

City Passes Gun Safety Law

By Neil Farrell

Do you own guns and live in Morro Bay? Then you need to make sure your guns are locked away where only you can get at them, or the City might write you a citation that carries jail time.

That's unconstitutional, you might argue but a new law passed by the City Council and going into effect Oct. 28, makes it a misdemeanor to have guns — rifles and handguns — inside your home that are not secured against theft or someone else getting access to them in an attempt to reduce "the risk of firearm injury and death."

And the City Attorney assures that it this not a violation of the Second Amendment Right to keep and bear arms.

"The United States Court of Appeals, Ninth Circuit," City Attorney Chris Neumeyer's staff report said, "held in 2014 that a San Francisco firearm safe storage ordinance was consistent with the federal Second Amendment. (Jackson v. City & Cty. Of San Francisco (2014) 746 F.3d 953.)"

"The proposed ordinance to add a firearm safe storage law to the Morro Bay Municipal Code is modeled on the San Francisco law determined to be constitutional."

The City's new ordinance (No. 644, adds Chapter 9.36 [Safe Storage of Firearms] to Title 9 (Health and Safety) of the Morro Bay Municipal Code, to Require Safe Storage of Firearms Located in a Residence) has just three general provisions:

No person shall keep a firearm within a residence unless the firearm is:

1. Stored in a locked container or disabled with a trigger lock;
2. Carried on the person of the owner, or other lawfully authorized user of the firearm; and,
3. Within close enough proximity and control that the owner, or other lawfully authorized user of the firearm,

District Attorney's Report Critical of IWMA

By Neil Farrell

The County District Attorney's Office has released a rather critical report on the countywide agency that handles solid waste services, resulting in a criminal case being brought against one employee, but concluding that the former general manager could not be prosecuted.

The critical report comes on the heels of County Supervisors' vote to leave the joint powers authority agency, choosing instead to have public works handle such matters for the unincorporated communities under their rule.

According to a news release from District Attorney Dan Dow's office, the 51-page report is the culmination of a multi-year investigation by the Office of Public Integrity looking into allegations "that contracts were awarded without competitive bidding, that the IWMA failed to properly retain records, that credit card use policies were violated, and that IWMA General Manager William Worrell exceeded his spending authority, among other matters," the release said.

Worrell, who has since retired, was the first permanent GM of IWMA since its inception in 1994.

Disturbing Practices Uncovered

Although the investigation led filing of criminal charges alleging embezzlement against former IWMA Secretary, Carolyn Goodrich, all other allegations were deemed unfounded or not rising to the level of a crime.

"The remainder of this report," the DA's Office said, "details additional important factual findings concerning disturbing practices and lack of proper oversight that should be reviewed by the IWMA Board of Directors and interested members of the public."

In the report's executive summary, the DA's Office acknowledges receiving three written reports from Carl

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This Old House Has a Story to Tell

By Judy Salamacha



A 1952 advertisement featuring a six-room house in Morro Bay selling for \$35,000.

The Historical Society of Morro Bay and Morro Bay City Council will soon dedicate an open space area at the far end of Morro Street to Franklin Riley (1824-1897). This natural parkland is a popular walking area for residents and tourists offering a pathway that overlooks the harbor, a stairway to Tidelands Park and the Embarcadero, and a photo-perfect view of Morro Rock. Why was this area the most appropriate to be named for the founder of Morro Bay?

The answer to my question was documented in an historical property evaluation my family needed to have researched before receiving a remodeling permit from Morro Bay's Planning Department. We selected historical consultant Paula Juelke Carr. She was local and had a 30-year track record, including determining if 50-plus year-old homes have cultural heritage stories qualifying them for a listing on the California Register of Historical Resources. Carr's research unearthed interesting reading about Franklin Riley and the five previous owners of our

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CCHD Starts Plans for Future Facility Needs

By Theresa-Marie Wilson



The Cambria Community Healthcare District is housed in a 60 - year-old building that is in need of major upgrades.

A North Coast ambulance company will consider a new space that will fit the growing needs of the community it serves. The building that houses the Cambria Community Healthcare District (CCHD) could require a large-scale upgrade or an entirely new facility.

CCHD entered into a not-to-exceed \$84,000 consulting contract with Vanir Construction Management Inc. to evaluate the condition of the district's approximately 60-year-old building on Main Street and to look at options for meeting future facility needs for ambulance crews and administrative staff.

"The existing building has a number of significant problems with plumbing and electrical infrastructure, heating/air conditioning systems, and layout. It also lacks

a garage for housing ambulances," said Mike McDonough, administrator for CCHD, "Vanir's work will instruct us on options for remedying these problems."

Under the contract, Vanir will provide a facilities condition assessment, architectural programming, feasibility and conceptual design studies, and conceptual project budgets and schedules looking at an upgrade of the existing facility or building a new one.

"They're going to help us identify, in great detail, what it's going to cost and what they think it should look like," said McDonough. "They will generate the detailed information that we need to have to make a good decision."

The District operates an Advanced Life Support ambulance (ALS) service providing emergency response to

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Questions Over Battery Plants After Moss Landing Incident

By Neil Farrell



This photo shows a lithium-ion battery fire in August at Australia's 'Victorian Big Battery' project.

Questions about fire safety were raised regarding a proposed Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) at the Morro Bay Power Plant, after a similar facility in Moss Landing overheated and forced a full shutdown of what is now the largest BESS in the world at 300 megawatts (1,200 megawatt-hours).

That title would be usurped by the 600 MW BESS that Vistra is proposing to build on its closed Morro Bay plant. The issue of safety arose during a recent online forum on the future of the power plant stacks, sponsored by the City of Morro Bay featuring representatives from Vistra, governing agencies, and attended by some 200 residents via Zoom.

The purpose of the meeting was to discuss the status and potential future of the trio of 450-foot tall smokestacks, but concerns were raised about the proposed BESS, the application for which has yet to progress into public review.

The Morro Bay BESS as proposed would have some 7,200, lithium-ion batteries, housed in three 91,000 square foot, 30-foot tall buildings (with 10-feet of equipment on the roofs), and covering some 22 acres of the plant.

It's the same basic set-up that Vistra has built at its Moss Landing Power Plant but that was put inside an old power station that was decommissioned decades ago as part of a repowering project that Duke Energy completed back when it owned Moss Landing and Morro Bay power plants, plus two others in California.

Vistra's BESS at Moss Landing sustained an emergency shutdown on Sept. 4, when some of its battery packs overheated and threatened to catch fire. Lithium-ion batteries pose a significant fire hazard when they malfunction.

Such batteries in cell phones and cameras charging in the galley are believed to have caused the tragic fire of the charter dive boat, Conception, a 75-foot vessel that caught fire and sank Sept. 2, 2019 while anchored up at Santa Cruz Island in the Santa Barbara Channel. Some 34 people perished in the fire, with five crewmembers surviving the tragedy.

In Moss Landing, the overheated batteries didn't catch fire but did fill the building with smoke. Fire officials with Monterey County said that the system's fire suppression systems worked perfectly, and there was no threat to the public.

The fire department said overheating caused plastics and wiring to melt but the lithium-ion batteries didn't catch fire. That hasn't always been the case however.

At Moorabool near Geelong, Australia in early August, the "Victorian Big Battery" project that uses the Tesla Megapack batteries caught fire during testing, before it was even hooked up.

That facility, the largest in Australia, has some 210 battery packs, capable of storing 450 megawatt-hours of energy. Vistra's Morro Bay proposal would have 2,400 battery packs in each of three buildings.

In Australia, a single battery pack caught fire and

spread to a second pack while the batteries were undergoing testing and were in a shipping container.

The Victorian Big Battery facility is owned by French renewable-energy developer, Neoen. According to the Times of London, some 38, large, lithium-ion battery fires have erupted since 2018, citing Paul Christensen, a professor at Newcastle University.

Among the incidents, in Beijing, China a fire at a lithium-ion battery installation last April killed two firefighters and took 235 firefighters to control.

Last September, a large lithium-ion battery in Liverpool, England owned by Danish renewable energy company Orsted, caught fire in the middle of the night.

And in a 2019 incident in Arizona, a 2-megawatt lithium-ion battery storage facility caught fire and exploded, hospitalizing eight firefighters.

Lithium-ion batteries can catch fire through a process called "thermal runaway," which happens when a battery is overcharged or crushed. Heat as well as a mixture of gases are produced, which when released, form a vapor cloud that can ignite or cause an explosion.

And because lithium-ion produces oxygen when it burns, it feeds its own flames and makes it difficult for firefighters to extinguish using traditional methods of pouring water on it. But pouring water on them cools them down.

Back at Moss Landing, Monterey County Fire Chief Joel Mendoza told KSBW-TV that while lithium-Ion batteries can be unstable, the safety system at the Moss Landing facility worked as intended.

Vistra in a news release after the overheating incident, said, "There are multiple layers of safety integrated into the battery facility and the risk mitigation and safety systems worked as designed, detecting these modules were operating at a temperature above operational standards and triggering targeted sprinkler systems aimed at the affected modules."

But the Moss Landing facility remains closed and the incident is under investigation. Vistra spokeswoman, Meranda Cohn, told Monterey County Weekly, "We are confident it is a matter of when, not if, the facility returns to service. However, speed is not our goal here — safety is. We expect not only to repair the facility and bring it back into operation but also to improve it so this does not reoccur."

According to an August 2021 report in the Journal of Energy Chemistry, "When operating, the electrodes produce heat, which might become uncontrollable during battery malfunction."

Monterey County Hazmat crews reportedly responded to the Moss Landing facility to test inside and outside of the building, as well as the nearby waters of Elkhorn Slough, and no toxic chemicals were discovered by the hazmat crews.

According to information provided to the City by Vistra, and concerning safety: "The proposed battery buildings would not be occupied; however, personnel will be required to access the batteries for maintenance. Therefore, the project will incorporate a multi-tiered safety system consisting of passive design considerations, monitoring, automatic, and manual protection systems. These systems will be designed based on industrial best practices in consultation with the Morro Bay Fire Department."

Once completed, Vistra has said there would only be about 10 people working at the plant.

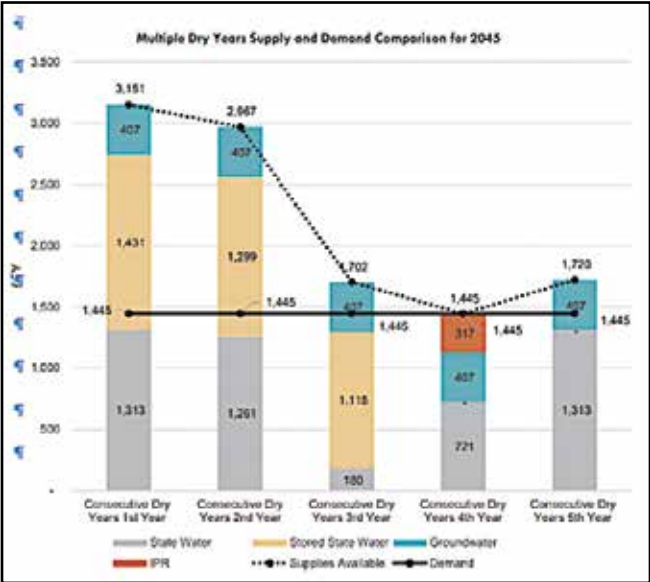
Retired Morro Bay Fire Chief Steve Knuckles back in February said after he'd toured the BESS in Moss Landing that he was impressed with its fire suppression system.

Each of the thousands of batteries, which Knuckles said were each about the size of a desktop computer tower, had its own fire sprinkler head and the batteries were arranged in larger arrays, each housed in a fireproof room.

"They had triple redundancy with the sprinkler heads," retired Chief Knuckles said, adding that he believed that they could make a BESS in Morro Bay work for the community.

They would of course need special firefighting equipment but he said that Vistra would pay for that, just as the various owners of the power plant have always paid to help equip the local fire department for potential emergencies at the plant.

City Approves Water Plan



The above chart shows the City's predicted water supply from its various sources vs. demand during varying drought conditions. Chart courtesy City of Morro Bay

The Morro Bay City Council approved an update to the "Urban Water Management Plan," concluding that the various sources of water available to the City will be able to meet demand into the future.

Public Works Director, Greg Kwolek said in a news release, "The UWMP conducts long-term resource planning and establishes water management measures to ensure adequate water supplies are available to meet existing and future demands."

"The UWMP includes an analysis of a five consecutive dry years event based on supply/demand modeling and references anticipated recycled water (IPR) from the Water Reclamation Facility, still under construction, as a source of supply. The results indicate the City can meet future water demands in such a scenario."

But good news doesn't mean we're out of the woods just yet. "Despite this positive projection," Kwolek said,



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“the City reminds residents and businesses of the importance of water conservation, as the State enters its third consecutive drought year. Continued water conservation efforts will help to ensure adequate water supply is available should the current drought continue to reduce the State’s collective water supply.”

And with a State Government in Sacramento, seemingly unable to fix the water supply issues in the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta, where Morro Bay gets its allotment of State Water Project water, local citizens are going to have to take steps to protect themselves and make sure the tap doesn’t run dry.

The City remains under “Severely Restricted Water Supply Conditions,” Kwolek said, “its third tier of water conservation restrictions since July 8.” The water prohibitions include:

- No use of water to clean driveways, patios, parking lots, sidewalks, and streets;
- No outdoor irrigation between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m.;
- No watering landscaping, turf areas, and gardens except on Wednesdays and Sundays for even-numbered addresses and Tuesdays and Saturdays at odd-numbered addresses;
- No use of potable water for compaction or dust control purposes in construction activities; and,
- No use of fresh water without spring-loaded shutoff nozzles or similar controlling devices to wash down boats, docks, or other incidental activities.

As for the \$145 million WRF project, which the City pitched to rate payers for a 2018 Prop. 218 vote as being able to provide 80% of water demand, Kwolek said it “is planned to supplement the City’s main water supplies through Indirect Potable Reuse (IPR) as needed. These supplies include State Water and water from the Morro Valley extraction wells [at Lila Keiser Park]. IPR is a water source developed from injecting purified water into the Morro Creek groundwater for extraction during drought periods in accordance with State regulations to protect public health and safety. The City plans to have operability of the WRF and IPR infrastructure by late 2023.”

WRF plans at this point are to put in an injection well field in the northeast corner of the power plant property, adjacent to Morro Creek. The injected water is intended to protect the normal groundwater aquifer from intruding seawater, which could result from over-pumping the Morro wells.

Any resident or business with questions about these water conservation restrictions can email Kwolek at: gkwolek@morrobayca.gov. “We appreciate our water customers’ assistance and support of water conservation efforts,” he said.

Readers can access the UWMP from the City’s website, see: www.morrobayca.gov/2020UWMP.

