeep, inspections, regulatory compliance and eventual removal.

The Zoom meeting had over 200 people tuned in from the community plus representatives from the power plant's parent company, Vistra, and government regulators discussing the current status and future of the trio of monoliths.

And while it wasn't officially part of the discussion, Vistra's application to build the world's largest Battery Energy Storage System (BESS), at the power plant loomed large in the minds of the public.

The City and Vistra entered into a memorandum of

plant with its energy goals and push for renewables, which PG&E determined would mean the plant could only run half the time, making its energy too costly.

Instead, the State is planning to build enough solar and wind energy plants to keep the power grid charged and meet energy demands. Diablo Canyon has some 1,200 employees and produces enough energy for 3 million people.

If readers would like to know more about the decommissioning of Diablo Canyon, see: [www.pge.com/en\\_US/safety/how-the-system-works/diablo-canyon-power-plant/diablo-canyon-power-plant/diablo-repurposing](http://www.pge.com/en_US/safety/how-the-system-works/diablo-canyon-power-plant/diablo-canyon-power-plant/diablo-repurposing).

understanding in June regarding the BESS and the future of the over 100-acre waterfront property. The MOU and a court settlement on an eminent domain suit the City had brought as part of the its Water Reclamation Facility or WRF and reached at virtually the same time, included Vistra's pledge to remove the power plant generation building and stacks.

The company however left the door open for the City to ask they be left standing. The MOU says the City has until the end of 2022 to give the company a decision. If Vistra fails to tear down the plant and possibly the stacks by 2028, they have to pay the City \$3 million.

The City Council decided to pose the question to the community and the Sept. 8 meeting was the first chance. City Manager Scott Collins said they'd gotten over 40 emails and letters on the subject, indicating the strong public interest.

Vistra Senior Vice-President for Corporate Development & Strategy, Claudia Morrow summed up their position. "They serve no purpose," Morrow said of the stacks. They were built tall (450 feet) to better disperse the emissions from the old plant, as it began operations burning fuel oil, diesel and kerosene, before switching to natural gas in the mid-1990s.

The plant has been shuttered since 2014 and with Vistra's turn towards battery plants, they decided to tear down the old plant rather than continue to maintain it, and then work with the City on possible redevelopment.

Several issues remain in the way of anything being built

Stacks Continued on page 14

# Honor Farm to Get Body Scanner

The County Sheriff's Department will redirect the balance of a grant to fight COVID-19 in the jail after its anticipated expenses for things like overtime for correctional deputies was lower than anticipated.

The department applied for a Coronavirus Emergency Supplemental Funding Program (CESF) grant from the Board of State and Community Corrections last April for \$432,000.

In the grant budget, the Sheriff allocated \$203,000 for overtime for jail staff.

"Deputy overtime," a staff report reads, "was originally planned to utilize assistance in the training of inmates on in-custody tablets to access resources and programming, escort inmates for jail programs, provide remote access to external service providers, transport individuals once released to appropriate shelters/residential living homes, and support staff as needed to assist in reentry needs."

But the virus affected those plans. "There have been vacancies that have impacted the jail staff due to COVID-19, other illnesses, retirements, and separations," the department said. "As a result, over-time directly related to the Coronavirus Emergency Supplemental Funding (CESF) Program was reduced to \$89,247."

The County had also budgeted \$71,700 for "long-acting injectable medications for use in the jail." But last February, WellPath, the contracted medical services provider at the jails, agreed to cover the costs for these medications, which freed up that money as well.

The extra money is being spent on things that are designed to fight the virus spread. The Sheriff's Department will get a thermal x-ray body scanner, install WiFi at the Honor Farm, and have "additional care packages for inmates leaving the jail."

The scanner is able to take the temperature of inmates — fever is one of the early symptoms of COVID-19 — without the staff having to get close to them, which is supposed to help slow the spread of the virus.

And there's an added benefit to the machines, "The body scanner also detects weapons, drugs, cell phones, and other contraband."

The WiFi installation at the Honor Farm will end a cumbersome process they've had to undertake to accommodate inmate's needs. "The Men's Honor Farm has no access to Wifi and therefore requires inmates

Scanner Continued on page 4

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News Briefs

By Theresa-Marie Wilson

Osos Clean Up Week  
Sept. 27

Mission Country Disposal will hold its Clean-Up Week from September 27 - October 1 in the Los Osos.

Clean-Up Week is a community service provided free to single-family residential garbage customers. Place your Clean-Up Week garbage on the curb no later than 6 a.m. on your regular garbage collection day. Don't block your containers; they will still run automated trucks. Customers can set out up to six bags, 32 gallon capacity size, with each bag 75 pounds and under and 4 feet and under in length.

Folks with metal, electrical or bulky items, call their office at 805-543-0875 to schedule pick up. Special pricing for these items are \$13.63 each and there is a limit of two like items. Those pickups and prices are valid only during Clean-Up Week. Call no later than Friday, Sept. 24 to schedule the special removal of these items, or they will not be picked up.

Driver Shortage Leads  
to Change in Transit  
Services



Students using SLO Transit services should be prepared to experience changes in schedules due to bus driver shortages.

Changes started on Sept. 20 and remain in effect until further notice, SLO Transit will offer modified academic service. Certain routes with low ridership will be suspended, while others will operate early in the morning and late in the evenings to accommodate more riders during the academic school year.

"SLO Transit appreciates our riders for relying on SLO Transit for their transportation needs during the COVID-19 health crisis. It's been a difficult time," said Transit Manager Austin O'Dell. "As many transit agencies across the nation, SLO Transit reduced their service to provide transit service to essential workers. SLO Transit

is now in the process of 'reactivating' service. Due to the national driver shortage, SLO Transit is modifying services offered. As drivers are hired and trained, the SLO Transit will reactivate additional service."

The transit company encourages passengers to plan ahead and consider taking an earlier bus to avoid overcrowding.

For more information on routes and schedules, contact SLO Transit by phone at (805) 541-2877, by email at slotransit@slocity.org, or online at www.slotransit.org.

A Different kind of  
Cleanup Week Ends  
Thursday

ECOSLO's annual Creeks to Coast Cleanup is SLO County's largest volunteer event as part of International Coastal Cleanup Day. This local volunteer event is put on in coordination with statewide efforts with the California Coastal Commission and internationally with Ocean Conservancy

This annual volunteer event empowers community members in SLO County to come together to protect waterways, communities, and wildlife. The event runs through Thursday, September 30.

For more information, go to [ecoslo.org/creeks-to-coast](https://ecoslo.org/creeks-to-coast).

The Shortages Continue  
with Lifeguards

Folks who like to get their swimming in at the SLO Swim Center might have to get a bigger bathtub and do their exercise at home due to a lifeguard shortage that is resulting in decreased operational hours through Sunday, Oct. 31. The SLO Swim Center just reopened after it was closed for about one month for maintenance and repairs.

Family recreational swim hours will only be offered on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 5:30 to 6:50 p.m.; lap swim hours will be limited on most days; open therapy pool hours will be suspended Mondays and Wednesdays; and aqua aerobics classes will be suspended on Tuesdays and Thursdays. All other programs and hours will remain the same.

"We want to offer as many programs to the community as we can, but like other industries across the nation, we have to limit some of our programs and services until we can hire more staff," said Aquatics Recreation Coordinator Shawn Tucker. "We hope to add programming hours and classes starting in November as lifeguards are hired and trained."

The SLO Swim Center is currently hiring lifeguard

staff. Anyone interested in applying can visit the City of San Luis Obispo's Job Opening webpage.

The typical fall schedule at the SLO Swim Center offers programming hours Monday through Friday from 6 a.m. to 7 p.m. and Saturday through Sunday from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Programming hours and classes will be reinstated as lifeguards are recruited and trained.

For updates, check [www.sloswimcenter.org](https://www.sloswimcenter.org). For questions about the SLO Swim Center's schedule, contact Shawn Tucker at 805.781.7291 or [stucker@slocity.org](mailto:stucker@slocity.org).

Poly's Grant to Serve  
Local Pre-College  
Students

Cal Poly's Educational Talent Search (ETS) program recently received a new five-year federal grant that will serve 500 local junior high and high school students per year.

The federally funded pre-college program supports sixth- through 12th-grade students in San Luis Obispo and Santa Barbara counties who want to pursue higher education at a community college or university with counseling, as well as information about college admission requirements, scholarships, college entrance exams, and more.

All told, the five-year grant will award \$277,375 to the program on an annual basis through 2026.

"I'm continually amazed at the selfless work of our program staff to help local students achieve their dream of going to college," said Keith Humphrey, Cal Poly's vice-president for student affairs. "This new five-year grant is proof of their dedication to support these students and validates our collective commitment to social justice, diversity and equity. I'm thrilled that we will be able to positively impact even more students in the years to come."

The program offers a wide variety of educational resources for local students and families, including workshops and counseling on testing, course requirements, majors careers and applications.

Additionally, the program hosts field trips to visit California universities throughout the academic year. This includes California State University and University of California campuses, private institutions, and community colleges. All services provided by ETS are free to participating students.

For more information on Educational Talent Search, go to [ets.calpoly.edu](https://ets.calpoly.edu).

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

Scanner From page 3

housed at that location to be transported to the main jail for telehealth appointments, including drug and alcohol counseling, mental health appointments, tele-court, and access to tablets, which offer many programming opportunities for the inmates. Cell-side carts that greatly assist in implementing these services are only available where Wifi access is available."

The scanner is listed as costing \$189,000 the WiFi at \$29,000 and the new overtime budget is listed at \$147,800.

Report on Real Estate  
Fraud Released

It's a hot real estate market in San Luis Obispo County, but complaints of real estate fraud over the past year were not very common.

The District Attorney's Office released its "Real Estate Fraud Prosecution Program Annual Report" for fiscal year 2020/21 and listed just a handful of cases of alleged real estate fraud, with the majority not calling for prosecutions.

Reporting real estate fraud is required under the

California Government Code Section 27388 and enacted in 2008 with Senate Bill 537, according to the report. County Supervisors set a surcharge on certain real estate documents to fund the "Real Estate Fraud Prosecution Trust Fund," which the district attorney taps to pay for the Real Estate Fraud Unit, consisting of "a portion of a deputy district attorney and district attorney investigator."

Cases are referred by the State Department of Real Estate or other law enforcement agencies, according to the report. The RE Fraud Unit also works with the Victim/Witness Assistance Center to collect restitution and the district attorney's Consumer Fraud Unit.

"The [Real Estate Fraud] Unit investigates and prose-

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cutes real estate fraud cases to deter and punish those who commit real estate-related fraud and to obtain restitution for victims,” according to the report.

The County Clerk’s Office gets 10% of all the fees collected for this purpose to cover its costs collecting the fees.

In Fiscal Year 2020/21 there were 10 real estate fraud complaints brought to the unit. There are three cases “pending,” and the number of victims is listed as three, with one of those having died.

They have one case being prosecuted at this time, and the “aggregate victim losses at investigation stage” of some \$1 million. Two victims’ cases are at the “prosecution stage” with the aggregate loss of \$450,000 and no convictions were reported.

As for the trust fund’s budget, the County started the year with \$124,000, added \$488,000 and spent \$213,000, leaving a balance of \$398,000, according to the report.

Salaries ate up most of the money. “These were applied toward salaries and benefits expense for prosecution and investigative resources dedicated to the Real Estate Fraud Program in the amount of \$211,900,” the report said, “and office related expenses in the amount of \$1,804.”

How does the district attorney’s fraud unit help victims? “Over the 2020/21 fiscal year,” the report said, “the District Attorney’s Office continued to utilize several processes to assist victims of real estate fraud schemes. For example, numerous pre- and post-court hours are spent by the attorney, investigators and Victim/Witness staff meeting and corresponding with victims to keep them apprised of upcoming events and address their ongoing concerns regarding pending and post-litigation matters, including preparation for court proceedings and obtaining restitution.”

If readers believe they’ve been defrauded in a real estate scam, the district attorney’s website is the place to start looking for justice. It provides links to “valuable consumer resources related to real estate fraud, including a Real Estate Fraud Complaint form, which allows consumers to lodge a complaint with the District Attorney’s Office electronically.

“Additionally, for select significant real estate fraud prosecutions, they may be added to and maintained on the district attorney’s website to provide up-to-date case status, resource information, and links.”

