

## Moving Forward: College Bound Today Expands to Morro Bay High School

By Judy Salamacha  
Photos by Dan Clement



Los Osos Middle School staff supporting the pilot year of CBT. 2021-22. Class is in need of mentors.

As the COVID-19 pandemic interrupted normal school activities at Los Osos Middle School, Dan Clement, co-founder of College Bound Today (CBT), was working with Principal Karl Blum to establish an Estero Bay version of the award-winning southern California program. Staff training, identifying students and parents willing to commit to the program, and recruitment of local mentors who would embrace and encourage the 8th grade students' quest to attend college was well beyond planning stages. Despite the odds CBT had a successful first school year with seventeen volunteer mentors working with 25 students from November through May 2021.

Clement had served 31 years as a trial lawyer "living in the SoCal fast lane" before retiring and moving to SLO County. He had also devoted time and energy co-creating the on-campus college mentoring program with its ultimate purpose to enhance students' expectations for their future careers. He was pleased to report, "Thanks to the skilled leadership of LOMS Principal Blum, most of the mentors' meetings with their students were in-person and outdoors on the LOMS campus, under strict social

distancing and other COVID-19 protocols."

Currently Clement and CBT veteran counselors Andy Castillo and Jose Suarez are in preparation to expand the program to Morro Bay High School working with Principal Scott Schalde, Assistant Principal Stefanie Hardgrave and College and Career Specialist Taylor Laird.

"All 17 mentors have agreed to continue working with the students (transferring) to MBHS," said Clement. "Our capacity will enable us to handle up to 50-60 students, so we hope that MBHS leadership can recruit more students to join the program before we launch in November."

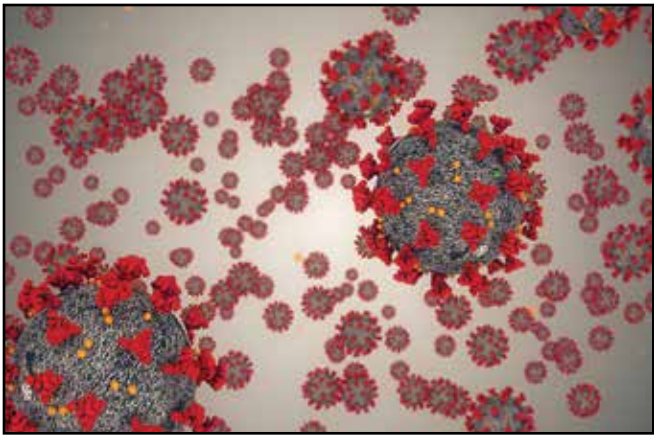
As the mentors move with their students, Clement is reaching out for at least twelve more mentors to start serving a new group of 8th grade students at LOMS by the end of October.

Besides the volunteer mentors Clement wanted the community to know parents are told they are the foundation for the success of the program. When parents reinforce the requirements to stay in the program, the CBT partnership works 90% of the time. Parents are encouraged to attend meetings and college visits

**College Bound** Continued on page 14

## Hospital Care for COVID Explained by Area Doctors

By Neil Farrell



San Luis Obispo County Health officials remain in near panic mode as the coronavirus pandemic continues to rack up high numbers of cases and deaths continue to occur, with the pandemic now in its third wave and 19th month.

### Hope for the Hospitalized

With the County Health Department focused in on getting people vaccinated, Estero Bay News sought to find out what medicines and treatments people might receive if they get the virus and wind up in the hospital?

With just four hospitals countywide, and owned by just two companies, we asked the Dignity Health owned hospitals — French and Arroyo Grande Community — and those owned by Tenet Healthcare — Twin Cities and Sierra Vista hospitals — what a person could expect in the way of treatment should they unfortunately be hospitalized with COVID-19.

Dr. Thomas Vendegna, MD, the Chief Medical Officer at French Hospital Medical Center in SLO emailed their protocols, saying, "If a high-risk patient for progression to serious illness presents with a positive COVID test and significant symptoms within 7 days of their testing to the ER, then we can administer monoclonal antibodies."

(That's the same medicine Florida is seeking to administer to its residents, after Gov. Ron DeSantis established clinics across that state to administer the anti-body treatments.)

Once a person gets admitted to the hospital, Dr. Vendegna said, "then we utilize oxygen and steroids as the main therapy. If the patients have a marked elevation in their inflammatory markers then we can utilize a specific drug to block the response [tocilizumab or baricitinib]."

These drugs have potential side effects. "We monitor the patient's clotting response and usually place them on some form of anticoagulation since COVID patients clot," Dr. Vendegna, said.

**COVID Explained** Continued on page 14

## Zoom Meetings to Continue

By Neil Farrell

Citizens who long for the good old days when you could exercise your First Amendment Right to complain and deliver grievances to your elected representatives in person, will have to wait at least another month, likely much longer.

Both the Morro Bay City Council and Los Osos Community Services District Board of Directors passed Resolutions last week extending their use of online meetings through the end of October.

The resolutions were passed in response to the recently enacted Assembly Bill 361, which amended the Brown Act, California's open meetings law. AB 361, passed Sept. 17 allows for Brown Act bodies to hold public meetings online during times of declared states-of-emergency, such as the current Coronavirus Pandemic, which has been a declared state-of-emergency since March 2020, with no end in sight.

"The Ralph M. Brown Act requires, with specified exceptions," reads the bill, "that all meetings of a legislative body of a local agency, as those terms are defined, be open and public and that all persons be permitted to attend and participate."

The Brown Act also has several requirements dealing with public notice and posting of agendas and accessibility of the public to attend. "The act allows for meetings to occur via teleconferencing," the Bill reads, "subject to certain requirements, particularly that the legislative body notice each teleconference location of each member that will be participating in the public meeting, that each teleconference location be accessible to the public, that members of the public be allowed to address the legislative body at each teleconference location, that the legislative body post an agenda at each teleconference location, and that at least a quorum of the legislative body participate from locations within the boundaries of the local agency's jurisdiction."

Governor Gavin Newsom with Executive Order No. N-29-20 suspended the Brown Act's requirements for teleconferencing during the pandemic, "provided that notice and accessibility

**Zoom** Continued on page 14

## WRF Landslides to Cost Over \$1 million

By Neil Farrell



This aerial photo shows a landslide at the site of Morro Bay's sewer treatment plant project taken shortly after the event in May 2020. Photo by City of Morro Bay

Unstable land at the site of Morro Bay's new sewer treatment plant is costing an avalanche of money, with the costs so far topping \$1 million.

According to City Manager Scott Collins, the first landslide, which occurred in May 2020, cost \$280,000 to remediate and a more recent slide in the same area has now topped \$850,000, bringing the total to over \$1.13 million.

These figures are what remediating the slides is costing the City, according to Collins, as the project team has whittled at the original bills from the contractors — a partnership between Filanc and Black & Veatch.

"The WRF team worked hard to reduce the City's total financial liability on this," Collins told Estero Bay News. "I think the original claim from the construction team was nearly \$200,000 more than where we eventually landed."

The landslide is one of a number of issues that have forced the overall project to climb from an original \$126 million — the amount used in a 2018 Prop. 218 vote of ratepayers — to now over \$145 million.

"The project," Collins said, "certainly has had some unanticipated costs like the abovementioned landslides, but it is important to note that they will not impact our customers' water and

**Landslide** Continued on page 15

Police  
Blotter  
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Bike Rack  
Installed  
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Art For Sale  
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# County Approves Hired Positions for Homeless Help

By Theresa-Marie Wilson

Plans moved forward to help the county’s unhoused population. Recently, the County Board Supervisors unanimously approved hiring two program managers for two years to administer the Safe Parking and Blue Bag pilot programs in all districts.

According to the most recent Homeless Point-in-Time Count, at least 1,483 persons were experiencing homelessness on a single night in San Luis Obispo County. Approximately 79% of those persons were unsheltered. “Unsheltered persons must sleep in vehicles, tents or other places not meant for human habitation,” the report states. “Many unsheltered persons do not have access to hygiene or sanitation and may not have access to trash pick-up. This situation may create health and sanitation challenges for both unsheltered person and the communities in which they reside.”

Safe Parking programs, such as the one set up on Kansas Avenue in SLO in August, allow people with operating vehicles to stay there. In a final reading, the BOS passed the no-camping ordinance covering “urban Los Osos” and other areas in the county on Sept. 28, going into effect in 30 days – cars will be towed.

The Kansas site can accommodate a wide variety of vehicles including cars, vans, trucks, and RVs. It is equipped with ADA-accessible showers, restrooms, a hand wash station, and dumpsters for participants’ use.

Work took place over the weekend to expand and extend the size of the area as well as install some all-weather upgrades. The site has an initial operating period of three months but county officials told Estero Bay News that the timeframe would be extended and security would be increased.

The Blue Bag programs are directed at removing trash, which would work with residents of up to seven participating encampments on debris removal at those sites.

The program managers would work out of the County Department of Social Services. Duties include coordinating with county and other local government agencies and community partners, identifying site locations, contracting for goods and services needed for the sites, developing and implementing an evaluation process, and reporting on the results of the evaluation.

“I really hope that you get someone that is approved by the people that are on the ground working with the homeless already,” Los Osos resident Linde Owen told the Board. “That’s where we can make much better progress than hiring somebody off of a for-hire list. We need local people. We need people that understand our local needs. I am urging that the person that you do hire be vetted by community and the homeless advocates that are in the community already. I think we will do so much better, and it certainly is lacking.”

For fiscal year, 2021-2022, the cost for new hires is currently figured at about \$83,000 for the remaining eight months and for FY 2022-2023, the price tag climbs to about \$129,000 due to the longer period of time. At that point, things will be evaluated for “program outcomes and lessons learned, and to consider county needs,” according to a staff report.

# Kristin Smart Case Will Go To Trial

By Neil Farrell

A man and his father accused of killing and disposing of the body of a Cal Poly freshman some 25-years ago, will stand trial for their alleged crimes.

District Attorney Dan Dow announced Wednesday, Sept. 22 that Paul Flores, 44, will stand trial for allegedly murdering Kristin Smart in May 1996, while raping or attempting to rape her; and his father Ruben Flores, 80, will face a jury accused of being an accessory after the fact and helping his son hide her body, which has not been found.

Dow said Judge Craig van Rooyen ordered the Flores’ to stand trial after a lengthy preliminary hearing that spanned nearly 2 months. Dow said in a news release that Judge van Rooyen “determined sufficient evidence was presented at the hearing for the defendants to be tried on the charges.”

That means the two will be formally arraigned on Oct. 20 in SLO Superior Court, and the commencement of a trial in the decades-old mystery of what happened to Kristin Smart, will finally begin.

“We continue to support the family of Kristin Smart as we work toward justice,” said Dow.

Over the course of the preliminary hearing, the prosecution presented a varied list of witnesses, some who were there in 1996 and saw Paul Flores and Smart together; to handlers of cadaver dogs who participated early on in the investigation; to someone who claimed Flores bragged about “taking care” of her some months after she went missing; to neighbors of Ruben Flores who claimed they witnessed he and others digging up something from under his Arroyo Grande house only recently.

It’s the prosecution’s claim that Smart had been buried under the deck of the elder Flores’ A.G. home until recently when she was dug up and moved. A forensic scientist was one of the prosecution witnesses who claimed to have found trace evidence of blood in a disturbed area under the deck during a search just days before the two were arrested.

Authorities have not located Smart’s remains. Smart who for years was classified as “missing,” was eventually declared legally dead.

Paul Flores reportedly gave investigators conflicting statements shortly after she went missing and quickly demanded a lawyer. He hasn’t spoken to investigators in all these years.

It should be noted, that Paul and Ruben Flores are presumed innocent until proven guilty. During the whole preliminary hearing, not much was new beyond the testimony of the forensic



Paul Flores



Ruben Flores

scientist. Much of what was testified to has always been part of the public story that emerged back in 1996 through news reports.

Proving guilt “beyond a reasonable doubt,” is a harder standard to meet than the preliminary hearing’s “probable cause” that a crime was committed and the defendants are most likely to have committed it.

The Flores’ should have a choice to a jury trial or to have the judge act as jury, which can have advantages and disadvantages for defendants.

Paul Flores is being held in County Jail without bond but his father is out on bail. Both men were arrested this past April after a series of search warrants were executed in SLO County and in San Pedro where Paul Flores has lived for many years.

The preliminary hearing, much of which was held online via Zoom, was not open to the public. With COVID-19 restrictions likely to still be in place in October, it is unclear whether the trial will also be closed to the public or if it will be televised.