Earthy Water Taste is Harmless



The seemingly annual slug of funky tasting drinking water has flowed again to Morro Bay, courtesy of high temps in the Sacramento Delta.

The City issued a notice to residents on Oct. 8 explaining why their water tastes “earthy” like dirt.

“The City of Morro Bay receives State Water from the Central Coast Water Authority,” reads the notice from the water department, “and typically once a year this water has harmless algae compounds called Geosmin.

“Geosmin is caused by high temperatures, which creates ideal conditions for blue-green algae blooms in the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta, affecting State Water Project customers, including the City.”

The notice describes the funky water as having “an earth smell and taste” and assures that it is not harmful at the levels present in your tap water.

And, “These compounds do not affect the water quality; City water continues to meet all Federal and State drinking water standards. The City water supply remains safe for consumption and use.”

The taste will probably affect people differently, as everybody has a different level of sensitivity. And it can be filtered out.

“Drinking water carbon filter systems, i.e., Brita filter, or chilling the water will help eliminate the taste and odor issues,” the City said. “Also, the City is making operational changes where possible to reduce the odor and taste impacts of Geosmin.”

If residents have questions, call Damaris Hanson at 805-772-6265.

Supervisors Select Interim Clerk-Recorder



Elaina Cano

A split County Board of Supervisors voted 4-1 to end the search for a pinch hitter County Clerk and while efforts were made to extend the free agent search nationwide, they ended up signing someone from Santa Barbara County.

The vote ends 2 months of contentious debate after former Clerk-Recorder Tommy Gong quit his elected position on July 2 and took a similar job in the Bay Area. After Gong’s departure the County Administrator named Helen Nolan, the deputy SLO County Clerk to step in and keep the many-faceted office running.

Supervisors chose Elaina Cano, the deputy Santa Barbara County Clerk-Recorder who lives in Arroyo Grande and used to be the SLO County Assistant Clerk-Recorder, and was also a previous city clerk in SLO and Pismo Beach.

Though the end result was somewhat painless, they traversed a rocky political road to get there. A majority of Supervisors in mid-July ordered the administration to start a recruitment process to find Gong’s replacement, which they wanted opened up to outside people, purportedly to try and get more qualified applicants.

Gong’s term was to end Jan. 2, 2023 and Cano will have to stand election in the 2022 Primary Election next June. Presuming she is challenged, if no one gets over 50% of the vote, the top two will have a runoff in the November 2022 General Election.

Supervisors had appointed a 5-person board — one representative from each Supervisorial District — who were: Vicki Janssen, District 1, Lee Price, Dist. 2, Ken Hampian, Dist. 3, Chuck Bell, Dist. 4, and Marcia Torgerson, Dist. 5 — to winnow down the applicants.


The committee reviewed some 44 applications on

Clerk-Recorder Continued on page 6

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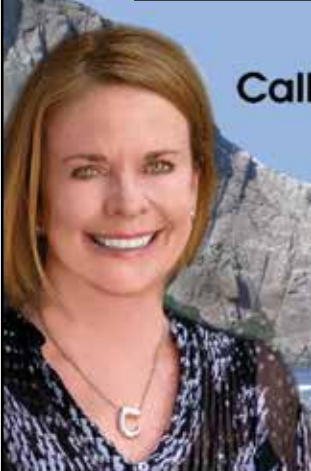


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Get Your Flu Shot



County of San Luis Obispo health officials urge community members to get vaccinated against the flu at their earliest opportunity before flu season takes hold in SLO County.

Officials say getting the flu vaccine is especially important during the COVID-19 pandemic, both to prevent illness and inconvenience for individuals and to protect local health care system capacity.

“The best way to protect yourself and your loved ones against the flu is to get vaccinated, and that’s why we are urging all community members to get their flu shot as soon as possible,” said Dr. Penny Borenstein, county health officer. “An increase in cases of the flu could lead to an added strain on our local hospitals as they respond to a surge in COVID-19.”

All community members six months and older should get their annual flu vaccination by the end of October to ensure maximum protection and to prevent spreading it to others. Influenza can cause mild to severe illness and serious outcomes of flu infection can result in hospitalization or death.

Those at higher risk of getting severe flu disease include:

- People 65 years and older.
- People who smoke or have underlying medical conditions like diabetes, heart disease, asthma, lung disease, neurologic disorders, and weakened immune symptoms.
- Pregnant women and children under five years of age.
- African Americans, Latinx and Native populations, who are disproportionately affected by chronic medical conditions that can increase the risk for severe flu or COVID-19.

“Even in less-serious cases that do not require hospitalization, flu can be both miserable and inconvenient,” said Dr. Borenstein. “If you have flu symptoms, you will likely need to get tested for both COVID-19 and influenza and isolate until you get the results.”

Flu shots are widely available at no cost from local pharmacies and health care providers. It is safe to get a COVID-19 vaccination and flu shot during the same visit. For more information on COVID-19 vaccine, visit www.RecoverSLO.org/Vaccine.

To get your flu shot or COVID-19 vaccine at a Public Health clinic, visit myturn.ca.gov or call (833) 422-4255 to choose your location, time, and vaccine type. To find other vaccine providers, visit myturn.ca.gov or VaccineFinder.org.

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News Briefs

By Theresa-Marie Wilson

Four More COVID-19 Deaths Reported

Four more San Luis Obispo County residents, ranging in age from 50 to 80, have died from COVID-19. This marks 335 community members that have succumbed to the virus.

As of Oct. 15, 13 residents are currently hospitalized for severe COVID-19 illness, including four in the intensive care unit.

San Luis Obispo County added 123 new cases of COVID-19 since Oct. 12, the latest update, bringing the daily average to 37 over a 14-day period.

“While our case rates continue to trend downward, we are in an unstable time when this trend could change very quickly,” said County Health Officer Dr. Borenstein. “I want to recognize everyone in our community who is doing your part to stop the spread of disease and bring us to a more stable place. Please, protect yourself and your family by getting vaccinated and wearing a mask while indoors.”

By the Sea Productions Halts Season

Morro Bay’s live theater company By the Sea Productions has officially cancelled the remainder of their 2021 show season due to the still uncertain pandemic situation.

BTSP, formerly Pewter Plough Players, opened their venue in Erickson Hall at St. Peter’s by the Sea Episcopal Church in 2017 and had staged 23 shows before the pandemic shutdown. They re-opened in August this year for a sold-out one-weekend run of “Shirley Valentine,” but the frequently changing mask and distancing requirements made it impractical to attempt additional shows this year.

BTSP President Rhonda Crowfoot assures that “Our theater company is still very much alive and we hope to re-schedule our lost 2020 season in 2022. We are extremely grateful for our supporters, whose donations have enabled us to cover our storage and insurance expenses for these past 18 months, and also to the church for suspending our rent.”

Information on 2022 season show dates will be posted on the BTSP website bytheseaproductions.org and on the BTSP Facebook page.

Halloween Public Health Safety Tips

There is a scary monster out there, but Halloween festivities can still be festive.

The County of San Luis Obispo Public Health Department encourages community members to celebrate Halloween and Día de los Muertos safely and responsibly this year to help slow the spread of COVID-19.

“We encourage our community members to enjoy safe celebrations while protecting each other from COVID-19, especially because younger children are not yet vaccinated,” said Dr. Penny Borenstein, county health officer. “The best way to do that is to limit yourself to smaller gatherings with extra common-sense precautions like wearing a face covering, staying outdoors as much as possible, and staying home if you’re not feeling well.”

Health officials strongly recommend measures to protect against COVID-19: • Get fully vaccinated if you are eligible, as vaccines are our best protection against

COVID-19. • Wear a face covering (fully covering your nose and mouth) indoors and in crowded outdoor places. Masks are required while indoors in public settings. • Stay home if you have, or think you may have, symptoms of COVID-19. The same goes if you are simply not feeling well.

• Practice good hygiene by washing your hands frequently (or using hand sanitizer if you are on the go), and not sharing costumes, props or masks.

• Celebrate outdoors as much as possible, and limit indoor activities such as haunted houses or large indoor get-togethers.

COVID-19 vaccines are widely available at no cost at pharmacies, doctors’ offices, public health department clinics, and mobile clinics countywide. More than 71.9% of eligible San Luis Obispo County residents have received at least one dose of vaccine, and 65.0% are fully vaccinated.

To get your COVID-19 vaccine at a public health clinic in Grover Beach, Paso Robles, or San Luis Obispo, visit myturn.ca.gov or call (833) 422-4255 to choose your location, time, and vaccine type.

See hours and pop-up clinics at www.RecoverSLO.org/Vaccine. To find other vaccine providers, visit myturn.ca.gov or VaccineFinder.org.

SLO Police to Increase Traffic Enforcement

San Luis Obispo will have a bigger police presence on the streets due to grant funding.

The San Luis Obispo Police Department will roll out a police traffic services program to “deter dangerous and illegal driving behaviors” that increase the risk of crashes in the community.

“Impairment, speeding and other dangerous driving behaviors jeopardize the safety of other people on the road,” said Sergeant Jeff Booth. “This funding allows us to provide necessary traffic enforcement measures with the goal of reducing serious injury and fatal crashes on our roads,”

The grant will pay for additional enforcement measures, including:

- DUI checkpoints and patrols specifically focused on suspected impaired drivers.
- Enforcement operations focused on suspected distracted drivers in violation of California’s hands-free cell phone law.
- Bicycle and pedestrian safety enforcement operations focused on driver behaviors that put vulnerable road users at risk.
- Enforcement operations focused on top violations that cause crashes: speeding, failure to yield, stop sign and/or red-light running, and improper turning or lane changes.
- Community education presentations on traffic safety issues such as distracted driving, DUI, speeding, and bicycle and pedestrian safety.
- Collaborative enforcement efforts with neighboring agencies.
- Officer training and/or recertification: Standard Field Sobriety Test (SFST), Advanced Roadside Impaired Driving Enforcement (ARIDE) and Drug Recognition Expert (DRE).

The grant program will run through September 2022.

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Masons Recognize Local Officer



Morro Bay Police Officer Art Vasquez and Cmdr. Amy Watkins at King David's Masonic Lodge's Annual Law Enforcement Recognition Dinner.

King David's Masonic Lodge of San Luis Obispo recently held their Annual Law Enforcement Recognition Dinner followed by individual agencies awarding one of their own personnel for merit and exemplary actions in law enforcement.

The Morro Bay Police Department awarded Officer Art Vasquez. In his two years with MBPD, Vasquez "has quickly made a name for himself within the department and our community. Officer Vasquez has received several compliments and commendations for his work during investigations and community contacts," said Cmdr. Amy Watkins. "Officer Vasquez approaches each contact with patience and understanding. Art prides himself on being an active member of the department both on and off-duty. Attending new officer swearing in ceremonies, employee appreciation gatherings, and promotional ceremonies, Art takes joy in celebrating the successes of others."

Officer Vasquez was selected to the department's Field Training Program to help train and guide MBPD officers of the future.

The Lodge made a donation to SLO Law Enforcement Assistance Foundation in honor of the award recipients, and a special recognition was observed for fallen officers.

Departments represented included the Morro Bay PD, CA Highway Patrol, SLO Co. Sherriff, SLO Co. Sherriff – Custody Bureau, CA Men's Colony, CA. Fish & Wildlife, SLO District Attorney's Office, and SLO PD. Cal Poly University PD was unable to attend.

Nominations Open for Women's Wall of Fame Awards

Nominations are open for the 2022 Women's Wall of Fame Awards, sponsored by the San Luis Obispo County Commission on the Status of Women and Girls. The Commission wishes to recognize outstanding women in the county who have given in an exemplary way to better the lives of others throughout the year. Nominations are solicited from organizations and individuals throughout the county in three categories – volunteer, business and service. The online nomination form is open until December 3, 2021.

All nominees will be recognized at a luncheon attended by county dignitaries and community members, scheduled for March 19, 2022. Photos of the top three nominees will be placed on the Women's Wall of Fame in the County Government Building. Their names and year of the award will be inscribed on a permanent plaque next to the Wall of Fame.

"The theme for this year is Journeys of Courage, reflecting the resilience of women during the COVID-19 pandemic," said District 1 Commissioner Meghan Madsen. "Study after study confirms that women were hit hardest, whether it was diminishing economic opportunities, juggling childcare and family caregiving responsibilities, increased gender-based violence, mental distress, as well as decreased access to health services. Through it all, women stepped up in creative and brave ways to support their communities. San Luis Obispo county is home to many inspiring, talented and empowering women who are making a positive impact, and I encourage everyone to highlight these leaders by nominating them through our online submission form."

All women who live or work in San Luis Obispo County, or have played an integral part in the development and/or implementation of projects that have benefited the county, are eligible for nomination, and can be nominated by their fellow community members or organizations.

The SLO County Commission on the Status of Women and Girls is an official advisory group to the SLO County Board of Supervisors established in 1975. The mission of the Commission is to work to improve the lives of women and girls in San Luis Obispo County by advocating for equal rights, and collaborating with agencies and programs that support the health, socioeconomic and professional well-being of women and girls in our community.

Learn more about the SLO County Commission on the Status of Women and Girls, and nominate an exceptional woman at www.slowomen.org.

Woman Busted With Meth in Pismo

By Neil Farrell



SLO County Sheriff's Deputies busted another alleged drug dealer, this time in Pismo Beach.

According to a news release from Sheriff's spokesman, Tony Cipolla, at about 4:45 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 7 deputies stopped a suspicious vehicle in the 400 block of S. Dolliver St., in Pismo Beach for an undisclosed vehicle code violation. A lone woman driver was in the vehicle.

"During the commission of the traffic enforcement stop," Cipolla said, "Deputies conducted an investigation which led to a probable cause search of the vehicle. During the course of the investigation, a large amount of illegal narcotics were located inside of the vehicle."

Cipolla said the stash included approximately 6.35 pounds of suspected methamphetamine in total, 5.1 grams of suspected heroin, 5.8 grams of suspected marijuana, 3 Suboxone strips, and multiple items of alleged illegal narcotic paraphernalia.

Deputies also located a digital scale, additional baggies, and some cash in the vehicle, Cipolla said. The estimated street value of the methamphetamine alone is approximately \$30,000.

According to the Midwood Addiction Treatment website (see: www.midwoodaddictiontreatment.com/suboxone-strips) Suboxone strips are sometimes referred to as "Suboxone film," and are a "dissolvable strip containing the opioid buprenorphine and naloxone, the active ingredients in Suboxone. The strips/films can be administered sublingually [under the tongue] or placed inside the cheek where they rapidly dissolve."

The strips are "an opioid drug that is commonly used for the relief of withdrawal symptoms related to the use of more powerful opioids such as heroin."