In some larger cases, the district attorney’s unit can seize assets. “Throughout these proceedings, in cases involving a loss more than \$100,000, extensive asset seizure work may take place to secure and maintain the defendants’ assets for use toward future victim restitution.”

The report predicts real estate fraud will rise. “Due to the COVID-19 pandemic and attendant economic decline, we have observed indicators of an upcoming spike in real estate fraud/mortgage fraud incidents.

“Investigators at the federal level are seeing a substantial increase in fraudulent small business loans. Similar fraudulent activity is anticipated in the housing market as the number of residential mortgage defaults increase.

“Compounding matters,” the report continued, “San Luis Obispo County is in the mid-stages of a real estate boom. This is partially due to major technology firms allowing employees to telecommute on a permanent basis. These employees are increasingly relocating to more desirable and affordable counties, such as ours. This has caused a decrease in available housing, which has resulted in increased home values. An increase in home valuation concurrent with an increase in distressed mortgages provides the perfect environment for mortgage fraud.”



Fall is Here!

New Logo for a New Future



A local wildlife rehabilitation non-profit organization has a new logo to guide it into the future, which includes building a new facility in rural San Luis Obispo.

Pacific Wildlife Care (PWC) recently unveiled its new logo designed and donated by Heather Barbis, owner of HB Design, a graphic design firm based in San Luis Obispo County.

PWC is SLO County’s only animal rehab center licensed by State Fish & Wildlife to care for injured, orphaned, sick, and pollution-damaged birds, land and air mammals, and reptiles and amphibians with the goal of releasing them back into the wild.

Last year alone, PWC rescued over 2,600 animals comprising nearly 200 different species. And PWC’s Education Team, focusing on how to live compatible with wildlife through educational programs, gave wildly popular presentations countywide using live, non-releasable, “wildlife ambassadors.”

But they were seeking a reimagined logo with a more modern look, in a version that could be applied to all formats, to increase the nonprofit’s visibility and outreach.

PWC Executive Director, Christine Johnson, requested proposals, including from HB Design, who she had worked with in the past. While HB Design’s proposal included a donated set of hours, in the end, all the work was contributed pro bono.

“We are so grateful to Heather for her incredible generosity coupled with her graphic design expertise and passion for PWC’s mission,” Johnson said. “We simply love the new logo!”

Barbis, a long-time supporter of PWC, was happy to help. “It was a pleasure to help support PWC in its efforts to rescue and rehabilitate wildlife,” Barbis said.

She sought to refresh the logo but also retain the spirit of the past. “As a nod to the previous logo and to the heritage of the organization,” she said, “the images of a bobcat and a pelican were carried over with the addition of a great-horned owl as the three animals representing the wide variety of species cared for at PWC.”

Johnson says that the rollout of the new logo will begin immediately.

The group, which operates a triage center/animal hospital located on the Morro Bay Power Plant property, recently obtained a 10-acre vacant parcel of land on Buckley Road at Esperanza Road, which is off Hwy 227 (Broad Street) out by the County Airport. The group put a down payment on the property and then had a donor step up and pay the balance with an \$800,000 donation. They are starting on a campaign to raise the money needed to build a state-of-the-art animal hospital and rehab facility. The new logo, is a part of that effort.

PWC is SLO County’s only State licensed wildlife rehabilitation center. PWC is open every day and operates a volunteer, telephone Hotline, (805) 543-WILD (9453), for the public to report injured, sick, and orphaned wildlife and to respond to general inquiries.

For more information, contact Johnson, at: christine@pacificwildlifecare.org or call (805) 305-3759.

Masks Mandated to Play Sports

By Neil Farrell



The County Health Department is ramping up restrictions on youth sports events, public and private gatherings, schools and “extracurricular activities,” both indoors and outdoors, to try again to slow the spread of the COVID-19.

Meanwhile, cases, hospitalizations and deaths continue in San Luis Obispo County, as the coronavirus’ Delta variant spreads.

Restrictions Return on Events

The County Health Department released new orders for the pandemic, focusing on gatherings of all types. Called “COVID-19 Requirements and Best Practices: Youth Sports and Extracurricular Activities,” the directive applies to both the public and private sectors and overrides previous guidelines.

“The purpose of this guidance,” the County said, “is to reduce the incidence and spread of COVID-19 infection in SLO County by supporting a safer environment for the young participants, as well as the coaches, instructors, and community members associated with the activities.”

The County said different activities represent different levels of risk for the spread of the virus and depend on “Outdoor or indoor activities, indoor ventilation, the number of participants, their vaccination status, if masks are worn, the level of exertion, and the frequency and duration of close contact.”

The County warns about mingling with groups or teams from outside your community; traveling to and from events in groups; and that sports activities — even singing — makes one breath harder.

“Forceful breath and vocalizations in activities such as singing, vocal projection, and playing wind instruments produce more respiratory droplets and aerosols than typical breathing or talking,” the County claimed. “Unlike typical droplet particles emitted with normal breathing and talking, aerosols travel farther and remain in the air much longer and can be inhaled deep into the respiratory tract.”


Rules for Sporting Events

According to the County’s edict, all indoor youth activities are required to:

- Masks are required for all individuals regardless of vaccination status in all indoor settings;
  - Any face mask that becomes wet or saturated with sweat must be replaced immediately;
  - Requirements for employees are different than those for attendees. Employers must follow the Cal/OSHA COVID-19 Prevention Emergency Temporary Standards (ETS);
  - Note that the directives in a SLO County Health Officer Order must be followed when they are more stringent than a State requirement, including those from CDPH and Cal/OSHA ETS.
- There are of course exceptions, as per the American Academy of Pediatrics:
- Competitive cheer involving tumbling, stunting, flying, spotting, or building;
  - Gymnastics involving fixed apparatus or aerials;
  - Wrestling; and
  - Water sports like water polo (do not wear wet masks).

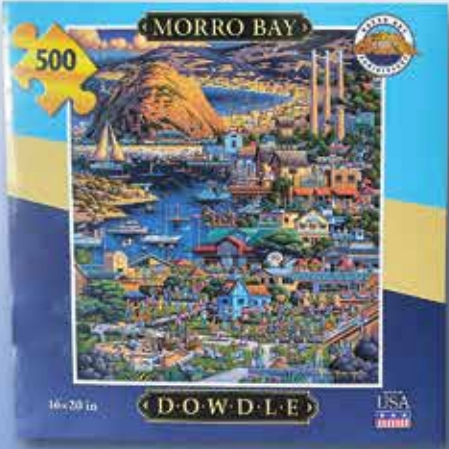
If players and coaches do not want to wear a mask when they compete, then the County said they must be tested every week whether or not they’ve been vaccinated against the virus. And if a player takes off the mask while

Mask Continued on page 15



For information about where you can purchase one, visit [www.MorroBayBEAUTIFUL.org](http://www.MorroBayBEAUTIFUL.org)

# Hey - have you heard??



Morro Bay now has it’s own puzzle!

Commemorating our 40th anniversary, Morro Bay BEAUTIFUL has commissioned a puzzle of Morro Bay by acclaimed Folk Artist Eric Dowdle.



# Community

## A Solemn 9-11 Ceremony

Photo by Neil Farrell



The Morro Bay Fire Department held a brief and solemn ceremony marking the Sept. 11, 2001 terrorist attacks, with about 100 people joining the police, harbor patrol and fire crews to remember that terrible day and the hundreds of first responders who lost their lives in New York, Washing D.C. and Pennsylvania. Fr. Ed Holterhoff of St. Timothy's Church led the assemblage in a prayer and related that he had friends in New York who watched as the hijacked planes hit the World Trade Center, making the losses personal to him. Fire Chief Daniel McCrain read the firefighter's prayer:



### Firefighter's Prayer

When I am called to duty, God wherever flames may rage, give me strength to save a life, whatever be its age.  
Help me to embrace a little child before it's too late, or save an older person from the horror of that fate.  
Enable me to be alert to hear the weakest shout, and quickly and efficiently to put the fire out.  
I want to fill my calling and to give the best in me, to guard my neighbor and protect his property.  
And if according to your will I have to lose my life, bless with your protecting hand my loving family from strife.  
— Firefighter A.W. "Smokey" Linn

## In Memoriam of Sterling Heck

A Tribute from his Former Colleagues and Coworkers



We are nowhere without our past. Our foundation is built and nurtured by others who come before us, unassuming and dedicated souls who quietly impact the future. Sterling Heck was one such man, whose career of over thirty-five years (more than half his life) as an educator and principal was dedicated to building the character and integrity of Cayucos School.

He began as a middle school teacher in 1978 and led Cayucos School as principal from 1989-97. The hallmark of his career was a positive, child-centered approach. His guidance and encouragement of his colleagues and staff served to cultivate a cohesive environment. The years under his leadership were rich with staff development, team building, and a holistic approach to education.

During Sterling's long career, Cayucos School went through many changes. He always embraced the challenge, contributing to the school's progress with enthusiasm. After his tenure as principal, he chose to return to the classroom, teaching fifth grade for several years. He finished his career, advising and mentoring new teachers, thereby crowning his educational career with the honorable intention of launching the next generation of teachers at Cayucos School.

Throughout his almost four decades as both teacher and principal, Sterling earned the respect of everyone. At times, he experienced periods of great physical pain that would have sidelined someone less dedicated, but Sterling persevered. He was strong but gentle. He was a cherished colleague, a patient and loyal friend to all, as well as a caring and beloved family man. Sterling will be remembered with admiration and love by those of us who were fortunate enough to work alongside him. He considered Cayucos School to be an extension of his family, and the feeling was contagious. Sterling will be greatly missed by generations of Falcons and the many lives he touched.

*With love and respect,  
Linda Jaso, Jaime Rice, Hannah Held, Susan Mathias.  
Former colleagues and co-workers*

## Takin' Care of BUSINESS

By Theresa-Marie Wilson

### Cat Foster Families Needed

The Feline Network of the Central Coast is looking for volunteers to provide foster homes for foster kittens or cats with special needs. The Feline Network pays for food, litter, and any medications needed. Volunteers also needed to help with humanely trapping and transporting feral cats for spay/neuter. To get involved, call 805-549-9228.

### Cheers to Estero Bay Kindness Coalition



The Morro Bay Chamber of Commerce put a very bright spotlight on Estero Bay Kindness Coalition. "They are the definition of doing good in the neighborhood," said Chamber officials. This organization is addressing food insecurities in our community through their Bags of Love and Got Your Back programs. They are supporting school children and their families." The Estero Bay Kindness Coalition is in great need of volunteers. They deliver groceries to 90+ families through Bags of Love. With school back in session they are re-implementing Got Your Back providing backpacks full of healthy food and snacks for food-insecure kids to eat over the weekend. Readers that are interested or want to learn more, contact Bobby bdelancellotti@gmail.com or by text/call at 805.305.5671.

Takin' Care of Business Continued on page 8

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# HALLOWEEN

## Decorating Contest

### ESTERO BAY NEWS

#### Halloween decorating contest

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Win bragging rights AND one of nine personalized awards.**

#### **Enter by:**

**October 15 to be listed in the October  
21 print issue**

**October 27 at midnight to be  
listed online**

**Visit [esterobaynews.com/halloween](http://esterobaynews.com/halloween)  
to enter and for all the details.**

Watch for the  
**October 21 issue**  
for a preliminary list of sites.

Visit  
[esterobaynews.com/halloween](http://esterobaynews.com/halloween)  
for a list of all entries

and visit us on Facebook  
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Police Blotter



Morro Bay Police Logs

- **Sept. 5:** Police responded at 4:39 p.m. to City Park on Harbor Street where some dingus was making a ruckus. A 63-year-old toddy-stricken fooliot was nicked for suspicion of contracting the bottle flu.
- **Sept. 5:** Police responded at 10 a.m. to the 700 block of Morro Bay Blvd., where someone had caught the glory train to Heaven.
- **Sept. 4:** Police responded at 2 a.m. to Ironwood and Atascadero Road where some blowhard was using a car horn “to harass the MBPD police chief,” no doubt just another satisfied customer.
- **Sept. 4:** Police contacted a regular customer at 9:36 p.m. in the 1400 block of Main. Logs indicated the 32-year-old scofflaw had a bench warrant and was issued a second, with a third to no doubt come soon.
- **Sept. 4:** Police responded to document a traffic collision at 9:36 p.m. in the 200 block of Harbor. Oddly enough for that hour and location, no one was nicked for being juiced.
- **Sept. 4:** Police contacted a suspicious man at 1:48 p.m. in the 1400 block of Main. The 35-year-old rapsCALLION had an arrest warrant but was cited and released with a no doubt sincere promise to appear, cross my heart...
- **Sept. 4:** Police towed away an offensive vehicle in the 100 block of Bayshore Dr., for not giving the DMV its annual pound of flesh.