It is also likely the defense will ask for a change of venue because of the infamy of the case in SLO County. That’s one of the first issues a trial judge will have to deal with.

# Supervisors Award \$20 Million in Mental Health Service Contracts

By Neil Farrell

County Supervisors have awarded over \$20 million in contracts to providers of mental health services, both inside and outside of SLO County.

In its annual renewal of contracts for services, the Supervisors awarded some 10 grants to service providers of in-patient care, out-patient care and residential care for those struggling with eating disorders, drug addiction and mental health problems.

The County Health Agency’s Behavioral Health Department contracts with various private agencies, “to provide services appropriate for individuals who have been identified by American Society of Addiction Medicine (ASAM) as needing residential withdrawal management and/or residential treatment services,” reads a County staff report. “Clients receiving treatment in an RTF benefit from the structure and stability provided by an environment free of drugs and alcohol while concurrently receiving treatment. These facilities are critical in helping an individual to recover and become self-sufficient.”

Among the contracts the County signed was a new deal with Bryan’s House Recovery of Atascadero, a residential drug and alcohol treatment facility, expanding an initial 9-month contract



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# CITY OF MORRO BAY ADVISORY BODY VACANCIES

Applications are currently being accepted to fill two (2) unscheduled vacancies on the following Advisory Bodies:

- Planning Commission (1)
- Public Works Advisory Board (1)

Applications for these positions may be obtained by request at the City Clerk’s office at City Hall, 595 Harbor Street, or online at [www.morrobayca.gov/advisorybody](http://www.morrobayca.gov/advisorybody). If you have any questions, please call 805-772-6568 during normal business hours.

The closing date for submitting applications is **Friday, October 15, 2021, at 5:00pm.** Interviews are tentatively scheduled to take place on October 26, 2021. **Applicants should be present at the interviews to be considered by the City Council.**



(reached in November 2019), and increasing the contract amount by \$15,700 to a new total of \$847,200. The contract will now expire in June 2022.

“Residential treatment costs have increased due to the higher than anticipated number of client placements during FY 2020-21,” the County report said. “Previous amendments have extended the duration of all contracted RTF vendors for one-year; added Sun Street Centers treatment sites in Hollister, Calif., for women and women with children, and King City, Calif., for men and women; and added grant requirements and program guidelines to all vendor contracts.”

The County has RTF contracts with Good Samaritan Shelter in Santa Maria; Sun Street Centers in Salinas, King City and Hollister; and Tarzana Treatment Centers in Tarzana and Lancaster, Calif., with a total contract amount of over \$1.6 million.

In another aspect of mental health, the Central Coast Treatment Center of SLO for \$540,000 “to provide eating disorder treatment services to high-risk youth and adult Behavioral Health clients.” These patients are through Medi-Cal, the state health care program for indigent citizens.

The 1-year contract would “provide partial hospitalization, intensive outpatient treatment, and outpatient treatment services tailored to the needs of adolescents and adults with serious eating disorders.” The service is mandated by the State of California.

But the County will have to enter into contracts with other ED care providers, as the Central Coast Treatment Center does not have residential services. “Having multiple providers will allow for timely placement in all levels of care,” the County said. “All contractors for these services will share a single pool budget amount not to exceed \$540,000 for FY 2020-21.”

The contract with the CCTC was not a competitive bidding process because EDs are “often life threatening, and specialized treatment is needed as soon as possible.”

The Family Care Network, Inc., got a \$5.26 million 1-year contract “to provide mental health services for high-risk children and youth aged 5 to 21 throughout the County.”

FCNI is a private, non-profit agency that was begun in 1987 “with the purpose of creating family-based treatment programs as an alternative to group home or institutional care for children and youth. The agency’s mission is ‘to enhance the well-being of children and families in partnership with our community.’”

FCNI runs 17 different programs and the County is involved in six of them. This County contract, will help ensure that children aged 5 to 21, who are seriously emotionally disturbed or suffering from a serious mental disorder get treatment.

The contract has two options to renew for an additional year, as decided upon by the County Health Agency Director, and thus will not need Supervisor’s support.

Sierra Mental Wellness Group was awarded a 1-year (2021-22) \$3.81 million contract to provide mental health crisis intervention services “in addition to providing expanded services that reach underserved populations, as directed by the Mental Health Services Act (MHSA). Sierra Mental Wellness Group is specially trained and competent to provide these services.”

Sierra Mental Wellness Group has clinics in Roseville, Auburn and Tahoe City. The agency provides mental health counseling to children, adolescents and adults in individual, group, family, and couple modalities. They also provide crisis response services in Placer, Colusa, Nevada and San Luis Obispo Counties,

according to the group’s website.

Sierra Wellness will provide staff at Sierra Vista, Twin Cities and Arroyo Grande Hospitals to assist in evaluating patients in the emergency rooms with mental health issues and facilitate their being transferred to inpatient facilities, and refer them to local resources and services.

“The goal of these services,” the County said, “will be to reduce the lengths of stay in emergency departments for patients in psychiatric crisis and facilitate appropriate discharge to the community, to the Crisis Stabilization Unit, to County inpatient psychiatric facility, or to other receiving psychiatric facilities as appropriate.”

Community Action Partnership of SLO (CAPSLO) was given a 1-year contract for \$576,000 to provide mental health services to children and adults.

The Board of Supervisors in January approved the Mental Health Services Act Annual Update and Three-Year Expenditure Plan, which included services for the Collaborative Re-Entry Program, part of AB109, the 2011 Public Safety Realignment Act, which covers the Sheriff’s Department, County Probation and Behavioral Health.

CAPSLO’s contract and is “geared to reach the underserved and/or un-served populations of San Luis Obispo County.” Many of the services the agency is providing it has done for over 10 years.

Transitions Mental Health Association was given a \$5.84 million contract to provide mental health services for children and adults, continuing a partnership that’s been going on for over 29 years. This is because there are very limited options for service providers, according to the County.

TMHA runs a number of programs for the County that include family support specialists advocating and supporting families of mental health consumers; a family education program of eight sessions a year reaching some 104 people; a vocational training and supported employment program to “engage, orient, prepare, and support mental health clients to work independently in the community;” the Growing Grounds Retail Vocational Program; and the Hotline-Suicide Prevention and Crisis Intervention Program, among others.

Transitions also runs the Community Action Team with the San Luis Obispo Police Department to respond directly to individuals experiencing behavioral health crises who are in need of outreach and engagement, according to the County.

The County also awarded a 1-year contract to Seneca Family of Agencies for \$2.58 million “to provide mental health services for high-risk children and youth aged 5 to 21 throughout the County.”

Seneca “provides specialty mental health services, medication support, and case management services to eligible children/youth that are living with relatives, adopted, or being considered for adoption, and who need outpatient services,” the County report said. “The focus of the program is to help maintain permanency for children, to address the impacts of adoption on a child and his/her family, and to address the impacts on children being raised by a relative caregiver. These services are intended to reduce the possibility of future residential care, periodic inpatient hospitalization, placement at out-of-state facilities, or placement in a juvenile justice facility.”

And just this past Tuesday, Supervisors were presented with

two more contracts for mental health services. Aurora Las Encinas, LLC and San Jose Behavior Health, LLC combined were give a \$1.11 million contracts “to provide acute psychiatric hospital services for adult and youth/adolescent Behavioral Health clients,” the County said.

“Apart from State Hospitals, acute care hospitals offer the most intensive level of care in the mental health care continuum. Acute psychiatric hospitals are locked multi-bed, typically short-stay, facilities that are primarily engaged in providing intensive care of persons with severe mental illness.”

All told the County plans on entering into 10 contracts for mental health services with outside agencies. They were still negotiating two more contracts that will go to Supervisors in the coming weeks. The sum of these contracts tops \$20.65 million.

Former Teacher Will Serve Jail Time

A former Morro Bay High School teacher and swim coach who pled “no contest” to having sex with an under-aged student in 2020 and sending inappropriate text messages to another girl, will serve his sentence in County Jail after his request for home detention was denied by the Sheriff’s Office.



Tyler Andree

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

Sheriff’s Spokesman Tony Cipolla said on Sept. 30 that Andree had asked to spend his sentence in home detention, or “house arrest” and was initially denied. However, the Sheriff’s Department has an appeal process in these matters and Andree filed an appeal and won.

“Andree filed for an appeal and was approved based on a lack of previous crimes and a probation report,” Cipolla said in a news release. The Sheriff apparently stepped in. “However, a further review was initiated based on it being a sex crime. The subsequent review resulted in Andree’s home detention being denied.”

Cipolla explained, “The Sheriff’s Office takes crimes against children and sex crimes seriously, the decision to deny the appeal is in line with similar decisions in similar cases.”

The case began last January when the Morro Bay Police Department’s school resource officer got an anonymous tip from a woman in Washington State regarding a student who’d had an affair with a teacher the previous school year.

The tipster didn’t give the name of the victim or the suspect.

Jail Time Continued on page 4



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Morro Bay Police decided to investigate. Students were not in school at the time, due to the coronavirus pandemic response.

“The investigation led detectives to identify a possible victim and suspect,” MBPD Cmdr. Amy Watkins said at the time. “Detectives located and contacted the believed parties involved, which generated a more in-depth investigation into the misconduct by Andree.”

The tip to police was also made to the San Luis Coastal Unified School District, which put Andree on leave while it conducted its own investigation. Andree resigned a week later. He had only been with the district since August 2019.

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

In California it is not illegal for a teacher to have sex with a student if the student is legally an adult (over 18) at the time. Also sometime in 2020, Andree “also engaged in sending inappropriate messages communicating explicit sexual intent with another 17-year-old female student,” according to D.A. spokesman Eric Dobroth. “This conduct formed the basis for the felony conviction of communicating with a minor with the intent to commit a specified sexual crime.” Such messaging has been given the label, “sexting.”

## County Seeks Grants to Fix Vet’s Hall; Build Imagination Park

By Neil Farrell

San Luis Obispo County is applying for grants to hopefully move along three nagging parks projects that are ready to go, but lack funding for construction.

At their Oct. 5 meeting, Supervisors were asked to allow the Parks and Recreation and Public Works Departments to apply for “Regional Park Program” (RPP) and “Rural Recreation and Tourism Program” (RRTP) grants to move forward with the Jack Ready Imagination Park in Nipomo; construct the Morro Bay to Cayucos Pathway along Hwy 1; and to rebuild the Cayucos Vet’s Hall.

They also, on Sept. 28, approved applying for a \$200,000 grant from the Coastal Conservancy for the Vet’s Hall project, which appears to be a lock, though the money for the other three grants is a competitive process with just \$23 million available statewide for both the RPP and RRTP.


The RPP grants are “to create, expand, and improve regional parks,” the staff report said. “Projects will create at least one, new, recreation feature that attracts visitors from at least a 20-mile radius or county-wide population to a regional park.”

The RRTP grants are to “create new recreation features in support of economic, tourism, and health related goals. Projects will improve the health of residents and attract out of town visitors.”

All of the projects are designed, permitted and ready to go.

The Jack Ready Imagination Park, slated for a vacant parcel in Nipomo, is being spear-headed by the family of the late Jack Ready. Jack’s aunt and uncle, Nicholas and Kathleen Tompkins, donated a 30-acre parcel for the park in 2005.

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## News Briefs

By Theresa-Marie Wilson

### COVID-19 Test Site Opens in M.B.

A COVID-19 test site is now open in Morro Bay at the Veterans Memorial Building, 209 Surf Street.

Health officials strongly encourage community members to make an appointment at [www.emergencyslo.org/testing](http://www.emergencyslo.org/testing), due to increased demand for testing. Walk-ins will be accepted as availability allows but are not guaranteed. Testing demand tends to be highest on Mondays and lower later in the week.

The hours are Monday-Friday, 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. It will be closed every weekday from 11 a.m. to 12 p.m. and 4 p.m. to 5 p.m.

For those who have health insurance, information will be collected when registering for an appointment and no co-pay is required. There is no charge for those without medical insurance. The County of San Luis Obispo and State of California are contracting with OptumServe to provide this service to the community.

### LOCSD Public Hearing Tonight for New Electoral System

Get your voice heard about the creation of a LOCSD Board of Directors district-based electoral system.

The Los Osos Community Services District invites all interested persons to attend public hearings tonight, October 7, and November 4 at 6 p.m. online at [us02web.zoom.us/j/86456192412](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86456192412).

Folks will be asked for community input on voting area scenarios of five board of directors districts for elections commencing with the General Election in November 2022.

The board will discuss, consider, and take community input on the scenarios and such other matters as may be related to the formation of the districts. Draft maps of potential district boundaries will be available at the public hearings, and an additional final public hearing will be scheduled.