Deputies arrested Audryanna Gibbens, 41 of Pismo Beach on suspicion of possession of methamphetamine for sale and transportation of methamphetamine for sale.

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New Look for Entry to Los Osos

By Theresa-Marie Wilson



Even youngsters volunteered to help beautify the median. Photo submitted



Pandora Nash-Karner, president of Celebrate Los Osos and Suzanne Morrison president and co-owner of Central Coast Earthscapes with Michael Morrison, also a co-owner, working on the median.
Photo by Theresa-Marie Wilson



Greg Lazzaro, who recently moved to the area from Venice Beach, CA, lends a hand as part of the crew. Photo by Theresa-Marie Wilson



Los Osos Community
Services General
Manager Ron Munds
and District 2 Super-
visor Bruce Gibson
joined the efforts.
District
Photo submitted

What a difference a day makes. On a sunny and surprisingly still Saturday morning, the colorless and nearly barren median on Los Osos Valley Road just past South Bay Boulevard were transformed into what will grow into a decorative entry into town.

"It's incredible," said Pandora Nash-Karner, president of Celebrate Los Osos (CLO), the community benefit group that spearheaded the project. "People came out of the woodwork. We had so many volunteers, we will be done early."

The job was a pretty big undertaking that involved installing irrigation equipment for reclaimed water in the 1100-ft median, planting hundreds of drought tolerant plants as well as distributing a huge pile of topsoil and another one of gravel.

It truly was a team effort with more than 100 volunteers made up of government officials, service organizations, business owners and community members. Additionally, Golden State Water installed the plumbing for the reclaimed water free of charge, the Los Osos Community Service District provided safety vests, Miner's Ace Hardware pitched in some shovels and Starbucks provided beverages.

Los Osos resident Donna Kube was one of the volunteers that morning. She saw a posting requesting help on social media and decided to get involved.

"It's looked kind of ugly for a lot of years," she said. "When I saw that this was happening, and it was going to be a beautiful entryway into our little town here, I wanted to be a part of it."

All but one of the plants were grown in Los Osos and the seeds from the remaining plant species were harvested in the town but grown in South County. For now the plants are young and rather small, but each day the median oasis will grow into its roots.

“That’s the thing about landscaping,” said Nash-Karner, “it gets better as it gets older. The idea is that as

Clerk-Recorder From page 3

Sept. 20 and narrowed it down to a Top-3 — Jeffrey Barry, a former Chief Deputy, Clerk-Recorder/Elections for Yolo County; Cano, and Nolan.

The Supervisors in the end had just two to pick from after Barry reportedly withdrew his name from consideration just before the Oct. 12 interviews and selection were to be held.

Oddly enough, each candidate went through an extensive screening process that included background checks, something a clerk-recorder election candidate wouldn't have undergone.

Cano's nomination papers listed her as having a bachelor's degree from the University of Laverne and an associate's degree from Cuesta College. Her public service career started in 2004-09 when she was deputy city clerk for SLO becoming City Clerk from 2009-12.

She was City Clerk in Pismo Beach from 2012-15; assistant clerk-recorder-registrar of voters for SLO County from 2015-19; and Elections Division Manager for Santa Barbara County from 2019-21.

In her application she said, “I truly miss being an integral part of a close community that aligns with my love for public service and my desire to make a difference in the community and instill the public’s trust.”

The focus has been on elections including so-called “election integrity,” which became an issue after the 2020 November Presidential Election when numerous irregularities were alleged in several key states in swing states, which swung the vote to Joe Biden after former-President Donald Trump took an early lead.

But the Clerk-Recorder's Office does much more than simply run elections and experience doing the complex job on a city level apparently proved the difference for Cano.

people drive by, they are going to see a continuous curve. It's not going to be little cute groupings of plants like you might do in your own yard; it's a continuous sweep of plants. As they mature, that will become much more evident. In the spring the plants in the middle will have beautiful reddish-pink, long stalks with blossoms or succulent flowers. It will be really beautiful."

CLO and Suzanne Morrison, president of Central Coast Earthscapes, a Los Osos residential and commercial landscape design firm, worked for two years redesigning the area with a visual flow in mind.

“The plants in the center of the median create a flowing line that leads you into Los Osos and beautifies the entrance to our community,” said Morrison. “The landscape is a good representation of how we can create beautiful landscapes in our community using little water and maintenance to sustain them in a healthy manner.”

Plants used include Paddle plant (*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 median project not only rejuvenates the space, but, for some, it was a symbol of change on the horizon.

“It is the essence of community to see folks working together,” said District 2 Supervisor Bruce Gibson. “I see signs of hope in individual communities, and this is a big sign in Los Osos. In each of our communities there are really good people coming together who want to do good things. In these very challenging times, that’s really important. It makes me optimistic.”

Funding totaled \$11,820 from a San Luis Obispo County Infrastructure Grant and \$5,800 from County Public Works to go toward new plant materials and the new irrigation system. Celebrate Los Osos will pay the reclaimed water bill and Earthscapes will maintain the area.

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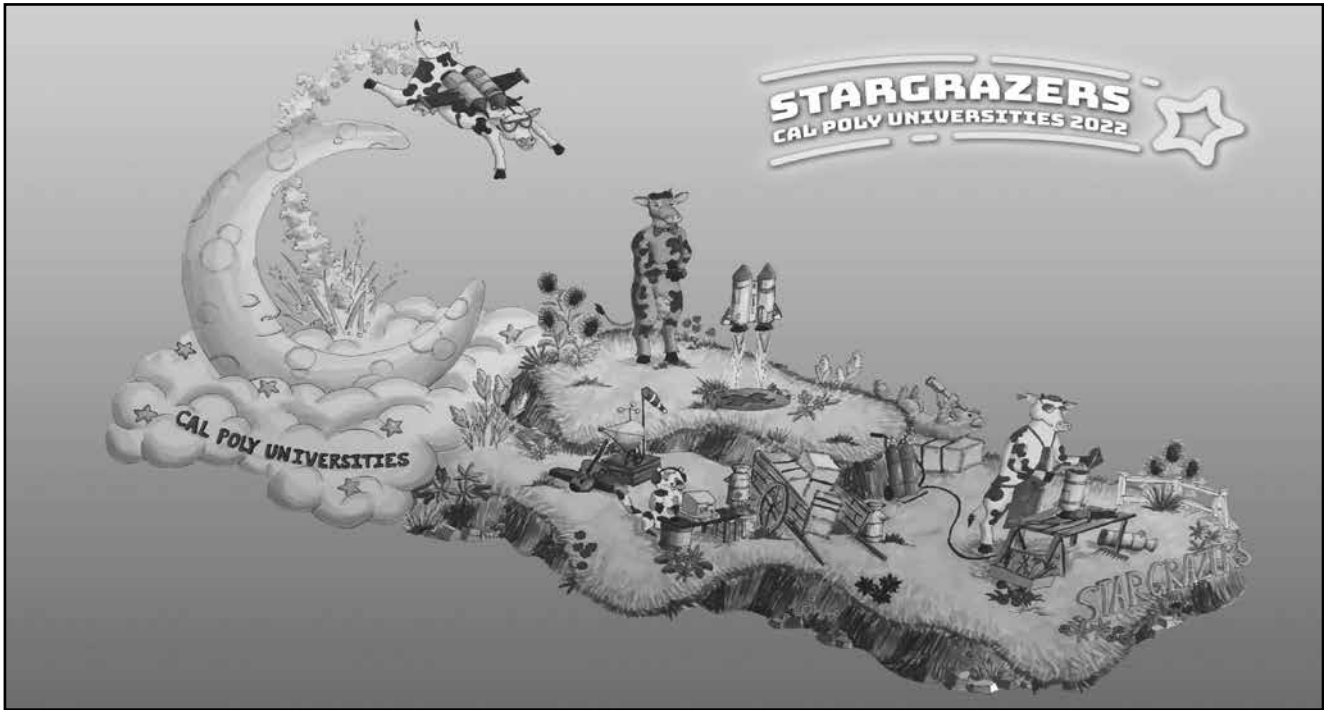
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Rose Float Entry Will Go Over the Moon



Hey, diddle, diddle, the Cal Poly universities’ 2022 Tournament of Roses Parade float features a cat and a fiddle — but the cow jumping over the moon will be wearing a jet pack.

When the parade returns on New Year’s Day after a one-year pandemic-related hiatus, the only student-built parade float will once again roll down Pasadena’s Colorado Boulevard. Called Stargazers, the float brings to life a scene from the classic Mother Goose nursery rhyme “Hey Diddle, Diddle,” except with an engineering twist that only

two polytechnic schools with a seven-decade connection to the Rose Parade could create.

The float aims to exemplify the 2022 theme of “Dream. Believe. Achieve.” The theme of the 133rd Rose Parade celebrates education’s ability to open doors, open minds and change lives.

Stargazers mixes the whimsy of the nursery rhyme with the hardworking atmosphere of a college campus. As the float travels the 5.5-mile-long parade route, the audience will see a cow jumping over a 15-foot moon, held

aloft by a jet pack made of metal milk cans and other farm materials. In the Cal Poly take on the six-line rhyme, three cows, along with their colleagues — the cat, a little dog, the dish and the spoon — are seen working to achieve the celebrated moo-n jump.

According to the teams of 20 students from each university, the cows also represent the float-building process. All year, while the bovine team has perfected its jet-pack technology, Cal Poly Rose Float students have been building the very frame to hoist the 600-pound cow into the air. The float also depicts numerous other stages of building: A brown cow tests one of the jet packs, while another wearing glasses and an apron is building a jet pack.

“Our team has been working on and refining this design for two years now, and I think all that hard work has really paid off,” said Regina Chapuis, president of the Cal Poly team in San Luis Obispo. “Much like how these cows are prototyping different jet packs for their big jump, we have been prototyping different iterations of this float before settling on this final design.”

The project is a labor of love, added Christopher Nares, president of the Cal Poly Pomona team.

“This float embodies our Rose Float family,” Nares said. “We work hard and may fall, but we always get back up and reach for the stars. The float building process is filled with so many unexpected challenges that it gives college students like us opportunities to hone our problem-solving and leadership abilities far beyond what many classrooms offer.”

“As college students, we are just taking our first steps in our various careers and industries. It is the power of education, the power to try and fail and then to try again, that will allow us to achieve whatever our personal ‘over the moon’ is.”

The building process itself exemplifies the 2022 parade theme. The students choose their concept in early spring, in this case, early spring of 2020. That was followed by working diagrams and plans, estimates and measurements. The ideas and imagery are refined, and then students discuss feet and inches, pounds of steel and numbers of floral blooms.

The Stargazers float will feature larger-than-life nursery rhyme characters, with lots of animations, and the entire float will be decked out “head to hoof” in natural material.

The decorations team brainstormed materials to use for the past two years. The design and construction teams worked hard to make sure that all the cows and their colleagues look lifelike and beautiful and are structurally sound.

“All three teams have been working together across two campuses to put everything into motion so that by the time the float goes down the parade route, the average viewer will have no idea it took hundreds of volunteer hours, tons of steel, and thousands and thousands of flowers,” McManus said.

Next year will be Cal Poly universities’ 73rd entry to the Pasadena classic, held annually on New Year’s Day. The 2020 parade was seen by 700,000 people in person and more than 70 million worldwide on television. The 2021 parade was canceled because of the COVID-19 pandemic.

For more on the Cal Poly Rose Float, visit www.facebook.com/rosefloat.



ESTERO BAY NEWS

Halloween decorating contest

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Creep-out your front yard or the front of your business to join in the fun. 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 to enter and for all the details.

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

Visit the esterobaynews.com/halloween for a list of all entries

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PG&E Awards Scholarships

Pacific Gas and Electric Co. announced that 40 students from across its service area will receive scholarships and two are from San Luis Obispo County.

The “2021 Better Together STEM Scholarship Program” gave out a total of \$250,000 with 20 kids getting \$10,000 scholarships and 20 getting \$2,500 awards, according to a news release.

Among the \$2,500 winners were Austin Acquisto of Templeton High School, who plans to attend UCLA; and Lulu Dai, from San Luis Obispo High, who plans to attend U.C. Berkeley.

The scholarships are given to students pursuing a degree in the Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) disciplines, which is taught at Los Osos Middle School and Morro Bay High, as well.

“STEM education fosters ingenuity, creativity, and experimentation,” the company said, “leading to new ideas, innovations, and technological advancements that can have global impact.”

One of the \$10,000 STEM scholarship winners is Magdaline Rose Gooch of Santa Barbara Senior High School, who is planning to go to U.C. Santa Barbara.

Scholarships are awarded based on academic achievement, demonstrated participation and leadership in school and community activities, and financial need.

Robert Kenney, PG&E Senior Vice President, Regulatory and External Affairs, and Chairman of The PG&E Corporation Foundation Board of Directors, said, “All of us at PG&E and The Foundation are focused on California’s future and supporting inclusive programs that assist the next generation of creators and innovators in STEM-based fields.”