- **Sept. 4:** Police stopped a suspicious vehicle at 12:09 a.m. at Main and Island. The driver, 31, was popped for suspicion of driving corked and was cited and released, presumably on foot.
- **Sept. 3:** Police responded at 8:30 p.m. to the 800 block of Quintana. Logs indicated a 51-year-old man was reportedly caught inside the fenced yard at Chuck’s Towing. Police arrested the sneaky fellow for suspicion of burglary and noted that he “failed to identify himself after being arrested,” which is why God invented fingerprints.
- **Sept. 3:** Police contacted a suspicious woman at 3:57 p.m. in the 700 block of Morro Bay Blvd. Logs indicated the belle of the ball, 37, was hauled to the gulag for suspicion of being fizzucked on drugs, possession of drugs and two misdemeanor warrants, as this apparently isn’t her first ride on the carousel.
- **Sept. 3:** Police responded at 4:12 p.m. to Main and Pico where some maniac vandalized the rear window of an innocent car.
- **Sept. 3:** Police contacted a regular patron at 10:30 a.m. in the 100 block of Bayshore Dr. The man, 36, had two RSVPs from the judge and police made sure he kept his date with Lady Justice.
- **Sept. 2:** Police responded at 9:25 p.m. to Hwy 1 near Yerba Buena for a report of a car parked off the highway too close to a steep hillside. Police determined the car was abandoned plus another curious, minor detail — the registration expired in 2018 yet there were 2021 tags on the license plate. The car was impounded.
- **Sept. 1:** Police caught up to a suspicious chap at 7 p.m. in the 2600 block of Main. The Nodcock, 41, was arrested

- for suspicion of making criminal threats and being drunk and disorderly, which explains a whole lot.
- **Sept. 1:** Police responded at 2:30 p.m. to an accident somewhere on Atascadero Road east of town. No juicy details were available.
  - Sept. 1: Some lucky citizen found a bunch of abandoned junk and a no doubt stolen bicycle in the 700 block of MBB. Police took possession of the cast away treasures.
  - **Sept. 1:** Police responded at 7:22 a.m. to the 900 block of Piney Way where a citizen reported an undisclosed incident had occurred involving some kind of animal, because you should never bow before hyenas.
  - **Aug. 31:** Police took a report of suspected child abuse in the 2600 block of Main and will forward the report to Child Welfare Services.
  - **Aug. 31:** Police responded at 6:44 a.m. to a hit and run involving a pedestrian and a vehicle somewhere on South Quintana Road. Logs indicated the pedestrian was injured and police are hunting the driver.
  - **Aug. 31:** Police paid an early morning visit to the 900 block of Piney Way where they located a 25-year-old apparent lady chimney fish who had a felony warrant. When officers checked her backpack they allegedly found a glass crack pipe with “residue” and an “uncapped needle and syringe.” She was injected into the County sober living resort.
  - **Aug. 31:** Police contacted a suspicious fellow caught wandering around at 12:36 a.m. at Harbor and Morro. The 32-year-old fellow had an out-of-county warrant and was hauled to the gaol to await a ride home.

Takin’ Care of Business From page 6

Perfect Union

Perfect Union, 1000 Quintana Road, Morro Bay, recently donated \$4,806 to the El Camino Homeless Organization (ECHO), which is dedicated to empowering county residents to make positive change by providing food, shelter, and supportive services.

SLO County experienced a 32% increase in homelessness from 2017 to 2019, and of those 1,483 unhoused individuals, nearly 80% were without shelter, according to a homeless census and survey

“It’s hard to realize your full potential when you don’t have a roof over your head,” said Perfect Union CEO David Spradin. “What started as a small group serving meals to the unhoused has grown to multiple shelters and services, and ECHO’s efforts are helping neighbors get back on their feet. Providing compassionate care is a cornerstone of our mission, and we’re pleased to support like-minded organizations dedicated to the SLO community.”

Currently, ECHO operates three facilities that provide meals and a safe overnight shelter to meet the immediate needs of families and individuals facing hunger and homelessness. Residents are taught life skills and provided individual case management services to help secure employment and find permanent housing.

“Perfect Union’s donation helps us address immediate and growing needs as we help SLO residents rebuild their lives,” said President and CEO Wendy Lewis. “What we do at ECHO - including finding people housing and jobs - is rewarding and incredibly challenging, so we appreciate Perfect Union stepping up to the plate in support of their neighbors.”

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

Events and Activities

By Theresa-Marie Wilson



**Beautify Cambria and Dark Sky Initiative**, in tandem with the International Dark Sky Association, will host a first-of-its-kind astrophotography event for the Central Coast, an educational and fun evening for adults and children alike. Savor the Stars endeavors to generate excitement and appreciation for the magnificent skies above our beautiful Central Coast, one of the last places in settled California that have not been greatly reduced by light pollution. Fun foods, hot drinks, activities for the kids, and a silent auction await. It all takes place Saturday, Oct. 9, from 6:30-9 p.m. at the Vineyard Church, 1617 Main Street in Cambria. Suggested donation is \$10, kids 12 and under free. All proceeds go to the Dark Sky Initiative. For more information, go to beautifycambria.org.

...

**The Maritime Museum Wine Auction** is live through 7:59 p.m. on Sept. 28. Join the fun and bid on fine wine to support the museum’s future. The Association was recently given an extensive collection of wines from Leonard and Jan Gelfand, the previous owners of Gelfand Winery, who have retired and sold their award-winning winery. The Museum is conducting an online auction for the extensive collection of wines from all over the world including many form Paso Robles and Edna Valley. Visit [localestatauctions.com](http://localestatauctions.com) to bid today.

The Museum is also hosting a free concert with the Morro Bay White Caps Band from 10 a.m. to noon Saturday, Sept. 25.

And the Museum Association and Morro Bay In Bloom are teaming up for another drive-thru barbecue fundraiser, set for Tuesday, Oct. 12. Tickets are \$15 for a whole smoked chicken and \$30 for a rack of smoked pork ribs. Chicken and ribs are being cooked up by Tognazzini’s Dockside Restaurants.

Advanced tickets are available through Monday, Oct. 4 at the Maritime Museum, 1210 Embarcadero in the Front Street parking lot (look for the giant submarine), Thursdays-Mondays 10 a.m. to 2:30 p.m., from Morro Bay in Bloom members or call Bonnie Jones at (602) 526-4367. The barbecue will be from 4:45-6 p.m. on the 12th.

Debbie Gedayloo

**Time is running out to see needle felting** work by Debbie Gedayloo at Gallery at Marina Square, 601 Embarcadero suite 10, Morro Bay. Gedayloo is a self-taught fiber artist. Her primary medium is wool but she also incorporates other fibers into her art. Her work is created both using wet felting and needle felting techniques.

The show runs through Sept. 29, 11 a.m.-5 p.m. Free. For more information, go to [www.galleryatmarinasquare.com](http://www.galleryatmarinasquare.com).

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**The San Luis Obispo Museum of Art**, 1010 Broad St. holds free docent led tours every week on Saturdays through Nov. 27 from 3 p.m. - 4 p.m. Join the trained guides for interacting and engaging tours of the major exhibitions to help gain a deeper understanding of the artwork.



The goal of the Butterfly Ball is to raise money for the soon to be launched program the “Western Monarch Trail.” The purpose is to shine a light on the plight of the Western monarch population, which has declined more than 90% since the 1990s. This campaign will kickstart political actions as well as provide resources and educational materials that focus on preservation in locations where Western monarchs overwinter, including the Pismo State Beach Monarch

Butterfly Grove and other local sites. They will collaborate with other organizations such as the Xerces Society, the California Department of Fish and Wildlife, and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, with the hope of rebuilding the population of this valuable species. For prices and tickets, go to [centralcoastparks.org/butterfly-ball/](http://centralcoastparks.org/butterfly-ball/).

**Sunday Evening Rap LGBTQ+ AA Group** takes place virtually via Zoom every Sunday from 7 p.m.- 8 p.m. The meeting ID is 206 301 937. A password is required for access. To receive one, email [aarapgroup@gmail.com](mailto:aarapgroup@gmail.com) and a member will reply back to assist you. Alcoholics Anonymous is a voluntary, worldwide fellowship of folks from all walks of life who meet together to attain and maintain sobriety. The only requirement for membership is a desire to stop drinking. There are no dues or fees for A.A. membership.

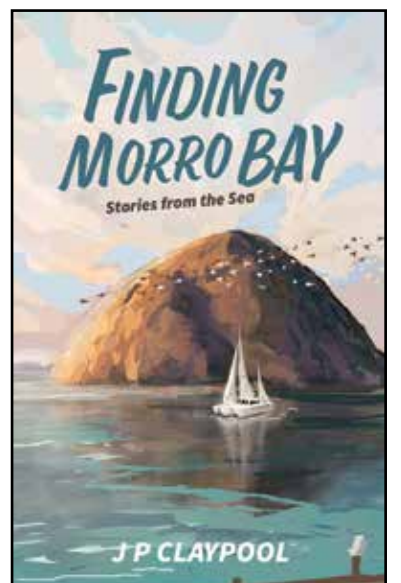


**The Central Coast Writers Conference** presents the virtual teen program Writing Horror, Weird, & Dark Fantasy Short Fiction. Writers N.R. Lambert and Jonathan Maberry will inspire and guide students as they learn to write successful short fiction in the horror genre. By the

Participants will also receive two short story collections that include works by Lambert, Maberry, and other renowned authors. This is a Zoom event on Saturday, September 25 from 9 a.m. - 1 p.m. The cost is \$35. Register at [cuesta.edu/communityprograms](http://cuesta.edu/communityprograms) and search Teen Writer.

The conference is free to attend for people of all ages. You can register to attend at [knowingyoumatter.org](http://knowingyoumatter.org).

Claypool fell in love with the sea as a youngster, and his years in Morro Bay became a seminal time for him. His book is a collection of his adventures in sailing, charter fishing, commercial fishing, and aerial fish spotting. Inspired by stories from Robert Louis Stevenson, Herman Melville, and true stories of his experience around the world.



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

esterobaynews.com

The advertisement has a bright yellow background. At the top center is the 'nhc' logo with 'NATURAL HEALING CENTER' underneath. Below it, the words 'LOCALLY OWNED' and 'CENTRALLY GROWN' are separated by a vertical line. The main headline reads 'SLO COUNTY'S PREMIERE Cannabis Dispensary!' in large, bold black letters, with 'Cannabis Dispensary!' in a green script font. Underneath the headline, three phrases are listed: 'EXPERT 1-ON-1 SERVICE', 'CBD & MEDICALLY FOCUSED PRODUCTS', and 'SENIOR & VETERAN DISCOUNTS'. On the left side, there's a section titled 'SPECIAL HOURS' next to an alarm clock icon. It lists two time slots: 'EARLY BIRD 7:00 - 9:00 AM' and 'HAPPY HOUR 2:20 - 4:20 PM'. To the right of this text is a photograph of a young woman with dark hair in two long braids, wearing orange-tinted glasses and a yellow tank top. She is holding a smartphone and has a surprised, happy expression. At the bottom left, there's a coupon graphic for '15% OFF FIRST PURCHASE' with the condition 'MUST PRESENT THIS COUPON'. Below the coupon are three location listings: 'GROVER BEACH 998 Huston St.', 'MORRO BAY 495 Morro Bay Blvd.', and 'SAN LUIS OBISPO 2640 Broad St.'. Each location listing includes a small 'nhc' logo. The website 'NHCDISPENSARIES.COM' is written in large white capital letters across the bottom. In the bottom right corner, there is a small license number 'C10-0000797-LIC'.