For more information, contact Ron Munds, general manager, at (805) 528-9370 or by email [rmunds@lososcsd.org](mailto:rmunds@lososcsd.org). Copies of the staff reports and any support materials will be available for public inspection in the District Office, 2122 9th Street Suite 110, Los Osos or by visiting the District website at [www.lososcsd.org](http://www.lososcsd.org). The board could also discuss other hearings or business items before or after the item listed above. Anyone challenging the proposed action in court, could be limited to raising only those issues you or someone else raised at the public hearing

The Imagination Park will be fully accessible for people with disabilities and has been the driving force for the non-profit, Jack’s Helping Hand, formed by Ready’s parents after their son died.

While raising money for the park, the Ready’s have handed out numerous grants to agencies that serve the handicapped and helped in countless ways people with disabilities.

If they get the grant, the County said it would be used to build a playground, group picnic area, horseshoe/bocce ball courts, a pedestrian trail and concrete pathway.

The Morro Bay-Cayucos connector project will build a segregated bike and pedestrian path on the west side of Hwy 1 running along the beach bluffs and connecting the two towns. It would also become part of the California Coastal Trail.

“This multi-use pathway would extend from Cloisters Park, in the City of Morro Bay, to Norma Rose Park, in the community of Cayucos,” the County report said.

(Norma Rose Park is another bit of unfinished business for the County. The little park, which has been approved but not funded, is slated to be built below the cemetery where the dog park is now.)

The Cayucos Veteran’s Memorial Hall project has heated up in recent weeks first with the formation of a citizen’s group to raise money in support of the project and now with the two grant applications.

The Vet’s Hall has been described as the heart of the Cayucos community and is the place where various private celebrations and community events are held, from the Sea Glass and Portuguese Festivals, to fundraisers for fireworks, and public meetings. It’s been closed over 5 years.

“In May of 2016,” the County report reads, “and after a structural investigation of the facility, the building was deemed

unsafe to occupy and was closed indefinitely as a precautionary measure.”

### County Seeks \$3.4M Airport Grant

The Federal Government’s spending largesse will bring some bacon home, if the County airport gets a large grant it’s applying for.

SLO County Airports Director, Courtney Johnson, said the money would come from the “American Rescue Plan Act of 2021.”

Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (ARPA) is part of a \$1.9 trillion spending scheme passed by Congress in March 2021 and signed into law by President Joe Biden.

The package was intended to combat the costs of the Coronavirus Pandemic.

The grant program is part of an \$8 billion fund being doled out by the FAA to “airport sponsors” for “economic relief to airports to prevent, prepare for, and respond to the COVID-19 pandemic, including relief from rent and Minimum Annual Guarantees (MAGs) for eligible airport concessions at primary airports.”

Johnson is applying for over \$3.4 million for the SLO County Airport and another \$22,000 for the Oceano Airport. The Rescue Plan gives money in four specific instances:

- For costs related to operations, personnel, cleaning, sanitization, janitorial services, combating the spread of pathogens at the Airport and debt service payments;
- To provide relief to in-terminal airport concessionaires, for rental payment obligations and MAGs;
- All categories of airports receiving an Airport Improvement Plan (AIP) grant. Funds will be made available to pay a Federal share of 100-percent of the costs for any grant awarded in fiscal year 2021, or in fiscal year 2020 with less than a 100-percent Federal share for an airport development project.
- For costs related to operations, personnel, cleaning, sanitization, janitorial services, combating the spread of pathogens at the airport, and debt service payments.

Airports across the nation were hit especially hard when the pandemic was announced in April 2020 and commercial air travel was effectively grounded.

If the County gets the grants, it must spend the money or at least encumber it by the 2024 deadline, or the FAA might take it back.

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

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said, “includes members from the County Departments of Public Works, Parks and Recreation, Administrative Office, and Real Property Services, and California State Parks.”

And somewhere in there will be the “Cayucos Vet’s Hall Committee” (see: [www.restorecayucosvetshall.org](http://www.restorecayucosvetshall.org)), a group of citizens that recently formed to raise money to help with the Vet’s Hall project and to show Supervisors how much they want the building repaired and reopened.

## Seats Open on Planning Commission, PWAB

By Neil Farrell

The City Hall shuffle continues in Morro Bay, with the City announcing it is taking applications for the planning commission after the City Council pegged a commissioner to move up to the varsity team.

Former Planning Commissioner Jen Ford was named Sept. 14 to replace the late Councilman Red Davis, who died July 24 while in office. With Ford’s elevation to the council, that opened up her seat on the planning commission and the City will take applications at City Hall (or online) until 5 p.m. Friday, Oct. 15. Ford was named to the commission this past February to fill the vacant seat of Jesse Barron who moved away and resigned.

The City is also looking for someone to fill a vacant seat on the Public Works Advisory Board.

The Planning Commission’s purpose, according to the City website is to:

- Develop a general plan and recommend its adoption by the City Council;
- Maintain the general plan after its adoption by the City Council;
- Develop specific plans as may be necessary to implement the general plan; and,
- Periodically review the capital improvement program of the City for recommendations to the City Council.

It should be noted that the City recently had its General Plan Update approved by the Coastal Commission, therefore work on those documents is over for a while.

The planning commission also serves as a first look at major development proposals, with authority to grant some discretionary permits, appealable to the City Council. It is also the first appeal body for citizens of an administrative permit issued by the community development director.

The commission rarely has final say on any matter, but rather reviews/critiques projects, suggests and asks for changes to conditional use permits, then votes on what are essentially recommendations to the council, either yea or nay.

Upcoming is one of the largest projects in town history — a proposal to build a 600 megawatt “Battery Energy Storage System” (BESS) on the old power plant property. It would be the largest such facility in the world and has already generated significant controversy amongst residents. It appears headed for an uphill fight with the planning commission one of the first battlegrounds.

There are five planning commissioners and all are appointed by a majority of the City Council. The commission meets the first and third Tuesdays of the month at 6 p.m. at the Vet’s Hall. All meetings are televised, however, since the start of the Coronavirus Pandemic, the commission has met entirely online via Zoom.

According to the City’s website, PWAB “was established to provide advisement and recommendations relative to services, functions, and operation of the Public Works division, the priorities of and future planning for public works, as well as to conduct such studies and other duties and functions as may be requested by various Advisory Boards and to report those findings.”

PWAB has also become one of two city boards that review developments with the Water Reclamation Facility (WRF) project, a duty that will end with the project’s completion in 2023.

The board meets the third Wednesday of the month except in July, November and December, which are scheduled breaks for the staff.

PWAB normally meets at 5:30 p.m. at the Vet’s Hall but due to the Coronavirus Pandemic has been meeting online. It’s unknown when PWAB or any of the other City boards and commissions will meet in person again.

For the planning commission and PWAB applicants must be residents of and registered to vote in Morro Bay during the entire term of appointment, according to the City Clerk’s Office.

If readers are interested in these positions applications are available on the City Clerk’s webpage, see: [www.morrobayca.gov/DocumentCenter/View/8320/Advisory-Board-Application-October-2020-Annual-Recruitment?bidId](http://www.morrobayca.gov/DocumentCenter/View/8320/Advisory-Board-Application-October-2020-Annual-Recruitment?bidId).

For more information on each board, see: [www.morrobayca.gov/advisorybody](http://www.morrobayca.gov/advisorybody) and scroll down to “City Advisory Body Vacancies” and click on the position you are interested in.

## City to Hire Civil Engineer

By Neil Farrell

An overburdened Morro Bay Public Works Department will get some top-level help soon, after the city council approved a request to hire a senior civil engineer.

Public Works Director, Gregory Kwolek, asked to add the new position to his staff after a performance and staff evaluation concluded that they were short handed. The study found gaps in service in several areas:

- Staff capacity to manage and implement capital projects;
- Staff capacity to process plan reviews for development in a timely manner consistent with the Permit Streamlining Act (Government Code § 65920);
- Staff capacity to create short- and long-range plans for replacement of City infrastructure and related maintenance; and,
- Staff availability to respond to resident concerns in a timely manner

Succession planning for the City Engineer position. “The intent of this position,” Kwolek said, “is to address these gaps by adding to the Department’s capacity to complete work, engage and respond to the community, and assist in the development of a Capital Improvement Program and other long-range plans.”

The new position was budgeted at \$175,473 for salary and benefits. The position was already budgeted for in the current spending plan with money from Measures Q and E (both are sales tax hikes approved by voters) under the heading of “Public Works Pool for CIP Implementation” (CIP is Capital Improvement Projects). The Q&E budget item was for \$175,000 but Kwolek said they’d absorb the \$473 remainder in the department’s budget.

Whoever gets the job is going to be busy. His or her duties will include:

- Supervision of engineering and support staff as well as consultants;
- Project management;
- Preparation of comprehensive plans for a variety of City assets;
- Land development plan reviews;
- Permitting;
- Interdepartmental coordination of projects, plans, and activities;
- Attending and presenting at public and community meetings; and,
- Assisting with the implementation of the City’s Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) transition plan.

They also have to start planning for the looming retirement of City Engineer, Rob Livick, whom Kwolek replaced as public works director. Livick last year stepped down from the department head spot to become the City Engineer. It’s anticipated he will retire in the next 2-5 years. Livick has been with the City for over 15 years and was with the City of SLO before that in a 33-year career.

Kwolek told EBN they’d take applications through Oct. 14. They’d lost Herb Edwards of their staff when the pandemic started, he said, leaving them short-handed. This new hire will fill gaps in their staff.

“The Senior Civil Engineer position,” Kwolek said, “will fill some gaps and assist in completing our development reviews, inspections, and capital projects.”

Livick, Kwolek said, “holds a ton of institutional knowledge that we hope the incoming SCE will learn and benefit from.”

## Airport to Get LED Lighting

The SLO County Airport is continuing with efforts to be more energy efficient and save money, at various facilities.

County Airport Director Courtney Johnson asked Supervisors to approve a project to replace 123 “exterior apron” (non-runway) lights at the airport using a no-interest loan through Pacific Gas & Electric’s so-called On-Bill Financing (OBF) Program.

The project is part of the Public Works Department’s efforts to audit County facilities for efficiency and develop projects to lower utility costs that have included installing carport solar panels at places like Dairy Creek Golf Course and a 1-megawatt solar farm off Hwy 1 that will provide energy to the County Jails, new animal shelter and other County facilities along Kansas Avenue, among other projects.

The new airport terminal already has energy efficient lighting, Johnson’s report said, but the exterior lights hadn’t been changed. “County Airports and the Facilities Planning Division staff have worked with our regional LGP, the Central Coast Leaders in Energy Action Program, or CC-LEAP, and PG&E to audit the airport and develop this project.”

The CC-LEAP solicited bids and Electriccraft Inc., of San Luis Obispo for the job. Electriccraft’s bid was for \$196,000 for both materials and labor. But the County anticipates the materials costs could rise, like everything else has been rising, and asked for \$225,000 to cover potential increases.

Because of PG&E’s OBF Program, the County doesn’t need to pay upfront. “The loan period is estimated at 4.64 years and will be repaid on monthly PG&E electricity bills via energy savings achieved through implementation of the project,” Johnson said. “No change to the current automated bill payment processes will occur, and Airports will receive a monthly statement from PG&E to record the loan.”

Once the loan is paid off, the monthly electric bills will drop because of the lower usage the LED lights will consume. The new lights also have a longer lifespan and need less maintenance by airport’s maintenance crew.

## Sheriff to Get Ballistic Shields



The County Sheriff’s Department is ordering specialty safety equipment in the face of a steep rise in “active shooter” incidents.

County Supervisors approved spending \$125,000 out of the “Supplemental Law Enforcement Services Fund,” for 20 “ballistic shields.” Given the recent number of shootouts the department has had with in most cases, mentally ill suspects, the Sheriff wants to increase safety for the deputies who are exchanging fire with these people and the people they’re trying to protect.

“Over the last year,” the report said, “San Luis Obispo County has experienced an increase in the number of active shooter and officer involved shooting incidents. The Sheriff’s Office has responded to each of these incidents as they were unfolding. Deputies engaged in evacuations of civilians and rescues of wounded officers, several times while under fire from the suspect.”

The shields offer different protections than the bulletproof vests deputies wear on duty. “The Sheriff’s Office issues deputies bullet resistant vests to wear while on duty. This equipment protects a person’s vital areas; however, it is limited in the overall protection it affords the wearer and it offers no protection to people who the deputies are rescuing in an active shooter incident.