Police Blotter



Morro Bay Police Logs

- **Oct. 10:** A citizen in the 1000 block of Monterey said his or her license plate was lost, dooming them to visit the DMV.
- **Oct. 10:** Police contacted a regular customer at 5:25 p.m. at the stationhouse on Morro Bay Boulevard. The careless lad, 41, had a warrant and was cited and released to no doubt miss court again.
- **Oct. 10:** Police towed a car parked in the 300 block of Hill for an expired registration, a hanging offense in this State.
- **Oct. 9:** Police stopped a suspicious vehicle at 10:30 p.m. on Hwy 1 at Yerba Buena. The driver, 19, had a suspended license, and was cited and released.
- **Oct. 9:** Police responded to the 400 block of Fresno to take a missing person report. No word on whether they’ve been found safe or entirely sound.
- **Oct. 9** Police responded at 1:30 p.m. to the 1100 block of Morro for a reported case of elder abuse.
- **Oct. 9:** Police stopped a car in the 600 block of Harbor and wound up towing it away because the driver apparently didn’t have a license, and no doubt insurance either.
- **Oct. 9:** Police responded at 7:55 a.m. to the Family Dollar store, 470 Quintana, where some reportedly intoxicated, cranky pants had a bell on every tooth and was causing a ruckus. The 47-year-old sponge was nicked for suspicion of being soaked in public.
- **Oct. 8:** Police responded at 4:41 p.m. to the 1700 block of Main for a car crash. No juicy details were given.
- **Oct. 8:** Police contacted a model citizen at 3:38 p.m. at Main and the Boulevard. The 37-year old little fish had two warrants and was cited and tossed back.
- **Oct. 8:** Police towed off another offending vehicle from the 400 block of Quintana for violation of the 72-hour move-it or lose-it law.
- **Oct. 8:** Police stopped a suspicious car at 10 a.m. at State Park Road and Main. The driver, 34, was nicked for suspicion of driving on a toot and hauled to the gaol.
- **Oct. 7:** Police responded at 11:57 p.m. to Coleman Drive at Embarcadero for some fool going wooly-booger. A 19-year-old fellow was arrested for suspicion of being kootered in public.
- **Oct. 7:** Police stopped a suspicious vehicle at 11 p.m. at Main and Atascadero Road. The driver, 23 was arrested for suspicion of driving with a snoot full but was eventually

- cited and released.
- **Oct. 7:** Police responded to a disturbance at 10 p.m. in the 2400 block of Main. An apparent boozy floozy, 26, was nicked for suspicion of public inebriation.
 - **Oct. 7:** Police responded at 8:12 p.m. to a car crash at Main and Atascadero Rd., site of a future roundabout. No injuries reported.
 - **Oct. 7:** Someone turned over something they found at the Azure Dunes beach access. If you can guess what it is, you should get a show in Vegas.
 - **Oct. 7:** Police worked a car crackup at the high school.
 - **Oct. 7:** A 43-year-old hombre apparently gave himself up at the police station on two warrants. He was given another disappearance ticket and released.
 - **Oct. 6:** Police stopped a suspicious car at 7:53 p.m. in the 500 block of Atascadero Rd. The 41-year-old driver was allegedly schnockered and they cited him and let him go, presumably with some un-schnockered person driving.
 - **Oct. 6:** Police caught up to a couple of alleged thieves at 2:45 p.m. in the 300 block of Embarcadero. One alleged klepto, 30, was cited for suspicion of petty theft and another fellow, 27, was cited on suspicion of possessing stolen property, which sounds a bit like conspiracy, too.
 - **Oct. 6:** Police investigated a reported case of suspected child abuse on Bolton but concluded it was unfounded. They looked into another report of child abuse on Madera and that one too was deemed unfounded.
 - **Oct. 6:** Police responded to the 2400 block of Main for a reported burglary of an unlocked storage container and a locked vehicle by some apparently determined thieves.
 - **Oct. 5:** Police responded at 4:16 p.m. to another car crash at MBB and Piney Way.
 - **Oct. 5:** Police contacted a man in the 300 block of Quintana. The 37-year-old negligentleman had neglected to appear on four warrants, so police issued him another.
 - **Oct. 5:** Police responded to an uncivil dispute at 4:35 a.m. in the 500 block of Quintana. Logs indicated the beef was over an alleged stolen car, which ought to be easy enough to settle.
- Note:** The media logs for the week of Sept. 26-Oct. 3 were missing the date for each entry. So the dates for the following entries were guesstimated by the reporter.
- **Oct. 3:** Police documented a case of vandalism by some misbegotten knaves in the 2800 block of Alder.
 - **Oct. 3:** Police contacted some scofflaw at 6:40 p.m. in the 1400 block of Teresa Dr. The nillionaire had a bench warrant, was issued another disappearance ticket and released.
 - **Oct. 3:** Not to be outdone, police contacted another rogue fellow, 38, in City Park at 3:51 p.m. who had five bench warrants. Alas, he too was cited and released to continue his walk on the wild side.
 - **Oct. 2:** Police responded at 10:10 p.m. to a reported house burglary in the 900 block of Monterey. Logs indicated the unknown scoundrel used a spare key, which sounds

- like an inside job.
- **Oct. 2:** Miner’s Ace Hardware in the 500 block of Atascadero Rd., said some thief used the help-yourself lane. No word on what booty was pinched.
 - **Oct. 2:** Police contacted a suspicious fellow at 4:24 p.m. in the 600 block of Quintana. The 52-year old had a pair of bench warrants and was dealt a future third and released ‘til next time...
 - **Oct. 2:** Police towed an offensive vehicle parked so long as to apparently fluffle the sneetches in the 400 block of Trinidad.
 - **Oct. 2:** Police contacted one of their best customers at 10:50 a.m. in the 700 block of Embarcadero. The 40-year-old fellow had a warrant and was cited and released onto the carousel, but sorry there’s no brass ring.
 - **Oct. 2:** Somebody found something somewhere in the 300 block of Embarcadero sometime overnight. Police have that something stored somewhere hoping someone will claim it sometime soon.
 - **Oct. 2:** Police contacted a wanted man, 41, at 12:30 a.m. in the 1700 block of Main. The swizzle stick had a warrant and was actually arrested.
 - **Oct. 1:** A citizen turned in a gold wedding band they’d found at some undisclosed location, the ring loser is encouraged to claim it before his wife finds out.
 - **Oct. 1:** A citizen in the 300 block of Piney Way had the catalytic converter stolen off his or her car.
 - **Oct. 1:** Police stopped a suspicious vehicle at the suspect time of 12:11 a.m. for some mechanical violation. The woman driver, 43, had a suspended license. She was cited and her car imprisoned in impound, which hardly seems fair.
 - **Oct. 1:** Someone found a bicycle and rode it over to the police station.
 - **Sept. 30:** Police contacted some swizzle stick sashaying down the 700 block of Quintana. The 37-year-old borracho was nicked for suspicion of being saucy in public.
 - **Sept. 30:** Police responded at 2:40 a.m. to a disturbance in the 400 block of Rennel. A 25-year-old apparent ruffian was arrested for suspicion of battery.
 - **Sept. 30:** Police responded at 5:30 p.m. to a hit-n-split in the Albertson’s parking lot. Police identified the moon-raker responsible and filed a complaint with the district attorney. They responded at 7:45 p.m. to another smash-n-dash in the Coast Electronics parking lot and that dirty fiend apparently got clean away.
 - **Sept. 29:** The school officer documented at 8:45 a.m. a fight between three students at the high school. No word on who won but all three will no doubt lose.
 - **Sept. 28:** Police arrested another Mamaluke with a warrant at 10:24 p.m. in the 700 block of Quintana.
 - **Sept. 26:** Police responded at 2 p.m. to the 800 block of Piney Way where a citizen said his or her RV was stolen while it was in for service at a local business. At 10 p.m. police logged in some property that was recovered in connection with this case.

October 2021

DTSC PUBLIC NOTICE

Department of Toxic Substances Control – Our mission is to protect the people, communities, and environment of California from harmful chemicals by cleaning up contaminated sites, enforcing hazardous waste laws, and compelling the development of safer products.

Draft Revised Statement of Basis Available for Review

Morro Bay Power Company portion of the Morro Bay Power Plant

1290 Embarcadero, Morro Bay, California

Public Comment Period: October 14, 2021 to December 9, 2021

WHAT IS BEING PROPOSED?

The California Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) invites you to review and comment on a proposed plan, called a draft Revised Statement of Basis, to manage contamination in select areas at the Morro Bay Power Plant located at 1290 Embarcadero in Morro Bay (Site). Pacific Gas and Electric Company (PG&E) began generating electricity at the power plant in 1955 using either natural gas or oil as a fuel source. In 1998, PG&E transferred ownership of the Site to Duke Energy Morro Bay, LLC and then to Dynegy. In 2014, Dynegy closed the power plant. In 2020, Dynegy changed its name to the Morro Bay Power Company (MBPC). As the original owner of the power plant, PG&E remains responsible for investigating and addressing environmental conditions resulting from historical power generation activities. Any actions to demolish or redevelop the property are not a part of this project and will be handled separately by MBPC.

PG&E and MBPC have conducted environmental investigations at the Site that have found the presence of total petroleum hydrocarbons (TPH) and metals in soil that are greater than residential levels in a portion of AOC 1. To address these chemicals of concern, the Revised Statement of Basis proposes managing impacts in place by implementing a land use covenant (LUC) that restricts select areas of the Site to future commercial/industrial uses. A Soil Management Plan has also been established that describes the safe handling and disposal of contaminated soil should it be disturbed during any future earthmoving work. DTSC would also require the current property owner to conduct annual inspections and reporting to ensure the land use remains compliant with the LUC and that the site use remains protective over time. This proposed remedy would offer long-term protection of human health and the environment under approved land uses without causing any disruption to the community.

CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY ACT (CEQA): The remedy will not require construction or implementation of a physical remedy and therefore is exempt from CEQA.


HOW DO I PARTICIPATE? During the public comment period, from **October 14 to December 9, 2021**, we encourage you to review the draft Revised Statement of Basis. Please send comments no later than **December 9, 2021** to: John Bystra, Project Manager, DTSC Sacramento Office, 8800 Cal Center Drive, Sacramento, CA 95826 or by e-mail to John.Bystra@dtsc.ca.gov. DTSC will also hold a public meeting on Zoom on November 16, 2021, from 6:00 PM to 8:00 PM, to present information about this Revised Statement of Basis and take questions and comments from the public. Please register for the meeting in advance at: <https://tinyurl.com/MorroBayPlant>.

WHERE DO I GET MORE INFORMATION?


- Morro Bay Public Library - 625 Harbor Street, Morro Bay, CA 93442; (805) 772-6394; call for hours
- DTSC – File Room, 8800 Cal Center Drive, Sacramento, CA 95826; (916) 255-3758; call for an appointment
- DTSC’s EnviroStor database: https://www.envirostor.dtsc.ca.gov/public/profile_report?global_id=80001832


CONTACT INFORMATION: For questions, please contact:

- John Bystra, Project Manager, at (916) 255-3669, or John.Bystra@dtsc.ca.gov
- Kerry Rasmussen, Public Participation Specialist, at (916) 255-3650, toll free at (866) 495-5651, or Kerry.Rasmussen@dtsc.ca.gov
- **For media requests:** Sandford Nax, Public Information Officer, (916) 327-6114 or Sandford.Nax@dtsc.ca.gov



Hearing impaired individuals may use the California Relay Service at 711 or 800-735-2929 TTY/VCO/HCO to voice.





Additional information on DTSC sites can be found through our EnviroStor. (rev. 5-2020)

Morro Bay

Rotary

“People of Action”



Presents a Drive thru BBQ EVENT!

WEDNESDAY - NOVEMBER 17, 2021

Full Size PREMIUM TRI TIP ROAST,

Sourdough Garlic Bread Loaf,

Garden Salad,

Ranch Style Beans,

Serves up to 6 people!

Drive Thru Pick up at

Carla’s Country Kitchen

213 Beach Street, Morro Bay

5:00-6:00 PM on Wednesday, Nov. 17th

COMPLETE MEAL FOR \$50!

Purchase advance tickets by 11/15 at

Morrobayrotary.org



All Proceeds Help Us Help Others

Community

Events From page 9

All funds and proceeds from the Butterfly Ball go towards the education and conservation of the western monarch butterfly. Your support helps preserve this iconic species that overwinters in our local State Parks.

• • •

The Almond Country Quilt Guild presents its Annual Quilt Auction on Saturday, Nov. 6 at Trinity Lutheran Church at 940 Creston Road in Paso Robles. There will be a wide assortment of quilts and quilted wearable's to bid on. Not Just Your Grandmother's Quilts but amazing works of art. Doors open at 6 p.m. for the silent auction and viewing of the live auction quilts. The live auction starts at 7 p.m.

A portion of the auction proceeds will go to the Cancer Support Community and Lumina Alliance (formally RISE and Stand Strong).



After more than a year of virtual music making, Cal Poly's jazz groups will return to in-person concertizing at 7:30 p.m. Friday, Nov. 12, in the Pavilion of the Performing Arts Center. The Cal Poly Jazz Ensemble, Vocal Jazz Ensemble and Contemporary Jazz Ensemble will be joined by the new Commercial Music Ensemble, which performs rock, Motown, funk, modern pop, video game music, and other styles of popular music from a jazz perspective. Arthur White, director of jazz studies, directs the groups.

The concert will celebrate both the return of live concerts and the release of the double album "another time, another place," which was recorded during the pandemic from students' homes. The CD features the Jazz Ensemble and Vocal Jazz Ensemble performing original compositions and new arrangements by White and Davis Zamboanga (Music, '20). The program will also include compositions that have been performed by the Count Basie Orchestra, Yellowjackets, Tower of Power, Aretha Franklin, New York Voices, Art Blakey and the Jazz Messengers, and others.

Tickets are \$20 for the public, and \$10 for students and Jazz Federation members. Event parking is sponsored by the PAC. Tickets are available at the Cal Poly Ticket Office between noon and 6 p.m. Monday through Saturday. To order by phone, call 805-SLO-4TIX (805-756-4849).

• • •

The arts are back in-person at Cuesta College. The following events at the CPAC will be live indoor concerts with COVID-19 protocols and vaccination/testing requirements in place. The concerts are also available via live stream at a discounted price. General admission tickets are \$15, student tickets are \$10, and virtual tickets are \$5. Tickets are available for purchase at tickets.cuesta.edu.

• Cuesta Choirs: Back into the Groove featuring Cuesta Voce and Chamber Singers is on Thursday, Oct. 28 at 7:30 p.m. at the Harold J. Miossi CPAC Mainstage Theater. Enjoy a wide variety of groove-based music, ranging from Jazz to Gospel to multi-meter modern dance forms and classical waltzes with Cuesta College's two top vocal ensembles.

• The Harold J. Miossi Art Gallery at Cuesta College is partnering with R.A.C.E. Matters SLO's Belonging Project to present we are here, an exhibition of Black portraits of community members who speak their individual and collective truths as creatives, activists, entrepreneurs, parents, and community members. The photographic collection

is inspired by the work of famed abolitionist, writer, and statesman Frederick Douglass, who viewed Black self-representation and photographic portraiture as powerful tools for supporting Black liberation. The opening reception is on Friday, Oct. 15, from 5 – 7:30 p.m. A panel discussion will also be held via Zoom at bit.ly/cuestawearehere on Thursday, Oct. 21, at 5:30 p.m. Admission to the gallery is free. Visit the gallery webpage or call (805) 546-3202 for a schedule of exhibits and hours of operation. Students, employees, and visitors who access Cuesta College campuses and facilities must provide proof of vaccination against COVID-19 or a negative test within 72 hours of the campus visit. Following CDC guidelines, proper face coverings are required in all indoor public areas and shared spaces for everyone, regardless of vaccination status. Find out more about Cuesta College's vaccine requirement at cuesta.edu/vaccine.



Join Camp Ocean Pines on October 31 from 1 - 4 p.m. for an afternoon of fall fun! This open house-style event is suited for the young and the young-at-heart. Free activities include face painting, a pumpkin patch, archery, caramel apple decorating, hay rides, meet-n-greets with Camp's animal ambassadors, and axe throwing. Festival-goers can also explore Camp's serene grounds including coastal Monterey Pines, Hammock Village, the Rainbow Amphitheatre, and 10 beautifully designed straw bale cabins. Soak up the incredible ocean views, and if guests are lucky, they can catch the sound of the sea lions from the nearby beach. Food will be available for purchase. And for guests over 21, local wine and beer tastings from Hearst Ranch Winery, 927 Beer Company, and Stolo Vineyards will be offered. Everyone is invited to join in the free event located at 1473 Randall Drive, Cambria. Photo by Camp Ocean Pines

• • •

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

Witches Paddle, Oct. 29



Morro Bay harbor will again be bewitched when the 8th Annual Witch's Paddle takes to the water in a Halloween treat for the community.