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NATURAL HEALING CENTER

LOCALLY OWNED

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CBD & MEDICALLY FOCUSED PRODUCTS

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7:00 - 9:00 AM

### HAPPY HOUR

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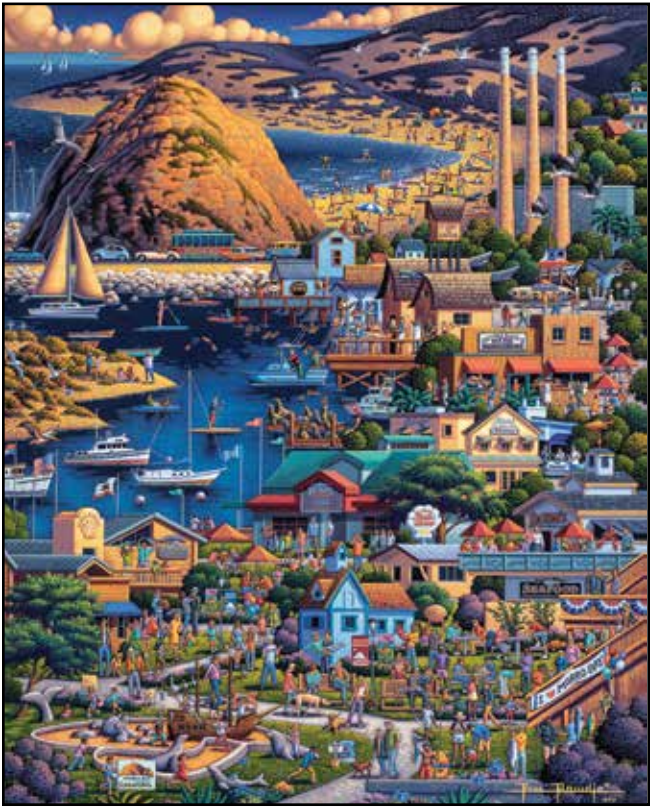
**Monday - Friday 10-4**

**[www.fdcmb.com](http://www.fdcmb.com)**



# Community

## Morro Bay Jigsaw Puzzle Unveiled



More than 100 people turned out Sept. 11 to celebrate the 150th Anniversary of Morro Bay's founding, and for the unveiling of a commemorative collectible jigsaw puzzle, based on a painting by renowned painter folk artist and puzzle maker, by Eric Dowdle. The event was sponsored by Morro Bay Beautiful and the City and featured cake, the puzzle, and a performance by the White Caps Band.

Dozens of the puzzles were sold that day, autographed by Dowdle who also presented the City with an over-sized copy of the 500-piece puzzle as a keepsake of the occasion. Morro Bay Beautiful's Ann Reisner and husband Ron spearheaded the project, which is a fundraiser for the organization. If readers missed out on the event they can buy the puzzles locally at several local businesses — Giovanni's Fish market, Dutchman's Seafood House, The Shell Shop, Morro Bay Oyster Co., The Hungry Fisherman, and The Inn at Rose's Landing. They will also be available online from The Dowdle Folk Art Company (see: [dowdlefolkart.com](https://dowdlefolkart.com)). Check out a video by Dowdle about Morro Bay Beautiful at [fb.watch/80UAHNw63d](https://fb.watch/80UAHNw63d).

Photos by Dean Sullivan



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Community

Hispanic Heritage Month at Cuesta

Cuesta College commemorates Hispanic Heritage Month with a series of events beginning mid-September and throughout October. Hispanic Heritage Month is a nationally recognized celebration of histories, cultures, and contributions of Americans’ whose ancestors came from Mexico, Spain, the Caribbean, and Central and South America.

“It provides an opportunity to recognize, and celebrate through learning, the legacies built by Hispanic and Latino Americans,” said Christina Sholars, Latina Leadership Network President. “As a Hispanic-Serving Institution, it is necessary for Cuesta College to honor and celebrate the educators, students, and community supporters who have helped shape the campus into what it is today.”

For a comprehensive list of the month’s events and additional information, go to [bit.ly/cuesta-hispanic-heritage-month](https://bit.ly/cuesta-hispanic-heritage-month). The following events are free and open to all students, faculty & staff, and the community (except where indicated).

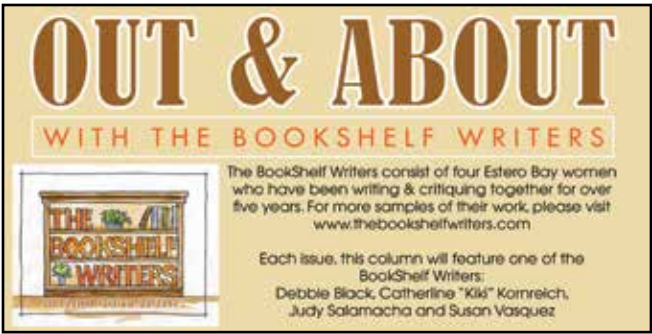
**Lessons Learned on How to Successfully Build a Career** Sept. 30 from 5:30 – 7 p.m. This is an online event at <https://bit.ly/CuestaSpaceX>. Join Luis Aguirre for an inspiring talk about his journey from Cuesta College student to SpaceX Engineer. Attendees will be entered into a raffle to win SpaceX merchandise. This is for Cuesta College, Allan Hancock, and local high school students only.

**Teacher Pathways Latinx Transfer Panel** online on Oct. 12 from 5 – 6 p.m. Learn about the transfer experiences of the panelists as they reflect on their educational paths, opportunities, and how transferring has impacted their family/familias at [tinyurl.com/bx4rd5ac](https://tinyurl.com/bx4rd5ac).

**Path for Citizenship / DACA Update** takes place Oct. 13 from 4 – 5:30 p.m. online at [tinyurl.com/35v43dax](https://tinyurl.com/35v43dax). This workshop is for all administration, faculty, staff, and community members. Attendees will learn about the free immigration legal services offered at Cuesta College through the United Farm Workers Foundation. It will also cover options for the undocumented community and updated information on the recent DACA ruling.

**Undocumented & Unafraid** is Oct. 14 from 4 – 5:30 p.m. online at [cuesta-edu.zoom.us/j/99692767136](https://cuesta-edu.zoom.us/j/99692767136). Learn about the stories of struggle, resilience, and success of undocumented students. The panel includes students from Allan Hancock, Cal Poly, and Cuesta College, and community members. Local resources for the undocumented community will also be shared.

**Spanish UndocuAlly Training** is online on Oct. 15 from 5 – 6:30 p.m. at [cuesta-edu.zoom.us/j/6574692726](https://cuesta-edu.zoom.us/j/6574692726). Monarch Dream Team members will be joined by SLO County Promotores Collaborative to present the first Spanish UndocuAlly training at Cuesta College! The 1.5-hour training is for the Central Coast undocumented community, ESL and GED Cuesta College students, and their families.



Looking for Harmony

By Susan Vasquez

Once, not so long ago, the tiny hamlet of Harmony, California was for sale. An idyllic bend along the Pacific Coast Highway between a velvet-covered ridge and a golden hillside, I wondered who had purchased this small patch of perfection.

Walk across the highway and over the hill, you find the Pacific Coast. Up the ridge is the pristine Los Padres National Forest. Mist in the morning, sunny breezes in the afternoon and foggy evenings wrap Harmony in what you may believe is fiction, too beautiful to be real.

But real people, a few, do live here. And many others drop in for browsing the wooden clapboard storefronts, shopping, eating at the creamery and watching the glass-blowers shape their art. An appealing wine tasting room is at the end of a picturesque winding drive.

Though my interest in the town is real, my true reason for driving the 12 miles north is to walk the Harmony Headlands Trail. One and a half miles over a hill from Highway 1, the Pacific Ocean pushes its salty spray again and again in tides against the bluffs. I could walk over hillside to coastline and see what I could see. Many people have walked this trail, but until I do it myself, is it real? I want to see before I believe.

Even though I live just a few miles south and the beach breeze cools me frequently throughout the day, I am always surprised to walk along a hillside path during the parched summer. Close to the hillside, you have sunny warmth; take one step out from the hills’ protection, crisp ocean coolness reaches out to touch you. Up the hill from the trailhead I go, stepping in and out of the freshest air on the planet.

The trail winds around and then up along the ridge of the humpback coastal mound. We call them hills, but these are really geographic waves of rock and earth with covers of wildflowers in the spring and dry grass and ground squirrels in the summer. The wide pathway makes for easy walking and I think that next time, I may test out summer sandals instead of hiking boots. Why not? In this land of near-make-believe, it’s hard to think that anything would come and bite my ankles and the weather surely does not call for anything hardy or wooly. Flips-flops would do just fine.

I crest the ridge. The sun is a hot-rock massage on my shoulders and the mist offers a fresh air salt scrub for my face. I might as well be at a high-priced spa. But this is so



Harmony is almost too good to be true.

much nicer, and costs nothing but footsteps. I pause at the top to relish the simple grace of feeling clean. As pleasant as all that is, though, the view is the real attraction.

Today, the purity of the sky, the time of day and the currents of the tide turn the Pacific Ocean nearly turquoise. A double line of white rolls against the shore, but lazily, as the waves find their way to the rocks and sand. The path lets me ramble down, an easy pace, to the bluffs that form the west coast of the North American Continent.

Cool offshore breezes blend with the sun shining its pleasant warmth. Even though I face a bit of a climb on the way back, I don’t worry about the heat or the cold. Mother Nature has taken care of that for me. Am I just a bit too comfortable? Is this just a bit too nice for real life? The walk might make me think so, but this story I tell today is exactly the way it really is. If you tend to doubt me, remember the trail’s name: Harmony Headlands. I am at the apex of agreement between Mother Nature and me.

Harmony, California. The town itself may have been bought and sold and bought again. But the beauty here is a timeworn possession of Mother Nature. And now that I have seen it myself, I know that it is real. I’m a believer.

*Susan Vasquez has taken walks in many of the world’s most interesting spots, but especially enjoys her strolls around Estero Bay. She is the author of four books and blogs at One Small Walk.*



Wait. What?

By Lisa Ellman

In this month’s column, part 1 of things that a dog owner does that may be, that are most likely, confusing their dog. Many times people don’t realize just how differently the canine brain works compared to our human brain, so one will often address canine behavior as they would human behavior, and that can produce much confusion for the dog. The result of which can be ineffective training and inefficient responses to behavior that you are trying to change.

Lets start with play. For puppies and young dogs, being mouthy is part of their natural development. They explore everything with their mouths, much like toddlers. Dogs also play with other dogs using their mouth. To your puppy, you’re just another puppy. One of the ways to inhibit your puppy from biting and chewing on your hands is to never have them anywhere near the dog’s mouth. This means no wrestling, no finger pointing or waving, no hand playing at all. Use a toy to teach your dog that’s what goes in its mouth, and that’s when you engage in play. If the pup bites your hand instead of the toy, the game ends for a few minutes.

Wait. What Continued on page 12

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While the sea lions of Morro Bay Harbor have become a much loved attraction — whether lounging on the ‘Sea Lion Dock’ out in the harbor or hauled out on the rocks at Dunes Street — those who venture out on the water on kayaks and paddle boards would be wise to give them a wide berth, and besides, harassing a marine mammal is a federal offense.

# County to Get New Bookmobiles

According to a report, in March 2020 the Supervisors agreed to spend \$315,000 out of the Library Facilities Designation Fund to buy three, three-quarter ton cargo vans at \$55,000 each, plus \$150,000 to convert them into bookmobiles and, “reinstate mobile library services, public outreach and homebound delivery of library materials to facilities and unincorporated areas and to community mem-

Then go back and try again. You want the puppy to learn that only the toy goes in its mouth. Never raise your hand to threaten your dog or give them a smack. It's essential that hands should always be associated with nothing but affection and food. The dog should know that when any person (especially children) offers a hand to them, good things will happen.

Inadvertently reinforcing fear and/or anxiety. This is a really common thing. Again, because people often assume that dogs think like humans, they use positive reinforcement to help the dog relax. What's actually happening is that, in the dog's head, the calming soothing words are reinforcing whatever headspace the dog is in at that exact moment. For example, your dog is showing fear at a person you are engaging. Most people will try to calm the dog by saying, "it's ok, good girl", and stroking her gently. In the dog's mind, you are telling her it's ok to be fearful, she's hearing praise for what she is doing in that moment. Small dogs especially, when they're afraid, often get picked up and soothed, thus reinforcing the fear/anxiety state of mind. It's important to recondition any fear/anxiety response, but it needs to happen using the dog brain, not the human brain.