“Ballistic shields provide superior protection and will allow deputies to move quickly and safely on foot while rescuing injured persons in open areas or while performing evacuations of people who are threatened by an active shooter.”

The Sheriff’s Department has had three shootouts with suspects — two were in Paso Robles and included several deputies being wounded, and one at a gas station in Nipomo. In each case, officers killed the suspects.

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# Community

## K9 Officer Retires



A loyal K9 recently retired from the San Luis Obispo County Sheriff's office. DJ was born in SLO County on October 17, 2012, and became a Sheriff's Office dual purpose K9 about a year later.

During DJ's career he was partnered with handlers Deputy Steve Faeth, Deputy Josh Peet, and most recently with Deputy Bryan Love. During DJ's 8 years at the Sheriff's Office he has located over 7,000 grams of illegal narcotics, been deployed 588 times, and apprehended over 100 suspects, leading to an overall total of 294 arrests!

DJ has participated in community events throughout the county including Sheriff's Family Day, Cops 'N Kids Day, and the Sheriff's Youth Summer Camps.

From all of us here at the Estero Bay News, happy retirement DJ!





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## Events and Activities

By Theresa-Marie Wilson



**Friends of El Moro Elfin Forest (FEMEF) Nature Walk** in the Elfin Forest takes place on Saturday, October 9, 7:30 a.m. It's a Birding Field Trip with expert birder Jim Royer leading the walk beginning at 7:30 a.m. Participants must wear a mask and practice social distancing. Reservations are required. Call Jim at 805-748-7895. If there are more than six participants, Jim will do a second walk at 10:00 a.m.

This walk is sponsored by Friends of El Moro Elfin Forest (FEMEF). Meet at the north end of 15th Street off of Santa Ysabel in Los Osos. Park carefully, avoiding driveways and mailboxes and leave pets at home. The easy paced walk will last 1-1/2 to 2 hours.



**The San Luis Obispo County Open Studios Art Tour**, a program of SLO County Arts Council, takes place over two weekends in October 8-9 and 16-17. All the details and a map can be found [artsobispo.org/OSAT](http://artsobispo.org/OSAT).

This even is free to the public, fine artists and crafters open their studios to showcase their art and share their process. Visitors create their own self-guided tour using the downloadable catalog.

Over 120 artists countywide are opening their studios to give visitors a glimpse into their creative worlds. "We are excited to in-

clude 30 artists who are new to participating in the Open Studios Tour this year," said Neal Breton, president of the Arts Council board of directors.

This year, after facing financial hardships through the pandemic, the Council has opted to forego the traditional printed catalog of artists in favor of a digital artist directory.

"The Arts Council board members were all in agreement that while the catalog is nice to have, the reality of the world right now requires a digital option," added Breton. "The cool thing about the artist directory is that we can add to it and feature other types of artists and performers, so ultimately, it will be a great resource to access artists of all kinds in the community."

SLO County Arts Council is revamping and restarting their popular monthly art walk. They have rebranded Art After Dark to Art and About, a self-guided art walk that gives the community an opportunity to experience visual, literary and performing art in galleries and other venues the first, second and third Saturday of each month.

*Photo: A photo illustration of two boys playing in the surf in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. Image courtesy of Kevin Berne Images. More information at [Kevinberne.com](http://Kevinberne.com).*

**For the first time, community members** of all ages are invited to participate in the City's annual "Imagine a Day Without Water" art contest, which raises awareness about the importance of water. Winners of each age range will receive a \$50 gift certificate to a local business and have their artwork displayed on the City's website and in downtown SLO at 879 Morro Street.

**How to Enter**

1. Complete your artwork. (Original artwork only, please.)
2. Fill out the entry form at [bit.ly/3l0rTIX](http://bit.ly/3l0rTIX)
3. Mail your artwork and completed form to 879 Morro Street, San Luis Obispo, CA 93401 – OR – email your artwork and completed form to [jridgewa@slocity.org](mailto:jridgewa@slocity.org) no later than Oct. 21 at 5 p.m.

Many Americans take water for granted every day. Imagine a Day Without Water is a national education campaign that brings together diverse stakeholders to highlight how water is essential, invaluable, and in need of investment. This year, the day of action will take place on October 21, 2021, and will include events, resolutions, student contests, social media engagement, and more, all across the country.

For the complete rules for entry, review the entry form.



**As a reminder, Celebrate Los Osos** needs volunteers for a beautification project on Los Osos Valley Road that starts by

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Ralph's just past South Bay Boulevard is pretty dreary offering mostly dirt and a few scraggly plants as landscaping.

Celebrate Los Osos, with help from Earthscapes, a Los Osos residential and commercial landscape design firm, has worked for two years redesigning the 1100-foot median. On Oct. 9 their efforts will experience a growth spurt. Eighty volunteers are needed, 40 in the morning from 8:45 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. and 40 in the afternoon from 12:45 p.m. - 4:30 p.m. The scope includes clearing the median of the existing irrigation system and dead plants. The area will be graded and soil amendment added. Volunteers are needed to dig very small holes and plant specific plants in designated locations, move and distribute small rocks and gravel with wheelbarrows, and help install irrigation lines.

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

...

**It's time for The Central Coast RV Show** going on Oct 7-11th at the Madonna Inn Meadows in San Luis Obispo! Shop over 30 of the industry's best brands including Winnebago, Keystone, Thor, Forest River, Heartland, Jayco, and Newmar. See all of the best brands in the RV industry, all in one place!

Featuring trailers, fifth wheels, motorhomes, van campers and even pop-up trailers, there is sure to be something for everyone!

Lenders, vendors, and trade appraisers will be on sight, so if you can drive, drag, push or pull it, use it as a trade!

They will give away two RAD Power electric bikes, so make sure to enter! Details at [CentralCoastRVshow.com](http://CentralCoastRVshow.com).



**The third annual Central Coast Craft Beer Fest**, presented by the Central Coast Brewers Guild on takes place on Saturday, October 23 at the Sunk Gardens in beautiful Atascadero from 12 - 4 p.m. Enjoy samples from over 50+ independently owned local craft breweries, seltzers, wineries and ciders and kombucha!

Live entertainment by local reggae band Resination, The Voice semi-finalist Will Breman, and DJ Hecktik!

We will have plenty of food trucks, a great variety of vendors and lawn games!

Admission includes a souvenir glass and samples from any of the craft breweries, wineries, seltzers, ciders and kombucha

companies on site!

VIP Session: \$60 (Hour early entry at 12 p.m. • limited tickets available)

Includes hour early entry at 12 p.m., and also includes special craft beer and food pairings from local restaurants and craft breweries. General Admission: \$50 (1 p.m. Entry). All guests receive a souvenir glass and samples from any of the craft breweries, wineries, cideries and kombucha on site. Tickets are at [bit.ly/CentralCoastCraftBeer2021](http://bit.ly/CentralCoastCraftBeer2021).



**Join The SLOroll** - Community Initiative presents the Ghouls Roll Out October community roll in San Luis Obispo! Costumes encouraged! Music by @DJbrothaC \*to support the DJ Venmo @brothac Supported by SLO Parks and Rec Dept.

\*Halloween Social all skate 5 p.m.- 7 p.m.

\*Grown folks hour 7 p.m.- 8 p.m.

Sorry, no rentals available at this time. Must have own skates. Awaiver of liability must be signed at the door. All wheels at skate marshal discretion. City alcohol laws apply. No liquid or food on the skate floors. Respect others and their space. Roll at own risk. The SLOroll and City of San Luis Obispo are not liable for injuries that occur. The SLO Skate Park, 1050 Oak Street, features a 15,500-square-foot concrete park, outdoor amphitheater and public art. Helmets, elbow and knee pads required.

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

Join us if you dare!

[www.esterobaynews.com/halloween](http://www.esterobaynews.com/halloween)

# “L’dor V’dor” Jewish Community Exhibit Opened in SLO



In Hebrew, “L’dor V’dor” means “from generation to generation” and since the 1850s, generations of Jewish migrants have made their way to San Luis Obispo County from all over the world. Throughout the late 19th and early 20th centuries, families with names like Blochman, Cerf, Goldtree, Green, Sinsheimer and others arrived from as far away as Russia to make their homes on the Central Coast, creating the community we recognize today.

The History Center of San Luis Obispo County has opened its newest exhibit after years of preparation and collaboration with local representatives of the Jewish faith as well as several local historians and filmmakers. The exhibit highlights stories of how Jewish entrepreneurs constructed the People’s Wharf in Avila; how early High Holy Day services were celebrated in the Grand Mason’s building; and how Louis Sinsheimer, San Luis Obispo’s longest-serving mayor, worked with the local Catholic parish priest and local business owners to prevent the Ku Klux Klan from gaining a foothold here in the 1920s. The exhibit also includes a video excerpt from Sky Bergman’s film “Lives Well Lived,” telling how the late Marion Wolff and her husband Paul escaped the Holocaust in Europe in the 1930s.

The History Center is located at 696 Monterey Street next to Mission Plaza in downtown San Luis Obispo. The museum is open each day, except Tuesday, from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. The exhibit is wheelchair accessible.

Safety first— for now, five guests at a time, masks required, and maintain social distancing. For more information, call 805/543-0638 or email [info@historycenterslo.org](mailto:info@historycenterslo.org).

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Cowboy Entertainer Show  
and Dinner, Oct. 23

Renowned cowboy entertainer Dave Stamey will perform at a fundraiser in support the MBHS Future Farmer's of America.

The Aggie Backers is a nonprofit, parent booster club that supports and promotes FFA and agriculture education at Morro Bay High School. They raise money for field trips; FFA conferences and scholarships; help with FFA drive-thru barbecue fundraisers; and chaperone/drive the kids to conferences and team competitions.

The Aggie Backers was started some years ago to help bolster the agriculture and FFA program at Morro Bay High, with their first big project helping restore the school farm and renew interest in agriculture education. Over the years they've contributed to several projects at the school farm, building corrals and pens and generally providing funds for the facility's upkeep. They also award scholarships to graduating seniors.

Tickets to “Night Under the Stars” dinner and concert are \$100 and available on the Aggie Backers' website, see: [mbaggiebackers.wixsite.com/website](http://mbaggiebackers.wixsite.com/website). All proceeds go to support FFA students, scholarships, conferences and agricultural education at Morro Bay High School.

If readers would like to donate or join the all-volunteer group, email to: [mbaggiebackers@gmail.com](mailto:mbaggiebackers@gmail.com) for information.



Police Blotter



Morro Bay Police Logs

- Sept. 26: Police responded at 2 p.m. to the 300 block of Embarcadero where someone said his or her vehicle was stolen, a case of round up the usual suspects.
- Sept. 26: Police contacted a suspicious man at 12:30 p.m. in the 800 block of Front. Logs indicated the apparent skint, 51, had a warrant and got himself nicked.
- Sept. 26: Police stopped a suspicious vehicle at Hwy 1 at San Jacinto. Logs indicated the 29-year-old woman driver was arrested for suspicion of driving on a toot at 6:03 a.m., as she was apparently out late and not up early.
- Sept. 26: Police responded at 6 a.m. to Bottle Liquor, 999 Main St. for a reported burglary. Police are investigating, and arrests are no doubt imminent.
- Sept. 26: Police responded at 12:15 a.m. to Atascadero and Ironwood where, according to logs, some church lady found a Bible in the middle of the road, no doubt left there by Satan.
- Sept. 25: Police responded at 10:21 p.m. to a disturbance in the 600 block of Main. A 48-year-old apparent skunk was arrested for suspicion of being stinky.
- Sept. 25: Police responded at 9 p.m. to the 2800 block of Alder for an apparent case of the naughties — a 17-year-old girl living with her 18-year-old boyfriend, a case of Romeo and Juliette, 21st Century style.
- Sept. 25: Police contacted a suspicious fellow at 5:30 p.m. in the 1700 block of Embarcadero. The 25-year-old fugitive had a warrant from Kern County and was checked into the Parkinson Plaza, another case of arrive on vacation, leave on probation.
- Sept. 25: Police contacted a disturbing gent at 11:40 a.m. at the roundabout. Logs indicated the idjit, 36, was so drunk he couldn't care for himself or others, but he apparently wasn't too drunk to allegedly commit domestic battery and was also charged with that offense.
- Sept. 25: Police responded to a disturbance at 1:39 a.m. in the