The Morro Bay Witch's Paddle is set for 4 p.m. Friday, Oct. 29. Meet at Coleman Beach if you plan to join the wickedness and help raise money for the Food Bank Coalition of SLO County.

And in case you were wondering why witches are often shown with green skin and flying on broomsticks, blame that on the "Wizard of Oz." It seems the producers of that first great Technicolor blockbuster, released in 1939, chose to paint Wicked Witch of the West portrayer, Margaret Hamilton's face green because of how well it showed up on color film, in what was a brand new process in filmmaking.

In the 1900 book, "The Wizard of Oz," by L. Frank Baum, the Wicked Witch's skin color plays no part. It has however helped give children nightmares since the release of the film, and now is the standard for Halloween witch costumes.

Shown here are some of the paddle boarders from past events.





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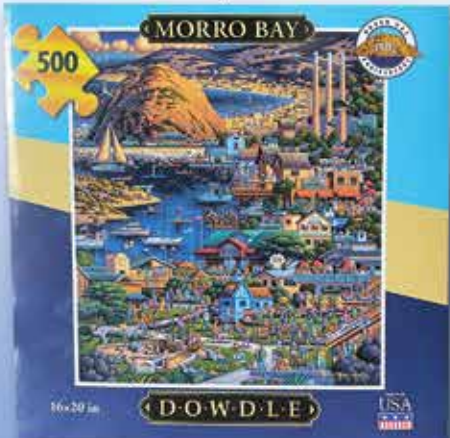
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Hey - have you heard??

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

13th Annual Scarecrow Festival

Photos by PhotoByVivian.com



The 13th Annual Cambria Scarecrow Festival kicked off Oct. 1 transforming Cambria into a whimsical, outdoor art show with a smattering of unique “scarecrows,” on display by local merchants and this year featuring a fun costume, wine tasting party.

The festival organizers are hosting a “Salute to Scarecrows: A Starlit Food and Wine Celebration of Cambria” set for 6-8 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 30 at the Cambria Pines Nursery. Tickets are \$40 a person and available online at: www.cambriascarecrows.com/events.

Attendees are encouraged to dress in costume, though not required, and there will be prizes awarded and a costume contest.

Participating restaurants are: Cambria Pines Lodge, Linn’s, Madeline’s, Robin’s Restaurant, and Moonstone Beach Bar and Grill.

There will be wine, beer and hard cider tastings from local providers: 927 Brewery, Bassetti Vineyards, Black Hand Cellars, Cutruzzola Vineyards, Cayucos Cellars,

Daou Family Estates, Harmony Cellars, Moonstone Cellars, and Stolo Family Vineyards.

Begun in 2009, the Scarecrow Festival has grown from just 30 at the start to over 100 today in three communities.

As always, this family-friendly activity is free to the public and is best viewed during daylight hours. In response to continuing COVID concerns, many of the scarecrows will be grouped into large display areas that can support social distancing while viewing and to minimize crowding on the town’s narrow sidewalks.


You’ll see scarecrows bowling, bathing, painting, pedaling, fishing and flying through Cambria, San Simeon and Harmony. There are whimsical scarecrows, artistic ones, scary ones and even a tribute to first responders. The festival ends Oct. 31.

Shown here are some of the 2021 scarecrows. See: cambriascarecrows.com for information on the scarecrows. See more photos at PhotoByVivian.com.



OUT & ABOUT

WITH THE BOOKSHELF WRITERS



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

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

In The Chill of Hang Glider Hill

By Debbie Black

On the northeastern flank of Hang Glider Hill lies a curiosity that rises out of the dense fog like something from a gothic horror movie. My husband Garth and I happened upon it while hiking, many years ago when we first came to Cayucos — an old rusted van lying askew in the wet grass, seemingly being absorbed by the good Earth herself.

This wasn’t just any derelict, forgotten van. Once a shiny new vehicle that must have made someone proud, this now abandoned relic with busted-out windows and missing doors had a story to tell. Someone, or some thing, had piled boulders the size of junior gargoyles around its base and inside its dead interior.

We circled it in opposite directions, meeting on its backside with a shared, “Wow. What the heck is this?” In the ensuing years, each time we hiked there’d be a few more rocks, slowly burying the van until just a rusted appendage stuck out here or there. Our curiosity and fascination grew. It wasn’t until twelve years later that I stumbled onto the answer.

In a random conversation this year, a friend of ours told us the story of a local Cayucan who had for years stacked boulders around the van, burying it little by lit-



The mysterious thing on Hang Glider Hill

tle. I wanted to know why. As a piece of art? A tribute or memorial? Or, just because?

I reached out to the gentleman. With his immediate and enthusiastic response, I got the answers I was looking for and a new friend. I found a compassionate, dedicated man, with an impressive bio, who walks the walk of community commitment. I would love to share his name, and that of his equally dedicated wife, but he requested that I do not publish their names. As you read on, you’ll understand why he’d prefer to leave it a mystery.

“My family has had a home in Cayucos since the 1970s and my wife and I were able to move here permanently in 2007,” he

Hang Glider Hill Continued on page 12

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By Theresa-Marie Wilson

Share Hope Fundraiser for Cancer Patients

Dignity Health is supporting the Hearst Cancer Resource Center of French Hospital Medical Center through the Share Hope campaign running through the end of the month. The goal is to raise \$250,000 to continue offering patients and their families free access to vital resources, programs and services. All donations go directly to local cancer patients who are facing financial hardship. Monies help pay for non-medical expenses through the Hearst Cancer Resource Center's Angel of Hope Program. Financial assistance allows cancer patients to continue treatment uninterrupted by helping them with day-to-day expenses, such as rent, transportation, groceries, childcare and more. To make a donation, go to unite.chiphilanthropy.org/sharehope.

How to Start a Nonprofit

Spokes is offering an online workshop on the basics of starting a nonprofit organization on November 16 from 10:30 a.m. to 12 p.m. to help anyone who is thinking of starting a new nonprofit. Topics include questions people should ask before going further and why they need to develop a nonprofit business plan. The workshop fee is \$35. To learn more, visit the Spokes website, www.spokesfor nonprofits.org or call 805-547-2244. For ten years, Spokes has helped nonprofits to achieve their goals through support and expert resources. Spokes supports the nonprofit community through consulting services, online resources, roundtables, workshops and other events. Spokes is a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt organization.

Diversity Coalition Podcast

The Diversity Coalition San Luis Obispo's SLO Equity podcast dives into the origins of systemic racism, and unconscious bias in San Luis Obispo County. It tells the stories of the minorities affected by it as well as the stories of those people working to improve diversity, equity, and inclusion in this predominantly white community. They investigate how businesses, community members, local schools, and government are navigating conversations of diversity, equity and inclusion and how community members can get involved and become allies in the fight for equality. Check it out at sloequity.org and anywhere else you listen to podcasts.

Perfect Union Continues Donation Trend

A local non-profit is one of the recipients of cannabis retailer Perfect Union's community outreach. The company announced \$1,000 donations to nine animal welfare organizations in communities they operate or plan to expand.

The list includes

- Pacific Wildlife Care (Morro Bay)
- Animal Place (Grass Valley)
- ASTRO Foundation (Riverbank)
- Napa Humane Society (Napa)
- Sacramento SPCA (Sacramento)
- Siskiyou Humane Society (Weed)
- SPCA of Monterey (Seaside)
- Turlock Animal Services (Turlock)
- Ukiah Animal Shelter (Ukiah)

The donations honored World Animal Day (October 4, 2021), which aims to create a world where animals are recognized as sentient beings and full regard is paid to their welfare.

"From day one, we've made it part of our mission to invest in like-minded community partners that reflect the company's culture and mission," said Perfect Union CEO David Spradlin. "We support animal welfare groups that work tirelessly to end animal cruelty and exploitation, so we're proud to support the staff and volunteers who make magic happen for these animals in the face of increased demand and limited resources."

Discovery Route Wins Award

Monterey Bay National Sanctuary Foundation received an award that could have an impact on coastal areas in SLO County. MBNSF received the Highway 1 Discovery Route "Sanctuary Sea Star" for its Stewardship Travel for Good Program which promotes sustainable travel in San Luis Obispo County along the 100-mile stretch of Highway 1 between Big Sur and Santa Barbara. The award, presented during a recent award presentation, applauded Highway 1's ongoing efforts to protect the sanctuary and inspire the public by promoting protection and education to increase awareness for all visitors to the area.

The Stewardship Travel for Good Program promotes educational and conservation activities designed to create a deeper connection with scientists, naturalists, wildlife and heritage sites along California's Highway 1 Discovery Route in coastal San Luis Obispo County

Stewardship Travel activity examples:

- Kayaking to a historic lighthouse in Avila Beach
- Trail and habitat restoration in Montana de Oro State Park
- Educational opportunities to protect wildlife with wildlife viewing tips
- Beach Clean Up kits in Avila Beach
- Utilizing the Coastal Discovery Trail Map and History and Heritage Trail Map to discover key Stewardship activity points of interest

It's more important now than ever for both locals and visitors to seek out ways to travel sustainably and be part of caring for our region's nature and culture in order to keep this stretch of Highway 1 flourishing," says Katie

Sturtevant, director of the Stewardship Travel for Good Program. "Whether people are visiting for the wine, opens spaces, wildlife, outdoor activities or beautiful scenery, we're hoping to inspire people to engage in sustainable activities and strive to make a difference while visiting this beautiful 100-mile stretch of Highway 1."

Check out the Highway 1 Discover Route at highway1discoveryroute.com.

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.

Hang Glider Hill From page 11

told me. "We started climbing up HGH [Hang Glider Hill] and, when our dogs were younger, went to the top almost every day for years. Unfortunately the wrecked van — and the adjacent wrecked truck that was there for a while too — became a place where people came to shoot. The shooting was one thing, but the littering and dumping was a real annoyance. As HGH is kind of a no-man's land, there wasn't much we could do about it but clean it up.



Where it all started

"My wife and I hauled out couches, refrigerators, and old paint cans. The shooters would drag it up there, blast away and leave the debris, plus all the rest of their trash, and it was just constant work. I started filling the inside of the van with boulders to prevent the shooters from filling it with crap. I just kept putting boulders on everyday for years. The result is that shooters apparently don't find it such a desirable spot, perhaps because of the ricochet factor. The trash problem has been very largely reduced." (For the record, neither he nor I are connecting hang gliders to shooting and littering!)

Is he still adding rocks? Not often. But for his sixtieth birthday, he hauled up and placed sixty more boulders!

Sadly, these are peculiar times when good deeds may cause unexpected reactions from others. And it's unnerving if those others are armed. There are so many more things that this man has done for the Estero Bay community, but unfortunately I'm not able to share them with you at this time for the above reason — perhaps when we return to

Hang Glider Hill Continued on page 15

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Letters
to the
Editor



No Paid Parking
in Morro Bay

When I visit Morro, I look forward to reading Estero Bay News. A recent article on paid parking prompts my comment. I feel that city planners and city councils get persuaded by the prospect of easy money and the legacy items the money could buy. Paid parking seems a tailor made funding source. I am opposed to this. The reason for parking meters is to move potential customers in and out of business zones. In Morro, this may produce unwanted effects. It may serve to reduce the volume of foot traffic in shopping areas, it will negatively impact water sports and excursion rides, it will cost the city one or more full time employees, including health and retirement, as meter readers. It will cost the city for the meter reading vehicles. It will cost the city to contract with a collection agency. It will move visitor traffic into residential zones. It may increase littering and other intentional expressions of displeasure, there will likely be vandalism of the machines adding to the cost of their purchase and installation.

Overall, I believe it will lose the city money in revenue and sales tax income. Finally, it is well known that coastal governmental bodies feel a sense of ownership because of location, yet feel resentment for the laws that grant the public access to public spaces. In effect, if I can't charge you for the beach, I'll charge you to park next to it. It is freedom's death by a thousand slices, and I hope the business community stands fast in opposition.

Glenn Mitchell
Coalinga, CA.

The Rapture is Coming

In regards to William Fritch's letter to the editor of the Estero Bay News (Vol. 3, Issue 19), I personally have an unique relationship with Jesus Christ. I have since my mother's 35th birthday on August 15, 1975, between 3rd and 4th grade at Peachland Elementary School, in the town of Newhall, California in the Santa Clarita Valley. The first church I attended was Grace Baptist Church in the town many years ago. I have been very happy with my relationship with Jesus, with my two best friends Marty Pedigo (who I led to the Lord Jesus) on Sunday, April 10, 1983 in Visalia, CA during my junior year at Golden West High School (Trailblazers), and Richard Ricketts, from Atascadero, CA. as well as my former teacher Dan Sear as a brother in Christian and a former wrestling coach. What you don't understand is that I have a loving heart due to being caring and compassionate and listening to my favorite Contemporary Christian Music singer Twila Paris since 1989. In closing as a witness for you, don't wait too long, because the Rapture of the church is around.

Scott C. Presnal
Morro Bay

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

Opinion
A Different Perspective
on Cayucos Vets Hall

I read the article about the Cayucos Veterans Hall in the recent edition of the Estero Bay News (Vol. 3, Issue 18) and the new community effort to raise money and send the County an "emphatic message" and to "light a fire under the County and get the hall fixed." As a resident of Cayucos and a member of the Cayucos Lions Club, I would like to add some additional information from my perspective.

There are two components in caring for the hall. The first is the physical maintenance of the building, and the County has been responsible for that. The closure was the result of not maintaining the hall and letting it fall into such disrepair over time that the only option was to close it. The same thing happened with the Cayucos Pier. For me, this clearly demonstrates a lack of commitment and responsibility by the County for these historical cornerstones of our community.

The other component of caring for the hall is managing the use of the building for events. Once the hall is reopened, the article stated, "The Cayucos Lions Club has been in charge of managing the Vets Hall, but County Parks is expected to take over those duties." This brief sentence deserves some consideration, because I do not believe that management of the hall by the County represents the best for Cayucos, coupled with the way in which the hall and pier were maintained under County oversight, forcing the closure of both. The fact is the Cayucos Lions Club has managed the Hall for the last 40 years (at no cost to the County) based on a long-standing agreement and the Lions have been an excellent steward of the Hall and for the community. The Lions kept the rental costs affordable for our community, and all the income raised went directly back into Cayucos and our neighboring communities, including Morro Bay, Atascadero, and fire relief for further outlying towns. I believe the County sees the opportunity to take control and use this income for purposes other than for the benefit of our local coastal towns.