The County Fleet Services Department and library officials put out a request for proposals for the vans and got two bids — Matthews Specialty Vehicles of Greensboro, North Carolina for \$326,000; and Techops Specialty Vehicles from Stevensville, Maryland for \$154,000. Techops got the bid in May 2021 in a contract that included transportation costs.

“TOSV,” the report said, “indicated the additional transportation cost was due to the shipping company’s original quote expiring after 30 days, in addition to nationwide shipping delays, a volatile supply chain industry, and the increase in gas prices in California and across North America.”

Once the new bookmobiles are in service it will allow the library system to deliver materials to remote, unincorporated areas and to the homebound, "contributing to a healthy and well-governed community."

Volunteers are busy every day putting new items onto shelves including like-new hardbacks, paperbacks, CDs,

Until larger book sales can be safely held, the bookstore serves as the Friends of the Library's main fundraiser with all revenues going to support library needs and programs. Folks are asked to consider donating good quality books, media and current year's upscale magazines at the library anytime during open hours.

**Coffee with Joan** Continued on page 14

12 September 23, 2021 - October 6, 2021 • The Estero Bay News • Your Community, Your News



Music

Siren El Chorro Harmony Day: Dante Marsh & the Vibesetters, Zongo All-Stars, and IMUA



This could very well be the “don’t miss” dance party of the summer! Mark your calendars for and grab your tickets for the first annual Harmony Day concert at The Siren El Chorro. If you missed it, The Siren Morro Bay took over the bar and restaurant at the Dairy Creek Golf Course at El Chorro Regional Park, and they’ve been serving up great food and drink to pair with great live music. The venue is perched atop the driving range, expansive views overlooking the driving range and out to Hollister Peak. This event features 3 bands: Dante Marsh & the Vibesetters / Zongo All-Stars / IMUA. The Vibesetters have been setting the good vibes all over the Central Coast and making a huge splash, including closing out Downtown SLO’s Concerts in the Plaza season. Zongo All-Stars have been busy cooking up some hot new tunes and can’t wait to see everyone again. Except for an intimate, sold out show at the Point San Luis Lighthouse, this will be the first public performance for Zongo since before the pandemic set in. IMUA is the new brainchild of Kahonukai Boro (aka KB), and brings some top shelf musicians together for a great, fresh, upbeat sound. Tickets are limited and available at TheSirenElChorro.com. Photo: Dante Marsh

**Thu., Sep. 23** • 7:00pm  
Dumpstaphunk  
The Siren  
900 Main St, Morro Bay

**Thu., Sep. 23** • 3:00pm  
Forever Green in the Secret Garden  
Sycamore Mineral Springs  
1215 Avila Beach Drive, San Luis Obispo

**Thu., Sep. 23** • 7:00pm  
Robert Alberts Quintet  
The Madonna Inn  
100 Madonna Road, San Luis Obispo

**Thu., Sep. 23** • 7:00pm  
Vetiver w/ support by Kasey Johansing  
SLO Brew Rock  
855 Aerovista Place, San Luis Obispo

Fri., Sep. 24 • 5:00pm  
Dante Marsh & The Vibesetters - Concerts in the Plaza  
Mission Plaza  
San Luis Obispo

**Fri., Sep. 24** • 7:00pm  
Mipso  
The Siren  
900 Main St, Morro Bay

**Fri., Sep. 24** • 5:00pm  
The 3rd Annual Rocktoberfest  
SLO Brew Rock  
855 Aerovista Place, San Luis Obispo

**Fri., Sep. 24** • 7:00pm  
Whitney Cummings: Touch Me Tour  
The Fremont Theater  
1035 Monterey St, San Luis Obispo

**Sat., Sep. 25** • 7:00pm  
Fremont Theater - MC Magic  
The Fremont Theater  
1035 Monterey St, San Luis Obispo

**Sat., Sep. 25** • 3:00pm  
Garden Party  
Sea Pines Golf Resort  
1945 Solano St, Los Osos

**Sat., Sep. 25** • 7:00pm  
Starlight Dreamband  
The Madonna Inn  
100 Madonna Road, San Luis Obispo

**Sun., Sep. 26** • 1:00pm  
Lazy Locals - Nicole Stromsoe  
Castoro Cellars Winery  
1315 N Bethel Rd, Templeton

**Sun., Sep. 26** • 1:00pm  
Rockin’ The Ranch at Filip-poni Ranch  
Bear Market Riot  
San Luis Obispo

**Sun., Sep. 26** • 1:00pm  
Rockin’ The Ranch: Bear Market Riot  
Filipponi Ranch  
1850 Calle Joaquin, San Luis Obispo

**Tue., Sep. 28** • 8:00pm  
Shovels & Rope  
The Fremont Theater  
1035 Monterey St, San Luis Obispo

Paul’s Picks



Rocktoberfest



SLO Brew Rock is throwing down a FREE 3-day music festival (you don’t have to go home, but you can’t stay overnight...) Mark your calendars for Friday, Saturday, and Sunday September 24-26 and dust off that lederhosen for the big party. Featured entertainment includes: The Jineanne Coderre Band, Moonshiner Collective, Soul Dust Productions (DJ), Bear Market Riot, Love, Louie Ortega and the Sons of Caballeros, Dante Marsh & the Vibesetters, and more. You’ll find great BBQ and other food, Makeshift Muse Marketplace, and plenty of games. More info at SLObrew.com.

**Thu., Sep. 30** • 7:00pm  
Robert Alberts Quintet  
The Madonna Inn  
100 Madonna Road, San Luis Obispo

**Thu., Sep. 30** • 6:00pm  
Samantha Fish  
Barrelhouse Brewing Co.  
3055 Limestone Way, Paso Robles

**Fri., Oct. 1** • 6:00pm  
Brass Mash - First Fridays  
Liquid Gravity  
675 Clarion Court, San Luis Obispo

**Fri., Oct. 1** • 5:00pm  
Surfeza  
Tooth & Nail Winery  
3090 Anderson Rd, Paso Robles

**Fri., Oct. 1** • 5:00pm  
Surfing for Hope - Dinner and Auction - Avila Beach Community Center  
191 San Miguel Ave., Avila Beach

**Sat., Oct. 2** • 6:00pm  
Brett Young: The Chapters Tour  
Avila Beach Golf Resort  
6464 Ana Bay Road, Avila Beach

**Sat., Oct. 2** • 2:00pm  
DeJa-Vu  
The Clubhouse Grill at Sea Pines  
250 Howard Ave, Los Osos

**Sat., Oct. 2** • 2:00pm  
Jazz & Blues Jam Session  
Top Dog Coffee Bar & Bistro  
857 Main Street, Morro Bay

**Sat., Oct. 2** • 7:30pm  
The Monophonics  
The Siren  
900 Main St, Morro Bay

**Sat., Oct. 2** • 11:00am  
SLO Symphony Free Dress Rehearsal  
Cal Poly Performing Arts Center  
1 Grand Ave, San Luis Obispo

**Sat., Oct. 2** • 7:00pm  
Starlight Dreamband  
The Madonna Inn  
100 Madonna Road, San Luis Obispo

**Sun., Oct. 3** • 6:00pm  
Drive In Symphony: SLO Symphony  
The Madonna Inn  
100 Madonna Road, San Luis Obispo

**Mon., Oct. 4** • 6:00pm  
SAINT MOTEL  
The Fremont Theater  
1035 Monterey St, San Luis Obispo

**Tue., Oct. 5** • 7:00pm  
DEAD KENNEDYS  
SLO Brew Rock  
855 Aerovista Place, San Luis Obispo

Tue., Oct. 5 • 6:30pm  
New series! SSHH Concerts at Puffers  
Puffers of Pismo  
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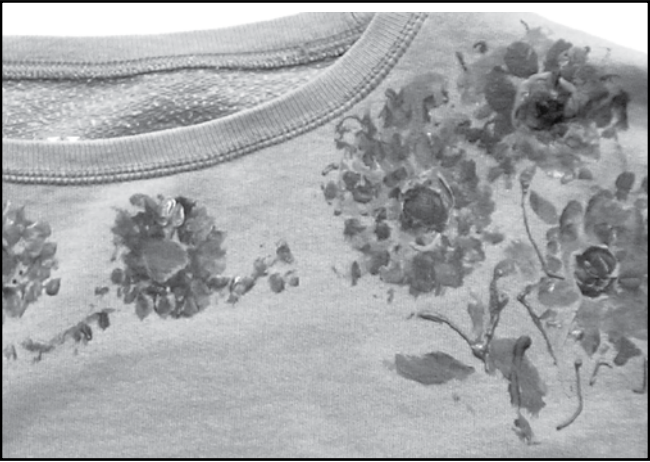
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the stained area. I used acrylic tubes of paint and squeeze the three basic colors alizarin crimson, cad yellow and ultra blue onto a paper plate. Then I stretch the soiled garment over a piece of cardboard so the paint doesn't go through to the back of the shirt. I gather several designs from my collection of flower images and, using a watercolor brush, I draw flower petals and leaves onto the fabric letting it dry before I remove the cardboard.

I recommend practicing on fabric that is not of any value in order to obtain the flower effect that appeals to you before you paint on your favorite blouse or shirt. Try painting on a pillow case or white dish towel. It's fun and worth the effort. I continue to wear the pieces I painted many year ago. It's almost like wearing works of art. Well not quite, but of value to the wearer for sure.



## Joke of the Day

When asked a third grader “what would you do if one of your friends fell down the stairs” the child said, “I would run for help. When ask, “what would you do if a teacher fell down the stairs”, the child replied, “which teacher”.

From Paul Harvey, year unknown



### Schedule a consultation! Sign up for a class!



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\*Text: (415) 590-9972

## Letters to The Editor

### Freedom of Choice



If I decide not to stop at a red traffic light, why don't I have freedom of choice? If I choose to drive 80 mph on a residential street where children may be playing, why don't I have freedom of choice?

Those who are against mandates on masks and vaccinations claim it's about freedom of choice. When they are in the ER on ventilators don't the doctors and nurses have a mandate to try to keep them alive? Do they have freedom of choice? Huh?

Ray Bracken  
Los Osos

## The Bible Is Truth

Take umbrage with Willan Fritch's letter, The Bible is Not Truth (Vol. 3, Issue 17). That is opinion, not fact. It is truth for 2.5 billion Christians worldwide, including myself.

As a Marine in the 1960s, when I returned from Vietnam, I had no concern what my words and actions did to others. I only thought of myself. I married, and though never physically abusive, I would shut down and not communicate with my wife. We tried counseling.

In 1988, at age 40, a conversation with a military chaplain opened my eyes and heart to the Bible and Jesus Christ. I was not coerced nor obligated to listen, but his words made me realize there was something missing in my life. I began attending a Bible-based church, obtained a Bible, and began reading and studying it.

The truth the Bible showed me is that I am a sinner, but that I have forgiveness, redemption, and salvation through Jesus. My life changed for the better. I treat people differently. I have a new love for my wife. We recently celebrated 51 years of marriage.

The truth of the Bible made me a better person. It is a truth I will never doubt.

Adrian M. Hurtado PhD  
Cayucos

## Facebook Warning

It has been almost a year since Facebook has put me in “jail” because of political reasons, that started on August 31, 2020 and ended in early December, 2020. The high tech giant social media company censored me for those reasons.

However, when it comes down to this year of spam, on Facebook, I will give three reasons that they censored me: 1. A longrange temperature and precipitation map(s) from the Climate Prediction Center, 2. A Love is...comic strip picture from my favorite comic strip, Love is... created by the late Kim Casali, drawn by Bill Asprey. 3. YouTube videos of California geology by Robert Lopez, all examples are not really fair to me.

I also want to point out that there are dangers on Facebook that I have known for five years, dealing with American young women who have chatted with me, that are Christians or non-Christians because 99% of them end up being romance scams to begin with. Asking for gift cards from Amazon, or some other American company. In closing, to be aware of what has happened to me, I too have to warn other people about my past experiences with Facebook.

Scott C. Presnal  
Morro Bay,

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## Grateful for the Sewer Project Reporting

I read with interest and gratitude Neil Farrell's most recent reporting on the Morro Bay sewer project (Vol. #3, Issue #17). Neil has a unique reporting ability to render often complex project information and project news into readily understandable form — not a common occurrence in current journalism.

Kudos to the Estero Bay News for following this important community project, and keeping its readers informed.