- 500 block of Atascadero Rd. A 23-year-old apparent snot waffle was nicked for suspicion of resisting arrest, obstructing an officer and being drunk, suffering intoxicifornication.
- Sept. 25: Police responded to a disturbance at 12:11 a.m. in the 1100 block of Front. A 35-year-old tomato was nicked for allegedly being stewed.
  - Sept. 24: Police responded to the 1700 block of Embarcadero where a teenage girl said some swamp donkey broke the rear driver's side window out of her car but apparently didn't find anything worth stealing.
  - Sept. 24: Police responded to the 700 block of Morro Bay Blvd., where some disturbed fellow had a bell on every tooth. The 42-year old was arrested for suspicion of being drunk in public.
  - Sept. 24: There was a car crash in the 800 block of Market. No juicy details were available.
  - Sept. 24: Police responded at 5:14 p.m. to City Park where some raucous woman was having a bag lady moment. The 49-year old also had a couple of warrants and was hauled to the cooler to chill.
  - Sept. 24: Police towed a trailered boat from the 300 block of Fairview for parking too long on the street, and without current registration, too.
  - Sept. 22: Police took a report of a stolen vehicle in the 800 block of Quintana. Logs indicated the car was located, and "zee caze is sol-ved!"
  - Sept. 22: Police responded to the 400 block of Trinidad for a reported case of arson. Logs indicated the report was unfounded, as the fire apparently started itself.
  - Sept. 22: Police contacted a suspicious fellow at 1:30 a.m. in the 900 block of MBB. The sneaky fellow, 29, had nine bench warrants and was arrested if you can believe it. Meanwhile, at virtually the same time at MBB and Harbor another apparent swagman, 34, was issued just his second citation and released.
  - Sept. 21: Police responded to Albertsons Market at 8:35 p.m. for a reported shoplifter. Logs indicated a regular, known pilferer, who had been 86'd from the store, had come in, filled a basket with foodstuffs and tried to use the help-yourself line. A store employee confronted the brazen thief, who dropped the basket and fled. Good riddance, right? No, the sticky fingered gent had slipped on a new hoodie while in the store and fled with it on. A report was sent to the D.A. for probable inaction.
  - Sept. 21: Someone tried to use a phony credit card at Albertsons Market.
  - Sept. 21: Police contacted a wanted fellow, 35, in the 700 block of MBB and cited the ruffian for suspicion of battery.
  - Sept. 20: Police responded to the 200 block of Main where some scalawag vandalized a boat.
  - Sept. 20: Police stopped a suspicious vehicle at 3:12 p.m. at Dunes and Shasta. The 35-year-old driver was cited and released for a suspended license but his vehicle was impounded, which seems bass-ackwards.
  - Sept. 20: Police stopped a suspicious car at 9:26 a.m. in the 2600 block of Main. The 40-year-old woman driver was cited and released for a suspended license and her car was impounded.
  - Sept. 20: In an incident that wasn't reported to police, a woman in North Morro Bay said she was taking her husband's hard-won colon cancer test sample to be analyzed, placing the little bucket in a paper bag and walking it out to the car. She went back inside the house for her sunglasses and when she returned, some master thief had stolen the bag, no doubt thinking he'd hit the jackpot, when in reality, "...they stole my husband's defecation!!!!"
  - Sept. 19: Police contacted a suspicious fellow at 5:23 p.m. in the 900 block of Embarcadero who had a warrant. He was issued a second disappearance ticket and released.
  - Sept. 18: Police contacted a familiar foe at 9 p.m. in City Park. The 47-year-old swagman was cited and released on a bench warrant, which seems a tad redundant don't ya' know?
  - Sept. 17: Police responded at 7:50 p.m. to the 800 block of Piney Way where they actually arrested a 41-year-old fellow for suspicion of robbery, petty theft, and two bench warrants.
  - Sept. 17: Police responded to a hit-n-split crash at 5:20 in the 800 block of Front. The alleged hitter and the hittee were both on scene and they exchange insurance information.
  - Sept. 16: A citizen in the 2200 block of Emerald Circle said some scoundrel got into their unlocked car and pinched their booty.
  - Sept. 15: Police responded at 5:19 p.m. to the 500 block of Quintana where some tore up fellow was raising a kerfuffle. The 29-year-old fooliot was nicked for suspicion of goin' on the razzle.
  - Sept. 14: Police contacted a suspicious fellow, 28, at 2 p.m. in the 1000 block of Las Tunas. He had two bench warrants and low and behold was actually taken to jail.
  - Sept. 13: Police at the high school took a courtesy report regarding suspected child abuse that apparently happened in Los Osos.
  - Sept. 13: A citizen in the 1100 block of Balboa said someone stole medications from their home, which sounds like an inside job.
  - Sept. 13: Police took a burglary and vandalism report in the 200

- block of Main. Logs indicated they have no leads as the scam-boogah was apparently a master criminal.
- Sept. 13: Graffidiots apparently left their mark at Del Mar Elementary School. No word on what drivel was scribbled or if the vandalases did more damage.
  - Sept. 13: Someone stole a bicycle from a kid at the high school, ah hell, it's time he got a car anyway.
  - Sept. 12: Like a blast from the past a long-lost local yokel caught the eye of a cop at 11:38 a.m. on Hwy 1 at Morro Bay Boulevard and got pulled over. The 60-year-old fellow was busted for suspicion of felony reckless driving, resisting arrest, a suspended license and no doubt general nincompoopery, and hauled to the County re-education facility.
  - It was the repeat customer's second go-round with police, as on Sept. 8 he was stopped at 11:25 a.m. at the Roundabout and cited for a suspended license and a bench warrant.
  - Sept. 12: Police towed an offending vehicle in the 300 block of Jamaica for expired tags, as apparently the owner didn't just steal tags off another car, which seems to be the fad these days.
  - Sept. 11: A citizen in the 500 block of Elena reported getting annoying and harassing phone calls, which is why God made air horns.
  - Sept. 11: Police responded to a disturbance at 8:12 a.m. in the 2600 block of Main. Logs indicated a 35-year-old stubborn fellow was violating a stay-the-hell-away-from-me court order and was hauled to the nick for some soul searching.
  - Sept. 11: Police stopped a suspicious vehicle at 12:27 a.m. at Fairview and Ridgeway. The 70-year-old driver was arrested for suspicion of driving snookered.
  - Sept. 10: Police responded at 8:06 p.m. to a disturbance at Main and Atascadero Road. A 29-year-old fellow was busted for suspicion of being waxed in public and possession of methamphetamine.
  - Sept. 10: Police responded at 3 p.m. to the 2900 block of Cedar for a disturbance. A 69-year-old apparently bent gent got hauled to the gulag. At virtually the same time, at Coleman and Embarcadero another schwasted dude was causing a ruckus. That 29-year-old Mamaluke slept it off in the County's no-star hotel.
  - Sept. 9: A citizen came to the stationhouse with a suspicious letter that was left in his mailbox, by some no doubt phonus balonus.
  - Sept. 9: Police stopped a suspicious vehicle at 11:15 a.m. in the 1500 block of Main. A 31-year-old woman driver was cited for a suspended license and released.
  - Sept. 8: Police were called at 4 p.m. to the area of Ironwood and Sequoia where some ruffian reportedly brandished a knife but apparently cut out before police arrived.
  - Sept. 8: Police stopped a vehicle at 12:48 p.m. at Main and Errol. Logs indicated the 28-year-old driver had a suspended license and four failure-to-appear warrants, which pretty much is the definition of a scofflaw. He was cited and released, no doubt part of the new job security program.
  - Sept. 7: Police responded at 11 p.m. to the 1700 block of Embarcadero where apparently the Morro Creek Bridge jumped in front of a car driven by a 62-year-old fellow. He was arrested for suspicion of driving blindo. The bridge was inspected by the City and no damage was found.
  - Sept. 7: Police responded to a fender-bender at 4 p.m. at Harbor and Market, which is a blind corner going uphill. No injuries to report.
  - Sept. 7: Someone broke into a parked car in the 500 block of Main and stole some undisclosed treasures.
  - Sept. 7: A citizen in the 300 block of Quintana reported vandalism and police forwarded a crime report to the D.A., so maybe this nodcock won't get away with it.
  - Sept. 6: Police responded at 8 p.m. to a disturbance in the 800 block of Pacific. Logs indicated a 49-year-old man was arrested for violating a domestic stay-away order, a case of some guys never learn.
  - Aug. 30: Police responded at 2 p.m. to an un-neighborly dispute in the 1200 block of Clarabelle. Logs said the caller told them a neighbor trespassed onto their property "to cut down bushes/trees," a hanging offense in this town. According to logs, the misbegotten knave was arrested.
  - Sept. 6: Police responded at 4:25 p.m. to a domestic disturbance in the 200 block of Main. Logs indicated a man, 48, and woman, 31, were both arrested for suspicion of battery, however, while she was nicked, he was cited and released because the County Jail would not accept the apparent malcontent.
  - Sept. 6: Police towed a car from Panorama and Whidbey for violating 11th Commandment — Thou shalt not park in one place too long.
  - Sept. 6: Police responded at 11:30 a.m. to an assault report in the 3000 block of Beachcomber Dr. They took an incident report, as apparently no blood was spilt.
  - Sept. 6: Police responded at 7:20 a.m. to the 400 block of Trinidad where they sought out a 39-year-old scofflaw who had a warrant. He was given his second and released to no doubt go back to bed.

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# OUT & ABOUT

## WITH THE BOOKSHELF WRITERS



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

Each issue, this column will feature one of the BookShelf Writers:

Debbie Black, Catherine "Kiki" Kornreich,  
Judy Salamacha and Susan Vasquez



Community

School's From page 9



Morro Bay's Barry Garelick with his daughter Angela, who managed to make math work with the latter getting through calculus

believed many students would need to be shown the process to guide them to the right path to eventually discover how to get to their "aha" moment. Just as the administration believed he would benefit from the teaching experiences of mentor teachers, he believed his students could benefit from examples and practice that helped him and Angela understand math procedures and ultimately concepts.

Garelick's candid advice for new teachers, or if changing schools: First learn the culture of the school. Be prepared to accept and follow its rules. The goal is to help students learn while building rapport with the administration and staff. If innovation is encouraged, lessons should be based on proven methods. Instruction that helps all students conquer math skills will please their parents and become a win/win/win for all concerned.

Pick up "OuT on Good Behavior" at either Coalesce Book Store in Morro Bay or Volumes of Pleasure in Los Osos.

Takin' Care of BUSINESS

By Theresa-Marie Wilson

Woods 'Wiggle Waggle Fall Festival' on Oct. 30



It's Adopt a Shelter Dog Month and Woods Humane Society will cap off a month of celebration and adoption promotions by inviting the community—including leashed and friendly dogs—to its San Luis Obispo campus for the Wiggle Waggle Fall Festival from 12 p.m. to 3 p.m. on Saturday, October 30, 2021.

This free pet celebration features fall-themed, carnival style activities for the whole family, sponsored by Saint Francis Capital Wealth Management and Perfect Union, in addition to MetLife Pet Insurance, Coast 104.5 (which will host the event live, on-air), The Krush 92.5, 93.3 KZOZ, 98.1 KJUG, 920 KVEC, Hill's Science Diet, Williams Homes, Lemos Feed & Pet Supply, Elemental Wealth Advisors, and New Times.

"After months of social distancing and virtual events," said Woods CEO Neil Trent, we are thrilled to be able to take advantage of our warm fall weather to safely host this outdoor festival in celebration of the animals who continue to brighten our days

and fill our hearts, no matter what is happening in the world. We would love nothing more than to thank our local community members who have supported us through thick and thin by treating them to an afternoon of pure, pet-inspired fun."

Event highlights include kids' and canines' costume contests; canine carnival activities like the Stuffed-Animal Pull, Pup-Cake Walk, and Bobbing for Tennis Balls in the Doggy Splash Zone; a Trick-for-Treat training challenge and Haunted Dog House in the Woods University training facility; holiday family photo opportunities at the Woods PUP-kin Patch as well as with a real, live Santa Paws; and both trick-or-treating and shopping in the open-air Pet Fair, featuring local artisan goods, delicious food, face painting, and more.

Event vendor SLO Animal Services will be offering free microchips for pets during the event (while supplies last) at their neighboring site, next door to Woods Humane Society SLO. Other Pet Fair vendors include Palette and Pine hand-crafted wood signs, Woolly Bear Designs, Paradise Shaved Ice, Tails Pet Boutique, Amandalee Designs, Lemos Feed & Pet Supply, Paso Pups gourmet dog treats, Krave Boxx food truck, Tacos El Grande food truck, SLO Roasted Coffee, and more.

Woods event organizers note that most event activities will be held outdoors, however, restrooms and some event booths will be located indoors. Masks are required in all indoor areas.