Here are some facts about the management of the Vets Hall under the Cayucos Lions:

During the 7 years prior to the closure in 2016 the Cayucos Lions managed the hall and paid the monthly bills. The Lions used the Vet's Hall income to fund over \$125K into programs that benefitted the community. These programs included scholarships, free swim passes for those in need, the food bank, beach playground equipment, building and maintaining the skate park, fire dept equipment and defibrillators, maintenance of the sculpture at the entrance to the pier, installation of the concrete patio in the picnic area behind the hall, pier restoration, and the list goes on. My question is: What is the County planning to do with the money when they take it over?

After the hall was closed, there were monthly bills that still needed to be paid, even though the Hall was not able to generate income for the community. The Cayucos Lions were led to believe that the agreement with the Lions would continue and the Lions would manage the Hall after it was reopened. In good faith the Lions continued to pay these monthly bills for the County, as they had always done as part of the agreement. These bills include electric, gas, sewer, garbage, security, etc. and they amount to over \$46K during the last 5 years. In my opinion, if the County has chosen not to honor their word, then they should refund that money to the Lions so that it can be used for our community.

Regarding demonstration of community interest in the hall and in sending the County and "emphatic message" about Cayucos' commitment, the Lions raised \$115K in the first few years after closure for fitting-out the hall once it was repaired. This money is for tables, chairs, cookware, window coverings, etc. ... all the things needed to use the hall. The County knows about this money and the efforts already made. It is still sitting there, waiting to be used for that purpose. In my opinion, the County already got that "emphatic message" several years ago. Now they want yet another message to refresh their memory.

In conclusion, I believe that the only thing that Cayucos wants is a useable building. I personally don't want a lavish restoration and unneeded "improvements" and artists renderings that have been on display for the last three years. Keep it simple; the hall represents a solid business plan that will generate an excellent income stream for the community. After witnessing the closure of the pier and the hall due to the County's inability to maintain them, I am opposed to the County taking management of the hall out of local hands and doing it themselves. The Lions have demonstrated decades of good stewardship and proven fiscal responsibility for the hall.

I think the County should be ashamed for letting this issue go unresolved for five years and for their decision to backtrack on how the hall has been managed for the last 4 decades. For me, the County has sent the town a clear message: "Cayucos, raise the money yourselves to fix your hall, and then we're going to take the hall away from you and use the income for what we want".

I applaud the Cayucos community for forming a Veterans Hall Restoration committee and I will be sending in my family's donation after I finish this letter.

Phil Kiesewetter
Cayucos resident and member of the Cayucos Lions Club

Friends Indeed of the
Harbor Department



From left, Harbor Patrolman Dana Stein, Friends President Bill Luffee and Harbor Patrol Chief Becka Kelly celebrate the \$100,000 donation. Submitted photo

The Friends of the Harbor Department completed its latest mission to help improve harbor services in Morro Bay, paying to re-outfit a patrol boat and help keep the department's fleet afloat.

The Harbor Department announced that on Oct. 7 it got a check for \$100,000 from the Friends to help retrofit a used patrol boat it got from Port San Luis to replace the department's old warhorse Radon Craft patrol boat that was falling apart, literally.

The "lightly-used" patrol boat was purchased last year using an \$85,000 grant form the State Department of Boating and Waterways, according to a news release from the department.

But simply getting the boat wasn't going to cut it for what Morro bay needed it to do, missing certain equipment like better firefighting capabilities to meet its needs. Ordinarily, the department would save up money, and hunt up grants to put together enough to buy a custom-made boat (usually a Radon), which could cost upwards of \$300,000.

The Friends launched an ambitious fund-raising campaign in September 2020 to raise \$100,000 to help

Friends Continued on page 15

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Music

Halloweekend at Schooners



Schooners is going big for Halloween with a 2 day celebration with live music, drink specials, costume and painted pumpkin contests. Saturday 10/30 kicks off with The Coffis Brothers at 6pm, and Sunday’s festivities start at 5:30 with the Bogeys and then the Triptides. The entire weekend is free of charge. Schooners is located at 171 N. Ocean Ave. in Cayucos

- Thu., Oct. 21** • 7:00pm
Robert Alberts Quintet
The Madonna Inn
100 Madonna Road,
San Luis Obispo

Fri., Oct. 22 • 7:30pm
Festival Mozaic Presents:
Lucia Micarelli
Harold J. Miossi Cultural and
Performing Arts Center
Cuesta College,
San Luis Obispo

Fri., Oct. 22 • 7:30pm
Fitz and The Tantrums
Vina Robles Amphitheatre
3800 Mill Road, Paso Robles

Fri., Oct. 22 • 7:00pm
Jim Barnett Trio
AMSTRDM
725 13th Street, Paso Robles

Fri., Oct. 22 • 8:00pm
Lula Washington Dance
Theatre
Performing Arts Center
1 Grand Ave, San Luis Obispo

- Fri., Oct. 22** • 8:30pm
Noach Tangeras Band
The Siren
900 Main St, Morro Bay

Fri., Oct. 22 • 11:00pm
Whethan
The Fremont Theater
1035 Monterey St,
San Luis Obispo

Sat., Oct. 23 • 3:00pm
Butterfly Ball: Mother Corn
Shuckers
Octagon Barn
4400 Octagon Way,
San Luis Obispo

Sat., Oct. 23 • 8:00pm
Molly Ringwald Project Hal-
loween Party
The Siren
900 Main St, Morro Bay

Sat., Oct. 23 • 8:00pm
Robert Earl Keen
The Fremont Theater
1035 Monterey St, San Luis
Obispo

- Sat., Oct. 23** • 7:00pm
Starlight Dreamband
The Madonna Inn
100 Madonna Road,
San Luis Obispo

Sat., Oct. 23 • 2:00pm
Unfinished Business - Beatles
The Clubhouse Grill at Sea
Pines
250 Howard Ave, Los Osos

Sun., Oct. 24 • 4:00pm
Barrel Room Concert Series:
Brass Mash
Cass Winery
7350 Linne Road, Paso Robles

Sun., Oct. 24 • 7:00pm
FRUIT BATS
SLO Brew Rock
855 Aerovista Place,
San Luis Obispo

Sun., Oct. 24 • 1:00pm
Lazy Locals Concert - Way Out
West Band
Castoro Cellars Winery
1315 N Bethel Rd, Templeton

Paul’s Picks

Zongo All-Stars
Halloween Show



At long last, Zongo All-Stars return to Sea Pines for the big annual Halloween party on Saturday, October 30! Zongo will bring their unique blend of Afro-Latin/Tropical dance music, and it’s time to brush off those dance moves. Great prizes for the scariest, funniest, and most creative costumes. The show starts at 2pm with Curt Miller’s reggae/ska band “In the Groove”, and Zongo plays 3-6pm. Free and all ages welcome!

- Thu., Oct. 28** • 7:30pm
Cuesta Choirs: Back in the
Groove Concert
Cuesta College
Highway 1, San Luis Obispo

Thu., Oct. 28 • 7:00pm
Goth Babe at the Fremont
Theater
The Fremont Theater
1035 Monterey St,
San Luis Obispo

Thu., Oct. 28 • 7:30pm
Kronos Quartet CPA2022
Performing Arts Center
1 Grand Ave, San Luis Obispo

Thu., Oct. 28 • 7:00pm
Mickey Avalon
The Siren
900 Main St, Morro Bay

Fri., Oct. 29 • 7:00pm
Jim Barnett Trio
AMSTRDM
725 13th Street, Paso Robles

- Fri., Oct. 29** • 8:00pm
Stephen Marley
Vina Robles Amphitheatre
3800 Mill Road, Paso Robles

Fri., Oct. 29 • 7:30pm
Stevie Nick Illusion
The Siren
900 Main St, Morro Bay

Sat., Oct. 30 • 2:30pm
Back Pages Band
The Siren
900 Main St, Morro Bay

Sat., Oct. 30 • 6:00pm
Halloweekend: Coffis Brothers
Schooners
171 N Ocean Ave, Cayucos

Sat., Oct. 30 • 8:00pm
Wordsauce & the Vibe Setters
The Siren
900 Main St, Morro Bay

Sat., Oct. 30 • 2:00pm
Jazz & Blues Jam Session

- Top Dog Coffee Bar & Bistro
857 Main Street, Morro Bay

Sun., Oct. 31 • 5:30pm
Halloweekend: Bogeys &
Triptides
Schooners
171 N Ocean Ave, Cayucos

Sun., Oct. 31 • 7:30pm
Bobby Santa Cruz Band
The Siren
900 Main St, Morro Bay

Sun., Oct. 31 • 6:00PM
Michael W Smith
Performing Arts Center
1 Grand Ave, San Luis Obispo

Sun., Oct. 31 • 8:00pm
Summer Salt
SLO Brew Rock
855 Aerovista Place, San Luis
Obispo

A
Dose
of Good
Dogma



Wait. What? Pt. 2

This month, I’m continuing to discuss things people do that send confusing signals to their dog, thereby inhibiting successful training and good behavior. Let’s start with begging at the table. Sometimes people feed their dog leftover food from their plates, or toss the dog pieces of food from the table. This indicates, to the dog, that good food comes from the table. Now, let’s say you and some guests are not finished eating and your dog comes to the table and gives you, or your guests, that look, or it paws at you for some food. Is the dog being “bad”? Not at all. The dog is wondering why you are not giving it food. The dog doesn’t understand that you’re not finished yet. To avoid all of this, the answer is to NEVER feed your dog from the table. If you choose to give your dog (healthy) scraps from your plate, put them in the dog’s own food bowl. Humans eat from dishes at the table, the dog eats from its dish on the ground. If you’re trying to work on begging behavior at the table, the thing to do is to totally ignore the dog. Do not give the dog a look or a sound. You want to extinguish the behavior by letting the dog know that their behavior gets absolutely no reaction from you. Be mindful of “extinguish bursts.” This describes the behavior getting worse before it gets better. The dog

will be confused. Its been engaging with you at the table and now there is nothing – not a word, not a look. As you continue to ignore the dog over several days or weeks, depending on how consistent everyone is, you will see the begging behavior decrease. The 3 second rule. Timing is critical when training your dog. If your timing is off, this will confuse the dog, whether you are working on positive or negative reinforcement. The dog makes an association between a positive or negative reinforcer in the space of about three seconds. What this means is that if the reward or correction isn’t given within about three seconds of the behavior, the dog won’t make the connection. This is why clickers can be really beneficial for some commands in reinforcing a correct response. BTW, clickers are used only for positive reinforcement. The click lets the dog know it has succeeded, and is followed immediately by a treat. Your dog thinks in the moment, not a minute ago. Example: you’re working on “come.” Your dog gets to you. You pull out the treat bag, take out a treat, close the bag and put it away then give the dog the treat. At that point your three seconds are now 15 or 20, and the dog makes zero connection between the treat and the “come” command. Likewise when you are using negative reinforcement. Your dog growls or lunges

Dogma Continued on page 15

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Get Into the Karaoke Spirit



Local resident, Ryan Sullivan, enjoys singing Karaoke

What is karaoke? It is a form of entertainment, offered typically by bars and clubs, in which people take turns singing popular songs into a microphone over prerecorded backing tracks.

Sweet Springs Saloon in Los Osos is just the place to go to hear local folks belt it out as the saying goes.

Personally, I can't sing nor would I attempt it – even in the shower.

After attending several karaoke events, I've come to realize that everyone loves to sing especially around the holidays when Christmas carols can be heard everywhere. My complaint is that the songs people sing at karaoke are unrecognizable to many in the audience. Once in while by request a singer will belt out an oldie.

Sweet Springs Saloon, 990 Los Osos Valley Road, has karaoke nights Tuesday and Friday from nine until midnight.

Friends From page 13

with the boat's upgrades. "One year later," the news release said, "they successfully reached their goal, with 80% of the funds raised as individual contributions and 20% as a matching grant from Castle Wind. The vessel is expected to be harbor-ready by April 2022."

Castle Wind is one of several companies that is trying to get a license to build a 1,000 megawatt floating offshore wind energy farm about 30 miles off the coast at San Simeon. The power would be brought ashore at the closed Morro Bay Power Plant to connect with the power grid. It is also expected to feed energy into a proposed Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) facility at the power plant under consideration by the planning department, part of the State's vision to support sustainable and carbon-free energy.

Friends President Bill Luffee said, "Working alongside the Harbor Department on this fundraising effort has been a true privilege. I have tremendous respect for the hard work they do on a daily basis, and being able to support them with a \$100,000 donation toward retrofitting a patrol boat is an incredible honor."

"That said, I'm really just a facilitator. The real credit goes to our friends and community, to those who purchased art through our fundraisers, participated in our wine auction, and donated money specifically for this cause."

The Morro Bay Harbor Department does a lot for the community, including watercraft rescue, fire fighting, wildlife rescue, emergency medical aid, pollution cleanup, equipment transport, mooring repair, hazardous material handling, and code enforcement.

MBHD's jurisdiction consists of some of California's most notoriously rough waters, with 150 days per year of small craft advisory conditions and an average of 30 days per year of hazardous harbor entrance conditions.

The proverbial Bakersfield Navy keeps them busy. "With an average of 1.1 million visitors each year, Morro Bay sees a high volume of inexperienced recreational users in the bay and ocean."

The Friends of Morro Bay Harbor Department's mission is to help improve the harbor services in Morro Bay and they have done a variety of fundraisers, including a memorable outdoor drive-in, movie night at Morro Rock.

A non-profit, the organization relies on donations "from people who want to make a difference and preserve the beautiful Morro Bay Harbor."

The Friends are also deep into fundraising effort to refurbish a lifeguard tower. Learn more at: friendsofthem-bhd.org.



An organic solution

calmer times, when folks aren't quite so reactive, and can civilly respect each other's differences.

For now, enjoy this one, unique gift from an energetic, community-minded neighbor. Take a vigorous hike or a leisurely climb up HGH and see if you can discover more than just the drop-dead gorgeous view of our bay. It's worth the climb.

Don't know where it is? Too impatient to treasure hunt? Here's how to find what we call AutoRock: Walk the gravel road at end of Hacienda Drive in Cayucos, past tanks, through gate. Continue as road zigzags east along the shoulder of the hill. Maybe bring a rock in your pocket to contribute

Debbie Black is a member of The BookShelf Writers. To see more of her work, visit www.thebookshelfwriters.com

Dogma From page 14

at another dog, you pull it away, scolding it, then continue to scold as you're moving away. Nope. More than three seconds so no association.

One last thing related to timing. Let's say you're teaching your dog to sit. The dog sits and you go to treat the good behavior. But as you give the treat, the dog gets up or jumps up to take it from you. The dog is no longer in the sit position, yet gets the treat. Now you are reinforcing getting up. It's essential that your dog be in the position when the reward is given.