I look forward to reading the full story on the project's boring machine currently stuck under the Morro Bay Blvd. traffic circle. How did the machine become stuck, why has taken three weeks and counting to resolve the situation, and given the City's executed project contracts, which party will be financially responsible?

Ron Reisner  
Morro Bay

Stacks From page 3

there, including a deed restriction Pacific Gas & Electric — who built the over 60-year-old plant — placed on future uses, essentially that it must remain an industrial use.

That would mean any contamination in the soil and groundwater would not have to be cleaned up, something PG&E as well as Vistra could be liable for.

The stacks are structurally sound despite getting a good shake during the December 2003 San Simeon Earthquake, which this reporter, as well others, witnessed on that day.

Vistra's Director of Decommissioning & Demolition, Dianna Tickner said so long as maintenance is kept up, “the structural integrity should remain good.” She added that the stacks did not sustain any damage during the quake and if maintained could last another 100 years.

Morrow said every 2-5 years, they must complete visual inspections of the stacks for structural integrity, which means climbing them and looking for cracks and other flaws. This past June, the stacks were inspected for contamination that could become airborne, which is done through the County Air Pollution Control District.

APCD's Tim Fuhs, the compliance supervisor, said all they found in June was some “rust and bird droppings.” He also said that the stacks have very little asbestos. The generator building has a lot of asbestos, however, as its miles of steam piping and boilers are all blanketed in the stuff.

But it was an audience member who got to the heart of the matter asking who would be responsible for the stacks if the City decides to keep them? Morrow said Morro Bay would be responsible.

She said if the City chooses to keep them, then the City would be responsible for their maintenance and liability, as well as a future removal, which could cost over \$5 million.

As a reference point, Don Maruska, who moderated the meeting, put together a chart showing the costs to the City that he was able to glean from the discussion. It should be noted that these are rough estimates not based on detailed studying of the matter.

Maruska listed \$250,000 per stack for custom-made “caps” to protect the interiors; \$10,000 a year for insurance (if the stacks are not “repurposed” and much more for something like base or bungee jumping were started); \$50,000 a year for inspections; and listed \$2-\$5 million in a reserve fund for their eventual removal.

Having Vistra remove them would cost the City nothing.

The meeting was the first step in this process and given the deadline for a decision isn't until the end of 2022, it will likely be a campaign issue in the June 2022 special election when one council seat will be on the ballot, and for the general election in November 2022, when the mayor and two council seats will be on the ballot; although the Council could make a decision sooner and put the issue to rest.

### G

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Community

**Mask** From page 5

competing or performing, they must put it back on when not in active play.

**Musicians Should Muzzle**

The County said singers and musicians are not allowed to play indoors without a mask, even specialty masks.

“Vocalists and wind musicians are not allowed to perform indoors without a mask,” the County said. “Specialized masks for performers may be worn only while actively performing and must be replaced with a standard mask at all other times indoors.”

Wind players — trumpeters, sax players, clarinetists and trombonists, among others — “must place bell covers on the instruments,” as apparently the spit valves on such instruments are not enough, and, the County said the spit valves should never be emptied on the floor.

The County recommends “using a puppy pad (or similar) to catch the contents of the spit valve and discard. Sanitize hands after discarding pad.”

And you’ll need a pretty big stage. “In K-12 settings,” the County commanded, “wind instruments and vocalists must maintain at least 6-foot distance from other performers.”

The County strongly recommended performances be moved outdoors, and “Wind musicians and vocalists should face away from other musicians, indoors and outdoors, and maintain at least 12-foot distance from audience members.”

They also recommend using disposable microphone covers if singers have to share a mic, but to use a microphone so as not to have to sing so loudly.

**Deaths Now Top 300**

According to the Sept. 17 stats on COVID-19 in SLO County, a total of 306 people had died of the virus, with six over the past week. The people who died ranged in age from their 30s to 80s.

The county added 253 cases and had a total of 556 active cases, a daily average of 84. As of the 17th, there were 32 people in the hospital with COVID-19 and 14 of those were in intensive care.

Dr. Penny Borenstein, County health officer, is urging everyone to get vaccinated, calling it the best protection against having a severe case, as the vaccine has shown not to be able to prevent someone from contracting COVID-19. It has however, been credited for lessening the severity of those who do contract it.

“Even though we continue to make progress in the fight against COVID-19,” Dr. Borenstein said, “it continues to pose a threat to the health and safety of our community — particularly to those who are not vaccinated, including children under the age of 12. Yet we know how to beat this disease. Together, we can stop this surge and prevent more painful losses.”

**Free Vaccines Available**

So far, more than 70% of eligible SLO County residents had been given at least one of two shots with 62% having gotten both doses.

Vaccines are available at no cost at pharmacies, doctors’ offices, Public Health Department clinics, and mobile clinics countywide.

County clinics are at the Paso Robles Train Depot, and County clinics in SLO and Grover Beach. Morro Bay Drug & Gift also has both testing and vaccines available. See: myturn.ca.gov or call (833) 422-4255 to choose a location, time and vaccine type, or one can walk-in to the clinics and

get shot. The myturn.ca.gov website and VaccineFinder.org will have locations near you where the vaccines are available.

County Awards \$1.49 million for Marketing Contracts

County Supervisors approved a series of contracts with various marketing firms to provide tourism-marketing services for the County Tourism Business Improvement District.

The bundle of contracts, which totaled some \$1.49 million, was divided between nine firms, with eight being for 2 years and the other for just one year.

Established in May 2009, the County Tourism Business Improvement District (CBID) originally had just one company all the marketing, according to a staff report out of the County Administrative Office. When the initial contract ended in 2018, the CBID Advisory Board began discussing splitting up the various duties of the marketing contractor into smaller pieces and contracting out each piece.


Called, “The Bid Bunch,” the new system launched in September 2018 with vendors providing services like “media, public relations, social media, website update and maintenance, project management, content curation (sic), and new photos and videos. These agreements were for under \$50,000 and approved by the Administrative Office,” the report said. County Supervisors did not vote on these relatively small contracts.

The new system worked well, according to the County, and was carried over into 2019 and 2020. This past May, the advisory board recommended the contracts be for 2 years (from July 1, 2021 through June 30, 2023). However one contract was only recommended for a single year.

According to the County, the contracts approved were:

- TJA Advertising in the amount of \$57,000 (\$28,500 per year) to provide social management services;
- Vingage Consulting for \$203,876 (\$101,988 per year) to provide search engine optimization, website and email management;
- Kaitlin Sturtevant for \$100,000 (\$50,000 per year) to provide stewardship travel and public relations coordinator services;
- Lori Keller for (\$61,500 per year) to provide marketing plan and local area management services;
- Lori Ritchey, \$60,000 (\$30,000 per year) to provide content management services for social media, website, and digital media services;
- Cheryl Masters Rowe, \$96,000 (\$48,000 per year) to provide website, content development, database, and asset management;
- A 1-year agreement with Townsend Public Relations for \$88,000 (\$48,000 for public relations services and \$40,000 for media related services);
- VinVibe for \$75,000 (\$37,500 per year) to provide website support and maintenance services; and,
- Orange22 for \$687,200 to provide media relation services including purchasing pass thru media (\$113,600 per year for media relations services and an amount for FY 2021-22 not to exceed \$460,000 for pass thru media services).

Obituary Gary Lee Owens 1938-2021







Gary Lee Owens was born in Ord, Nebraska on December 1, 1938 to Lloyd and Marie Owens. He moved to Lexington, Nebraska a few months later where he grew up with his brother, Will, and sisters, Alyce Jean and Louise.

Gary graduated from Lexington High School and joined the Air Force where he served at Lackland AFB in San Antonio, Kessler AFB in Biloxi and Loring AFB in Caribou, Maine. After leaving the service, Gary attended Montana State University in Bozeman, Montana where he graduated with a degree in Electrical Engineering. He worked on guidance systems on F4’s with General Electric, the Minute Man at Autonetics, a division of North American Rockwell, and finally the Space Shuttle, Small ICBM and PeaceKeeper (MX) system with Rockwell International at Vandenberg AFB.

For a brief time, Gary also owned and operated Owens Radio & T.V. in Morro Bay. Gary coached little league and youth football teams, was a 40+ year supporter of Camp Hapitok, was a member of Rotary Club of Morro Bay for nearly 50 years, founding member of the Black Brant Group, helped run a breeding program for Wood Ducks for the California Water Fowl Association, and was also a member of the Eagles.

Gary passed away on September 16, 2021 and is survived by his wife, Marlene, his sons David (Dawn) and Michael (Lori), his daughter Susan (David), four grandsons, Dak, Dexton, Devan and Kai; two granddaughters, Dari and Sage; and many nieces and nephews. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the Estero Bay Kindness Coalition. A Celebration of his Life will be held at the Morro Bay Methodist Church on Saturday, September 25, 2021 at 2pm with a reception to follow. All of his family and friends are welcome to attend.





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services).

The CBID is funded by a 2% charge on the cost for a room night at lodging businesses — motels, hotels, B&Bs, vacation rentals — located in the unincorporated areas of SLO County, with Avila Beach, Cayucos, Cambria and San Simeon, being the towns with the most CBID members. County general fund monies are not being used for the CBID.

As part of the CBID ordinance, half of the money (1% collected in each town) is given back to a local BID to use for promotions and supporting special events in that community.

According to the County, “The cost for the 24-month agreements is \$942,076, while the cost for the 1-year agreement is \$88,000. The total cost for the services as noted above will not exceed \$1,030,076 over the terms of the agreements. The agreement with Orange22, Inc., provides for pass thru media in an amount not to exceed \$460,000.”

So who’s minding the store? Not the County. “As a facilitator of a requested program,” reads the report, “the County has not established performance criteria beyond the legal contractual obligations to expend the funds for identified purposes. The onus is on the designated contractors that are selected by the CBID Advisory Board to meet the expectations of the lodging business owners paying the assessment.”

The CBID — administrators and governing board — will track the performance of the contractors in providing the services outlined in their scope of work.”

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The Morro Bay High Cross Country teams hosted their annual invitational meet Sept. 11 with dozens of schools coming from near and far to challenge the course's trek through the beach sand and themselves.

Coach Chuck Ogle said, "It was great to have the Morro Bay Invitational back. I frequently hear from coaches that the 'Invite' is their athletes' favorite event, and our community of parents and alumni enjoy putting it on. We had great volunteer support this year as always."

The meet was canceled in 2020 because of the coronavirus pandemic, indeed the whole 2020 fall cross country season was shelved, though they did have a limited season last spring.

At the 2021 Invitational, Charlotte Castelli of Paso Robles High School won the girl's varsity race clocking 19 minutes, 11.5 seconds, with Templeton High's Madeline Bobbitt second in 19:40 and Paso's Sydney Moore third in 19:36.5.

Morro Bay high despite having several rookie runners this season, had a good early-season meet.

"Both teams [boys and girls] feature many new faces," Coach Ogle said, "some with distance backgrounds and some without. The freshman groups look promising."

Morro Bay High sophomore, Annie Wieck, led the Pirate varsity girls taking 33rd place in the race that had 157 runners and clocking 21:33.9.

Coach Ogle said Wieck, "seems poised for another good season. The Ocean League did not announce all-league teams for last year's mini-season, but Annie would have been, at minimum, a second-team selection. She then went on to an excellent track campaign, winning the Ocean League title in the 400 and qualifying through to CIF Finals in that event, clocking a 62.0."

Lady Pirate and first year runner Julia Edgington, a junior, was Morro Bay's next runner in 109th place (24:29.6); followed by sophomore Noleena Fahy (128, 25: 48.2); senior Jessica Padgett (142, 27:58.1); and junior rookie Chloe Hartsten (153, 30:10.3).

In the boy's varsity race, senior Nathaniel Avila of Clovis H.S. won the race in 15:16.8; with Templeton's Joshua Bell, a sophomore, second in 15:18.8; and Dylan Devine of Madera South third in 15:41.1.

Morro Bay's top runner was junior, Michael Carbajal, who was 64th in 18:13.5. Senior Charlie Inman was 120th in 20:21.1. There were 169 runners in the boy's varsity race.

MBHS's Edward Sperber, a sophomore, was 129th in 20:50.9, and the third Pirate to cross the finish line. Rookie Andrew Halaand, a senior, was 149th in 22:07.9, followed by sophomore Michael Pascual (151, 22:13.6) and first year runner Ryan Falat (169, 32:10).