The Woods Wiggle Waggle Fall Festival takes place at Woods Humane Society SLO, located at 875 Oklahoma Ave., San Luis Obispo. For more event information, visit [www.WoodsHumane.org/FallFestival](http://www.WoodsHumane.org/FallFestival) or call (805) 543-9316

Historical Adobe Open House Delayed



The Annual Open House and Tour of La Loma Adobe, originally planned for this October, will be postponed until


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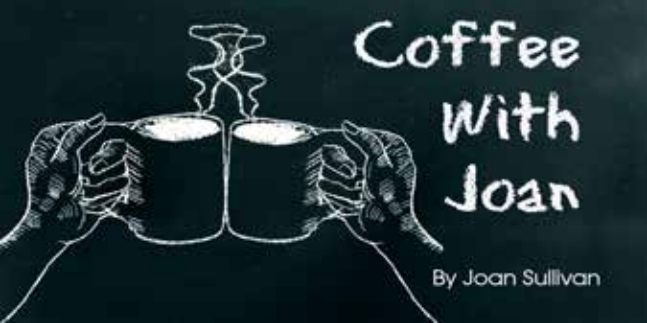
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Community

Spring of 2022 due to concerns about COVID. Everyone looks forward to the La Loma Adobe Open House. It's a rare chance to get inside a historic San Luis Obispo home that is over 200 years old, dating to the very beginnings of San Luis Obispo city's history. No one has lived in the adobe since the early 1950s, but since the early 1800s the adobe had been home to some of San Luis Obispo's most famous people of their times. Lots of children were raised there – nine of whom belonged to Maria Concepción ("Chona") Boronda, who added the second story to the original adobe to house her growing family. The structure shows its history – from the original hand-made adobe bricks to the surrounding gardens that volunteers have now brought back to life. It is owned by the City of San Luis Obispo. Friends of La Loma Adobe have been working with City staff and volunteers to insure that this vital piece of San Luis Obispo history will survive for future generations to enjoy. Until May, the outside of the adobe can be seen from the public garden area that surrounds it. The adobe is located at 1590 Lizzie Street, adjacent to the Reservoir Canyon Natural Reserve Trailhead, and close to the San Luis Coastal Adult School and French Hospital. Learn more about La Loma Adobe by visiting [LaLomaAdobe.or](http://LaLomaAdobe.or)

*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](http://EsteroBayNews.com).*



Vineyard on Highway 46

The Estero Bay News is published by Casey Printing in King City. My daughter, Lynne and I, pass many vineyards along Highway 101 on our way to pick up the edition on publishing day. And, since there are never any signs of activity in the fields several questions come to mind, such as: How are the hundreds of acres of vineyards taken care of? When do the vineyards need to be harvested and how? Following diligent research, I found the information I needed. Watering is done mostly by drip systems or by overhead sprinklers. A lot of the larger vineyards are farmed mechanically. The grapes are picked by machine in much larger vineyards. Most vineyards are harvested at night when it's cool. Daytime heat can tax the fruit. The smaller vineyards are harvested by hand.



San Bernabe Vineyards in the Salinas Valley. Photo by Lynne Johnson

When are the vineyards harvested and how? White grapes come in first, in late August. Red grapes are harvested in late September/October. In the Southern Hemisphere, harvest begins in the spring. The most interesting thing I discovered is that the San Bernabe Vineyard was created in 2004 as a result of a petition by Delicato Family Vineyards, whose 8,500 acres (3,440 ha) make it the largest in the world. The San Bernabe Ranch of 3700 acres of vineyards, located on the east side of Highway 101 south of King City, is part of the larger Monterey AVA (American Viticultural Area). San Bernabe is located in the Salinas Valley, between the Salinas River on the east, and the Santa Lucia Mountains on the west. *Reference: GoogleEarth*

2008 Civic is Lions' 34th Free Car



The Morro Bay Lion's Club gave away the 34th vehicle in its quarterly car giveaway program. Bill Todd, owner of Todd's Garage and Lion's Club treasurer, said the 2008 Honda Civic was donated to the program by his nephew Dan Todd's fiancé, Gina of Van Nuys, Calif. She'd bought a new car, Todd said, heard about the Lion's program and donated it to the cause rather than trade it in. The car was given to Vivian Levy in recognition of her many contributions to the community. The program was begun by Bill Todd and Sharon O'Leary of the Morro Bay Community Resources Center, who sought out people who've made significant contributions to their community and were in need of reliable transportation. The program accepts donations of vehicles that people don't want or no longer have a need for. The reasons to make the tax deductible donations vary from a death in the family, to a new vehicle, to folks who've gotten too old and are no longer allowed to drive. They will also accept donated vehicles that aren't running, as they can be sold for scrap and the money used on cars to be given away.

The Lion's Club Foundation embraced the program and has helped coordinate the giveaways. Todd said at the garage, he and son Mike Todd, go through the donated vehicles to check the mechanics, fix anything that's wrong, do a 60-point safety inspection, and give it a smog check. The recipients must insure the vehicle and pay future licensing costs. Recipients are chosen from a list of applicants, screened by a committee, and then if chosen are presented the keys usually at a public ceremony. Levy received her Civic at the conclusion of Morro Bay's 150th Anniversary celebration on Sept. 11. If readers have a vehicle they no longer need and would like to donate, or would like to receive a vehicle, call O'Leary at (805) 225-1991. They accept cash donations as well in order to purchase needed parts for a donated vehicle. In the photo here, Vivian Levy takes the car keys from Bill Todd (right of Levy) with O'Leary at far right. And that's Lion's Club President Chuck Stoll just to the left of Levy. Also shown are Lion's Club members that were on hand for the event. Photo by Neil Farrell



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

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Community

Girl Scouts Cookie Power Provides New Place to Park

By Theresa-Marie Wilson



Girl Scouts pictured above with finished bike rack, left to right, Cadence Flickinger, Rowan Goodyear, Kailani Howard and Vena Fryer at Baywood Elementary School.

There is a new bike rack at Baywood Elelmentary School thanks to a group of industries girls.

Girl Scout troops 40325 and 40106 have been working on a badge about clean air and saving the earth.

They noticed a lot of bikes hidden in trees and chained to signposts at Baywood Elementary that belonged to students that catch a school bus there to go to high school or other schools in the district.

“We thought it would encourage bike riding if there was an actual place to leave their bikes safely,” said Troop Leader Cindy Goodyear.

“When there was no in-person school we put the plan on hold. With students back to classes, we got the okay from the school and moved ahead with the installation. We will be watching use, and if more spaces are needed, we will purchase another rack.

The rack cost about \$450 with the money coming from those yummy cookie sales. Each troop gets a percentage of each box they sell.

“This past year our council ordered too many (pandemic),” said Goodyear. “Some of my

girls sold some more at farmers market in SLO and got a higher percentage.”

Both the troops started at Baywood Elementary in kindergarten and now the oldest in the group are 9th graders at Morro Bay High School.

When asked by this reporter about those fantastic cookies called Lemonades, I was informed that most people are asking about the new brownie type cookie new for 2022 called the Adventurfuls. They are described as an indulgent brownie-inspired cookie with caramel-flavored crème and a hint of sea salt.

“I’m not sure we will have them as each council has different bakers [whose recipes and ingredients may differ slightly]. San Francisco gets Savannah Smile lemon cookies, and I always get asked to find those but also get requests from the Bay Area for our Lemonades. Cookie season can be tricky.”

According to Girlscout.org, councils conduct their cookie season for about a six- to eight-week period per year, most between January and April, but some start as early as September. Come on 2022.

Morro Bay Hosting Outdoor Concert



The County Health Department may be pointing everyone back towards coronavirus pandemic restrictions like wearing masks everywhere, requiring sports teams and school band musicians to wear masks while they compete and perform, and reopening a testing site in Morro Bay, but the City of Morro Bay is ready to party.

The City announced a free concert with, “LP And The Vinyl,” set for 3-4:30 p.m. Sunday, Oct. 24 at Cloisters Park.

The show, the first live music event sponsored by the City since 2019, “will be a family friendly program with familiar songs from blues to The Beatles to Bowie!” according to a news release from City Manager, Scott Collins. “This initial concert may be the starting point for a future multi-event concert series for all of Morro Bay and beyond!”

The announcement asks everyone to bring a chair, or blanket to sit on and your own refreshments. However, before you chill the Chardonnay, no alcohol is allowed.

Dead Air Dave, a disc jockey with 97.3 FM The Rock radio station will act as emcee for the show.

LP And The Vinyl is a 4-man band out of San Diego and features a lineup of veteran studio jazz musicians fronted by renowned jazz, blues and gospel singer Leonard Patton. Patton teamed up with the acclaimed, Danny Green Trio, to form the new combo in 2015.

The band draws from a wide array of influences — jazz, R&B, and rock ‘n’ roll, to ‘80s and

‘90s pop hits, Brazilian music, and even classical. LP And The Vinyl blends these varied interests into “a highly unique and personal approach to music-making that leaves its audiences energized and craving more,” according to the band’s website (see: lpandthevinyl.com).

The group plays favorite hits from stars like Stevie Wonder, The Beatles and David Bowie, bringing a unique interpretation to each. The band includes singer Patton, pianist Danny Green, bassist Justin Grinnell, and drummer Julien Cantelm.

Their debut album was released in April 2020 on Origin Records and features music by The Beatles, Quincy Jones, Tears for Fears, David Bowie, and Oasis, as well as jazz standards, and original songs (see the website for music samples and downloads).

After the show, Patton will sit for a Q&A with Abe Perlstein of 97.3 The Rock at the new Foghorn Brewhouse, 2940 Main St., Morro Bay.

So why is the City putting on a concert? “The vision,” Collins’ news release said, “is to present concerts that include curated music offerings that typically cannot be found at surrounding music venues, to include jazz, world music, dance, etc. The goal is to bring the community together to experience a diverse array of musical offerings at no charge, in a neighborhood-oriented outdoor setting that the Cloisters Park provides. So, grab your beach chairs and come hang out with everyone, and catch some truly awesome music.”

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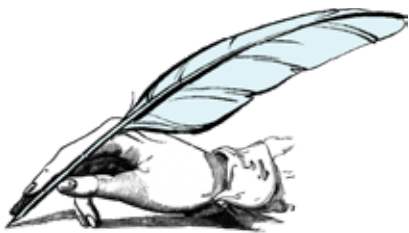
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Letters  
to the  
Editor



Say no to Camping on  
Embarcadero and  
Coleman in M.B.

This is to all registered voters of Morro Bay. I am one of the proponents circulating a petition that would give voters the right to decide if there should be permanent RV and tent camping on the Embarcadero and Coleman Drive. You may have noticed the campers are gone now. This is because the City's temporary permit from the CA Coastal Commission has expired. However, the City has applied for a permanent permit to start up the camping program again. The application does not limit camping to certain areas.

I, Carole Truesdale and Betty Winholtz, the other two proponents of the initiative, support the Harbor Department. The Department has a balanced budget this year. What the Department is looking for a source of money for capital projects. We believe RV camping is an inconsistent and insufficient source of money. Other and more appropriate sources of revenue and organization are being considered.

We believe the residents' and visitors' quality of life should not be jeopardized. Please find us at Spencer's and Albertsons to sign the initiative petition to get on the ballot the right to vote on this matter. Let's protect our nature beauty and enjoyment of public places by restricting camping to campgrounds.

Jim Curnutt  
Morro Bay

Free Thought is a Right

In the Most recent edition of Estero Bay News (Vol. 4, Issue 18), Mr. Hurtado of Cayucos takes umbrage to my brief letter I wrote several weeks ago published in the same paper suggesting what I wrote was opinion, not fact. I disagree but will concede that it has long been understood that all letters to the editor are opinion.

The 1st Amendment to the United States Constitution recognizes and validates a right to your believe, Mr. Hurtado, as it does my right to think.

William Fritch  
Morro Bay

Pat, Pat, Pat

Boy, oh boy, this week's edition of the Estero Bay News (Vol. 3, Issue 18 ) is jam packed with good articles. An incredible range of information and news about our community. I love all the photos. My hat is off to those who contributed to this newsletter. Thank you!

Valerie Levulett  
Morro Bay

Don't Cancel  
Freeway Projects

Since the California Freeway and Expressway System that was developed in 1959, along with the Interstate Highway System in 1956, there has been proposed freeway projects that were cancelled in Los Angeles and Orange Counties. The most important link of the Interstate 710 (old California state route 7 and 15) known as the Long Beach Freeway from Alhambra to Pasadena recently got cancelled with a 6.3 mile tunnel. Along with 2013 cancellation of the Foothill Transportation Corridor which is a tollway, known as California state route 241 from the OCTA.