Good Dogma: helping dogs with people problems since 1996. Readers are invited to submit questions to gooddogma@hotmail.com. Contact information for all offered services can be found on our website www.GoodDogma.net

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Community

ment in the city or county jail for a period not exceeding six months or by fine not exceeding one thousand dollars (\$1,000), or by both.”

The new law gives prosecutorial authority to the city attorney, which in certain cases is authorized to prosecute violations of City ordinances. “Where the city attorney has determined that such action would be in the best interests of justice, the city attorney may specify in the accusatory pleading that the violation shall be an infraction and the violation shall be prosecuted as an infraction.”

Councilwoman Dawn Addis was the driving force behind the ordinance. In a news release, Addis said she wanted to explore gun safety after a mass shooting in Virginia Beach, Va., in May 2019. In that tragic event, a former City employee walked into his old city offices and opened fire, killing 12 and wounding five others, including a police officer.

The fact that it was a disgruntled City employee hit close to home as far away as Morro Bay. In response the City Manager embarked on a safety program costing thousands of dollars, and that included new lobby walls at City Hall and the Public Works buildings, shielding employees from the public. Such safety measures had already been built at the police and fire stations.

The City staff had brought forth several other options — closing safe storage loopholes, educational initiatives, increased funding for police and civilian training, legislative advocacy, and a gun buyback program.

The Council adopted the safety training and lobbying items but rejected a buy-back program but those were not part of the actual ordinance and the staff is supposed to come back with a program to implement.

The police have done mass shooter training in the past but Collins said not for some time, and there are a lot of new officers on the force. “Council is open to using online video trainings that have already been created, to help reduce costs,” Collins said. “I believe they want out PD to provide the training here for local residents, in part because of familiarity with our department and also as a way to build community relationships.”

However, there isn’t much of a need for the City to do this at all, as the San Luis Sportsmen’s Club shooting range on Hwy 1 offers a variety of gun safety classes including classes designed specifically for women and kids.

As for the lobbying, the City does have a contracted lobbying firm in Washington, but Collins said they wouldn’t use them. “We wouldn’t use a lobbying firm, rather, send letters to Congress and President urging their support for sensible gun safety regulations.”

Addis called the matter “urgent” for Central Coast communities. “I deeply believe,” Addis said, “it takes each of us to make and keep our communities safe from gun violence. We have to be the leaders we have been waiting for. There have been active shooters, some resulting in tragic deaths in our County, and those surrounding us to the north and south. No one is immune from gun violence.”

Indeed, after several years of relative quiet with regards to guns and violence, the Sheriff’s Office in the past year or so, has been involved in at least four shootouts with armed suspects and a San Luis Obispo police officer was murdered in another shootout with an armed mentally ill man. It was the first SLOPD officer to be shot in the line of duty and the first to die on duty since the 1960s (in a motorcycle crash).

Addis’ involvement in the issue started with the 2018, March for Life, a demonstration organized by local school kids in SLO, to lobby for more restrictive gun control laws in the wake of the Feb. 14, 2018 mass shooting at Marjorie Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, Fla.

But as inspiring as that student led march was, it hasn’t translated into greater restrictions on guns.

Even in Morro Bay, where the Council voted unanimously for the new ordinance, it took some doing. The Council was supposed to hear the new ordinance in March 2020 but then the coronavirus pandemic happened and the ordinance didn’t come back until this past April, gaining

final approval in September.

“For our Council,” Addis said, “to show bravery by taking this issue seriously, gives me tremendous hope that other local communities will too.”

But there were some questions raised by community members in response to the new law. Former Councilwoman Betty Winholtz wrote: “Whether I am for against this law is not my comment. What is of concern to me is how

the City intends to notify the public that unwittingly they may be in violation of the law. Changing the law without noticing the populace is grossly unfair. Putting a notice on the City website is grossly insufficient.”

Winholtz added, “Gun owners will continue as they always have, not knowing they need to know there is a new law. If you truly believe this will make us safer, then you must notify the public so they can comply accordingly.”

Police Chief on Gun Safety Law

Morro Bay’s new gun safety ordinance raises a lot of questions as to who will enforce it, how it will be enforced and who will prosecute a citation. Estero Bay News sent a series of question to the Morro Bay Police and Chief Jody Cox responded.

Estero Bay News: I’m writing up the City’s new gun safety law and wanted to ask you if the PD was going to be the ones enforcing it?

Chief Jody Cox: “Yes, as the State of California already has a robust Safe Storage Law in place, the City of Morro Bay has decided to enact a local safe storage law via a city ordinance. As with other local ordinances, MBPD will follow Council direction for education, compliance, and enforcement.”

EBN: Have you guys come up with a strategy on how this will be handled — i.e. proactive enforcement or complaint driven?

Chief Cox: “There is not a proactive enforcement component to this type of ordinance, nor is it what would be considered complaint driven, i.e. someone calling to complain that a neighbor might possibly own/possess a firearm and requesting a check to confirm it is safely secured.

“This type of violation is typically determined after the fact, meaning, a firearm being reported stolen, and victim advised the firearm was kept in a dresser drawer, or an unauthorized person obtains possession of an unsecured firearm and is found in possession and/or uses the firearm illegally.”

EBN: Clearly you guys can’t just go door-to-door checking for unsecured guns without a warrant, so I am curious how the City plans to enforce this new ordinance?

Chief Cox: “Correct, as mentioned above, enforcement may be driven by actions and/or violations of the responsible party/firearm owner. MBPD will not conduct door-to-door checks.”

EBN: For example, if you respond on a medical aid to a house and the officers see shotguns on a wall rack above the fireplace without trigger locks, can you cite the owner?

Chief Cox: “This example, if the firearm is a working/operational firearm, could be considered a violation and could result in a citation.”

EBN: Or are you planning to do this like code enforcement, where you give people a chance to correct the situation before citing them?

Chief Cox: “Yes, our initial goal will be to educate our community to obtain voluntary compliance for personal safety, to prevent theft, and to prevent illegal use/possession by unauthorized individuals.”

EBN: I would think if you cited someone for a misdemeanor — having legal but unsecured guns INSIDE their home — and they challenged it in court, you’d have to show probable cause for even entering the home in the first place. Does a tip from a neighbor, lacking any other supporting evidence, constitute probable cause and allow you to enter a home without obtaining a search warrant first? How do you build a case for this that stands up in court?

Chief Cox: “Great question Neil, and “No, a tip from a neighbor (see example above) does not constitute probable cause to enter someone’s home for a possible misdemeanor violation. It would be extremely difficult (if not impossible) to obtain a search warrant for a misdemeanor ordinance violation absent some type of criminal activity involved.

“There are too many different scenarios to consider as far as building a case for criminal prosecution. In your scenario, we may possibly contact the alleged violator and educate them on the city ordinance and state law regarding proper firearm storage. As far as ‘why’ MBPD is present at the home may vary for a variety of reasons (call for service, request for assistance, complaint of disturbance, etc.)”

EBN: And have you guys gotten assurances from the D.A. that they will prosecute anyone you guys cite on this law? Or is the city attorney going to have to prosecute?

Chief Cox: “If a person is cited for the city ordinance, the city attorney would handle prosecution as either a misdemeanor or infraction. Depending on the type of violation and other related circumstances, we would consider using the state penal code section as the charging violation and the D.A.’s office would handle that type of case.”

EBN: Have you guys put out a memo to officers on how to enforce this new law? Can I get a copy of that document?

Chief Cox: “There is no document provided to staff related to this new ordinance. Supervisors discuss this in daily briefing training to familiarize staff with this type of new ordinance, as we do with other changes in law and legislation.”



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Community

Old House From page 1

property during the designated period; however, its story was determined historically insignificant.

Those were the days when some California homesteaders won their land in a saloon poker game. Others came upon empty space and set down roots by building at least a shack. At the end of the Mexican War in 1848, the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo allowed land once controlled by Mexico to become available for homesteading by United States residents. The Homestead Act of 1862 required filing an application, improving the land, and then filing for a deed of title.

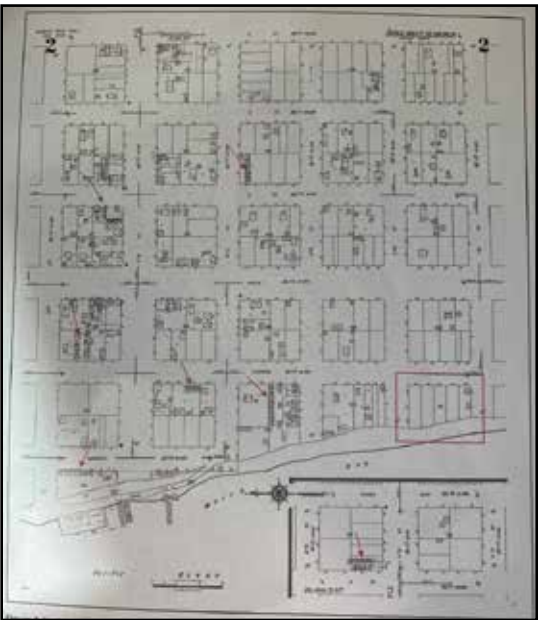


A man walking his dog at what will be Franklin Riley Park.

Franklin Riley was the first to apply, comply, and develop the central California coastal acreage that he would call Morro Townsite. He established his home in 1864, but it was 1872 before he hired Carolan Mathers to create the first parcel map for Morro Bay. Mathers was a local county “road viewer” with surveying experience. Riley intended to “create a commercial hub for shipping agricultural produce (grown in the area) and importing lumber and other necessities not available.”

Local historians Dorothy Gates and Jane Bailey wrote in Morro Bay’s Yesterdays, “The town of Morro Bay was booming in 1872 and 1873...(residents) looking for farmland...” Another historian and journalist Myron Angel noted, “...Morro exceeded every other place in the county...fourteen dwelling-houses, two stores, two blacksmith shops, one shoemaker shop, one carpenter shop, and a butcher shop.”

Several San Francisco businessmen formed the Morro Bay Improvement Association to sell lots along Morro Street, but the small sites appeared to be temporary lots for Central Valley visitors to pitch tents and get out of the heat. By 1888 most of the parcels had been purchased and a new parcel map that is still used today was created. Development, however, stalled during an 1890s lagging economy.



A lot-line of Franklin Riley’s original Morro Townsite.

In 1933 when Atascadero’s founder constructed Hwy 41, known as the “E. G. Lewis Highway,” Morro Bay was promoted as a respite from the heat. A SLO County Chamber of Commerce publication announced Morro Bay was “...a beautiful summer resort, a fertile garden district and a dairy stronghold...with modern improvements and a seaside hotel.”

The 1920s-built Highway 1 also prompted a short-lived building boom. James Goulding created Morro Bay’s first real subdivision bordered by Piney Way and Kings, but another historic interruption occurred - the Wall Street Crash in 1929. Morro Bay had only 400 residents by December, 1937. And although Franklin Riley had found buyers for almost half of his Morro Townsite holdings by 1888 development wasn’t documented until April, 1927.

H.A. and Maude Gallupp held the note on what would become our property. Before building on it, they sold it to William and Irene McCowen in 1927. There appears to be a flurry of transactions within this mapped subdivision of Morro Townsite maybe sold by William to other family members and buyers.

William had originally emigrated from Ireland. Irene was a widow with a toddler girl and baby son in 1922 when she sailed from Liverpool to America, indicating Terra Bella, CA was her destination. She married William in 1927. Possibly parceling off his acreage allowed him to purchase and operate the boat San Antonio as he was listed as a fisherman. A house and garage had been built by 1928. In 1940, the census listed the family had five children. But in 1949 Irene was granted a divorce and the deed to the property.

Meanwhile, December 7, 1941, significantly jump-started the community’s future development. World War II literally blasted Central Coast shores when Japan not only attacked Pearl Harbor, but two weeks later attacked and

drove Richfield Oil Company’s tanker Larry Doheny into Estero Bay then torpedoed and sunk Union Oil’s Montebello off the shores of Cambria. Morro Bay became a training site for wartime military landings with an improving harbor access and increased residential accommodations. Morro Bay High School graduate Joe Dunlap researched and recently published his book about this era, “When Morro Bay Went to War,” which is available at the Morro Bay Maritime Museum.

Raymond and Adeline Shaffer became the next owners in 1950. He grew up in Mystic, CT and married Adelia in 1933 while in the Army stationed in New Jersey. Her family was from Santa Fe, NM where the couple lived until 1940 when he accepted a welder job in a shipyard in Solano, CA. They relocated to Long Beach in 1948 where he was listed as a welder, but in 1950 he’s listed as a fisherman. He probably bought the Morro Bay property as a second home to fish the Pacific coastal waters, but suddenly retired near family in New Mexico.

In 1951 the Shaffers sold the property to Lorraine Garratt, who was either divorced or separated from Cyril Garratt at the time she purchased the property. Cyril was the sales manager of Luke Tractor and Equipment Company in Santa Maria in 1938, but when he registered for the draft in 1942, he was the Secretary of the San Luis Obispo Chamber of Commerce and the couple lived in Morro Bay. Lorraine had her real estate license and was a bookkeeper with an office in the J.M. Goulding Building at 5th and Bernardo Streets. She also owned a larger residence on Fairview, so it is likely she never lived in the smaller home in the Morro Townsite.

In December 1956, she sold it to Pearl Ward who was from Taft. Unmarried, she lived and operated Pearl’s Beauty Shop and Pearl’s Hair Fashions on the property until the early 1970s.

In 2012 we watched the Morro Bay Lighted Boat Parade from our deck with family and friends to celebrate the closing on our second Morro Bay property – this one allowing us a retirement home without multi-level living as we aged. We had no idea at the time when Randall and Sandy Kleinhammer, a locally established real estate couple, sold us their property that it was once a lot-line mapped onto Franklin Riley’s original Morro Townsite. We thank him for his foresight for what Morro Bay could be and appreciate a walkable park will continue to document where it all started – maybe dedicated even as soon as November, 2021.

2022 Baywood Morro Bay Calendars

Local iPhone photographer Paul Irving has just opened up pre-orders for his annual wall calendar and boxed note card sets. As an avid boater, Paul gets out on the bay nearly every day in search of unique perspectives, and has gained a following by sharing these images regularly on social media. To see these images and order for the holidays, visit BaywoodPhotography.com, and be sure to follow Paul on Instagram at @ BaywoodPhoto.



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Community

CCHD From page 1

the residents of Cambria, San Simeon and the rural areas surrounding these communities. It also owns the existing medical building and provides community health education.

CCHD responds to about 150 calls a month and has four ambulances in their fleet, 11 fulltime employees and about 20 reserves, or part-time employees. Currently two personnel are on 24-hour shifts seven days a week. The number of on duty paramedics is expected to increase at some point.