"Michael [Carbajal] is one of the strongest and most aerobic athletes we've had in the program recently and had a strong summer of training," Coach Ogle said. "It looks like he will have good support from Charlie Inman, a senior veteran who is running with determination, and a collection of rookies including senior Andy Halaand, another proficient 400-meter athlete. We like to see the track sprint crew



Annie Wieck was the first Lady Pirate to cross the finish line at the MB Invite, taking 33rd place in a race with 157 runners.



Morro Bay's Michael Carbajal was the first Pirate to finish in the Boy's Varsity Race at the Morro Bay Invitational Cross Country Meet held Sept. 11. Carbajal was 64th in a race that had 169 runners.

running cross country as it provides a strength base they can't really match doing anything else."

The Pirates had very good success in the jayvee/novice races. Freshman, Eli Waldman, finished ninth in the boy's race, covering the 2-mile course in 14:04.1 and earning a meet medal. There were 77 runners in that race. Freshman Jack Walker also medaled in 13th place and 14:24.9. Freshman Frankie Ainley was 17th in 14:35.9.

In the girl's freshman/novice race Mika Hegg medaled in ninth place clocking 16:05.3; and Freshman, Rheanna

Dunton, was 15th in 17:46.6 and also took home some hardware. There were 52 in this race.

And junior Gavin Brush ran in the junior varsity boy's race clocking 37:47 in his first-ever cross country race.

The Pirates were scheduled to travel to Santa Maria's Waller Park Sept. 18 to run in the Goose Chase Invitational. Coach Ogle said "the entire Ocean League will be competing so we will get a good early-season look as to where we stand."

Poly Professor Named Wine Ambassador

Federico Casassa, associate professor of enology in Cal Poly's Wine and Viticulture Department, was named an Italian Wine Ambassador by Vinitaly International Academy — making him one of only 240 such ambassadors in the world today.

Casassa, who has taught winemaking since his arrival at the College of Agriculture, Food and Environmental Sciences in 2015, sought the certification to broaden his knowledge of the diversity of Italian wines. His scholarly research, which is assisted by his undergraduate and graduate students, focuses on wine chemistry and biochemistry and on the chemical and sensory aspects of winemaking, particularly in red wines.

"We live in a global world, and our students need to be exposed to the broadest possible array of aspects of the wine industry," Casassa said. "Europe was the cradle of modern winemaking, especially Italy. Tasting and understanding wines produced using Italian native varieties and following techniques that are not necessarily applied here in California will enable me to incorporate (and perhaps experiment with) some of these techniques and approaches to my winemaking classes to enhance student learning."

To date there are 239 certified Italian Wine Ambassadors representing 38 countries who have graduated from the Vinitaly International Academy (VIA), and 15 who have also gained the highest level of certification, Italian Wine Experts. Since its founding in 2014, more than 600

Wine Ambassador Continued on page 17

HISTORY CENTER

SAN LUIS OBISPO COUNTY

Here stands the first bank of Cayucos sometime between 1892-1893. The bank opened in 1892, and experienced their first robbery on August 30, 1892. The little bank's bad luck didn't end with the robbery and the whole building burnt down on September 8, 1893. They rebuilt immediately, but the bank closed permanently on March 15, 1898. To the left of the bank the sign on the fence advertises La Colonia D'Asti Sonoma Wine located at 720 Higuera Street, San Luis Obispo.

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News

Vet's Hall From page 1

be a self-supporting, income-generating investment for the County and the community.”

The goal is to light a fire under the County and get the hall fixed. “The community’s support is meant to emphasize to the Supervisors that the restoration and financing of this historic building is a wise fiscal decision.”

Whatever monies the Committee can raise will go to help the County with the costs, refurbishing the hall and “to emphasize that the Vet’s Hall should remain an affordable resource for the local community organizations,” the Committee said. The Cayucos Lions Club has been in charge of managing the Vet’s Hall but County Parks is expected to take over those duties.

The Committee’s goal is to raise at least \$200,000 by Sept. 28 as an “emphatic message” to the Supervisors. The long-term goal is to raise \$500,000. If Supervisors agree to fund the repairs, it could be back in operation in 2024.

“Large or small donations are welcome and appreciated. Donations can be made online at: [www.restorecayucosvetshall.org](http://www.restorecayucosvetshall.org).

If readers are feeling a bit of déjà vu at this development, that could be because a similar effort was launched to help with rebuilding the Cayucos Pier, which the County closed to foot traffic in July 2013. The pier was missing many of the wooden pilings that had busted loose by over 100 years of pounding by the surf. And most all of them were hollowed by wood worms. The deck too was in rough shape.

The condition of the pier was never more evident than during the Annual Lost at Sea Memorial, which commemorates all people lost at sea and culminates with a procession down the pier where a wreath is thrown into the sea. With some 350 walking on it, the pier would sway back and forth.

In July 2013, the decision was made by County Parks to close the pier to pedestrians and fix it. That job ended up costing about \$3.4 million and Cayucos’ citizens stepped up to the plate to help.

The Friends of the Cayucos Pier was formed with a goal of raising \$100,000 and ended up raising some \$750,000 — \$100,000 went towards the reconstruction, \$150,000 to upgrade the lighting, and another \$30,000 went to move the fire water line off the deck. The remaining money was to go into a maintenance fund for future upkeep.

The Pier and Vet’s Hall were part of the original ship-ping operation started by Capt. James Cass in 1872.

Capt. Cass’ operations were the hub of the community servicing steam ships plying the Coast and shipping farm products like butter and cheese from local dairy farms. The



This historic drawing shows the old Cayucos Landing warehouse during the horse and buggy days, with the Cayucos Pier jutting to the right with a coastal steamship coming in to dock, and Morro Rock in the upper left corner. The corral on the right of the main building is where the picnic area and parking lot are located today.



This rendering of the rebuilt Cayucos Vets Hall is from the pier looking back, with a walkway wrapping around the beach side and back to the Pier Plaza and the iconic dolphin monument by sculptor Dale Evers.



A rendering by RRM Design of the rebuild Cayucos Vets Hall looking at it from the Pier Plaza side.

Vet’s Hall was a warehouse and steamships docked at the end of the pier loading goods on and off the ships in what was a prosperous business.

The Pier, Vet’s Hall, a barn, and the Cass House, the



This historic photo circa 1900 shows the old Cayucos Landing warehouse, now the Vet’s Hall.

Captain’s original home, are about all that’s left of the operation.

If readers want to discuss how they can help with these efforts, email to: [restorecayucosvetshall@gmail.com](mailto:restorecayucosvetshall@gmail.com).

Spot Fires Erupt Along Hwy 1



Corrin Lee of Morro Bay took this photo of a small spot fire that erupted Friday, Sept. 17 along Hwy 1 at the Cloisters. The brush fires were quickly extinguished and no injuries reported. Estero Bay News was unable to contact anyone with the Morro Bay Fire Department (it was the weekend) for details on the blazes. However, according to eyewitness reports on the Next Door Morro Bay gossip site, a paramedic crew with Cal Fire spotted the fires first

and stopped to fight the flames with hand tools, as they had no water on the paramedic truck. Firefighter crews soon arrived and doused the blazes. There were apparently several that flared up along the roadway heading towards the Hwy 41 off ramp, normally a sign of a car having mechanical difficulty, however, one poster said her son witnessed some-one starting the fires and had spoken to police about it.

Photo courtesy Corrin Lee



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Wine Ambassador From page 6

candidates from around the world have taken VIA’s courses. Only about one in three who take the course pass the final exam to acquire the certification.

In June Casassa was part of a group of 67 who attended a series of practical sessions in Verona, Italy. The students were exposed over four consecutive days to about 155 wines that are considered benchmarks of the most important appellations, or Italy’s formal grape-growing areas, from the island of Sicily at the foot of Italy, north to Valle D’ Aosta, an area in the Italian Alps known as much for mountaineering as for its top-quality DOC-label wines. The exam included 100 multiple choice questions, two short essays, a video lecture (prepared in advance) and a blind tasting of two wines.

“Obtaining the certification opens the door to network or connect with producers that you would not have access

Wine Ambassador Continued on page 19

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Jen Ford From page 1

June 7, 2022 Primary Election, which the staff said would save considerable money over holding a stand-alone special election.

Under Section 1000 of the City’s Election Code (part of the muni codes), says a special election must be held no less than 114 days from the time of a vacancy, which would have put it at April 12, 2022.

But the report said consolidating the City’s election with the regularly scheduled June Primary was within the spirit of the law, which was put in place by voters (Measure R, 2006).

This is the first time this law has had to be used, as Davis is the first council member to leave office since its enactment in 2006 and is the only one ever to die in office in the town’s history.

Adding the City’s race to the County’s Primary Election ballot would cost an estimated \$28,500 according to the City staff report. Holding a stand-alone election in April, the City said, would cost over \$110,000 and be tough to do given the small staff in the City Clerk’s Department. A purely mail-in ballot would be possible, however, that adds considerably to the costs.

“While the city clerk,” the report reads, “as the elections official is responsible for preparing, reviewing, and accepting candidate materials, the services provided by the County in a consolidated election include preparation of the voters’ guide, ballot creation, printing, mailing, voter registration, voting site operation, tabulation, and certification of the results.”

Since 1991, all City elections have been consolidated with county-wide votes. And the County said it’s too busy now to handle all this for the City. “The County Clerk’s Office has informed City staff they do not have the capacity to conduct an April election on the City’s behalf. If that date were chosen, the City could still conduct a stand-alone all mail ballot election [Election Code section 4004] but at considerable expense.”

If she wishes to remain in office, Ford will have to run for election in June and face any challengers who get qualified by the city clerk.

And whoever wins that contest will hold the seat until the November 2024 Election, putting the City Council’s election schedule back on track.

Ford’s nomination raised some eyebrows in town, as she is an associate and political ally of Councilwoman Dawn Addis, which some have said is why only two people applied for the position despite it being open to any registered voter living in Morro Bay.

Ford and Addis were among several other women who came together to form “Women’s March San Luis Obispo,” a political activist organization formed shortly after Donald Trump was elected President in 2016, and who advocate for equal rights and social justice for several categories of peoples. They also recruit and support women candidates for office, including Addis who ran for City Council in 2018 and won, and then ran for State Assembly last year but lost.

The group’s mission statement reads, “To create a

women-friendly world through education, advocacy and action.”

Also, Ford and her husband Travis Ford, have Rock Harbor Marketing, which at the same Sept. 14 Council meeting was granted a 3-year extension on a 1-year lease they signed last November for a City-owned space at 781 Market Ave.

Asked if the Ford’s business relationship with the City — landlord-tenant — was allowed, City Manager Scott Collins said, “The 2020 lease agreement for property at 781 Market between the City and Rock Harbor Marketing, a sole proprietorship, was amended at the September 14 City Council meeting, and is now between the City and Rock Harbor Marketing LLC, of which both Travis Ford and Jennifer Ford are officers.”

He added that because the two sides entered negotiations months ago, it does not mean she can’t serve as a council member or would have to give up the lease and move out. “That amendment considered and approved by the City Council, prior to consideration of a temporary appointment to fill a vacant City Council seat, is not prohibited by Government Code section 1090,” Collins said.

“The work on the renewal of that lease,” he added, “began with the City several months ago. It typically takes that amount of time to complete the lease renewal process.”

One of the questions council applicants were asked was whether they would give up any and all contractual and business arrangements they have with the City. She will have to step down and not participate with regards to that property, which the City is actively trying to sell for redevelopment.

“As a sitting Council Member, because of that lease,” Collins said, “Ms. Ford now has a financial interest in the 781 Market Ave. property. She will be advised to recuse herself from participating in or influencing any Council discussions and decisions that could impact that financial interest, including property negotiations or approval of lease or sales agreements regarding that property with third parties.”

If the City sells the property, its lease with Rock Harbor would automatically terminate and “At that point in time, assuming she has no new financial interests in 781 Market Ave. property, she could participate in discussions and decisions related to future uses of that property. The city attorney was consulted concerning these issues.”

If they continue to lease the property after a sale, she would again have to recuse herself in council negotiations so long as they remain there.