For years these links in the Los Angeles Freeway System, became cancelled because of NIMBY, Not In My Backyard, for residents who didn't want the projects finished. This included the Santa Paula Freeway extension from the Golden State Freeway, Interstate 5 (Old U.S. 99) to the Antelope Valley Freeway, California state route 126 where I used to live in the Santa Clarita Valley, many years ago. In closing these important freeways and toll way would of helped the transportation for the first largest urban area in California, and the people who live there.

Scott C. Presnal  
Morro Bay

Letter 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

When I count to 3, you will wake up and say it was you that broke it.

Photo by Cat Noir

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Every Color Deserves a Forever Home

Obituary

Penny Harrington:  
1942-2021

Pioneering Female Police Officer



Pioneering former Portland, Ore., Police Chief, Penny Harrington, died Sept. 15 in Morro Bay.

Penny Eileen Ledyard was born on March 3, 1942 in Lansing, Mich., the oldest of four children. For "Career Day" in high school, Ms. Harrington shadowed a woman on the police force and was captivated by the idea of becoming an officer. She majored in police administration at Michigan State University.

Upon graduation, she and her husband moved to Oregon. She was hired in 1964 by the Portland Police Bureau in the Women's Protective Division.

What followed were a series of firsts. She was the first woman officer in Portland to become a detective, a sergeant, a lieutenant, a captain, and chief in 1985, becoming the first woman to lead a big city police department.

"Ms. Magazine" named her "Woman of the Year;" and Harvard Law School named her one of the 10 most influential women in law in 1986.

She was forced to resign 17-months later due to a dispiriting struggle with what she called the "boys-only club," including criticism from journalists and the Portland Police Officers Association.

In her own words, "I went from being a celebrity to a pariah. I opened many doors to policing for women, only to have them slammed shut in my face."

Harrington caused significant changes as she persisted her way up the ladder. For example, female officers had to wear "ladylike" attire, including white gloves, and were required to have a college degree. Men needed only a high school diploma or equivalent, yet made more money. She slowly managed to equalize pay, filing 42 complaints from 1975 to 1978.

Of equal note, Harrington persuaded the Portland City Council to change the job classification of "patrolman" to "police officer." More than semantics, this meant that exams for detectives that had been open only to "patrolmen" were now open to "police officers," which included women.

Upon her resignation, Harrington said, "the entire goal of my administration has been to move from a militaristic, rule-driven organization to one that operates in a value-based, participatory style."

She pioneered neighborhood policing and reduced the burglary rate. She emphasized new policies on de-escalating violence and controlling the use of force. Her belief was that a good police chief always answered first and foremost to the community. She knew her goals were succeeding during her tenure.

Two years later, Harrington was hired by the California State Bar Association as Special Assistant to the Director of Investigations. Over seven years she developed an expertise in gender and racial discrimination law and leveraged her experience to become one of the nation's foremost experts on women in policing.

In 1995, through the Los Angeles-based Feminist Majority, she founded the National Center for Women and Policing. She consulted dozens of police departments on hiring women and served as an expert witness in gender and race discrimination cases.

After her retirement to Morro Bay in 2001, she was contacted regularly by law enforcement, reporters, journalists, authors, and legislators seeking her expert opinion and advice.

The stressful nature of Ms. Harrington's work led her to a path of holistic healing. She became a Reiki Master teacher, a color therapist, and a crystal healer. In 2010, she opened the store "Ruby Dragon" on Shasta Avenue in Morro Bay.

Four-years later, she moved to a larger space on Main Street, where she expanded her rock and crystal offerings, as well as event space until the shop closed in 2020.

Ms. Harrington is survived by her sister Roberta Webber and her granddaughter Aine. Her son, Brian Orazetti, preceded her in death in 2015.

Read her memoir, "Triumph of the Spirit," published in 1999.



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Community

College Bound From page 1

in order to help their children follow their dreams. The following mentors who will continue with their students shared why they felt it was an important program: Melanie Davenport is a Family Support Specialist for Transitions Mental Health Association and currently in graduate school herself. She “...truly believes the way to affect positive change is to start with the youth.” She appreciated that CBT taught skills like communication, goal setting, and self-advocacy - learning how to work positively with one’s strengths and weaknesses. “At first the students weren’t sure what they wanted or needed. CBT helped facilitate understanding their potential possibilities and learn the skills needed to accomplish their goals. I loved closing each meeting setting new goals (to accomplish) before our next meeting. The kids were really self-reflective and eager to put into practice what they learned.”

Entrepreneur and Master Certified Coach Don Maruska said, “As a first-generation college student myself, I know how important it is to have support from many people—family, teachers, school counselors, and mentors. Our team of three mentors worked with eight students. An immediate need was how to keep up with classes and ask for help in a virtual environment. We discussed an issue and role play how the students could assert themselves – a critical life skill. I also came to appreciate how challenging it can be for students in households with kids from different marriages. It’s not like “Leave It to Beaver” anymore. Some students juggle helping younger siblings or half-siblings as well trying to find their way through school and think about their future. These are good kids with parents who want to help them succeed and are pleased to connect with mentors who want to support their success.”

Marcie Begleiter is the founding director of Integrated Studies program at the Otis College of Art and Design. “I recently moved to Los Osos and was looking for a way to become involved in the community. A neighbor who knows Dan put us in touch and we discussed the CBT and his success in running it at Montebello. Dan is very detail oriented and his approach to running the program was central to my decision to get involved. Also, I taught college for 23 years and thought I might have something to offer the students about prepping for that experience.

“We were given detailed syllabus notes for each session. But we could tailor the discussion for our specific groups. We started the sessions with ‘icebreakers.’ One time we asked the students to draw an object from their home that was meaningful to them. They held up the drawing and told us why they had chosen the item. The stories were fascinating and gave us an insight into their lives and goals in ways that I had not expected. For me, that moment revealed the program as offering more than a preface to college; it was an experience that developed relationships and trust.”

Berto Marroquin is Cuesta College’s EOPS Councilor and a first-generation college student. He personally experienced the importance of mentors throughout school and college. “Being able



Mentor Don Maruska conducts a session with LOMS’ 8th Graders

to see myself in others who were successful and being supported by them throughout my journey was invaluable. Mentoring for CBT was my opportunity to hopefully be the one empowering these young students to achieve their educational and life goals. As a community college counselor, I know that engaging students at the young age and clearing the path for them is going to lead to better outcomes.”

Marroquin said, “One of the goals most of the students wanted to achieve was self-efficacy. From our first conversation we heard them say they wanted to get better at asking for help and being confident in taking control of their education - how to approach their teachers and peers to ask for help or feel confident in taking actions. These students came a long way in their confidence to speak up, ask clarifying questions, and engage their teachers. This is a lifelong skill we will continue to work on.”

At the end of the school year, Marroquin was inspired as the mentors, parents and teachers toured MBHS. “The students’ energy and excitement was contagious. We also saw how grateful their parents were. This experience reminded me why we were doing what we were doing. The time spent was definitely worth it.”

Interested in mentoring for College Bound Today? Check out [www.collegeboundtoday.net](http://www.collegeboundtoday.net) then contact Dan Clement ASAP at [dclement@communitypartners.org](mailto:dclement@communitypartners.org) or 310-710-4071.



Morro Bay Mayor John Headding sets up for CBT presentation.

COVID Explained From page 1

“Finally, if a patient progresses beyond this point we have mechanical ventilation with turning the patient in a prone position.” At Tenet’s Hospitals, the protocol is roughly the same. Dr. Irene Spinello, the head of the COVID ICU and Critical Care Units at Twin Cities Hospital in Templeton, agreed to a telephone interview with Estero Bay News. She said the treatment really depends on how early they catch the disease. “It depends on what stage they are in,” she said.

In early stages, less than 24 hours after symptoms appear, patients don’t require any treatment, so long as their blood oxygen level is 96% or higher. When the oxygen level drops, they administer supplemental oxygen. “That’s one of the best protections for the rest of the body’s organs,” Dr. Spinello said.

COVID-19 ferociously attacks the lungs. “The virus hurts the lung tissue,” she said, causing severe inflammation (swelling). “The lung tissue is no longer thin and pliable” and when that happens the tissue of the lungs has trouble absorbing oxygen that the rest of the body’s tissues and organs must have.

“Normally, we breathe oxygen in the air, which is about 21% oxygen,” Dr. Spinello said. “We give oxygen to get through the thick walls so the organs are not starved for oxygen and begin to shut down. We try to match the supply [of oxygen] with the demand” to minimize the damage done by the virus’ attack on the lungs.

This is all done in the infancy of a person’s illness, she explained. They treat the illness with the anti-viral, Remdesivir, which the FDA said can be effective and is approved for use against COVID-19.

“But after 5 or 10 days,” she said, “it no longer has the effect.” So early on, it depends on how soon someone seeks treatment, as to what medications are given, and in turn how severe his or her case is likely to become.

Their focus is on treating the inflammation, Dr. Spinello said. They too use steroids, which she said was “the most potent anti-inflammatory medication we have.”

She likened it to putting a wet blanket on a fire. They also turn to monoclonal antibodies to slow the “inflammation cascade.”

She likened this treatment to dominoes lined up in a row. If one domino falls the next and the next will fall too. If and when the lungs are badly inflamed, the patients devolve to having “Acute Respiratory Distress Syndrome” or ARDS.

“There is absolutely no treatment for that,” she said. At that point patients go on mechanical ventilators and receive 100-percent of their oxygen. That lack of oxygen escalates the severity with every organ that fails.

“Time and support is the only thing that gives the possibility of recovery.”

The Virus Hits Hard

Dr. Spinello, who has been a physician for 22 years, said this third wave of the virus “was horrendous,” and has taken a devastating toll on nurses and doctors trying to help patients. As health care officials have stressed, the vaccines help a lot.

COVID Explained Continued on page 15

Zoom From page 1

requirements are met, the public members are allowed to observe and address the legislative body at the meeting, and that a legislative body of a local agency has a procedure for receiving and swiftly resolving requests for reasonable accommodation for individuals with disabilities, as specified.”

AB 361 sets a deadline of Jan. 1, 2024 for these Brown Act workarounds to end.

Until then, government bodies can use teleconferencing like Zoom, which most local agencies have been using during the pandemic.

The County Health Department, as well as the State Department of Public Health, each have authority in this matter, “... when state or local health officials have imposed or recommended measures to promote social distancing, during a proclaimed state of emergency held for the purpose of determining, by majority vote, whether meeting in person would present imminent risks to the health or safety of attendees, and during a proclaimed state of emergency when the legislative body has determined that meeting in person would present imminent risks to the health or safety of attendees, as provided.”

What that means is so long as the County Health Department is calling for these measures to try and stop the spread of the virus, the agencies can continue to meet online. But they have to pass a new Resolution every 30 days if they want to continue that way.

“Unfortunately,” LOCSD General Manager Ron Munds told Estero Bay News, “per the law we have to pass a Resolution each month while the State emergency is in place, so this will be an ongoing agenda item until we feel it’s safe to resume live meetings.”

LOSCD was to hold a special meeting Sept. 29 to address the Zoom Resolution, and continue to meet online. Morro Bay City Council passed a similar Resolution at its Sept. 28 meeting. Both will have to pass another Resolution in October, and November, December and so on...

Asked if they had to wait for the State to lift the emergency declaration, or if the County Health Department could give them a go-ahead earlier, should county COVID-19 numbers fall into a sufficiently safer level, Munds said, “County Health hasn’t weighed in on live versus remote meetings but does have a mask mandate for indoor gatherings and meetings, so if we want to start live meetings before the termination of the State emergency, it will be up to us unless things change, which we know they can. Very confusing and everything seems to be a moving target at this point.”

AB 361 does a couple of other interesting things, like requiring a legislative body to “take no further action on agenda items when there is a disruption, which prevents the public agency from broadcasting the meeting, or in the event of a disruption within the local agency’s control which prevents members of the public from offering public comments, until public access is restored.” So if the computer crashes, the meeting’s over.

And, “This bill would prohibit the legislative body from requiring public comments to be submitted in advance of the meeting and would specify that the legislative body must provide an opportunity for the public to address the legislative body and offer comment in real time.”

Morro Bay residents have been making good use of emailing in comments prior to meetings, with the City Clerk posting those

to the City’s email subscriber list, as well as the City website. But comments that come in late are sometimes not included prior to meetings, but released after the fact and included in the public record.