“We have the ambulance crews quarters here — they are housed 24/7,” McDonough said. “They make do, but it’s just not adequate; they don’t have a proper kitchen and living space. They have bedrooms and so forth but just not the way that it should be. With respect to the great work that they do, they should have a nice place to live when they’re here. They basically spent their life here.”

Additionally, the building needs ADA compliance upgrades and a fire-sprinkler system should be installed.

Currently, a portion of the building is leased to Community Health Center of Cambria (CHCC). CHCC intends to move to new space in early 2022.

Vanir’s work is expected to be complete in time for a report to the CCHD Board of Directors in January of 2022.

In other CCHD news, the company was awarded about \$76,000 in a FEMA Grant to purchase ambulance power gurney/loading systems that will be installed in two ambulances.

Partially funded by the FEMA Assistance to Firefighters Grant, the new equipment uses a hydraulic power system to raise, lower or smoothly maneuver the gurney into and out of the ambulance. This offers several advantages for both patients and ambulance crewmembers.

“Our patients will have a safer and more comfortable transfer in and out of the ambulance,” said Operations Manager and paramedic Tim Benes adding that crewmembers would also benefit from a lowered risk of serious muscle strains, spine injury or even permanent disability.

In addition to the new power gurney/loading systems, the CCHD recently upgraded communication radios, replaced personal protective gear, and acquired a low-mileage 4-wheel drive ambulance.

The equipment upgrades were possible through funding support from local foundations such as the Cambria Community Council and Project Heartbeat, through private donations, and from federal agencies. According to McDonough the CCHD has received more than \$180,000 in grant awards and pledges over the past year and a half.

The CCHD continues to seek charitable contributions to its 501(c)(3) not for profit trust, as well as additional grant funding to meet its financial needs. Local tax support and revenue from ambulance services does not fully cover the cost of operations and capital spending. For those who wish to assist in funding our mission, please contact the CCHD at (805) 927-8304 or visit the District’s website: www.cambria-healthcare.org.

For more information or to make a donation, go to cambria-healthcare.org.



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IWMA From page 1

Knudson between February and June 2018 “that allege misconduct by employees and mismanagement” of the IWMA. The Public Integrity Unit opened its case after meeting in person with Knudson, the report said.

Knudson is a former IRS investigator and forensic examiner who was hired by a group of citizens, The Citizens Group of San Luis Obispo County.

An Exhaustive Review

The three-year investigation served 23 warrants, obtained documents, interviewed “multiple” potential witnesses, and conducted 11 formal interviews including two in Kentucky.

The exhaustive review included 11 computer hard drives with 4.62 terabytes of information, and 11 million “digital artifacts.” They narrowed the search using keywords to a manageable 263,000 emails and messages, 82,000 media-related items, 441 social media items, 282,000 “web-related” artifacts and 49,000 “other” documents.

The report points out that the DA’s Office prosecutes criminal case, and things like “ordinary” negligence — failure to exercise ordinary or reasonable care — don’t rise to the level of a crime. Many of the complaints about the IWMA, while reaffirmed, don’t rise to the criminal level.

Contractor’s Dealings Led to Review

IWMA has been under scrutiny by some people for years with regards to one of its contractors, Eco Solutions, owned by Charles Tenborg, alleging various types of misconduct over many years. These issues have also hounded Worrell.

Eco Solutions and Tenborg got a contract with IWMA in 1997 to operate two Household Hazardous Wastes (HHW) facilities — one each at Cold Canyon and Chicago Grade landfills.

Eco Solutions was contracted to collect, sort and prepare HHWs for transport.

The program expanded over the next 15 years and in 2013, when things started to unravel, Eco Solutions had five HHW facilities, including the one at the Morro Bay Sewer Treatment Plant on Atascadero Road. The contract was for \$404,000 a year.

Tenborg sold his company in 2014 to 21st Century Environmental Management of California, LLP, which is in turn owned by Stericycle, Inc.

Knudson’s first two reports, given to the D.A.’s Office in February 2018, were about Tenborg and Eco Solutions, alleging that he committed perjury during a successful libel and slander lawsuit with Cal Coast News, an online news website, and Karen Velie and Daniel Blackburn, the reporters on the story.

CCN had published a news story in November 2012 about Eco Solutions and Tenborg’s contracts with IWMA, making some serious allegations. Tenborg won a \$1.1 million judgment that included a \$500,000 judgment against Velie.

Report’s Allegations Against IWMA

Knudson, in June 2018 produced a third, 28-page report on the IWMA, again making serious allegations. One allegation is that Tenborg, under another compa-

ny called CEC Electronic Waste Recycling, Inc., which recycled electronic gear — copiers, fax machines, TVs, VCRs — through a CalRecycle program, fudging the weights of what he’d recycled and what CalRecycle would reimburse.

In the end, Tenborg admitted to making a mistake on the reimbursement forms and the two sides settled the matter with Tenborg agreeing to repay \$34,600. That agreement apparently let Tenborg off the hook for any claims that he committed perjury with the fake documents. Also, the statute of limitations is expired on that matter, according to the D.A.’s report.

CalRecycle, which has had numerous big criminal cases with regards to fraud in its CRV aluminum can recycling program, accepted his explanation of misunderstanding the rules and within two days agreed to the settlement.

One by one the report looks at various allegations of perjury by Tenborg and refutes them all, concluding that any incorrect statements or misstatements made in the lawsuit were not consciously false and thus don’t constitute criminal perjury, at least nothing that they can prosecute.

Apparently lying under oath isn’t necessarily perjury, if the alleged liar believes the statement(s) to be true at the time they were made. And any false statements must be “material” or relevant to the claims being made, which most of these were not.

IWMA’s Formation, Practices Questioned

The third Knudson report that the DA focused on had to do with the IWMA, it’s original organization, and hiring practices, claiming that hiring the GM, lawyer and accounting firm were supposed to be done under a competitive bidding process but didn’t appear to have been.

The report shoots down each of these claims using documents and meeting minutes dating back to the very start of the IWMA in 1994-95.

The report points out that the IWMA’s Executive Committee was called for in the original JPA documents that were signed by the County Supervisors, each incorporated city in SLO County and the special districts, too.

Former-GM Worrell was hired through an extensive recruitment process conducted by the County Personnel Department and included advertising the position — originally called a “program manager” — in industry trade journals and newspapers across the U.S. Such advertising practices are common for department head level positions.

IWMA January 1995 meeting minutes outlined the process that was undertaken to fill the GM position, as well as the lawyer and accounting jobs.

IN 2006, the IWMA hired attorney, Raymond Biering, who had been a former legal counsel for IWMA while working in the office of the County Counsel. Such professional contracts are not subject to required competitive bidding, as they are contracts for specialty services, like legal advise.

IWMA had also hired its accountant this way, as in 1995 they replaced their prior CPA firm with Glenn Burdette Certified Public Accountants. Knudson claimed Burdette’s hiring in 1995 should have been a competitive bidding process. The D.A. cited the California Government Code (Section 53060) as allowing IWMA to enter

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Education Manager’s Hiring

Knudson’s reports also challenged the IWMA’s hiring of its education program manager, Mike Di Milo in 1997. Di Milo apparently worked for the previous education contractor and sought the contract after that person had given it up. Di Milo had annual contracts until 2001 when the IWMA changed his status to “continue until terminated.”

It’s unclear if the education program manager contract should have been put out for bids, but the DA said since 25 years have passed, the statute of limitations is up anyway.

The DA also said that every year, Di Milo has submitted a budget for board review and inclusion in the overall IWMA annual budgets, further evidence that no crimes had been committed.

Records Destroyed

The claims by Knudson included that Worrell and the IWMA had not fully produced records he sought with regards to payments made to Tenborg’s companies, prior to 2013. He had asked for records back to 2009 but only got incomplete records.

Worrell reportedly sent him a letter stating that they had destroyed the older records as part of a regular purge and the official records are kept by the County Auditor-Controller’s Office.

Worrell also told the DA that they had destroyed records from FY 2011-12 because they were contaminated with black mold after apparently not being stored properly in a Seatrain container (they got wet). They’d also shredded other records in August 2017.

The Auditor-Controller’s Office disagreed and described itself as a merely a “bank” for IWMA, paying out approved invoices but were responsible only for keeping those records.

The report concludes there is a “conflict of sorts between the two agencies with respect to which agency was responsible for maintaining records.”

According to Worrell, the report said, “the Auditor’s Office was responsible for maintaining the IWMA’s official records; according to the Auditor-Controller’s Office, it would store digital copies of whatever the IWMA submitted, but only what had been submitted.”

Also, Worrell said he didn’t personally handle these invoices but that it was Goodrich’s job to handle IWMA’s finances.

Fraud Charges Filed

Though it appears the former GM will not be charged with any crimes, the agency secretary, Goodrich, is facing 10 felonies some in connection with improper use of a company credit card mainly to pay her phone bills. The felony accusations are:

- Embezzlement in 2014 of \$3,120 spent for personal AT&T bills;
- Embezzlement of \$2,749 in 2015 in personal AT&T bills;
- Embezzlement of \$3,624 in 2016 for personal AT&T

- bills;
 - Embezzlement of \$3,951 in 2017 for personal AT&S bills;
 - Embezzlement of \$737 from January-March 2018 in personal AT&T bills;
 - Embezzlement in 2015 to purchase a Turbo Tax program for personal use;
 - Embezzlement in 2017 to buy a Turbo Tax Program for personal use;
 - Embezzlement from April 2014 to March 2018 to purchase items at Lowe’s Home Improvement for personal use;
 - Embezzlement between January 2015 and April 2018 to buy online services Truthfinders, Peoplefinder, and Pacer.gov; and,
 - Destruction of public records in August 2018.
- Goodrich is out on bail and her next court date for a further preliminary hearing is Nov. 8.

Supes Are Outta Here

IWMA may have had its issues in the past but it faces a rocky future too, after a split County Board of Supervisors voted 3-2 to end the County’s involvement in the Joint Powers Authority.

Supervisors voted Sept. 14 on a Resolution to formally withdraw from the IWMA. That document follows an Aug. 10 report from Public Works on what leaving the IWMA is going to cost the County.

A consultant, MSW Consultants was brought in to do a cost-benefits analysis on what would essentially be a divorce, which was broken down into three parts — list the financial assets the County would take over; establish the number of County employees needed; and establish the amount of revenue needed to do what IWMA does.

MSW calculated that 25.2% of all waste tonnage produced in SLO County comes from unincorporated towns under County governance.

IWMA takes in some \$498,000 a year from the county towns and assets to the County would total some \$1.07 million.

MSW said the County would need a total of five more employees to provide the service — one program manager I; three solid waste coordinator IIs; and, one solid waste coordinator I.

The County would also need to recover a share of IWMA’s revenues, which garbage customers would continue to subsidize. The County would need an additional \$1.6 million to \$2.3 million, which translates to garbage rate hikes of \$4.75 a month for residential customers, \$27.50 a month for commercial customers; and \$35.34 per load for roll off dumpster customers.

County Should Stick With IWMA

The Public Works report recommended against divorcing from the IWMA, as viable alternatives were available.

“Staff believes this section of the JPA can be expanded upon to provide clarity and strength to the Agreement. Viable solutions could range from the explicit removal of ordinance power for the IWMA, to limiting future ordi-

nance implementation to only the individual agencies that support the ordinance,” the report said.

“Given the high estimated cost and staffing requirements of leaving the IWMA, staff believes it is warranted to attempt re-negotiation of the JPA before pursuing withdrawal. Staff would return to your Board in three months to provide an update on status of these negotiations.”

But a majority of Supervisors decided to leave the JPA, a process that is still being worked through.

Actor Zooms with Cambria Grammar School

Actor and advocate Sophia Bush surprised her former elementary school, Cambria Grammar School, via Zoom as part of Big Lots and On Our Sleeves’ One Million Classrooms Project.

Bush, most known for her role as Brooke Davis in The WB/CW drama series One Tree Hill, participated in this visit, which included the presentation of a \$1,000 Big Lots gift card provided by On Our Sleeves to underwrite mental health and mindfulness activities for faculty and students. This local visit is part of a national “Back to School Surprise” organized by On Our Sleeves in partnership with Big Lots, another strong national supporter of the child mental health movement.

“I went to Cambria Grammar when I was little, and I absolutely loved the school. I’m so excited to be here today — albeit virtually, while we’re still distancing and making efforts to keep each other safe,” said Bush. “I feel really lucky that technology has enabled us to be together anyhow, and I can join the students with my friends at On Our Sleeves. Advocating for kids is one of my greatest joys, and I’m thrilled that groups like this one are advocating for their mental health and emotional wellness.”

One in five children in America lives with a mental health condition and half of lifetime mental illnesses present by age 14. On Our Sleeves, the national child mental health movement, has a mission to provide every community in America with free resources necessary for breaking child mental health stigmas and for educating families and advocates because no child or family should struggle alone. Through their Million Classrooms Project, launched in May 2021, On Our Sleeves set a goal to provide 1 million elementary and middle school classrooms across America with free mental health and mindfulness resources. These “Back to School Surprises” were a part of that effort that wrapped on October 10th, World Mental Health Awareness Day.



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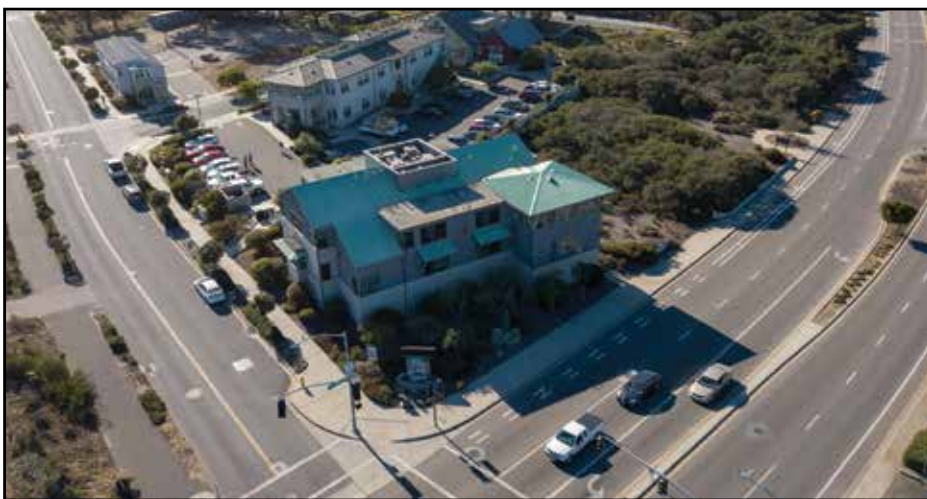
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