Such business interests have come up before on the City Council, most recently with former Mayor Rodger Anderson and Councilman George Leage, who both held leases with the City for restaurants — Anderson with his family’s former ownership of The Galley, and Leage for his ownership in Great American Fish Co., and the former Off the Hook Restaurant.

On several occasions both men had to step down when the Council discussed projects and leases for businesses within a certain distance of their own.

Of the two council candidates, Ford perhaps had a bit more experience after she was appointed to the planning commission last February to replace Jesse Barron, who moved away from town for a new job and resigned from the commission.

Ford, who has two children in local schools, has lived here since June 2011, according to her application form. Green, a professor at Cal Poly, said he’s been here five years.

Mayor John Heading said of Ford, “Jen’s history of community service and her participation on numerous citizen committees and boards demonstrate her passionate commitment to improving the quality life of our residents. She has worked hard to make sure all voices are heard, especially when important decisions are made. I look forward to working with her on the City Council.”

Ford has worked with several service organizations since moving here including PTA President for Del Mar Elementary School, the Planning Commission, co-founder of Women’s March SLO and “volunteering for a number

of local non-profits.” Ford also listed membership in the Morro Bay Open Space Alliance (MBOSA) and Friends of the Harbor Department.

Ford told Estero Bay News, “I’m deeply honored to step into the position my good friend Councilmember Robert ‘Red’ Davis left sooner than expected and vow to carry on his role as a leader in our community. Our current and future generations need to have a City that is thriving financially and is environmentally healthy. My appointment to the Morro Bay City Council allows me the opportunity to help our City and its residents navigate many difficult decisions ahead.”

Green has been a consistent commenter on City issues, submitting written critiques of agenda items and offering ideas on city matters as well.

He listed membership in Morro Bay Beautiful, MBOSA, and the Tourism Business Improvement District (TBID) Advisory Board. He’s also on the California Faculty Association and something called “CAR/NAR.”

Ford was sworn in after her vote during the Sept. 14 meeting on Zoom, as the Council hasn’t met in person since April 2020.

New Ordinance From page 1

The ordinance would allow the California Highway Patrol and the County Sheriff’s Department to tow vehicles that are in violation. Currently, the area has 72-hour rule preventing vehicles from being in the same spot for more than three days. That said, cars can be moved a short distance and the enforcement time begins again.

“The no camping ordinance will provide a much stronger enforcement tool for requiring parkers/campers to vacate Palisades than the 72-hour parking limitation we currently have,” District 2 Supervisor Bruce Gibson said on social media.

Seven people spoke in support of the new ordinance during the BOS meeting. Some cited incidents of mental health breakdowns, threats to people utilizing the park, drug activity and vandalism.

“I wholeheartedly support this ordinance and its strict enforcement for our town, and that’s going to be key, strict enforcement,” said Los Osos resident Becky McFarland, who started a petition not long ago to make El Chorro Regional Campground a safe parking area. “As you have been hearing from concerned citizens for the past 18 months, the lack of this ordinance and the County’s setting up a safe parking site in our small, small library parking lot, has caused the heart of our small town, to become a lawless unsafe area.”

Los Osos resident Rusty Hefner, who has volunteered with local safe parking programs, also spoke during public comment.


“The situation on Palisades is bad for everyone that’s why I’d like to voice my strong support for establishing an anti-camping ordinance in Los Osos and empowering our sheriff’s deputies to enforce it,” he said. “Like many of my Los Osos neighbors I’m committed to helping others in my community, but we’re not helping anyone by enabling them to live in our public space while they decline the professional assistance that they need.”

No one spoke against the anti-camping ordinance. “The establishment of these no camping ordinances are only steps along the way,” said Gibson during the meeting. “Quite clearly this board and [our] communities and our agencies have a lot of work to do. And I just want colleagues and the public to know that I’m wholeheartedly committed to continuing progress on this, and we will try to make it happen as soon as possible.”

Although homeless people living in the area isn’t new, the County become more actively involved in October of 2020 when multiple reports were made of human waste, syringes, public safety issues, and possible fire threats in the space adjacent to the library in what is known as Midtown on county property.


At that time County officials began efforts to relocate an estimated dozen unhoused community members in the so-called Midtown Los Osos Encampment Clean-Up Project. Those efforts and the resulting \$10,000 funding was

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Kevin says,  
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on the  
Door"



KEVIN O'CONNOR, President



Beautification From page 1

worked for two years redesigning the 1100-foot median. On Oct. 9 their efforts will experience a growth spurt. Eighty volunteers are needed, 40 in the morning from 8:45 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. and 40 in the afternoon from 12:45 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Suzanne Morrison and her staff at Earthscapes will guide volunteers in the work that needs to be done. The scope includes clearing the median of the existing irrigation system and dead plants. The area will be graded and soil amendment added. Volunteers are needed to dig very small holes and plant specific plants in designated locations, move and distribute small rocks and gravel with wheelbarrows, and help install irrigation lines.

Volunteers can be any age. To sign up, send an email to [Info@CelebrateLosOsos.org](mailto:Info@CelebrateLosOsos.org), go to [celebratelososos.org/get-involved](http://celebratelososos.org/get-involved) or call 805-528-7014. Volunteers should wear sunblock and sturdy shoes and bring gloves and water. Tools and instructions will be provided. The County will block off part of the road to make the work safe.

The median serves as much more than a means to separate opposing lanes of traffic flow. The area is similar to a statement piece in a home in that it sets an impression of Los Osos.

“For visitors, entrances—an expression of the identity of a place—change the viewer’s impression of the place they are approaching or passing by,” said Nash-Karner. “The quality of the view and the overall visual perception of the environment speak volumes to the visitor. A long median with large barren and dead areas, torn-up irrigation lines, few live plants and struggling oak trees doesn’t invite a visitor to stop, explore and stay and certainly is uninspiring to residents. The median is the entrance to the local retail area and should make a positive statement.”

Without the work of a group like Celebrate Los Osos, the County would likely pave over the median.

This isn’t the first time the CLO has worked on the median. Back in 2010 they worked with San Luis Obispo County Public Works to redesign the median, which had been neglected for years. That is when Earthscapes, joined the team and with more than 80 Celebrate Los Osos volunteers, the median was replanted and a new irrigation system was installed in one day. After that CLO paid for water and maintenance, and Earthscapes maintained it at a greatly reduced cost.

However, during the construction of the Los Osos Wastewater Project, the median was severely damaged. The irrigation lines and 70% of the plants were destroyed when large trenches were dug across the median.

subsequently approved by the BOS.

There are legal complexities that come with people setting up camp on public property. In 2019, the U.S. Supreme Court backed a lower court’s ruling (Martin v. Boise) in Boise, Idaho that homeless persons cannot be punished for sleeping outside on public property in the absence of adequate alternatives.

“We welcome an ordinance that would give us an opportunity to enforce no overnight camping on the streets of the city of Los Osos,” Comdr. Stuart MacDonald with the local Sheriff’s Substation told the BOS. “I also wanted to issue caution that those are the kinds of ordinances that Martin versus Boise intend to block enforcement of unless we have the corresponding space available for people in that circumstance to go to. These things really need to be done in a coordinated way, in a holistic [way], because if there is no space available at the end of October, when this ordinance may become operational, then enforcement is not possible under case law decision.”

Last month a new safe parking area was set up at a location on Kansas Ave. near Highway 1 in in San Luis Obispo. It can accommodate a wide variety of vehicles including cars, vans, trucks, and RVs. It is equipped with ADA-accessible showers, restrooms, a hand wash station, and dumpsters for participants’ use.

At that time, County staff and contracted service providers began reaching out to those parked on Palisades to let them know that in the near future long-term parking will no longer be allowed.



The plants that will be used in the median upgrade through the efforts of Celebrate Los Osos and Earthscapes.



The scope of the median project starts at about South Bay Boulevard and ends near the post office.

“It took several years for the Public Utilities Commission, Golden State Water and San Luis Obispo County to come to agreement about reclaimed water from Los Osos’ Wastewater project,” said Nash-Karner. “Reclaimed ‘purple pipe’ water has been installed and is now available for the median project.

Funds total \$11,820 from the San Luis Obispo County Infrastructure Grant and \$5,800 coming from County Public Works to go toward new plant materials and the new irrigation system.

Plants slated to fill the median include Paddle plant

The 5Cities Homeless Coalition and CAPSLO coordinated with the County to provide outreach services and offer case management and links to supportive services to address individual needs of those people staying at the Kansas Ave. site.

The site has an initial operating period of three months but county officials told Estero Bay News that the time-frame would be extended, security would be increased and plans are in the works to expand that area to accommodate the growing need as well as install some all-weather upgrades.

“This has been good because we’ve been able to test the proof of concept of it,” said Rebecca Campbell, assistant county administrative officer. “Folks are using the site and we have the amenities set up. We’re looking at a possible expansion of the site . . . We’re taking it three months at a time, and we’re looking at extending it for another three months. When we first started it, we weren’t sure folks were going to use it. Now that folks are using it we’re like, ‘okay, we need to extend this.’ We’re starting with that approach, and then we’ll go from there and make sure we can find a sustainable funding source.”

The no-camping ordinance is expected to be adopted at the Sept. 28 Board of Supervisors meeting. Following that, it would be 30 days before it would go into effect.

As of Sept. 17 limited enforcement started on Palisades. Gibson posted that the Sheriff’s Office and CHP began issue notices and towed at least one vehicle.

(Kalanchoe luciae), Hummingbird yucca (Hesperaloe parviflora), Chalk dudleya (Dudleya pulverulenta), Lomandra “Shorty” (Lomandra confertifolia), Sand dune sedge (Carex pansa) and Blue Chalksticks (Senecio mandraliscae). The existing textured cobble hardscape will be retained and a gray-green groundcover and a brown granite groundcover will be added along with 12” Shasta moss boulders.

The majority of the plants were grown in Los Osos at the Earthscapes nursery. The Dudleya was grown from seeds that originally came from Los Osos and were grown at Native Sons in South County.

Although the majority of the of the work is expected to be done by Oct. 9, the project will grow more beautiful for years to come.

Should much needed rain come, the project will be delayed until October 16 with two shifts — the first from 8:45 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. and the second 2:45 p.m. - 4:30 p.m. People are welcome to work both shifts.

Wine Ambassador From page 17

to otherwise,” Casassa said. “Meeting them face-to-face allowed me to see their reality, experience their methods of production, and taste their wines. I can now procure some of these wines and teach them in my sensory class and incorporate new winemaking techniques to both my research and teaching efforts.”

Casassa has helped establish Cal Poly’s Wine and Viticulture Department — the nation’s largest undergraduate program with 300 students — as a key research hub in the Golden State. He earned his doctorate in food science from Washington State University in 2013. He obtained both a master’s and undergraduate degrees in viticulture and enology from the Universidad Nacional de Cuyo in Mendoza, Argentina, in 2007 and 2004 respectively.



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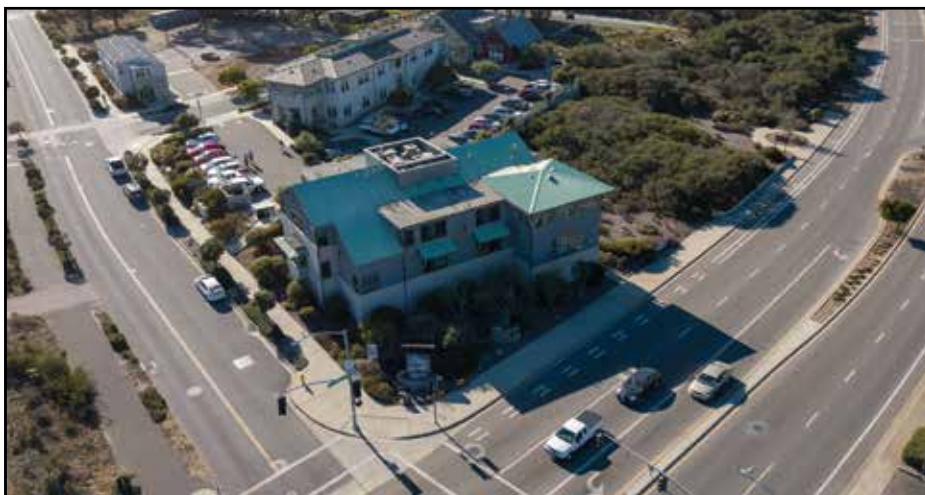
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