Morro Bay’s Zoom meetings are broadcast on cable TV (Charter Ch. 20 in Morro Bay only), and residents can participate. According to City Clerk Dana Swanson the Zoom meetings “are available on Channel 20 if you have Charter, or via web-stream [[cal-span.org/unipage/index.php?site=slo-span&channel=8](http://cal-span.org/unipage/index.php?site=slo-span&channel=8)] or, of course, on Zoom. Those watching on Channel 20 can call in for public comment.”

She added: Public comment for telephone attendees: 1-408-638-0968 or 1-669-900 6833 or 1-346-248 7799; Webinar ID: 827 2274 7698; Password: 135692; Press \*9 to “raise hand” for public comment.

The LOCSD’s meetings are recorded by the agency and then sent to AGP to upload onto the website (see: [www.lososocsd.org](http://www.lososocsd.org)).

Munds said the public could watch and take part in their meetings on Zoom, Facebook or streaming on SLO Span. They only recently discontinued their contract to broadcast meetings on cable TV, Munds said, “because of the cost.”

In some regards, SLO-Span is a better access route for a lot of local agencies, because one can only get meetings for their local agency on cable, with County meetings on Charter Ch. 21, all meetings are available to watch on the website and there’s a large archive of past meetings available too, in case readers missed the chance to exercise their Right to Complain.

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Community

COVID Explained From page 14

Over 20 of the patients Dr. Spinello said she’s treated ended up on life support. “I see the sickest of the sick,” she said. She recalled two cases of patients that were fully vaccinated, one had cancer and the vaccine did nothing for them; and the other was vaccinated early on in Mexico. The rest of her ICU patients, “are all unvaccinated.” “If I got COVID and was fully vaccinated,” she said, “I would most likely spend time at home” to recover. “It’s the poor unvaccinated patients that get hit, and they get hit hard,” she continued. “This disease is no walk in the park; it really puts you down.”

Swine Flu Was Bad, Too

Dr. Spinello said the coronavirus is comparable to the swine flu epidemic of 2009. “The swine flu was in many ways worse,” she said. “But it was not so contagious.” They’re seeing 10 times as many patients now as with swine flu. Asked what advice she would give to people, she used an analogy. “If I was a general leading an army, my most valuable asset is the people. If I see an army before mine dying to ‘take that hill’ I would not send my people to die. I’d say, ‘Let’s go around it.’” She said she understands the notion of ‘freedom of choice’ and “I value that more than you can imagine.” Coming from the former Soviet Union, she said there is “nothing more important than Freedom of Choice,” but it must be based on reliable information. “Fighting COVID is a losing battle,” she said. “It’s better to prevent it.”

She sees the toll the disease is taking on her co-workers. “It’s so painful,” she said. “I have no idea of the numbers but I find nurses and respiratory therapists crying all the time.” She was not surprised to hear her colleagues are reluctant to talk about their experiences. Dr. Spinello said that health care workers internalize the pain and try not to bring it home to their families and loved ones.

Booster Shots Available

On Sept. 28 the County Health Agency announced that booster shots of the Pfizer vaccine would be made available at the County Health Clinics in SLO, Paso Robles and Grover Beach. The booster shots, which were only recently approved by the Food & Drug Administration (FDA), are also available at pharmacies and doctors’ offices. But supplies are limited and the County said it was limiting these early booster shots to people at greatest risk — everyone over 65, people over 50 with certain high-risk medical conditions, and those “in long-term care facilities.” High risk conditions include people with cancer; chronic kidney disease; lung diseases like COPD and asthma; dementia and other neurological illnesses; diabetes, pregnancy, and heart conditions; Down Syndrome; HIV; obesity, and liver disease plus several others. Drug abuse — alcoholism, opioid and cocaine users — is also likely to make a potential case of COVID-19 more severe, accord-

ing to information from the CDC website. The County is also recommending younger people, 18-49 with these high-risk conditions get booster shots. **County Urging Vaccines** County Health Officer Dr. Penny Borenstein, continues to urge everyone to get vaccinated. “We continue to encourage those who have not gotten their first or second doses of any vaccine [Moderna, Pfizer or Johnson & Johnson] to get those doses immediately to stem the spread of this virus,” she said. “These initial doses are the most important tools in protecting our community. And for those who are at the most severe risk of more severe outcomes of COVID-19, we’re also happy to now offer this additional boost of protection.”

COVID-19 Cases, Deaths Continue

On Sept. 24, the County announced that nine more people had died of COVID-19, ranging in age from their 60s to their 80s, bringing the death toll in SLO County from COVID-19 to 324. The Health Department reported 243 cases of COVID-19 from Oct. 19 to the 24th. As of the 24th there were 33 people hospitalized with COVID and eight in the ICU. “These losses are tragic and, unfortunately, further proof that we need to continue doing everything we can to battle against this deadly virus,” Dr. Borenstein said.

Vaccinated Rates

The rate of vaccinated people in SLO County would appear to be high. “More than 70.6% of eligible SLO County residents have received at least one dose of vaccine, and 63.2% are fully vaccinated,” the County said in a news release. The vaccines continue to be available for free at County clinics, pharmacies and doctor’s offices and mobile clinics. Readers are advised to speak with their doctors about the disease and the vaccine, and if you are cleared to go ahead with the shot, to go online to: myturn.ca.gov to schedule an appointment or call (833) 422-4255 to schedule an appointment at a County clinic. For hours and locations, see: www.RecoverSLO.org/Vaccine. For updates on COVID-19 in SLO County, see: ReadySLO.org or call the Public Health Information Line at (805) 788-2903. Phone assistance is available at (805) 781-5500 Mondays-Fridays, from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Testing Stepped Up

The County has reopened its COVID-19 testing site at the Morro Bay Vet’s Hall, 209 Surf St. Tests are available Mondays-Fridays from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. but closed from 11-noon (for lunch) and from 4-5 p.m. (dinner break). The site will be closed Monday, Oct. 11 for Columbus Day but reopen Tuesday, Oct. 12. You must register in advance call 1-888-634-1123. Different test sites use different types of test, including the so-called “rapid” tests the results of which are available in minutes. See: www.emergencyslo.org/en/testing-locations to see which test is given where. Testing and vaccinations are also being done locally at Morro Bay Drug & Gift and Urgent Care.

Landslide From page 1

sewer rates.” That’s because the City has gotten two very-low interest rate loans from both Federal and State Government agencies to finance the project, with extra costs being absorbed through the project’s contingency funds. According to the bills the City got from the contractors, the May 2020 landslide incurred \$89,800 in labor costs; \$108,900 in “direct construction equipment” costs; and \$20,500 for “design engineering;” plus “overhead” at 6% of the costs and a 4% “fee” that total \$14,900 and \$9,900 respectively. As for the most recent landslide, the bill shows \$131,100 in labor; \$158,600 for equipment; \$59,000 in “materials;” and \$339,200 for a subcontractor. Overhead being charged is over \$43,900 with a fee of \$29,300.

And the costs could keep coming. A footnote regarding the materials costs reads, “Prelim information for estimating purposes include excavating and backfilling in-situ material approximately 19,000 cubic yards plus 12% swell and shrinkage. It does not include any material hauling to and from the canyon.” On another note, many in the community have been distressed at the number of trees that have been removed along a dedicated bike path, which runs between the highway and the power plant’s outer fence.

Driving past on Highway 1, there’re noticeable gaps in what used to be a wall of cypress trees screening the roadway. Some have said the City has taken many more trees out than it listed in the environmental impact report and thus are violating the permit from the Coastal Commission. Collins and the City denied doing anything wrong.

“With regard to trees,” Collins said, “we followed guidance from the Coastal Commission. We submitted plans to the Coastal staff with the trees that needed to be removed to safely place the pipeline in near the bike path.”

He said the commission signed off on the plans. “They reviewed and approved those plans,” Collins said. “I believe the total number of trees removed to date is around 36.”

The City isn’t apparently the only ones taking down trees. “Unrelated to the WRF project,” Collins said, “I believe Vistra and PG&E have also removed some trees in that area recently.”

Even more trees will probably have to be chopped down. “We likely will need to remove more trees,” Collins said, “and would need to get Coastal staff approval to do so.”

Concerned residents should note that the City plans to replace the trees. “City Council directed staff to create a plan to plant new trees to make up for these removed trees,” he said. “That plan will be developed by staff and shared with the Public Works Advisory Board, and other commissions potentially, before coming back to Council for review.”

Collins said that process would likely be done sometime next year.

The City Municipal Code, Chapter 12.08.070, which regulates tree removals in the public right of way, includes the following: “...the tree shall then be removed and a new tree planted in the same location or in close proximity to the location where the tree was removed.”

So according to its own laws, the City will have to plant new trees along the bike path and anywhere else they might be removed. The plan being developed for this, will also have to choose the species of trees that are planted, chosen off a City-approved list.

The trees along the bike path are mainly cypress, which is the City’s “official” tree species.

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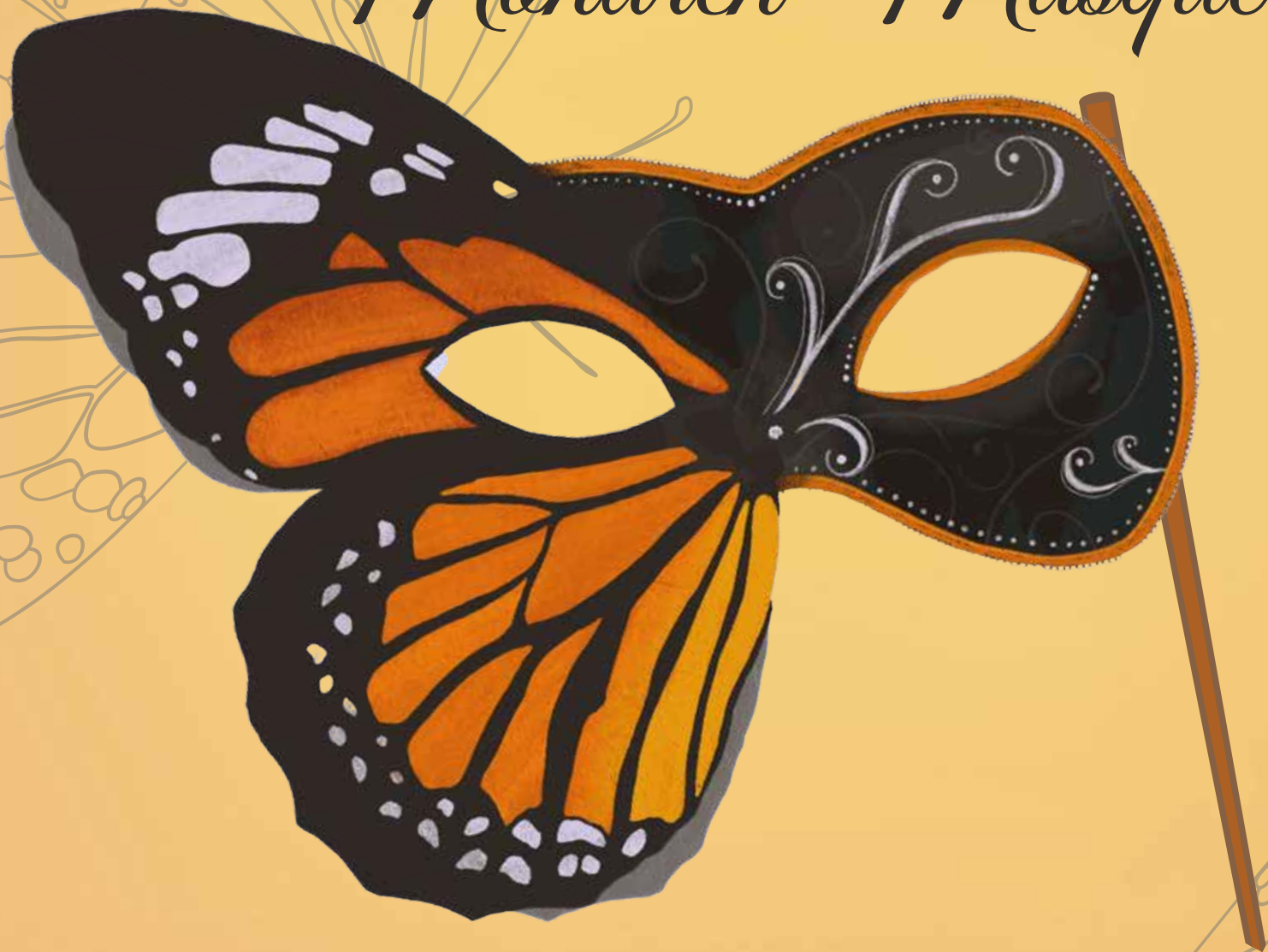
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